

Rotary Scholarship History and Impact

Created by

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Education and Scholarships Chair

Rotary District 5710, NE Kansas

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Rotary was founded in Chicago, Illinois

- Paul Harris, a lawyer practicing law in Chicago, asked several business associates in his office building to meet and discuss their lives.
- Four businessmen met on February 23, 1905 and started what eventually became known as the first Rotary Club.

Scholarships go back to Paul Harris

- On January 27, 1947, Paul Harris died at age 78 after a long illness. Rotary was 42 years old.
- Paul Harris wanted Rotarians to donate to The Rotary Foundation, instead of sending flowers.
- Upon Harris' death, members contributed to the Paul Harris Memorial Fund.
- Within 18 months, members contributed \$1.3 million (~\$18 million today).

The Rotary Foundation's First Program

- The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program was created in 1947.
- Nearly 38,000 men and women from ~100 nations studied abroad.
- The purpose of the prestigious Ambassadorial Scholarships program was to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries and geographical areas.
- The program sponsored several types of scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students.
- It was the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program.

District 5710 Ambassadorial Scholars

- Records of Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars from 1974-2012 show a total of 37 scholars over that 38 year period from District 5710.
- Did we have scholars before 1974? I assume so but don't know.
- If you know how we can determine who the scholars were before 1974, please let me know.

Global Grant Scholarship Program

- The Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Program ended in 2012.
- It was replaced by the Rotary Global Grant Scholarship, which expands on the Ambassadorial mission, by now ensuring that every Rotary Scholar advance Rotary's International mission to "promote service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace".

District Global Grant Scholarship Committee 2023-2024

- Courtney Brooks
- Jim Evers
- Joan Underwood
- Laurie McCormack
- Ron Slepitz
- Ryan Klataske
- Steven Graham, Chair

District 5710 and Global Grant Scholars

- Since 2013, District 5710 has had eight Global Grant Scholars.
- In 2019, the District did not have enough dollars to fund Global Grant Scholars.
- Under an agreement with past DG Barr and then DG Henricks, the District agreed to save money for three fiscal years and then fund a Global Grant Scholar in 2023-2024.
- As of this July, the District is saving money during only two fiscal years, so our next Global Grant Scholar will depart in 2025-2026.

Myriah Smith

- Myriah Smith was from Derby, KS, and graduated from KSU with a major in Spanish studies.
- She earned a Master's degree in Panama in 2013-2014.
- Myriah has worked as an English Teacher, Spanish Interpreter, and Conference Interpreter over the years in Panama.
- Currently, she is a Freelance Interpreter in Panama.

Dr. Christian Cruz

- Dr. Christian Cruz conducted a Rotary funded doctoral research program in Bolivia and Brazil in 2013 – 2014.
- Christian was working on Wheat Blast Research, on behalf of K-State's Department of Plant Pathology and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Christian finished his Ph.D. and post-doc and is now an Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany & Plant Pathology at Purdue University.
- Christian came to Kansas via Ecuador and Venezuela.

Dr. Christian Cruz, cont'd.

- “First of all, I want to thank all the Rotarians who have helped me directly or indirectly throughout my life. For instance, the elementary school where I studied in Guayaquil-Ecuador received contributions from Rotarians during its construction back in the 80s.”

Dr. Christian Cruz, cont'd.

- “The Rotary Global Grant Scholarship that I received in 2013, while I was a Ph.D. student, allowed me to do research in Bolivia, meet great people, and gain soft skills.
- Four years later, I began my position as an Assistant Professor at Purdue University, where I have developed a successful program in plant disease epidemiology that is gaining recognition.
- The entire experience marked me forever, starting from the meticulous selection process that I will never forget and meeting great people in the U.S. and overseas. I plan to become a Rotarian once I have settled and obtained tenure.”

Dr. Christian Cruz, cont'd.

- Christian shared a picture that he took in Bolivia back in 2013, which he continues to use in many of his scientific presentations.



