



Bob Griggers  
District Governor  
2012-2013

September 2012

# Rotary *District 6920*

## GRSP Students Arrive in State

This year's GRSP students arrived in Georgia last month and now are getting acclimated to their respective college campuses. A total of 13 international students are spread out through District 6920.

D-6920's GRSP Class of 2012-13, their sponsoring club(s) and schools are:

Stefan Bajai of Scotland - sponsored by The Rotary Club of Dublin and attending Middle Georgia College

Can Canbolat of Turkey - sponsored by the Valdosta and Valdosta North Rotary clubs and attending Valdosta State University

Levi Dugger of Australia - sponsored by Downtown Statesboro and Statesboro Rotary clubs and attending Georgia Southern University

Petter Ersbo of Sweden - sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Cochran, Hawkinsville and Eastman and attending Middle Georgia College

Alice Herdenberg of Sweden - sponsored by The Rotary Club of Savannah and attending Armstrong Atlantic State University

Jill Johansson of Sweden - sponsored by The Rotary Club of Augusta and attending Augusta State University



This year's D-6920 GRSP students pose with DG Bob Griggers at the GRSP Conclave last month in Clayton.

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# GRSP Students Arrive on College Campuses

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Clare McDevitt of Scotland - sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Hinesville, Richmond Hill, Skidaway and Savannah Sunrise and attending Armstrong Atlantic State University

Ryan McMillan of Scotland - sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Douglas, Vidalia, Hazlehurst, Ocilla, Reidsville and Fitzgerald and attending South Georgia State College

Tone Riise Aberg of Sweden - sponsored by the Macon, Downtown Macon and Uptown Macon Rotary clubs and attending Wesleyan College

Benjamin Santos of Colombia - sponsored by The Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise and attending Armstrong Atlantic State University

Maren Skott-Myhre of Norway - sponsored by the Tifton and Tift County Rotary clubs and attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Maria Trabanino of El Salvador - sponsored by Camden County, St. Simons, Camden, Brunswick and Kings Bay Rotary clubs and attending The College of Coastal Georgia

Roseanne Warren of Scotland - sponsored by the Warner Robins and Perry Rotary clubs and attending Macon State College



*The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill, along with three other coastal Georgia Rotary Clubs, sponsored GRSP student Clare McDevitt of Edinburgh. McDevitt arrived in Savannah last month to a welcoming committee.*

## GRSP an Adventure in International Service

The GRSP story is one of vibrant, living and compelling desire to further the Rotary ideal of international service through the bonds of friendship and understanding; a story of a small group of men, Georgia Rotarians, dedicated to a humanitarian ideal, which led an entire state into an adventure of international service. It is a story that Georgia Rotarians believe should be told, not in the spirit of boastful pride, but as offering an example of international service which has not only encompassed the world, but in return, has given Georgia Rotarians the deep satisfaction achieved through an unselfish application of service above self.

It was in 1946 that the world began to see, for the first time in many years, the light of peace and yet, at the same time, it saw desolation — ruin — despair in too many war-torn countries throughout the world. In this same light, a Georgia Rotarian, William A. Watt of Thomasville, saw the need for a practical application of the Rotary ideal of international service; one which must look to the future of world peace and at the same time one which could give courage to those living in despair of the present. It was only logical that this application of international service be centered around the youth of the world, in

whose hands would rest the future of world peace.

So was born Will Watt's idea. As a past District Governor of Rotary, he advanced this idea to the Rotarians of former District 165 which at that time included the entire State of Georgia. The 1945-46 District Governor, Irwin Ingram, strongly supported the proposal. Thus in the Fall of 1946, three young men and one young woman from European countries, became the first Rotary sponsored students to attend schools in Georgia. A small committee with Past District Governor Theodore T. Molnar as its head, administered the program and began a project that later became the Georgia Rotary Student Program organization.

