



# GEORGIA ROTARY STUDENT HANBOOK

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-- McDonough, Georgia (District 6900) –  
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## GEORGIA ROTARY STUDENT PROGRAM

Many years ago in a land far from here,  
A Rotarian, Will Watt, had an idea.  
After World War II there was an international need,  
From his thoughts the Rotary program did seed.

The idea was simple, to bring to this state  
Some international students to integrate.  
America would benefit and so would they,  
By all the culture transferred each way.

Since its beginning, the program has grown.  
This year 65 students came here alone.  
During their year they study, travel and play,  
Each of them in their own different way.

The concept is wonderful, of that there's no doubt.  
International understanding is what we're about,  
Which brings me back to my original verse:  
The Rotary principle that Service comes first.

Maybe this poem's a little bit sappy,  
But now that it's finished I feel quite happy.  
Not having written many poems before,  
I think these six verses settle the score.

On behalf of the students who came here this fall,  
Georgia Rotarians: We salute you all!  
But let me finish by saying just this:  
What's the deal with these tasteless grits?!

Gordon S. Anderson  
Bellingham, ENGLAND  
Class of 1990-91

## **SCHOOL**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College  
Agnes Scott College  
Andrew College  
Armstrong Atlantic State University  
Berry College  
Brenau  
Coastal Georgia College  
Columbus State University  
Georgia College and State University  
Georgia Gwinett University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Georgia Regents University  
Georgia Southern University  
Georgia Southwestern State University  
Gordon College  
Kennesaw State University  
LaGrange College  
Middle Georgia College  
North Georgia College and State University  
Ogelthorpe University  
Piedmont College  
Reinhardt College  
Shorter College  
South Georgia College  
Southern Polytechnic State University  
State University of West Georgia  
University of Georgia  
Valdosta State University  
Wesleyan College  
Young Harris College

## **LOCATION**

Tifton  
Atlanta  
Cuthbert  
Savannah  
Rome  
Gainesville  
Brunswick  
Columbus  
Milledgeville  
Atlanta  
Atlanta  
Augusta  
Statesboro  
Americus  
Barnesville  
Marietta  
LaGrange  
Cochran/Macon  
Dahlonega  
Atlanta  
Demorest  
Waleska  
Rome  
Douglas  
Marietta  
Carrollton  
Athens  
Valdosta  
Macon  
Young Harris

<b>DISTANCE FROM ATLANTA</b>	<b>Miles</b>	<b>Kilometers</b>
Americus	134	216
Athens	66	106
Augusta	148	238
Barnesville	60	97
Brunswick	305	491
Carrollton	49	79
Cochran	121	195
Columbus	109	175
Cuthbert	180	290
Dahlonega	71	114
Demorest	82	132
Douglas	204	201
Gainesville	53	85
LaGrange	68	109
Macon	84	135
Marietta	10	16
Milledgeville	93	150
Rome	68	109
Savannah	256	412
Statesboro	211	340
Tifton	183	294
Valdosta	234	377
Waleska	39	62
Young Harris	115	184

## GENERAL - STUDENTS

**The following information is furnished with the sincere hope that it will provide guidance to you, making your special GRSP year a meaningful and rewarding experience.**

Having accepted the GRSP scholarship, you are an international guest of Georgia Rotarians and specifically of your sponsoring Rotary Club.

- As such, you are an Ambassador of your country, your home Rotary club that sponsored you and your family. And we know you will be an outstanding representative. Remember: by representing your country, you have certain responsibilities.

**During your academic year, you are responsible to your Georgia sponsoring Rotary Club, your selected Host Family, and your GRSP Trustee.**

- Your assigned Trustee is a guarantor of the Georgia Rotary Student Program, insuring that its mission is fulfilled and that your year is a positive, enriching experience.

- If you encounter questions or problems that are not resolved, you are responsible for discussing them with your Trustee. Your Trustee is the connection to the Savannah Office.

- Your GRSP scholarship is both a cultural and scholastic scholarship. GRSP's mission is to provide you with experiences that contribute to Rotary's ideal of World Peace through Understanding.

- The foundation of Understanding will result from your INVOLVEMENT with your sponsoring Club, host family, college life (to include US students and student organizations) , GRSP students , etc.

- **IMPORTANT: TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR YEAR AS A GRSP STUDENT, YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH ROTARY AND GEORGIA ROTARIANS WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER ACTIVITIES to include GRSP non-sanctioned activities.**

- To further Understanding, you are encouraged to actively participate in all aspects of American culture. Likewise, you will be asked to share information about your country and its culture. Jointly, then, we have responsibilities to each other:

- It is important that we each explore and compare the similarities and differences between our cultures rather than judge what's right or wrong.

- When discussing political, social, and religious thought and/or issues, we must be sure that ALL dialogue is directed toward UNDERSTANDING and is not perceived by the other as attempted conversion.

- Once here, you will find that many people in the Southeastern U.S. are deeply religious -- in thought and in practice. It is an important aspect of the culture.

- GRSP asks that you remain open to and tolerant of this unique cultural aspect. Likewise, you should expect others to respect and be tolerant of your beliefs.

- To enhance your integration into the American culture, please refrain from using your native language as much as possible.

Please associate with Rotarians and American college students; this way you will learn more about our culture. And they can learn more about your country and culture.

Throughout your year, you will hear many people refer to GRSP as an "exchange" program. Unfortunately, even some Rotarians say this in error.

• **GRSP is not an exchange program in the traditional sense. It is, however, an exchange in the true sense of "sharing".**

- When appropriate, politely clarify this misunderstanding.
- Also, when introducing yourself or being introduced, refer to yourself as a GRSP scholar or a GRSP international student. Avoid the terms "exchange" or "foreign" student.

You will find that America is quickly becoming a smoke-free society. If you smoke, please observe the following:

- Refrain from smoking in Rotary meetings unless the Club permits it.
- When visiting homes, if the family members do not smoke, excuse yourself and go outside to smoke. This courtesy is appreciated. If the family does not mind smoking in the home, they will gladly tell you.
- As of March 2014, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia adopted a tobacco and smoke-free campus policy to make all University System of Georgia University Colleges 100% tobacco free effective October 2014. Please note this not only includes the college campus but also many of the housing areas. <http://www.usg.edu/tobaccofree/>
- Most public buildings do not permit smoking. Generally, there are areas outside for this.

Since GRSP students are mature, young adults there seldom are any serious problems requiring action by the Chairman or Trustees of the program. However, an individual's scholarship can -- and has been -- revoked for action and behavior unbecoming a student in this honored program. GRSP students are expected to remain in good academic standing at their respective institution. We are confident YOU and the other members of your class will be outstanding ambassadors of understanding and goodwill.

## **YOUR HOST FAMILY**

Your sponsoring Host Club has selected an outstanding Rotarian and his/her family to be your Host Family.

- In addition to providing you with a "home away from home", your host will take many steps toward making you "one of the family". Your host does this, not as an obligation to Rotary, but rather as a sincere belief in and commitment to the ideals of GRSP and Rotary.
- More than likely, your host played a major role in selecting you as his/her Club's GRSP student for this year.
- In an effort to have you as a member of the family and not as a "guest", your host asks that you actively join in their activities and to enjoy being part of your new, adopted American family.

**As the representative of his/her Club, the HOST is responsible for You. And YOU are responsible to the Host! Also, you are responsible to your assigned Trustee, but most of your involvement and accountability will be with your host.**

Also, the host is responsible for involving the host Club in your year by:

- Coordinating and scheduling Rotarians to pick you up and return you to campus so you can attend many of the Club's weekly meetings.
- Coordinating and scheduling Club families to host you for HOLIDAYS, dinners, weekends, etc.
- Informing the Club about your activities and status throughout the year. You need to keep host family and Trustee informed of your schedule.
- Making Rotary a meaningful part of your life!

Due to the cost of sponsoring a student, several clubs frequently join together to select and sponsor one student. Each club has a host family; therefore, you may have more than one host family. Jointly, they select one "lead host" to:

- Coordinate scheduling between the hosts to prevent you from having to choose between two or more invitations for the same date.
- Maintain equity in scheduling, meeting your needs, etc.
- Determine what basic items each club will provide for your year at college.

Once your selection has been approved by the college and you accept the scholarship, each host is to write a letter of welcome to you. Please answer promptly.

Your host will define your GRSP responsibilities based on the Club's expectations of you that are in addition to the items detailed in this section of the Handbook.

He/she will describe the Club's requirements for the presentation you will make to the Club within a few weeks after you arrive in Georgia. (Refer to the section, Host Club.)

For personal, basic items you will need at college, your host will identify the items the Club will loan to you, such as bed linen, towels, etc. You will return all items in good condition to the host at the end of your year. Make sure your host family receives these items before you leave. You may even want to schedule a time to meet to make sure everything is received. Many universities have a "Clean Up Fee" and you are responsible for this fee if everything is not removed.

Prior to your arrival, the host will take steps to establish good communication with you. Once you are in Georgia, it's important you and your host work together for sound, one-to-one communication.

- If either you or the host/family don't understand what the other person said or meant, ask for clarification. Don't be hesitant!
- Both you and your host are responsible for successful communication and dialogue.
- With the host, determine how and when you will handle your weekly telephone conversations.
  - You are responsible for talking with your host/trustee **before** scheduling any weekend or holiday activities. This is to avoid any conflict with scheduled Rotary activities.
  - Throughout the year, keep your host informed about your academic term schedule and holiday-vacation periods. You may even want to print a copy of your class schedule for your host family/trustee.

**Keep your host family informed of travel plans so they will be able to contact you in case of an emergency. Any travel should be communicated with your trustee too. The trustee is who the home office will contact if they need to contact you.**

- You should feel free to call your host ANYTIME!
- Be sure you keep the home, cell and office telephone numbers of your host family and your Trustee with you at all times.
- You will find that communications will be the key to having a great year with your host.

You will be invited to your host's home for weekends and holidays. Please accept their sincere request to join them and be a real member of the family.

If you encounter serious financial difficulty during the year, please discuss it with your Trustee. GRSP asks that you refrain from borrowing money from your host family and/or Club. It is not the responsibility of your host family to provide financial assistance.

If possible, offer to cook a dish or even an entire meal typical of your country for your host family. Ask your host if you need a Metric-to-Imperial (American) measurement conversion table.

If your host has young children in his/her family, offer to speak to the children's school class about your country and its customs.

Your host will explain the American holidays that are celebrated in Georgia. Be prepared to explain your country's special holidays to them.

When home for weekends, you may enjoy renting videos. This is a good time to see many movies you have heard about but would not otherwise be able to see. Discuss your interest with your host.

Many foods in Georgia will be similar to those you are accustomed to; others will be different. Your host asks only that you try our foods. If you do not care for a particular dish, your host will certainly understand.

- If you must adhere to special dietary laws/restrictions as a result of your culture, religions, or medical condition, please tell your host prior to your arrival.

Frequently, student's parents come to Georgia to see their son/daughter during the GRSP year. If your parents can come, please inform your host as soon as you know so the host can schedule time to meet and be with your parents and you.

- Family visiting the US - As a courtesy, if they are going to come please plan to have your parents visit with your Georgia family at the end at least for one day before you depart for travels with your parents. Please be courteous to your Georgia Host Family. They have agreed to host you, the student. Don't assume that it is ok to have your girlfriend/boyfriend/siblings all stay with your host family. And remember that many universities have a strict policy on guests at housing. Most have only a 24 hour visiting policy. This includes other GRSP students visiting you at your campus.

## **YOUR HOST CLUB**

**Your relationship with your host Club is extremely important.**

- Your host Club has gone to considerable effort to make your year possible. It wants you to be actively involved in the Club's "Rotary family" throughout the year.

