

Class of 2015/2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the very first issue of the GRSP newsletter for and from the class of 2015/2016. I look forward to putting this together for everyone with the help of Nipuna Ambanpola and Emma Leschly.

We aim for one issue a month. This one is supersized and full of content. I hope you enjoy!

If you are interested in contributing content please don't hesitate to contact me, or just send me stories about what you get up to.

- Lauren Darge, dargie94@hotmail.com, (678) 599-4716

The Road To Georgia

I'm sure we were all quite anxious before making the trip over to Georgia, and there were a few stresses along the way. I found out I was offered a place while at a National Leadership College for Surf Life Saving in Sydney. It was a great place to find out as the people there were very supportive, however my mother wasn't too happy to find out by text!

When I got back home it was go-go-go. Filling out many, many forms and hoping I did it correctly, and then applying for my Visa and getting plane tickets and insurance.

There was also a lot of waiting. Waiting to hear back from emails while people on the other side of the world were sleeping, and waiting for my visa, which seemed to take forever!

It wasn't long though before my family left me at the gate for my big adventure in a time-zone twelve hours behind. During the whole build up I didn't really know how I felt, I really just wanted to get here and do it all. Lots of people asked me if I was nervous, and I wasn't really, but as the wheels of the plane left the ground I felt my heart race.

Now I'm here and ready to have a crack at everything!

-Lauren Darge, Australia

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Settling In

The days flew by and it was time to leave our home countries and take a tour to the state of Georgia, USA. Bidding farewell to friends and family has probably never been harder as some of us are travelling overseas for the first time or the United States was a new destination. Family and friends weren't too worried, as they knew that we are going away for a mind-blowing experience in the hands of the Rotarians in Georgia.

The Georgia Rotary Student Program extended a scholarship opportunity for 46 International students representing 16 different countries to spend one scholastic year in the state of Georgia. The GRSP students knew this scholarship covers tuition, accommodation, meals within the university and that they provide each of us a host family to take care of us but little did we know, that we are signing up for one of the most life-changing experiences of our entire lives. Some flew a couple of hours and some many more, but all the GRSP scholars arrived in August to different parts of Georgia and got to meet their host families to settle down in their home, away from home. The warmth was serious during the summer but it was definitely comfortable in the hands of the host families taking care of us like one of their own.

Settling down was a tasty piece of cake with a couple of host families and Rotarians checking up on us, making sure that we were comfortable and almost felt like we would never want to go back home. The hospitality of the south made us feel like home. The mouth-watering food and the tongue twisting accents stood as proof to say that we are about to spend an



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outstanding year full of memories. The beach and the coast brought memories for some and a first-time experience for the others. All of us had the opportunity to meet the Rotarians sponsoring Rotary clubs, spend time with them and have a chit-chat to share the information of our countries, cultures and ethnicities. We were able to understand that we are no different from each other, feeling the same warmth, sensing the same happiness and born for the same purpose of a better world tomorrow. We are beginning to see the purpose of the Georgia Rotary Student Program and it is not connecting hands, but connecting hearts.

Soon it was time to bid farewell to the host families temporarily, as we settled in our college dorms, getting ready for the next big responsibility of the GRSP. We settled down in our university apartments, got to meet our new roommates and engage in the Georgia education system. This added to our new experiences to and we could learn from other cultures while sharing important aspects of our own. Every day the clock has been ticking and with each second is a new face, a new memory and a new smile welcoming us to the state of Georgia and sometimes it's hard to skip the thought if all this became true because of an application or if fate played its role to make us meet together at some point of life and if this was it.

-Nipuna Ambanpola, Sri Lanka

The Conclave

How To Get 45 New Friends In A Weekend



I clearly remember the day when I received an email from Barbara Lariscry entitled 'GRSP PowerPoint'. Here they were: 45 new faces from 17 different countries, probably all experiencing the same excitement as I was.

