



ALAN YARLETTS UAHS INTERACT STUDENTS

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Alan Yarletts introduced and presided over today's program. The program focused on UAHS Interact students and their activities related to their capstone projects and their participation in Rotary-related activities.

As an introduction to **Sam DeCapua's** presentation about his Honor Flight capstone project we heard from Honor Flight Executive Director **Peter MacKenzie** – a U.S. Army and Ohio National Guard veteran. Peter noted that participation in an Honor Flight is a deeply moving experience. He emphasizes the importance of the mission and the imperative that Honor Flight programs must go off without a hitch for the benefit of the veterans. WWII veterans, Korean War veterans and Viet Nam veterans are the current focus of the program. He pointed out that WWII veterans saw 59 years pass by from the time the war ended until the memorial honoring their contribution was finally constructed.

An Ohio doctor had the original idea of flying veterans to Washington DC to visit their

memorials. The program grew from that individual effort to what it is today. On Saturday April 7 mission number 86 will depart for DC. 8 WWII vets, 12 Korean War vets and 50 + Viet Nam vets will participate. Over the past ten years 5,221 veterans have participated. Honor Flight is primarily a volunteer organization. Costs are an issue. The single biggest expense is the air charter cost. The total cost is about \$65,000 per flight with \$50,000 of that amount going to the air charter. There is a three year backlog for veterans who wish to participate. The solution to the backlog is more funding in order to offer more flights.

Alan pointed out that Bill and Bobbie Richards, teachers at Hastings Middle School were the folks who began early Honor Flight activity in Upper Arlington several years ago but the community has yet to fully embrace to program. He also noted that Honor Flight has embraced the UA Interact students. Over the past three years eight students have served as guardians on Honor Flights. Several UA Rotary Club members have also served as guardians.

Sam DeCapua showed a slide presentation prepared for his senior capstone project about his participation in Honor Flight. The presentation highlighted the overall project and also some of



the highlights of the day of the Honor Flight itself.

He highlighted Honor Flight's mission to provide veterans with a trip to Washington to visit their memorial at no cost to them. Money for the flights comes through donations.

GREETERS

April 10

Telanda Sidari
Kevin Aschliman

April 17

Jim McKinney
Bob Bracco

April 24

Ted Staton
Susan Moffett-Bruce

REGISTRATION DESK

April 10

Chris Taylor
Tracy Harbold

April 17

Jon Hellstedt
Bill Mielke

April 24

Jim Hamilton
Rich Simpson

CALENDAR

April 10 (Scioto CC)

Dr. Grant Jones
OSU Sports Medicine
Host: Wayne Harer

April 17 (Scioto CC)

Susan Kaylor Lewis
CEO of St. Vincent's
Children's Center
Host: Mary Ann Krauss

April 24 (Scioto CC)

Audrey Strickling
2018 FIRST Robotics
Competition for UAHS
Host: Chip Knoop

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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SOCIAL EVENTS

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OUR NEXT MEETING

April 10th
Scioto CC

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



UAHS INTERACT STUDENTS

There is roughly a two year wait to participate as a guardian.

Raising money was also part of Sam's project. He met with the Executive Director to discuss and refine his goals before embarking on the project.

The experience was, in Sam's word, "incredible". There was a two hour training session two weeks before the flight which set the stage for the upcoming day. The detailed planning for the day assured that everyone was in the right place at the right time. As a guardian he learned the name of the veteran he would be with as well as many details about that person.

On the morning of the flight there was a meeting at the airport at 5:00 AM to set the stage for the day to come. Veterans arrived between 5:30 and 6:30. There was time to get to know them before the flight took off at 7:00. A huge arrival crowd in D.C. was inspiring. Busses to the sites and memorials were given a police escort through the infamous DC. traffic.

Sam pointed out how meaningful it was to be around the veterans from his perspective as a seventeen year old high school student. It drives home the point about what the soldiers went through in the defense of freedom.

A particularly inspiring part of the event was the return home. The veterans, running on adrenalin, assumed the day was done when they got on the plane for the return flight to Columbus. What they found upon arrival was a huge welcome home reception at the airport. Two bands, hundreds of people cheering for them were waiting at the gate. It was an emotional high point.

