

REQUIRED FINAL REPORT DOCUMENT

DUE TO YOUR SCHOLARSHIP COORDINATOR ONE MONTH
BEFORE THE END OF YOUR SCHOLARSHIP PERIOD.

FINAL REPORT COVER PAGE

Your Name: Katie Donovan

Your Permanent Address: 3111 Plaza Pines Dr. Houston, TX. 77345

3111 Plaza Pines Dr. Houston, TX. 77345

Your Permanent Telephone and Fax Numbers:

513-520-1054 N/A
Telephone Fax

Your Permanent E-mail Address: k.donovan@yahoo.com

Please answer the questions below in your Final Report. You should send copies of this cover page and your Final Report to your scholarship coordinator at The Rotary Foundation and host and sponsor district governors and counselors. Write your report in your native language for your sponsor Rotarians and in your host country language for your host Rotarians and your scholarship coordinator.

Please keep in mind that your Final Report should be a substantial discussion of your scholarship, at least two pages long, and typed single-spaced.

1. Describe your academic achievements (honors and/or degrees received, etc.) and how this experience will further your pursuits (professional, academic, volunteer, etc.).
2. How has your experience changed your outlook on your host country and sponsor country? How have you contributed to The Rotary Foundation's mission of world understanding and peace?
3. Give specific examples of how you served as an ambassador of goodwill. How did you make a difference in someone else's life? Was there a particular experience that changed your life?
4. How would you describe Rotary to friends, colleagues, and family? How would you describe the Ambassadorial Scholarship?
5. How have the materials or training that you received from the Foundation and your sponsor and host Rotarians prepared you for your success as an ambassador of goodwill? What specific suggestions do you have for improving the orientation process?
6. What advice or information would you provide to future scholars about living abroad as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, cultural differences, representing Rotary, and your sponsor and host Rotary clubs?
7. How will you continue to stay involved in Rotary? Would you become a member of Rotary or Rotaract, recommend candidates for the scholarship, and participate in orientations?

Please also complete the Scholarship Evaluation Form and send a copy to your scholarship coordinator at the Foundation.

I want to begin by thanking everyone for this past year and for this amazing opportunity. I also want to explain what will be found on the following pages. While I was looking through the Handbook, I based this first section (pages 1-7) on what was listed under the requirements for the Final Report in the front of the 2006-2007 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar Handbook. It wasn't until I went to print the cover sheet for the Final Report that I noticed there were different requirements that needed to be in the report. In order to include those, I have answered the seven questions in the second section. So I hope to have covered all bases, and hopefully, it isn't too long now! ☺

Section I

As I sit down to write this, I cannot believe that it has already been almost a year. I keep asking myself where the time has gone, but I suppose that when you are experiencing a life changing opportunity you can only expect that time will fly. I began my studies last fall in Cross Cultural Communications and Media Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and if all goes as I am planning it will I should receive a Master's degree of distinction once my dissertation is assessed and combined with my grades earned throughout the course.

I truly enjoyed my course and I can honestly say that this degree program is quite unique. Most universities do not combine cross cultural communications with media studies so I most likely would not have been able to study this at any other institution. Similarly, my degree program also made it possible for me to meet and interact with students from all over the world. As a result, I was not only learning about cross cultural communication from a textbook, I was experiencing it first hand.

It is for this and many reasons that I am so grateful for the Rotary Foundation Scholarship. Without Rotary's support I never would have been able to receive a degree of higher education and I definitely would not have had this amazing opportunity. In terms of the scholarship, the funds were very adequate and covered most things. The funds however, did not cover much of the food expenses due to poor currency exchange rates at the moment, but the amount was very adequate. The first amount paid for tuition (£8,990). The second amount went to housing until June 15 and food (£3,202). and the final amount covered transportation to Rotary meetings every Wednesday as well as the trip to Cardiff for the RIBI Link Scholar conference, books, bedding, pots and pans and other supplies (~£800).

