THE BREAKFAST CHATTER

The Weekly Bulletin of the **Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-Town** - Volume No. 10/01 for # 841 June, 28th 2006

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DEAR MIDTOWNERS ► FRIENDS IN ROTARY

Dear friends in Rotary!

On Friday 23rd June, we had one anniversary of ***Subarna Joshi*** and his wife. In adition ***Neil Pande*** and ***Hartmut Bauder*** had their birthdays. Luckily, at least Hartmut was present, so we all could wish him the best for the forthcoming year personally. May every one of you four have the luck, to look back next year and say "Wow, what a great year this has been."

Our speaker this time was ***Sangeeta Thapa*** not only a well know gallerist but also a good and fascinating speaker. It was a pleasure for most of us to hear her talk on "Installation art". An art where you do not see paintings or sculptures, but where you receive a whole 3 dimensional impression. Her CD presentation gave us an impression of what it can be.

It was also interesting to hear from her, that art in Nepal has the potential to become a bread earning activity, as quite a few of our artists have started to organize international exhibitions. An outflow of this is that the number of art study applicants has increased in the last two decades from 25 to 600 every year.

This year I was very fascinated with the development of this sector in this country. Forgive me if it was too much, but seeing at least something flourishing in this country gives hope. If you want to read more have a look at the minutes.

This time our *RI chapter* focuses on "***Rotary centers for international studies***". It includes a background on the universities with whom the center is working and to be honest, it seems to be very attractive to become a fellow of this center.

Under other topic, you will find this time a topic on how the existing ***biological earth system*** guarantees survival.

Walter Diller, Club Service Director 2005-2006

SPEAKERS OF THE WEEK ► SRIJANA THAPA

THEME

Our *last meeting* for this Rotary Year will be on coming Friday 30th June. As promised, we will have a lady speaker. Miss **Srijana Thapa**, *Director of Photo Concern* has consented to talk on the topic of how young woman entrepreneurs see the business world in Nepal, its chances and shortcomings.

UPCOMING EVENT ► THE CLUB INSTALLATION CEREMONY 2006-2007

DATE	EVENT	INFO
July, 10th	**INSTALLATION CEREMONY 2006-2007**	Details will be timely circulated

THE MIDTOWN **CLUB ► NEWS AS THE COME IN**

June, 27th, 2006 District Recognition Ceremony
The District Awards Ceremony, now called District Recognition Ceremony, took place. Looks we got lost this year.

Rotary World Peace Fellowship candidates for 2007-09
Please begin the process of selecting Rotary World Peace Fellowship candidates for Class VI (2007-09). Submission of applications for the *Rotary World Peace Fellowship* should be forwarded to Evanston by July 1, 2006. It is targeted to get overall a pool of 500 applications, which will enable the Rotary Centers Committee to select the top 60 applicants with superior qualifications.
For more information please refer to the Rotary Centers website for a timeline:
http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/amb_scho/centers/application/timeline.html

Ramkot Clinic Visit: kindly check the Ramkot Roster for your turn.
If you have any question, contact Rtn. Dr Rabindra Shrestha (4469063, email: drrs@wlink.com.np)
The doctor is Dr. Khagendra Gurung. Mobile No : 98510- 83044 Phone: 4287899
If you have any question, kindly let our fellow Ramkot Coordinator Rtn. Rabindra know.
Doctor is Khagendra Gurung mobile: 9841-231619, residence: 4287899 call him Friday latest.

A WORD ON ROTARY ► WE CAN MAKE A **DIFFERENCE**

Rotary Centers for International Studies
Starting in 2002, Rotary Foundation collaborated with eight universities around the world to create the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. The universities include International Christian University (Japan), University of Queensland (Australia), Institut d'etudes Politiques de Paris, University of Bradford (United Kingdom), University del Salvador (Argentina), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (USA), Duke University (USA), and University of California, Berkeley (USA).

In 2004, Fellows established the **Rotary World Peace Fellows Association** (RWPF) to promote interaction among Fellows, Rotarians, and the public on issues related to peace studies. These fellows complete two year masters level programs in conflict resolution, peace studies, and international relations at the universities mentioned above and described below..

Interested which kind of Universities these are? It could be interesting also for those of us, who have kids, which want to study abroad. Let us have a look.

