



# EFFINGHAM 'PINION

(OPINIONS OF THE TIMES)<sup>™</sup>

PUBLISHED BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

EFFINGHAM ROTARY CLUB  
CLUB No. 3265  
DISTRICT 6490  
ORGANIZED 1920

Philip R. Coats, Editor

## Continuing the tradition:

### Rotary Youth Exchange & Ambassadorial Scholar

**28 December 2011**

Joe Fearday's invited Krystal Montesdeoca from Normal, IL to confer about her experience as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. In his absence Charlie Brumleve (pictured at right), the stated program chair was in charge of introducing her and her mother to our group.

The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship program will end in 2013 and be replaced in beginning in 2013-14 with scholarship opportunities through district and global grants. This new grant structure will give Rotarians greater flexibility in sponsoring the next generation of leaders. Since 1947, a total of \$532 million has been awarded to 41,000 men and women such as Krystal. The program promotes international understanding and friendly relations among people of different parts of the world. These scholarships are designed for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as qualified professionals pursuing vocational studies. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the country where they study and give presentations about their own culture to Rotary clubs and other groups. Back home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that deepened their understanding of another culture.



Krystal's siblings and she have all been exchange students in high school. Her family may be Mexican-American but they sought to be multi-cultural and international in their education and experience. She was non Rotary exchange student to Japan and while living there met Rotary exchange students and the world-wide program supported by Rotarians and Rotary International. One of her sisters was an exchange student to Brazil in 2009. Her family visited there and that led to her application to be a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar to Brazil if it was possible.

The application process extended over eighteen months commencing in January 2009 and was completed in Spanish, Portuguese and English. She had to prove herself to be worthy to be a scholar and convince those reading the application she could communicate. One of the requirements was two years of Portuguese at the university level which she lacked. Her sister who had resided in

January 4

Jay

Buehnerkemper's guest will be brother Shawn Buehnerkemper, Vice President of Commercial Sales with Gregory & Appel insurance services in Indianapolis. His program will focus on the challenges faced by the insurance industry in 2011.

Brazil in 2009 became her coach and tutor in Portuguese, the world's eighth populous language. Portuguese is the main language for Brazilians and contains 190 out of 240 million in the world.

This Spanish and Economics major at Illinois State University was awarded \$25,000 to study abroad. She is a graduate of ISU's Metcalf and University High lab school and at the time of the award Spanish major with Japanese minor in the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. She speaks English, Spanish, Japanese, and Portuguese. She also studied German at ISU.

Her host District 4570 is located at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil <http://www.rotary4570.org.br/>. (Note: If you "Google" search Rotary District 4570 the page can be translated for those of us not fluent in Portuguese.) Her host club was the Copacabana Club which celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009. This club meets on Monday evenings at 8:30 pm and following the tradition of other Latin American clubs ends late, often about 1 am, fueled by food and drink. It is a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club.



Krystal attended the district conference in adjoining state six hours away. A dairy state (remember our PDG Ray Ropp), she said this convention features cheese at our meal and everywhere and lasts for four days.

As a Rotary Exchange Student in high school just about everything is provided for you but as a Scholar with your \$25,000 cash award you must find your housing and pay your own expenses. She roomed with a Californian there as an exchange student. We learned about her meeting with her Evanston, IL based advisor who came to visit, her contact with Rotaractors and their district convention. She participated in a day long McDia Feliz, connected with the local McDonald restaurants, for a cancer fundraiser.

One of her favorite trips was the Amazon River basin where she interacted with the indigenous tribes. Her guide was a famous travel photographer with connections allowing her to attend a "coming of age" experience and to swim in the sacred river. Although Portuguese is the official language for 99% of the population, the minority indigenous languages extend to 210, of which eight are indigenous.

She studied at the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro or PUC-Rio) – see inset at right. It is a private and non-profit Catholic university, maintained by the Archdiocese of Rio and the Society of Jesus. It is ranked as the best private university in Brazil making it second best only behind the University of São Paulo.



