

ROTARY WORLD PEACE FELLOWS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Arnoldas Pranckevicius

It's been almost a year since most members of the first class of fellows at the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution completed their studies, and many are now in positions where they can shape policy and influence decision-making at an international level.

Among the recent graduates applying their newly minted degrees in the field is Arnoldas Pranckevicius, a Lithuanian native who completed his undergraduate studies in upstate New York. After graduating from Sciences Po in Paris with a master's degree in international affairs, Pranckevicius, who speaks English, French, Lithuanian, and Russian, accepted a position as a domestic policy adviser to a man he describes as his "idol of moral leadership," President of the Republic of Lithuania Valdas Adamkus.



Pranckevicius (left) works with Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus (front).

"I was indeed blessed with the opportunity to join his team and contribute in his effort of making Lithuania (an) ever more democratic, secure, and prosperous nation," says Pranckevicius.

The 25-year-old now lives and works in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius, where he analyzes trends and developments in the country's political system, as well as drafting speeches and policy statements for the president. Among the issues Pranckevicius has already tackled are political corruption, advancement of ethical standards, and promotion of a civic and open society. His work at the president's office provided a unique view of directions in national policy.

"The fall was especially intense as it was marked by our parliamentary elections and the formation of new government," says Pranckevicius. "I had not only to follow and analyze the campaign and programs of the political parties (and) make elections predictions, but also draft possible coalitions and suggest the long-term consequences of one of the other formations in the government."

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program is Ambassadorial Scholarships. Since 1947 nearly 37,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. More than 1,000 scholarships were awarded for study in 2003-04. Through grants totalling approximately US\$428 million, recipients from some 70 countries studied in more than 70 nations.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarships program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. The program sponsors several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students as well as for qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to greater understanding of their host countries.

Generous contributions from Rotarians worldwide represent continued faith that the students who are Ambassadorial Scholars today will be tomorrow's community and world leaders.



The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of MeadowRidge Newsletter

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Web-site: www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary

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INVOCATION

May 17	Lindsay Hendy	May 24	Shane James
May 31	Cheryl Johnson	June 7	Alex Kempenaar

BINGO SCHEDULE

	6:15-8:15	8:00-10:00
May 19	Debi Pearce	Robert Campbell
June 16	Tim Lowes	Sharon Kyle

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or email mrrotary@telus.net



TODAY'S PROGRAM: Who's Who – The Goodricks

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Rick Laferriere – Economic Development Office

CALENDAR OF CLUB AND DISTRICT 5050 EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
May 18		Grade 10 – Career Preparation Interviews	
May 30		Italian Serata – Hospital ER	La Trattoria
June 18-22		RI Centennial Convention	Chicago
June 28		Installation of new Executive	Meadow Gardens Golf Course
Sept. 17	7-10pm	Harvest Wine Festival	ACT

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 22: Ineke Boekhorst May 22: Brian Fox

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 20: Don & Iola Boyce

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$0+ 1/2 of today's sales, 52 cards left, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!

WHAT HAPPENED IN THE LAST COUPLE OF WEEKS

Just to refresh your memory, 3 weeks ago we welcomed 2 young ladies who recently participated in a Student Exchange to Russia named Nicole Eslinger and Janelle Soquila. These two 13 year old ladies traveled to Moscow, St Petersburg and Novisibursk and enjoyed the hospitality of Russian families with whom they were billeted

Two weeks ago Bob Shantz won the 50/50 with a whopping estimated \$50 grand prize. Way to go, but next time wait till we are down to 2 cards! Bob, ask Stan how to do that.

We also had a booth at the Maple Ridge Home Show.



MEADOWRIDGE ROTARY ESTEEM TEAM

The Esteem Team's visitation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 10 and 17, 2005 with the following itinerary:

May 17 – 10:30am	Davie Jones Elementary	12030 Blakely Rd., PM	Lilo Ljubisic
May 17 – 10:30am	Maple Ridge Elementary	20520 River Rd., MR	Justin Abdou
May 17 – 1:15pm	Glenwood Elementary	21414 Glenwood Ave., MR	Lilo Ljubisic
May 17 – 1:30pm	M.R.S.S.	21911 122 Ave., MR	Justin Abdou



Lilo Ljubisic

Ljiljana, otherwise known as Lilo, is a blind athlete who has successfully represented Canada in National Team Handball and National Team Athletics. In Track and Field, her expertise in Discus and Shot put has earned her many medals and world record titles. Among these honours she owns the World Record for Discus, held since 1991, and the World Record for Shot Put, held since 1993. She has broken both records numerous times.

Lilo is a 5 time Paralympic athlete and world class discus and shot put thrower who has recorded an amazing 19 international podium finishes including a gold and silver medal at the 1992 Summer Paralympic Games in Barcelona, Spain, two Bronze medals at the 1996 Paralympic Games in Atlanta and most recently, Lilo placed 4th in discus at the 2000 Summer games in Sydney, Australia.

Blindly ambitious and an exceptional role model for all youth, Lilo continues to throw herself into her training and her numerous volunteer activities including her work as the Chair of the International Paralympic Committee Athletes Commission.



Justin Abdou

As a young wrestler growing up in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, Justin would go down to the National Training Centre in Regina to watch the Olympic wrestling team train, dreaming of one day being a part of the national wrestling team himself. Justin achieved that goal and was a member of Canada's National Wrestling Team for thirteen years.

When asked the question "What is the strongest motivational force in your life?", Justin responds with "Passion for what I do". It's that passion that allowed him to become an accomplished wrestler, representing Canada at numerous World Championships and such events as the Pan American Games, the Goodwill Games, the Commonwealth Games, and most recently the 2000 Olympic Games.

His career highlights include being a nine time Canadian Senior Champion, winning a Gold medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, earning a business degree from Simon Fraser University in 1995 and placing eleventh at the Sydney Olympics.

Justin knows the importance of having influential mentors while you're growing up and trying to achieve your goals. "My first wrestling coach, Terry Paice, is someone who had an incredible influence on my life. He is someone I still occasionally go to for advice and inspiration." Justin is now influencing and inspiring young wrestlers as a coach himself. Justin devotes the same passion to his sport now as a coach, as he did when he was competing. "I love to teach wrestling and it is a lot of fun for me."

Justin coached the 2002 World Cup Wrestling team and is currently the coach for the Canadian Junior Wrestling Team and the SFU Wrestling Team.