



# Rotary District 6920 *Sow the Seeds of Love*

**Bruce Montgomery**  
District Governor

**102 East 44th Street**  
Savannah, GA 31405

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## *Incoming Group Study Exchange Team Arrives*

The incoming Group Study Exchange team from Brazil departed for Georgia on April 12 and have been spending time with hosts from various clubs throughout the district.

According to Bill Blankenship, District 6920's inbound GSE team chairman, the team is from Bahia, Brazil in the northeastern part of the country. Bahia is culturally diverse, with African, indigenous Indian and European influences.

The team, led by Luciano Menezes, arrived in Savannah and spent nearly five days with hosts from the Savannah area clubs. Since their arrival, they have visited Sandersville, Augusta, Dublin, Macon and Brunswick. Their final stops before departing the United States will be to Valdosta and Camden County.

Luciano, who is among five Brazilians taking part in the exchange, is a 38-year-old Brazilian who works as an industrial manager at Bunge Alimentos, a wheat flour producing company. He holds a degree in electrical engineering from Federal University of Espirito Santo and a postgraduate degree in economy. Among Luciano's travels have been destinations in England, Canada and Switzerland. He visited New York, Miami and Orlando in the late 1970s and calls the trip "my best vacation." During the GSE team visit, Luciano hopes to see an American wheat farm, visit wheat mills and "exchange experiences with technical people."

Luciano lists his interests as playing soccer and basketball, going to the beach, making new friends, sailing, studying and reading books.

Nilson Roberto Ribeiro Oliveira Jr., a 33-year-old surgeon, is among those on



*Nilson Roberto Ribeiro Oliveira Jr.*

the GSE team. A 1992 graduate of the Federal University of Bahia school of Medicine, Nilson completed his residency in gastroenterology surgery in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He lived in London in 1997 while studying proctology at the St. Mark's Hospital. He currently specializes in bariatric surgery and is a former professor of abdominal surgery at the Federal University of Bahia School of Medicine. He is currently a professor of human anatomy at the Health Department of the University of the Southwest of Bahia.

Among Nilson's hobbies are sailing. During his visit to the United States, Nilson hopes to see American emergency room management and personnel training, visit a university of private center specializing in bariatric surgery and proctology and visit an outpatient surgery unit.

Marcelo Souza is a 29-year-old mechanical engineer graduate of the University of Sao Paulo. He works for Nestle as the technical chief of two factories - one of milk powder and the other of cocoa products - in Itabuna Bahia. He is a married father of two.

"This will be my first time outside Brazil," he wrote before departing for the United States. "I hope to know interesting people and place and, if possible, I'd like to visit factories of food and exchange experiences with his technical people."

Jacyara No dos Santos is a 33-year-old graduate of the Liberal Arts at Federacao das Escolas Superiores de Ilheus e Itabuna. She majored in English and Portuguese. A English



*Jacyara No dos Santos*

teacher for nearly 11 years, Jacyara teaches at two public high schools and works at a language institution as a teacher and coordinator.

"As a teacher and educator, I am always intent on growing professionally and describe myself as having a craving for knowledge - knowledge of the English language itself and knowledge of different teaching approaches and methods," she wrote last month. "This quest for development has driven me to pursue ways to improve myself as a professional by attending local seminars and national conventions."

During the past few years, Jacyara has focused on the writing process during the learning of a foreign language.

A 26-year-old music therapist, Aline Goes works in an institution that assists children with cerebral paralysis and teaches a music therapy class for children ages birth to 6. A graduate of the Catholic University of Salvador in Bahia, Brazil, Aline previously taught for the University Olga Mettig in Bahia. She has worked with an association which caters to the needs of children with hearing deficiencies in a family environment.

Since 1996, Aline has taught flamenco dance. She has studied at a folkloric Spanish school in Brazil and in Seville, Spain.



*Aline Goes*

Visit the District's Web site at  
[www.rotarydistrict6920.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.org)  
for the latest news



# CART Board Awards Grant to University of Pennsylvania

By a unanimous vote of the CART Board of Directors, the University of Pennsylvania's Alzheimer's Research Department has been awarded a \$250,000 grant for a two-year study.