I remember looking through the PowerPoint several times thrilled by finally having some physical evidence of what had, until then, only been a distant idea of the adventure that I was about to begin. I also remember the surreal feeling of knowing that I would be sharing moments, travels, car drives, weekends, thoughts and dreams with these people, yet I knew nothing about them beside their name and home country. These people were from such diverse places as Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Colombia, Estonia, Lebanon and Australia to just mention a few. Those are places I have never been to, but only heard of and I soon realized I couldn't possibly know what to expect because the diversity and the very nature of this program made this impossible.

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However, one thing I did know: They were all GRSP students! Each and every one had the courage to apply to this program and the heart and head to be chosen by a Rotary Club in Georgia. Each of us had a story to tell and despite our differences in skin color, religion, political orientation and opinion on gridt, there is something that binds us together that is much greater and neatly put into words in the song that we all sang at the Conclave: *Peace, yes it is a possibility, to make this world what it should be through GRSP.*

Seeing those 45 new faces in real life at Conclave was even better than I had dared to hope for. We arrived at Georgia Gwinnett College on Friday evening for a lovely dinner in the company of Rotarians, trustees and host families and then split up into our host families for the weekend. We returned to GGC on Saturday morning for orientations on the history of the GRSP program, photo sessions and Dos and Don'ts sessions before moving on to rehearsing for the night's Cabaret. After a quick tidying up at our host families' we headed back to show the very best of our different countries from traditional Norwegian dance to poem reciting in Urdu, Britpop, Swedish Santa Lucia, Hungarian humor and Colombian moves followed by a night of dancing and talking. Sunday morning came way too fast and suddenly it was time for us to return to our respective dorm rooms.

The Student Weekends are truly some of the moments that I look most forward to this year and on behalf of all the GRSP's, I would like to thank The Rotary Clubs of Braselton, Buford/North Gwinnett, Duluth, Gwinnett County, Gwinnett Mosaic, Gwinnett Sunrise, Lawrenceville, Peachtree Corners and South Gwinnett, Georgia Gwinnett College, the North Gwinnett Interact Club as well as The Rotary Clubs of Clayton County, Henry County, Lake Spivey and Griffin for making Conclave and the Maynard Memorial GRSP Weekend happen.

And fellow GRSPs: I can't wait to share this year with y'all!



- Emma Leschly, Denmark

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Carlton McCamy and Kendall Weisiger Scholars



These plaques were given to us at the Conclave in Lawrenceville. Their purpose is to honor two very active Rotarians of the past. Carlton McCamy and Kendall Weisiger both were active backers of the Georgia Rotary Student Program and they donated a remarkable amount of money to the program. In order to memorize and to pay attribute to these outstanding Rotarians, the scholars sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Dalton and Atlanta act as representatives of the Rotarians who were dominant forces in the early success of GRSP and it is an honor for us to remind our fellow GRSP students of these remarkable men.

-Clarissa Böker, Germany and Asger Lynge Holst-Hansen, Denmark

Being a Student at Georgia Gwinnett College

Georgia Gwinnett College has close to 100 different ethnicities represented. This ambitious school that takes diversity seriously unites people with different kinds of backgrounds and goals. All of my courses have an international focus, from philosophy to public speaking, and the professors often have the perspective of an international audience. For me, as a non-American, this is of course very important. With diversity come tolerance, understanding and compassion. These are key factors to a successful life in today's global world. So far my experience at GGC has been great!



