



May 29, 2018

INTERACT SERVICE AWARD Interacting with Tomorrow's Leaders



Today's panel discussion with recipients of the Interact Service Award moderated by Mary Vickers-Koch gave our Rotary Club an opportunity to hear from and interact with tomorrow's leaders. For those new to Rotary, Interact is a service club for youth ages 12 to 18

who want to connect with other young people and have fun while serving their communities and learning about the world. Clubs, which meet at least twice a month, are sponsored by local Rotary clubs. Interact clubs organize two projects every year; one that helps their school or community and one that promotes international understanding. Members of sponsor Rotary clubs mentor Interactors as they carry out the projects and develop leadership skills.

Since the 1980's our club has awarded \$500 scholarships to youth, and recently decided to increase the award to \$2,500 with a renewed focus on Service above Self and specifically, Interact Club members. Serving on this year's Interact Service Award Committee with committee chair Mary Vickers-Koch were Valerie Truesdale, Vanessa Stolen, Ann Clark, Bill Loftin, Ed Kizer, Chad Lloyd, Cynthia Marshall, and Sandy Osborne. This year 12 students applied and five were selected: Anthony Marsh, Harding University High School; Shania Jenkins, Harding University High School; Baker Jarrell, Myers Park High School; Stephany Castro, East Mecklenburg High School and Gracie Owen, Charlotte Country Day School. To be eligible for consideration, students must meet the following requirements/criteria: be in their senior year of high school; be an active member of their school's Interact Club, complying with all club guidelines and expectations for service; exceed the service requirements; have applied and/or been accepted to a two- or four-year college/university in the U.S.; provide short essay that describes activities and perspective on the importance of service in their community; and include a letter of reference from the Interact Club Advisor (additional letter of reference from other teachers may be included).

Participating in today's panel were Anthony Marsh, Shania Jenkins, Baker Jarrell and Stephany Castro. Also in attendance were family members, school principals and Interact Advisors.

The first question posed to the panelists was "Tell us about yourself including what college you plan to attend, what you plan to major in and one thing you would like the group to know about yourself?"

Anthony will be attending Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona where he plans to major in finance and computer science. He wanted the club to know that he is a caring person and where he comes from, people go without and he wants to do something about it. That is why he got involved with Habitat for Humanity and helped produce a video for relief effort in Puerto Rico (<https://interactclubhardinghigh.wordpress.com/>).

Shania will be attending Clemson University where she plans to study international relations with a focus on Spanish. She wanted us to know that she's very passionate about helping her community.

Stephanie will be attending Trinity Washington University in D.C. where she plans to major in nursing with a minor in journalism or political science. She wanted us to know about her work with the student hunger drive and the cook-off she helped plan to create nutritious recipes for people living in low-income communities.

Baker is off to the University of Texas in Austin where he hopes to one day work at a start-up and make a difference. He talked about his involvement with aquaponics where he and others in his club worked to grow lettuce from fish waste.

The next question was "Tell us what community service means to you?"

Stephany talked about finding a way to help victims of hurricanes and how putting together feminine care packages was a meaningful way to provide simple things for people in need. She also talked about the importance of forming partnerships with other groups at her school like Student Congress and ROTC to help with their community service efforts.

Shania, who also worked on the Puerto Rico relief video, talked about the importance of helping people rebuild their homes and lives as well as get electricity available. She had visited Puerto Rico right before the hurricane and knew that she wanted to make an impact to help residents.

Anthony talked about what it meant to work with Habitat and help people who cannot afford housing and his concern for homelessness in Charlotte. His being able to paint a house and make a difference for a family of three meant the world to him.

While working as a bagger at Harris Teeter, Baker worked closely with two people that were very different from him. Both worked two jobs to provide for their families and neither could afford to buy fresh vegetables. The food grown through the aquaponics system at Myers Park could benefit those who could use it the most.

The third question was "What challenges do you think you might face when you transition from high school to college?"

Each student had their own individual perspective but there was one common theme, which was "being away from home and my friends." Anthony shared that while he was extremely grateful for the scholarship, he does have concerns about tuition and managing student debt. Shania had recently moved to Charlotte so her challenge was moving again and adjusting to new things, but that she would start a Rotaract Club if there wasn't already one. Stephany was optimistic and said even though she would be away from home it would help her grow independently. And even though Baker was moving the furthest away from home he looked forward to making new friends and getting involved.

The final question was “What advice do you have from your high school principals and advisors about promoting service at your high schools?”

Anthony recommended that the Interact Club be promoted more in the schools to help students understand what it is and that they can help the community. He said so many students want to help but they don't know how and his final remark was “without Chad Lloyd, I would not be sitting here today.” Shania suggested that Rotary members come to their meetings to boost our confidence. Stephany suggested that students hear more about the difference they can make not only locally but within our state and country. Baker said that in larger schools there's always a feeling that someone else will do it. He suggested coming into the classroom to promote Interact would be impactful.

There's no doubt that our club was inspired by the panelists judging by the robust Q&A, great advice, and further assistance offered to these rising future leaders!

