



The Ratchet



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Meets Mondays - 6:00 P.M. - Alton Sports Tap Restaurant

www.altongodfreyrotary.org

A Monthly Newsletter

Issue #149 April 2010

Service Above Self

Rotary Programs



Jim Goodwin, pictured with two previous awardees, Paul Lauschke and Jack Jacoby



Jim, surrounded by his wife and three children.

May 3, 2010 **Jacoby Arts Center**

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. The Mural Project will be presented including a viewing of the projected image on the side of the Visiting Nurse Association Building.

May 10 **The Alton Sports Tap**

Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Students of the Month for May will be honored.

May 17 **Rolling Hills Golf Course** **Alton Godfrey Rotary Golf Challenge**

4 Person Scramble

Rolling Hills Golf Club

1:00 Start

\$100 Fee includes:

Lunch, 18 holes of Golf and cart, & Dinner

The Alton Godfrey Rotary Club Golf Challenge will benefit our Student of the Year Scholarship fund and Community Projects.

Three Flights with Top Prize \$300, Second Prize \$200, Third Prize \$100

May 24 **Spirits**

Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Student of the Year will be recognized. High Schools will receive recognition plaques listing the names of the students who were recognized as

Student Essays

In this month's issue of The Ratchet, we are again focusing on original compositions by our students of the month.

The Redbird Nest

by Tommy Jackson



Walking through the front doors of Alton High School on my first day of school, I was the typical freshman. Though I had been a leader at my middle school, high school was a totally different story. I was small, quiet, and nervous. A lot has changed since that day. I am now a leader and a role model in my high school. Though there are many reasons for this change in me,

an Alton High School club called the Redbird Nest had the most impact.

The Redbird Nest is a school spirit group that attends sporting events to cheer on our teams. When I first joined the group I was the only freshman that would stand with the lively upperclassmen. From the moment I started my first cheer, I knew I would be an involved member in this group for my entire high school career.

As I grew older, I became more and more of a leader of the Redbird Nest. Now I am the president of the group. This year I made The Redbird Nest the largest club in school history, with over 640 members. I also invented many new cheers that got the students more hyped up than ever. The latest cheer I taught the school was called "the rollercoaster". This involved the entire student section as all pretend they are on a rollercoaster and move as one. This was a big hit at our home game against Edwardsville. This year's Redbird Nest has been acknowledged as the best student spirit section in Southern Illinois. I am recognized around the school as a role model because of this group and am often referred to as "the spirit kid". I believe that as much fun as the games were, I came out of them with more than just awesome memories, but also better leadership skills.

I loved my time in the Redbird Nest because of what it taught me, and what it taught all my peers. It taught me that high school is one of the best times of my life, even with the studying. It taught me to enjoy everyone I am surrounded by, because I look back now and realize I will be gone, and will never get to lead all my friends in something like that again. I also love the fact that not only did I make my high school

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Choosing A Career

by Marie Layer



As my years at Alton High School are coming to an end, I am getting very anxious to start my future. I am at the point where I can look back at all of the great opportunities I have had and now put them to the test in the real world.

Unlike most people, I have known what I want to do with my life for several years already. I always knew I would want to work with other people rather than just behind a desk, but awhile ago I realized I would love to be a nurse. I have always enjoyed helping others whether it was manual labor or just there to listen, and by becoming a nurse I will be able to help other people each and every day.

It wasn't until a few years ago, however, that I decided which field to specialize in. I started babysitting a lot, and noticed that helping babies is what I would truly love to do. Having a baby born prematurely or with complications has to be one of the most devastating situations for a family to come to, and I believe I hold that desire to do everything in my power to help them through it. Therefore, after graduation, I plan to attend Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, majoring in nursing and minoring in Spanish. I will later go on to specialize in neonatal care.