International Christian University (ICU), Mitaka, Tokyo, Japan
Was founded in 1949 following the model of American universities and is today one of Japan's leading private universities. ICU offers bachelor's degrees in liberal arts, as well as master's and doctoral degrees in education, public administration, comparative culture, and natural sciences.
30% of students come from abroad mainly English-speaking countries.

University of Queensland (UQ), Brisbane, Australia
UQ established in 1909 is one of the largest and oldest universities in Australia. It is also one of Australia's top research institutes, famous for its activity especially in Molecular Bioscience, where UQ conducts research together with other renowned Australian organizations.

In 2004, 38,000 students were enrolled of which 17% from other mainly Asian countries. The University of Queensland has won more Awards for University Teaching than any other university in Australia.

Institute d'études politiques de Paris or Sciences-Po
Going long back in history but established as a university only in 1872.
Since 1997, the institute has introduced a compulsory year abroad for its undergraduate degree.

Until a few years ago, the University recruited students exclusively from elite schools in France, but since 5 years its admission policy has became more liberal.
The university focuses on the full-range of social sciences. Students receive the opportunity to specialize in a social science discipline in their final two years of a five-year program, which leads to the Diplôme de Sciences-Po. As the university is still somewhat elite oriented its no wonder that instructors also include names like Dominique de Villepin (the French PM), Pascal Lamy and Dominique Strauss Kahn (both the most renowned economists today in France.)
As of 2004, one third of the enrolled students came from foreign countries.
The University works closely with the London School of Economics and the Columbia University.

University of Bradford, UK
Recognized as university since 1966, its actual student enrollment is 10000 and thus the university doesn't' belong to the big ones. Other than Cambridge 94% of its students are from the British general public school sector. Overseas students count for 6% of student population. Foreign students are focused mainly on science subjects.

Besides standard subjects, the university runs also a school for lifelong education and development, which offers part-time and specialist degrees. This part of the university is focusing on areas such as community regeneration and social studies. In 2005, The Times University Guide ranked Bradford 2nd best in UK after Cambridge.

University del Salvador, Cordoba, Argentina
It goes back to 1622. Since May 1958, it is run as a Private University. Since its foundations, the University depended on the Society of Jesus, who appointed its highest authorities. In March 1975, the Society has partly withdrawn and entrusted the management to a group of lay-people. It is said to be the leading university in Argentina.

University of North Carolina, at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, US
It is a public, coed, research oriented university. Founded in 1789 it is arguably the oldest public institution of higher education in the US. UNC offers 71 bachelors, 110 masters and 77 doctoral degree programs and enrolls 26,800 students with 16% foreign students from a broad spectrum of countries.
For incoming 2006 freshmen the acceptance rate lies at 36% out of which US students form 83.2% and foreign students the rest.
Its library system has more than 5.6 million volumes and ranks among the best research libraries in North America.
UNC has offered undergraduate merit scholarship known as the Morehead Scholarship modeled after the Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford for decades. Scholarship students receive tuition, room and board, and books for four years. Also offered is the Robertson Scholarship granting recipients the opportunity to attend both UNC-Chapel Hill and neighboring Duke University.
Carolina has the second largest number of Rhodes Scholars among public universities (39 since 1902) behind the University of Virginia. Many students have won other scholarships like Truman, Goldwater, Mitchell, Churchill, and Mellon fellowships. UNC is ranked among the top five of public and private universities for prestigious scholarships, surpassed only by Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford

Duke University, North Carolina, US
Established as university in 1924, traces its roots back to 1838 when it was founded by a group of Methodists and Quakers. Since the early 1970s, the university focused on the recruitment of greater numbers of ethnic minorities.
The university belongs to the world's best institutions academically. Its research expenditures are among the largest of any institution in the U.S. and the athletic program is one of the nation's elite.

Fundraising at Duke? We can learn from it. In 1998, the then Duke President initiated a five-year $1.5bn Campaign fundraising effort. The Campaign for Duke ended after 5 years with $2.36bn funds raised.
6,500 undergraduates and 6,300 graduate and professional students are enrolled containing nearly 40% ethnic minorities, who come from over 50 countries. Nevertheless, the acceptance rate is low.