-Pernilla Orö, Sweden

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From The GGC President

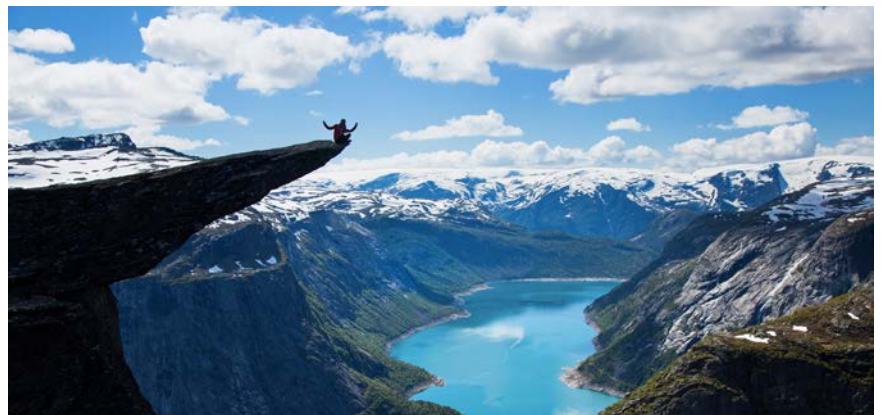
GGC seeks every opportunity to partner with the communities we serve and hosting the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) on campus is a great example of that. This year's program included over 40 international students, including 4 new international Grizzlies! One of our goals is to produce graduates who can anticipate and respond effectively to a rapidly changing and internationalized world. Our principles call for diversity and building a multicultural environment to prepare students to succeed in that global society. These goals and principles are well served by hosting the GRSP and we were delighted to have International Rotary and the Rotary clubs of Georgia visit us here at our jewel of the University of Georgia System. We hope they will come back often!



-Stanley "Stas" C. Preczewski, Ph.D., President, Georgia Gwinnett College

Norway

Norway is a small, mountainous country situated in the North of Europe with about 5 million people. We can offer beautiful nature, decent public transportation, and free education and health care. Our society is based on trust towards the government, the police and each other. Our climate is slightly colder than Georgia, although we do not have polar bears in the streets, nor snow all year (only for six months).



The Norwegian welfare bloomed (and boomed) in the early 70s, when we discovered oil. That marked the start of our country growing into one of the wealthiest, and highest-ranked countries when it comes to living standards. Our middle class is very large. We have very few people that are very wealthy, and we do not have many people that are very poor.

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Another peculiarity of Norway might be peoples' relationship to nature. We love to camp outside in the forest, up in the mountains, far away from civilization. When we go camping, or to our cabin (usually in the middle of nowhere), we settle for a more primitive lifestyle – some even have outdoor toilets – and that is totally fine, charming even. Norwegians relate to the saying “There is no such thing as bad weather, only inadequate clothing”.

As you grasp that Norway is a cold, snowy country, it is our responsibility to inform you of our winter sports. As a small nation, we are very proud of our professional skiers. Every style is equally important; alpine, cross-country, jumping, snowboarding... The list goes on. Norwegians also appreciate football and handball.

Opening doors for girls isn't really a part of our culture. Norwegians are of the opinion that women can open the door themselves. This relates to the picture of the independent woman, and maybe also laziness – again, it is hard to tell. When it comes to politeness, our equivalences of “Sir” and “Ma’am” are old-fashioned titles no longer used. Our politeness is derived from our body language and how we phrase ourselves. Norwegian and American manners are very similar in all settings but one – at the dinner table. We always eat with a fork and knife. If you decide to put your knife down and go solo with your fork, your mom will ask you if you are three years old and unable to eat properly.

However, we are not so different from Americans as first expected. Sometimes, we even say that our culture is Americanized. We listen to a lot of the same music and watch the same movies, and they are all in English with Norwegian subtitles. We eat a lot of the same food, although our range of fast food is not at all comparable to the selection you have. We do eat a lot more fish, which is one of our biggest exports, after oil. We love our country and like to celebrate our independence, which is done on May 17th in our bunad.



Marit Bjørgen, leading cross-country skier. Please do notice her biceps.

- Camilla Aamaas, Helena Krumbacher, Julia Irene Alvær, Solveig Baera, Fredrik Gravdal and John Bjerkvig Lea, Norway



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Moldova



Tighina Fortress

Originally built as a small wooden fort by Ștefan cel Mare, fortified later by the Turks



National Folk Dances

Some dancers performing in front of the Triumphal Arch, on the National Wine day.



