MEDIA RELEASE

Celebrating Youth Month: Young scholar from US serves in Cape Town

IMMEDIATE RELEASE   **07 June 2017**

CAPTION: June 16 is Youth Day, a wonderful time to celebrate young people and to reflect on the contribution they make to our country. One such remarkable young person is Jennifer Binley (pictured above), a Rotary International Global Grant Scholar from California in the United States. Binley is currently studying a Master's degree in International Relations through the University of Cape Town (UCT) and is hosted by the Rotary Club of Claremont.

Global Grant Scholars undergo a rigorous selection process before being selected to receive a scholarship from Rotary International to study in a country they have never been to before. There they are expected to join in the projects of the local Rotary club and whilst doing so learn more about the culture and network widely with a variety of interesting people.

Since her arrival in Cape Town in February last year Binley has taken every opportunity to get involved in social outreach projects. "I have worked for a local NGO in Khayelitsha performing

research on community enhancement and the impact of alcohol in neighbourhoods. I am currently conducting an evaluation of the impact of a social development fund on low-income areas around Cape Town," explains Binley. She also attended a thought provoking discussion as part of First Thursdays which exposed her to many of the nuances and challenges of life in Cape Town.

As a Global Grant Scholar, Binley has been invited to speak at a number of Rotary clubs about her studies, which has helped her to refine her public speaking skills. She adds that she has benefitted from valuable career advice received from Rotarians. "I have grown tremendously during my time at UCT, and the scholarship has enabled me to focus on my studies and part-time work opportunities without having to worry about finances. I will leave Cape Town more confident in my abilities to tackle the ~~workforce~~ workplace ~~and~~ together with a great group of friends that are also Global Grant Scholars."

Rotary Club of Claremont's Youth Service Director, John Jacobs says: "The Global Grant Scholars whom we host help us to build connections with other Rotary clubs internationally and facilitate networking and collaboration opportunities. Jennifer has brought a fresh new perspective to our club as well as unique graduate level skills which she has already put to good use in her short time here."

During her university holidays Binley travelled with a friend from Durban to Cape Town. "It was on this trip that I fully realised the variety and differences that South Africa offers," she says. "The landscape changed continuously, and I saw some of the most stunning views. I hiked to the Hole In The Wall in Coffee Bay and drank 'umqombothi' beer at a local shebeen. It was just so drastically different to Los Angeles, but I loved every second of it!" she says.

CAPTION: Binley visited the West Coast National Park and enjoyed the beautiful spring flowers.

Binley has experienced the benefits of Rotary first hand and now wants to tell others. "Ever since I arrived in South Africa, I have spread the word to a lot of people my own age about the benefits of this scholarship as well as the merits of Rotary as a whole. While many know of Rotary, I think a lot of young people aren't certain about the specifics of the organisation."

As a host club, the Rotary Club of Claremont does not award Global Grant Scholarships to South African students, as there is a greater need for all available funds to be spent on service projects to benefit the community. If you are interested in finding out more about the Global Grant Scholarship, visit Rotary International https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/scholarships

For more information on Rotary Club of Claremont and the various community projects and initiatives they are involved with, please visit http://claremontrotary.co.za/.

<div align="center">

###

Issued by Reputation Matters:

Nalene de Klerk

Cell: 081 409 2453

nalene@reputationmatters.co.za

</div>