

2016-17
ROTARY ALUMNI
GLOBAL SERVICE AWARD

THE PURPOSES OF THE ROTARY ALUMNI GLOBAL SERVICE AWARD ARE TO HONOR AN OUTSTANDING FORMER ROTARY PROGRAM PARTICIPANT AND TO PUBLICIZE THE LASTING BENEFITS OF ROTARY'S PROGRAMS.

The Rotary Alumni Global Service Award was created to honor an outstanding Rotary alumnus whose career and activities illustrate the impact of Rotary's programs on his or her service to humanity. After zone and regional committees choose their award winners, the RI Board of Directors and The Rotary Foundation Trustees select the global winner, who is honored at the annual Rotary International Convention. The award, formally called the Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award and the Scholar Alumni Achievement Award, is open to all Rotary alumni, and all regional Rotary Foundation coordinators are eligible to nominate award candidates every year.



2016-17 Award Winner

Sadako Ogata (nominated by District 2580)

Sadako Ogata was in the second class of Ambassadorial Scholars sponsored by Japan. She earned her master's degree from Georgetown University as a scholar in 1951-52 and later received her PhD in political science from the University of California, Berkeley. She has worked as an associate professor at International Christian University and held several roles at Sophia University. She served as minister of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, chair of UNICEF's executive board, and Japanese representative to the UN Commission on Human Rights. Later, she was appointed as the eighth UN High Commissioner for Refugees, serving from 1990 to 2000, with two reappointments. From 2003 to 2012, she was president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). She remains a special adviser to JICA. Dr. Ogata has received numerous awards and has dedicated her life to peace and international humanitarian assistance.



2015-16 Award Winner

Susan Davis (nominated by District 7230)

Susan Davis was a 1980-81 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Lafayette, Louisiana, USA, to study in England at the University of Oxford. She co-founded BRAC USA to advance the mission of BRAC, the world's largest nongovernmental development organization. Before BRAC, she worked as a program officer with the Ford Foundation in Bangladesh, where she increased the availability of microloans in Bangladeshi villages. She is co-author of the book "Social Entrepreneurship: What Everyone Needs to Know," and she is deeply involved with Ashoka, a nonprofit organization that supports social entrepreneurship. She was appointed to the board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnership in 2012, is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, and has served on boards of the Grameen Foundation, the Sirleaf Market Women's Fund, and the African Women's Development Fund USA. Currently she is a member of the Rotary E-Club of District 7210, New York, USA.



2014-15 Award Winner

Geetha Jayaram (nominated by District 7620)

Dr. Geetha Jayaram is a past Rotaractor and recipient of a 2005-06 Rotary Grant for University Teachers. For her grant, she was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Columbia, Maryland, USA, to teach at St. John's Medical College in Bangalore, India. Dr. Jayaram is a psychiatrist and associate professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and the Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality. In 1997, after joining the Rotary Club of Columbia, Dr. Jayaram founded the Maanasi Clinic in Mugalur, Karnataka, India. Since then she has been involved in the clinic's development, supplying it with medications, training health care staff and caseworkers, and raising funds. Dr. Jayaram has also volunteered for National Immunization Days and is one of the chartering members of the Rotary Club of Howard West, Maryland, USA.



2013-14 Award Winner

Maya Ajmera (nominated by District 7620)

Maya Ajmera was a 1989-90 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of China Lake, California, USA, to study at St. Xavier's College, in Mumbai, India. Ms. Ajmera is the president and CEO of the Society for Science & the Public and publisher of its magazine, Science News. She is also the founder

of the Global Fund for Children, a nonprofit organization that invests in organizations working with some of the world's most vulnerable children and youth. In addition to being an award-winning children's book co-author, she has held two academic appointments as a visiting scholar and professorial lecturer at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., and the inaugural social entrepreneur in residence and visiting professor of the practice of public policy at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. In 2016, she co-authored the book "Invisible Children: Reimagining International Development at the Grassroots."



