



## Ambassadorial Scholars 2008-09

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### **Giovanni Castellazzi**

After receiving my University degree in Civil Engineering in 2001, I was hired as a Support Tech Specialist at the Laboratory of Computational Mechanics, University of Bologna (Italy). Since November 2003, I have been a Ph.D. student in Structural Mechanics in the same university achieving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in June 2007.

In recent years, I have dedicated much time to work and scientific research. I am currently author of several scientific papers, presented to national and international conferences, and published in different referred scientific journals. I have been involved in national strategic research projects in different fields. Among these, numerical techniques for modeling of solids and structures, finite element modeling, and seismic risk analysis for the safeguard of the cultural heritage.

Currently, I am performing research at the University of California at San Diego supported by the Rotary Academic year Ambassadorial Scholarship. I am focusing on acquiring skills in the Computational Method field, in order to develop ad-hoc numerical techniques that allow researchers to simulate the behavior of biological specimens upon excitation by waves. My hope is to apply the research results to the Medical field, supporting the experimental findings with my theoretical predictions.

### **Miku Kashiwazaki**

I am a graduate student in the doctoral course of Japan. My major is Sociolinguistics, a kind of sociology, and in America, I am enrolled in the University of California, San Diego to study Ethnic Studies. Because of the similar situation between California and the Japanese society in that many immigrants have recently flown in areas, I have been interested in the sociology of immigration, especially the immigrants who have trouble with language which is used in the mainstream society. Sometimes their illiteracy of the language causes conflict and segregation in society. I am focusing my studies on this problem and in the future, I would like to work for immigrants in Japan in language education. In California I will gain lot of experience and lessons about this, which is why I chose this area of focus. The Oofunato Rotary Club who is sponsoring this ambassadorial scholarship knows me well. So I will do my best here to meet their expectations and fulfill my goal of reaching a better understanding of immigrants in San Diego.



## Rebecca Lim

I have been studying 3 ½ years in the School of Biological Sciences and Technology from the Chonnam National University. I received a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship to broaden my studies as an Academic Year Scholar at the University of California San Diego. I am concentrating on Biology and Chemistry to increase my knowledge. While studying in San Diego, I am planning to attend many volunteer activities in hospitals and orphanages. For a long time, I have been volunteering for many children as a Sunday school teacher because my dream is to become a good pediatrician. Also, I have spent three years helping foreign workers with my church's members. The reason why I love to volunteer is because I want to dedicate my life for many patients in the world as a warm-hearted doctor. By healing them with a sincere mind and praying for the children who are suffering from incurable diseases, I also want to immerse myself in the study to reduce many children's pains. I would like to work at the WHO(World Health Organization) in the future. To fulfill this vision, I will continue doing my best in all I do and continue dreaming of a wonderful world with Rotary.

## Wadri Patrick

I was born in Northern Uganda. After my birth, my family took exile in the Democratic Republic of Congo following a number of civil wars, which included one that deposed Idi Amin's dictatorial regime in Uganda. Due to the consequences of the war, my early years were scarred and the innocence and liberty to partake in the simple joys was stolen, preventing such things as dancing to the ever-present rhythms of African music and 80's disco at Ediofe Trading centre, a suburb of Arua town. Childhood did not absolve anyone of adult responsibilities.

I had the rare opportunity, for someone of my background to live and study in India, another developing country. I gained an understanding of poverty there.

I feel privileged to have had these experiences abroad where I have observed how economic, political, and social systems interplay to determine the difference between rich and poor countries, between peaceful and warring countries. These systems are highly mature in the developed western countries while Africa struggles to transition from traditional systems to modern systems which is why I believe my country is stuck in poverty.

I received my Bachelor of Management at the MS Ramaiah College of Arts, Science, and Commerce in Bangalore, India in 2005, where I saw the rapid economic progress in Bangalore. I immersed myself in the Bangalore community through volunteer activities of the Yahalanka Rotary Club, federation for International Students Association (FISA-B), Indian Council for



Cultural Relations (ICCR), International Student Hospitality Organization (ISHO) and others. This opportunity has widened my understanding of different cultures. I currently am at the University of San Diego getting my Masters in Peace and Justice and Conflict Resolution, which I believe is most needed in all of sub Saharan Africa. I would like to say to all of Rotary: "Thank you Rotary Foundation for making my dreams come true."

## **Eunju (Julie) Seol**

In 7th grade I took a formal English class for the first time in school. The fact that I could speak with foreigners in a different language and communicate with them was so appealing that I actually spent most of my time trying to expose myself to English and studying English. I eagerly participated in an English speech competition in the 7th grade. But I gave up because the words that I knew at that time were just 'apple', 'ant' and other basic information. I had really wanted to participate in that competition but because I was not qualified I became so depressed.

From then on, I realized that people should do what they really want to do. My interest in foreign languages made me set a goal to go to a 'foreign language university', which I now attend.

I am really curious about foreign countries (even now, I'm still curious about them). In another country, everything looks totally different and I really wanted to be in the strange world. So I went backpacking around Europe when I was 15 years old. The experience was, in a word, overwhelming. I wanted to be a global person going around the world, making the world smaller to me.

To make my dreams real, I challenged myself again; to major in Spanish and to communicate with people from all around the world. I learned Spanish is such a good language that can make me more globalized. My goal before I graduate from the university is to master English and Spanish, and pass the exam to be a diplomat. It's quite challenging but I want to achieve my goal.

Thanks to the Rotary Club, I meet so many wonderful people living their lives for others. It was such a shock to me and made me look at myself again and I realized the importance of 'we'. I want to be the person who makes dreams real for the world.

## **QIUWAN ZHAO**

I am from Fujian Province, the southeast part of China. I got my B.A. in Shanghai Jiaotong University for Public Affairs Management in 2005. After that, I continued my studies and got a M.A. in Public Administration in Xiamen University. Between 2006 and 2007, I attended the



Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and Americans Studies, for its certificated program in International Politics. While studying in Shanghai, I took an internship at the China Business News-a leading business newspaper in China and was assigned to cover the main cultural events happening in Shanghai. I like to spend my spare time with community service. I used to volunteer to teach migrant-workers' children in Xiamen. Most recently, I worked as a research assistant for Hindu-Kush Himalaya Environmental Policy Project (funded by National Science Foundation), whose primary goal is to assess and improve environmental policy by focusing on internationally-funded participatory policies and projects in India, Nepal and China. My academic interest lays in environmental justice, women empowerment and NGO development. I would like to work for an intergovernmental organization like the UN or an international NGO like WWF after I finish my studies and training in Peace and Justice at the University of San Diego.