Bison (Zimbru)

It is part of Moldova's legends, flag and history. Also called 'zimbru' in Romanian.



City Gates

When you arrive to Chișinău, they will greet you first



Sarmale

The best cabbage or grape filled leaves that you would ever taste!



Cricova

The largest underground wine cellar in the world.



Ștefan cel Mare Monument

A well known symbol of Chișinău

-Dragoș Reniță, Moldova

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Student Profiles

Amelia Paintain
27 September 1996
Southampton, England
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Gainesville, Hall
County & White
County
Brenau University
Genetics & Human
Anatomy

This is a once in a life time opportunity, in which I know of no other programme like this. It provides me with one off experiences involving meeting people from around the globe and studying in a American college. Both of which I would have never of done if it wasn't for GRSP.



Andrea Ósk Sigurbjörnsdóttir
31 July 1994
Iceland
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Loganville, Conyers ,
Gwinnett County &
Gwinnett Sunrise
University of Georgia
Engineering and
Physics

It may be freezing where I'm from but we Icelanders love our country, it's so magical that it could have been in a book of fairy tales. I'm in Rotaract back home, three years ago a girl in my Club got the scholarship. When she told me about it I knew for a fact that this would be something for me.



Anna Sartell
29 July 1995
Trelleborg, Sweden
6900
Rotary Clubs of North
Columbus &
Harris County
Columbus State
University
Earth and Space
Sciences

I have always wanted to study in the US. This is a great opportunity for me to get to know the country and the American culture. For me, bringing young people together from all over the world to build bridges for peace is truly amazing.



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Asger Holst Hansen
21 August 1996
Aalborg, Denmark
6900
Rotary Club of Atlanta
Georgia State
University
Journalism, nutrition,
French, and
anthropology

I decided to apply for the Georgia Rotary Student Program because I was interested in going to the south of the U.S. which is a part of the country I have never experienced before. Also, attending an American college has always been a dream of mine. I am extremely grateful to have been given the opportunity to come to Atlanta, Georgia and I look forward to a year I hopefully will remember for the rest of my life.



Balazs Magyar
21 November 1991
Budapest, Hungary
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Columbia County
West, Greene &
Putnam, Martinez
Evans, Thomson, &
Washington Augusta
University
Electrical Engineering

I love get to know new people, learn about other countries cultures and lifestyles. That's why I didn't hesitate to apply for GRSP scholarship when I heard about it.



Beata Gynnerstedt
4 April 1995
Ljunghusen, Sweden
6920
Rotary Clubs of
Brunswick, Saint
Simon Island, &
Camden County
Rotary Club
College of Coastal
Georgia
Communication

My major is communication, and I am also taking classes in art, environmental science, math, and English. I got recommended to apply for GRSP from a friend that was in the program a couple of years ago. This year I expect to learn a lot and make friends for life. I'm so excited to be here!



Bence Rochlits
3 May 1994
Szolnok, Hungary
6900
Rotary Club of
Roswell
Georgia State
University
Biomedical
Engineering

I had never been to the US before I came here, and it has been a blast. I love traveling, and Georgia seemed to be a perfect place to spend a year. I came here because I wanted to experience the culture, and build international relationships. This program has exceeded all my expectations so far. I have the most awesome host family, and I'm making friends from all around the world. Also, I was eager to try the famous American food!





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Caitlin Warren
13 November 1996
Edinburgh, Scotland
6920
Rotary Clubs of Perry,
& Robbins
Wesleyan College
Maths & Biology

I came as I wanted the experience of living in a different country for a year and to be able to meet people from all over the world. Also my sister was a GRSP and described it as the best year of her life.



Cali Jeferies
22 April 1997
Sheerness, Sheppey,
England
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Cherokee, Canton,
Jasper, Towne Lake &
Woodstock Rotary
Club
Kennesaw State
University
Classical Civilisation

I came because I wanted to study in the US but I could not afford the application fees so when I saw my friend Alex post about this year she was spending in Georgia, I asked her about it and I never looked back.