My housing arrangements were perfect for everything I needed. I was surrounded by other post-graduate students, I was close to the local grocery stores and markets, I was close to several means of transportation (buses and metro) and I was located close to my university and to the city center. I had my own room and bathroom and I shared a kitchen with 9 other students each from a different country. (Iran, Japan, China, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, Ukraine, Barbados, and England) I cooked most of my meals and even had a few potlucks with the other students in the kitchen. It was a great place to live. I would recommend it to anyone.

Fortunately for me I spoke the native language of my host country. Although I must admit that American English and British English are quite different in many ways. I was often times corrected when I pronounced words the wrong way, but it never once had any effect on my ability as an ambassadorial scholar. In fact, most times when I would say things the wrong way, the Rotarians I was speaking with found it quite humorous.

The Northeast of England is truly a wonderful place. Everyone was so friendly and welcomed me with open arms. Upon my arrival my host counselor, Albert Whiting, picked me up and drove me to my accommodation. The night that I arrived

also happened to be the same evening that my host Rotary club met, so after I settled in a bit, I was taken to visit the rest of the club members. Although I was a bit jet-lagged, I had a wonderful time meeting the members of the club that I would be spending so much time with in the future. Everyone was very friendly and I felt a part of their family almost instantly. They truly are some of the warmest people I have met. And this extends to the other clubs that I spoke with as well.

Even outside of Rotary, however, I was very fortunate. The locals that I met were always warm and were interested in why I was living in the country and my purpose and goals as a scholar.

My counselors were both great. I was fully supported by both before and during my stay in Newcastle. Roger Stanley, my sponsoring counselor from the Summit Rotary Club in Greensboro, North Carolina was very helpful and supportive before I left the United States to begin my year as an ambassadorial scholar. He answered all of my questions and made sure that I was thoroughly prepared for my journey abroad and my goals and requirements as a scholar. Albert Whiting, my host counselor from the Rotary Club of Monkseaton Centenary, was phenomenal. Not only was he a very friendly and kind person, he always made sure I had transportation to every event, that I was attending speaking engagements, he picked me up from the metro and drove me to the Rotary Club of Monkseaton Centenary's meetings every Wednesday, and he was always willing to answer any questions that I may have had. He was absolutely fantastic. Between the two of them I was well supported and felt that if anything ever came up, I had great people to turn to.

I also had many other members from both Monkseaton and Summit to seek guidance from. Several members at Monkseaton also demonstrated that they were always there for me if anything came up. The President at the time, Celia Leach, even picked me up from my accommodation at 4:00am in the morning to drive me to the airport before Christmas. She also always made sure that things were going ok with my family and school and made it a point to let me know that if there was anything she could ever do, she was there. Similarly Phil Hopps, the Rotary Foundation Committee Ambassadorial Scholar Coordinator in the Northeast, was also always willing to drive me to and from speaking engagements and to make sure everything was always going ok for me. And Celia, Albert, Phil and Roger are just a few of the many who reached their hands out to help or to support me during my role as a Rotary scholar. Everyone was just wonderful!

My first Rotary Presentation took place on September 27th. It was my second meeting at the Rotary Club of Monkseaton Centenary (my hosting club). I was a little nervous since it was my first presentation, but it went very well and everyone seemed very pleased with it. I did make the mistake of mentioning that I wanted to make some traditional American foods for them, because after I said that I was put in charge of making an American Thanksgiving Dinner. I make it sound a lot worse than it was and the actual Thanksgiving dinner was a wonderful evening. The president, Celia Leach, invited everyone to her house and she made most of the food. I just provided the pumpkin pies, stuffing, and some chili dip. (But I did think more carefully about saying anything about baking when I presented at future clubs.)