2012-13 Award Winner

Dr. Harminder Singh Dua (nominated by District 3030)

Dr. Harminder Singh Dua was a 1980-81 Group Study Exchange team member. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nagpur South, Maharashtra, India, he traveled to Pennsylvania, USA. An ophthalmologist in Nottingham, England, Dr. Dua serves as the chair and professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the

University of Nottingham, Queen's Medical Centre, and is the editor-in-chief of the British Journal of Ophthalmology. He has treated patients in India, the United Kingdom, and the United States and has shared his skills with students and colleagues around the world. He is renowned as an authority on corneal disorders, and performs advanced surgeries. While living in India, he conducted free diagnostic eye clinics through Rotary and other nongovernmental organizations, performing thousands of free operations on needy patients with cataracts and glaucoma. In a 2013 paper, he and his colleagues at the University of Nottingham reported the discovery of a previously unknown layer of the human cornea, now named Dua's layer.



2011-12 Award Winner

John Skerritt (nominated by District 9810)

John Skerritt was a 1983-84 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Carlingford, New South Wales, Australia, to attend the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA. He is currently the Deputy Secretary of Australia's Health Products Regulation Group. and an adjunct professor of agriculture at the University of Queensland. He also was board chair of the International Water Management Institute in Sri Lanka and deputy secretary in the Department of Primary Industries in the state of Victoria, managing Australia's largest agricultural output. He has provided assistance to projects in South and Southeast Asian countries in medical science, biotechnology, agriculture, and public administration. In post-tsunami Indonesia, he helped develop a pesticide identification method and provided training in food safety and agricultural reconstruction. A former Rotarian, he also was both an Interactor and a Rotaractor.



2010-11 Award Winner

Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte (nominated by District 6940)

Talbot "Sandy" D'Alemberte was a 1958-59 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Chattahoochee, Florida, USA, to study political science at the London School of Economics. He is a lawyer, professor, former politician, education administrator, former president of the American Bar Association (ABA), and president emeritus of Florida State University. A champion of pro bono legal service, he also was in the forefront of the modern dispute-resolution movement. He helped to create the Central European and Eurasian Law Initiative, the ABA's program to aid the newly democratic nations of those areas, and has been honored with the legal profession's highest awards.



2009-10 Award Winner

Peter Kyle (nominated by District 7620)

Rotarian Peter Kyle was a 1973-74 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Wellington North, New Zealand, to study law at the University of Virginia, in Charlottesville, Virginia, USA. An international attorney in Washington, D.C., he is former lead counsel for the World Bank. He has worked on over 100 international development projects in his career with the bank, advising countries about their legal infrastructure in order to foster a stronger economy. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Capitol Hill (Washington, D.C.), and was the 2013-14 governor of District 7620. As the 2010-11 district alumni subcommittee chair, he made exceptional efforts to connect Foundation alumni in his area. He has served on The Rotary Foundation Alumni Advisory Committee, was the chair of the 2012 Rotary Alumni Celebration, and served as a Rotary International representative to the World Bank and chair emeritus of Outward Bound International. Currently, he chairs the Rotary Peace Centers Committee.



2008-09 Award Winner

Alex Buchanan (nominated by District 9800)

Rotarian Alex Buchanan was a 1959-60 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Korumburra, Victoria, Australia, to study agriculture and science at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, USA. He is best known for developing the high-protein Australian milk biscuit in 1965; it continues to be used in disaster areas around the world. While with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, he also developed a nutritionally balanced infant food in Thailand. He worked with ASEAN, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and was the editor of the ASEAN Food Journal. He also was a founding member of the United Nations University World Hunger program. He served as executive director of the ATSE Crawford Fund of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, which supported the Royce and Jean Abbey Endowment for Ambassadorial Scholars from low-income countries. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Melbourne.



2007-08 Award Winner

Young Woo Kang (nominated by District 7620)

Young Woo Kang was a 1973-74 Ambassadorial Scholar to the University of Pittsburgh, in Pennsylvania, USA, where he studied special education. In 1976, he became the first visually impaired Korean to earn a doctorate. He held numerous positions as an advocate for the disabled around the world and was involved in service projects in South Korea and the United States. He served as a presidential appointee to the National Council on Disability in the U.S., vice chair for the World Committee on Disability, and senior adviser to the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute. He also was a professor, motivational speaker, and author of several books. His autobiography, "A Light in My Heart," was translated into six languages and adapted into a motion picture. A longtime Rotarian, he was a member of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C. He passed away on 23 February 2012 at age 68.