Chelsea Mertz

- Chelsea Mertz is from Topeka, KS, and earned a degree in Political Science and Government from KU in 2010.
- Chelsea served in the Peace Corps in Malawi after graduation.
- She received a Global Grant Scholarship and earned a master's degree from the London School of Economics in International Relations and Human Rights in 2014-15.

Chelsea Mertz, cont'd.

- I had set my sights on attaining a master's degree from the London School of Economics in international relations and human rights. My ultimate focus was on international women's health and rights advocacy.
- The dedicated members of the club as well as the district helped me throughout the grant process and saw me off to London.
- There I was hosted by the Rotary Club of The City & Shoreditch. I had fantastic hosts and was united with many other Rotary scholars from around the world, many of whom have become good friends of mine.

Chelsea Mertz, cont'd.

- I am now based in Washington, D.C. where I am Associate Director of Program Management of BlueLabs. BlueLabs is an analytics and technology solutioning firm which solves the toughest challenges with data-driven insights, whether in Health Care, turning out the vote, mobilizing activists and donors, etc.
- The Rotary Foundation scholarship made it all possible through the power of connecting people and serving communities.
- Rotary will forever have a proud place in my heart and will keep me connected to fellow scholars and Rotarians for years to come.”

Jessica (Munoz) Northam

- Jessica Munoz Northam majored in Drama Therapy at K-State.
- Jessica earned her MS at Barranquilla, Colombia from 2015-2016, using her Rotary scholarship and is a Trauma Specialist and Expressive Art Therapist.
- She worked with internally displaced women and children (due to the many years long war on drugs) suffering from PTSD in Colombia.
- She has conducted workshops for Rotary in South America, worked with refugees in the U.S. and assisted hurricane victims in Puerto Rico.
- She and her husband moved to Spain in 2021 for his Tech MBA studies.
- Jessica presented a Breakout Session during the 2021 District Conference.

Jessica (Munoz) Northam

- I reached out to Jessica and she provided an update since 2021.
- After Spain, they spent a few months in London while her husband completed an extension of his Tech MBA.
- Jessica completed her second masters degree in clinical mental health counseling and she is now licensed as a counselor in Idaho.
- After London, they traveled to Idaho and Colombia and then back to Idaho for the birth of their baby daughter last May.
- Jessica met her husband during her Rotary study in Colombia through the local Rotaract Club. She says the baby is their Rotary daughter.

Caitlyn (Webb) Thomas

- Caitlyn (Webb) Thomas is from Colorado Springs, CO.
- She graduated from KSU with a BA in Economics with a minor in Spanish as well as a Bachelors in Business Administration/Accounting.
- Caitlyn received a Rotary Global Grant Scholarship in 2017 and studied at the London School of Economics in 2017-18.
- Caitlyn is now Managing Partner of Bannockburn Ventures, LLC - a real estate property group focused on home renovation and short & medium-term rental management currently operating in TX & OK.

Caitlyn (Webb) Thomas, cont'd.

- “Serving as a Global Grant Scholar created a remarkable opportunity to connect with Rotarians in London, and across the UK. It facilitated a deeper learning of culture and international relationships, which accompanied the extraordinary experience of earning a degree from the London School of Economics.
- Even now, I continue to draw from the relational and value-driven lessons I learned during my time in London and with Rotary.”

Gloria Funcheon

- Gloria Funcheon was from Wichita, KS, and earned a BA in History and International Relations from KSU.
- She then earned a MA in Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian Studies from KU.
- Gloria received a Global Grant Scholarship in 2018.
- She studied at SOAS University of London and earned a master's in Development Studies in 2018-19.
- Gloria is currently a Human Rights Officer in Kosovo with OSCE.
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is the world's largest regional security organization.

Gloria Funcheon, cont'd.