- The Club's continued support and involvement in GRSP depends, in large measure, on your involvement and participation with the Club and its families

Your Club will ask you to make at least one, maybe two formal presentations -- one shortly after arrival and another before departing Georgia. (Usually September/October for your first presentation and March/April for your closing presentation)

- The first program will be scheduled as soon as possible after you arrive. If you have more than one host club, the "lead host" will coordinate your speaking schedule with all the clubs.

- In general, your presentation should be a 20 minute orientation to your country, including its culture, customs, political events, economic, and social systems along with an introduction to your family.

-Powerpoint is strongly recommended. The Club members also appreciate other support materials such as maps, books, etc. if you have space to bring them.

-Your host will let you know any other aspects the Club wishes you to address. Please discuss any questions you have with your host.

- GRSP encourages you to prepare your presentation before you come to Georgia. Your Club considers this an important and exciting way to begin its year with you.

- Although you may be apprehensive about making a presentation, you will find Rotarians warm and friendly. They really want to hear what you have to say.

-By being well-prepared, you can answer the questions they will certainly ask at the end of your presentation.

-By all means, allow your presentation to be fun. You'll enjoy it more and they will too!

- If you are requested to make a second presentation, it usually is held in late spring. It should focus on the year you have spent in Georgia -- your perceptions about the United States, Americans, Georgians, the GRSP program, and a sampling of some meaningful experiences you have had.

-Again, slides and/or photographs are important in your farewell address to the Club. Make sure to include photos of Rotarians, host clubs(s), university life and your host family to highlight your involvement with them throughout the year.

Throughout the year, your host and other Club Rotarians will assist you in attending Club functions. You should plan to attend and to actively participate in:

- Weekly Club meetings

- Special functions such as Christmas parties, spouses nights, picnics, barbecues, etc.

- Club projects

Occasionally, you will need to miss a class to attend a Rotary function. If your professor requires a permission statement, tell your trustee. He/she is prepared to write a statement on letterhead, detailing the function and your Rotary attendance requirement. If this is required in advance of the function, please make sure to communicate with your trustee. It is important that non-sanctioned GRSP events or Club events do

not count to miss classes. Keep in mind many institutions have mandatory attendance policies in place set by campus administration.

An important part of your year will come from your involvement with Rotary families. Periodically, you will be hosted for dinner, weekends, sightseeing, outings, etc.

- An important aspect of the American culture is your written acknowledgement of a family's or **individual's kindness to you. GRSP asks that you send a "Thank You" card with a short, personal note of appreciation for the friendship that was extended to you.**

-This must be written and sent immediately upon your return to school. A telephone call is not **sufficient.**

-Your host will give you a Club membership roster with addresses to facilitate your writing.

-If you were entertained by a non-Rotarian, be sure you get his/her address before you leave.

- Your efforts will not only be appreciated, but they will also contribute to the success of your GRSP year.

When you are at Club functions, some Rotarians will make a general invitation to you such as "We would like to have you come to our home. Call me when you have a free weekend!"

- In America this is considered a sincere invitation; you should not consider this as "courteous conversation". It is proper to ask the individual for his/her telephone number and call to schedule a convenient time.

- Be sure you check with your host about your schedule before making the call. Let your host know what the final plans are so he/she can update his/her calendar.

- At the beginning of Rotary meetings, a short prayer is offered. It is followed by a "pledge of allegiance" to the American flag.

- As an international student, you are not expected to recite the pledge. With the other Club members, stand and face the flag. This act of respect is sufficient and is all that is expected of you.

## PRE-DEPARTURE

- Avoid making your travel plans to Georgia until your host family has written to you. They will write to you shortly after being notified of your acceptance by the college/university.
- Depending on the host's schedule, they may want you to arrive a week or so before you must register at college.
- If so, this allows you to recover from your flight and time to adjust to your new home, family, Georgia, language, etc. Your host family may have some local sightseeing planned for you.

-If invited, please try to make your plans accordingly.

- As soon as you know your travel itinerary, please provide it to your host as well as to the GRSP office in Savannah.

Estimate the spending money you will need for the first part of the year. Please bring the money in traveler's checks or be prepared to have it transferred from your bank at home to your checking account established at a local bank near college.

- Your international student advisor or academic advisor will help you establish your personal checking account at a bank near the campus.

-Some colleges have automated teller machines (ATM's) on campus for convenient deposits and withdrawals.

-If an ATM is available, be sure you know if there is a small charge for each transaction.

- Many students find it convenient to have a MasterCard or Visa credit card from their home bank.

-In addition to purchasing items, these cards can frequently be used to transfer bank funds internationally for a nominal service charge.

-Although American Express is a popular credit card in the U.S., it is not as widely-accepted as MasterCard and Visa.

For electrical items you bring such as a hairdryer, etc. you may need to bring an electrical converter with adapter plugs. The United States electrical system standard is 60 cycle – 110/120 volt.

## TRANSPORTATION ONCE YOU ARRIVE

**GRSP DOES NOT PROVIDE A VEHICLE OR ENCOURAGE A PERSONALLY OWNED VEHICLE WHILE YOU ARE HERE ON THE SCHOLARSHIP. Transportation is available in the form of shuttles on many college campuses. Communication with host families to get to the sanctioned GRSP weekends are provided by host families/host club members.**

Public transportation in the U.S., and Georgia in particular, differs vastly from many other countries. Large cities like Atlanta have public (mass) transit systems that include subways, buses and cabs. Other cities have buses and cabs but no subways or trains. Smaller towns have cabs only.

- Many GRSP students find Georgia's public transportation system inadequate in meeting their needs

**To have a successful GRSP year, you DO NOT need to have a car!**

**As a GRSP student, you must adhere to all state and federal transportation laws.**

- Be aware that the State of Georgia STRICTLY ENFORCES the laws associated with alcohol and drug use and/or possession.
  - Violations resulting from Driving Under the Influence (D.U.I.) carry serious consequences such as large fines, suspension/loss of driver's license, imprisonment and in some cases all three actions.
- A D.U.I. arrest for illegal drug and controlled substance use and/or possession results in mandatory imprisonment.**
- A charge of D.U.I. for a GRSP student can result in the revocation of the Student Visa.

## **GENERALLY**

- During summer and early fall, daytime temperatures will be between 80 and 95 degrees F. (26 and 35 C).
  - In winter (December-February), temperatures can be in the 50's to 60's (10 to 15 C). However, cold periods occur with temperatures near or below freezing, 32 degrees F. Occasionally, temperatures will fall to 10 degrees F (-12 C).
- Northern Georgia receives snow periodically through the winter. Also, ice storms do occur throughout the state, paralyzing the entire area.
- Normally, severe cold weather lasts only a few days.
- During spring, daytime temperatures range from 40 to 70 degrees F (4 to 21 C) -- a great time to get your suntan before going home.
  - Winter clothing such as sweaters, coats, etc. are a must!
  - Georgia does experience occasional tornadoes and the effects of some hurricanes. You will receive specific information on safety precautions at your Orientation Conclave in early October.
  - IMPORTANT: Be sure to bring some dress clothes appropriate for Rotary functions.

In preparation for your Club presentation, please bring materials such as slides, maps, etc

- If you have a national costume, please bring it and wear it when you make your presentation. You will also be able to wear it at the Conclave and District Conference. (See the section, Conclave, Conference & Gatherings.)

**Please refrain from making any plans for the Thanksgiving (November) and Christmas holiday periods until after you arrive in Georgia and discuss it with your host and trustee.**

- Your host will be scheduling activities for you with his/her family and other Club families for these two important holiday periods. Upon arrival, your host will discuss these arrangements and help you make any travel plans for the remaining, available time.

Please bring photographs of your family, home, etc. to show to the new friends you will make in Georgia.

- If space is available in your luggage, you might include some favorite posters to hang in your college room.

Before coming to Georgia, please check with your college office at home about transferring academic credits earned in the U.S.

- In many cases, colleges will not accept and apply credits earned during your GRSP year in Georgia toward your degree program at home.
- Ask your college officials about their rules and regulations.
- If a transfer is possible, be sure you know the required procedures. Bring any necessary documents that your Georgia school will need to expedite your credit transfer.

If your application for a GRSP scholarship was endorsed or recommended by a Rotary club near your home, please bring the name of the club president and his/her complete mailing address. Upon arrival, give this information to your host so your host Club can communicate with the Rotarians who proposed you.

If you have an endorsing club, you should ask the club to provide you with one of its banners for each of your sponsoring host clubs. The exchange of club banners is a Rotary tradition.

- You should present the banner to the president of your host Club(s) when you make your first presentation.
- If possible, you should bring one additional banner for the club that will host the GRSP Conclave in October.

You may also be asked to bring something to represent your country for your District Conference to have as part of the Silent Auction.

You should bring sufficient "Thank You" note cards for the Rotarians and other Americans who will host and befriend you. Cards from your country, even in your native language, are really appreciated by the recipients.

In anticipation of the Christmas holiday, you should consider bringing a small gift for your host family. A gift that represents something typical of your country will be appreciated by your host and will be kept for years to come. If space is limited, you might have your parents ship it to your college address later. In preparing for your year abroad, you will certainly have many questions. Please send these questions to your host family; they will be happy to answer everything they can. If some questions remain unanswered, please write to your Trustee, or the GRSP office in Savannah.

## **ARRIVAL & INITIAL DAYS**

**Your host family, members of the club and/or your Trustee will meet you at the airport.**

Some Rotarians tend to be very overt in welcoming their student to this country and to GRSP. Your arrival is just as exciting for them as it is for you! If this happens, enjoy their sincerity and hospitality.

In the excitement of reaching your new home on arrival day, please be sure you call your parents and let them know you arrived safely.

Spend the time between when you arrive in Georgia and when you leave for college by adjusting to your new home, family, and culture.

- Don't be hesitant to learn as much as you can about your new host family. And they will be doing the same with you.
- Depending on the host's available time, you may do some local sightseeing.

Your host will go through all the items in your "Rotary Suitcase" that the Club has provided such as bed linen, towels, etc. All items are to be returned to the host in good condition at the end of your year.

- You should make and maintain a complete inventory of all items. Also you should update the list for the additional items your host may loan you during the year.
- Your host will be happy to take you shopping for any items you forgot to bring with you.

If you have any questions about how to use any facilities in your new home, don't be hesitant to ask.

With your host, determine how and when you will handle your weekly telephone conversations. Many students travel with a cell phone that can be used here. Your club and host family are not responsible for providing a cell phone for you to use while you are here. They may help you if you need to get one, but the cell phone/bill are your responsibility. You must communicate regularly with your trustee as well.

**When at home with your host family, do not make any long distance calls, including international calls, without his/her permission.**

**Before leaving for college you and your host must discuss:**

- Your responsibility for communicating with him/her before scheduling any weekend or holiday activities.
- The day and time of your host Club's weekly meeting. When registering for classes, if possible try to avoid scheduling classes that would prevent you from attending meetings.

You will receive the calendar of Rotary activities that your host family/trustee has coordinated for you during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday periods. Most schools operate on the semester system and some students have several weeks off from school during December/January. Your host will have activities scheduled for you during this time.

-Your host will provide you with a calendar of scheduled events and activities through the end of December. Additional activities will be added, so you should not consider this to be your final schedule.

-Both of you should discuss the calendar. If your host envisions that there will be some time available for short trips during December, he/she will tell you and assist you in making travel arrangements.

-Your host will take you to college and help you in move into your on-campus room.

## COLLEGE

**As a GRSP scholar, your academic achievement is extremely important.**

- Although Rotary comes "first", your scholastic achievement comes in a very close "second".
- GRSP requires that you maintain at least a "C" average in each of your classes. Like most GRSP students, we know your achievement will be much higher.
- Your outstanding academic performance, participation and conduct will help insure that the college you attend will continue to maintain high regard for and acceptance of GRSP students in the future.

From reading this section you may find the American college system differs in many ways from the academic systems of other countries, including your own.

