

# Rotations

Rotary International President: William B. Boyd

Rotary International District 6910 Governor: James Vlass

April 2007

Issue 10



## Conversations with the Governor

Spring is here with warm sunny days and all of this wonderful weather reminds me that it is time for District Conference. This year we will be in Destin, Florida at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort. This is "a true vacation destination" from the powdery white sugar sandy beach to the three world class golf courses, to the marina where a most impressive display of boats and yachts can be obtained or just for viewing and then The Bay Town Village with 16 Shops and 12 restaurants/entertainment to enjoy throughout the Village. The main hotel with the attached conference center is The Grand Sandestin and with other apartments right in the center of it all. All of the accommodations are privately owned condos so the amenities are well appointed. There are walking, cycling, or just strolling leisurely along paths throughout the complex. The atmosphere is one of a true vacation resort.

District Conference is a time for all 530 Rotary Districts around the World to celebrate and discuss their accomplishments in doing Rotary's work that year. District 6910 has much to be proud of this year and we will pay tribute to those Clubs who have worked so hard to help those in need in our own communities and throughout the World. Our theme is *Leading the Way to Caribbean Friendships* because of all the friendships that have been developed with our neighbors in the Caribbean. The dress code is laid back from the usual, this year for all events is resort casual in honor of the Islands.

The friendships that are made and further developed "Our Family of Rotary" at District Conference are priceless. All that have attended District Conference in the past will agree the spirit of Rotary will be brought back to strengthen your Club to carry on through our next Rotary year. The more members that attend District Conference from your Club the more your Club will benefit.

Please join us May, 2-5 2007 at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, Destin Florida. There will be activities for the whole family so please bring them and share the experience of our Rotary year.

All of us together will **Lead the Way**,



## Rotarians of District 6910:

**Please join us for the best 6910 District Conference ever  
on May 2-5, 2007  
at the Sandestin Resort and The Willage of Baytowne Wharf.  
(register at [www.rotary6910.org](http://www.rotary6910.org) and check out the resort at [www.sandestin.com](http://www.sandestin.com))**

Resort/Caribbean casual attire is in for the entire conference.

Help us "*Lead the way to Caribbean Friendships.*"

In being "Fair to all Concerned", the 2007 District Conference Committee has decided to waive the registration late fee and the room rates will stay the same at the fantastic, first class Sandestin Resort (these low room rates were negotiated and contracted for in June, 2004). The Resort has also agreed to honor our special conference room rates for our District for the entire week – so bring your family and come early and stay late.

### **We have a great conference planned including:**

Welcome from the local Florida District by DG Gene Sheron, Destin, FL  
District 7030 Governor (Caribbean): DG Victor Pilgrim, Trinidad  
Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy: Shauna von Hanstein, Madison, GA  
RI Consultant and U.S. Presidential Advisor: Dr. Robert Payne, Washington, D.C.  
GSE Team: District 7020 (Caribbean), Jamaica & Cayman Islands  
GRSP Student Talent, from around the world  
Elgin Air Force Color Guard  
"Ivory and Steel" (Caribbean steel band music)  
"One Jamaica" (Reggae band)  
Piano music by Brent Cochran  
Caribbean Picnic, The Grand Sandestin Lawn  
The Foundation Luncheon

District 6910 Rotarians and Leaders presenting many exciting and successful local and international Rotary projects  
Hospitality Suites, House of Friendship, Children's Activities, Beach, Marina, Boat Rides, Shopping, Dining and Clubbing in The Village of Baytowne Wharf, Outlet malls, Golf and Tennis tournaments, Sailing Clinic, Bay Nature Cruise, Cajun Cooking Class, Wesley Mansion and Garden Tour.....

### **WIN**

Constellation Bracelets  
Dell Laptop Computer  
\$ 250 gas money  
door prizes.....

**Please join us at the 2007 District Conference – Sandestin**

**We need YOU to be able to "Build Goodwill and Better Friendships"**

**and to celebrate our District 6910 accomplishments for this rotary year..**

The "First Nail Ceremony" for the Habitat House that all seven Gwinnett Rotary clubs are co-sponsoring. **The Gwinnett County Rotary Clubs are Buford-North Gwinnett, Duluth, Gwinnett, Lawrenceville, Peachtree Corners, Snellville, and South Gwinnett**, The funds for this project came from the art auction that was jointly conducted by our clubs at the Environmental Heritage Center in Buford in Gwinnett County.



Scott LeCraw of South Gwinnett Rotary is in the center. Bill McCargo from Peachtree Corners Rotary who is also our Assistant Governor is on the right. The woman seated is the homeowner and she is holding her son. The other folks in the photo are from other sponsoring organizations and not identified.

- Bob Dickinson, President, Duluth Club
- Beatty McCaleb, President, Lawrenceville Club
- Curtis Lau, President, South Gwinnett Club
- Rick Baldwin, President, Buford-North Gwinnett Club
- Bill McCargo, Assistant Governor
- Rick Baldwin, President, Buford-North Gwinnett Club
- Mike Sweigart, Assistant Governor-Elect



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- Bill McCargo, Assistant Governor
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- Rick Baldwin, President, Buford-North Gwinnett Club
- Rick Baldwin, President, Buford-North Gwinnett Club
- Beatty McCaleb, President, Lawrenceville Club

## A Special Week for One GRSP Student By Mira Saariko

I am not really sure how I should start this article. I am very happy at the moment, my year in Georgia and Augusta has been really good. One of the best weeks I have had was last week, when my mother Liisa and her friend Seija visited me. I have been looking forward to showing my mother where I have spent a part of my life. They booked their tickets last June, even before I was here, and therefore we have all been anxiously waiting for this event. It was my mother's first visit to the United States, and they were here for 9 days. And what 9 days they were.