2006-07 Award Winner

Philip Lader (nominated by District 7770)

Philip Lader was a 1967-68 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, to study history at the University of Oxford, in England. He served as the U.S. ambassador to the Court of St. James's from 1997 to 2001, playing a critical role in the Northern Ireland peace process. He was deputy chief of staff to U.S. President Bill Clinton and a deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget. A lawyer, he has served on the boards of the Red Cross, Duke University's Public Policy Institute, and several banks and educational and children's organizations, as well as president of Business Executives for National Security. He was president of universities in South Carolina, USA, and Queensland, Australia, and has been awarded honorary doctorates by 14 universities and colleges. A senior adviser at global financial services company Morgan Stanley, he also is affiliated with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, a prominent law firm in the southeastern U.S, and is nonexecutive chairman of WPP, a communications services group.



2005-06 Award Winner

John R. Schott (nominated by District 7450)

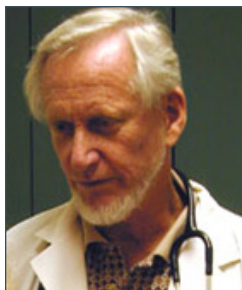
John R. Schott was a 1957-58 Ambassadorial Scholar sponsored by the Rotary Club of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, USA, to study at the University of Oxford, in England. As founder and president of Schott and Associates, he has advised leaders of municipalities, nongovernmental organizations, and nations on the use of cooperatives and training programs to improve rural community services. He has helped several nations establish new credit policies for farmers, small businesses, and religious organizations by establishing procedures and networks for humanitarian relief. Working on behalf of the World Bank and the Indonesian government, he led a team of 20 international experts who prepared a plan for Indonesia to develop multipurpose cooperatives. He is the author of several books on international development and has taught students, government leaders, and volunteers in nonprofit agencies how to define and solve social and economic problems concerning food production and distribution, rural reform, and refugee relief.



2004-05 Award Winner

Dr. Khanh Nguyen (nominated by District 5890)

Dr. Khanh Nguyen is an internist at the Kelsey-Seybold Clinic in Houston and assistant professor of internal medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center. She also volunteers at the Houston Homeless Health Clinic, which she founded. A 1987-88 Ambassadorial Scholarship sponsored by the Rotary Club of New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, enabled her to study family planning at the National University of Singapore. While there, she taught English at a Vietnamese refugee camp. Dr. Nguyen earned her medical degree at Baylor College of Medicine. After her residency, she volunteered with the U.S. Peace Corps in Malawi, where she treated patients for a wide range of diseases and devised an HIV/AIDS counseling program.



2003-04 Award Winner

Dr. Otto Austel (nominated by District 5240)

Dr. Otto Austel was both the leader of a 1991 Group Study Exchange team from California, USA, to Brazil and a Rotary Volunteer who participated in more than 25 humanitarian projects. In the 1950s and '60s, he was a missionary in the jungles of Brazil, where he lost his son to malaria. When he returned to the United States, he became a doctor and went on to serve communities and health care organizations. A past director of the American Red Cross, he also helped organize National Immunization Days (NIDs) and encouraged Rotarians in District 5240 to participate in NIDs in Ghana and India. He served as a polio surveillance consultant in several countries and was considered a world leader in malaria prevention. A member of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley, California, and 1999-2000 governor of District 5240, he passed away on 15 April 2011 at age 81.



2002-03 Award Winner

James A. Christianson (nominated by District 5580)

Jim Christianson owns and operates a school bus company in Pelican Rapids, Minnesota, USA. He has worked to inform families in his community, including immigrant workers, about laws regarding their children's education. Fluent in nine languages, he has traveled the world as a volunteer for Rotary and numerous other organizations. As a member of the Rotary Club of Pelican Rapids, he led a Group Study Exchange team in 1993 to Changchun, Jilin, China, and as District 5580 Youth Exchange chair, he assisted 25 inbound and outbound students and accompanied 125 students to Brazil. As a Rotary Volunteer, he took part in World Community Service projects in Peru and Senegal, and in other projects in Kenya, Mozambique, Senegal, and Zimbabwe.



