

## This Week

### Deborah McIntosh

### History through the Eyes of Women Program Host: Sue Applegate

Debbie McIntosh was born and raised in San Diego, California. She left home in 1969 to attend the University of Southern California. There she received a BA in Journalism in 1973, and an MA in International Relations in 1977.

She worked for USC for nearly 10 years, has volunteered to raise scholarship funds for 40 years, and left USC to work for Jet Propulsion Laboratory/Caltech/NASA. At JPL, she worked as a recruiter and technical writer/editor and retired to raise a family in 1982.

McIntosh is the founder and owner of *History through the Eyes of Women* and portrays over 35 different women. She has also served as the Forest Lawn Museum lecturer, offering 18 different art and history lectures and historical portrayals on occasion.

She is married to a retired pediatrician and has two adult children and one granddaughter.

Her favorite hobbies include traveling, costuming, antique collecting, singing, and reading.



## View from the Hill

by President Tony Hill

# More from My Pasadena Star News Cache of Paraproductians

It's Thanksgiving weekend, and I have put my brain into neutral. So it's time once again to dip into my collection of jokes borrowed from the pages of the Pasadena Star News.

- A man looks up from the newspaper, shakes his head, and says, "I'll never understand how the biggest jerks get the most beautiful wives." His wife, sitting nearby, replies, "Why thank you, dear!"
- Two guys on a photo safari in Africa are far from shelter or protection. Suddenly they realize that a lioness has crept up behind them and they are in imminent danger of being attacked. One of them immediately bends down, whips off his safari boots and slips on running shoes. "You're wasting your time," the other says, "You'll never outrun a lion." The first one replies, "I don't have to outrun the lion, I only have to outrun you."
- An old guy is driving on the freeway. His phone rings. It's his wife. "Please be careful, dear," the missus says. "I

just heard on the news that there's a car going the wrong way on Interstate 10." The old guy says, "Are you kidding?" It's not just one car. There are HUNDREDS of them!"

- A man and wife of many years are sipping wine on the patio of their home. At one point the woman says, "I love you so much, I don't know if I could live without you." Hubby says, "Is that you or the wine talking?" The wife says, "It's me ... talking to the wine."
- A preacher dies and joins the line at the pearly gates. There's just one guy ahead of him. St. Peter welcomes that guy and says, "Name and occupation?"

Please turn to View, p. 3

## Greeters

December 01

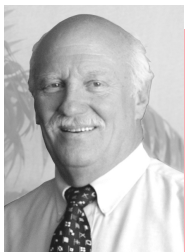
**Hal Yorke**

December 08

**Mike Zoeller**

December 15

**Christmas Party**



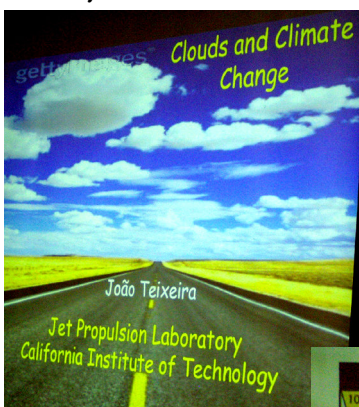
# Program Review

## Clouds Anyone?

Ever have a clouded title? Walked on cloud nine? Stored your data on I-Cloud? Felt like you were lost in a

cloud? Or seen the movie *Walking in the Clouds?* (a great love story by the way)

Altadena Rotarians were privi-



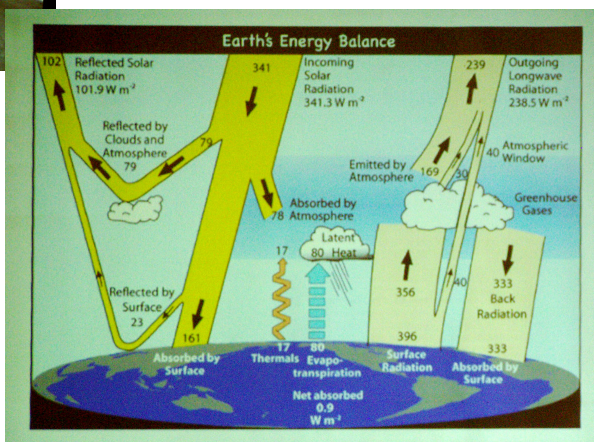
leged to host Dr. Joao Teixeira, one of the world's great authorities on clouds and their significance in controlling the ambient and mean temperatures of our planet for the health and welfare of all of us.

