

In Support of the Nomination of Roger W. Grawe to the North Kansas City High School Hall of Fame.

“Career/Avocation”

Roger displayed his special qualities and leadership skills early on in high school as NKCHS Class of 1964 Valedictorian, President of the National Forensic League chapter and successful speech and debate participant, as an officer in Student Council, Key Club, Political Science Club, German Club, Russian Club, and as participant in the American Field Service program visiting Germany as a foreign exchange student the summer of 1963.

Graduating summa cum laude from Yale College, 1968, majoring in Politics and Economics, Roger achieved a BA with highest honors. He also received an Economics MA from Yale University in 1968 and attained an M Phil in 1973, qualifying his study in the Department of Economics PhD program, also at Yale University, 1972-75.

From 1968-70 Roger served with the US Peace Corps, Ministry of Land Settlement in Kenya working closely with Nordic Cooperative Movement technical assistance to introduce accounting and budgeting systems for land settlement program cooperative societies with special emphasis on staff training in over 50 cooperative societies across Kenya.

From 1970-72 Roger worked with UNICEF as the Kenya Liaison Officer, Nairobi, preparing the 1972-74 Kenya program for UNICEF as Acting Program Officer. He worked closely with bilateral partners and other UN agencies in implementing the UNICEF program in Kenya. Additionally, he participated in Kenya's first approach to Integrated Rural Development with emphasis on donor coordination and collaboration.

Returning to Yale in 1973-75 while studying in the PhD program, Roger was an Acting Instructor in Politics and Economics teaching select undergraduate honors students as part of a faculty team responsible for that politics and economics program.

In 1975, Roger joined the World Bank Young Professional Program, working in the South Asia Country Programs Department as an economist in the India Division and contributed studies on commodities, exports, and the role of pre-school education in development, subsequently becoming a senior economist in the Bank's Country Office in India.

In 1985, he moved to the Eastern & Southern Africa Country Program Division as Principal Economist dealing with Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, and in 1987, he assumed the position of Lead Economist in the Southern Africa Country Department.

In 1992, Roger became Division Chief – Human Development Operations Division, Southern Africa, working on health, population, nutrition, education, social development, and poverty activities in 12 southern African countries.

In 1996, he was appointed Technical Manager, Macroeconomics, for Eastern Africa, developing and implementing analytic programs and initiatives in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Djibouti.

As World Bank Country Director for the Czech Republic, Hungary, Moldova, Slovakia, and Slovenia from 1997-2002, Roger was responsible for the formulation of country strategies and allocation of World Bank lending and administrative resources. He developed successful collaboration strategies with governments which had previously shunned World Bank assistance and facilitated continuous adaptation of World Bank strategies. His internal management responsibilities included organization and leadership of specialist staff working on each country. He also directly managed a team of senior staff in four locations (Budapest, Washington, Chisinau and Bratislava) and was responsible for the administration of the Budapest Regional Office, highly regarded for its efficiency and productivity.

From 2002-2005 Roger served as World Bank Country Director – Central Europe and the Baltic States, responsible for the formulation of country partnerships and allocation of World Bank knowledge and lending resources for the eight countries which joined the European Union in 2004 (Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia). Among other duties he developed mechanisms for reviewing comprehensive World Bank strategies, formulated technical assistance processes, implemented World Bank systems, developed partnerships with other institutions, and adapted World Bank operational support, all while managing the four European offices.

Since 2005 and after his retirement, Roger has consulted on behalf of the World Bank with many countries and regions including Middle East/North Africa, Romania, Hungary, India, Lao PDR, Vietnam, Tanzania, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Kenya, and Sri Lanka.

Additionally, from 2005 to the present, Roger has worked as an independent consultant assisting Norway and Myanmar in their engagement in support of the Myanmar Development Research Institute – Centre for Economic and Social Research.

During Roger's grad student days, he served for three years as a student representative on a committee appointed by the Yale President to advise the Yale Corporation on exercising corporate social responsibility in voting on non-financial shareholder resolutions across the portfolio of stocks in Yale's endowment. This committee was a pioneering project among US universities involving student input to endowment issues.

While in Delhi, India, between 1975-1985, Roger served as Treasurer and then as President of the governing Board of the American Embassy School in India. He was the first non-Embassy person to serve as President.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of Roger's volunteer work was supporting the World Bank's involvement in Roma issues. The Roma are an Indo-Aryan ethnic group, traditionally itinerant, living mostly in Europe and the Americas and originating from the northern Indian subcontinent, from the Rajasthan, Haryana, and Punjab regions of modern-day India.

The Roma are among the most disadvantaged groups in Europe and their plight had been largely ignored during the previous several decades. They had also been targets of Nazi extermination along with Jews and gays. Roger's work led to the establishment of the Roma Education Fund with which he worked as an advisor following his retirement from the World Bank.

In his typical humble manner, Roger shared, "I feel very privileged to have been able to work and live an international life; but whatever accomplishments were associated with that were really shared achievements with colleagues and counterparts who were so often much more talented." What great evidence of Roger's care and character.

Roger and his wife, Jane, have two grown children, Katie, a senior investment analyst with the state of Virginia and Sam, an independent consultant, formerly the international brand director for Herman Miller Furniture Company and editor-in-chief for Dwell magazine.

As a classmate, Roger was the object of respect and admiration. The combination of his abilities, accomplishments, and his friendliness actually

predicted great things. We present some of those great things in the sections above.

From *Purgold* 1964, p.235



AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE
SPONSORS ROGER'S JAUNT TO GERMANY

Roger Grawe, North Kansas City High School's A.F.S. student representing America, found his two-month stay in Herne and Berlin, Germany, a challenging experience. These challenges, however, were greatly overbalanced by the broadening dimensions of meeting new people and seeing new things. Although seeing the Berlin Wall and East Berlin are impressionable events, Roger considers his friendship with his German brother and other German people more valuable. From these person-to-person contacts, Roger believes, comes the realization of the diminishing differences among the world's people.

Greeters come in all shapes, sizes, and forms.



Our hero returns.

We all have expectations placed upon us, Roger more than most, and obviously he has exceeded what we could only imagine. His humility, grace, and presence have served him well.