Through the years, the interest of Georgia Rotarians in this program grew in intensity; the per capita contribution by Rotarians and the special club donations increased, permitting a steady increase in the number of scholarships granted. The State University System, as well as privately operated institutions, early recognized the value of the program, and by waiving out-of-state registration fees, materially aided in the reduction of the cost of scholarships. In the years since the inception of the program, over 2,700 young men and women, from more than 78 countries, have been brought to the campuses of Georgia by its Rotarians.





*District Governor Griggers*

## *On the Road as District Governor*

Brenda and I have visited the four corners of our District and over half of our 66 clubs. From Macon to St. Marys, Augusta to Valdosta, down the Coast and back up the 341 corridor and a lot of towns in between.

I have had conversations with some of those serving as Governor in other Districts and I am grateful for the clubs in our District. I have found Rotary Clubs are a lot like us humans, they have their own personalities. We have several strong clubs and a lot of good clubs, but we do not have any bad clubs. We have some that are working especially hard to overcome some minor issues and I am confident they will succeed. I am proud of each and every club that I have visited so far.

We have visited the largest and oldest club in our District, the Rotary Club of Savannah. After we visited them at noon, we visited with our newest club that evening, the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Club. If you don't believe clubs operate differently, visit with these two! The Rotary Club of Savannah was chartered February 1, 1914 and currently has around 215 members. They are one of the clubs in 6920 that are exempt from being required to operate under the current guidelines of Rotary International. The Savannah Metro is one of our Districts' fastest growing clubs. They have a couple of conventional meetings a month at different locations. The other meetings may be service meetings, social meetings or fundraisers. Their average age is the youngest of any club in our District. Savannah Metro and Kings Bay are our only clubs that currently meet in the evening.

The Rotary clubs of Camden County and Kings Bay hosted an intercostal waterway dinner cruise while we were in their area. It was a great opportunity for those clubs to enjoy each others' company and have several prospective members join them. This was a lot of fun!

## *Skidaway Hosts Governor*



The Skidaway Island Rotary Club was proud to have DG Bob Griggers and his wife Brenda attend a recent breakfast meeting. Introduced by Paul Meyer, club member and Assistant Governor, DG Bob spoke with great respect and admiration of Sakuji Tanaka, RI President. DG Bob complimented the local and international service programs undertaken by the Skidaway Island Rotary Club and recognized club members as true "Rotarians", not just members of a Rotary club. Appreciating the District Governor's avid support of adult education, President Doug Powelson presented DG Bob with a recognition letter from St. Mary's Community Center, where a donation had been made, in his name, for a GED Test series for an individual in their program.

The three Valdosta area Rotary clubs combined efforts and hosted "Rotary Unwind". This was a nice evening where these clubs hosted an informal event for members to drop in at a local venue for refreshments, conversation and introduction of prospective members to Rotary.

We have enjoyed dinners with Rotarians from many clubs that we will long remember. Some of those were Waynesboro, Hinesville, Savannah Sunrise, Brunswick, St Simons Island, Jekyll Island, Valdosta, Valdosta North, Savannah South and Skidaway Island. Thank you for your wonderful hospitality!

It is a real pleasure to meet so many nice Rotarians as we pass through the District. As I said earlier, each club is different but all have similar goals. It is interesting to hear of the many worthwhile and significant projects they are working on to help those in their area as well as other areas of the world. Brenda and I have been invited to unload apples, do repairs on a Boys and Girls Club building and participate in a barbecue contest. We also have been invited to several fundraisers and social events. We are enjoying learning about you, about your club projects, our District and what makes you happy as Rotarians. Please continue the great job you are doing and if we have not visited with your club, we look forward to seeing you real soon!

# Have You Invited Someone to Attend Rotary?

by Jack Steed, District Membership Chair

Long before the advent of modern civilization, the young men of ancient Athens were required to take an oath when they reached the age of 17 years. The oath said in part, "... We will transmit this city, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful..." This part of the oath could be applied to Rotary. Are you making Rotary not less but greater than when you found it? In Rotary, each of us has a responsibility to share Rotary and to increase its membership.

There is no Rotary Club which could not benefit from an increase of worthy and deserving members. The real purpose for membership growth is to provide more hands to do the work of service and more friends to share the special fellowship of Rotary.

