



# ROTARY NOTARY

**Birthdays:**

<i>Tim O'Sullivan</i>	4/7
<i>Burke Jones</i>	4/8
<i>Ryan Heikes</i>	4/9

**At Rotary Today:**

**Greeter:** Joyce Heismeyer

**Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:**

Robin McGonigle

**Special Guest:**

Alice White, Rotarian from Fredericksburg, TX, who stopped by to attend our club meeting while on her way to Lawrence for a college reunion. Welcome, Alice!

**Battle of the Brackets**

**Winners:**

Kim Hurtig—highest points  
Anne Schneider and Judge Kevin Smith—random drawing winners

The biggest winner: The East Wichita Rotary Foundation, which received \$1,250 in proceeds!

**Quote of the Week:**

What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that determines the significance of the life we lead.

—Nelson Mandela

## TRAINING MEDICAL STUDENTS TO WORK ACROSS THE GLOBE

Dr. Patrick Allen serves as the interim director of the International Family Medicine Fellowship at Via Christi. A unique, first-of-its-kind program, the Fellowship began 10 years ago as a way to provide additional training for doctors who were planning to work in rural or underdeveloped communities. There are now 15 such programs in the United States.



**D**evelopments in medicine during the last 50-60 years have led to greater specialization. And yet, there's still a need for general or family physicians with a higher-than-average degree of specialty knowledge.

Patrick Allen saw this firsthand when he spent five months in Galmi, Niger as part of a year of additional family medicine training. The program prepares physicians for working in rural areas and impoverished communities overseas by giving them hands-on experience in areas that family medical physicians had identified as areas where they would like more training.

Tropical medicine, burns, trauma, dentistry, anesthesia, and ultrasound are the specialty areas these physi-

cians identified. This led to creating a fourth year of optional, additional training in Via Christi's Family Residency Training program, which is the second largest in the U.S. Physicians spend six months here in Wichita, and six months in either a rural or overseas community. Many graduates end up staying in those communities after their training is complete. To date, the program has graduated 34 fellows.

Niger ranks at the bottom of the Human Development Index, which measures life expectancy, education, and per capita income indicators. The reasons for Niger's poverty and scarcity are complex, but widespread illiteracy and limited farm land contribute to the poor conditions.

Dr. Allen showed us a short video about the hospital at

Galmi where he worked in 2014. A mission hospital created in 1950 by SIM International, an interdenominational Christian mission, Galmi Hospital serves up to 300 men, women, and children daily. Patients come from all over Niger, but also from Chad, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali, and Nigeria. It is staffed by doctors and nurses from all over the world, as well as locally trained medical personnel.

The video showed a listless and malnourished boy whose mother had brought him to the clinic. Dr. Allen told us that the boy was dehydrated. Treatment is relatively easy—administer fluids either through an IV or orally. Within 24 hours the boy was crying—a sign that he was doing better. Unfortunately, as easy as it is to help people who are dehydrated, many simply do not go to the hospital and as a result, die. (*cont'd on p. 2*)

**Spring Events:**

**April 14**—Spring map painting at Gammon Elementary, 3240 N. Rushwood. (Rain date: April 28). This semi-annual event is a great way to get to know your fellow Rotarians by working together on a project that takes about 4 hours from start to finish. We need more volunteers—please sign up for this “Service Above Self” opportunity!

**April 19**—Serve dinner at The Lord’s Diner. Food Handler’s Card not required, but greatly appreciated.

**May 5**—Kentucky Derby Party at the Lux! Pony races, a bourbon pull, mint juleps, big hats, and seersucker suits are all part of the fun. Tickets are \$50 a person. Proceeds will benefit three local charities: CASA, the Down Syndrome Society, and KETCH.

**You Heard It Here First**

When asked why she picked Villanova as the overall winner of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament, “Battle of the Brackets” winner Kim Hurtig replied, “Because I just love saying Nova!”

**Next Week:**

Fireside at the new Mark Arts Center, 13th and Rock Road. Please make your reservations with Kim by this Friday, April 6.

**DR. PATRICK ALLEN (CONT’D)**

Efforts to change and improve conditions in Niger and other third world countries have gone on for a long time, it’s true. Rotarian Randy Summers remembers

UNICEF collection boxes from

his childhood, an effort to provide hunger relief. Dr. Allen pointed to improvements in India as an example of how root causes of malnutrition and child mortality can change over time with focus and repetition.

Fatalism is a part of the culture in Niger. The average woman has seven children and typically two die. This leads to an expectation that when a child is ill perhaps it is his or her time to die, so going to the hospital may not change anything. Leaving the home and making the trip to the hospital can place a huge barrier on the family, because the work at home doesn’t get done while one parent is gone, the cost of the trip is expensive, and the amount of time it takes to get there and back is significant.

Following this extra year of training, Dr. Allen says that physicians become more compassionate, flexible, humble, and have greater clinical skills. The program helps them better use the resources they have to give the best care they can.

No doubt, Via Christi’s International Family Medicine Fellowship changed Dr. Allen’s life forever. He is a better, more holistic physician. But perhaps the greatest evidence of change is this: as a lifelong, multi-generational Texan, he believes he is putting down roots here in Kansas. That’s great news for physicians now and in the future who will benefit from his work.



This photo shows a patient from the SIM Galmi Hospital and is taken from their website, [www.galmi.org](http://www.galmi.org).

**MORE AT ROTARY TODAY**

Visitor and Rotarian Alice White poses with fellow Texan Eileen Kludt. Although they’re both Texans, as you can see, Alice is from the University of Texas at Austin, where ‘Hook ‘em Horns’ is both a slogan and hand signal. Eileen, on the other hand, is a fan of rival university Texas A&M, known for its hand signal ‘Gig em Aggies.’

Brian Burrus urged all EWR members to come out to the Lux at 120 E. First on Saturday, May 5 from 3:00—6:30 p.m. for our club’s second annual Kentucky Derby Party. Last year’s event raised \$10,500 to assist three local human service organizations. Let’s see if we can raise even more this year! A new addition to this year’s event is a bourbon pull. For a contribution of \$20 you can select a bottle of bourbon. You just might pull the most rare and valuable bottle in the group!

How can you help? Bring your spouse, a friend, or a group. Donate a bottle of bourbon to the pull. We’d love to see at least 20 bottles in the pull, but 50 would be ideal!

Kevin Rathert updated us on the East Wichita Rotary Foundation scholarship applications. They have been sent to area high school counselors to distribute to their students. The deadline is Tuesday, May 8 at 5:00 p.m.