Teixeira has so many credits to his curriculum vitae that were reviewed in our previous introduction of our JPL guest that I shall not reiterate other than to say that he is currently Deputy Director of JPL's new Center for Cli-

that portion which is not reflected back into the atmosphere by clouds which



currently and efficiently reflect up to 30 percent of the sun's radiation. And, in fact, if our friends the clouds reflected as little as an additional 2 percent of the sun's radiation, global warming would not be a problem according to Teixeira. So ... he studies cloud formations worldwide, both through modeling and observation to detect changes



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### Rotary Club of Altadena - #7183

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Photography ..... Jacque Foreman

mate Sciences.

He made a convincing argument — backed by dramatic photographic evidence — of a 50 percent reduction in arctic sea ice over the past 40 years and records demonstrating that, in fact, the earth is warming. CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) has the ability to absorb the sun's radiation; at least

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## December Programs

### Rotary Family Month

#### Program Chair, Sue Applegate

- Dec 01 - Deborah McIntosh, Founder and Owner of *History through the Eyes of Women*
- Dec 08 - Lynn Kern, a docent at Huntington Library
- Dec 15 - Christmas Party - evening
- Dec 22 - To be Announced
- Dec 29 - Dark - No Meeting

## Congratulations



### Birthdays



- 12/05 - Linda Wilkes
- 12/06 - Carlton Gustafson
- 12/12 Karen Gorton
- 12/15 - Jacque Foreman
- 12/15 - Gordon Seyffert
- 12/25 - Art Ferris
- 12/26 - Mona Jasnow
- 12/26 - Carol Zoeller



### Anniversaries



- 12/10 - Kevin & Ursula Moore
- 12/22 - Gordon & Marsha Seyffert
- 12/29 - C. Ray & Joy Carlson

# Chairmen's Corner Thank you to those of you who make Sparks and Me look So Good



We just finished Thanksgiving weekend. What a great time to thank those of you who help make *Sparks* stand

way, way out from the crowd of newsletters in District 5300, and, I suspect, an even wider area. First a thank you to my three columnists: Linda Wilkes, Don Applegate, and Gordon Seyffert. If you're reading this, and you have a passion about which you would like to write — be it gardening or making walking sticks — just let me know, and we'll come up with a column head and byline for you.

I'm looking for someone who would like to review articles that appear in the *Rotarian* magazine. This columnist would pick out a favorite article from each issue and bring that article to the rest of us

by Jacquie Foreman,  
Public Awareness Chair

through his/her review. Each review would be properly attributed by author and issue date.

Next come the Program Reviewers. I have six who rotate in reviewing programs. Each brings a unique perspective to the programs our program hosts provide. They are: Craig Cox, John Frykenberg, Brian Hayes, Boyd Hudson, Ed Jasnow, and Gordon Seyffert.

Our Committee Chairs also rotate and tell us what is going on in their committees or the service area with which they are connected. They are: Community - Ed Jasnow, Foundation - Craig Cox, International - John Frykenberg, Membership - Craig Cox, Youth - Gordon Seyffert and Hal Yorke, Public Awareness - Jacquie Foreman.

Again, a GREAT BIG THANKYOU for making *Sparks* a unique newsletter. ☉

## Program

Continued from p.2

which might help us predict the pace of climate change.

The topic of global climate change, while generally acknowledged to be critical to the future of homo sapiens living on earth, is nonetheless a controversial topic because of the University of East Anglia's Climatic Research Unit's fabrication of scientific evidence of climate warming statistics resulting in what

**Can we predict the future of climate?**

Climate models are NOT black-boxes → Computer code solving fundamental physics equations: fluid dynamics, energy conservation.

- Equations developed during the last 200 years
- Solved in the fastest computers on Earth

From dreams of human calculators ... 1920s

... to the fastest computers on Earth! 2000s

has been called *climate gate* over the past several years.

