



Rotary
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, August 29, 2023

A Conversation: Early Impressions from Our Visiting German Ottenheimer Scholars: Florian Ketterl and Robert Quack, Moderated by 99er Chris Mangum



ROTARY CLUB OF LITTLE ROCK
OTTENHEIMER
International Scholars Program
1948-2023

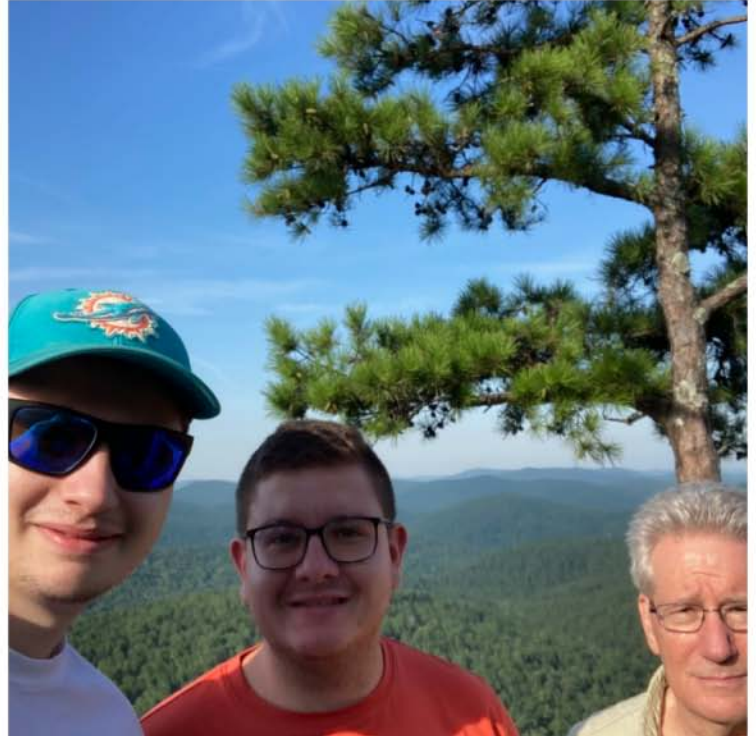
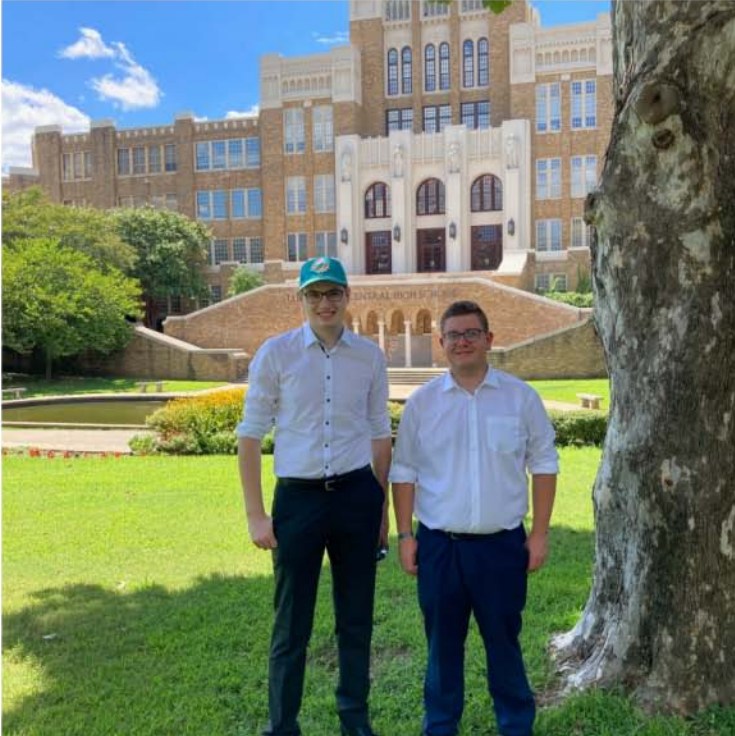


Join us on Tuesday, Aug. 29, for an insightful conversation with our visiting Ottenheimer scholars from Germany. Moderated by Club 99er and Ottenheimer Committee member Chris Mangum of [Servato](#), the panel will feature Robert Quack of Plön, Germany, and Florian Ketterl of Eichstätt, Germany. We'll hear the visiting scholars' early impressions of America and Arkansas and discuss how these impressions compare to their expectations prior to arrival. We'll also discuss a few similarities and differences they have observed between institutions and culture in both countries, from education to politics.

