



Outstanding Educator Program showcases students

At last week's meeting, Rotary Club of Utica welcomed Proctor High School seniors Emma Ferguson and Widad Ibrahim. Emma and Widad were supported by Proctor student Angelica Vankeijstetren representing the Best Buddies program as well as Proctor staff members Kerry Calogero, Stephanie Gatto and Brad Gouger. Please read Widad's and Emma's biographies, which can be found on page two of this newsletter, to learn more about these outstanding students. Widad and Emma will join us again at our weekly meeting on March 26.

This week we welcome back New York Mills High School seniors Kristen Despins and Judy Chen, who previously joined us on March 5.



Judy Chen



Kristen Despins

Rotaract Committee places spring intern

Submitted by Dominic Passalacqua, Rotaract Chair

Fellow Rotarians,

This semester, the Rotaract Committee placed a Utica College senior in a virtual internship with the Oneida County Sheriff's Department. The internship is for the duration of UC's spring term, and includes a \$2000 scholarship, supported jointly by our Service Fund dollars, and funds from the Oneida Co. Sheriff's Law Enforcement Foundation. Our sincere thanks to both the Sheriff's Department and their Law Enforcement Foundation for their continuing support of our internship program, and to all of you for generously supporting our Service Fund. Please read intern Tarek Bhuiyan's statement of thanks, which is located on page three of this newsletter.

March Calendar of Events

3/19 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom

3/26 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom

This Week's Program

Submitted by Travis Rabbers, Programs Chair

Ross Berntson is President and Chief Operating Officer for Indium Corporation. He is responsible for Indium Corporation's global sales, marketing, technical support, operations, engineering, human resources, and product R&D functions. Ross joined Indium Corporation in 1996 as a product specialist. Most recently, he has served as Executive Vice President and President of Indium Corporation's Asia Holdings.

Ross has a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Cornell University, where he earned the Henny Wittink Memorial Marketing Prize and the George Caldwell Award.

**FRIDAY | March 19
12 p.m. via Zoom**



**Deadline for next newsletter (3/22) is Sunday, March 21, at noon;
submit to news@uticarotaryclub.org**

Meet Proctor seniors Widad and Emma

Widad Ibrahim

Student Activities

The Junior Frontiers Of The Mohawk Valley, Utica, NY - Member. Youth program dedicated to Academic excellence, Professional development, Civic service and Self-esteem.

Spring of 2019 – Present

Participated in college preparatory seminars; Attended college tours; Assisted with community service projects.

Utica Youth Common Council - President

October 2020-Present

Write an agenda for meetings; See to it that every member is included in discussions and decisions; Write resolutions; Represent the youth in the community to the best possible ability; Hosted a voter registration; Hosted Mental Health Town Hall.

Future Plans

I plan on taking biology as my major, to obtain a bachelor's degree after graduating college. This is to help me meet the requirements for applying to a dental school, where I will continue to study in order to reach my goal of becoming a dentist.

Applied to Utica College, Hamilton College, Cornell University, New York University, SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Oswego, SUNY Polytechnic Institute, The College Of Saint Rose, University Of Rochester, Union College.

Counselor's Comments (Bradley Gouger)

I am currently serving as Widad's Guidance Counselor. She is an incredible young woman. Widad currently carries a GPA of 92.227. She constantly is challenging herself in the classroom by taking AP English, Syracuse University Project Advance Sociology, and Dual Credit courses with Mohawk Valley Community College. She has been acknowledged for her hard work by being named Student of the Month on multiple occasions across multiple disciplines. Widad is a student with tremendous drive and character. Outside of her academic success, she is also a wellrounded student. She is also actively involved in numerous clubs and activities. She is a member of the Junior Frontiers where she had the chance to tour multiple HSBC campuses last year. She is also a member of the Utica Youth Common Council where she is currently running for President. She also works part time and volunteers a number of hours at the Thea Bowman House in Utica. I have the utmost respect for her as a person and can think of no better candidate. I admire her passion and desire. I have no doubt that she is going to be successful in her future endeavors.