Camila Gonzalez
19 April 1997
Barranquilla,
Colombia
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Cartersville, Etowah,
& Bartow County
Kennesaw State
University
Industrial Engineering
Technology

I came here because I wanted to become more independent and because I wanted to experience living in another country and interacting with other cultures.



Camilla Amamaas
13 May 1996
Porgrunn, Norway
6900
Rotary Clubs of
Brookhaven, North
Atlanta &
North Lake Oglethorpe
University
Law

I came here to learn the meaning of cultural understanding, and experience not only the American culture, but also the cultures of the 16 other nations represented in this year's GRSP class. My ultimate goal is to become a citizen of the world, and this program is an invaluable opportunity to start towards that goal. Lastly, ever since I got here, people have kept telling me this will be an unforgettable year, and I believe them. I am so excited!





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Caroline Oberem
7 October 1996
Mülheim, Germany
6900
Rotary Club of
Thomasville
Valdosta State
University
Biology, Psychology

My grandparents, who are Rotarians in my hometown, told me about GRSP. The way in which GRSP brings nations together sounds great to me, so I decided to apply. I think it is an awesome opportunity to get to know the US and young people from all around the world.



Chela Abeysekera
4 July 1996
Sri Lanka
6900
Rotary Club of
Peachtree City
Georgia State
University
Management

I am here to understand the people and the country of United States better and to form new international relationships.



Clarssia Boker
31 August 196
Dalhausen, Germany
6910
Rotary Club of Dalton
Dalton State College
International Business

I came to Georgia because I wanted to meet people, make new experiences, and learn more about the American way of life. Moreover, I would like to spend a lot of time travelling to see as much of the USA as possible. I am looking forward to a great year!





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Dragoș Reniță

14 April 1994
Republic of Moldova
6900
Rotary Club of
Buckhead
Oglethorpe University
Engineering

My sister, Ruxanda Reniță -who is currently the PR consultant to GRSP, and who also was granted the scholarship in 2013, spoke highly of GRSP. Her enthusiasm inspired me to apply as well. A little research on the Internet was enough to understand the global impact that Rotary has instituted in their long path to change the world by promoting peace and helping lives. Therefore, I was honored to become one of the scholarship's recipients and eventually contribute by influencing the world in a positive way. One year in Georgia would contribute at challenging my intellectual and sports interests. I can already say that GRSP makes me look at the world and future through another perspective and help me discover my hidden talents.

Georgia Rotary Student Program also gives me the opportunity to learn more about The USA – the country that I admire for its sports, culture, and freedom of speech. This is also a unique chance for me to establish friendships with students from around the world.



Emma Leschly

22 March 1994
Copenhagen, Denmark
6900
Rotary Club of
Dunwoody Oglethorpe
University
Medicine or
Psychology

I spent a year in Ecuador as a Rotary exchange student when I was 18 and seeing myself gradually feeling more and more at home in such a different culture, making friends from all over the world and engaging myself in Rotary embracing Service above Self was perhaps the greatest experience of my life and it left me with a strong wish to go abroad again. The GRSP offered an incredible opportunity to study in the US and meet new people along with becoming part of an American family and contributing to Rotary's mission.



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Fredrik Boen Gravdal

19 July 1995
Norway
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Blueridge, Gilmer
County, & Union
County
Young Harris College
Math

I had planned for several years to go to the states to study. The US has a fantastic amount of opportunities in a variety of fields, as well as being the powerhouse of the world when it comes to technology. I also always liked the culture of excellence, prestige, and collaboration that is so prominent at American universities.