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## View

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"I'm Jack, retired airline pilot." St. Peter consults his list, smiles, and waves him in. "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom!" he says. Next, it's the preacher's turn. He steps forward boldly and says, "I'm Bob, a church pastor for almost 50 years!" St. Peter checks the list, then says, "Welcome, Bob. Please take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom!" "Hey, wait a minute," the preacher says. "That pilot got first-class stuff. I'm a minister of God. Why do I get this cut-rate stuff?" St. Peter said, "We judge by results. When you preached, people slept. When he flew, people prayed."

- An old guy and a young guy collide with their shopping carts at Wal-Mart. "I'm sorry," the old guy says. "I'm looking for my wife, and I guess I was distracted." The young guy says, "That's OK. I'm looking for my wife too. I can't seem to find her anywhere." The old guy says, "Well, maybe we can each help each other. What does your wife look like? I'll keep my eyes open." The young guy says, "she's tall, with red hair and blue eyes. Nice figure. Long legs. She's wearing short shorts. So, what does your wife look like?" The old guy says, "Who cares? Let's look for yours"

And finally, in consideration of the extra weight we all gained over the Thanksgiving weekend ...

Here's an exercise routine that really works. Begin with a 5-pound potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks at this level, move up to 10-pound bags, then to 50-pound bags. Eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-pound potato bag in each hand. After you feel confident with your progress, put a potato in each bag. ☉



# MONEY by Linda Wilkes MATTERS

## ***Economic Update Last Week in the News***

The index of leading economic indicators — designed to forecast economic activity in the next three to six months — rose a very strong 0.9 percent in October, following a revised 0.1 percent increase in September.

Retail sales rose 0.5 percent to \$397.7 billion in October after a 1.1 percent increase in September. On a year-over-year basis, retail sales rose 7.2 percent in October.

Total business inventories were unchanged in September at \$1.532 trillion, up 9 percent from a year ago. Total business sales increased 0.6 percent to \$1.209 trillion in September, up 11.6 percent from a year ago. The total business inventories/sales ratio in September was 1.27.

Consumer prices fell a seasonally adjusted 0.1 percent in October, following a 0.3 percent increase in September. For the year, seasonally adjusted consumer prices are up 3.6 percent.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo monthly housing market index rose three points in November to 20 from a revised reading of 17 in October. An index reading below 50 indicates negative sentiment about the housing market.

The combined construction of new single-family homes and apartments in October fell 0.3 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 628,000 units. Single-family starts increased 3.9 percent. Multifamily starts fell 13.3 percent. Applications for new building permits, seen as an indicator of future activity, rose 10.9 percent to an annual rate of 653,000 units.

Initial claims for unemployment benefits fell by 5,000 to 388,000 for the week

ending November 12. That's the lowest level since April. Continuing claims for the week ending November 5 fell by 57,000 to 3.608 million, the lowest level since September 2008.

Upcoming on the economic calendar are reports on existing home sales on November 21 and gross domestic product on November 22.

## ***Mind Your Money***

### ***Smart Moves for Travel Insurance***

If you're planning a holiday getaway, consider getting travel insurance. Most airlines, cruise lines and tour operators offer travel insurance, but these tend to be more expensive. To avoid administrative charges, it's best to go directly to an independent travel insurance provider. Standard policies cost about 4 percent to 10 percent of the total cost of the trip. Additional things to consider include:

- **Travel Cancellation** - The most comprehensive insurance for trip cancellation, interruption or delay is called "cancel-for-any-reason" policies. These are more expensive than standard policies but cover events not considered "unforeseen," such as strikes.
- **Emergency Medical Care** - Particularly with travel insurance, you get what you pay for. Credit card companies may tout they provide emergency assistance, but when you read the fine print, that might consist of access to a 24-hour hotline. Check with your current medical insurance provider to see if emergencies while traveling are included in your plan. If not, get supplemental coverage.
- **Emergency Evacuation** - Consider insurance that covers emergency evacuation. Medical evacuations can easily run \$100,000. Be sure to check whether

your insurance policy has a cap on such coverage. Also, be aware that policies generally restrict transport to the nearest facility that provides "appropriate care."

- **Rental Vehicle Insurance** - If you're renting a car and driving in a foreign country, consider purchasing supplementary vehicle insurance. If there's an accident, this will greatly facilitate the settling of claims and there will be no increases to your home vehicle insurance.

