

Rotary in Review

JACKSON STEPHAN RECEIVES TOMMY BELL AWARD



Forty years after his passing in 1986, the Rotary Club of Lexington still honors the memory of one its most beloved and well-known members.

The 40th Annual Tommy Bell Award for Lexington’s Outstanding Student-Athlete was presented on May 14 to Jackson Stephan from Henry Clay High School.

The award is presented by the Rotary Club of Lexington in memory of Tommy Bell (father of current Rotarian Bruce Bell) who was a legendary NFL referee, Lexingtonian, and a past member of the Rotary Club of Lexington. Although he is the sixteenth student-athlete from Henry Clay – the same high school where Tommy starred in football - to capture this honor, Jackson is the first basketball player recognized. He played three years of varsity basketball and during his senior year averaged twenty-one points and eleven rebounds per game. He was a two-time member of both the All-City and All-Regional Teams, in addition to being named to the All-State and Academic All-State teams. Jackson will continue his academic and athletic career at the United States Air Force Academy playing for the USAFA Falcons. After graduation, he will become a commissioned officer in the United States Air Force.

In accepting his award, Jackson thanked the Fayette County principals and coaches, his coach—Coach Brown—and

teachers at Henry Clay, along with his teammates, parents and grandparents. He said that athletics taught him to work hard, stay humble, trust people around him, and to strive for integrity and consistency.

After the awards presentation, guest speaker Doug Flynn, a member of the Cincinnati Reds Big Red Machine, offered comments. Flynn—the only major league player to hit three triples in one game—said that he was not a very good student when he played football, basketball, and baseball at Bryan Station High School and his options after high school were either the Army or the Navy—not the Academies—but enlistment. He did play one year of basketball at the University of Kentucky under Coach Joe B. Hall before being offered a scholarship to play baseball. He tried out for the Cincinnati Reds four times before making the team with a \$2,500 signing bonus. His rookie year salary was \$16,500, at a time when the best players were making \$285,000. That compares to \$4.4 million today. He said there is a fine line between confidence and cockiness and stated that most players today, unfortunately, are “little robots” with little respect for the game. In closing, he congratulated Jackson on his award and attitude towards athletics. He also recognized Rotarian Jim Richardson and the work they did together for decades for the Children’s Charity Classic in Lexington.

The Tommy Bell Award Day truly recognized outstanding athletic achievement and civic responsibility.

– Paul B. Chewning

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Jun 4

Police Chief Weathers with David Ashford, Board Chair, Bluegrass Crime Stoppers

Jun 11

Will Stein, Head Coach, University of Kentucky Football

Jun 18

Doing Rotary, Differently

Jun 25

President’s Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 30

Dancing with the Lexington Stars, Carrick House, 6 pm

Jun 6

The Rotary Foundation Celebration, Roosters, Richmond Road, 6-8:30pm

Jun 11

Rotary Picnic at Gatton Park

Lexington Legends Outing

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

May 28, 2026
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Dean Hammond
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie

Introduction of Program: Scott Neal, Chair, Scholarship Committee
Program: Scholarship Day
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER

of educators who supported and were nominated by our applicants. We proudly present to you this year’s recipients:



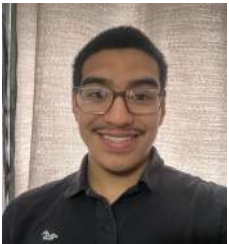
SCOTT NEAL

Today the Rotary podium will be taken over by Scott Neal on behalf of the Scholarship Committee, as we continue our tradition of recognizing the best and the brightest of our Central Kentucky highschoolers and educators. This year’s challenge to the committee was to identify three outstanding students to each receive \$5,000 awards, with one of them to also be named as the Milward Cup recipient, recognizing achievement in following the Rotary motto of Service Above Self. Each applicant was asked to provide essays, one addressing why the applicant deserves the award and one addressing the financial impact this award would have upon them. This year also sees the return of the Jack T. Bryden Great Teacher Award, recognizing one out of a plethora



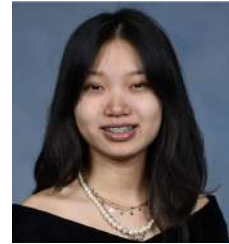
Elizabeth Deffendall is a senior in the Biomedical Sciences program at Frederick Douglass High School. A Lexington native, she will be studying occupational

science at Eastern Kentucky University this fall. Her career goal is to become a pediatric occupational therapist to show kids that they are more than their disability. She is active on campus as a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, The Bandana project, Health Occupations Students of America, Care Cards Club, and DanceBlue. As fundraising chair on the executive committee of DanceBlue this year her team raised over \$28,600 for pediatric cancer. When she’s not working as a hostess at DoubleDogs, she enjoys reading, art, and volunteering in the community. She is bilingual, earning the Seal of Biliteracy having been a part of the Spanish Immersion Program through 8th grade. She will be graduating Summa Cum Laude in June.



