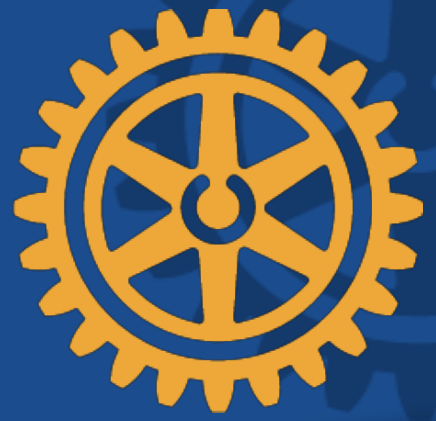


Rotary



GRSP

GEORGIA ROTARY
STUDENT PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER

Holiday edition

It's season for *thanksgiving*
and we have so much to be thankful for!

Dear Rotary,

Thank you for making this year possible.
Thank you for giving us this experience
that has led to our 41 different empty
chapters being filled with adventures,
laughs and memories. Thank you for
letting us explore your country and
culture. For giving us host families, homes
away from home and friendships that will
last a lifetime. Thank you for listening to
our stories, perspectives and needs,
comforting and helping us when we need
it. Thank you for making Georgia Rotary
Student Program possible. We will forever
be grateful for this year.

Thank you.

*Sincerely,
Caroline Grängsbo*

on behalf of the GRSP class of 2019/2020

Sponsored by Bremen, Carrollton, Carrollton
Dawnbreakers and Paulding County



LET'S HEAR FROM SOME OF OUR STUDENTS



Dear Rotary

My first semester is almost over, and with that the first half of this crazy adventure. These last couple of months I have lived a life I never thought I would live. If I were to go back and tell my younger self about all the people, places, and foods that she will come to experience, she wouldn't believe me.

I am eternally grateful for everyone I have in my life right now, for these are the people that make me. I find it beautiful that even though we will leave and go back home next year, a part of who I am, who we are, will forever be GRSP. I will carry that part around like a little treasure box, open it up sometimes just to look back and remember what my year contained. It is becoming clearer and clearer that just like I did, my children will, too, grow up listening to stories about The Georgia Rotary Student Program.