Speaker Write-Up: Kim McMillan; *Head Table:* Katie Tyler, Mary Vickers-Koch, Anthony Marsh, Shania Jenkins, Baker Jarrell, Stephany Castro; *Invocation:* Mac McCarley; *Visitors & Guests:* Bill Bradley; *Photos:* Bert Voswinkel; *Piano:* Em Syrewicze

CLUB NEWS

It is very sad to report the death of **Kathy Boone** on May 25, 2018. Kathy joined Charlotte Rotary in 2012 and is survived by her husband Brian, daughters Lindsey and Lillie, her father, maternal grandmother, two brothers and extended family members. A memorial service will be held at Christ Episcopal Church today, May 30, 2018 at 4pm with a reception immediately following in the All Saints' Hall in the church complex. As was stated in her obituary, Kathy did not want cancer to define her life, but instead hoped that her passion and zeal will be a model for us all to follow.

Condolences to **Bill Nichols** and his wife, Suzanne. Suzanne's mother, Shila Bowron (Mrs. William A. Bowron) from Birmingham, AL passed away May 25, 2018.

Tony Zeiss is re-joining the club and it was good to see him at Tuesday's meeting. Updated email: zeiss.tony@gmail.com. **Mary Rinehart** called to say she is leaving Rotary to enjoy her retirement by spending as much time as possible in the mountains and in Florida. **Catherine Bracey** and family spent Memorial Day at the Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial in Belgium. It is home to the graves of 5,329 members of the United States Military who died in WWII. They had their official remembrance with over 2k attending – mostly Belgians. Lots of flowers and right by the flowers from the Belgium King were flowers sent by Rotary. Wish I knew the story behind that. **Carla Dupree** had the privilege to serve as a Guardian on the Queen City Honor Flight that took WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans to Washington on May 26, 2018. An experience of a lifetime!

Rotaract Turns 50 Conference will be held May 31-June 2 at UNC Charlotte Center City. What a remarkable event this has turned into and thanks to **John Luebke** and his team for the hard work. A 'welcome to conference' social hosted by Charlotte Evening Rotary Club will be held Thursday, 6PM-9PM at Duckworth's Grill & Taproom, 330 N. Tryon Street. The conference kicks off with a tree planting with Barry Rassin, RI President 2018-2019 and RI Directors Ron Ferrill and David Stovall.

ROTARY 101

Rotary Direct is Rotary's recurring giving program that saves time and money when making your donation to The Rotary Foundation. There are three ways to enroll: (1) www.rotary.org/give is the easy on-line option. Rotary members and friends have the option to choose how to direct their donations for a recurring gift (monthly, quarterly, annually) or one-time gift. (2) Sign up by calling Enroll in Rotary Direct, 1-866-976-8279. (3) complete the Rotary Direct Enrollment Form <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/rotary-direct-rotarys-recurring-giving-program-form>. There is a minimum contribution of \$10 per transaction (\$10 per month, quarter, or year). Direct debit from your checking account is NOT an option, but you can donate using a credit or debit card that is associated with a personal checking account. Gifts can be set up on a monthly, quarterly, or annual basis. Give it a try!

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2017	309
05/29/2018	289
Net Increase:	-20

New Members: Frank Mueller, Linwood Bolles, Kim Kuo, Tony Zeiss

Resignations: Mark Duncan, Quincy Foil White, Mary Rinehart, Kathy Boone (deceased)

Visitors	29
Club Members	103
Total	132 (43.2%)

Visitors & Guests: Tony Zeiss, Jordan Watkins, Bob McCarter, Robert Edwards, Andrew Freund, Tripp Pound, Chelsea Engle, Jennifer Conway, Jenn Marts, Clarke Allen, Brandy Whitaker, Sarah Shifflet, Gina Salvati, Daryl Clarke, Keith Cartwright, Eric Ward, David Lynn, Anne Cullip, Charlotte & Doug Jarrell, Marshall Williamson, Rebecca Daverin-Marini, Rick Parker

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (06/06/18 – 06/12/18)

06/06 David Zimmerman
06/07 Jeff Searcy
06/08 Tom Wright
06/09 Alex Browning, Henry Bostic
06/11 Tom Bartholomy
06/12 Suzanne Bledsoe

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (06/06/18 – 06/12/18)

06/06 Sarah & Tony Lathrop
06/07 Jean & Al Allison, Betty & Erskine Harkey
06/08 Julie & John Armistead, Eileen Keeley & Pat Millen
06/09 Linda & John Shell
06/12 Rhonda & Bill York, Karen & Herb Harriss, Claudia & Wes Sturges

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (06/06/18 – 06/12/18)

04 years – Sandra James
07 years – Eric Davis
09 years – Fernando Ycaza
17 years – Tom Bartholomy

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

06/05 *Clarke Allen*, Event Planner and Designer, Serial Entrepreneur and Author

06/12 *Caroline Dudley*, Accenture, Report on How Company Culture is Key to Unlocking Gender Equal and Narrowing Pay Gap

06/19 *Phil Kirk*, The Ten Governors I Have Known

06/26 *Jessica Brown* and *Varian Shrum*, Camp North End

Rotary
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