Some travel insurance providers include *Access America*, *HTH Worldwide* and *Travel Guard*. *SquareMouth* and *InsureMyTrip* are popular comparison sites for travel insurance. *MedjetAssist* is a worldwide provider of emergency evacuation services with no cost limitations.

## ***Knowledge Builder***

### ***Behind Existing-Home Sales Stats***

The *existing-home sales report* is released on or near the 25th of each month. Behind the stats, you will find four important factors that help explain how existing-home sales are configured.

- Why existing-home sales are calculated on a seasonally adjusted annual rate. Seasonally adjusted annual rates are used in reporting existing-home sales data to factor seasonal variations in resale activity. For example, home sales volume is higher in the summer than in the winter, primarily because of differences in the weather and family-buying patterns in the US.
- How seasonally adjusted annual sales rates are calculated. When calculating seasonally adjusted annual rates, the sales rate for a particular month represents what the total number of actual sales for a year would be if the relative pace for that month were maintained for 12 consecutive months.
- Why median prices are compared with the same period a year earlier. Median prices in the existing-home sales report are not calculated on a month-to-

*Please turn to Money p. 5*

# Gordon's Corner

by Gordon Seyffert

## Learning in Old Age

We last considered educational research relating to childhood learning. What about our age group? At my university it was almost a mantra that education today is all about *lifelong learning*. Western civilization has always extolled the late bloomer. Americans have just gone a step further and institutionalized the ideal. Frankly, though, I never before thought to look at the earliest *records*. Here are some assertions from a book that originally belonged to one of my great-grandfathers, along with my followup comments:

- Socrates, at an extreme old age, learned to play on musical instruments. [Michel de Montaigne was quoted as saying that Socrates even learned to dance as an old man!]
- Cato, at eighty years of age, began to learn the Greek language. ["It was not till his eightieth year that he made his first acquaintance with Greek *literature*..." - Wikipedia]
- Petrarch, when between seventy and eighty, commenced the study of Latin. [This *Father of Humanism* is said to have spent his last five years in religious contemplation, and he died at one day short of seventy years of age. Whoops!]
- Ludovico, at the great age of one hundred and fifteen, wrote the memoirs of his own time. [From the Catholic Encyclopedia I assume the reference is to the seven Satires of Ludovico Ariosto, "giving much information on his own life and laying bare the vices of the time" — but he lived only from 1474 to 1533!!]
- Accareo, a great lawyer, being asked why he began the study of law so late,

replied, that indeed he began it late, but he should therefore master it sooner. [There's no sign of this *great lawyer*; nevertheless, this chestnut received wide play in the 19th c.]

- Franklin did not commence his philosophical pursuits until he had reached his fiftieth year. [He retired from printing at age 41, leaving him time to study. When he was 47, both Harvard & Yale granted him honorary degrees.]
- Ogilvie, the translator of Homer and Virgil, was unacquainted with Latin and Greek till he was past fifty. [John Ogilby began classical studies at Cambridge

at about age 45.]

- Colbert, the famous French minister, at sixty years of age returned to his Latin and law studies. [Whatever the case, he barely lived to 64 and was in great pain his last years.]

Still, every so often I read of someone up in years who earns a college diploma. More common, but less heralded, are the individuals who sign up for Elderhostel or their local university's adult education program for seniors.

Personally, I prefer to learn on my own as my interests dictate. Since retirement, my genealogical quest has led me to teach myself to read the old German script so that I can conduct research in original records.

Does it all have any value beyond the joy we might experience? If Dr. Gerwin is any influence, we should continue trodding those *paths* in his forest so long as we hope to have healthy brains. Are you still learning? ○

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## Money

*Continued from p. 5*

month basis because seasonal changes and family-buying patterns in the composition of sales data can distort the median price. As a result, median price comparisons for existing-home sales are compared with the same period a year earlier. This is viewed as a more accurate and valid comparison of existing-home prices.