The following weekend on September 29, I attended the Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) Link weekend for the ambassadorial scholars studying in Great Britain and Ireland. I traveled with Yuka Tsuzuki, a scholar from Japan who also studied in Newcastle. It was a wonderful weekend and it helped orientate everyone to the UK and Ireland. It worked in many ways similar to our first orientation that we attended before leaving for our studies, but we were given a lot more opportunity to get to know the other students. We also stayed with host families

and other scholars, which gave me not only an insight into how people live in Cardiff, Wales, but also helped me to develop close friendships with the other scholars. I stayed with Luana, a scholar from Brazil. It was nice because we both could ask each other questions about expectations and requirements as well as learn about each other's customs and traditions. For example, she taught me how to make café con leche. It was a great and informative weekend.

On November 2nd, I attended two Rotary events. First I spoke in the afternoon at the Rotary Club of Durham and then that evening I attended the visit of the RIBI President, Peter Offer. The months of January and February were also quite busy. I attended three Rotary Clubs, my own host club, a Rotary sponsored casino night, and the 1030 district conference. The dates and events are as follows. On Monday, January 8th, I spoke with the Rotary Club of Washington Forge. (Phil Hopps' Rotary Club). On Wednesday, January 17, I spoke with the Rotary Club of Tynedale and following this presentation I went to my host club that evening. On Tuesday, January 23, I spoke with the Rotary Club of Seabrook. On February 9, I attended a Rotary Casino Night with scholar Yuka Tsuzuki, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Washington. (This was really great fun!) And the weekend of February 23 to 25, I attended and spoke at the 1030 District Conference with Phil Hopps and Misa Kanno (another Rotary Scholar from Japan studying in Newcastle). Also during this time I was given several opportunities to meet and get to know the Rotary GSE team from Idaho.

March was very hectic with school related requirements and assignments, but I did represent my host club at the Rotary 1030 district Games Night. April was filled with a bit of travel that I will mention a bit later. May was again another busy month with Rotary activities and my academic finals. On May 3, I spent the evening on the Rotary Club of Monkseaton Centenary's bowling team. I wish I could say I made America proud with my ten-pin bowling skills, but I must admit that bowling has never been my most skilled sport. ☺ On May 23, I spoke and visited with the Rotary Club of Whickham Clavering, on May 24, I spoke and visited with the Rotary Club of Washington, and on May 28, I spoke and visited with the Rotary Club of Houghton-le-Spring. During all of these months, I continuously and regularly attended my host club (Rotary Club of Monkseaton Centenary). I only missed when I was out of town and once when I was buried beneath mounds of books during finals. I also made a small presentation every week to my host club about my experiences of living in the Northeast of England and what I had been up to during the previous week.

In terms of civic, professional, and community activities, I kept myself very busy. The largest civic/ community service activity I participated in was actually through the Rotary Club of Monkseaton Centenary. Barbara Connors-Fowler (a member of Monkseaton Centenary) and I raised money for Marie Curie Cancer Care. The event we participated in was an abseil off of the Baltic Contemporary Art Museum. An abseil is also much like repelling. Barbara and I raised the money in honor of her friend who recently passed away as a result of cancer and who was aided by the Marie Curie Cancer Care Foundation. Between the two of us, we raised a very exciting £1,052.69 pounds. (Close to \$2,133.58) I was also very excited because I had some support from my sponsoring Rotary club in North Carolina as well!

In terms of professional activities, I knew that the scholarship funds were not going to cover everything while I was here, especially in terms of food, due to the exchange rates. So as a result, I decided to pick up some part time work. I ended up getting a position with the university on their phonathon team. I was actually quite lucky because there were over 400 applicants for only 20 positions and I was fortunate enough to be selected for one of the spots. The phonathon was perfect not

only for building my communication skills, but also as a way to get to talk to Newcastle alumni from all over the world. Most of the people I spoke with were from the UK, but it was great to chat with them about their time at Newcastle University and about their lives. Many were interested in why I was studying in Newcastle and what brought me overseas, since my accent was a sure give away that I was not a local. It also gave me the chance to tell them about Rotary and what Rotary stands for as some people during the conversation became quite curious. A few times I even called alumni that were Rotarians, which was great fun! It was also a great experience to understand the fundamentals in trying to raise money, to gain the confidence to talk on the phone with people I had never met, and to meet some local students who were also working as members of the team. One night I even presented my Rotary presentation for the team since they wanted to know more about me and why I was in England.

