

Meet our RCM Scholars

September is back-to-school month for RCM's 12 returning and 4 new scholars! This spring, we received over 40 applications from Milwaukee high school seniors. After a round of interviews, the committee elected to extend financial support and mentoring to the following new scholars:



Daniela Cortes (center) with mentors Dr. Bert Davis and Tracey Sparrow.

Daniela Cortes Award: \$2,500

High School: St. Thomas More

College: Carroll University

Anticipated Major: Biology (Animal Behavior and Psychology)

Daniela hopes to combine her passions for working with animals and with Latino middle school students by someday serving at-risk youth through animal therapy. She volunteers at Casa Romero Renewal Center facilitating retreats for middle schoolers and bilingual families.



Nico Longoria (right) with mentor Kevin Carr.

Nico Longoria Award: \$2,500

High School: Reagan HS

College: UW-Whitewater

Anticipated Major: Criminal Justice

Nico hopes to be the first in his family to graduate from college and would like to be a police officer or FBI agent helping keep the streets safer. He volunteers at the Mitchell Street Boys & Girls Club.

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4th Annual Golf Classic a Success!

The 4th Annual RCM Scholarship Golf Classic, held on Monday, June 18th at North Shore Country Club, raised almost \$40,000 for the RCM Scholarship Fund! The generosity of our Rotarians and guests will support the education of 16 great Milwaukee scholars. Learn more about our scholars in this newsletter.

Golfers and dinner goers alike praised the spirit of fun & fellowship, saying they enjoyed the wonderful sense of camaraderie and ability to meet Rotarians in a more casual atmosphere. Survey respondents praised the quality of the golf course, the diverse selection of auction items, and the enthusiasm of the participants for the Scholarship cause.

The Committee, co-chaired by Bill Rotter and Troy Beauchamp, deserves many thanks for organizing a fantastic event. Mike Kellman, auction chair, pulled together a great array of auction items, with many community organizations contributing to the cause. New this year, Rotarians were able to purchase a cork for a wine pull – with the “big” winner being Theresa Reagan, who walked away with a bottle twice the size of the rest!



Karen Hung enjoys the cocktail hour and the silent auction.

The RCM Scholarship Golf committee would like to thank everyone who came out to golf or attend dinner and those who donated to our auction. Mark your calendars for the 2013 golf outing on June 17th. And be sure to thank our sponsors when you see them at Rotary! 🌀

Volunteer Opportunity at Brown Street Academy

BSA is a Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) elementary school serving grades kindergarten through fifth grade. You may know that RCM made a substantial gift toward the renovation of the BSA schoolyard which we are proud to say will be complete this year. Approximately 100 of BSA's 350 students are not reading up to level.

The Partners in Education committee is launching an intensive tutoring initiative to provide small group (2-3 students) tutoring/mentoring to students reading below level. RCM has connected with the UWM Institute for Service Learning. The Brown Street program has been vetted by the Institute and we are hoping for a significant

number of UWM Service Learners to serve as tutors for this program.

We are also looking for Rotarians to commit some tutoring time to this important model of a community working together to help its children.

Each small group will meet daily until the reading goal is reached. Each approximately 45 minute tutoring session will occur during the normal literacy module from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Monday through Friday.

The tutors will be directed by each classroom teacher and

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Carla Lopez Award: \$2,500

High School: Carmen

College: Alverno

Anticipated Major: Marketing

Carla maintained a full schedule of extra-curricular activities in high school, including volleyball, soccer, year book, and volunteering. She wants to earn her masters in Marketing.



Carla Lopez (right) with mentor Joanne MacInnes.

Mayla Yang Award: \$2,500

High School: Alexander Hamilton

College: UW-Milwaukee

Anticipated Major: Nursing

Mayla credits her parents, who immigrated from Thailand one month before she was born, with instilling in her an appreciation for education. Mayla is passionate about helping others and plans to be a nurse.



Mayla Yang (right) with mentor Mary Isbister.