PDG Butch Martin, District 7680, and chairman of the CART Board announced on March 26 that during a meeting of members of the CART board of directors were involved in a lengthy conference call with three of the nation's leading Alzheimer's scientists. The peer group had reviewed grant applications submitted by nine research centers including Harvard Medical School Dept. of Cell Biology, Mass. General Hospital/Harvard Medical School, Duke University Medical Center, University of Pennsylvania, Mount Sinai Medical Center, University of California-Davis, Texas Southwest Medical Center, University of Miami School of Medicine, and Baylor College of Medicine.

"After a lengthy review of each of the applicants, the peer group recommended three finalists," Martin wrote in an email dated the afternoon of the meeting. "Their unanimous recommen-

ation was that we award the grant to the University of Pennsylvania and research leader Dr. John Trojanowski. Our grant will fund a two year study to determine why Alzheimers disease is aging dependent and how the oxidative process in brain cells effects aging. According to the peer group, this study has good high impact potential and the University of Pennsylvania is one of the preeminent research groups in this area of study. The three scientists making up the peer group are very excited about this research and its potential to meet CART's goals. They individually expressed their appreciation of the support by we Rotarians of Alzheimer's disease research."

The initial grant check will be presented to Dr. Trojanowski at the meeting of the CART board on April 29 in Columbia.

According to Roger Ackerman, executive treasurer of CART, this is the third consecutive year CART has made a grant of \$250,000.00 and brings the foundation's total grants to \$850,000.

District  
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News

## *Membership Report Update*

District Governor Bruce Montgomery reports that membership for the district has increased during the past eight months.

According to DG Bruce, the district has seen an increase from 3,998 to 4,010 based on information clubs have submitted.

## *May Newsletter Notice*

The May issue of DG Bruce's monthly newsletter will be published during the District Conference at Jekyll Island, May 2-4.

This special edition of the newsletter will highlight events that take place during the three days of presentation and activities.



## **The Governor's Corner by Bruce Montgomery**

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As the Rotary year winds down, Frosty and I reflect on the great times we have had with many of you over the last ten months. The hospitality of all of you and the friendship of many of you will be something that we will cherish for the rest of our lives.

One of the things that continues to amaze me is how 63 Rotary clubs can have such diverse personalities and still be Rotary clubs. Every club has a unique look and feel about it. One may be formal and run like a well oiled machine where another may be a loose confederation of fun loving folks. The one thing that you all have in common though, is going about doing the work of Rotary, albeit, each in your own way. For that the hurting people of the world thank you.

I have just endorsed and sent to Rotary International, Presidential Citation forms for 29 clubs. While I had hoped for more clubs to earn a Presidential Citation, I am very proud of the ones that did. The stumbling block for most of the clubs that did not earn a Citation seems to have been membership recruitment and retention. We hoped to grow membership by 3%, about 120 members, however, at the moment, it seems that we are only up about 20 net members. Of course the final figures are not in.

The annual fund of the Rotary Foundation is moving along. As of April 17<sup>th</sup>, we had sent in a little over \$84,000 for the annual fund and almost \$29,000 for PolioPlus. That does not include the T-Bird raffle proceeds that were at approximately \$112,000 on April 12. Thanks for all of your hard work.

Yours in Rotary,  
Bruce Montgomery

# RYLA Slated June 12-15 in Douglas

At least 80 students are expected to attend this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program June 12-15 on the campus of South Georgia College in Douglas, according to District 6920 RYLA Chair Valerie Palmer.



Among this year's featured guests will be Roddy Gray of Abbeville, SC, a humorist and columnist. Roddy will serve as the program's keynote speaker at the opening banquet.