Gabriel Damsholt

17 April 1995
Hellerup, Denmark
6920
Rotary Clubs of
Macon, Downtown
Macon & Macon
North Rotary Club
Mercer
Computer Science

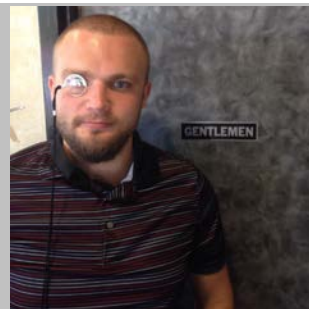
I heard about the GRSP-scholarship through my father, a co-founder of Dyrehaven Rotary Club in Denmark. Before entering high school I spent a gap year in Chile as an exchange student, and that is one of the best things I have done. With the GRSP-program I saw a new opportunity to get to know a culture different from my own, broaden my horizon and meet people I wouldn't meet otherwise.



Georg Astok

13 January 1993
Estonia
6900
Rotary Clubs of
Atlanta Airport,
West End, Fayetteville
& Newnan Clayton
State University
Computer Science

Because I could.



Harry Vickers

26 July 1997
Louth, Lincolnshire,
England
6920
Rotary Clubs of
Savannah Sunrise,
Skidaway, Richmond
&
Hinesville Armstrong
State University
Geography

When I first found out about GRSP, I thought it sounded like an amazing opportunity to spend a year before I go to university in the UK. Having the chance to live in a country I've never been to before with a whole new culture and to become friends with other international students from across the world sounded like such a great experience.

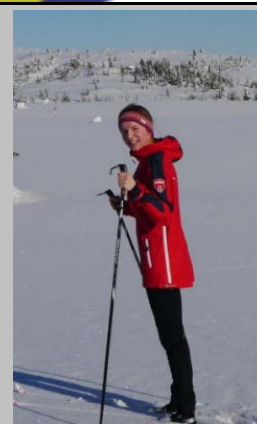


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Helena Krumbacher

8 December 1996
Norway
6900
Rotary Clubs of
Bainbridge, Pelham &
Camilla
Valdosta State
University

I heard about GRSP from my parents, who met in Georgia as participants in GRSP in 1986. After graduating high school, I wanted to do a gap year, but an active one, and I could not decide what I wanted to major in, engineering or business & administration. So GRSP sounded like the perfect opportunity to explore different subjects in college and at the same time learn about American culture, enjoy life and get to know people from all over the world.



Henriette Ebbesen

5 April 1994
Denmark
6900
Rotary Clubs of
Statesboro &
Downtown Statesboro
Georgia Southern
University
Art, Medicine

In 2010-2011 I went to Argentina as a Rotary exchange student on the Long Term Exchange Program. During the year I became familiar with the great things Rotary stands for and grew as a person. I head of the GRSP scholarship from a fellow Rotarian. Looking for a similar experience as my year in Argentina, I had to apply for the GRSP Scholarship.



Ivana Hayek

17 April 1995
Lebanon
6900
Rotary Clubs of East
Cobb &
Marietta
Kennesaw State
Mechanical
Engineering

I am here basically by chance where someone mentioned this scholarship and having a free spot for me to apply...one year later, here I am. This is beyond what I ever imagined I could reach in such a short period; it's literally one of my wildest dreams come true. For me, this is my opportunity to broaden my horizons and reach for the stars!



Johan Groenvold

23 February 1996
Copenhagen, Denmark
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Dahlonega, Dahlonega
Sunrise
& Dawson County
University of North
Georgia
Management

I mainly came to the US for the full social experience that the GRSP Scholarship offers, since we get to have a wonderful American host family, the full American college experience, and of course the fantastic Rotary community supporting and bringing us GRSP students together.





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John Lea

8 February 1996
Haugesund, Norway
6900
Rotary Club of
Americus
Georgia Southwestern

My sister Ada got the scholarship back in 2010 and she loved her year in Georgia. She talked me into applying for the scholarship and luckily I got it. I'm looking forward to the rest of this year and getting to know all of the Rotary students.



Juan José Londoño

23 January 1993
Medellin, Colombia
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Buford-North
Gwinnett, Gwinnett
Mosaic,,
Lawrenceville &
South Hall
Georgia Gwinnett
College
Engineering

I heard about GRSP from a former student that works for my mother. The idea of living on campus but at the same time having a host family is one of the things that most got my attention while thinking about applying.