Justin Muñoz Hernandez is a senior from Henry Clay High School. He describes himself as a driven and resilient student-athlete with strong interests in

academics and personal growth. He will be attending the University of Michigan in the fall, majoring in chemical engineering! He notes that none of his achievements would be possible without the sacrifice of his parents as they immigrated to the United States with nothing but their work ethic. Because they were not formally educated, he had to work hard to be who he is today and expects to continue to thrive with the help of his mentors/educators. Justin was quite specific about the benefit he would receive from the cash portion of this award: the ability to purchase a laptop capable of running engineering software, a graph-



ing calculator, and other needed school materials. Katherine Zhang, recipient of this year’s Milward Cup, is a senior

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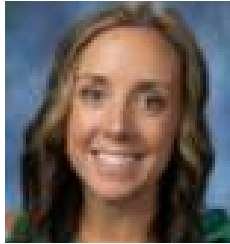
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FROM PAGE 1

SPEAKER

at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School's MSTC Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Katherine is a student researcher at the University of Kentucky, where she conducted research in embedded AI systems and autonomous robotics, publishing her work in an International IEEE Conference. Beyond research, she is deeply committed to community service as the co-founder of the Youth Leadership Program, a nonprofit organization that has connected hundreds of students to volunteer opportunities and contributed over 500 service hours supporting food security, technical literacy, senior homes, and cancer awareness initiatives across Kentucky. She has also organized TEDxYouth events, coached students to the national MATHCOUNTS competition, and served in statewide STEM leadership roles while earning distinctions including USACO Platinum, National Merit Finalist, NCWIT Kentucky State Winner, and the Congressional App Challenge. Inspired by her disabled grandparents, Katherine hopes to pursue a career developing socially assistive robots and intelligent systems that improve independence and quality of life for elderly and disabled individuals.



Jo-Hanna Rosevear, is this year's Jack T. Bryden Great Teacher Award winner. Born and raised in Kentucky, Mrs. Rosevear came to education not by design, but by calling. After earning a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Kentucky — where she began on a pre-med track — she found her purpose not in clinical work, but in the power of teaching. That quiet pivot became the defining thread of her career, and she has followed it with unwavering commitment ever since. She earned a Master's in Education and a second Master's in Teacher Leadership, along with an endorsement in gifted education. After four years in Clark County Schools, she joined Frederick Douglass High School, where she has served for eight years as the Biomedical Sciences Magnet Program teacher and coordinator — shaping some of the most driven and curious students in the region. What sets her apart is not simply what she teaches, but how deeply she invests in who she teaches. "What consistently surprises me," she reflects, "is how often students underestimate themselves." Her classroom is a space where that changes — where

academic rigor meets genuine encouragement, and where students grow into confidence they didn't know they had. She credits the mentors in her own life who modeled quiet, intentional investment: "Small, intentional acts — taking time to explain something again, checking in on a student who seems quiet, encouraging someone to apply for an opportunity they didn't think they were ready for — can completely change someone's life." Those examples now live in the way she shows up every day for her own students. The measure of her work is found not on a transcript, but in the students who return years later to tell her that a conversation, a challenge, or a word of encouragement changed their direction. Dedicated, resilient, and thoughtful, she is exactly the kind of educator this recognition was created to honor.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS RECOGNIZED

Paul Stanley, The Rotary Foundation Chair, continues to recognize a number of our Club members who have reached Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition and beyond.

Paul Harris Fellow recognitions goes to individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation with the "+" signifying multiple donations of \$1,000.

Jim Richardson +3, Lyle Hanna +3, Bill Straus+3, Susan Adams+3, Brad Blain +2, and Paul Chewning+4. Not pictured is Bill Wilson+2 and John Wharton+3.

Congratulations to all! Future meetings will recognize other contributors at the +5 level and above.

Paul concluded, that those wishing to achieve PHF recognition can take advantage of a matching points program. With a minimum donation of \$100, Rotarians can receive a dollar for dollar match up to \$500. Questions: pspaulstanley@gmail.com



TRANSFERRING MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:

Keith Key

Classification: Financial, Wealth Management

Sponsor: Dean Hammond

Objections should be made in writing within seven (7) days to The Board of Directors, Rotary Club of Lexington, 401 W. Main Street, Suite 305, Lexington, KY 40507. Objections are kept in strict confidence.

A LEGENDARY OUTING WITH THE LEXINGTON LEGENDS!

Like the annual return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano, springtime sees the Rotary Club of Lexington return to Legends Ballpark to socialize and cheer on the Lexington Legends.

Social Chair Susan Adams reports that last week's outing was a huge success and offered special thanks to Rotarians Roger Baird and Tim Mueller for giving us a fun evening at the ballpark! On what had been a dreary day, the rain stopped, allowing the game to start! Rotarians and their friends and families gathered in Roger's Suite #7 and the Legend's Suite #5 to enjoy appetizers provided by Roger. We also enjoyed the convenience of any other foods ordered being brought right to our suites for us. It was a fun way to gather and socialize with other Rotarians, including the upcoming Woodford Rotary Club president and three of our DWLS dance stars. We had five kids with us who didn't make it in the picture, but you can see the Legends Mighty Lex in the back row! The Legends game gave people their money's worth for those who could stay through the eleven innings!

— Susan Adams

See photo on page 4.



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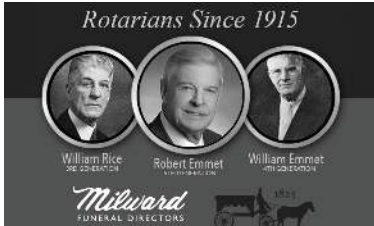


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