The great opportunities I mentioned earlier have reassured me of my decision to become a nurse. At my high school we host two to three blood drives each year. Beginning my sophomore year, I have worked a total of seven blood drives, and also helped in organizing the three we held this year. In addition to the blood drives, I was enrolled into the basic nursing assistant class at Lewis and Clark Community College my last semester of high school. I will be finishing my clinicals very soon, and hope to become a certified nursing assistant by the

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Tommie directs the members of the Redbird Nest

career better, but there is no doubt in my mind I showed other students and adult fans a great time as well. In a letter of recommendation written on my behalf, it was noted that I “made school spirit cool again”.

I will miss the Redbird Nest. I am a changed man because of it. I am now a leader, a role model, and have a very diverse group of friends as well. This is all due to the Redbird Nest. It gave me some of my greatest high school memories and I wouldn't change them for the world.

Interact News
by Cami Giertz, Sponsor

Thanks to the generosity of Rotary members, Interact conducted a successful car wash May 23. The weather didn't cooperate, but after expenses, profit was about \$150. ClubMembers decided to donate \$250 to The Smile Train, An international charity that provides cleft lip and cleft palate surgery to children in need, as well as providing cleft-related training to doctors. This is the second year the club has donated funds to this organization.

Students of the Month during the 2009-2010 school year.

May 31 **No Meeting**
Memorial Day Holiday

Jun 7 **Alton Sports Tap**
Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. Club Assembly - Committee Reports

Jun 14 **Alton Sports Tap**
Board of Directors meeting, 5:00 PM. Regular Meeting 6:00 PM. The program will be an update on the community-supported garden at La Vista, which Rotary supported when the project started several years ago. The project has done very well since then and if you have a green thumb (or would like to have a green thumb), the presenters will explain how you and your family can get involved. Karen Hatch, the Publicity Chair, and Eric Stevens, the "head farmer", will be making the presentation.

Jun 21 **Rolling Hills Golf Course**
Steak Fry at the Rolling Hills Golf Course Club House 6:00 PM. A golf outing will precede the meeting. Contact Richard Johnson for details.

June 20-23, 2010 Montreal Canada
Rotary International Convention

Jun 28 **Lockhaven Country Club**
Annual Meeting 6:00 PM. Induction of New Officers, Board of Directors, and Paul Harris Fellows. Ford Phillips will be passing the gavel to new president, Roland Hansen.

Bill Hoagland, Program Director

Pictures From Nigerian Visit



GSE Team Leader Temilola exchanges banner at Granite City Rotary Club

beginning of May. That class has been an amazing experience because it has allowed me to get into the nursing field hands on and see what it will really be like.

High school really has been more than just a place to receive an education for me. I have learned some of the more important lessons that a book alone could never explain. My involvement in clubs and organizations has done nothing but benefit me in several ways. So as my days at Alton High are quickly slipping away from me, I have so many great things to look back on and learn from. Although I can't believe it is already time for me to graduate, I know I am ready, and I am looking forward to seeing what my future holds.



GSE member Rachael enjoys visiting the Gateway to the West museum

Club Officers 2009-2010

President.....	Ford Phillips
	1007 Henry St., Alton, 463-0769
Vice President	Roland Hansen
	820 Creekwood Lane, Godfrey, 466-1970
Secretary	Mike Tillman
	1902 Paris Dr., Godfrey, 466-1928
Treasurer	Jasper Fisher
	3885 Fosterburg Rd., Alton, 259-3177
Executive Secretary	Melissa Seymour
	3026 Edwards St., Alton, 462-7206

Board of Directors 2009-2010

Dick Jones-1st yr	John Rain-2nd yr
Ron Mayhew-1st yr	Jess Woodman-2nd yr
Ken Spells-1st yr	Bob Hamilton-3rd yr
Sam Stemm-1st yr	Ebony Huddleston-3rd yr
Gail Weinrich-1st yr	Don Moyer-3rd yr
Brock Hendricks-2nd yr	Jeni Thompson-3rd yr
Mike Osborne-2nd yr	Jeff Weber-3rd yr
Larry Spain-2nd yr	Scott Neudecker-PP