For many Georgia colleges and universities, the academic year is based on semesters. This means the academic periods are shorter. There is one additional exam period, and yes, there's one additional vacation period.

**As an international student, you may not take more than one class online per semester without affecting your visa status.**

**YOUR ATTENDANCE AT ALL CLASSES IS MANDATORY. If you must miss a class for a Rotary function or any other excusable reason, you must discuss it with your professor before you plan to be absent.**

- Georgia's academic system is not structured where you can read all the coursework and then take the final exam without actually attending class. Class attendance and participation is required.

**As a student in an American college, YOU MUST TAKE ALL EXAMINATIONS. Being a GRSP student does not exempt you from any test unless a professor exercises his/her option to exempt students with high academic achievement.**

**You must adhere to all college rules and regulations including those for the on-campus student housing facilities where you will live. You may find differences when you compare our requirements to those of your country. You may also find slight differences between schools in Georgia when you compare the requirements with other GRSP students. However, this is part of the cultural experience.**

**GRSP REQUIRES YOU TO LIVE IN ON-CAMPUS STUDENT HOUSING, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS DORMITORIES. OFF-CAMPUS ROOMS OR APARTMENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED.**

- A primary objective of GRSP is to enable you to experience the unique aspect of American on-campus college living. For most international students, this is a major difference of the American educational experience. And many GRSP students find this to be a real highlight of their year in Georgia.
- Although your room will not look like one of the plush rooms in an elegant hotel depicted in many American movies, it will provide you a basic, comfortable residence. The cost for your room is included in the scholarship.
- By residing on campus, you will find attending classes very convenient.
- You probably will have at least one roommate, depending on the specific dormitory. Your roommate (same sex... of course) may be another GRSP student, international student, or an American student.

-When possible, GRSP recommends that your roommate be an American student for the important cultural interchange that can take place.

-Rely on your roommate to assist you in acclimating to your new school environment and possibly the American culture.

- If you experience serious compatibility difficulties with one or more of your roommates, you are **required** to follow and comply with your college's rules and regulations for changing your on-campus living location. Should the change in living location result in additional cost, you must contact your Trustee and the GRSP office before accepting the new assignment. Please remember that many universities don't have "extra" unoccupied rooms on campus.

-Before undertaking any changes, you must make every effort to resolve the difficulties with your roommate(s).

-If you have difficulty with changing your room location, you must discuss the problem with your Trustee.

**If you change your room location, mailing address and/or telephone number, YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY (WITHIN 8 HOURS) YOUR HOST FAMILY, YOUR TRUSTEE AND THE SAVANNAH OFFICE. NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Your room may or may not have any provisions for cooking. You will eat all meals in a nearby campus cafeteria (canteen) if you do not have the needed appliances for cooking. The meal cost is also included in your scholarship; it is **non-refundable to you** for alternative eating arrangements.

-The meals will consist of basic, sound nutritional foods. Gourmet... it is not!

-After several weeks of cafeteria dining, you will discover one "real" benefit of visiting your host family on weekends!

- GRSP students report that this unique on-campus living experience is one of the best and most fun aspects of their year in Georgia.

**IMPORTANT: In addition to the rules and regulations of your college, as an international student and guest of the U.S., YOU ARE GOVERNED BY ALL STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS. Your compliance with such laws is MANDATORY.**

- It is a Federal offense to possess, use, or sell illegal drugs and controlled substances. This includes all non-prescribed narcotics and illegal drugs such as marijuana, cocaine, heroine, "crack", PCP, etc.

- **It is a State law that an individual must be 21 years of age to possess and to consume any alcoholic beverages.** For many campuses, this will result in a ticket, court appearance, and community service. And could result in explosion. Many campuses have a NO TOLERANCE policy.

- Although these laws may be more restrictive than those of your country, GRSP REQUIRES you to adhere to these laws throughout your year in Georgia. Violations of these laws have serious legal consequences.

Depending on your college, once on campus you may attend a new student orientation and/or an international student orientation program(s). This will help you quickly learn about your new school environment. It's also a great time to meet other students.

- You will also meet with your international student advisor and/or your academic advisor. Throughout your year, he/she will help you in the selection of your coursework as well as offer academic guidance to you.

Your registration for specific classes will be governed, in large measure, on the possible transfer of your Georgia-earned credits to your home college. Again, you should determine this before coming to Georgia.

- If credits are transferable, you should pursue courses in your academic field of endeavor.
- If credit transfer is not possible, GRSP recommends that you take courses that will contribute to your general education and preferably to your knowledge of the United States -- English, American history, American literature, political and social sciences, etc.
- During your studies, if you encounter specific problems with a course, please discuss it with your professor and your advisor. If the problem remains unresolved, please talk with your Trustee for guidance and resolution.

**BOOKS** - Your scholarship includes the cost of books required for your courses. You will be given a **book allowance** to cover the cost of these books and supplies. Keep in mind that you may not have enough money to cover all the cost. It is a book stipend that you receive with your scholarship.

- Due to the high cost of text books, GRSP asks that you buy used books whenever they're available. One or more students next year will be able to come to Georgia because of the book money you and the other GRSP students save this year. You may also be able to rent books at certain campuses. Remember if you lose that book, you have to pay to replace it.

You are encouraged to be involved in your college's social activities. These will contribute to your overall exposure to our culture.

- These activities, however, must not prevent you from participating in scheduled Rotary activities and functions.
- Remember -- discuss your Rotary schedule with your host before scheduling weekend and holiday activities.
- Please invite your host family to join you in attending special college functions they might enjoy -- football/basketball games, international nights, etc. They enjoy college life too!
- Many colleges have social fraternities and sororities. Before you consider joining one, GRSP encourages you to evaluate your time commitment to Rotary, your academic studies, and other school social involvement. Before making the financial commitment to join, please discuss it with your host.

Since you have been granted a Student Visa to participate in GRSP, the United States immigration laws forbid you to work and be compensated. Violation results in immediate revocation of the Visa and the student must return home immediately at his/her expense.

- There is only one exception. A student can be employed part-time, on-campus at the college or university where he/she is a full-time student.
- Although an additional source of spending money is always helpful, GRSP asks that you avoid such employment due to the restrictive impact it will have on your year of cultural involvement.

**Please talk with your host family by telephone at least once a week.**

- Talk with your host about the assisting in acquiring a cellphone for you. This makes it easier for everyone to "keep in touch".
- You are responsible for the phone charges and all monthly charges.

**Your host family is responsible for transporting you to and from their home for weekend visits.**

- Coordinate your schedule with the host so your availability does not create an undue imposition
- If your host lives in another city, check with other students at your college who may be from your host's town. Frequently, you can share a ride with them.

During the year, please refrain from engaging in activities that are potentially life-threatening unless you are trained and very experienced and are accompanied by another experienced friend. These activities include: sky-diving, hang-gliding, spelunking (caving), etc. Your safety and well-being is GRSP'S concern.

At first, you may find that some American students may be somewhat aloof or unfriendly. Please do not take this personally.

- Generally, this is due to their lack of exposure to people from other cultures. Also, Americans are unaccustomed to students who are multilingual and they feel somewhat uneasy due to speaking only one language.
- Frequently, when they get to know how great you really are and learn about the things each of you have in common, they will become good friends. Your effort in establishing friendships is extremely important.
- The benefits of GRSP extend far beyond you and Rotarians. That's another reason your college was pleased to accept you for your year of study.

Once here, you might be surprised at the number of showers or baths American students take. In the United States -- and especially in Georgia -- our personal hygiene standards include a minimum of one shower/bath each day and the use of personal deodorants. If you are not accustomed to these requirements you will find them a just reward from Georgia's heat and humidity. Enjoy!

Unfortunately, the United States is experiencing a serious, deadly epidemic of A.I.D.S. (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). It has one of the highest per capita ratios of H.I.V. positive/A.I.D.S cases anywhere in the world, affecting both the homosexual and heterosexual populations!

- GRSP asks that you practice the safest known form of sex -- NO SEX.
- Although condoms are readily available, they have been proven not to be totally effective in the spread of this deadly disease.
- The prevention of contracting A.I.D.S. is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

## HOLIDAYS & COLLEGE VACATIONS

If you want to send gifts home to your country for Christmas, please mail them U.S. Postal Air Mail no later than December 1. This should ensure your gifts arrive by December 25.

GRSP suggests that you send a Christmas/holiday greeting card to your host family and one to the president of your host Club. This always pleases the recipients!

When you get your schedule for the academic term, tell your host family and Trustee the date(s) you will be out of school for a holiday(s). Also let him/her know when the term ends and the next term begins.

**Remember -- before scheduling any weekend, holiday or vacation plans, please discuss your Rotary schedule with your host to avoid conflicts.**

**If your host asks you to be with his/her family or another Rotary family for a holiday, you are to accept their sincere invitation. Join in the fun! Remember Rotary first!!**

If you plan to travel during any of your remaining holiday time, ask your host to suggest places you might want to visit on your way to/from your selected destination(s).

## CONCLAVE, CONFERENCE & GATHERINGS

### CONCLAVE/GRSP SANCTIONED WEEKENDS

An Orientation Conclave is held in late August for all GRSP students. Attendance at this information/social weekend is **MANDATORY**.

- The purpose of this meeting is to provide you with important, essential information that you will need to ensure that you have a great and successful GRSP year.

**-Although you will meet and socialize with all your Class members, the real purpose is to provide you with necessary information.**

-You will have other conclaves and gatherings throughout your year that are more socially-oriented.  
**When traveling, please call "home" to your host so he/she knows that you are safe.**

- You will travel to the District Conference with your host family, with another Rotary family from your host Club or with your Trustee.
- Normally, there are GRSP student functions scheduled during the weekend. You'll have a great time!

### DISTRICT CONFERENCE

- A second and final Talent Show may be held at the Conference. Please take your national costume and any materials for your "starring role".
- You **are not permitted** to take another GRSP student or any other student friend unless you have a **WRITTEN invitation from your District Governor**.
- **During the Conference, GRSP asks that you join your district for the events during the conference and meet other Rotarians from the district.**
- **Although you may be invited by another GRSP student to attend his/her District Conference, do not go unless you receive a personal, WRITTEN invitation from that District Governor.**

## DEPARTURE

Six weeks before the end of school, determine what your plans and needs will be when school is over. Please discuss this with your host for his/her planning.

- Based on the type of airline ticket, you should contact the airline(s) to determine what date you must make your return reservation. If there are any questions, please involve your host.
- If you plan to do some traveling after school is out and before you leave Georgia, ask your host to help suggest points of interest that you would enjoy.

-Your host family is a good source of information and they will have some helpful hints to make your travels successful.

After being in Georgia for almost a year, you will accumulate many personal items beyond the capacity of the two suitcases you brought.

- During your last month in the college dorm, GRSP suggests that you box those items and ship them home.

**IMPORTANT: Plan to spend the last several days before you depart with your host family. You and your Georgia family will need time for the closure of your year together.**

- Plan to attend one final meeting of your host Club to say "goodbye" even if you made your farewell address a few weeks earlier. Your "Rotary family" will appreciate the thoughtfulness.

Just as when you arrived, your host family will take you to the airport to say, "Goodbye".

In departing, you will experience some sadness in leaving good friends at college, GRSP students and your Rotary family. This will be offset by the excitement of returning home to family and friends.

- Once home for a few weeks, you may undergo a period of depression. Reports from past GRSP students indicate such depression is normal.

-The duration varies with each student -- a few weeks to almost a year.

- If you experience this phenomenon, please keep in touch with your host family by letter or phone. They will want to help you during this adjustment phase.

-Please don't avoid communication with your host in an effort to reacclimate by yourself. Just the reverse is true -- continued communication reduces the adjustment period.

Periodically correspond with your host family and the friends you made during your GRSP year. The GRSP spirit lives on through letters.

