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Meet RCM's 2015-16 Scholars

By Liz Keuler

With 24 participating in the RCM Scholarship Program, our scholars have taken over the WAVES this month!

This spring, we received over 60 very strong applications from Milwaukee high school seniors. After a round of interviews, the committee elected to extend financial support and mentoring to four new scholars:

Dah Dah Poe

High School: South Division High School

College: Alverno College

Anticipated Major: Nursing

Dah Dah grew up in a refugee camp in Thailand for the first 8 years of her life. After relocating to Milwaukee, Dah Dah had to work very hard to learn English, but has excelled in school. She plans to become a pediatric nurse practitioner because she loves to help people and work with kids.

Liliana Samudio

High School: Saint Thomas More High School

College: Alverno College

Anticipated Major: Music Therapy

Liliana is determined to earn her college degree – not just for herself, but for her parents who have supported her through many hardships. She was captain of the varsity tennis team in high school, president of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, and volunteered regularly at St. Anne Center.

Shawn Turner

High School: Marquette University High School

College: Marquette University

Anticipated Major: Engineering

Shawn says he didn't have a very auspicious start to high school - but the death of Trayvon Martin in 2012 convinced him he needed to be a role model for young black men and try to help address change in our city. He turned his grades around and began participating in all kinds of school activities, including a very memorable trip to Italy.

Nhia Vang

High School: Hmong American Peace Academy

College: UW-Madison

Anticipated Major: Accounting

The oldest of 7 siblings in an immigrant family, Nhia feels compelled to be a role model. He says helping to guide his young siblings has taught him to be a better listener, to have more patience, to be outspoken and not to be afraid to lead.



New RCM Scholars. *Clockwise from top:* Dah Dah Poe and Liliana Samudio; Shawn Turner with mentor Bob Heger; Nhia Vang with mentors Leslie Hauser and Bill Coleman.

RCM Scholarships include two named scholarships this year:

GORDON & ELIZABETH SMITH SCHOLAR



Aaliyah Rodgers

UW-Madison, Nursing

Aaliyah worked extra hard her first semester to put in the excellent grades required to make the UW-Madison nursing program – then faced significant adversity when studying abroad in Australia her second semester. Within a week of arriving, literally everything Aaliyah had was stolen. It was a rocky road, but Aaliyah recovered and was heartened to discover that she was indeed selected as an official nursing candidate!

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BILL ADAMS SCHOLAR



Kelsey Wilkerson

UW-Madison, Textile & Fashion Design

Having changed his focus from Engineering to Textile & Fashion Design, Kelsey is thriving in pursuing his passion. He is also working toward a Certificate in Entrepreneurship from the

UW-Madison School of Business and plans to attend graduate school in fashion after receiving his BA.

The committee was also pleased to continue support for 18 other returning scholars. They are:



Mayra Alaniz

*Georgetown University,
Social Welfare/Public Policy/Pre-Law*

Mayra was worried about returning to school for her sophomore year because she had seen many second year students fall into the dreaded

“sophomore slump” – but was proactive in reaching out to her mentors and college resources to help her keep a healthy outlook and excel at her classes.



Jasmine Bray

Mount Mary College, Education

With graduation approaching, Jasmine has been reflecting on the joys and challenges of her college career – and making strides toward her future. She has accepted a position as a volunteer

teacher assistant in a central city school, which has always been her dream!



Jade Brown

Marquette, Sociology

Jade is getting ready to graduate in December and is proud of the work she recently completed on a significant independent research project.

She says the project helped her develop her people skills and build connections with her fellow students, who provided support and feedback.



Sydney Conejo

Mount Mary University, Business

Sydney is returning to the RCM Scholarship Program after taking some time off from college to provide a stable home for her son. She says her motivation has grown exponentially as she

now wants to succeed for her son as well as herself.



Daniela Cortes

*Columbia College Chicago,
Cinema Arts & Science*

Dani is thrilled to have discovered her passion for documentary filmmaking and is looking forward to starting her very own documentary

for a class this coming semester. She plans to devote herself to telling the stories of the voiceless through documentaries.



Armonie Dotson

UW-Madison, Biomedical Engineering

Armonie has grown after facing challenges last year – she used to be too self-conscious to seek help, but has gained confidence and makes full use of the resources available to her at school

and through her mentors.



