



ROTARY NOTARY

Birthdays:

Cathy McClain	2/19
Isaac Ulbrich	2/20
Chris Kibler	2/22

Rotary Youth Exchange Hosting:

A couple of weeks ago our club met teachers from Panama and Argentina who came to Wichita through RITE, Rotary International Teacher Exchange. Robin McGonigle and her husband Eric hosted one of the teachers for two weeks and will never forget the new friendships that were forged, as well as the insights into how teachers do their jobs in underdeveloped parts of the world.

Now Robin is coordinating another international hosting opportunity. This time she's looking for Rotarians who'd like to host an exchange student from Japan for two months. Would you consider opening your home and your heart to a high school student from Japan? If so, please get with Robin. Her email address is:

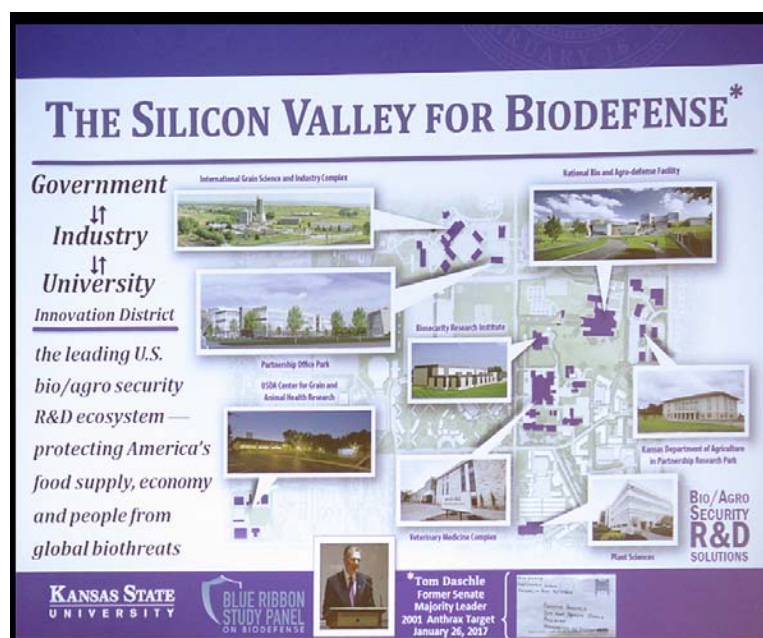
revdocmom1@gmail.com

Quote of the Week:

None of us is as smart as all of us.

—Ken Blanchard

WHAT IS BIO AGRO-DEFENSE AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?



This slide was part of today's presentation. It shows the many different components of the National Bio Agro-defense Facility in Manhattan, KS. Former US Senator Tom Daschle, a member of the bi-partisan Blue Ribbon Panel on Biodefense, called K-State the "Silicon Valley for biodefense," during a visit last month to Manhattan, referencing the university's status as a national leader in animal health, biosciences and food safety research.

Think about the nation's food supply, everything from strawberries to steak. And then think about what a catastrophe it would be if contamination resulted in widespread illness or death to our citizens.

That's where the NBAF, or National Bio Agro-defense Facility, comes in. Located on the K-State campus in Manhattan, its purpose is to protect our nation's food supply and public health. It will be a state-of-the-art, biocontainment laboratory for the study of diseases that threaten both America's animal agricultural industry and public health.

Today's speaker, Dr. Ron Trewyn, explained that the NBAF will strengthen our nation's ability to conduct research, develop vaccines, diagnose emerging diseases, and train veterinarians.

A key part of the NBAF mission is to protect US livestock from foreign animal disease, including zoonotic diseases, which can be transmitted to and from animals to people. Examples of this are Japanese encephalitis and Rift Valley fever. Livestock only threats (cannot be transmitted to people) include African swine fever, classical swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease.

Another part of the NBAF mission is to preserve the US food supply and agricultural economy. This is where fighting bioterrorism is necessary. Its threat is real. Some say it's not a question of if, it's a question of when our enemies will try to implement it. In 2002, U.S. troops went into an Afghanistan cave where they found an al-Qaida list of planned bioweapons pathogens, including six human pathogens, six livestock and poultry pathogens, and four plant pathogens.

The process for applying and being chosen for this facility, which will cost \$1.25 billion dollars and bring hundreds of (cont'd on p. 2)

Coming up this month:

Our next EWR Mixer of the year will be **Thursday, February 23** at Red Rock Canyon. Join your fellow Rotarians for appetizers, adult beverages and fun. Guests are welcome—bring a friend!

More At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Richard Strunk

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Bill McConnell

Member News: Britt Fulmer

Special Guests:

Adam Clements, Builders Inc.

If you have ideas for speakers, please contact Scott Holder, our President-Elect, who is scheduling speakers through the end of June.

Next Week:

Senator Pat Roberts and newly-elected Congressman Dr. Roger Marshall will be our featured speakers. **Please make your reservation with Kim Hurtig ASAP if you plan to attend! And come early—the buffet will open at 11:30.**

NATIONAL BIO AGRO-DEFENSE (CONT'D)

jobs to the Manhattan area, was highly competitive. There were 29 submissions for 34 sites, eventually pared down to five finalists. The current Animal Disease Center at Plum Island, NY, also submitted a proposal. K-State's proposal best met the purpose and need of the project.

However, the Texas consortium that submitted a proposal for a facility in San Antonio sued the Department of Homeland Security. The Texas chair, John Kerr, called the selection of the Manhattan, Kan., site "grossly irresponsible, the equivalent of playing Russian roulette with Mother Nature" because of the high risk of tornadoes in Kansas. He also claimed that the three-year selection process was "tainted by politics" from the beginning. Texas wanted nothing less than to set aside the DHS decision and stop work on the Kansas site.

Nevertheless, the Kansas State team persisted. The result is that the NBAF facility will be fully operational in 2022-2023.



As NBAF liaison, Dr. Ron Trewyn works with the K-State president and others on and off campus to facilitate bio/agro security economic strategies and leverage opportunities for the K-State, the city of Manhattan and the state of Kansas.

WHAT ROTARY MEANS TO ME



Many of you know that I was married over the weekend to Seth Schneider, whom I first met in 1992. But what you don't know is how a Rotarian saved the day by helping out at (nearly) the last minute.

On the day before the wedding, the photographer I'd hired called to say he had a bad case of the flu and knew he wouldn't be able to take photos for us. I thought I'd just have to go without pictures or settle for a variety of cell phone shots. But then I decided to call Ric Wolford, photographer extraordinaire, Rotarian and friend.

Ric was available and more than happy to help. He arrived dressed as the professional he is, wearing a suit, and was ready to go to work. Although it was a small wedding, it was still a very special day for Seth and me. Having the pictures Ric took for us will mean even more as time goes by.

This is what Rotary is: professionals who come together for fellowship and community service, and who are there for each other when needed. Thank you, Ric, and all of you in East Wichita Rotary. I'm glad I know you!

—Anne Corrison Schneider