**Through the years, please keep the GRSP office in Savannah informed of your address changes. Please do so by letter or if you have access to E-mail, then address it to: [grsp@grsp.org](mailto:grsp@grsp.org) !**

## **GEORGIA FACTS**

**Size: 58,876 sq. miles (152,488 sq. km.)**

• Slightly larger than England and Wales combined 58,382 sq. miles (151,207 sq. km.) • Largest state east of the Mississippi River • Twenty-first largest state in the U.S. • North to South - 318 miles (512 km.) • East to West - 278 miles (447 km.)

**Statehood: 1788. Fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.**

**Namesake: King George II of England**

**Capital: Atlanta**

**Counties: 159 independent governing "regions"**

**Nickname: The Peach State**

**Georgia "P's": Peanuts - Peaches - Pecans – Pine - Poultry**

**Population: 9.9 million people (2012)**

• 40% of population lives in the metropolitan Atlanta area.

**Elevation:**

• Lowest - Sea level - Atlantic Ocean coast • Highest - Brasstown Bald - 4784 feet (1458 meters)

**Annual Rainfall: 44 to 50 inches (112 to 127 centimeters)**

**Largest Cities: Atlanta, Columbus, Savannah, Macon, Albany, Augusta**

**Airports: 150 state-wide. Atlanta's Hartsfield International is the second busiest in the world.**

**Forest: 70% of entire state**

**Leading Producer:**

Poultry "Capital of the World" • Carpet "Capital of the World" • Third in the world in bauxite production • Tenth largest world producer of wood pulp and paper • First in the U.S. in production of peanuts • Largest U.S. supplier of kaolin clay for paper production • Largest supplier of granite in the U.S • Second largest U.S. supplier of marble

**Revenue (State Gross Product):**

- Service Industries (71%)
- Manufacturing (21%)
  - Textiles, transportation equipment, food products, paper products, chemicals, electrical equipment, clothing.
- Agriculture (2%)
  - Poultry, peanuts, eggs, cattle, hogs, soybeans, corn, tobacco, hay, wheat, pecans.
- Mining (1%)
- All Others (6%)

## General Information:

- Atlantic Ocean Coastline -100 miles (161 km.)
- Coastal Marshlands - 475,000 acres (192,233 hectare)
- Rivers - 17
- Inland Waterways - 500 miles (805 km.)
- Man-made Reservoirs - 23
- Lakes & Ponds - 80,000
- Streams - 20,000 miles (32,180 km.)
- Interstate Highways - 1242 miles (1999 km.)
- Additional Highways - 105,000 miles (168,945 km.)
- Rail Line - 5500 miles ( 8850 km.)
- Colleges & Universities - 44
- State & Historic Parks - 56

## HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY

**1540** DeSoto explores region today called Georgia.

**1562** French explorer Jean Ribault explores the St. Mary River.

**1565** The Spanish King sends Pedro Menendez de Aviles to expel the French. But with the French and Indians against them, the Spanish soldiers are forced back to the islands along the coast.

**1679** Spanish friars, led by Father Juan Ocon, visit the Cherokee town of Coweta.

**1681** Franciscans pass through Coweta.

**1715** South Carolinian Thomas Nairne is the first to suggest England colonize the area which is now Georgia. The Indians, not liking his idea, burn him at the stake.

**1732** King George II of England grants a royal charter to establish Georgia.

The *Queen Anne* with 114 settlers on board, led by General James Oglethorpe, sails from England on November 17.

**1733** On February 12, the *Queen Anne* lands at the site of Savannah with the settlers who will establish Georgia.

**1734** By March, Oglethorpe's followers build 91 log houses facing the Savannah River.

**1736** Oglethorpe brings many more settlers to Georgia from England, among them John and Charles Wesley. John Wesley, founder of Methodism, comes to Georgia as a missionary for the Church of England. He begins the world's first Protestant Sunday School.

Fort Frederica is built on St. Simon Island.

First golf course in Georgia (and possibly the U.S.) is built at the present site of Darien.

**1737** John Wesley is so disliked that he is forced to return to England and is replaced by George Whitefield, who establishes Bethesda Orphanage. He also establishes the first English-speaking school in the state.

**1739** Tomochichi, the Indian leader who helped get the Georgia colony on its feet, dies at age 97.

**1742** The British defeat the Spanish in the Battle of Bloody Marsh. Spanish influence wanes.

**1751** Henry Parker organizes Georgia's first militia.

**1752** Forty-three Puritan families and their 536 slaves arrive in Georgia.

**1754** The first of three royal governors from England arrives in Georgia after the colony's original trustees relinquish their charter.

**1773** Slave population swells to over 15,000.

**1774** The First Continental Congress meets in Philadelphia without representation from Georgia.

**1775** Georgia holds its first Provincial Congress.

**1776** British warships arrive in Savannah Harbor.

Button Gwinnett, George Walton, and Lyman Hall sign the Declaration of Independence at Philadelphia.

**1777** The Georgia Legislature adopts the state's first constitution.

**1778** Savannah falls to British forces.

**1779** Americans defeat the British at Kettle Creek near Washington, Ga. British defeat Americans at Brier Creek.

**1781** Americans under the command of General "Light Horse Harry" Lee recapture Augusta which has been occupied by the British since 1779.

**1782** British forces surrender at Savannah.

**1785** The University of Georgia is chartered.

**1788** Georgia becomes the fourth state of the new United States of America by unanimously ratifying the Federal Constitution.

**1790** Georgia's population is 82,548.  
The first Georgia game law is passed by the State Assembly to conserve wildlife.

**1793** Eli Whitney invents the cotton gin near Savannah.

**1799** The Great Seal is authorized by the Legislature.

**1801** Georgia's first divorce is granted. The State Constitution requires the Superior Court to authorize and both Houses of Legislature to agree by a two-thirds majority.

**1802** Jekyll Island is purchased by Poulain DuBignon and becomes a haven for French Royalists who are fleeing the Revolution in their homeland.

**1819** The steamship *Savannah* becomes the first such ship to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

**1820** Population of the state is 340,985.

**1821** Creek Indians relinquish to Georgia the land between the Flint and the Ocmulgee Rivers.

**1825** Creek Chief William McIntosh is murdered.  
General LaFayette visits Georgia.

**1828** The nation's first gold rush takes place at Dahlonega in north Georgia.

**1829** Gold is discovered at Duke's Creek in today's White County.  
Augustine S. Clayton sets up the first cotton mill near Athens and it operates with waterpower from the Oconee River.

**1830** State's population is 516,823.

**1831** United States Supreme Court rejects Cherokee plea against federal removal law.

**1832** Georgia charters its first railroad.

**1834** Georgian Mirabeau Lamar migrates to Texas; he will become Texas's second president.

**1835** Oglethorpe University is founded in Atlanta.

**1836** Emory University is founded in Atlanta. Wesleyan College (first woman's college with authority to confer degrees) is founded in Macon.

**1838** Cherokee Indian's "Trail of Tears" begins.

**1839** The lot for the first residence in Atlanta is purchased.

**1840** Georgia's population climbs to 691,392.

**1842** Dr. Crawford Long, a Jefferson physician, becomes the first doctor to administer ether to kill pain during surgery.

**1842** Author and poet Sidney Lanier is born in Macon.

**1846** Georgia Supreme Court meets for the first time.

**1851** The Georgia Military Institute is founded at Marietta.

**1860** Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, is born in Savannah.

**1861** Georgia secedes from the Union on January 19.  
Governor Joseph Brown orders the State Militia to occupy Fort Pulaski.

**1863** Nathan Bedford Forrest captures 1,500 Union soldiers near Rome.  
Battle of Chickamauga is fought.

**1864** The Battle of Atlanta begins. In November, Union General Sherman and his troops set fire to Atlanta.

**1865** Georgia outlaws slavery when it adopts the 13th Amendment.

**1867** The first Rich's Department Store opens in Atlanta.

**1868** Georgia is readmitted to the Union.

**1874** Georgia becomes the first state in the Union to establish a Department of Agriculture.

**1875** Postwar population of Georgia is 1,184,068.

**1877** Atlanta becomes the permanent capital.

**1878** Senator/ambassador Walter George is born near Preston.

**1886** Baseball's legendary Ty Cobb is born in Banks County.

**1888** The Atlanta Bar Association is organized.

**1888** Georgia Tech begins classes.  
**1889** State Capitol building is completed.  
**1892** The Coca-Cola Company is granted its first charter by the Fulton Superior Court.  
**1895** A "moving picture show" at the Cotton States Exposition in Atlanta is believed to be the first before a paid audience.  
**1897** Political leader Richard Russell is born in Winder.  
 The National Congress of Mothers, an idea conceived by teacher Mrs. Theodore Birney, is organized in Washington, D.C. Later, the name will be changed to National Parent-Teacher Association.  
**1900** Margaret Mitchell, author of *Gone With the Wind*, is born in Atlanta.  
**1902** Golfer Bobby Jones is born in Atlanta.  
**1909** Political leader Dean Rusk is born in Cherokee County.  
**1912** In Savannah, Juliette Gordon Low organizes the first Girl Scout Troop in the United States.  
**1915** "Nat" Harris becomes Georgia's last "Confederate Veteran" governor.  
**1922** Rebecca Felton becomes the nation's first female United States Senator.  
**1924** Jimmy Carter is born in Plains.  
**1925** The holly bush is developed by Atlanta botanist Thomas W. Burford.  
**1929** Martin Luther King, Jr. is born in Atlanta.  
**1930** Population climbs to 2,908,521.  
**1935** The Brown Thrasher becomes Georgia's state bird.  
**1936** *Gone With the Wind* is published.  
**1937** Okefenokee Swamp becomes a National Wildlife Refuge.  
**1939** The movie, *Gone With the Wind*, premieres in Atlanta.  
**1943** Georgia becomes the first state to allow 18-year-olds to vote.  
**1945** President Franklin Roosevelt dies at Warm Springs.  
**1946** Will Watt establishes the Georgia Rotary Student Program  
**1947** The state purchases Jekyll Island for \$650,000.  
**1961** Baseball great Ty Cobb dies.  
**1962** Members of the Atlanta Symphony are killed in a Paris plane crash.  
**1964** Georgia voters go Republican in the presidential election.  
**1973** Maynard Jackson, Jr. becomes Atlanta's first black mayor.  
**1974** Hank Aaron hits his 715th home run in Atlanta.  
**1976** James (Jimmy) Earl Carter is elected 39th President of the United States.  
**1977** Toccoa Dam bursts, causing much property damage.  
**1979** "Georgia on My Mind" is adopted as the state song.  
**1980** Population of the state is 5,463,105.  
**1981** University of Georgia wins the national football championship.  
**1984** Georgia gives Ronald Reagan 60.1 percent of the vote in the presidential election.  
**1985** Robert Woodruff, empire-building president of Coca-Cola Company, dies at age 95.  
**1987** Football coach Pat Dye is inducted into the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.  
**1990** Atlanta is selected to host the 1996 Summer Olympics.  
 Georgia Tech wins the National College Football Championship.  
**1991** Atlanta Braves win the National League's Baseball Championship. But loose the World Series.  
**1992** Atlanta Braves win the National League's Baseball Championship. But, again loose the World Series.  
**1993** Hue Thomas, Chairman Emeritus of the Georgia Rotary Student Program, who served as Chairman for 35 years, dies at age 86.  
**1995** Atlanta Braves win the National League's Baseball Championship as well as the World Series. Finally... Yeah!!!  
**1996** Atlanta hosts the World for the 1996 Centennial Summer Olympiad.  
**The Georgia Rotary Student Program celebrates it's 50th Anniversary.**  
 Note: Excerpts from James A. Crutchfield's "Chronology", The Georgia Almanac and Book of Facts 1989-1990, Rutledge Hill Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1988, Pages 242-247.

## FAMOUS GEORGIANS

The following abbreviated list is merely representative of the many hundreds of Georgians -- native-born or "transplanted" -- who have made their mark on the development of Georgia, the United States, and the World.