Tim Hall

UW-Madison, Biology (Pre-Med)

Tim struggled with confidence in previous years despite earning excellent grades – but as he approaches his final semester, he is proud to a young black man graduating into a field where

he does not see many others represented.



Brandon Holmes

UW-Oshkosh, Political Science/History

Brandon was a Model UN delegate this year and credits the experience with developing his research, writing and speaking skills. Through the RCM Community Trust's AD Robertson

Fund, Brandon also attended the United Nations Association-USA annual meeting in Washington, DC in June.



Deja' Hoskin

UW-Whitewater, Criminal Justice

One of Deja's greatest challenges AND her most fascinating classes last year was Constitutional Law, where they reviewed over 100 cases in one semester. She is grateful for her strong support

system, including her RCM mentors and her alumnae group from PEARLS for Teen Girls.

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PHOTO gallery



Rotarians enjoyed a Tyrotarian tour of UWM's School of Freshwater Sciences, which included a look at the Great Lakes Genomics Center and the Marine Operations facility from which they launch the Research Vessel Neeskay.



Rotarian Rob Henken spoke to Rotary in August about the Public Policy Forum's recent report on marijuana policy in Milwaukee County.



Everyone got to their feet for Los Cieogs del Barrio at LIVE @ the Lakefront in July. *Photo by Chris Winters.*



Members of Rotaract and RCM's Under 45 group met up at LIVE @ the Lakefront in August.

Board Approves New Members

At its recent meeting, the Board of Directors welcomed four new members and expressed thanks to the proposers:

Scott Heberlein
Mortenson Construction
Construction
Proposer: Heather Turner Loth

Mark Kmiecik
Davis & Kuelthau
Law Practice
Proposer: Janet Protasiewicz

James McLain
Milwaukee VA Medical Center
Hospital
Proposer: George Solveson

Ed Rapee
M3 Insurance
Insurance
Proposer: Dan Nelson

SPEAKER schedule

SEPTEMBER 1st - **Brian Schupper**, Director of Policy for the Greater Milwaukee Committee, will talk about Scale Up Milwaukee, an action project focused upon developing the entrepreneurial capacity in Milwaukee by bringing together the policies, structures, programs and climate that foster entrepreneurship. Brian will also bring Ugo Nwagbaraocha from Diamond Discs International up to the stage to talk a little about how Scale Up Milwaukee has impacted his business.

SEPTEMBER 8th - The Commons is a multi--university, cross-disciplinary entrepreneurship education program designed to attract, educate and retain the brightest entrepreneurial and innovative students in southeast Wisconsin. In partnership with 22 colleges and universities, The Commons provides students a unique opportunity to form diverse teams and learn about entrepreneurship and innovation while gaining real-world experience solving complex business challenges - the very skills needed to form new companies, create new jobs, and fill talent gaps. Not only will we learn about the program from co-founder **Michael Hostad**, but we also will hear how it has impacted two local businesses, Workshop Architects and Kohl's.

SEPTEMBER 15th - **Milwaukee Police Chief Ed Flynn** will share his thoughts on the challenges and opportunities facing Milwaukee.

SEPTEMBER 22nd - The 70th anniversary of the signing and entry into force of the UN Charter should call attention to the historical underpinnings of contemporary global governance. Unfortunately, today's fashion of "good-enough" global governance abandons the strategy of constructing robust intergovernmental organizations; and it is dramatically inadequate to guarantee dignified human survival, especially because our forebears did much better. Insights from 1942 to 1945 remain valid for addressing 21st-century global challenges. But do we have the wit and will to do what is necessary without a global catastrophe? **Thomas G. Weiss**, Presidential Professor of Political Science at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, will address why "Good Enough" Global Governance Ain't Good Enough."

SEPTEMBER 29th - At the time this newsletter went to press, the Milwaukee Common Council was scheduled to vote on the new arena financing package on September 22nd. On the 29th we'll have a joint program with the Milwaukee Press Club featuring **Peter Feigin**, President of the Milwaukee Bucks, to discuss plans for moving forward.