Sincerely Fanny Chef

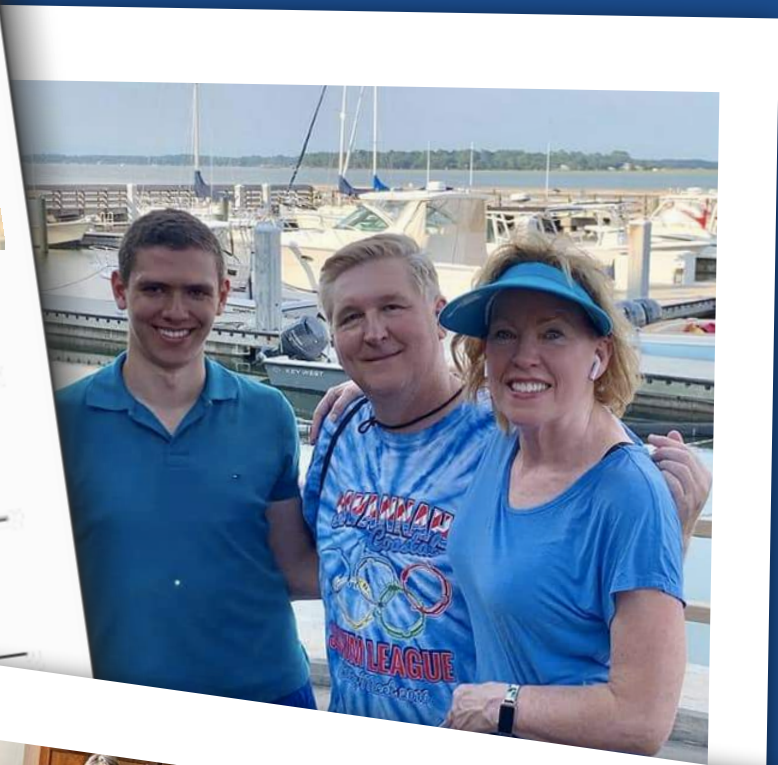
From Sweden
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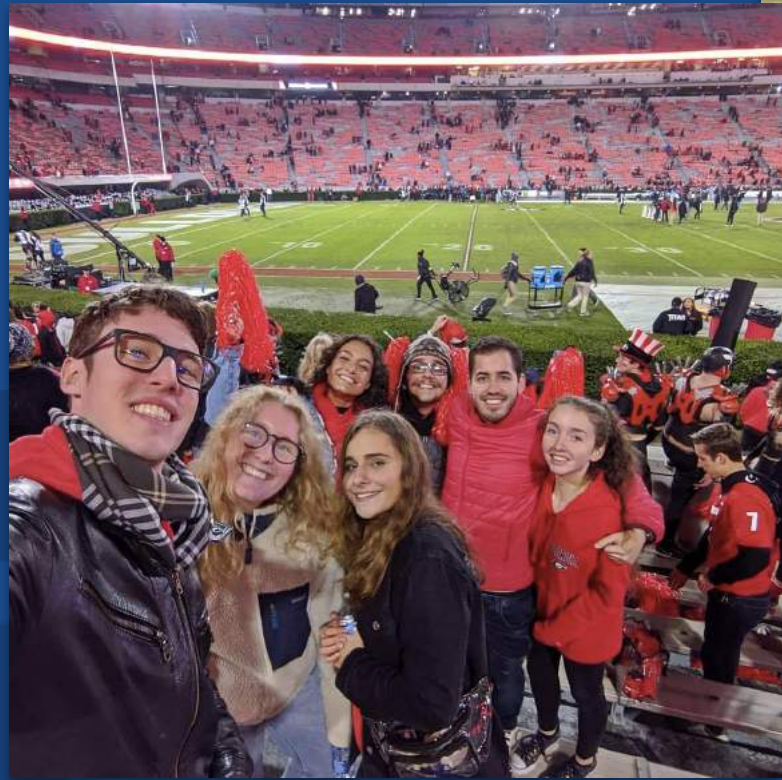
The time here in the states has been a unique and wonderful experience, couldn't be more grateful for having this amazing opportunity. The semester has been great, a different grading system, and basically easier classes than the ones I'm used too, but it's been a wonderful learning experience, and that's what life is all about. When I go back the first thing I will do is to spend time with my dog and family, things that I've done here with my host family, but it's been a busy semester, so that keeps you busy and you don't think about home that much. Thank you rotary for this amazing experience, I'll be forever grateful!

Sincerely,
Mateo Villa, Colombia



Rotarians
Georgia, United States





Dear Rotary

It's been over four months and I can't even believe it! Looking back and seeing all the experiences I've had the opportunity to live to make me realize that the GRSP year is going to change my life. I had the privilege of being friends with amazing people that I wouldn't have a chance to meet if it wasn't for GRSP. I had my first experience with Halloween and Thanksgiving, got to know American football, watched basketball games and toured various places in the state of Georgia. Still, in the spirit of Thanksgiving, I can only say how grateful I am now to have six families, mine in Brazil and five more Americans, and to have met people who in such a short time have become so special to me.