Moderator Chris Mangum is co-founder and CEO of [Servato](#), a technology company managing backup power for some of the country's largest broadband service providers. Chris and Servato recently relocated to Little Rock from New Orleans, along with his wife, three kids, mother-in-law and dog. Chris grew up in McGehee, Ark., where he graduated from McGehee High School, and his parents now live in Monticello, where he often spends weekends with his kids and their grandparents. Chris left Arkansas after high school to earn a BA in Psychology from Rhodes College, did a brief stint in the Army as an intelligence officer, and earned a law degree and MBA from Emory University. He worked in innovation and strategy roles for large telecom companies such as BellSouth and CenturyLink (where as chief strategy officer he grew the company's market cap ten-fold in just five years to \$26 billion). Chris launched Servato in 2015. He also co-founded and led a venture capital firm called Venture X Group, with offices in Atlanta and Palo Alto, Calif. At VXG, he helped launch more than 100 companies in about 10 years.

Visiting scholar Robert Quack lives in Plön, [pronounced Plurn] Germany, a small town with about 9,000 residents, where his parents are both physicians and his father is a member of the local Rotary club. Plön is in the very northern part of Germany, near the Baltic Sea, an hour north of Hamburg. It's a tourist destination and even has a castle. Robert is studying electrical engineering and plans to continue work toward a master's degree in engineering and economics. He is very interested in e-mobility and renewable energy as potential career paths. Robert has traveled extensively, this being his fourth visit to the United States. He has also traveled to China, New Zealand and Australia, in addition to his travels throughout western Europe. He loves watching sports, especially soccer, American football (he's a Miami Dolphins fan) and Formula 1 racing. He also enjoys playing sports such as soccer, golf and handball. Robert is a musician as well and has played cello for 12 years.

Visiting scholar Florian Ketterl lives in a rural village of about 250 people near Eichstätt, [pronounced Ikestot] Germany, a small town in Bavaria with about 14,000 residents. His village is located between Munich and Nuremberg, in southern Germany. Florian's parents have instilled in him a respect for Bavarian traditions and culture but have also encouraged him to get out and see the world. So he, too, has also traveled extensively throughout Europe, including Central European countries such as Croatia and Bulgaria, and a visit to Turkey. He is studying business psychology and plans to pursue a master's degree in the subject. He is interested in helping improve interactions between management and employees for better productivity and job satisfaction. To that end, he recently completed an internship for the German car-maker, Audi. Florian volunteers in youth education, plays soccer and enjoys political debates.



Zoom Login for August 29, 2023

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85026103836?pwd=RGExdFBbSE9OK2o5NVdqWnRkcm1Qdz09>

Meeting ID: 850 2610 3836

Passcode: 911694

One tap mobile

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+17193594580,,85026103836#,,,,*911694# US

This Week at Club 99

Artificial Intelligence in Education with Principal Nancy Rousseau of Central High School, Head of School Steve Straessle of Catholic High School for Boys and Chief Executive Officer Cherie Labat of eStem Public Charter Schools



This week's meeting started out with a quick demonstration of the power of ChatGBT when writing an essay on relativity. Pretty amazing that in 20 seconds a full essay

can be created and then turned into a version written by a fourth grader! No wonder our educators are spending hours in professional development to stay ahead of their students when it comes to using AI!

After the eye-opening ChatGBT example, **Club 99er Rajesh Chokhani** of [BOND.AI](#) broke down the challenges and opportunities AI in the classroom provides in a lively discussion with **Nancy Rousseau** of Central High School, **Club 99er Steve Straessle** of Catholic High School and **Club 99er Cherie Labat** of eStem Public Charter Schools. As our world learns more about AI and how it will eventually be a major part of our lives, educators are no different in their need to determine its role in teaching. As the leaders of major high schools in our city, these panelists shared their insights and vulnerability in creating environments for faculty and students that use the power of AI, while maintaining ethical standards.

Huge thanks to Rajesh Chockhani, who spent time discussing this important topic with our panelists prior to this week and formulating questions that shed some light on how Little Rock educators are handling AI in the classroom. If you missed this informative discussion, you can still check it out [here](#) on our YouTube channel.

Welcome New Members!



Mary Lackie, Vice President of Advancement, University of Central Arkansas
Sponsored by *Natalie Ghidotti*

Ahmed Samad, CEO, Arkansas Surgery & Endoscopy Center
Sponsored by *Mazz Husain*

Members "Caught Having Fun" at This Week's Meeting



The 5th Test: Is It Fun?