My community activities are quite widespread. I spent several evenings attending concerts with some members of my host Rotary club. These events gave me an insight into the music community of the Northeast as well as introduced me to several musicians in the area. I also spent some time with the local Catholic Church that I attended. Although I didn't know many people within the church community I attended regularly and helped in the charity schemes. I also was involved in the International Society at Newcastle University. This allowed me to meet several students from all over the world and to interact with them on a regular basis. I was also very fortunate to be invited by my university to attend the visit of the US Ambassador to Great Britain. He held a short question and answer session and only about 25 students were invited to attend from all over the world. I also attended and spoke at a memorial service for the 2005 Pakistani Earthquake. The event was organized by one of the members of my host club and I was very moved to be invited to attend and to say a few words as a citizen of the United States. I think it meant a lot to the attendees of the event that I had something to say. And although I may be forgetting some things, I also spent two fundraising evenings for the Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund, one at a concert sponsored by my host Rotary club and the other at a Scooter 80's dance party.

Although I stayed very busy with Rotary, homework, and outside activities, I did manage to do a bit of traveling. During the month of April, my parents visited (and even gave a presentation to my host club) and the three of us went to Ireland and did some traveling in London and in the Northeast of England. Prior to that, I traveled to Paris, Nice, Monaco, and Cannes in France. I spent a little time in Scotland both in the highlands and in Edinburgh. I also was able to get to Bergen in Norway, Belfast in Northern Ireland, and I spent a little bit of time in Perugia, Italy and of course exploring the various parts of England. I had hoped to get to Spain, but time just completely ran out with everything else that was going on.

I unfortunately never made any television appearances or said anything on the radio (even though a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Whickham Clavering did take me on a tour of the BBC studios in Newcastle). I was however, published in a few of the Rotary North East magazines, a few Summit Rotary Newsletters, and was even in the local Newcastle Newspaper a few times! I never expected to be in any of these publications, but I know that Albert Whiting and a few members at the Summit Club are responsible for that. ☺ I have included the press clippings with this report.

I think I have had a positive impact on my host country, my host Rotary club, and my host Rotary district as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. I think I have given members of society and members of the Rotary clubs an insight into what it is like to be American and I think I have done so in a positive light. Often times, people have

informed that I have been a credit not only to my family and to my sponsoring Rotary club, but to my country as a whole. This makes me very proud that I have been such a positive ambassador to the United States. I also feel that I have created friendships that will last a lifetime. I know I will stay in touch with my host club often and that I will miss them very much when I leave. I have spent time with them almost every Wednesday of the year and I consider them part of my family. I think that in everything I have done, I have done it with a smile that is truly contagious. One of the members even mentioned that after I participated in the bowling night, Barbara Connors-Fowler and I were able to get grown men to give high-fives after good bowls. (And sometimes even after bad bowls)

To the best of my ability I have placed service above myself and I have presented myself as an ambassador of goodwill and understanding. I spent many a memorable evening speaking with local Rotary clubs in the 1030 district. Even in my classes I demonstrated understanding and goodwill towards my classmates who were from all over the world, helping them on English proofreading or even just explaining assignments in a more understandable way.

I would like to think that England as a whole has been impacted by my presence here, but it is hard to state that without sounding like I have an inflated ego. I just know that while I was here I got involved and I gave everything my all. I was helpful to anyone who needed it and I did it with a smile. I hope that as I prepare to leave, I have left an impression of not only what an average American is like, but of how similar we all really are.

Although I have already mentioned many of my speaking engagements within this report already, I will summarize them for clarity. In total I spoke at 8 Rotary Clubs in the 1030 district, I spoke at the 1030 District Conference in Leeds, I spoke at the Pakistani Earthquake memorial service, I spoke about the United States during a university tutorial program, I spoke often at pre-concert events when with Rotarian Jack Lindsay of my host club, I spoke with the members of the phonathon, and I gave a little update on what had been happening weekly at my host club's meetings every Wednesday.