WELCOME new members



Peter Campbell

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Pete is an Associate Managing Director at The PrivateBank, where he has specialized in commercial lending for the past 5 years. Previously, Pete worked as an audit manager at the public accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. Pete is a UW-Milwaukee alum, with an undergraduate degree in Accounting and Finance and a Master's degree in Professional Accounting. He is a CPA licensed in the state of Wisconsin. Pete is the Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee for the Urban Ecology Center's Board of Directors. He is a marathon runner and enjoys Hot Yoga classes near his home on the downtown Riverwalk.



Dale Egan

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Dale is the Associate General Counsel in the M&A group of Emerson Electric Co, based in St. Louis. Prior he was the Global General Counsel of American Appraisal Associates for 20 years. He has a BA in Corporate Finance from the University of St. Thomas and a law degree from Marquette University Law School. Dale is a Board Member of the Woody Williams Medal of Honor Foundation and a volunteer pilot for Veterans Airlift Command and U.S. Honor Flights. Dale and his sisters participated in Rotary Youth Exchange and his family hosted exchange students from Australia, Mexico and France. In his free time, Dale is an avid snowmobiler.



Barbara Haig

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Barbara M. Haig is a partner at Haig/Jackson Communications, Inc., a Milwaukee-based communications consulting firm. A former award-winning broadcast journalist, she specializes in media, presentation and crisis communications coaching workshops for individuals and organizations in Milwaukee and around the world. In addition, Barb provides event communications project management and facilitation for several global companies and organizations. A member of the Milwaukee Press Club Endowment Board, she is active in several community groups, including the Washington Heights Neighborhood Association, Friends of the Milwaukee Public Library, FIRST Robotics, Christ Child Society and St. Sebastian Parish.



Anthony Ross

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Anthony Ross is the Founding Director of UWM's Lubar School of Business Supply Chain Management Institute. Prior to joining the Lubar School of Business in 2010, Anthony was Associate Professor of Logistics in the Supply Chain Management Department at the Eli Broad College of Business, Michigan State University. He holds a BA in Computer Science from Our Lady of the Lake University, and an MBA and PhD from Operations Management and Decision Sciences, Indiana University. Anthony serves on the editorial boards of several leading journals and is Associate Editor for Operations Management Research. He and his wife Schelzla live with their four kids in Menomonee Falls.

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**Ronisha Howard**

UW-Oshkosh, Nursing/Biology

Ronisha says she wouldn't have been able to make it through her freshman year without her RCM mentors and her family. She faced some challenges, including a rotating cast of roommates, but is energized about returning to school and improving her grades.

**Amy Lavender**

UW-Madison, Psychology

Amy extolled the virtues of outside study groups for helping her to understand more and earn better grades in her classes – so much so that she organized her own study group for a class lacking one. Given her shy nature, this was a big step for her interpersonal development as well as an educational benefit!

**Carla Lopez**

Alverno, Marketing

Family health issues put Carla under a lot of strain the past year, but she feels she emerged from the ordeal more motivated than ever. Her family is now healthy and she looks forward to excelling in the next semester.

**Juan Macias**

Milwaukee School of Engineering, Nursing

Juan really enjoyed his first year of college, and plans to improve next year by taking better advantage of free tutoring and working on his time management skills.

**Marquise Mays**

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Journalism

Marquise struggled with feeling out of place at UW-Madison, but was able to overcome this hurdle and connect with other students through the Wisconsin Black Student Union, the University Gospel Choir, and other campus organizations.

**Jocelyn Rocha**

Alverno College, Nursing

Jocelyn struggled with her first semester of college at MATC, but was able to attain her goal of transferring to Alverno, where she blossomed and is now looking forward to taking on whatever challenges may come.

**Aniyah Stubblefield**

Mount Mary College, Sonography & Nursing

After missing a semester in her first year due to her health, Aniyah was determined to make up for lost time her second year. With help from her RCM mentor, she achieved a better balance between school, work and her personal life.

**Destiny Thomas**

UW-Whitewater,

Forensic Science, Criminal Justice

As the first person in her family to attend college, Destiny struggled with finding her path – but hopes that she can provide an example to others in her neighborhood by leading the way.

**Andrew Zuniga**

Northern Michigan, Pre-Med

High school came easily to Andrew – but a few weeks into his first year of college, he realized he would need to put in more effort to achieve his goals there. He implemented a strict study schedule to improve his grades second semester and plans to continue improving during his second year.

Congratulations to all our RCM Scholars, and thank you to the RCM Scholarship Committee and all RCM Mentors for their work. ☀