Honor Flight is in 48 of the 50 states and Sam expects to be involved in the program no matter where he ends up after college.

The cost to send a veteran on an Honor Flight is \$400.

We next heard from **Gauthier Huchet**, our French Rotary International Youth Exchange student. Gauthier has stayed with the Hellstedt, Dewey and Hall families during his stay in Upper Arlington. Jamie Sisto has been his counselor throughout the year.

Gauthier thanked the club for the opportunity. He noted that he loves adventure, meeting new people and travel. He has an older sister who lives in Hong Kong. Gauthier recounted how

he came to apply for and be selected for a Youth Exchange experience.

He has enjoyed his experience here in the United States and pointed out several trips he has made during his time here. One trip included Washington D.C., New York City and Gettysburg. He met people from all over the world. Another trip took him to the western United States including "California, Utah and all that..."

Gauthier was wearing an array of pins which he received from the many people he has met. He thanked his host families and his counselor for their help and support during his time here.

We heard from **Courtney Kaparos**, president of the UAHS Interact Club and from club member **Nathan Hellstedt**. They gave a quick overview of the service and social activities of the club during the past year.

Courtney thanked the club for sponsoring the club. She noted that membership has tripled and now totals over 50 students. In addition to providing local service opportunities the club also helps members develop international understanding. The primary focus is on community service. Members have contributed over 1,000 hours of service this year.

Nathan highlighted some of the particular projects and events undertaken by the students. On the service side they included working on behalf of the YWCA Family Center meal service, Stephanie Spielman Cancer Research, Girls Who Lead, Special Olympics, Rotary Senior Service Saturday, Santa's Silent Helpers and the Livingston Avenue/Windermere Elementary Schools partnership.

Social events included a high school basketball game, Columbus Blue Jackets, the Senior Celebration and a Columbus Clippers game and picnic.



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The Meeting

Dave Dewey asked Allison Russo to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Don Leach introduced guest/visiting Rotarian Robert Moffatt from Prince Edward Island, District 7820. Robert is a past District Governor. He was the guest of his daughter Susan Moffatt-Bruce. Assistant District Governor Steve Heiser from the Columbus club also visited today. Dave Dewey introduced his wife Tovie and Brian Hall introduced his wife Stacey.

Next week we will hear from Dr. Grant Jones from OSU Sports Medicine.

The club has submitted a district grant request for funding for a playground at the YWCA family center.

The UAHS robotics team, funded in part by UA Rotary, recently qualified for world competition.

Dave announced that the April 9 Board meeting has been cancelled since the club's four hour visioning meeting will take place the next day, April 10.

Herb Gillen distributed forms for each member to use to contribute a silent auction item for the May 19 fundraiser at Ohio Stadium (Rotary in the 'Shoe'). Every member was encouraged to contribute an item. Silent auction items are a key component of the fundraiser. A member of the Fundraiser Committee was seated at each table to encourage participation.

We welcomed new member Dr. Steve Frame. Tom Davis introduced him to the club. Steve is an Ophthalmologist.

Ned Clark conducted basketball-themed harassment since the NCAA basketball tournaments were just completed. He noted that the women's Final Four in Columbus was particularly exciting. Members who did not fill out brackets for both tournaments paid a dollar. We were quizzed about the teams that defeated the OSU men's and women's teams in their respective tournaments (Gonzaga and Central Michigan). Bob Edler was fined for having picked Michigan to win the men's tournament. A question about the banning of the dunk in college basketball (1967) yielded no dollars. The all-time leading Division I scorer question also yielded a correct answer (Pistol Pete Maravich). We did get some results from a question about the Arkansas Razorbacks' nickname for their defense ("40 minutes of hell"). A final question got by me – something about a father-son coach player duo from Valparaiso. Someone suggested that Ned contribute a dollar since several of his questions were pretty much slam dunks for the crowd.



Notes and Announcements

Molly Fontana announced that last week's speaker, Gregg Brooks with Worldwide Benefit Services, will offer members of UA Rotary the company's ID Theft Assist product online at a discount and the difference between \$61 and the retail price will go to the club. Here is a link to the site. <https://idtheftassist.com/e/uarc>

John Huneck reminded member volunteers about the April 4 YWCA Family Center meal service.