Julia Irene Marthinsen Alvær

27 March 1995
Southern part of
Norway
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Rockdale, Morgan
County &
Social Circle
University of Georgia
Pre-Veterinary
Medicine

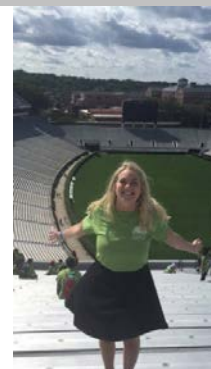
I have always wanted to study in the USA. When I heard about the Georgia Rotary Student Program I saw it as an excellent opportunity to combine studying abroad and making friendships from all around the world.



Julia Olsson

7 August 1996
Central Sweden
6900
Rotary Club of Griffin
University of Georgia
Engineering

I just graduated high school in Sweden so this year is a way for me to find out what I want to do in life, experience, explore and learn more about the world and get a lot of new friends!



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Katy Lowe

11 April 1997
Louth, Lincolnshire,
England
6900
Rotary Club of
Carrollton, Carrollton
Dawnbreakers &
Bremen
University of West
Georgia
Geography

When offered to me by my local rotary club, I thought it was an amazing opportunity to experience American Culture and to learn so much about the world that I had to take it!



Lauren Darge

10 June 1994
Perth, Western
Australia
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Braselton, Duluth &
Peachtree Corners
Georgia Gwinnett
College
Journalism and
Broadcasting

The Rotary Club that sponsors my Surf Life Saving Club often has exchange students. At one meeting I said it was a shame that I missed my chance to go on a Rotary exchange now that I was too old. Someone then told me about this program and I applied soon after. I have always loved to travel, meet new people and have new experiences, and this program has achieved all of that!



Lizzie McGee

27 March 1994
Near Edinburgh,
Scotland
6920
Rotary Club of
Savannah Armstrong
State University
Music

My mum was a GRSP in 1982, at UGA, and she just loved her time here so I wanted to give it a shot! I also wanted to travel more and gain a better understanding of different cultures.



Maryanne Murphy

22 March 1997
Edinburgh, Scotland
6910
Rotary Clubs of Carpet
City, Calhoun,
Chatsworth, Ringgold
&
Summerville
Dalton State College
American History and
Government,
Psychology

I came to fully experience American life and culture, to make new friends and hopefully travel and see more of America!





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Melissa Echandia
3 March 1997
Medellin, Colombia
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Jefferson, Monroe &
Winder
Georgia Gwinnett
College
International Business

I'm interested in different cultures around the world, and I wanted to meet people from different countries and get to know their perspectives.



Michaela Hornfeldt
14 April 1995
Strömsund, Sweden
6910
Rotary Clubs of Lanier
Forsyth,
South Forsyth,
North Forsyth,
John's Creek &
Forsyth County
University of North
Georgia
Computer Science

Studying in the US has always been a dream of mine. I wanted to experience a new culture, and just make great memories and friends.



Nadia Hussein Eyre
15 May 1997
Winchester, England
6910
Rotary Club of Rome
Seven Hills
Berry College

I came to experience a whole new culture, experience and take a leap into the unknown! I'm studying theatre, two Government classes: Revolution and political violence, and Current world issues as well as a sophomore English class. I also take ropes as a kinesiology class and have joined the cheer team for the full American experience!



Nicolle Monroy Galeotti
29 September 1996
Guatemala
6900
Rotary Clubs of
Milton-Winward,
Alpharetta & Sandy
Springs
University of North
Georgia
Communications

I came because the world is so big to limit ourselves to know only one country, and one culture. I want to learn as much as I can not only of the U.S.A. but also of all the countries represented in the GRSP program, so I can share it later with all those at home that didn't have the opportunity I'm having now.