The 20% undergraduate acceptance rate leads to a very competitive application process in which about 96% of accepted students rank in the top 10% of their high school class Students consistently

win prestigious awards at one of the highest rates in US. Several students have been honored as Rhodes (40 students), Fulbright (22 students last year), Marshall, Goldwater, and Truman Scholars.

Duke's cost of attendance ($44,005) is among the highest in US. However, Duke meets 100% of each admitted student's demonstrated need, giving financial aid to about 42% of students. The average award is more than $27,000, with about $21,500 as grant funds, which do not need to be repaid. Duke also offers several merit based Undergraduate scholarships.

Duke's research expenditures topped $490 million in 2004. Additionally, in 2002-2003, Duke had the highest growth rate in NIH funding of the country's top 15 medical schools, receiving more than $245 million. Throughout history, several important breakthroughs have taken place at the hands of Duke researchers. For example, Duke's highly regarded biomedical engineering department is responsible for the world's first real-time, three-dimensional ultrasound diagnostic system as well as the first engineered blood vessels.

In the mechanical engineering department, Adrian Bejan developed the constructal theory, which explains the shapes that arise in nature. Duke has pioneered studies involving nonlinear dynamics, chaos, and complex systems in physics. Recently, Duke researchers mapped the final human chromosome, which made world news as the Human Genome Project was finally complete. Duke researchers' are also involved in new AIDS vaccine research, which offers interesting insights into survival techniques. Duke's endowment was valued at $3.8bn in 2005, Not bad. How much endowment has Kathmandu University?

University of California at Berkeley, US
Established in 1868, the university enrolls presently about 22000 Undergraduates and 8000 Postgraduates. Interestingly its one of the universities where woman represent with 54% the majority of students enrolled. Surveys such as those by the National Research Council and the American Council on Education praised the university for its broad range of academic strengths, not just in mathematics, science and engineering, but in the arts, humanities and social sciences as well.

It is since the 1930 that Berkeley started to gain international recognition as a major research center. During World War II, Lawrence's Radiation Laboratory in the hills above Berkeley began to develop the atomic bomb, based on Berkeley's research in nuclear physics by professor J. Robert Oppenheimer who was named scientific head of the Manhattan Project in 1942.

Berkeley has had 19 Nobel Laureates on its faculty and 54 affiliated with the university
Berkeley offers over 7,000 courses in 300-degree programs. The university awards over 5,500 bachelor's degrees, 2,000 master's degrees, 900 doctorates, and 200 law degrees yearly. Berkeley has graduated more students who go on to earn doctorates than any other university, while it is also one of the most selective universities. In 2006, Berkeley admitted 9,836 freshmen from 42,000 applicants, an acceptance rate of 23.5%. 99% of Berkeley's freshman graduated from the top 10% of their high school class.

Graduate admissions vary although in 2005 the university's graduate program admitted 3,444 students an overall acceptance rate of 18.3%.
Berkeley's library system is surpassed only by the Library of Congress, Harvard, Yale, and the University of Illinois. Berkeley's library system contains over 10 million volumes and maintains over 70,000 serial titles.

Berkeley has nurtured a number of key technologies associated with the early development of the Internet and the Open Source Software movement. The original Berkeley Software Distribution, commonly known as BSD Unix, was assembled in 1977 by a graduate student. Send mail was developed at Berkeley in 1981. BIND (Berkeley Internet Name Domain package) was written by a team of graduate students around the same time. SPICE and espresso, popular tools for IC Designers, were invented at Berkeley. RAID and RISC technologies were both developed at Berkeley. Perhaps the most influential contributions to computing from Berkeley have been the algorithms and analysis of floating-point arithmetic.

