

A Brief Biography of our Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar, Jenna Sirkin:

Jenna Taube Sirkin graduated in 2004 from Tufts University with a double major in International Relations and Spanish, with a concentration in Latin American Studies. She has worked for the past two years in Cambridge, Mass. with the Center for Multicultural Mental Health Research to develop and implement a health care empowerment research study. She worked with Latino mental health patients in Boston area clinics that focused on teaching participants how to improve communication with health care providers.

In addition, Jenna has also been working at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, where she and a coauthor have been researching and writing a book about the role of psychological factors in socio-economic development in Latin America. The book is based on the work of the Institute for Family and Population Research (I.M.I.F.A.P.), in Mexico City.

Jenna plans to use her Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship in 2006-07 to continue her work in the social psychology department of the National University of Mexico (UNAM) and in collaboration with I.M.I.F.A.P. Over the next year, she hopes to continue research on health and development issues in Mexico, to finish the book, and to become more familiar with the fieldwork and training programs at I.M.I.F.A.P.

Jenna wants to pursue a career in the field of international health policy, focused on developing programs in order to improve women's and adolescent health, education, and economic development. She is also applying to doctoral programs in health policy, and hopes to begin graduate studies upon her return to the United States in fall 2007.