So many things were in our favor, not to mention the glorious weather we had all the time. Into those 9 days we managed to fit in Martinez-Evans Rotary Club's Spring Fling, a trip to Hilton Head, SC, and a trip to Charleston, SC. And, of course, time in Augusta, where I have lived since August last year. Our week started with the Spring Fling, a nice party in a beautiful location. We met so many people that I am sure by the end of it the spinning in their heads was caused by something else than just dancing.

Our trip to Hilton Head was mainly for shopping. I know you are supposed to go to museums and learn about the culture, and I can guarantee that we did that too, but what can you do when you have 3 women, very good foreign currency exchange rates, for us, and the cheap sales taxes? Of course you have to take advantage of that, and we sure did. I had advised them to come with empty luggage, because I was sure that we were going to fill them up in no time. And was I wrong? I do not think so.



Charleston was one of the most beautiful places I have ever been to. I am sure that my visitors would agree with me. We had another Finnish girl, Terhi, with us, and we had a very fun trip. We did lots of laughing and sighing. We visited Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. Even though all of the flowers were not blooming yet, it was truly breathtaking. And the 300 pictures we took speak for it. We walked for hours in downtown Charleston and admired all the buildings. It is such a great place to visit.

My mother and Seija enjoyed everything I had planned for them. I was a bit nervous about how things were going to go. It was the first time I was responsible for organizing activities for us. I was so pleased to get an email from Seija this morning, where she was thanking me and everybody else that contributed to her visit. She said that she had a very special trip and she would gladly come to see me again in a different country, which is good since I'm planning to move to Germany next.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to both of my host families, my trustee and a few other amazing Rotarians for what they did. With their help I was able to make my mother's trip one of the best that she has ever had. My mother and Seija were surprised at how friendly and hospitable people were. Everyone was genuinely looking forward to meeting them and helping to make the trip special. For that I am grateful. I am honored to know each and every single one of you. Thank you.

Mira



My name is **Luana Torres** and I'm a 21 year old Brazilian studying veterinary medicine. I have one more year before I graduate and I want to work with Small Animal Internal Medicine and Surgery. I love all kinds of animals as well as watching movies, listening to music, reading, dancing, acting, and sports. I also like craftwork, decoration, cooking and gardening. I enjoy the outdoors and playing with my dogs. I love to travel and to meet people from different parts of the world.

As a **Georgia Rotary Student Program scholar** I study at the University of Georgia and I feel very happy to be here. I know I'm lucky because this is one of the best universities in the Country. Just being here in the United States is a dream come true. I have always wanted to study abroad but never before had had the opportunity. I learned a lot this year and had many great experiences, not only in the classes I took but also while tutoring the athletes Portuguese and traveling to different places. I had many experiences with the Vet School: going to conferences and having extra-curricular activities like "Spay Day", equine reproduction trips and volunteering with the Humane Society. I always have a lot to do and hardly ever have any free time. I try to grab every opportunity that I have, to enjoy to the most every minute that I spend here because I know that this is a one in a lifetime opportunity and that I'm having the best time of my life. This is why I want to do so much, grab all the opportunities that I can, to learn, meet new people, have fun and still find time to volunteer.

I love hanging out with the other Rotary students and going to the conclaves. I think that the Rotary socials are super fun and that they are a wonderful time to get to know our class, meet great people and thank them for this great opportunity. I love meeting Rotarians and talking about my country. The Georgia Rotary students are the ambassadors of their countries and I love this job: I want people to learn about my country and my culture. I want them to come visit me, to come and see the beauties of my country, the nature, the people, and the happiness of life.

When I arrived in the US I found great people to welcome me and I discovered that the South is very similar to Brazil: people are very friendly; they talk to you even if they don't know you; food has the same homemade touch and the sun is always shining strong, even on a cold winter day. I made great friends, my English improved and I learned many new things that I wouldn't have access in my school. I traveled to wonderful places that I could only imagine seeing on the TV, like New York and Florida, and it was the first time I saw snow. Although cost of living in general is very high here I think that phone calls are very inexpensive as well as clothing and personal items, most of the time thanks to the wonderful world of Wal-Mart. Because of that I have a big luggage problem now to take home.

One of the main differences between the two countries is the type of food people eat. Food in the South is very greasy and most of it is fried. Food in the dinning halls has great and there is such a variety that it's hard to pick what to eat. But that's not such a good thing for the waist circumference, and I know that every international student who comes to this country suffers this problem, with all the large portions and the constant availability of fast foods restaurants with hamburgers, chicken wings, fried catfish, hush puppies, spicy southern barbeque and lots of sodas or very sweet tea. People in Georgia also love sports and it's always sport season, no matter what time of year. There is football in the fall or baseball and basketball in the spring. On the first week I was at UGA I learned how to call the Dawgs and then I became a true bulldog. I love going to the games and supporting my school. I feel happy here and I adapted fast to my new life. I'm going to miss the people here and I will always keep in my heart the memories from this great year.

I have to thank Rotary for this great experience; it is worth all the sacrifices! All the hard work paid off because I'm here and I love every single minute of this year. I hope to keep in touch with the friends I made, in Rotary and in Georgia. I hope I can come back one day and that many people come visit me; there are great beaches, forests and parties to be visited in Brazil, like the world famous Carnival and the Amazon. This study abroad opportunity made me a better person, and a better professional with an open mind and respect for different opinions and points of view. I grew as a human being, building new relationships with my friends from all over the world and as a professional, learning

new procedures and developing new skills for my future career. This Rotary Program is the best thing that has happened in my life and I'm going to make sure more people hear about it. GRSP rocks!!!



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