

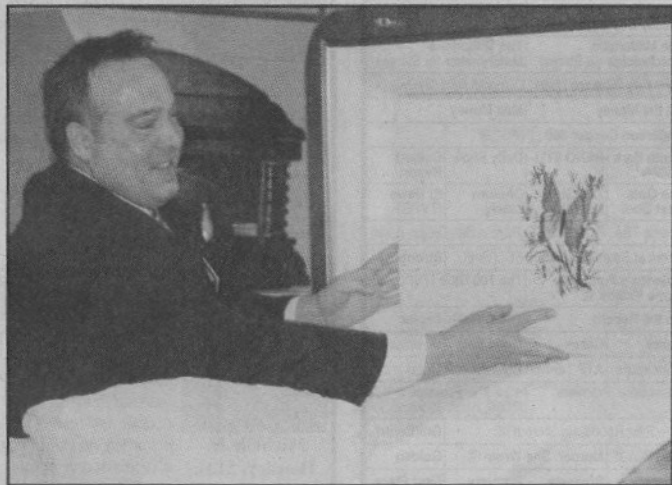
# DISTANCE LEARNING

By **TRISH BENNETT**  
STAFF WRITER

**T**wo local residents will spend the month of May in Argentina as part of a professional exchange program sponsored by the Rotary Club International.

As part of the annual group study exchange team, Jayme Fountain, assistant Pickaway County prosecutor, and Brian Allen, funeral director for Defenbaugh-Wise-Schoedinger Funeral Services, will explore their chosen professions in a completely different culture.

For Fountain, the excitement for the trip lies in the inner workings of the country's legal system.



**TRISH BENNETT/Circleville Herald**  
**Brian Allen, funeral director for Defenbaugh-Wise-Schoedinger Funeral Service, looks forward to a cultural exchange during his visit to Argentina.**

"They don't have jury trials in Argentina, so that's one big difference from us," Fountain said. "I'll be interested to see how their bur-

dens of proof compare to ours and hopefully get a tour of their prison system."

Fountain, sponsored in

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*Locals  
head to  
Argentina  
for  
exchange  
program*

# Learning

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the exchange by the Circleville Sunrise and Noon Rotary clubs, said she likely will shadow attorneys and judges in various Argentinean courts during her visit.

"They have national and regional courts, so I'll get to experience both systems while I'm there," she said.

In addition to learning how her job works in another part of the world, Fountain said she is looking forward to seeing an economic recovery in action.

"Argentina had an economic meltdown in the early 2000s like we're experiencing now," she said. "It will be interesting to see how they've recovered since then, and maybe get an idea of what we can expect."

While Fountain's focus will be on the differences in law and politics, Allen said his profession will allow him to learn much more about the Argentinean culture.

"What I'm hoping for is learning first-hand how people of Hispanic background look at death," he said. "It's totally different in America. We push right through the death process and don't give ourselves time to grieve."

Allen, a Circleville resident sponsored through the Grove

City Rotary club, said he is interested to learn the requirements for his position in Argentina and looks forward to the cultural exchange of ideas.

"From what I understand, funerals are still very liturgical there," he said. "Their cemeteries are like our old cemeteries, very ornate with family mausoleums. Some of the things we do to create a memorable experience for our families, hopefully I can share that and add to what they get out of their funeral services."

Bill Stout, Circleville Rotary member, said District 6690 has participated in the group study exchange program since at least the 1970s.

"Our first GSE team was here in 1979 from Australia, and I'm still in touch with that team," Stout said.

While the district, which covers areas of central and southern Ohio, will send a five-member team to Argentina this year, it will also host a five-member team from that country to complete the exchange.

"We don't always have them in Pickaway County every year because they come into the district and stay three or four days in various towns," Stout said. "This year, we'll be hosting them from May 19 through May 23."

Stout said he believes the exchange team will include at least one attorney, a business

person, two school teachers and a university official.

The visiting team will be hosted by volunteer families here, just as Fountain and Allen will be in Argentina.

"They not only learn their jobs, but the culture and what's happening in those areas," Stout said. "They live just how the people there live, what they eat and drink and so forth."

During their visit, Fountain and Allen will also make presentations to Rotary Clubs throughout their host region in Argentina. They also will share their experiences with local chapters once they return home.

Rotary, Stout said, is the largest service organization in the world. Located in nearly 175 countries, the club raises money through its foundation to sponsor projects like working with the World Health Organization to eradicate polio worldwide.

"Collectively we've raised \$400 million to end polio," he said. "We're down to just three countries now, a couple in Africa and an Islamic country that won't let us in."

Locally, the Sunrise and Noon Rotary chapters are active with projects closer to home, everything from offering scholarships to running soup kitchens to supporting the new Mary Virginia Crites-Hannan Park.

While both local team members brush up on their Spanish language skills for the trip in May, Allen said he can hardly wait for the opportunity.

"I don't really know what to expect, but that's the most exciting thing about going," he said. "I think the anticipation is what makes it so exciting."