Emma Ferguson

Student Activities

After school, I am president of Best Buddies, Captain of Mock Trial, Captain of the Proctor swim team, where I achieved the Center State All Star Conference Award two times, and was a sectional and state qualifier for many events. I am a member of the Utica Youth Common Council, where I raised 1200 dollars for Evelyn's House in Utica, as well as held a voter registration booth for community members and held a mental health awareness town hall to talk with community members about what they are struggling with. Lastly, with the Youth Common Council, I was offered the opportunity to intern for my 3rd District Common Council member on her campaign which will commence in a few months. I am a member of the New Hartford Aquatics swim team, where I achieved First Place at a sectional meet twice called "Silvers" and qualified for the States Meet (Golds) but it was cancelled due to covid. I participate in organizing activities for the Junior and Senior class, I am a part of Student Council, I volunteer on Sundays to teach Confirmation for my local church, I have a part time job currently as a barista after school at a local coffee shop, however, I have also been a lifeguard and continue to be a babysitter for many neighbors. I have raised over 2,000 dollars for the special olympics with my family. Throughout the first semester of this school year I tutored a girl in the mucc program once a week.

Future Plans

The colleges I have applied to are Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Colgate University, Hamilton College, Ithaca College, NYU, North Eastern, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY at Buffalo, SUNY at Albany, Syracuse University, University of Vermont and Utica college. So far I have been accepted to Ithaca college, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY at Buffalo, SUNY at Albany, University of Vermont and Utica college. All accepted into the Arts and Sciences program to study political science. I am excited to further learn about politics and legislation to follow the track of pre-law.

Counselor's Comments (Mr. Gouger)

Emma is an incredible young woman. Emma currently carries a GPA of 91.624. She is an exemplary student constantly is challenging herself in the classroom by taking Syracuse University Project Advance and Dual Credit courses with Mohawk Valley Community College as a senior. Emma is a student with tremendous drive and character. Outside of her academic success, she is also a well-rounded student. She is actively involved in the Mock Trial, Key Club, President of Best Buddies, and was a Junior Class Officer. She is also an outstanding swimmer where is in all-star and school record holder in multiple events. Outside of school, she is on the Youth Common Council. I have the utmost respect for her as a person and can think of no better candidate. She is one of my favorite students that I have had in my career.

Dear Rotary Club of Utica,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the Rotary Club of Utica Internship and Scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support.



I am currently majoring in Cybersecurity with the hopes of working in law enforcement and security. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses, and it will allow me to concentrate more of my time on studying.

Thank you again for your generosity and support. I am committed to my education and to the security field, and your financial assistance and placement in an internship program has brought me one step closer to achieving a lifelong dream.

Sincerely,
Tarek Bhuiyan

Check out the latest District Newsletter and Rotary International News on the Rotary Club of Utica website:

[Rotary District & International News](#)

New board members selected for 2021-22 Rotary year

Secretary Jill Koch announced the results of the survey for new board members at the Board of Directors meeting held on February 15, 2021.

New board members are Phil Bean, Joann Fornino, Mary Ann Hallek-Serwatka, Linda Iannone, and Mark Simon. They will start a three-year commitment as board members July 1, 2021.

Thank you to everyone who offered to serve as board members, and thank you this new group of board members for your commitment.

Annual Service Fund campaign needs your help

Rotary Club of Utica members should have received an email from PP Jim Turnbull, Finance Chairperson, requesting donations to our Annual Service Fund campaign. Jim writes that “The Rotary Club of Utica provides many opportunities to enrich our community, offer needed assistance and broaden our understanding of other cultures. I have used this to start many of my requests for donations to our Annual Service fund campaign. It’s been a year now since the Pandemic was declared. Our club is still a very functioning group. We have found ways to reach out to our community during these most challenging of times. While our opportunities to serve have been reduced for a time, we still have programs in the works and plans to resume after the storm passes. We will be doing out Educator Recognition Awards again this year. That was a great program last year, even through the eyes of Zoom.”

Jim is requesting that all members consider a donation of some amount this Rotary year. In past years a minimum of \$160 has been suggested, but as Club expenses are down, please consider whatever you can offer. The fund, Utica Rotary Service, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) so your contribution is tax deductible.

Donations can be mailed to Utica Rotary Service, Inc., P.O. Box 8586, Utica, NY 13505 or through the Club website at [Service Fund Donation](#).

Sad News

Roger Skinner, a long-time member of the Mohawk Valley Rotary Club, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Many of our club members were familiar with or knew Roger well. Roger was very active in Rotary but

had a special passion for Rotary Books for the World; he was preparing pallets of books to be shipped overseas just a few days before his passing.

Roger’s obituary can be read online at [Roger J. Skinner Obituary](#). Memorial contributions in his memory may be donated to The Roger Skinner Books for the World Fund, c/o AmeriCU Bank, 326 E State St, Herkimer, NY 13350.