Sincerely
Mayara Hilgert Pacheco

Brazil

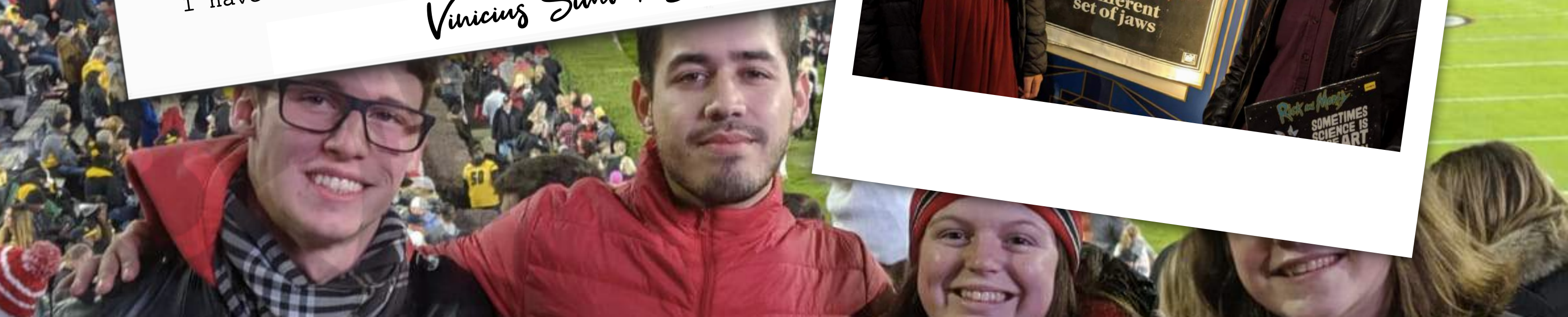
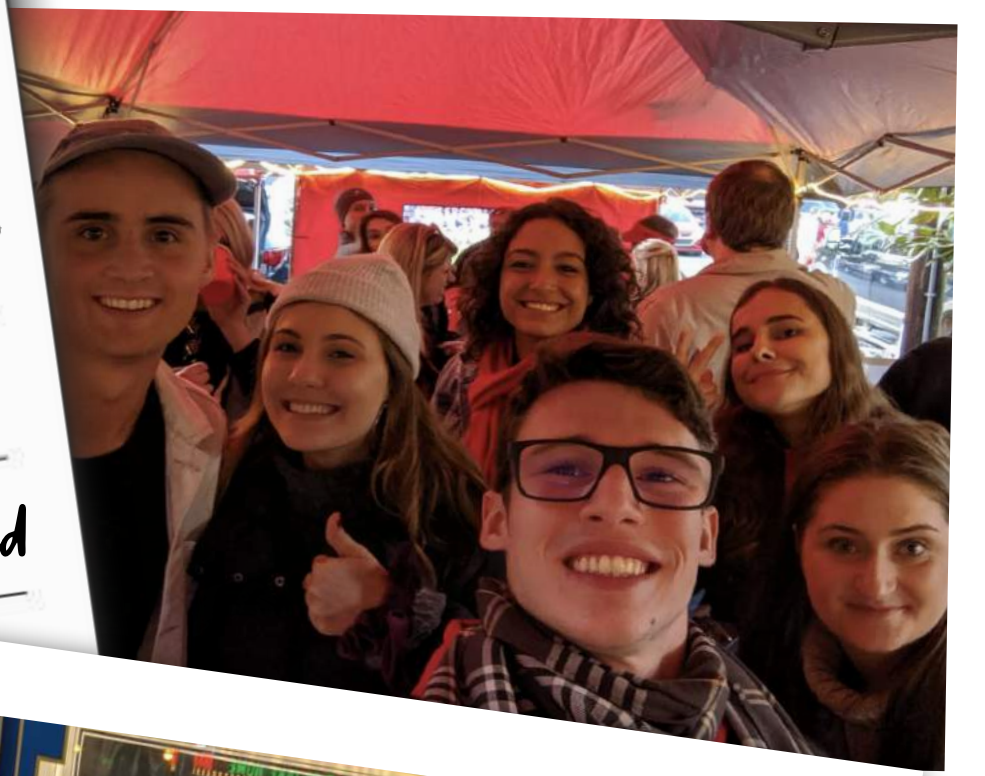
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We are almost at the half of the GRSP year and looking back I see how many amazing experiences I had so far. First of all, taking classes that I wouldn't take at home in a different language was an enriching experience. I went to baseball and football games in Atlanta and Athens where I could share great moments with my GRSP friends. Also I had the opportunity to spend Thanksgiving with my host family and had one of the best times since I arrived. And since I'm talking about Thanksgiving I should say what I'm thankful for, and that is pretty easy to me. I'm hugely thankful for meeting so many amazing people since I came here, in school, in our Rotary meetings and in GRSP weekends. I'm thankful because I understand how this year is life-changing and the privilege I have for being part of this.