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Nipuna Ambanpola
9 November 1994
Sri Lanka
6920
Rotary Clubs of
Savannah South &
Savannah West
Armstrong State
University
Managerial Economics

To embrace the different cultures of the world when the GRSP brings it together and to expose myself to the education system and its ethics in America. I intend to broaden my horizons understanding different people and different rituals in cultures that are different from my own to politically sharpen my knowledge and to promote the importance of living as a world citizen to promote equality and international peace.



Pernilla Oroe
23 October 1993
Stockholm, Sweden
6910
Rotary Clubs of
Madison County,
Elberton , Franklin
County &
Hartwell Georgia
Gwinnett College
Mechanical
Engineering

Last autumn I was getting ready for my 6 month trip to South America and was convinced that wouldn't be enough adventure. A friend was here and promoted GRSP to me. When an opportunity like this presents itself it is foolish not to seize it.



Rephaelle Akhras
3 July 1996
Beit El Kiko,
Lebanon
6900
Rotary Clubs of
Decatur , Emory Druid
Hills &
Midtown Atlanta
Georgia State
University
Computer Science

I would be insane not to come. It is a wonderful adventure that surely nothing will compare to. I get to experience so many different cultures on our GRSP events. I will also learn the different cultures of the US. I get to enjoy studying abroad. I will make lifelong friends (and stay in their homes when I travel to their countries).



Sebastian Villa Molina
7 July 1994
Medellin, Colombia
6900
Rotary Club of
Columbus Columbus
State University
Business and Finance

I'm here to broaden my horizons, interact with new cultures and different ways of thinking, as well as developing myself as a responsible adult.





Class of 2015/2016 Newsletter

Simon Hermanns

2 June 1993
Germany, Western
Region
6900
Rotary Clubs of Henry
County,
Clayton County &
Lake Spivey
Clayton State
University
Business

During my apprenticeship I thought about what to do after my degree. Since I love travelling, I decided to look for opportunities to study abroad. By coincidence, I heard of the GRSP and did some research on it and the more I learned about it, the more did I see it would be a perfect fit for me. It is not only a great chance to improve my English or travelling to another country, but I now have the chance to learn and to know a lot of new people from different countries. You get a totally different impression by staying at the host families who take care of you and I totally enjoy that. All in all I think it is a unique chance with a huge variety of new experiences.



Solveig Baera

5 September 1995
Born in Kongberg,
Norway
live in Sandvika,
Norway
6920
Rotary Club of Dublin
Georgia Southern
University
Economics and
International Studies

I wish to get a masters in economics and work with development in third world countries. I got the opportunity to apply for a GRSP scholarship through my local rotary club and my old high school, as I received the "student of the year" award at graduation.



Syed Ahsan Abbas Naqvi

6 April 1993
Rawalpindi, Pakistan
6900
Rotary Clubs of
Marietta Metro,
Vinings & North Cobb
Kennesaw State
University
Finance

To meet new people. add value to the program by promoting peace by representing my culture and its people.



Class of 2015/2016 Newsletter

Trinushka Perera

13 June 1992

Sri Lanka

6900

Rotary Clubs of
Douglas County,
Paulding Cobb &
South Cobb University
of West Georgia

I came because my career Goal is to become a career Diplomat and this really paves my path to it.



Valentina Barbosa

23 October 1996

Barranquilla,

Colombia

6900

Rotary Clubs of
Albany, Blakely &
Dougherty
Georgia Southwestern
State University
Business Management

It is an enriching opportunity that I couldn't pass by. All the things I will learn this year will be priceless.



Zsolt Pap

26 August 1992

Budapest, Hungary

6920

Rotary Club of
Augusta
Georgia Regents
University
Business Development

I study business development at home and want to become an entrepreneur. Love to play sport and hang out with friends.



Student Blogs

dizzylizzietheparttimehippie.wordpress.com/

laurendarge.blogspot.com

nillinilli.wordpress.com/

nouw.com/mydreamcometrue

nouw.com/myyearinthestates