What I consider to be accomplishments may be different from what others may have in mind. I think my largest accomplishment was raising the money and gaining the courage to abseil for Marie Curie Cancer Care. £1,000 is a wonderful amount that will help out their charity immensely. I was also honored and very touched when my host Rotary club of Monkseaton Centenary made me an honorary member to their club. I was surprised and very moved to have been pinned with the Rotary wheel and now every time I wear it, I think not only of the call to service above self and goodwill to all, but to friendship and, in many ways, a family that I will always be connected with. A final accomplishment that I feel I have achieved as a scholar is that I maintained top grades at my university while also staying heavily involved with everything that surrounded me. Once my dissertation is graded I am hoping to receive a degree of distinction, which makes me feel very proud considering how busy I was with Rotary and community events and activities.

This experience as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar has opened my eyes to how much Rotary crosses over all borders and truly makes a difference in the world. Every single Rotarian I have met, and that is a lot now, has been a remarkable, genuine, and a thoroughly caring person. I have yet to meet a Rotarian who was not friendly. When I think about everything that my local host club is involved in, I am amazed at what a great organization it is, and on a world scale, it can achieve almost anything. I have been proud to be an Ambassadorial Scholar this past year and I know that when I return to the United States I will want to continue to be involved. I have

already begun the planning stages of returning to my sponsor club to speak with them about my experiences and to present them with the many banners I have gathered expressing friendship and connectedness.

I also have changed what I would like to do for my career. Originally I wanted to go into television production, but now I feel I have a more direct calling. I would like to use film and television as a way to make a difference in this world. I hope to work within educational programming either for a non-profit organization (for example the Global Fund for Children which uses media as a tool to raise awareness of cultural differences and similarities) or work in some area of international relations. I hope to make my career something that I am proud of which attempts to make a difference in this world much like Rotary. I have spent so much time this year spreading the message that both the Rotary Foundation and Rotary International send to the world, that I think it has become a part of me. I hope to live the rest of my life attempting to spread peace, goodwill and understanding to everyone.

I also hope to someday join a Rotary Club in my local home area. I want to wait at first, because right now I have no idea where I will be living when I return to the United States, but I know that after attending weekly meetings for a year, it is something that I will greatly miss when I return. I also plan on giving back to the Rotary Foundation in the form of donations (when I have something to donate ☺) so other people will have this same amazing opportunity that I have had. I am so grateful to every Rotarian out there who supports the Rotary Foundation's Educational Programs and who gave me this opportunity.

My year here was life changing and everything went perfectly. I have no suggestions for the Rotary Foundation as I think they have a very well oiled machine. I never had difficulties getting in touch with members at headquarters and my scholarship coordinator was always there to help and answer questions. I never felt like I was alone and I always knew that at any moment I would be able to get in touch with someone who would be able to help me out. I was very fortunate that I had several opportunities to meet the District Governor of district 1030 and I was also lucky to have met the RIBI President, Peter Offer, more than once as well. I had a wonderful host club looking out for me and I hope that every scholar was as well looked after as I was and that everyone also experienced the same kindness as I did. I was also very fortunate to have a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar Coordinator who helped in setting up speaking engagements for me and the other scholars in the area, and a host club that was also very involved in my studies and my experience here as well.

In terms of things that I found very helpful for my year as a scholar, were the contact lists of the 2005-2006 Ambassadorial Scholars who were completing their studies and also the orientation session that we were required to attend before departure. Both of these helped calm my nerves before I left. I also found the RIBI Link weekend very informative and helpful in guiding me in the right direction of what I needed to do as a scholar as well as helped me meet scholars who were studying in the UK and Ireland.