**Aaron, Henry Louis "Hank"** (1934- ). Born in Mobile, Alabama. Baseball player, holder of 21 Major League records, including Most Home Runs. Member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Aiken, Conrad Potter** (1889-1973). Born in Savannah. Poet, novelist, short story writer, and critic. Educated at Harvard University. Works include *Selected Poems* (for which he won the Pulitzer Prize in 1930), *Blue Voyage*, *The Short Stories of Conrad Aiken*, and his autobiography, *U shant*.

**Alexander, Edward P.** (1835-1910). Born in Washington, Ga; died in Savannah. Before the War Between the States, this future Confederate general, while in the U.S. Army, co-developed the semaphore communications system.

**Allman, Gregg** (1947- ) Rock 'n Roll Hall of Famer Gregg Allman is both a founding member of one of the biggest and most important American bands of all time, the still-active and thriving Allman Brothers Band. Gregg Allman is a survivor, having weathered many tragedies in life-- as well as the occasional pitfalls and detours of a full-tilt rock 'n roll lifestyle-- and continued on to grow both personally and musically. Having searched for blissful simplicity in life as in art, Gregg Allman now lives peacefully in Richmond Hill, Georgia with his wife, his dogs and several "cherry" Harley Davidson motorcycles.

**Anderson, James William "Bill"** (1937- ). Born in Columbia, S. C., grew up in Griffin and Decatur. Country music performer, songwriter, restaurant and music publishing entrepreneur. He holds numerous awards and was elected to the Country Music Songwriter's Hall of Fame before the age of forty.

**Arp, Bill** pseudonym for **Charles Henry Smith**, (1826-1903). Born in Lawrenceville. Attorney and humorist. Author of several books including *Bill Arp's Peace Papers*.

**B52's** Rock band formed in Athens, Ga.

**Basinger, Kim** (1953- ) Athens, Ga. Oscar winning blonde star of L.A. Confidential. Also starred in *Never Say Never Again*, *The Natural*, *9 1/2 Weeks*, *8 Mile* and *Cellular*.

**Baldwin, Abraham** (1754-1807). Born in North Guilford, Conn. One of Georgia's signers of the United States Constitution in 1787. Played a key role in the establishment of the University of Georgia. U.S. representative and senator. College named for him in Tifton, Ga.

**Bell, Griffin B.** (1918-2009). Americus. U.S. attorney general, cabinet member of President Jimmy Carter.

**Berrien, John McPherson** (1781-1856). Graduate of Princeton, four-time U.S. senator, attorney general in Andrew Jackson's cabinet.

**Berry, Martha** (1866-1942). Born near Rome, Ga.; died in Atlanta. Educator. Became Georgia's first female member of the Board of Regents. Founder of Berry College.

**Birney, Alice McClellan** (1858-1907). Born in Marietta. Founder of the National Congress of Mothers, which later became the National Parent-Teacher Association.

**Butler, Selena Sloan** (1872-1964). Born in Thomasville; died in Los Angeles, Ca. Educator. Founder of the Georgia Colored Parent-Teachers Association and the National Congress of Colored Parents. She fought against racial discrimination.

**Caldwell, Erskine Preston** (1903-1987). Born in White Oak. Noted novelist. Best known for his stories about hard times in the American South. Author of *Tobacco Road* and *God's Little Acre*.

**Carter, James Earl, Jr. "Jimmy"** (1924- ). Born in Plains. Nuclear physicist, naval officer, peanut farmer, state senator, governor, 39th President of the United States.

**Charles, Ray** (1932-2004). Born in Albany. Blind pianist and singer. His recordings have been on the charts in country, rhythm and blues, and popular categories. Noted for his recording of "Georgia On My Mind".

**Clay, Lucius DuBignon** (1879-1978). Born in Marietta. U.S. Army general, author of *Decision in Germany* (1950). Retired in 1949, then served as ambassador in West Berlin during President Kennedy's administration.

**Cobb, Thomas Reade Rootes** (1823-1862). Born in Jefferson County; died in Virginia. Graduate of University of Georgia, author of the Confederate State Constitution, and co-founder of the first law school in Georgia.

**Cobb, Tyrus Raymond "Ty"** (1886-1961). Born in Banks County. Baseball player from 1905 to 1928. Until Pete Rose broke his record, Cobb had more hits (4,191) than any other player in history. Member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Coburn, Charles** (1877-1961). Born in Macon. Popular character in movies of the 1930's and 1940's.

**Coulter, Ellis Merton** (1890-1981). Born in Hickory, N.C.; died in Atlanta. Educator and author. Taught history at the University of Georgia. His works include *The Civil War and Readjustment in Kentucky* (1926), *Georgia -- A Short History* (1933), and the series *The History of the South*.

**Crawford, William Harris** (1772-1834). Born in Amherst County, Va.; died in Georgia. One of Georgia's most successful national politicians. U.S. senator, president pro tempore of the Senate, U.S. minister to France, secretary of War, secretary of the Treasury, and presidential hopeful.

**Dodd, Lamar** (1909-1996). Born in Fairburn. Artist and art educator, lecturer, official artist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

**Dodd, Robert Lee "Bobby"** (1908-1988). Born in Galax, Va.; died in Atlanta. All-American quarterback for University of Tennessee, 1930. Head coach of Georgia Tech for 22 seasons.

**Douglas, Melvyn** (1901-1981). Born in Macon; died in New York City. Noted movie actor. Won two Academy Awards for his performances in "Hud" in 1963 and "Being There" in 1979.

**Felton, Rebecca Latimer** (1835-1930). Born near Decatur; died in Atlanta. Was a writer and leader for political and social reform. At the age of 87, she became the nation's first female senator.

**Few, William** (1748-1828). Born in Maryland; died in New York. One of Georgia's two signers of the U.S. Constitution. U.S. senator and judge.

**Fishburn, Laurence** (1961- ) Lawrenceville. Played the tough, mysterious, leather-clad Morpheus in the box office hit *The Matrix*.

**Foxworthy, Jeff** (1958- ) Born and resides in Atlanta. "Redneck" blue collar comedian. Television and movies.

**Freemont, John C.** (1813-1890) Savannah. Explorer, Surveyor, Military Man and Politician.

**George, Walter Franklin** (1878-1957). Born in Webster County. Served in the U.S. Senate for 34 years. Ambassador to NATO and special advisor to President Eisenhower. Law school at Mercer University named in his honor.

**Goulding, Dr. Frances Robert** (1810-1881). Inventor of the sewing machine, wrote juvenile books *Young Marooners*, 1852, and *Marooner's Island*, 1862.

**Grady, Henry Woodfin** (1850-1889). Born in Athens; died in Boston, Ma. Newspaperman, editor, and part-owner of the *Atlanta Constitution* in the 1880's.

**Grizzard, Lewis** (1946-1994) Fort Benning. Writer and comedian. Also achieved national fame as a best-selling author and syndicated columnists.

**Gwinnett, Button** (1732-1777). Born in England; died in Georgia. He was a merchant and settled in Savannah. Was a delegate to the Second Continental Congress and was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

**Habersham, James** (1713-1775). Born in England; died in Brunswick. Secretary and acting governor of the colony of Georgia. Raised and shipped the first cotton ever shipped from America.

**Habersham, Joseph** (1751-1815). Died in Savannah. Leader of the Liberty Boys, colonel in the Continental Army. Served in the Continental Congress, speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, mayor of Savannah, first postmaster general of the United States.

**Hadas, Moses** (1900-1966). Born in Atlanta; died in Aspen, Co. Classical scholar, educated at Emory University. Edited and translated many Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and German works into English. His works include *A History of Greek Literature* (1950) and *Humanism: The Greek Ideal and Its Survival* (1960).

**Hardy, Oliver Norvell** (1892-1957). Born in Harlem. Great comedian of Laurel and Hardy fame.

**Harris, Joel Chandler** (1848-1908). Born in Eatonton. Assisted Henry Grady in running the Atlanta Constitution. Creator and author of the famous *Uncle Remus* stories.

**Hayes, Roland** (1887-1976). Born in Curyville; died in Boston. International tenor. Son of a former slave, Hayes was the first black singer to get worldwide recognition in classical music.

**Herty, Charles** (1867-1938). Born in Milledgeville. Taught chemistry at the University of Georgia and the University of North Carolina. Developed process for using pine in making wood pulp for the paper industry.

**Hill, Walter Barnard** (1851-1905). Born in Talbot County. Lawyer and educator. Founded Georgia Bar Association.

**Holliday, John Henry "Doc"** (1852-1887). Born in Griffin, Georgia; died in Colorado. Trained as a dentist, Holliday migrated to Texas as a young man for health reasons. Was a friend of lawman Wyatt Earp. Participated in the gunfight at the O.K. Corral.

**Holloway, Sterling** (1905-1992). Born in Cedartown. Actor, comedian, and recording artist, appeared in numerous commercials and is best known for being the voice of Walt Disney's "Winnie the Pooh" and the narrator of "Jungle Book".

**Holyfield, Evander** (1962- ) Resides in Atlanta. World heavyweight boxing champion.

**Holmes, Larry** (1949- ) Cuthbert, Heavyweight boxing champion.

**Hope, John** (1868-1936). Born in Augusta; died in Atlanta. Educator and black leader. Educated at Brown University. Became the first black president of Morehouse College. Helped found and presided over Atlanta University. Helped organize the Commission of Interracial Cooperation.

**Hulk Hogan** (1953- ) Augusta. Professional wrestler, movie star and entertainer.

**Hunter, Holly** (1958- ) Conyers. Oscar winning actress- The Piano.

**Jackson, Alan** (1958- ) Newnan. Widely popular Country music singer and entertainer.

**James, Harry** (1916-1983). Born in Albany; died in Las Vegas, Nevada. Famed band leader of the 1940's.

**John, Elton** (1947- ) Resides in Atlanta. Renowned singer, musician, song writer and entertainer.

**Johnson, Nunnally** (1897-1977). Born in Georgia; died in Los Angeles, Ca. Was a noted screenwriter, director, and producer. Was responsible for such films as "The Grapes of Wrath", "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit", and "The Three Faces of Eve".

**Jones, Robert Tyre, Jr. "Bobby"** (1902-1971). Born in Atlanta. Noted golfer. Won five U.S. Amateur championships and three U.S. Open championships.

**Keach, Stacy** (1941- ). Born in Savannah. Movie actor, enjoyed great success in the television series "Mike Hammer".

**King, Martin Luther, Jr.** (1929-1968). Born in Atlanta; died in Memphis, Tn. Civil rights leader and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Knight, Gladys** (1944- ). Born in Atlanta. Popular singer and recording artist. Her group is known as "Gladys Knight and the Pips".

**Lamar, Lucius Q. C.** (1825-1893). Born in Putnam County; died in Washington, D.C. U.S. congressman, Confederate envoy to Russia, U.S. senator, U.S. secretary of the Interior, and associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Lanier, Sidney** (1842-1881). Born in Macon; died in North Carolina. One of America's outstanding 19th century poets. Was also a novelist, musician, lawyer, and university professor. Author of *The Marshes of Glynn*.

**Lee, Spike** (1957- ) Atlanta. Director, Producer and Filmmaker.

**Lewis, John** (1940- ) US Representative 1986, 5<sup>th</sup> District- Atlanta. Called "one of the most courageous persons in civil rights movements". One of the big six leaders with MLK of Civil Rights Movement.

**Little Richard** (1932- ) Macon. R & B singer and musician.

**Long, Crawford Williamson** (1815-1878). Born in Danielsville; died in Athens. Introduced the use of ether as a surgical anesthetic, an event that has been described as one of the "greatest events in the history of medicine".

**Low, Juliette Gordon** (1860-1927). Born in Savannah. Organized the first group of Girl Guides, later the Girl Scouts of America.

