

Samuel Weeks
Keene Rotary Club
2010 – 2011 Rotary Foundation
Ambassadorial Scholarship - District 7870



Samuel Weeks, sponsored by the Keene Rotary Club, is the 2010 – 2011 Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar for District 7870. District 7870 covers southern Vermont and most of southern New Hampshire. Ambassadorial Scholarships, The Rotary Foundation's oldest and best-known program, was founded in 1947. Since then, nearly 38,000 men and women from about 100 nations have studied abroad under its auspices. Today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarship program.

Samuel graduated from Colby College in Waterville, ME in 2006 with a degree in Geology. During his junior year, he studied for a semester in Cape Town, So. Africa.

After graduation, he went into the Peace Corp. for 2 years and was a "Community Development Volunteer" in the Cape Verde Islands off the west coast of Africa. He primarily worked in the farming region to help develop more sustainable strategies for economic growth. He also helped teach English to the local citizens so they could converse with the tourists. He worked with children, teens and mothers teaching them to make crafts from recyclables (to sell to the tourists). He did many other things to numerous to mention.

Samuel speaks several languages including Portuguese, Spanish and Capeverdian. He also wrote his essays not only in English but also Portuguese.

Currently he is a translator for Medical Development International in Maryland. He is also participating in a graduate seminar in anthropology at John Hopkins University, and will be entering George Washington University this fall where he will be taking undergraduate courses in Socio-Cultural Anthropology.

His countries of choice to be an Ambassador-of-Goodwill are Portugal, Brazil and Angola. The Rotary Foundation will determine which country he may be going to. He has already researched Rotary Clubs in the potential countries and cities where he might go with his scholarship. He is aware of what projects that they had done in the past and he has developed an outline of a project he might introduce to them.

The purpose of the Ambassadorial Scholarship program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries and geographical areas. While abroad, scholars serve as goodwill ambassadors to the host country and give presentations about their homelands to Rotary clubs and other groups. Upon returning home, scholars share with Rotarians and others the experiences that led to a greater understanding of their host country.

For further information about Ambassadorial Scholarships go to www.rotary.org or contact a local Rotary club or the District 7870 Chairman, Don Bennert at dbennert@mcsbnh.com.