Sincerely,
Vinicius Simm, Brazil



Rotarians
Georgia, United States
Rotary Club of Buckhead



Dear Rotary

My first semester has been such a blessing and such a wonderful experience. I met wonderful people from around the world and I had people working with me on my adjustment to the country 24/7. I had a support system that I am forever grateful for. My thanksgiving was amazing got to spend it with family and friends. I won't be going back home after this year, I'm going to be studying in the US for the next 3 years and I'm super grateful and thankful for the GRSP and the rotary club of Dunwoody for making me feel like I was at home away from home and for making me feel like I count on them not only for this year but also for the next 3 years I will be staying here. I'm also thankful for being a part of this amazing experience of a lifetime. This whole experience is something I will never forget so thank you for everything and more.

Sincerely

Yemariam Workneh

Ethiopia





My first semester has been exciting. Having classes that I thoroughly enjoy makes me wake up fueled with energy and ready to give my all. Although there has been some stressful times full of due dates, exams, and projects, that doesn't take away the fact that I love what I'm learning. I've also met amazing people that has made my journey even better. It's only been 4 months and I already feel like I've known them my whole life. The friends I've met hold a very special place in my heart. I'm so blessed for this opportunity and extremely thankful. My life wouldn't have been the same without the rotarians and the rotary program.

*All the best
Maria Luisa Carbonell Perez, Colombia*

*Rotarians
Georgia, United States*





Dear Rotary

My year in here so far has been amazing for me, is incredible how many new things from the US I have learn when I used to think that I already knew everything about their culture because tv shows and movies. The southern hospitality and culture is something that I loved right from the beginning when I arrived, and until now, a lot of the rotarians have show me that culture and hospitality. I think two of the things that I'm going to bring back to my country from the American culture are college football and the friendliness that people in here have with any person, regardless of whether they know the person or not. My thanksgiving was not the usual american thanksgiving, but regardless of that I enjoyed as much as I could, going with my host family to a church in which the priest preached in my native language, talking and meeting to new people, and the best part was eating as much food as I could. From this holiday I learned how we need to take some time from our lives and instead of thinking about the thinks we don't have and desire, we need to think about the things we have and be grateful for. In my case I am grateful for the health of my family back in my country, for the health of my host families and all the rotarians, and for this amazing year that GRSP allow me to have. Special thanks for Kent, Bill and Karen and all of their families, god bless y'all!

*Best,
Sebastian Velez*

Colombia

Sponsored by Brookhaven and North Atlanta

My first semester in the US is almost over and I cannot believe it. It feels like yesterday that I arrived at the atlanta airport. This semester has been great! I made a lot of good friends, and my roommate and suitmates are just like sisters. All my classes were really fun, I particularly enjoyed Intro to Theater, and I cannot wait to present our scene to the public. At first I was a bit taken aback by how friendly everybody was, this is something I will definitely take

back with me to Belgium. I spend Thanksgiving with my host family and I'm very grateful that they accepted to host me and consider me a part of their family for this year. Even though the Turkey briefly caught on fire, it was still delicious! But my favorite part was the cranberry sauce, I could eat it all day!