- “The Global Grant Scholarship from the Rotary Foundation dramatically changed my life by giving me the opportunity to undertake higher education. As a masters student at SOAS University of London, I was able to gain more technical skills and built a stronger professional network in the field of international development and humanitarian affairs.
- While in London, I had closer proximity to my target region, so I was able to take several trips as a development consultant and election observer to Eastern Europe and Central Asia. I also was able to work part-time for Mercy Corps in London providing administrative oversight for their humanitarian programs in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Gloria Funcheon, cont'd.

- Finally, I was lucky to meet my spouse in London! A true Italian, he managed a pasta restaurant I frequented too often.”
- For the past couple of years, they lived in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where Gloria worked for Mercy Corps, managing the communications strategy for a USDA-funded early childhood education and nutrition program.”
- Now they are in Kosovo.

Genevieve Akins

- Genevieve Akins is from Topeka and earned her bachelors in Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science at St. Olaf College.
- Using her Rotary Global Study Grant, she earned a Master's degree in Equality Studies at University College Dublin in Ireland in 2018-19.
- Genevieve works as an online tutor through Carpenter Tutoring, which is based in Virginia.
- She is a Digital Crisis Volunteer Counselor for The Trevor Project and has worked with several counseling organizations in Topeka.
- Genevieve is working on an online Master's of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling at William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA.

Mattie Vandel

- Mattie Vandel is our newest District 5710 Rotary Global Grant Scholar.
- She is from Weston, MO., attended Kansas State University and majored in Anthropology. After graduation, she worked abroad and in the U.S. for four years.
- Mattie applied to and was accepted to a unique 2 year Global Studies Master's program through Humboldt University in Berlin.
- Students study in Berlin, then go to South Africa to study. Then they move to Thailand for part of a year. Afterwards, they do a special project at some location and then finish their studies back in Berlin.

Mattie Vandel

- Mattie went to Berlin and started classes last April 2023.
- Mattie started her classes at the University of Pretoria in South Africa on August 9th.
- She will be home in December 2023 for break and then go to study at Chulalongkorn University Thailand in January 2024.
- So far, Mattie has connected with Rotary clubs in Berlin and Pretoria.

Visit the District 5710 Website

- Go to Rotary District 5710 website – www.rotary5710.org
- Go across the top to **Foundation**
- Under **Foundation**, click on **Global Grant Scholarships**:
 - The first page tells when we will search for scholars and once again fund them to study abroad
 - Read information about Global Grants
 - Read the Global Grant Scholarship Supplement
 - Look at the list of scholarship winners since 1974
 - Review this PPT.

In Summary

- District 5710 has sponsored 37 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars and 8 Rotary Global Grant Scholars since 1974.
- These scholars all distinguished themselves during and after their studies sponsored by Rotary.
- Nearly all went on to further their education
- Most became very involved in international projects
- Rotary had a life-long/very positive impact on these men and women
- They have impacted untold numbers of lives and that was the goal!

Donate to The Rotary Foundation

- Paying your dues is important and contributes to the running of your local Rotary clubs and District 5710.
- However, only donations to The Rotary Foundation fund global grants, global grant scholarships, PolioPlus efforts, disaster response efforts, Rotary Youth Exchange In and Out Bound, and provide DDF (District Designated Funds) back to our District.
- Donations to the Rotary Annual Fund are used to fund global grants, whether scholarships or projects, so please give and give generously.

What are the results of scholarships?

- “Rotary changes us and those we serve. I believe we can change the world one life at a time.” Paul Harris
- That is what we are doing with our Rotary Global Grant Scholarships and we certainly can see the impact of the scholarships in the lives of our former students.
- Thank you for your support of Rotary Global Grant Scholarships.

Genevieve Akins

Please help me welcome our 2018-2019 Global Grant Scholar Genevieve, who studied at University College Dublin, to the podium.