President Ghidotti's Power of Fun Tip of the Week

"There was formerly a capacity for lightheartedness and play, which has been to some extent inhibited by the cult of efficiency. The modern man thinks that everything ought to be done for the sake of something else, and never for its own sake."

– Bertrand Russell, "In Praise of Idleness"

Did you know that True Fun - not fake fun - can help us fight the cult of efficiency?

Bertrand Russell in his essay, "In Praise of Idleness," describes how our former capacity for lightheartedness and play has been inhibited by the cult of efficiency. And that was in 1932 when he wrote this, so you can imagine how much worse our focus on productivity has become.

If we get paid for something, we assume it's worth our time. Many people will work 10 hours a day without a break and conclude that it must have been a good day – even though it leaves them depleted and exhausted.

Catherine Price in "The Power of Fun" describes that her research on fun has taught her that our focus on productivity is misguided. We all have to work and earn money – but productivity and money should not be the primary metrics we rely on when we evaluate our use of time. Instead, it really should be True Fun.

True Fun helps us tap into a sense of shared humanity, a form of connection that researchers believe is essential for our well-being and ability to flourish. In fact, psychologists have found that cultures where people pursue happiness individually (as we often do in the United States), may become lonelier. But in cultures where they pursue happiness socially – through connecting, caring and contributing (a.k.a. Rotary!!!) – people appear more likely to gain well-being.

The problem that we need to work on is that many of us have cut out our expressions of humanity in the name of efficiency. Boredom, long phone conversations, hobbies, neighborhood barbecues, membership in clubs like Rotary ... those are things that we look at and think, "Oh, our grandparents had such quaint lives when they had time for those things like sewing circles and lawn bowling."

But taking the time to do an evening circle-up with your neighbors or eat dinner with the moms from the old daycare days – all things I have done in the past few days – are really, really good for us and for our world!

So I encourage you to take time this week to look at your day-to-day and see where you can replace some of that "productive" time with some good ole, inefficient play time. You won't regret it!

Who's Having Fun This Week?

Each week we feature a member and what they do for fun! **Anna Beth Gorman** was up this week and what a treat her video is! You probably had no idea of Anna Beth's love of themes, but after watching this video, you will definitely want AB on your next party planning committee! Check it out [here!](#)

Information: Committee, Service and Social Events

Club 99 Razorback Tailgate and Farewell to Ottenheimer International Scholars Robert and Florian from Germany

Saturday, Sept. 2, 12:30-2:30 p.m. to catch our Ottenheimer guests – but Rocky Goodman and team will be there beginning at 10:30 a.m.!
Golf Course adjacent to War Memorial Stadium

Come out and support our Hogs returning to Little Rock with fellow Club 99ers on Saturday, Sept. 2! We will be calling those Hogs, enjoying food and beverages and sending our Ottenheimer Scholars Robert and Florian back home in full Arkansas style!

Gather at Club 99er Rocky Goodman's spot for some Razorback fun - it will be right on Markham, just east of the creek on the 18th fairway. Look for the blue and yellow Rotary balloons! We'll have plenty of snacks and treats and coolers full of your favorite tailgating beverage. Rocky will be all set up and welcoming members starting as early as 10:30 a.m., and will hang out throughout the game, which starts at 3 p.m.

Come hang out with the most FUN Rotary Club around and let's get ready to Call |Those | Hogs in Little Rock!

BBQ Dinner at Little Rock's New Wright's Barbecue

Tuesday, Sept. 5, 5:30-9:30 p.m. (open house style)

1311 Rebsamen Park Road (Quonset hut behind Town Pump and Rebsamen Liquor) Reminder - no lunch meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 5! Instead, join us for a Labor Day week celebration with the newest BBQ in town! Little Rock native (and recent Club 99 guest) Jordan Wright is opening his new Little Rock location for our members. Look out for more details, but Jordan will be hosting us for the entire evening, so you can stop by on your own time to eat, drink and mingle with fellow Rotarians. Mark your calendars now!

Upcoming Programs

August 2023

29 Ottenheimer International Scholars Program Participant Panel

September 2023

5 No Lunch Meeting; Evening Event To Be Announced Soon

12 Marijuana in Arkansas: Big Business, New Laws

19 Paul Oakley Stovall, Tony Award-winning Actor and Former "George Washington" in Hamilton

26 Author Eli Cranor and CALS Six Bridges Book Festival

2023-2024 Club Leadership

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Jason Chacko
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Mitch Bettis
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