2001-02 Award Winner

Dr. Cirino Fichera (nominated by District 2110)

Dr. Cirino Fichera, a cardiologist and rheumatologist, heads the physiopathology department of the University of Catania, in Italy. A Rotary Volunteer from 1986 to 1996, Dr. Fichera has worked with Health, Hunger and Humanity Grants projects and PolioPlus projects in more than 20 countries, including Albania, Cameroun, Guinea, India, Madagascar (working with Rotary International's Expanded Program on Immunization, the Red Cross, UNICEF, and USAID), Morocco, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zaire. As a Rotarian and an officer of the Italian Red Cross, he educated high-ranking government officials about the importance of the PolioPlus campaign to efforts to eradicate the disease.



1999-2000 Award Winner

Sanford J. Ungar (nominated by District 7410)

Sanford J. Ungar was an Ambassadorial Scholar in 1966-67, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, USA, to study government at the London School of Economics. He was Washington editor for *The Atlantic Monthly*, managing director of *Foreign Policy* magazine, a correspondent for *United Press International* in Paris and *Newsweek* in Nairobi, Kenya, and a longtime contributor to *The Economist* magazine. Host of several segments of National Public Radio's award-winning "All Things Considered" program, he was a member of the boards of the International Human Rights Law Group, the National Immigration Forum, and the Public Diplomacy Foundation. A former dean of the School of Communications at American University, in Washington, D.C., he also was director of the Voice of America, the U.S. government's international radio arm, which reaches some 83 million listeners worldwide. He was the president of Goucher College in Maryland for 13 years, and now serves on the board of advisers at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy.



1999-2000 Award Winner

Beryl Nashar (nominated by District 9670)

Beryl Nashar was an Ambassadorial Scholar in 1949-50, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mayfield, New South Wales, Australia, to study geology at Cambridge University, in England. Back in Australia, she spent 25 years teaching geology and serving as an administrator at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales. She also was active in the Business and Professional Women's Organization of Australia, encouraging young women to pursue professional careers, and in the Red Cross. Awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1972, she was named Woman of the Year by the United Nations Association in 1975, and received the Meritorious Service Award in 1988 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1994 from the Red Cross. She passed away on 5 May 2012 at age 88.



1998-99 Award Winner

Susan Sygall (nominated by District 5110)

Susan Sygall was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Berkeley, California, USA, to study physical therapy at the University of Queensland, Australia, in 1978-79. Disabled in an automobile accident in 1971, she dedicated her life to helping people with disabilities. She is the co-founder and CEO of Mobility International USA and an internationally recognized expert in international educational exchanges and leadership programs for those with disabilities. In 1995, she received the President's Award from U.S. President Bill Clinton for advancing employment opportunities for people with disabilities, and in 2000, she received a prestigious MacArthur Fellowship. In 2011, she received an honorary doctorate from Chapman University in California. She was also named an Ashoka Fellow in 2013. She is a member of the Rotary Club of Eugene, Oregon.



1998-99 Award Winner

Rei Okada (nominated by District 2650)

Rei Okada was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nagahama, Shiga, Japan, to study speech therapy at the University of California, USA, in 1978-79. Having had polio, she dedicated her life to helping others overcome their disabilities, and she has been recognized for that work. She has received the Council of Social Welfare Award from Shiga Prefecture, the Japanese Association for the Care and Training of the Mentally Retarded Award, the Governor of Shiga Prefecture Award, and the Welfare Minister Award. A member of many associations that provide services to the disabled, she has led a number of projects designed to improve the quality of life for severely disabled people. She has remained active in Rotary through the District 2650 Rotary Foundation Alumni Association and is a Paul Harris Fellow, a Benefactor, and a contributor to the Rotary Yoneyama Memorial Foundation, which awards scholarships to overseas students to study in Japanese universities.



1997-98 Award Winner

Joan Krueger Wadlow (nominated by District 5010)

Joan Krueger Wadlow was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Norfolk, Nebraska, USA, to study international relations at the Institute for International Affairs in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1956-57 as an Ambassadorial Scholar. Her career combined international relations and higher education. She served as chancellor of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and on the faculty and administration of the universities of Nebraska, Wyoming, and Oklahoma. She lectured for the Taiwan Ministry of Economic Affairs on world conflict resolution. In 1991, she facilitated an exchange agreement between the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and Yakutsk State University, in the former Soviet Union. She joined the first delegations to visit Vietnam after normalization of relations with the United States, to establish trade and education exchanges.