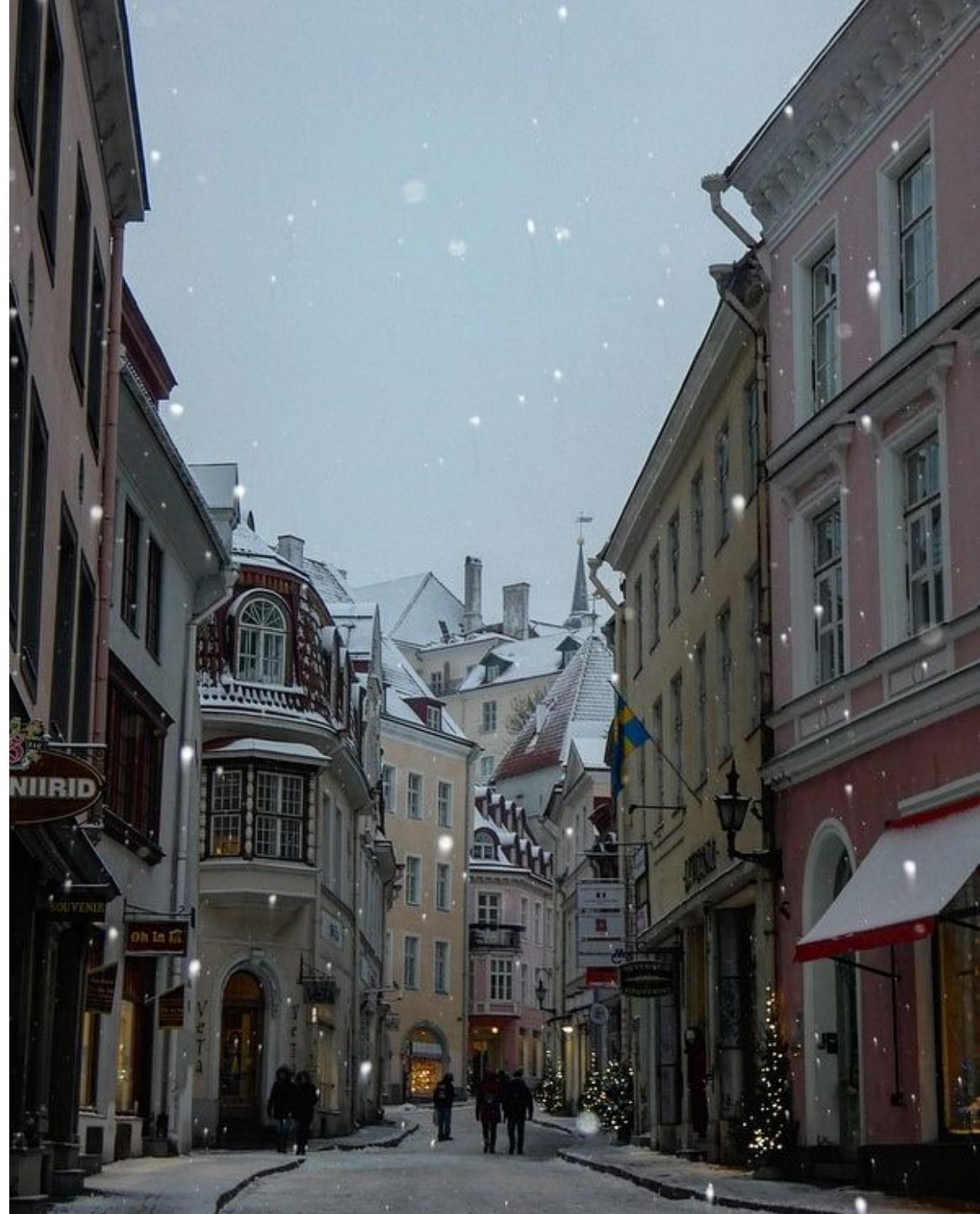
















Foirgneamh Obair Shóisialta Agnes McGuire
Agnes McGuire Social Work Building

Institiúid don Léann Daonna UCD
UCD Humanities Institute



Thank you for your attention.

Questions?