

**Ambassadorial Scholar
Final Report
January 2006
John B. "JB" Horton
Sponsoring Rotary District 5730
Hosting Rotary District 1040
2004-2005, University of Leeds**

- **Course of study/degree or honors received**

Masters in Business Administration (MBA) with Merit. Was honored by the Leeds Business School by being asked to present an award to the outgoing MBA director during Graduation, on behalf of the past 3 years of MBA students.

- **Suitability of institution for your study or training**

Excellent degree program, very good educational institution for learning business and the research aspect of business.

- **Adequacy of award funds, if applicable (provide relevant details)**

I would not have been able to go abroad without the Rotary Scholarship, without a doubt. So I am very grateful for the amount and the award. However, in the UK, the cost of living is so high – along with tuition, that the award did not even cover the full cost of tuition for my program, as that was 17,500 GBP (about \$32,000).

- **Housing/eating arrangements**

Housing was found on my own, off campus. It was fairly expensive, but it was a good central location. Eating was also on my own – I shopped in the local markets for food – and learned to have my food delivered via on-line shopping!

- **Influence of your language ability on the effectiveness of your role as an ambassador of goodwill**

Even though English is my first language, I learned a lot of British English – which in many ways, is a different language to me. But on the MBA course, we had students from 16 different countries who spoke many different languages – fortunately, I was able to communicate with them more effectively, at times, than the British professors/students because many students learned “American” English. Therefore, my language skills actually helped me be a more effective ambassador.

- **Reception by people of your study country**

The reception at the school, and beyond, was warm and courteous. There was an element of anti-Americanism with some of the younger students on campus, but I was never in a situation where it affected me negatively.

- **Guidance and assistance received from your Rotary counselors**

My Rotary councilors here in the US and in Britain were excellent. They were always encouraging, supportive, and helpful. My host counselors would often go out of their way to take me places, and spend extra time with me. A great, great experience. Leslie Jewell, from the Castleford Rotary Club, was my host counselor. She, and her husband Mike, were outstanding.

- **Rotary clubs, Rotary district conferences, etc. attended (indicate events and dates of attendance)**

Sept 2004 *Rotary Reception at Bradford* University with World Peace Scholars

Oct 2004 *Scarborough District Conference*

Jan 2005 Speech to *Batley Rotary Club* & Jan 2005 *Roundhay Rotary Club*

Feb 2005 (twice) *Castleford Rotary Club* (*Host club)& Feb 2005 *Leeds Rotary Club*

Apr 2005 *Pontifract Rotary Club* & Apr 2005 *Rothwell Rotary Club*

- **Other countries visited**

During my Scholar Year, I visited *Scotland, Ireland, and Spain*. Additionally, after the end of the program, but before graduation, I was able to travel substantially: *Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, and India*.

- **Radio and television appearances and/or published articles, if any**

The only radio appearance was upon my return to Texas in my hometown, Pampa Texas. Numerous articles were published during my year abroad in the Pampa and Canyon Newspapers (Texas).

- **Any community service involvement during your scholarship**

A fundraising effort to raise monies for two young cancer patients is currently underway in the USA.

- **Your impact as a Rotary Scholar on your host country, Rotary club, and Rotary District**

That impact is still being measured by speeches and community service work in my district. However, regular updates were sent back to the district for distribution in the regional Rotary Newsletter.

- **How you plan to continue to contribute to international understanding and the ideals of The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International after the end of your scholarship**

One suggestion made to me is to write a story for the Rotary International Magazine on my world experience. I couldn't have done that without Rotary. Another way is to continue to nurture the international friendships I have made, continue learning about other languages and cultures, and work in a professional manner to nurture better understanding between countries.

- **Observations and suggestions regarding The Rotary Foundation Scholarships program (general operation, contacts with Rotary clubs, etc.)**

It is a fairly smooth process – in the UK, a tremendous program. I really appreciate the local Rotarians for the different programs and activities they arranged for the scholars.

- **Suggestions for future scholarship recipients**

I suggest, strongly, enjoying every minute. It is an excellent program – a life changing time.