An undergraduate research group has been responsible for a number of notable software projects, including GTK+, The GIMP, and the initial diagnosis of the Morris worm. In 1992 an undergraduate

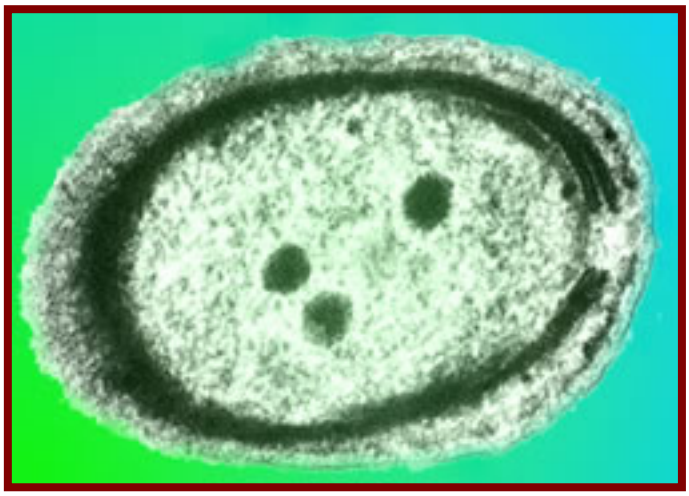
created one of the first graphical web browsers with embedded scriptable objects, style sheets, and tables. In the spirit of Open Source, he donated the code to Sun Microsystems, inspiring Java. Berkeley has established partnerships with Yahoo!, Sun Microsystems, Google, and Microsoft. Yahoo! Research and Berkeley Labs will focus on mobile media technology and social media. Sun. Google and Microsoft are financing actually Berkeley's research work into more reliable computing systems.

Well. It is quite an impressive lot of universities with which *Rotary Foundation* works together to get things going.

OTHER TOPICS

Photosynthesis a way of adjusting to environment

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) research is uncovering a challenging new facet of evolution, helping scientists see how photosynthesizing microbes manage to exploit changing conditions such as altered light, temperature and nutrients. As a result of the new findings we are beginning to get a picture of gene diversity and gene flow in the most abundant photosynthetic cell on the planet, a group of planktonic microbes called ***Prochlorococcus***. (Proch)



These photosynthesizing bacteria form an important part of the food chain in the oceans, supply some of the oxygen we breathe, and even play a role in modulating climate. Therefore, it is important to understand what regulates their populations.

It seems that gene swapping in Proches resembles the flow of genes already known to occur among disease-causing bacteria. In an ocean context, this exchange mechanism would offer marine microbes a diverse palette of potential gene combinations, each of which might be best suited for a particular environment. This should allow the overall population to persist despite complex and unpredictable environmental changes.

There are six known ecotypes, or subdivisions, of these Proches according to where they are found and under what conditions they thrive. Their geographic patterns suggest causal relations with environmental variables such as temperature, predators, light and nutrients.
Despite centuries of oceanic research, these now found tiny microbes that which not even known two decades ago. They where discovered in 1985 during an open ocean research cruise by researchers from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Since then the science has progressed dramatically, and we can now describe Proches in detail as the smallest photosynthetic machine. It can convert the sun's energy into food through photosynthesis using only 1,700 genes, something the human body cannot do with 30,000 genes. In fact, despite all of our technological ingenuity, we cannot even mimic this process.

MIT's Earth System researchers are now trying to understand the bio-geo-chemistry of the oceans. They are trying to learn how these microbes function as a system in which they have not only co-evolved with each other, but also with the chemistry and physics of the oceans. Chemistry, physics and biology are tightly linked as a system, meaning you cannot change one without altering the other two.
The research work is based on the discovery that seawater is fully loaded with invisible microbes. In trying to understand how this microbial system works, the MIT team has focused on Proches as a model.

The team's studies are showing that all Proch strains are very closely related, yet they display an array of physiologies, and astounding genetic diversity on top of that. It is becoming clear, too, that

this genetic diversity is at the heart of the extraordinary stability in the oceans, which maintains steady population sizes over vast regions of the sea.

The collective Prochs community merely adjusts internally, with different genome types waxing and waning in relative abundance, depending on who adjust best under ever-changing circumstances. However, how do they do it?

The research team decided to let the cells tell them what is most important for these microbes, by doing a systematic survey of relative abundances among six different types of Prochs across vast environmental gradients in the oceans. The team found first that two clades are orders of magnitude more abundant than all of the rest, and that temperature appeared to be very important in determining their distributions. Subsequent laboratory experiments with the cultured strains confirmed this idea.