Students, which are rising high school juniors and seniors, will be divided into four groups for class sessions. During the week, participants are expected to have the opportunity to share and explore new ideas; enhance communication skills to improve relationships with their family, friends and society; collective innovative ideas for key leadership and successful business strategies; network with positive leaders; explore family dynamics, interpersonal relationships and values; learn how to better understand themselves and others; learn about Rotary's purpose and service to the community and learn techniques for problem solving and management conflict.

The South Georgia College campus will serve as host for the annual event. Students will stay in dormitory style rooms.

Following the week of RYLA, the "RYLarians" will have the opportunity to visit their sponsoring Rotary club and

share their four-day RYLA experience.

Instructors and their class topics for this year's program are:

**Jeannette Caneega** (D-6920): *Rotary's Purpose and Service to the Community*

**Dr. John Curtis:** *Ethical Leadership*

**Dr. Bill Hale:** *Focus on Self*

**Charles Lang:** *Putting RYLA in Your Communication*

**Dr. Bernie Moore:** *Global Citizenship*

**Ed Nichols:** *Fundamentals of Leadership*

**Hamsa Thota** (D-6920): *Learning*

*and Leading with Your Personality*

**Dr. Christine Vanchella:** *Typewatching: Learning About Yourself & Others.*

RYLA aims to:

Demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth;

Provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders;

Encourage leadership of youth by youth; and

Recognize publicly young people who are rendering service to their communities.

## *Humorist, Columnist to be Keynote Speaker*

Roddy Gray of Abbeville, SC, will be the keynote speaker at the June 12-15 RYLA event in Douglas.

According to Valerie Palmer, District 6920 RYLA chair, Gray has spoken at the 1999 annual meeting and was well received.

Roddy has taught high school-level English and American history and served as admissions counselor and director of admissions at Erskine College in Due West, SC. He is the former director of Pied-

mont Technical College's Dislocated Workers Program and served as Director of the Governor's Initiative for Workforce Excellence.

A humorist and motivational speaker, Roddy lists serving as director and host of a cable television show for three years among "life's joys and experiences." Also listed is his job as a newspaper columnist for seven years. He has appeared in television commercials and the movie "Gift of Love" starring Andy Griffith.

Roddy has been compared to a modern day Will Rogers or Lewis Grizzard.



*Roddy Gray*

## *Register for Brisbane, Australia Convention Online*

The 2003 Brisbane International Convention runs from June 1-4. However, when registering keep in mind that there are pre-convention events, such as the International RYLA Convention, International Institute, Rotaract Pre-Convention and the Youth Exchange Officers Meeting.

The opening session of the convention takes place the afternoon of Sunday, June 1, but the convention

hosts tell us that their welcome event on Saturday, May 31, is not to be missed.

To register online, visit the Rotary International Web site at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). Registration forms can also be downloaded from this site. Registration fees are \$256 per Rotarian or \$367 per couple.

Additional convention information, including programs and events, is also available on the Rotary International Web site.



*The Sheraton Brisbane Hotel will be the site of many convention activities.*

# District Assembly & P.E.T.S.



## **Here's to a Successful Multi-District P.E.T.S.**

Members of the Organizing Committee celebrate a successful meeting. Pictured are Jim Puryear, PDG, 6920; Lona Pope, DG, 6900; David Roper, RI Director; Kay Miller, committee chair; Ed Futa, RI General Secretary; Ann Henderson, chair elect; Bill MacDonald, DGE, 6910; and Leon Benefield, DGE, 6920.



## **Assistant Governors in Training**

Hank Smalling, left, was among the new class of Assistant Governors for District 6920 to attend the seminar.



## **Food and Fellowship**

Participants, above and at right, enjoy food and fellowship during the District Assembly and multi-district P.E.T.S.



## **District Breakout Session**

Assistant Governor David Pearse, center, talks with club presidents during a district breakout session during the P.E.T.S.



## **Roper Speaks**

RI Director David Roper was among special guests during the District Assembly and P.E.T.S.



## **Sharing a Laugh**

Participants enjoy themselves at the District Assembly.



## **Featured Speaker**

Ed Futa, General Secretary of Rotary International, was the featured speaker for the Georgia Assembly luncheon.