



June 4, 2019

BUILDING THE WHOLE PERSON A Guide to the College Admissions Process



The audience was a study in diversity today as five Charlotte area high school students joined our meeting to be honored as winners ~ each ~ of a \$2,500 **Interact Service Award** college scholarship funded by the Rotary Club of Charlotte. Club President Mike Hawley opened the meeting and introduced Charlotte Rotarian Mary Vickers-Koch who, in turn, gave a brief overview of the program and then welcomed Charlotte Rotarian Chad Lloyd. Chad had the proud duty to introduce the winners and welcome their high school principals, teachers and administrators, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Superintendent Dr. Clayton Wilcox, Interact Advisors, and the families of our scholarship winners. Listed alphabetically, the honorees are: Camille Boulware, Myers Park High School (who will attend the University of South Carolina); Paula Bravver, Myers Park High School

(who will attend UNC-Chapel Hill); Kiera Carlton, Harding University High School (who will attend Gardner-Webb University); Raahil Madhiwala, Mallard Creek High School (who will attend UNC-Chapel Hill); and Taylor Yarbrough, Charlotte Country Day School (who will attend Furman University.) Criteria includes active membership in Interact which consists of demonstrating outstanding community service via programs which enrich local communities as well as international projects ... all with a focus on *Service Above Self*. Camille, Paula, Kiera, Raahil and Taylor each spoke briefly about her/his Interact experience and its impact on her/his life and future college plans. It was especially thrilling to hear such intelligent, well-spoken and generous high school students recap their community service experiences with a firm commitment to continue that lifestyle in the future ... to remain active with Interact and Rotary.

Chad turned the program over to Charlotte Rotarian Nancy McNelis to moderate and facilitate a panel discussion on "The push and pull of college admissions" ~ a most timely subject given recent media attention to that subject. Panelists included Dr. Daniel ("JJ") McEachern, Dean of Enrollment Management at Central Piedmont Community College (CPC); Jennifer ("Jen") Johnson, M.S., Vice President of Admissions and Marketing at Queens University; and Kelly DeAntonio, CMS Ardrey Kell Counseling Chairperson. Nancy's questions included topics ranging from "a sense of time that an average student invest in the admissions process"; the continuing rising of costs (tuition/books/dorm fees/food) for college students in this day and time, and how families are dealing with financial



demands; suggested key changes to the admission process to make it easier for students; and the intense competition among students regarding admission and scholarship options.

Our panelists' responses were well-worded and equally well-received since so many in our audience are/were parents of college students past, present and future. Advice regarding admissions included - in capital letters - PLAN AHEAD. Don't wait until freshmen year is looming before checking into financial aid, scholarships, entrance criteria, living conditions, and testing. Apply for financial aid and scholarships and connect to organizations that may offer same. There are federal loans available, Pell Grants, and scholarships pertaining to a particular college history. Private loans, we were advised, are never a good idea. Of note, Jen Johnson shared that 98% of Queens University students have some sort of financial assistance so it's obviously available for those who do their homework in advance. Succinctly put: Understand the bottom line well in advance and plan for it. JJ McEachern reminded us that CPCC's cost (\$3,500/year) allows students to achieve the first two years of college at a minimum cost, allowing them to use tuition dollars saved to invest in the following two years at a four-year college or university. In fact, CPCC has an agreement/partnership with every four-year college/university in the Charlotte area which makes it an easy transition from CPCC to a four-year college of choice. What's important, JJ told us, is that a student and/or his/her family find a college that "fits" the student. Look for a one-on-one session(s) with a guidance counselor or career coach to be sure a student understands which course of study and which school will be a good fit for her/him. A four-year college is not for everyone so be sure to build the best foundation for a college *and* business career by taking advantage of counselors and career coaches.

Mental health, we were told, is a growing issue with options for various disabilities of all types available.

When it narrows down to what makes one college Admissions Application more appealing to an institution over another, it often comes down to "relationships," meaning a candidate's extra-curricular activities, particularly as it applies to leadership roles, community service, civic projects, working with mentors, summer jobs or internships, and memberships in clubs and organizations. In addition to the student's GPA, holding a class office or taking dual enrollment is impressive to Admissions officers. The essay as part of the Application is very important since it demonstrates maturity, writing ability, and creative thinking.

Perhaps the most valuable message we heard today in regard to college admission work is JJ's comment, "At CPCC we look toward 'Building the Whole Person'." Queens University recommends that students "explore their passion." Surely these speak to all of the Charlotte area colleges/universities which make the mandates to *choose the right college/university and the right program of study of immense importance.*

What an interesting program we enjoyed at Charlotte Rotary! Thank you to our superb panelists and Congrats to our five scholarship winners!