Sincerely,
Charlotte de Lestré, Belgium



Rotarians

Georgia, United States

Habersham,

Toccoa and

Clarkesville





Dear Rotary

I can't believe the first semester is soon to be over. It has gone by so fast. As they say; time flies when you are having fun, and I have been having a lot of fun! I have been able to meet a lot of really nice people, get friends and experience a lot. I was able to join the soccer team at Young Harris College and after being a soccer player for two months they moved me up to varsity as a backup goalkeeper. It has been so much fun to be able to play a sport again and be a part of a team. I have also joined the student government association and through that I have been able to take a part in what is going on at the school. Attending YHC this semester has enabled me to grow as a person and learn more about myself and what I want to do in the future. Being a GRSP student I have also been able to learn a lot more about American culture and traditions. I got to experience my first thanksgiving. I am truly grateful for all the wonderful people I have been able to meet due to the this program. I have got know Americans as friendly, including and warm people. I admire the way people here talk to strangers as if they are good friends. That is definitely something I want to take with me back to Norway where we don't really talk to strangers at all. It is also a blessing to have the rest of the GRSP students. They have been there for me through difficult times and I really appreciate that.

The best of wishes!

Sincerely

Hannah Espelin Rolfsen
Norway

The first semester of the GRSP year is coming to a close, and the experiences as well as friendships made during this time has been priceless. Being able to meet different people from all around the world is a privilege not many encounter; moreover, building connections with future world leaders is always pretty neat. GRSP has given us the opportunity to travel around Georgia while meeting some of the coolest people and their "southern hospitality" (completed with the deliciousness of burgers and chicken tenders). My personal favorite memories include being involved in college and professional athletic events, which has continued to show itself as a staple in American culture. While the first half of the year has been amazing, Christmas and the second semester will be heavily anticipated for. Thank you for this opportunity, GRSP!

*Best regards,
Adam Tee, Malaysia*





Dear Rotary

My first semester at Kennesaw State has been great. I hadn't really heard a whole lot about it before, but I was so impressed by the school. The professors and facilities provide a great learning Environment, and I'm able to take classes in many different areas. I've also really enjoyed getting to know everyone in this years GRSP class. We've all become close friends in a very short time, and It's been so fun traveling through Georg and getting to know American culture. I was really excited to spend both Christmas and thanksgiving with my host-family and their friends. It was my first ever thanksgiving and I really enjoyed all the food. Shortly after thanksgiving all the neighbors and houses around campus started putting up Christmas decorations, and never have I in my life seen that many Christmas lights, but it all looked very pretty!

One thing that I really love about the south is the southern hospitality and how kind and helpful everyone is. This openness and positive energy everyone seems to carry with them is definitely something I want to bring back home. I'm also really inspired by all the projects I see the rotary clubs do, and when I get back home I want to get more in to volunteering.

Sincerely
Sophie Barner
Sweden

Dear Rotary

On this past thanksgiving day (by the way, I'm already in love with this tradition) I completed exactly 4 months of life in United States. I cannot even say how thankful I am for this! I remember my firsts weeks in here and how I was amazed with everything and everyone, Georgia Rotary has given me the opportunity of a lifetime here! Couple of weeks ago my parents came here to visit me and they went to a Rotary meeting with me. They were so proud and so happy for me that they kept saying "we will never be able to pay them back for this amazing life experience they are giving you" and I cannot agree more! Living this "American way of life", and by this I can say "living the dream" is a blessing indeed, and for sure I can visualize myself being part of Rotary back in Brazil. I also want to promote this change! These past months I met so many wonderful people, made lots of friends from all over the world, and I am learning so much about life and about myself! I will certainly bring this Georgia kindness with me back home, together with good memories and new life perspectives! And I'm excited for the next six months and all it is saving me! Thank you so much, y'all.

All the best,

Beatriz Bordignon Cypriano

Brazil

Rotary club of Duluth, Rotary Club of Winder, Peachtree Corners Rotary Club and Rotary Club of Braselton



Dear Rotary

My time in the US has been great so far. I am grateful for receiving this amazing opportunity to study here in Georgia. Soon I have finished my first semester at Georgia Southern University. I have liked most of my classes here, and it has especially been fun to take a line dancing class, since it is a big part of the culture in the south. I have also joined the water polo club here at my school, and I have started to really like the sport. Other than school I have enjoyed all the student weekends that Rotary has organized. It has been great to meet other GRSP students and Rotarians. I have enjoyed learning more about different cultures and sharing my own culture.