**Ludacris** (1977- ) Ludacris is the stage name of Chris Bridges, a rapper from Atlanta, Ga. Who became a video and radio star after the success of his 2000 album Back for the First Time. He began his career as a radio DJ in Atlanta, where he was known on the air as Chris Lova Lova.

**McCullers, Carson** (1917-1967) Columbus. Author of *The Member of the Wedding*.

**Melton, James** (1904-1961). Born in Moultrie. Was a lead tenor for the Metropolitan Opera Company. Starred on radio's "Texaco Star Theater" and the "Telephone Hour".

**Mercer, Johnny** (1909-1976). Born in Savannah. Popular music composer. Best known for such tunes as "Jeepers Creepers", "Old Black Magic", and "Moon River".

**Miller, Caroline** (1903- 1992). Noted writer. Won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1934 for *Lamb in His Bosom*.

**Miller, Zell** (1932- ). Educator, author, lieutenant governor, and governor of Georgia. He has been in office longer than any other person in the state's history. Author of *Great Georgians* and *They Heard Georgia Singing*.

**Mitchell, Margaret** (1900-1949). Born in Atlanta; died in Atlanta. Author of *Gone With the Wind* in 1936. Over one million copies were sold within the first six months of publication. Named Georgia's "most famous person" by legislative action in 1985.

**Nunn, Sam** (1938- ) Perry. Georgia Senator and lawyer.

**O'Conner, Mary Flannery** (1925-1964). Born in Savannah. Noted novelist and short story writer. Wrote *Wise Blood* (1952), *A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Short Stories* (1955), and the acclaimed *The Violent Bear It Away* (1959).

**Oglethorpe, James** (1696-1785). Born in England. Led an expedition, which arrived in Savannah in 1733.

**Parks, Bert** (1914-1992). Born in Atlanta. Entertainer, master of ceremonies for the Miss America Pageant from 1956 to 1979.

**Price, Eugenia** (1916- 1996). Internationally known author whose works include the St. Simon Trilogy: *Lighthouse, New Moon Rising, and Beloved Invader*, and such best-sellers as *Savannah* and *To See Your Face Again*.

**REM-** Rock band formed at the University of Georgia on January 1980.

**Redding, Otis** (1941-1967). Born in Dawson. Writer and singer of soul ballads including "Respect" and "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay".

**Reed Jerry** (1937-2008). Born in Atlanta. Country music singer and guitarist. Co-starred with Burt Reynolds in several movies.

**Reynolds, Burt** (1936- ). Born in Waycross. Popular movie actor, including "Smokey and the Bandit".

**Roberts, Julia** (1962- ) Born in Smyrna, Ga. Academy award winning actress. Starred in *Pretty Woman*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Notting Hill* and *Runaway Bride*.

**Robinson, Jackie** (1919-1972). Born in Cairo, Ga. First black to play major league baseball in the U.S. Most valuable player in the National League in 1949. Career spanned from 1947 to 1956. Member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

**Rusk, Dean** (1909-1994). Born in Canton. Former president of the Rockefeller Foundation. U.S. secretary of state in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations.

**Seacrest, Ryan** (1974- ) Host of TV's *American Idol: the Search for a Superstar*, the popular talent show that launched pop singers Kelly Clarkson, Clay Aiken, Ruben Studdard and Carrie Underwood.

**Smith, Lillian** (1897-1966). Born in Jasper, Florida; died in Atlanta. Author and civil rights activist. She co-founded *The North Georgia Review* in 1936. Novels include *Strange Fruit* (1944) and *Killers of the Dream* (1949). Friend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she was also on the board of Congress of Racial Equality.

**Spaulding, Thomas** (1774-1851). Planter and banker. State legislator and U.S. congressman. Helped develop production of Sea Island cotton and sugar along Georgia's coast.

**Stanton, Frank Lebby** (1857-1927). Journalist who wrote for the *Atlanta Constitution*. Most popular poet of the 1890's. Works include *Songs from Dixie Land* (1900), and a poem which was set to music, "Mighty Lak a Rose".

**Stevens, Ray** (1939- ). Born in Clarksdale. Popular country music recording star. His hit "The Streak" sold over 5 million copies.

**Tarkenton, Fran** (1940- ). Born in Richmond, Va. Moved to Athens in 1951. Was All-American quarterback at the University of Georgia. Played professional football for the Minnesota Vikings and the New York Giants.

**Thomas, Clarence** (1948- ) Pin Point (Savannah). Supreme Court Justice.

**Toombs, Robert Augustus** (1810-1885). Born in Wilkes County; died in Washington, Ga. U.S. congressman, U.S. senator. Secretary of state in the Confederacy.

**Tucker, Chris** (1979- ) Atlanta. Actor and Comedian.

**Turner, Ted** (1938- ) Atlanta Billionaire. Founder of CNN, TNT and TCM. Owner of Atlanta Hawks basketball and Atlanta Braves baseball.

**Walker, Herschel** (1962- ) Wrightsville. Attended UGA. Set an NCAA Freshman rushing record and helped Georgia win the NCAA College Football Title. Received All-American honors in three consecutive years, established 11 NCAA records, 16 Southeastern Conference records, 41 UGA all-time records and after that , topped off his college career by winning the Heisman Trophy in 1982, in his Junior year.

**Wayne, James Moore** (1790-1867). Born in Savannah. Graduate of Princeton. Was a U.S. congressman and associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

**White, Walter Francis** (1893-1955). Black leader and author. A leader of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

**Whitney, Eli** (1765-1825) Inventor of the cotton gin.

**Widespread Panic** Southern rock band from Atlanta.

**Wilson, Woodrow** (1856-1924). Born in Virginia; grew up in Georgia. Educator, scholar, writer, governor, and President. Passed several bills including the Child Labor Legislation and the Nineteenth Amendment which gave women the right to vote.

**Woodward, Joanne** (1930- ). Born in Thomasville. Noted film and television actress. Won the Academy Award in 1957 for her role in "Three Faces of Eve".

**Yearwood, Tricia** (1964- ) Monticello. Country Western Singer. Married to Garth Brooks.

**Young, Andrew Jackson, Jr.** (1932- ). U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, civil rights leader, and mayor of Atlanta. Cabinet member of President Jimmy Carter.

**Note:** Excerpted from James A. Crutchfield's, "Famous Georgians", The Georgia Almanac and Book of Facts 1989-1990, Rutledge Hill Press, Nashville, Tennessee, 1988, Pages 160-178

## ROTARY FACTS

**Founder:** Paul Harris - February 23, 1905 - Chicago, Illinois USA.

**Membership:** Nearly 1.2 million Rotarians, representing 190 countries and geographical regions

**Object:** The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, good will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

### The 4-Way Test:

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it Fair to all concerned?
- Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

### Mottoes:

- "Service Above Self"
- "He Profits Most Who Serves Best"

## **THE STAGES OF CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT**

### **The Honeymoon Stage**

Characterized by exhilaration, anticipation and excitement. The international student is fascinated with everything that is new. The students are embarking on their "dream come true" which is to study in the United States.

A student in this stage will demonstrate an eagerness to please you, a spirit of cooperation, and an active interest as you speak.

These students are delightful to work with and to work for... BUT in their enthusiasm to please you they frequently nod or smile to indicate understanding when in fact they have not understood.

When their misunderstandings mount up, they are likely to experience the second stage of cultural adjustment.

### **The Hostility Stage**

Characterized by frustration, anger, anxiety, and sometimes depression. Following the initial excitement is frustration with the college bureaucracy and the weariness of speaking and listening in English every day. Sleep patterns may be disrupted. The student may suffer from indigestion and be unable to eat. Students are upset because although they have studied English, they don't seem to understand anyone.

International students react to this frustration by rejecting the new environment in which they feel discomfort. The internal message might be, "If I feel bad it's because of them." The student blames the external environment for his/her bad feelings. At this point, students usually display hostility toward the new culture. Some of these hostilities are translated into fits of anger over minor frustrations, excessive fear and mistrust of Americans, frequent absenteeism, lack of interest, lack of motivation, and at worst, complete withdrawal. These students are in a difficult, painful stage. They can be difficult to work with and to work for. Students in this stage, in particular, need your tolerance (they'll test it), your patience (they'll try it), and your willingness to work with them so they can move on to the third stage.

### **The Humor Stage**

Follows when the new international student begins to relax in a new situation and begins to laugh at minor mistakes and misunderstandings which previously would have caused major headaches in the hostility stage. This more-relaxed stage of being is accomplished by making some friend's, being able to manage the size and complexity of the University, understanding one's studies and passing tests.

These students are generally easy to work with and for because they are relaxed, receptive, and understand your directions.

### **The Home Stage**

Occurs when the international student not only retains allegiance to his home culture, but also "feels at home" in his/her newly acquired one. The student has successfully adjusted to the norms and standards of the University, and should be commended for the ability to live successfully in two cultures.

**Note:** Article by Gregory Trifonovitch

## **GRITS**

For these past few months I've felt quite sick,  
I suspect that it has something to do with a GRIT.  
GRITS for meals nine through five,  
Sometimes I dream the GRITS come alive.  
They look and taste unappealing.  
Often I've seen them stuck to the ceiling.  
You see, the problem I have is this:  
Why do these GRITS even exist?  
They're tasteless, boring and really not great,  
And at mealtimes ruin the look of my plate.  
I've often seen people mix them with cheese,  
Could this be their awful taste to appease?  
I know I'm in Georgia and it's a Southern tradition,  
Eating these things is a mandatory condition.  
Not having digested these creations from birth,  
I fail to see their nutritional worth.  
Maybe one day my views will alter,  
And my hatred of GRITS will finally falter!

Gordon S. Anderson  
Billingham, ENGLAND  
Class of 1990-91

## HOST'S INITIAL LETTER: A Sample

The Knestrick's  
8243 CreekrIDGE Circle  
Riverdale, Georgia 30296  
U.S.A.

May 27, 2014

Dear Mitsuru:

**Congratulations** and **Welcome** to the Georgia Rotary Student Program. We are thrilled to know that you will be with us this coming academic year. There's a lot of information we want to share with you... so let's get started.

### THE KNESTRICK'S

Let me introduce you to our immediate family in reverse order:

CARUSO, age 19 months, is an orange tabby cat without any known ancestral heritage. In simple terms, he's just a plain old cat! At times he cries (sings) incessantly, for no apparent reason. He is a high tenor... for reasons not of his own choice... hence the name. You'll find him (it) to be an affectionate friend... on his terms, of course! SCHUBERT, age unknown, is a pure-bred Cocker Spaniel who felt he needed a more permanent home. So he adopted us a year ago this past January. He too is extremely affectionate and tends to be a bit regal. Not to be outdone by his very best buddy, Caruso, the dog insisted on a musical name, as well. Together, they are known as THE ZOO. You'll soon know why!

KAY, age 44, is a warm, friendly business woman who has owned and operated an art needlework store for ten years. During the last six years, she has developed an art gallery with custom framing. Her creative, artistic talents are reflected in her framing techniques that are quite popular. Kay is a graduate of the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati (Ohio) with a performance degree in clarinet as well as a music education degree. She taught music in the public and private schools before starting her business. Her hobbies include traveling, needlework, reading, television, the arts and GRSP.

MAYNARD, age 44, is the manager of corporate visual communications for a 40,000 employee corporation, Norfolk Southern Corp. Our principal business is rail and highway transportation. A vast part of my responsibilities include producing media programs on all aspects of the corporation, designing and supervising the installation of media facilities, and serving as a meetings facilitator. I also graduated from the University of Cincinnati; so now you know how we got together 20 years ago. My hobbies include GRSP & Rotary, traveling, music (jazz, classical, new age, rock), photography, and cooking/eating!

[**Note:** The Chairman shares this letter with you as an example of a personal "Welcome" that communicates important information to a new student. Please feel free to adapt it.]

The enclosed photo is a fairly recent image and does both of us justice.