1997-98 Award Winner

John Gilroy Thorne (nominated by District 9830)

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of North Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, John Gilroy Thorne was a Rotary Teacher of the Handicapped Scholar at California State University, in Northridge, California, USA, in 1978-79. He is the founder of a school for the deaf in his native Australia and one of the co-authors of the first Australian dictionary of sign language. He has served as convener of the Australian Schools for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired and as president of the Australian Deafness Council, and he co-founded JobMatch, an employment service for people with disabilities. A member of the Rotary Club of North Hobart and a past district governor, he headed a Matching Grant project to bring young adults with various disabilities to the United States for leadership training. He was a 2002-04 Rotary International director, and has served on numerous RI committees. He currently serves on The Rotary Foundation's Cadre of Technical Advisers and is the chair of the Literacy Rotarian Action Group. He also is the recipient of The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and the Distinguished Service Award.



1996-97 Award Winner

Roberto Alvarez del Blanco (nominated by District 2210)

Roberto Alvarez del Blanco was a 1978-79 Ambassadorial Scholar, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bolivar, Buenos Aires, Argentina, to attend the postdoctoral program in business administration at the University of California, Berkeley, in California, USA. He has taught at universities in Argentina, Spain, and the United States. He is a professor at the IE Business School in Madrid and visiting professor at the Haas School of Business at the University of California, Berkeley, and the Stern School of Business at New York University and Rockefeller University in New York City. He has written 12 books on neuromarketing, brand management, and strategic market management, as well as more than 150 articles published in scientific magazines. Academic and scientific fellow to the World Economic Forum, he has been recognized many times for academic and teaching excellence. He is a world-renowned expert in brand strategy who used his marketing expertise to help bring the 1992 Summer Olympics to Barcelona, Spain. He was formerly a member of the Rotary Club of Barcelona Condal, having served as its charter president.



1996-97 Award Winner

Byron R. Trauger (nominated by District 6780)

Byron R. Trauger was a 1969-70 Ambassadorial Scholar, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA, to study Latin American history and culture at the University of San Marcos, in Lima, Peru. A partner in his own law firm in Nashville, Tennessee, he is committed to community service, leadership development, and the promotion of international understanding through student exchanges. He helped launch an ongoing project to improve living conditions among the poor in Appalachia, in the southeastern United States. He has founded a hospice, helped a spouse-abuse prevention program, and created a church-sponsored organization for single adults dedicated to community service. He also is active in the orientation of Foundation scholars from Tennessee. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Nashville.



1995-96 Award Winner

Donald Bobiash (nominated by District 5550)

Donald Bobiash was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Watrous, Saskatchewan, Canada, to study public administration at the École Nationale d'Administration, in Dakar, Senegal, as a 1982-83 Ambassadorial Scholar. Early in his career, he wrote a book on how developing countries can help one another. As a career diplomat, he was posted in the early 1990s to Pakistan, where he worked to improve conditions for Afghan refugees and to secure emergency food aid for northern Afghanistan. In the 2000s, Dr. Bobiash served as Canadian high commissioner to Ghana, ambassador to Togo, deputy head of mission in the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, and director-general of the Africa Bureau in Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade. He has served as Canada's ambassador to Indonesia with accreditation to Timor-Leste, and ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, in Jakarta. Currently, he is the Canadian ambassador to Colombia.



1995-96 Award Winner

L.M. Singhvi (nominated by District 3050)

L.M. Singhvi was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Jodhpur, India, to study law at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA, as a 1953-54 Ambassadorial Scholar. An eminent jurist and constitutional expert, he was president of the Indian Supreme Court Bar Association and a member of

the Indian Parliament. A longtime advocate for human rights, he chaired the World Congress on Human Rights and served on the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. He received numerous awards and recognition for his work, including the Inter-Faith Gold Medal from the International Council of Christians and Jews. He passed away in New Delhi on 6 October 2007 at age 76.

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