- Why condo prices tend to be high. In a given market area, condos typically cost less than single-family homes. But in the existing-home sales report, condo prices tend to be high because there's a concentration of condos in high-cost metro areas. In fact, the national median condo price — which excludes the concentration of condos in high-cost metro areas — is usually lower than the median single-family price. ○

Find Linda Wilkes on line: <http://www.myprospectmortgage.com/lwilkes>



## CHRISTMAS PARTY

**Thursday, December 15**  
**Gordon Seyffert's Home**

**610 E. Calaveras**  
**Altadena**  
**7 to 9 pm**

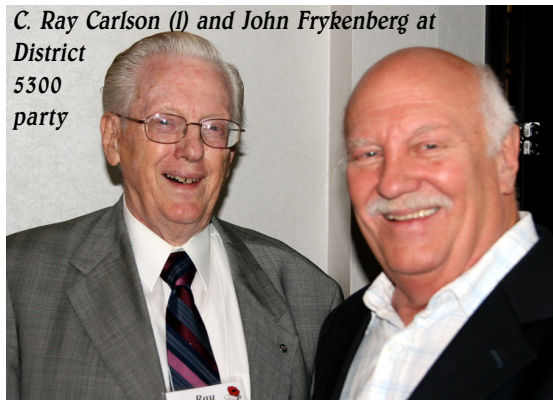
# Carlson Designee for Zone 26 ... Rotary International Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award

By John Frykenberg

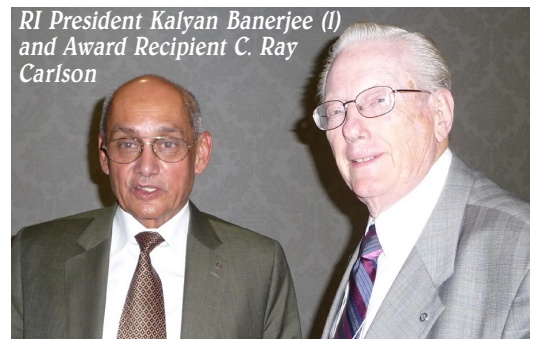
Well, there we were at the Riviera Palm Springs, the guests of 14 Rotary District Governors for the award recognition of Ray Carlson as the Global Alumni Service to Humanity Award nominee and recipient for Rotary Zone 26, which includes 731 Rotary Clubs representing 32,360 Rotarians. Of course the Leadership Institute breakfast we attended was attended by both Zone 25 and Zone 26, representing over 1000 Rotary Clubs, and who knows how many members ... a really, really **Big Deal** in the world of Rotary. The Award was made to recognize Carlson's contributions to address the need to provide jobs to the unemployed of the world and his hands-on efforts to create jobs and offer hope to humanity. (*Our current Administration might do well to learn a thing or two from Carlson!*)

The Conference included such Rotary notables as Kaylan Banerjee, President of RI International, W.B. Boyd, Chairman, The Rotary Foundation Trustees and a bevy of past RI Presidents and Rotary Foundation Directors

**C. Ray Carlson (l) and John Frykenberg at District 5300 party**



... And, of course, Ray Carlson and his personal secretary, John Frykenberg, were on hand to receive the Award, which consisted of one more beautiful plaque to add to Carlson's collection of recognitions for alleviation of poverty and job creation. Carlson was also given a Zuni, Apache or Aqua Caliente (*not sure which*) Indian sculpture in sandstone embracing an Indian symbol for "You did a Great Job."



**RI President Kalyan Banerjee (l) and Award Recipient C. Ray Carlson**

Long story short: we didn't turn in till midnight and decided to sleep late the next morning before setting up our booth for the first ever Zone 25/26 Peace Conference. The conference featured Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi) who spoke on practical applications in conflict resolution and making peace by getting to know and understand one another.

Ray Carlson, Sarah Phillips and Mary Udo and yours truly periodically manned our booth while hunting down Rotary Clubs who might be interested in partnering with



**Rotary Foundation award to C. Ray Carlson**

Carlson was clearly on *cloud nine*. We were invited to a reception on Saturday evening hosted by Doug Fowler, District 5300 Governor in a suite loaded with past district governors (PDGs) and future district governors, including DGE Sylvia Whitlock and new DGN Miles Petroff. It was a splendid affair with champagne and chocolate Rotary emblems all around. And Carlson waxed eloquently on the merits of peace through job creation, including efforts underway by the new Pilipino district e-club being run by Ernie Delfine.