The only suggestions I have for a future scholar are to get involved with their hosting club, stay in touch often with their sponsor club, to never be afraid to try something new and to really put all your effort into getting to know the environment around you. I would say that my university accommodation was perfect for me. I did not encounter any problems with arranging for my visa or any other travel documentations. I would suggest to anyone traveling to the UK to save up their own personal funds because the scholarship funds, adequate as they are to cover most things, will not cover everything because of the exchange rate, so they should be

prepared to have extra money for when the scholarship runs out. (But I suppose most people would know that already) I would also tell everyone to be organized. To keep a journal of everything they are doing and to definitely keep updating a blog or website for their sponsor and host clubs to look at. I would also suggest applying early to their study institution and keeping in touch with the university to make sure they have all of the documents that they need. I would end by saying to make the most of your year. They are a scholar for a reason, so get out there, get involved, learn as much as you can, and get your hands dirty (so to speak) ☺ This opportunity will change your lives, there is no doubt about that, so keep an open mind and experience everything you can and spread the message of peace, goodwill and understanding.

Section II

- 1.) I am currently in the completion stages of my Master's Degree in Cross Cultural Communications and Media Studies. Once my dissertation is graded this coming fall, I will know more about my status as a recipient of distinction. I have full confidence that I will obtain the Master's degree, but I will be waiting to hear whether it is a degree of distinction or of merit. (If all goes as planned, it should be distinction) This degree will be very helpful to my future career pursuits. It not only furthers my previous education in the media, but it incorporates the degree of communication between cultures, which many new hiring employers are looking for in new candidates. An ability to communicate with others from many diverse backgrounds will most likely help me to find a job in the production field. This degree coupled with the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship has also caused me to shift my concept of what I would like to do when I return to the states. As I mentioned briefly in Section I, I am now more interested in going into a profession that attempts to use film and television to promote awareness and education for our cultural differences.
- 2.) The Ambassadorial Scholar experience has changed a lot of perspectives for me. I don't know what I fully anticipated England to be like, but I can honestly say that I will be leaving a place that, for the past year, has made me truly happy. I think that living away from my home country for a year has impacted my outlook on the country. I definitely have an immense amount of pride towards the United States, but my eyes have been opened to how much the US can affect other countries. In just reading the headlines in the paper over in England, and listening to discussions with locals and other students from other countries, I feel like I have a worldlier attitude towards my home country. It has been really interesting and informative to hear what other people think of the United States. I still love the United States, but I think I am more open minded about the little things that the US does that sometimes can make a lot of people from around the world upset. I have tried my best to contribute to world understanding and peace. As I mentioned briefly in section I, I have always taken the opportunity to share with others what it is like to be a regular American. So much of the view outsiders have on the United States is based on our government or what is seen in the movies that I think a lot of people learned about what an American is really like just by sitting and talking with me. I spent several evenings talking with my friends from Iran on subjects concerning both our governments and about what it is like just to be from both places. I met someone from most countries in the world during my year in England and with each person I met I tried to always spread understanding. I

would almost say that I learned as much from these cross cultural interactions then I did from my degree program. I feel that through friendship, peace and goodwill are best able to spread. As I leave this year behind me, I know that I will always maintain the friendships that I have made this past year. I know that someday my friendship with these students from Iran and India (to name a few) will hopefully make a difference. People are not necessarily like the way the media portrays them or how their government appears on CNN for example. My Iranian friends are just like me; trying to get good grades in their degree program, get a job, and someday have a family. I think this is a powerful message, and one that can be spread through more friendships and study exchanges like this.