I will tell you that Kay and I have had a longstanding interest in the Japanese and Chinese cultures. That's just one more reason why we are so anxious to have you as part of our family this year. Also, on the music scene, I have developed a keen interest in jazz over the last several years. Several Japanese artists have found their way into my ever-expanding CD collection: Masami Nakagawa, Masahiro Sayama, Makoto Ozone, and the Terry Herman Trio (Sakamoto, Yamaguchi, Suzuki).

### THE GRSP FAMILY

By choice, Kay and I decided not to have a family of our own. But more important is our GRSP students who are like brothers and sisters to us.

CANDIDA PROCTOR, came to us three years ago from Longniddry, Scotland which is very near Edinburgh. Her father is a certified public account and her mother, a homemaker. Candy also attended West Georgia College and is currently pursuing her fashion art and promotion career at St. Martin's School of Art & Design in London.

BARBARA STOK, from Groningen, The Netherlands, attended a small college near the middle of Georgia, called Gordon College. She is currently working and will be going back to college this Fall to major in psychology. Her father and mother own a metal fabricating company.

ELIAS NIELSEN, our current student, is from Nyborg, Denmark. Affectionately known as "The Great Dane", he also attends Gordon College. Like all GRSP students, Elias is very bright and plans to study philosophy at the University of Copenhagen this Fall. His father is president of a large meat company and his mother is a librarian/homemaker.

Frankly, I can write pages about each of our students but you'll soon hear enough about them. Of course, we've come to know many other GRSP students who have been friends of Candy, Barbara and Elias. Once YOU become part of GRSP, you'll always remain part of this unique international family.

#### UNIVERSITY of WEST GEORGIA

The University is, we think, an excellent choice for your GRSP year. It is large enough (11,000 students) to offer academic and social opportunities, yet small enough that you don't become a number. It is located in Carrollton which is about one hour west of Atlanta. It is approximately 90 minutes away from our home in Riverdale.

[Both are highlighted in yellow on the map. Leave this map at home with your father and mother so they can trace your activities throughout the year. We'll have another map here for you when you arrive.]

Carrollton is a small rural town. Actually, the town centers around the university and all of its activities. The campus is beautiful and we think you'll feel quite at home there.

The institution's academic standards are neither the easiest nor hardest of the colleges in Georgia. But it will offer you ample opportunity to study new subjects as well as continue your pursuit in physics. We think it is one of the finest schools for GRSP students.

In the next week or two, The link to the university course catalog is <http://www.westga.edu/undergrad/>. You need to be aware, as a GRSP student, you are free to select whatever courses interest you. You don't have to take a prescribed set of classes. You should check with your own college in Japan but frequently courses from here are not transferrable back to your college for academic credit toward graduation. We can discuss your coursework when you arrive. You will select your classes when you go to campus on August 12.

At West Georgia, you'll probably reside in Tyus Hall which is a highrise dorm. The dorm is co-ed (men & women); I expect your roommate will be another male, international student... maybe another GRSP student. Each year there are seven to ten GRSP students at West Georgia. You will meet many other international and American students and have a "super" year. You will eat all your meals in the cafeteria (canteen) which is very close to your dorm. It is much like any school cafeteria. Gourmet... it is not!

#### HOST ROTARY CLUB

Each of the 65 GRSP students has at least one host club and family. Depending on the financial arrangements, students like yourself have two or more host clubs. Your hosts are **Henry County & Peachtree City** clubs. Peachtree City is providing part of your funding but is hosting another student as well. Without making it sound more complicated than it really is, Henry County will be your principal club and the Knestrick's, your host family.

Our club meets every Monday at Noon in McDonough, Ga. McDonough is the county seat of Henry County. We are approximately 35 miles south of Atlanta. We are a small club of 32 members, who represent diverse professional interests. Here, in the U.S., we also have female members which might be a bit different from your father's club.

Each year we have a number of worthy projects that our members undertake: sleeping bags for the homeless in winter, "Special Olympics" for the handicapped, financial support of the Boy Scouts; school books for Liberia, Africa; and so on. But really our biggest, on-going project is our club's participation in GRSP.

You will be a part of our club and its activities throughout the year. In addition, you will have invitations from several of our Rotary families to visit them on weekends. These opportunities are an important aspect of your year with us. I think you'll find this is a great way to learn more about our country and its people. Likewise, it's the best way for our members to learn more about Japan.

Obviously, you can't bring everything you might need for a year of study. As host club, Henry County will provide certain items for you that you will use during your year and then return when you are finished. All other items you will need to bring, buy here, or if we have extra at our house, you're welcome to borrow... just for the asking!

**Oh yes... about the telephone! The club will work with you to acquire a cellphone but will ask that you handle the cost of the phone and all monthly charges.** This will make it convenient for your parents when they want to call you. Likewise, Kay and I will want to talk with you at least once a week just to know how you're doing. Now, in

case you bring any electrical items, such as a hairdryer, etc. you need to be aware that the U.S. is on a standard that is not the same as many other countries. Ours is 60 cycle - 110/120 volt. If Japan's standard is different, you will need to have a power adapter and plugs.

#### ROTARY CLUB PRESENTATIONS

It is tradition that each GRSP student speak to their sponsoring club. We find this is the quickest way for our members to get to know you. Now, don't be alarmed! Let me explain what to expect.

In September/October you will be the guest of our club and be asked to speak. The same will occur in April/May before you go home. And since you have two sponsoring clubs you'll have two opportunities to share information with each club. You should consider each presentation to be a formal presentation. Therefore, I encourage you to do some preparation. But believe me, these Rotary audiences are warm and friendly; they are eager to hear what you have to say. So, by all means... don't worry! Your presentation at the end will revolve around your experiences during your GRSP year and will include your perceptions about America and Americans. For your first presentation, let me list some key items we would like you to include:

##### Mitsuru Saito:

- Academic background and interests • Career objectives • Cultural interests
- Hobbies and sports interests • Travels you've experienced • Introduce your immediate family
- Expectations you have of your GRSP year • New experiences since arrival in August

##### Japan:

- Geographic perspective • Political and economic overview • Cultural and social insight

##### Kamakura-shi - Kanagawa-ken:

- Location • Population • Principle business • Historical importance • Cultural activities

##### Sponsoring Rotary Club in Japan:

- Number of members • Brief club history • Major club projects • Your family's Rotary involvement

Now... you are free to add anything else you would like; I just wanted to give you some general direction. You should plan to speak about 20 minutes and be prepared to answer questions. I strongly recommend that you bring color photos to support your presentation/Powerpoint. Our Rotarians really like to see the city where you live, pictures of your college, your home and family, and other images of Japan. Bring the slides "loose" and we will insert them into a slide tray for your presentation.

#### HOST FAMILY

Kay and I volunteer to be the host family each year because we enjoy GRSP students so much. As hosts, we get to help select our club's student, with approval of our president-elect. This year's new president will be John Ulmer who is extremely nice; you will really enjoy meeting him and getting to know John and his family. Anyway... we want you to know that you were our first choice and we're extremely delighted that you will be a part of our family this year... and the years to come. [As information... you are the only Japanese GRSP student this year.]

As sincerely as we can say it, "Our home is your home... not only this year but whenever you are in Georgia". There's a room upstairs with your name on it. We want you to come home whenever you can... weekends, holidays, etc. It is important that you understand that you are not a guest but rather a member of our family.

You will finish your first term at West Georgia the first week of December and not go back to school until the first week of January. We want you to plan to stay with us in December. Also, we would like for you to be "home" with us for Christmas. The days around Dec. 25 are exciting times as we prepare for the holiday. As part of the family, you will want to share/enjoy this special time at home. Besides...I could use your help putting up the Christmas tree... just kidding!

I will coordinate your activities with our Rotary Club, including visiting the club families.

There are several GRSP student sanctioned weekends during the year, throughout the State. We will either take you to those functions or make sure you have a way to get there. We will also come to pick you up at college so you can come home for weekends. I'll try to organize some trips around Georgia so you can see some of our local points of interest.

And while we're on that subject, please mark –August \_\_\_\_ on your calendar as the date for the first GRSP conclave (meeting). You will really enjoy this first get-together of all the GRSP students. You'll find it informative and exciting! It will be held in Columbus which is near the middle of the State on the western border. We will go

on Friday afternoon and come back Sunday afternoon. While there, you will stay with a Rotary family from that area.

Oh... I almost forgot. One of the great things that occurs at the conclave is a student talent show. Yes... I am serious! All the students get together, rehearse a little, and have a terrific time "showing their stuff". So... if you play an instrument, sing, act or whatever, you should bring what you'll need. But be sure that your presentation is less than five minutes in length.

The May 16 letter from GRSP headquarters indicated that you are to report to West Georgia in August. We would like for you to come earlier so that you can rest from a long plane trip as well as visit with some Rotarians and see some of Georgia and Atlanta before you go to school.

I suggest that you arrive around August 1. Base your arrival around the best ticket discount that you can get. If the price is better during the week, come before Sept. 1. You should fly to Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. Let us know the day and time of arrival so we can be there to meet you. We will take you home so you can have a very long sleep. You'll need it!

## CLIMATE

Georgia's climate is mild, with 65 degrees F (18 degrees C) being the average annual temperature. For the most part, the winters are mild and short (Dec. 15 - Feb. 15) and the summers, warm and humid.

Let me caution you. Please bring winter clothes such as a warm jacket and sweaters. Sometimes the temperature drops below 32 degrees F although it's unusual and lasts only for a short time. If you see snow, it will be rare. If it does, however, the entire area will shut down. More often, our severe weather is an ice storm.

Summer clothes are a must. When you arrive, the temperature will be in the 80's or 90's. Hopefully, you won't find our heat too unpleasant. If so, everything else about Georgia will make up for it. Candy and Elias found that it took a little time to get use to it.

By all means, bring a full array of clothes. I would recommend at least one dress suit for Rotary functions. Don't forget your swimming trunks; West Georgia has a great indoor pool and there's also a nice lake nearby.

## CREDIT CARDS

Personally, I recommend that you bring at least one credit card with you... either MasterCard or Visa. Obviously, it saves you carrying a lot of cash with you on a daily basis. But more importantly, it's frequently an excellent way to transfer funds from your bank account at home to your checking account at college.

Some students ask about bringing an American Express card. Although they are popular here, you will find most establishments that accept credit cards prefer MasterCard and/or Visa over American Express.

## TRANSPORTATION

As information, transportation here in the U.S. is unlike other parts of the world and I suspect in Japan, as well. Only very large cities like New York have extensive public transportation systems with trains, subways and buses. Atlanta has a system but for all practical purposes it will not benefit you.

Most GRSP students are shocked when they experience this lack of public transportation throughout all parts of this vast country. Since most Americans rely on the automobile for mobility, students soon find that they too want/need a car for periodic travel they had planned to do while in the U.S.

For activities on campus, you don't need a car. And for visits with the Knestricks I will come to get you. GRSP does not support the purchase of a vehicle while you are here as part of your scholarship.

## YOUR GRSP RESPONSIBILITY

Through the GRSP application process, YOU have undergone extensive review before qualifying for this outstanding program. You should be proud of your acceptance because you have really earned it.

Once you're here, meet the other GRSP students, meet Rotarians, and spend time here in Georgia, you will learn, even further, what an honor it is to be part of GRSP.

Once you're here, we'll talk more about what's expected of you and answer the questions you will certainly have. In the meantime, there are a few points I'd like to share with you.

You are an international guest of our Rotary Club. And as such, you are an ambassador for Japan. As Rotarians, we want to share our culture with you and ask that you share your culture with us. This is an important part of GRSP. All this means INVOLVEMENT between our club members and you. This might be for dinner or even a weekend at their home. This will not only be interesting... it will be fun. And I will mention that **scheduled Rotary activities will take precedence over other campus or social activities;** we will work together to avoid scheduling conflicts whenever possible.