Just a few days ago I celebrated Thanksgiving with my host family, which was nice. We had a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with dishes like turkey and pumpkin pie. The food was really good, but I thought it was little bit weird that they put marshmallows on sweet potatoes. I just feel very thankful for having such an amazing host family that lets me stay with them and is there for me whenever I need help.

Next year, when I go back to my home country Sweden, I think I am going to miss Georgia and all the people that I have met here. People here have been so nice. Strangers can come up to you and give you compliments, and everyone always holds up the door for you. I really think that people show southern hospitality here in Georgia.

Sincerely
Sofie Dellcrantz
Sweden



And the semester came to an end...

Some GRSP accomplishments fall 2019

Dean's List

Fanny Chef
Anna Damsholt
Charlotte De Lestré
Caroline Gränsbo
Amanda Lindberg
Rune Schmidt Qvist
Adam Tee
Anna To
Sebastian Velez
Alfie Walker

President's List

Hannah Espelin-Rolfsen
Renalto J. Rael
Lisa Wibäck

Elin Fyhrlund got the great honor of joining the SCHWOB singers and will be performing in Carnegie Hall in New York this spring

Ola Derecka got the great honor of joining the UGA ballet ensemble.



...and Christmas came!



Most of us spent it with our host families!

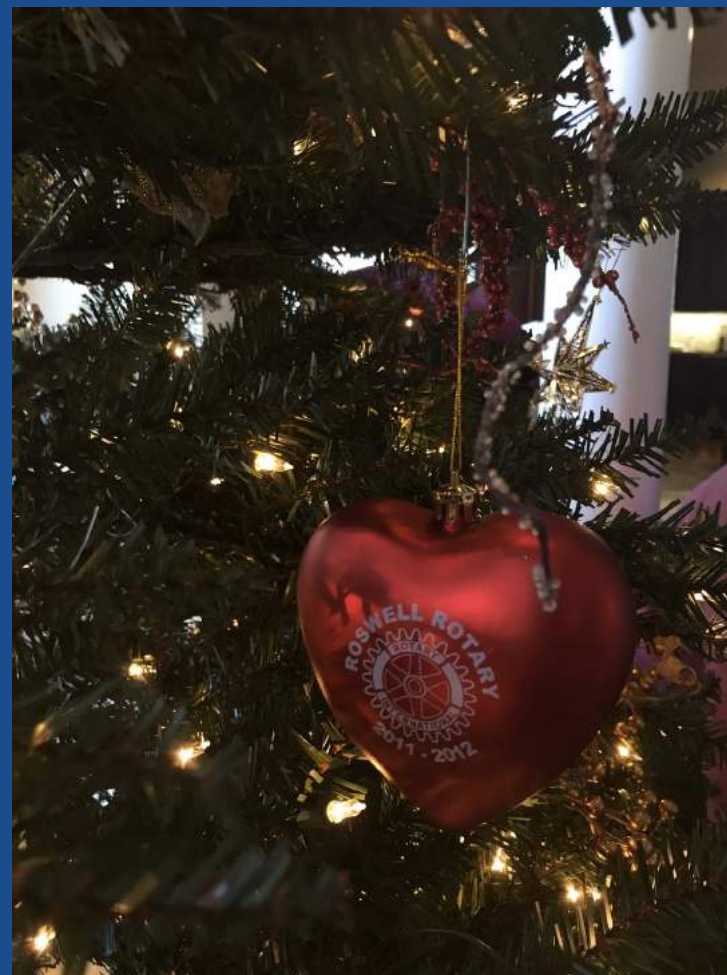
We ate food.



Lots of food...



and we saw a lot of decorations.



We explored...



and traveled together.



Some of us even saw snow for the first time!



And now we are beyond excited to start our second GRSP semester. Thank you for making all of this possible. And of course...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



 **GRSP**
GEORGIA ROTARY
STUDENT PROGRAM

EDITED AND DESIGNED BY
CAROLINE GRÄNSBO