

Rotary Seniors for the Month of November

By Sam Kiernan

The seniors chosen as the Rotary Seniors of the Month were Owen Oliver and Kaelyn Phouthavongsa. Throughout their high school careers, they showed outstanding hard work and dedication towards their schoolwork, sports, extracurriculars and so much more. The Rotary Club recognized their efforts in this month's meeting.

The first rotary senior of this month is Owen Oliver. Owen is class president, cross country team captain and on varsity cross country. He is secretary for FBLA, a member of NHS and NEHS, Ski Club, is a merit scholar, and is in student forum. As a class officer and a participant in student forum, he has gained real world experience and has been able to form a community with his fellow students. He has volunteered at Jenner's Pond where he helped set up social events with residents. Owen was given an opportunity to intern at CHOP and he worked on a disease called Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia (HHT). There, his work will help to bring improved diagnosis and treatment to patients with the disease. Through this internship, Owen was able to get many opportunities to help decide what he wanted to do as his career. For his future, Owen will be going to a four-year college of his choice to either become a pediatrician or a neurosurgeon. His interest in medicine was originally inspired by his mother, who had breast cancer, and his grandfather, who had a stroke. He hopes to be able to help others as doctors have helped his mother and grandfather.

The second rotary senior of this month is Kaelyn Phouthavongsa. Kaelyn is in NHS, FCA, track and field (indoor and outdoor), and varsity volleyball. She coaches for Oxford Soccer Club and Little Dragons, as well as plays club soccer for Delaware FC. She also previously participated in

varsity soccer, helping hands, band (marching and symphonic), and was a class officer. Kaelyn has always loved helping people and coaching younger kids about the sport she loves. Sadly, this past year her father was diagnosed with liver cancer. Although this news was devastating to her and her family, Kaelyn was able to step up to help care for her father and her family as they fought through it. The diagnosis of her father helped her decide what she wanted to do for her future. Kaelyn will be going to a four-year college of her choice to pursue a nursing degree, in hopes to become a pediatric nurse.