Have you invited friends to Rotary? We have some excellent speakers who inform us about our community, interesting state and national issues, and some of the significant work of Rotary in the world. Most likely your club could easily accommodate a dozen or so friends and community leaders to share these messages – but you have to invite them! Invite your dentist, your stock broker, your minister, your banker, your neighbor and the list goes on. The door is open every week – think about it and bring a guest. And, there's a good chance that they might even wish to become a member.

Rotary means something big in the world. So, to be a member should mean something big in the life of each individual who has the privilege of being a Rotarian. If it means something big to you – then share with a worthy friend. One of the great privileges we have as Rotarians is the right to propose a new member. The reason many good people are not Rotarians is simply – nobody has asked them. Think of all the business establishments, the professions, and the community leaders who are not Rotarians, just because they have never been invited to join.

Are you a Rotary membership booster? You are if you have established a goal for yourself to recruit at least one new member during this Rotary year. You are if you have invited a worthy person to visit your club. And you are if you believe new members and the retention of established members is crucial to the survival of Rotary.

*\*\*Please send membership success stories to [jsteed@nicholscauley.com](mailto:jsteed@nicholscauley.com).*

AUGUSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
**STOP HUNGER NOW**  
 VOLUNTEER TO PACKAGE FOOD  
 SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2012, 9 a.m.-noon  
 ASU CHRISTENBERRY FIELD HOUSE, WRIGHTSBORO ROAD  
 TO DONATE OR VOLUNTEER AS A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL,  
 PLEASE CALL 706-840-2087 OR EMAIL ROTACT@AUG.EDU  
 For more information on Stop Hunger Now, go to [events.stophungernow.org/augustaarearotary](http://events.stophungernow.org/augustaarearotary)  
 Logos for ASU, Rotary, The Augusta Chronicle, and other partners.

## Stop Hunger Now Packaging Event Slated for Saturday

The Augusta Area Rotary Clubs and the Augusta State University Rotaract Club will host a Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event on Saturday from 9 a.m. until noon at Augusta State University's Christenberry Field House.

Join the movement to end hunger in our lifetime by helping the clubs meet their goal to package 100,000 meals. Working together we can create a world without hunger.

Each Stop Hunger Now meal costs just 25 cents and can make a world of difference to those who are suffering from hunger. The meal packaging events like the one being held Saturday are a fun, hands-on way to make a difference and impact in the lives of those in need.

For more information about the Augusta Stop Hunger Now event, contact Assistant Governor Pam Lightsey via email at [plightsey@aug.edu](mailto:plightsey@aug.edu).

For more D6920 news, visit our website at [www.rotary6920.org](http://www.rotary6920.org) and check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/rotary6920](http://www.facebook.com/rotary6920)

# Group Study Exchange Team

## *Team Leaves for Month-Long Stay in Bolivia in Spring 2013*

This year's Group Study Exchange is with Rotary D4690 in Bolivia, and we're looking for team members who hablan un poco de espanol. We need one Rotarian team leader and 4 young professionals to represent our District for perhaps four weeks of travel through one of the most interesting and diverse countries in the Americas. Tentatively, our team will be leaving Savannah in early May, 2013, and a team of Bolivianos will come to our District about the same time.

The Rotarian team leader, and non-Rotarian team members, should ideally be fluent or at least "comfortable" in the Spanish language (there will be language training before leaving), be open minded to diverse people and cultures, and healthy enough to maintain the typically rigorous GSE schedule as setup by our Bolivian hosts. The team leader should have some international travel experience and work well with young people.

