

Rotary



September 27, 2016

Dear District 6290 Rotary Club,

Greetings from Tokyo, Japan! My name is Sarah Sanderson and I am a Rotary Peace Fellow from the Holland, Michigan Rotary Club in District 6290. I wrote to you last December and I'm writing again to re-introduce myself and share how the experience has gone so far in the hopes that you'll follow along with me. Each year, Rotary International chooses one hundred candidates from a worldwide selection process to serve as Peace Fellows. Fifty Fellows study at a peace and conflict professional development program in Chulalongkorn, Thailand, and the other fifty study at one of Rotary's Peace Centers in England, Australia, North Carolina, Sweden and Japan. Peace Fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses. The goal of the Peace Fellowship program is to train future leaders for careers in peace building.

I was assigned to study at the Rotary Peace Center at International Christian University (ICU) in Tokyo, Japan, and arrived during the summer of 2015 for intensive language and culture training. After completing one year of academic study and my Applied Field Experience (AFE) internship during this past summer, I'm now beginning my second year at ICU and will graduate in July of 2017 with an MA in Peace Studies. This year will include a few more graduate courses, Japanese language study, and the research and writing of my thesis. My topic is about how foreign language education can be used as a vehicle to facilitate global citizenship outside of the classroom.

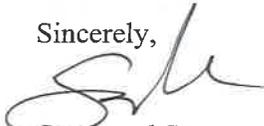
Since I wrote last winter, there have been several highlights of the program. Last spring another Peace Fellow and I were awarded grants from the Institute of Economics and Peace for our joint project on peace education and the Global Peace Index (GPI), an annual rating of the peacefulness of every country in the world. Because of this grant, I've been able to travel and speak at several conferences about how to use the GPI in the classroom. Another highlight was the weeklong trip to Hiroshima with all of the Class XIV ICU Rotary Peace Fellows. The trip was funded by all of the Japanese Rotary Clubs in the country and gave us an incredible opportunity to learn about history and peace through tours, lectures by local professors and testimonials from several A-bomb survivors. Another opportunity during the spring term was the chance to co-edit the ICU Rotary Peace Center Newsletter, a copy of which you'll find along with this letter. The newsletter gives a more vivid and comprehensive view of some of the events and activities that all of the ICU Peace Fellows are involved in on campus and in the community.

However, by far the biggest highlight for me of the program thus far was the summer AFE experience. Peace Fellows can choose to do independent research or a professional internship, and I decided to intern at the United States Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique. The ten weeks spent working with U.S. Foreign Service officers were some of the most interesting and challenging of my life. I was able to rotate through three different departments including: financial management, consular services and public diplomacy. In

the evenings, I volunteered teaching English classes at the American Culture Center (ACC), also run and supported by the U.S. Embassy. On the weekends I explored more remote parts of Mozambique and also made it to South Africa and Swaziland. My favorite part of the internship was getting to know and spend time with Ambassador Dean Pittman. I was able to travel with him on several site visits in the country, attend parties and luncheons at his house and observe official meetings between State Department staff and other key players in the U.S. Mission to Mozambique such as: the Center for Disease Control, USAID and President Obama's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Since State Department internships are unpaid, I would never have been able to do this without the Peace Fellowship and the support from Rotary. It was the opportunity of a lifetime.

I am having an incredible time and learning a lot so far as a Rotary Peace Fellow, and the experience is already coming to an end too quickly. If you're interested in daily life at the Rotary Peace Center at ICU feel free to check out my blog at: sarahsandersonwanderlust.blogspot.com and don't hesitate to send me an email. If your club has the interest and technology for online interaction, it would be great to set up a videoconference during a weekly meeting. I am so grateful to be a recipient of this fellowship and am eager to pay it forward and share it in any way that I can. Thank you for your generosity in donating to the Rotary Foundation to make fellowships like this possible.

Sincerely,



Sarah and Sean

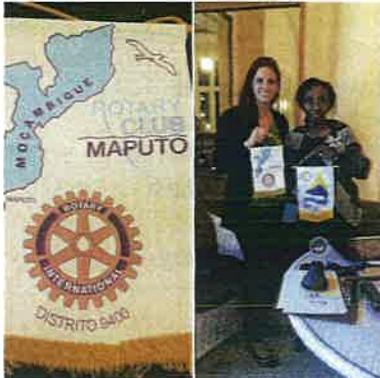


The stunning beauty of Mozambique

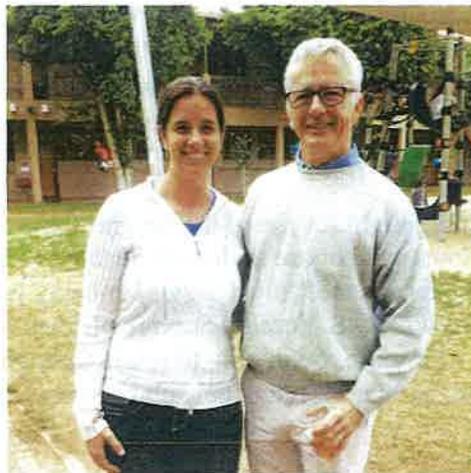
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With one of my English classes at the ACC



Meeting with the Maputo Rotary Club



With Amb. Pittman at a community event



Hiking Mt. Takao with my husband, Sean