Altadena Rotary in our next entrepreneurial outreach in teaching native indigenous populations "How to Make a Job." We garnered a fair amount of interest for followup with Ray's offer to get going on the matching grant process.

The whole affair was awe inspiring and a reminder of the power of Rotarians volunteering to reach out in friendship to peoples all over the planet to make life a little better and a bit more worthwhile.

Heartfelt congratulations to Ray Carlson for the role he plays in bringing light and hope to young people everywhere. Kudos are in order.

# Flags come Down after Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving

Thanks to the fact that we have changed how we display flags on Lake Ave., we can now leave them up to cover more than one day's holiday.

Saturday, November 26, we brought down the flags that had been up since Saturday, November 05 to honor Veterans' Day (Nov. 11). Since we now put our flags on light poles, the flags are lighted from sundown to sunrise, relieving us from frantically trying to bring them in before the sun departs the sky.



Craig Cox and Jacque Foreman arrived a bit before the appointed time of 10:30a. Cox took his ladder out of his van and propped it up against a trash bin so it could *vamp until needed*. Then came Tom McCurry. Cox left with his ladder to take down the flags.

Craig Cox and Jacque Foreman arrived a bit before the appointed time of 10:30a. Cox took his ladder out of his van and propped it up against a trash bin so it could *vamp*

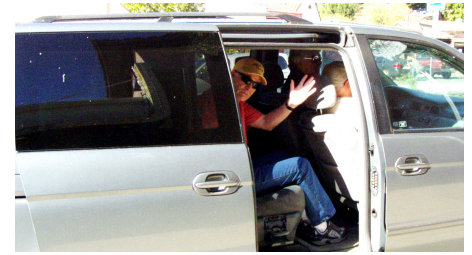
The Plan: Cox would take down the flags, roll them up and leave them leaning against a close structure or hedge, etc. for pickup.



Foreman rushed after Cox to take pictures of him taking down the flags. Then she went back to see if she would be needed to pick up the flags. Soon Mike



Zoeller showed up and then Tony Hill with his van. Hill, McCurry and Zoeller took off in Hill's van to pick up the flags. Foreman



followed in her car to get a photograph or two of picking up the flags.

Cox walked up and back with his ladder — thankfully quite light — before the crew got back from picking up the flags — but just barely.



## Program

Continued from p.3

None of the above should lessen the importance Teixeira's work or the significance of what any degree of warming means to each of us. Historically, mini-ice ages have meant periods not unlike the middle ages when poverty and sickness ran rampant. Warming periods historically have brought proliferation of arts and sciences. But extremes of warming (*as little as 3 degrees*) could spell cataclysm with rising sea levels which could turn coastal areas all over the world into inland seas. Resulting movement of billions of people would have enormous political and economic consequences.

Is climate change caused by combustion of fossil fuels? Methane from cows and pigs? Man? Perhaps. The patterns of climate shifts historically have resulted in enormous cycles of change caused by factors well beyond the scope of man's abil-

ity to address. But, there is ample evidence that humankind has contributed to the most recent observations of climate change. And it is certainly within our sphere of understanding and experience to change what we can change to ensure that we do not contribute to a worsening scenario.

The knowledge, the efforts, the observations and understanding gained through the work of men like Teixeira is critical to our collective well being and we are grateful.

I always loved clouds; cumulus, nimbus, cirrus, even the mile-high thunder bumpers. They bring life-giving water where there is none. And now I know they protect us from too much sun shine, which would surely *cook our goose*. I'm blond, and while I do want Vitamin D, I can do without the Melanoma.

## News from our Nigerian Project Part Medical Mission and Part Teaching ~ 2000 Students how to Write a Business Plan ... an email:

"I am very happy to inform you that our laptops presentation was fantastic. The three young men were overwhelmed. We had representatives from the entrepreneurial centers of the Polytechnic and the Kaduna state University. The rector of the Polytechnic was also in attendance. It was just beautiful.

"I will sent some pictures of the event to you. I informed the gathering that you are already making arrangements for Kaduna and Imo state early 2012, Nassarawa and Niger also in April. So all eyes are on the way waiting for you."

See the 11Jan27 issue of Sparks in the archive on the website.