The committee was also pleased to continue support for twelve returning scholars. They are:

Sophomores

Jasmine Bray, *Mount Mary College, Nursing*

Jade Brown, *Marquette, Nursing*

Sydney Conejo, *Mount Mary College, Graphic Design*

Tim Hall, *UW-Madison, Biology (Pre-Med)*

Brandon Holmes, *UW-Oshkosh, Political Science/History*

Aja Luckett, *Marquette, Communication/Film*

Natasha Todd, *Marquette, Nursing*

Kelsey Wilkerson, *UW-Madison, Electrical Engineering*

Juniors

Jay Anderson, *UW-Milwaukee, Agronomy and Music Performance*

Jessica Ortiz, *UW-Whitewater, Pre-Business/Accounting*

Ariel Wyatt, *UW-Oshkosh, Nursing*

Seniors

Markesha Parker, *UW-Platteville, Engineering*

Congratulations to all the RCM scholars, and a big thank you to their mentors and the RCM Scholarship committee. 🌟

PHOTO gallery



Governor Scott Walker returned to Rotary on August 21.



Thanks to Phil Vollrath, many Rotarians had the opportunity to sail and tour the USS De Wert!

Above: Phil and Paula Kiely aboard the De Wert on a trip from Milwaukee to Chicago.

Below: Dave Fulcher and family attended a tour of the De Wert arranged by Phil.



LIVE @ the Lakefront enjoyed record attendance this year!



Upcoming Events

On **Thursday, September 6, 5-7pm**, join us for a **networking hour at the Milwaukee Yacht Club**, hosted by Tom Bentley. The beer and wine is on Tom; cocktails are available at the cash bar. Bring your spouse, a friend, a prospective member, or just yourself. The Yacht Club is located at 1700 North Lincoln Memorial Drive, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Thursday, September 20, join us for a special **Rotarian tour of the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum at 5pm!** The tour begins at the Urban Ecology Center, 1500 East Park Place, Milwaukee, WI 53211. Rotarians should be prepared to hike around the site and potentially get dirty, so wear comfortable clothes!



And everyone should have received an invitation to the RCM **Centennial Gala** at the **Pfister** on **September 29th!** We hope you all can make it for an evening of cocktails, celebration, music and dancing. If you did not get in an invitation in the mail, please contact the Rotary office. Spouses and guests are welcome!

Volunteer Opportunity at Brown Street Academy *continued from page 2*

may involve one-on-one interventions or group assistance/monitoring. Tutoring will follow the Comprehensive Literacy Plan curriculum developed for all Milwaukee Public Schools. The tutoring will be fairly straightforward utilizing this uniform curriculum.

We do not expect each volunteer tutor to commit to a daily schedule. Each small student group may experience several tutors each week, however, there will be a continuity of work with a streamlined, but effective matrix. The schedule will be monitored by Rotarian Barbara Velez.

Tutors will meet with BSA's literary coach for training and coaching. The class teachers will also provide training, coaching and supervision for volunteer tutors.

Contact: Barbara J. Velez, RCM Member and the Brown Street Academy liaison to discuss this opportunity further and for scheduling. Barbara can be reached at 414-223-

4494 or via email at barbara.velez@yahoo.com Once all volunteers are signed up, Barbara will prepare a detailed schedule for October 1 through December 15, 2012. Tutoring is scheduled to begin the week of October 1st. ☺



Kids at an Arbor Day celebration at Brown Street Academy.
Photo by Center for Resilient Cities.



Denasha Scott

Partner

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Denasha was introduced by Jamie Reeve.

Denasha Scott is a partner in the Milwaukee office of the law-firm Stafford Rosenbaum. She provides legal counsel to individuals and families regarding appropriate estate planning arrangements to carry out their objectives. She is also legal counsel to a variety of businesses and non-profits. Denasha grew up in Janesville, Wisconsin, received her B.A. from Beloit College in 1994, and her J.D. from University of Wisconsin Law School in 1997. Denasha is active in the community, and currently serves as vice-chair of the Friends of Boerner Botanical Gardens board. She resides in Greendale with her husband George and her son Benjamin.