- 3.) I tried to serve as an ambassador of goodwill everyday as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. I tried to maintain an open-mind, I was always honest to my peers and my Rotarians, I made myself available to anything Rotary or my peers needed, and I was willing to be a part of their lives and willing to invite them into my own. I presented myself in a friendly manner, always smiling, and I maintained a positive image of both my country and myself. I would like to think that I made a difference in someone's life on both a small and large scale. I would consider small scale raising money for the Marie Curie Cancer Care Charity and giving Christmas presents to my family in the form of Oxfam donations for young girls education in Africa. I hope that as a result of this experience and my master's degree that I will be able to impact lives on a larger scale through my new career aspirations of using media to impact lives and raise cultural awareness. To be honest, I think this whole experience has changed my life. Many of the Rotarians in the Northeast in general have impacted my life just based on who they are as people. Albert Whiting, Celia Leach, Phil Hopps, (and there are so many more to name) have inspired me to always be the best person I can be.
- 4.) I would describe Rotary to my friends and family as an organization that places the well-being of others before anything else. It aims to make the world a better place by giving aid to those in most need throughout the world. Throughout my experience as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, I have learned that it is not only a great organization, it is an organization filled with great people. Every Rotarian I have met has placed service before himself or herself and does so with a genuine smile. It is an organization that everyone should be proud of because of the immense amount of aid that it provides the world over. The Ambassadorial Scholarship is an amazing program that allows students the opportunity to live and study in a new culture and to experience life and service away from their home. At every speaking engagement a scholar attends, they are spreading a little bit more understanding about this world and creating friendships that hopefully will someday have the capacity to make a difference. The role of the Ambassadorial Scholar is first and foremost service above self, followed by being a good ambassador to your home country. A big part of the role is taking the time and effort to learn as much as you can, not only in your degree program, but of the surrounding culture. Another important aspect is teaching others about your home country and trying to spread peace, goodwill, and understanding.
- 5.) The Foundation and my host and sponsor Rotarians made it easy for me to understand my role as an ambassador of goodwill. The Foundation provided me with several documents and pieces of literature that were helpful in preparing for my year. They also organized orientation events that helped me understand my

role as an ambassador as well as introduced me to other scholars. My scholarship coordinators both from the foundation and in the Northeast of England were also very helpful in getting me in touch with the right people, answering my questions, and helping me with speaking engagements. The handbook was a very helpful tool in terms of organizing and preparing me for what would lie ahead. The Rotarians were also very helpful. My host and sponsor counselors were always there for me to answer questions and to make sure things were going ok. The members of both my sponsor and host clubs were also wonderful role models as to how to be an effective ambassador of goodwill. I think that the orientation process is very well organized and I really enjoyed my program in North Carolina. The program included contact information for all of the Rotarians and scholars in attendance and also had past scholars give presentations, which was very helpful. I thought everything was great and I can't think of any suggestions.

- 6.) In terms of advice, I would look again to the end of Section I. I still feel that the best advice to give is to get involved. In order to spread goodwill, you need to be unafraid of meeting new people, trying new things, and being open to your surroundings. I think that cultural differences can be difficult, but if you are open minded, then it just takes a little getting used to. (And the Rotarians in your host country will help you) I think the best way to represent your sponsor Rotary club is to spend time with them before you go. Don't just present to the club once, but go a few times and try and get to know the members. Also inform yourself about the organizations they sponsor and what sorts of activities they do on both a district and local level. I gave a presentation to the Rotary Club of Whickham Clavering and they loved hearing about what my sponsor club, the Summit Rotary Club, was doing to raise money. In fact, they liked one idea so well that they decided to adopt it into their own activity. I also think that all scholars should have a blog or a website in order to stay in touch and to just keep everyone informed of the daily things that are going on. Not everyone has computers in all Rotary Clubs, but those pages can easily be printed out by one or two of the members and then shared with the whole group.
- 7.) I am very excited at the prospects of staying involved with Rotary. Although I don't know how soon it will be, I know that in the future I will be joining a Rotary Club if I am invited. I would also love to come back and speak at orientation events and would be more than willing to help with recommending future scholars. I have actually already spoken to my university about the Rotary Scholarship and even helped one of the current 2008-2009 scholars apply for the scholarship by giving advice. I know that I will also be a very large supporter of the Foundation because I would love to give back and help other students have this same wonderful opportunity that I have been fortunate enough to experience. I also plan on keeping in touch with the Rotarians in district 1030, especially my host club of Monkseaton Centenary (the club of which I am now an honorary member) and I will be speaking within the next few months to my sponsor club to not only thank them for this opportunity, but to inform them of all the amazing experiences I have encountered during my year as an Ambassadorial Scholar.