Further analysis showed that most of the genetic differences between the two super-abundant strains are concentrated in a few "genomic islands," small zones where different kinds of genes get swapped in and swapped out, known among molecular geneticists as "hot spots" for gene exchange.
The distributors or carriers of new genes are the massive numbers of viruses also known to exist in seawater, some of which are adept at infecting ocean microbes. Such viruses, which carry genes of their own and sometimes transport odd genes picked up from an earlier host, are the most likely means of exchange - a natural way to get genes out of old cells and into new ones.

In essence, this means that our image of ocean microbes and their role in planetary maintenance is changing. We no longer think of the microbial community as being made up of species that have a fixed genetic makeup. Rather, it is a collection of genes, some of which are shared by all microbes and contain the information that drives their core metabolism, and others that are more mobile, which can be found in unique combinations in different microbes.

Therefore, it is these unique combinations of genes that create the diversity we see, and which allow microbes to flourish in all environments on Earth. If we can understand the details of this phenomenon in the simplest free-living organism, we will be able to understand the diversity in all of life.

NOW READY FOR A HEALTY LAUGTHER?

Once upon a time, a perfect man and a perfect woman met. After a perfect courtship, they had a perfect wedding. Their life together was, of course, perfect. One snowy, stormy Christmas Eve, this perfect couple was driving their perfect car along a winding road, when they noticed someone at the side of the road in distress. Being the perfect couple, they stopped to help. There stood Santa Claus with a huge bundle of toys. Not wanting to disappoint any children on the eve of Christmas, the perfect couple loaded Santa and his toys into their vehicle. Soon they were driving along delivering toys. Unfortunately, the driving conditions deteriorated and the perfect couple and Santa Claus had an accident. Only one of them survived the accident.
The question: Who was the survivor?

Got the answer?

Of course, the perfect woman survived. She is the only one who really existed in the first place. Everyone knows there is no Santa Claus and there is no such thing as a perfect man.

In Ireland there is a mental institution that every year picks two of its most reformed patients and questions them. If they get the questions right they are free to leave. This year the two lucky gents were Patty and Mike.
The doctor invited Patty first to come in for his questioning.

"Patty you know the tradition of this institution. You will be asked two questions, and if you get them right, you will be free to go. Do you understand?" said the doctor.
Patty nodded and the doctor began to question him.

The first question was this. "Patty if I was to poke out one of your eyes what would happen?"

"I would be half blind of course," Patty answered without much thought.
"What would happen if I poked out the other eye?"

"I would be completely blind," said Patty knowing that he had just gotten his freedom.
The doctor then sent him outside while he drew up the paperwork and accessed Mike's files.
When Patty got into the waiting room, he told Mike what the questions would be and what the correct answers were.

The doctor called in Mike and he followed the same procedure that he had with Patty.
"Mike the first question is what would happen if I cut off your ear?"
"I would be blind in one eye," he said remembering what he had been told. This received a perplexed look from the doctor but he just simply asks the other question so that he could figure out what the man was thinking.

"Mike, what would happen if I cut off your other ear?"
"I would be completely blind," he answered with a smile as if he knew he had passed.
"Why?" asks the now doubtful doctor.

"Well if you cut off my two ears, my hat would fall down over my eyes," answers Mike.

A newly wed couple decides that instead of going on an expensive honeymoon, they would get a case of beer and go out to the local lake. As they are sitting out there drinking and having fun, an alien ship comes down and a male and female alien get off the ship. "Do not worry," they said. "We come in peace. We want to party."

The newlyweds decide to let them party with them, as it would be a great story to tell their children. After a while, the male alien asked if it would be okay if he were to take the human woman on his ship and have sex with her. He said that the female alien would stay on the ground and have sex with the human male. The couple agreed to try it out.

The woman went onto the ship with the male alien and as they got undressed, she noticed that he was not well endowed. She began to giggle. He looked at her and said that she was not to worry. He reached up and tugged on his right ear and his penis grew five inches. He then tugged on his left ear and it expanded an inch and a half in girth. They had sex and then went back down to join the other two. The woman walked up to her husband and he said:
"Now honey, don't lie...how was it?

She looked at him and said: "I won't lie...it was the best sex I have ever had in my life ...how was yours?"
He gave her a bewildered look and said..."I don't know...she wouldn't stop tugging on my ears."

That is for today and see or hear from you soon. **Walter** and **Navyo**

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