SPEAKER *schedule*

SEPTEMBER 4th - Zoological Society Conservation Coordinator **Dr. Gay Reinartz** will speak on the topic “Protecting Bonobos and Elephants in the Democratic Republic of Congo.”

Bonobos – a rare great ape - and forest elephants are declining because of bushmeat and ivory poaching in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee’s Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI) conserves bonobos, elephants, and other threatened wildlife in the Salonga National Park in the heart of the Congo Basin. In collaboration with the country’s park authority and other partners, BCBI helps mitigate the bushmeat and ivory trade using a program of park anti-poaching support and guard training, applied ecological research, and community assistance projects.

SEPTEMBER 11th - **Governor Tommy Thompson**, Republican candidate for US Senate, will join us at Rotary on September 11th. Governor Thompson will speak for a few minutes, then sit down with President Rick for an informal conversation, followed by time for Q&A from the floor.

SEPTEMBER 18th - **Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin**, Democratic candidate for US Senate, will join us for a similar “conversation” program on September 18th.

SEPTEMBER 25th - The City of Milwaukee Health Department is Wisconsin’s largest local public health agency and a national leader in the field. The Health Department provides services to enhance the health of individuals and families, promote healthy neighborhoods, and safeguard the health of the Milwaukee community. Public health encompasses a broad spectrum of issues that greatly impact every aspect of daily life. This talk presents information on three top public health priorities: teen pregnancy, infant mortality, and infectious disease. **Commissioner Bevan Baker** will provide insight into the innovative and creative strategies employed by the Health Department to address these priorities.

Spotlight on the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum:

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

By Aaron Zeleske, Arboretum Coordinator

One of the largest single sources of financial support for the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum is a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

In September of 2010, the Urban Ecology Center was awarded \$953,450 of GLRI funds to work within the Milwaukee River Estuary, which includes the Milwaukee Rotary Centennial Arboretum. The funds will be used to:

- Improve the fish and wildlife habitat
- Grow the fish and wildlife population
- Enhance the aesthetics of the river corridor

In order to achieve these goals, the Urban Ecology Center land stewardship team is increasing the genetic diversity of plant life within the park, in hopes that existing wildlife will continue to flourish there and that populations will rise in response to a wider variety of forage opportunities. The team is also working within the project area to remove invasive species and to stop the inflow of new invasive species. The Arboretum project area is located along the last un-dammed stretch of the Milwaukee River that flows through natural, vegetated land before becoming canalized and flowing into Lake Michigan, making our project area very important for the health of Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes as a whole.

On August 10, the Urban Ecology Center hosted the first leg of a tour of GLRI funded projects in the Milwaukee area. The event was organized by the Gathering Waters Conservancy, a Madison based organization that supports land trusts in preserving land throughout Wisconsin. As a part of the event, the Urban Ecology Center's executive director Ken Leinbach led attendees on a hike along the river, highlighting how the Arboretum project leverages federal GLRI funding for greater impact by improving access to revitalized habitats. Other stops of the tour included River Revitalization Foundation's Wheelhouse Park and a number of projects of the Ozaukee Washington Land Trust.



Rotarian John Clancy with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar at the Urban Ecology Center in August.

In addition, the Urban Ecology Center hosted Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on August 15. Secretary Salazar was in Milwaukee to discuss President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative and the administration's conservation accomplishments. This stakeholder meeting also featured discussion of the Lake Michigan Water Trail and Ice Age Trail, the two projects of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative in Wisconsin, as well as the newly announced Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge near the Wisconsin-Illinois border. 🌿

PLANTED SO FAR AT THE MILWAUKEE ROTARY CENTENNIAL ARBORETUM:

255 trees
 3,208 shrubs
 7,620 herbaceous plants