The GSE team leader will coordinate the recruitment and selection of our GSE team members in November/December, and then lead the training of the team between late January and April 2013. This will consist of five or six meetings, usually on Saturdays. ***The DEADLINE for submission of team leader applications to GSE Chair Justin Godchaux is October 15, 2012.***

Group Study Exchange is a rare opportunity to be hosted by Rotarians and immersed in another culture. Team members typically stay in Rotarians' homes, and most expenses, including travel, are paid by Rotary International. GSE candidate team members living within D6920 are usually identified and recruited by Rotarians. D6920 Rotarians are asked to recruit young professionals between 25 and 40 to serve on the GSE team. These four team members cannot be Rotarians or related to Rotarians. ***The DEADLINE for GSE team member applications is November 30, 2012.***

The team from Bolivia will arrive in our District mid-April 2013 and will attend our District Conference in Augusta May 3-5, 2013. Contact GSE Chair Justin Godchaux at 912-234-3680 or via email at justingodchaux@aol.com for more information or to arrange for the inbound Bolivian Team to visit your area. Additional information is available on the district web site: [www.Rotary6920.org](http://www.Rotary6920.org) in the Foundation section for GSE, and at this Rotary International web link (for application forms): <http://www.rotary.org/en/ServiceAndFellowship/MakeConnections/GroupStudyExchange/Pages/ridefault.aspx>

## *Savannah South Rotarians Feed Homeless*

The Savannah South Rotary Club has joined with the volunteer organization People Helping People to help feed the city's homeless.

GRSP Committee Chair Jim Drake introduced the club to People to People group last year when they were seeking a club service project to celebrate their 30th anniversary. Since then, the club has partnered with People to People on several occasions.

Andy Lohn, one of the club's members, takes the lead on cooking the food. He began cooking hamburgers at 7:30 a.m. one recent Sunday, ensuring that he had enough time to cook the 200 burgers needed for the day's feeding. Serving usually begins after a message and club members have found that there are a lot of opportunities to serve, from preparation before serving to the clothing ministry or hygiene table.



Members have found that the reason people are homeless varies. Some people are just down on their luck while others are drug addicts. There are people from all "levels" of worklife - blue collar, professional and even families.



## ***McIntosh Rotarians Attend Seminar***



*McIntosh County Rotary Club members enjoyed their weekend with District Governor Bob Griggers during the Rotary District Foundation Seminar in Dublin last month. Pictured, from left to right, are Assistant Governor Dr. Diane J. Richardson, President Diane Martin, District Governor Bob Griggers, Past President Latrelle Peterson, Membership Chair George Eshliman and Past Treasurer Marian Owens.*

## ***Kings Bay Rotarians Serve Meals***



*The Rotary Club of Kings Bay served a hot meal to the less fortunate.*

## ***Important Dates: Mark Your Calendars***

### ***Rotary Zone 33-34 Institute 2012 Hilton Head, SC***

***Thursday, Sept. 20-Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012***

The 2012 Rotary Zone 33-34 Institute will be held at the Hilton Head Marriott Resort and Spa in Hilton Head, S.C.

Register now by visiting the District website at [www.rotary6920.org](http://www.rotary6920.org).

### ***GSE Team Leader Applications Due Monday, October 15, 2012***

Applications for Group Study Exchange Team Leaders are due in to GSE Chair Justin Godchaux no later than Oct. 15, 2012.

The GSE team leader will coordinate the recruitment and selection of our GSE team members in November/December, and then lead the training of the team between late January and April 2013. This will consist of five or six meetings, usually on Saturdays.

For more information about GSE, visit the District website at [www.rotary6920.org](http://www.rotary6920.org). or contact Godchaux via email at [justingodchaux@aol.com](mailto:justingodchaux@aol.com) or at 912-234-3680.

### ***GSE Team Member Applications Due Friday, November 30, 2012***

Applications for Group Study Exchange team members are due in to GSE Chair Justin Godchaux no later than Nov. 30, 2012.

Team members typically stay in Rotarians' homes, and most expenses, including travel, are paid by Rotary International. GSE candidate team members living within D6920 are usually identified and recruited by Rotarians. D6920 Rotarians are asked to recruit young professionals between 25 and 40 to serve on the GSE team. These four team members cannot be Rotarians or related to Rotarians.

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## **September is New Generations Month**

*Take time this month to highlight Rotary's commitment to youth by doing something special for the young people in your community.*