Essentially, your scholarship encompasses both academic study and cultural involvement. Although academic achievement is very important, I truly believe that the cultural involvement and understanding derived from it will

be the GIFT you (and we) will most cherish when you return home next summer. You will find the year to be a series of sharing experiences... a sharing of beliefs, attitudes, customs as well as social, political and religious thought.

Without sounding professorial, I believe it important that we explore and compare the similarities and differences between cultures to develop understanding rather than to judge what's right and wrong. After all, understanding is the foundation of world peace.

#### TIME TO SAY "GOODBYE"

We are certain you will enjoy your stay here in Georgia. There's much we want to tell you about our great State but we'll hold off until you get arrive.

In the meantime, I'm sure you will have many questions about your upcoming year. I would like you to list the questions you and your parents have so we can answer them. In fact, I would like to do that very soon. If it's alright with you, we would like to telephone/Skype with you on Sunday evening, June 10 at 7:00 PM, your time. In addition to meeting you, we can answer whatever questions you have. We also would like to say "Hello" to your father and mother at that time. Now... if your family has plans for that evening, we'll return the call at the same time on Sunday, June 17.

Well, Mitsuru... it seems as if it's time to close so this letter can be mailed. We are looking forward to talking with you and even more anxious for September to arrive so we can meet you in person. In the meantime, start getting plenty of extra rest... 'cause you'll need it to make it through your GRSP year. And don't forget to start practicing that great Ray Charles song... "GEORGIA ON MY MIND"!

With warmest regards,  
The Knestrick's

## Religious and Philosophical Food Choices

Extracted from Food Technology October 1992

One of the most important aspects of being a good host is to recognize the customs and habits of the guest. The aim of this article is to assist you in understanding why our international students react as they do when presented with food choices with which they are not accustomed. Some time ago a club was hosting a group of international students and decided to have an old fashion southern pork barbecue. Many students only ate the slaw and chips either because they were vegetarians or their religious upbringing forbade the eating of pork.

**Islam** is a comprehensive religion guiding the lives of its followers through sets of rules governing the personal, social, and public aspects. Since food is an important part of the daily life, food laws carry a special significance. Whenever any permissible action of the believer is accompanied with good intention, this action then is an act of worship. It is also considered an act of piety to avoid doubtful actions.

Accordingly, all foods pure and clean are permitted by **Muslims except** the following:

Swine, including by-products

Animals slaughtered without the name of Allah on them

Intoxicants including alcohol and drugs

Animals with fangs (dogs, lions, etc.)

Birds with sharp claws (birds of prey- they eat carrion)

Land animals without ears (snakes, frogs, etc.)

**Hinduism** is a synthesis of diverse and competing faiths including monistic, monotheistic, polytheistic, animalistic, agnostic, and even atheistic beliefs. Therefore, it is a tolerant and hard to define religion. Food and drink serve as the glue that brings cohesiveness to this group. A pervasive dogma in every religion is the idea of pollution or defiling that can occur through many mechanisms, food being one such mechanism. Vegetarianism is firmly rooted in the Indian culture and the term nonvegetarian is used to describe one who eats meats, eggs, fish and some cheeses. Most milk products including yogurts and cheeses are acceptable. Barley and rice are the main cereals. Fruits and vegetables are the main variety in foods of the Hindu. Water is the beverage of choice both with meals and as a thirst quencher.

**Buddhists** are also predominantly vegetarians. Some meat is eaten, but it is considered by some that for every piece of flesh one eats he gives up a part of his own life. Stir-fry and steaming are the most common methods of food preparation.

Kosher is not limited to the Jewish community. Other consumers include Muslims, Seventh-Day Adventists, vegetarians, and the lactose intolerant. Many U.S. locations have passed regulations pertaining to kosher labeling. Sensitivity to separation of church and state requires that all such regulation be related to consumer protection.

There is available information in all locations on kosher and while you would not be expected to “keep Kosher”, be sure to avoid pork, shellfish, and the use of milk in meat preparation.

## Sample Questions for Hosts & Students At Initial Visit

In general, ask the questions that you feel are the most important the first night and then ask the other questions over the next few days. Remember, when in doubt ask, and always try to be open and honest with your host family and your Rotary counselor. Good communication is essential for a successful exchange.

1. What do I call you?
2. What am I expected to do daily other than make my bed, always keep my room tidy and clean the bathroom every time I use it?
3. What is the procedure for dirty clothes?
4. Where do I keep clothes until wash day?
5. Should I wash my own clothes and underclothes?
6. Should I iron my own clothes?
7. May I use the iron, washing machine, sewing machine at any time?
8. When is a convenient time for me to use the shower/bath (a.m. or p.m.)?
9. Where may I keep my toiletries?
10. May I use the family's bathroom toiletries (toothpaste, soap, etc.) or am I responsible for purchasing my own?
11. What time will meals be served?
12. What can I do to assist at mealtimes (help prepare meals, set the table, wash dishes, empty the garbage)?
13. May I help myself to food and drink any time or should I ask first?
14. What areas of the house are strictly private (parents' bedroom, study/office)?
15. May I put pictures or posters in my room?
16. May I rearrange my bedroom?
17. What are your rules for me with regard to alcohol and smoking?
18. Where can I store my suitcase?
19. What time must I get up (on weekdays, on weekends)?
20. What time must I go to bed (on school nights, on weekends)?
21. What are the rules for going out at night and at what time must I be home? Can exceptions be made if I ask in advance?
22. May I have friends spend the night or visit during the day?
23. What are the rules about me using the telephone? Must I ask first?
24. May my friends call me?
25. May I call my friends?
26. May I make long distance calls?
27. How do you want me to keep track of the costs of my telephone calls?
28. What is the procedure for mailing letters? What address do I use for my incoming mail?
29. Do you have any dislikes, such as chewing gum, wearing a hat or curlers at the table, loud rock music or smoking?
30. Do my host brothers or sisters have any dislikes?
31. What are the dates of your birthdays?
32. What are the transportation arrangements (car, bus, bike, walking, etc.)?
33. May I use the stereo, TV, computer, etc., at any time? Are there restrictions on computer and Internet use?
34. What are the rules about attending religious services?
35. Would you like me to phone home if I will be more than 30 minutes late?
36. When we go out as a family, should I pay for my own entrance fee, meals, etc.?
37. What arrangements should I make for school lunch?
38. Does the Rotary club pay my cost of travel to school?
39. Am I to attend Rotary club meetings? If yes, how will I get there?
40. What else can I do around the house (yard work, help clean, baby-sit)?

41. Please tell me how to interact with the house servants (where applicable).
42. Is there anything else you would like me to know?

## **Summary**

The foundation of a successful year is built upon three essential, fundamental functions:

- 1. Pre-arrival communications- including last minute communication**

Within 5 days of your notification of the student's acceptance, send a detailed letter to the student (and parents). DO NOT use colloquial terms or regional phrases. Copy all correspondence to the GRSP office ([grsp@grsp.org](mailto:grsp@grsp.org)) and GRSP Trustee.

Include a family picture.

Talk about your family.

Provide literature about your city and about Georgia and include a discussion of climate and general geography and history.

Describe your Rotary club including general information as to size and special projects of student interest.

Describe the items in the "Rotary Suitcase" that your club has for the student.

Discuss the requirements that the club has for the student such as a program about their country (request they bring slides, map or video and a native costume, if there is one. And will they need to bring an item for the silent auction at your District Conference)

Provide information about their college such as size, location, web site, etc. Send a college catalog if possible along with bookstore "goodies" like t-shirt, bumper sticker, banner, etc.

Invite the student to spend the holidays with you. This is a large part of the cultural experience and it shows the parents you are sincere in having the student is a part of the family. Ask the student to refrain from making plans for travel over the holidays.

Recommend also that the student bring several miniature club banners from their home club for exchange and several small gifts from their country to present their many hosts during their stay.

Request an itinerary for travel as soon as it is completed. Recommend arrival at least one week prior to school orientation.

Include home, work and cell phone numbers, fax, mailing addresses and e-mail.

Include a date and time shortly after the letter has had time to arrive that you will phone.

Make the call at that designated time to talk to the student and parents.

Answer questions, raise their comfort level and begin bonds of friendship.

Extend an open invitation for the parents and family to visit during the year.

2. Meeting the student at the airport, hosting prior to entering college and assisting setting up dormitory "home". Make a final call or e-mail immediately before the student leaves their country to insure that their plans have not changed at the last minute and that you will meet them at the airport. Arrange for place of meeting and inform the student how to find you. (clothing, flags, signs that you will have).

Have several members of your club and family present for the students' arrival, if possible.

Make the student feel welcome immediately.

Remember that there will be heavy luggage to carry.

Have a special club event soon after arrival for all members to meet the student.

Remember that the student has traveled many hours usually, so give them time to recover from travel before the barrage of things to see and do.

Let your GRSP Trustee know that the student has arrived and set up a meeting between them. The trustee has much information for the student, including a check for their books and meals in some instances.

Find the dates of college orientation and plan to have the student there in time to set up the dormitory room. Arrange help to carry luggage and the "Rotary Suitcase".

Plan to take the student on a shopping trip for any items that are needed for the room. ie. Paper products, school supplies, groceries, etc.

If not provided by the school, assist with opening bank accounts, telephone accounts, cable TV, etc.

Be sure that the student is knowledgeable of the laws of Georgia as to drugs and alcohol.

Give phone numbers and addresses where you can be reached; get phone numbers and addresses where the student can be reached; explain to the student how to dial local and long distance calls and especially 911 calls.

Explain solicitation by companies with phone cards, credit cards, magazine offers, etc.

Students from developing countries are unaware, and have in the past incurred large bills in past years.

Make the student aware of different animals: pests, such as gnats and fire ants; and snakes that are native to Georgia.

Make student aware of the costs of such things as food, movies, entertainment, etc. Some often have no idea until the bill at a nice restaurant arrives.

Make the student aware that attendance at the conclave in August and at the District Conference in April/May is mandatory. Do not make any plans that will conflict, and arrange tests in advance if necessary if they conflict.

Keep an appointment calendar for the student to manage school, Rotary and host family activity dates.

BE SURE THE STUDENT NOTIFIES YOU IF THEY LEAVE SCHOOL OVERNIGHT.  
ENCOURAGE THE STUDENT TO READ AND RESPOND PROMPTLY TO ALL MAIL.

3. Hosting during weekends and especially holidays and semester breaks when dorms are closed or campus is deserted.

Set up a program for the student to speak early in the Rotary year. They have made plans for this talk and want to speak to the club. Preview the talk and make suggestions for changes if necessary. Plan on a short program late in the year also for the student to have a chance to review the year.

Coordinate plans early in the year after finding dates that school breaks occur.

Let student know that you expect them to stay with you during holidays rather than traveling in the U.S. or back home. The holidays are an important part of the cultural exchange of the GRSP scholarship. There will be time for travel following the school year. Be sure the student understands this important part of the scholarship that is expected.

**Establish early that Rotary takes precedence over all other activities.**

Call the student weekly and set up times for visits. DO NOT wait for the student to call you.

Allow other club members to take part in events with the student. The more that are involved, the better the experience of GRSP will be for everyone.

Help with plans for departure. If you have done your job effectively as host family, this will be a very difficult time for you and for the student.

Stay in contact with the student and notify the GRSP office of address changes as they occur in the life of the student.

HOST CLUB PROVISIONS

The following item will be provided for you that you will use during your year and then return when you are finished. These items include:

- Two sets of bed linens
- Pillow & pillow case
- Bed spread & blanket(s)
- Two bath towel sets
- Sleeping bag -- for GRSP weekends & traveling
- Waste paper can
- Desk lamp
- Alarm clock
- Iron
- Electrical extension cords
- Laundry bag
- Clothes hangers
- Umbrella
- Basic set of eating utensils
- Telephone (for dorm room, if not provided by university)