Reporter: Marilyn Bowler; *Head Table:* Nancy McNelis, Mike Hawley, Mary Vickers-Koch; *Invocation:* Charlie Bones; *Introduce Visitors:* Dumont Clarke; *Photos:* Sandy Osborne; *Greeter:* Kim Brattain & Noelle Culler

CLUB NEWS

Mike Wollinger knows someone that is looking for a personal coach. If you can help with a referral, please reach out to Mike: mwollinger@localfirstbank.com. Updated email to reach **Ralston Pound**: rpoundjr12@gmail.com. **Russell Ranson** wrote a Letter to the Editor regarding Mecklenburg County's decision to give a 5.5% raise to all of its employees, having just increased the hourly raise from \$11.65 to \$15 in February.

Patricia Shafer presented the session "Training Young Peacebuilders Around the World" to an estimated 200 attendees at the Rotary Peace Symposium in Hamburg. The theme was "Sustaining Peace Through Partnerships," and the goal was to stay true to the theme, demonstrating how Rotarians in various communities/Districts are modeling peacebuilding and peace education through their engagement with NewGen Peacebuilders.



Bill Loftin and **Chad Lloyd** are Interact advisors at Harding University High School and have had great success lining up guest speakers to talk to the Interact club.

American civil rights figure, Dorothy Counts-Scoggin, visited the group in May and her visit was quite inspiring. You will recall Dorothy was one of the first black students admitted to Harry Harding High School in 1956. A great connection for these students.



The annual ***Dine Out for Kids*** event will be held Tuesday, June 18. More than 90 participating restaurants will dish up great food and fun and donate a portion of their sales to Communities In Schools. Dine out for breakfast, lunch and/or dinner. List of participating restaurants: <http://bit.ly/DOFK2019>

Follow-Up

-Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic September 10, 2019.

-Support Mt. Kilimanjaro END POLIO NOW climb : <https://rotary7680kiidimb.org> (click on Warren Kean to make your donation).

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2018	288
06/04/2019	281
Net Increase:	-7

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP *(Comments to Rotary Office by 6/11/19)*

Russell Peck
Oaklee Strategies (Marketing, Public Affairs)
Sponsor: John Lassiter
Endorsed: Edwin Peacock and Don Millen

Visitors	34
Club Members	105
Total	139 (44.9%)

Guests: Lew Davidson, Kevin Garay, Kelly DeAntonia, Jen Johnson, Daniel McEachern, David Lynn, Anne Cullip, Robert Cullip, Brandy Whitaker, Kathy Elling, Paty Prieto, Lily Rowland, Mary Claire Poth, Camille Boulware, Scott Boulware, Liz Boulware, Cheryl Davis, Raahil Madhiwala, Tejal Madhiwala, Taylor Yarbrough, Ben Yarbrough, Paula Bravver, Brian Carlton, Sharon Carlton, Kiera Carlton, Braheam Murphy, Tim Willis, Bruton Peacock, Clayton Woodard, Matt DeAntonia, Chris Beckage, Mark Seely, Clayton Wilcox, George Zorrilla

BIRTHDAYS *(06/12/19 – 06/18/19)*

06/12 Suzanne Bledsoe
06/13 Chris Thomas
06/14 Jay Westmoreland, Jennifer Nichols
06/15 Tom Gibson
06/17 Terence Gordon, Jeff Atkinson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES *(06/12/2019 – 06/18/19)*

06/12 Rhonda & Bill York, Karen & Herb Harriss, Claudia & Wes Sturges
06/13 Deborah & Steve Meckler
06/15 Debra & Bob Webb, Beth & Stuart Hair
06/16 Mary & Brian Gibson, Peggy & Bob Culbertson
06/18 Gayle & Luther Fincher

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES *(06/12/2019 – 06/18/19)*

02 years – JT Simpson
04 years – Mary Ellen Player
10 years – Mark Turner
18 years – Tom Bartholomy (in this club)
19 years – Mike Crum
20 years – John Scharer

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

06/11 – How I Got Where I'm At (*Margaret Marshall, Linwood Bolles, Clyde Robinson*)
06/18 – Steve Luquire, George Andrews, & Danny Morrison, Sports in Charlotte
06/25 – Club President Transition
07/02 – Holiday Week – Not Meeting

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on Flickr [Click here](#)