Krystal also exhibited photos of her trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina and a few carefully selected photographs of her Carnival experience. She attended the latter with her very reserved friends from Japan and much less inhibited Brazilian counterparts. Must have been some party?

She acknowledged a long term commitment to Rotary. She plans to obtain a degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign in Agriculture and Consumer Economics. And MBA may be in the future, work with the Peace Corps and possibly to apply to be a Rotary Peace Fellow. Those receiving the fellowship promote national and international cooperation, peace, and the successful resolution of conflict throughout their lives, in their careers, and through service activities. Fellows can earn either a master's degree in international relations, public administration,



sustainable development, peace studies, conflict resolution, or a related field, or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict resolution.

## VISITORS & Guests

Grandfather **Art Schottman** welcomed grandkids from two coasts: **Molly Knol**, also a Rotary exchange to Mexico, and **Max Knol**; one lives in San Diego and the other in the New York City area. **Bill Myers'** grandson **Nick** came for lunch while visiting during the holidays.

Our guest speaker today was accompanied by her mother **Leticia Montesdeoca** and introduced by **President Norma**.

## No Student Guest today – everyone on Christmas break

### STUFF YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW



- ❖ Our Rotary Club board has advanced the offer to become Sustaining Members in the Rotary Foundation Annual Program. Our club has accumulated over \$15,000 in credits that may be used on a first come-first granted basis. If you wish to become a Sustaining member \$500 towards the total \$1,000 Paul Harris Fellow award may be obtained. The \$50 offer still stands if you wish to stretch the amount over ten years at \$100 per annum. See Rotary Foundation chair Dave Ring, club secretary Tonya Siner or Club president Norma Lansing for more details and information. *Call now, phone lines are open, operators are standing by...*
- ❖ Next week Ron Diehl will receive his THIRD Paul Harris Fellow award.



- ❖ Rotary Youth Exchange Student Maricruz Martinez from Orizaba, Veracruz, Mexico will live with Eric and Nicole Zeller family until early January when she will move to the Mark and Kathy Daughtery household. They are her host family until early April.
- ❖ We will welcome another student in the fall and have received a pledge from Jennifer Whitt's family to host this new student for part of their stay.

- ❖ Mike Wall, newly appointed Executive Director-Fund Development for St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital has elected to move his membership from our club to the Sunrise club effective today.
- ❖ Bud and Janet Sills recent wedding anniversary Christmas Day was their 55<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations!

The long-awaited tree planting at Evergreen Hollow Park was Wednesday afternoon shortly following our weekly meeting. Heartland Landscaping associates was accompanied by soon-to-be Rotarian and Effingham Park District manager Jeff Althoff. Two Sunset maples, two Crimson maples and two Sugar Maples were purchased and planted. Incoming President Rosie Gibbons led a team to write the District Simplified Grant wherein \$1,500 was raised for the trees and for subsequent spring clean-up work.



**Rotarians Don Dawkins, past EPD director Ron Diehl, Secretary Tonya Siner, EPD director Jeff Althoff, incoming president Rosie Gibbons, 6490 District Governor Ron Schettler, President Norma Lansing, Lois Hoene and Mike Sehy (Greg Sapp was the non-pictured photographer for the event.**

## MAKE-UPS

**Matt Hirtzel** did his on-line for December 14. If you cannot make it here Wednesday or to another club you can always do your Rotary membership duty on line.

<http://www.rotaryclubone.org>



## Scholarship Drawing

President Norma Lansing won the weekly drawing.

## HI TECH PRESENTATION FOR YOUR PROGRAM?



Computer/laptop projector and Wi-Fi are available at First Baptist Church – please make arrangements BEFORE your program.

You may need a special connector or adaptor from your unit, i.e., your computer, to the projector...talk to President Norma Lansing and

arrive early to set-up, please

**NOT ALL COMPUTERS OR PROJECTORS ARE CREATED EQUAL  
DO NOT ASSUME ANYTHING!**

## REASONS TO CELEBRATE (NEXT 10 DAYS)

Tod Lancaster  
Dan Woods



December 29  
January 7

## Anniversaries

Don & Marie Sandschafer

December 28