



# ROTARY CLUB OF GAITHERSBURG

Meeting at noon on Tuesdays in the Hilton Hotel, 620 Perry Parkway

## NEWSLETTER, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013

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## Classification Speech by Desiré Banse

Some people get paid for giving speeches. Desiré could be one of them. It was that good.

He started where his life started, in a village in Burkina Faso in West Africa. In his primary school, there were 110 students and 1 teacher.

His grandfather had three wives, well, maybe not all official ones. His father had a Master's degree in agriculture but chose to live and work in his village. His mother was less fortunate; girls could not go to school in that place and time.

Desiré admitted to being a rebellious kid but did not have time to give us many examples. He was sent to a boarding school in the country's capital but soon left -- too much regimentation, we suppose. Still, he earned a college degree and was among the first in his country to do so.

When he went to the Ministry of Education to ask for money to study in France, the automatic answer was "no," but he traveled anyway and obtained financing two months later. He took on Computer Science, starting from a very low base, and did well. He went on to graduate school in France.

After a year in grad. school, Desiré accepted a job in Luxembourg. Not long after that, he went with friends on a trip to the Solomon Islands, sleeping in parks and generally having a good time. Also he took a two week bicycle ride through Germany.

## Classification speech (continued)



Later, he saw an advertisement for an internship in the USA to work on electronic language translation, applied for it, and was accepted. He did well and was offered a full-time job by the National Institute for Science and Technology, NIST.

Burkina Faso has about 60 native languages, and Desiré speaks 2 of them in addition to French, English and Italian.

In France, he was part of a group that helped rural communities in his home country and in India. Now, he works with an organization called Friends of Burkina Faso, which helped set up a computer center in a village and installed a DSL line to bring its users in contact with the world.

In Rotary, Desiré sees an opportunity to help more people as well as make friends and enjoy himself.

## The 4-way Test

Of all that we think, say and do:

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

## Club Leaders

**Thomas Breece**  
President

**Diana Swanson**  
President-Elect

**David Sickle**  
Secretary

**Linda Hanson**  
Treasurer

**Winfrey Irvine**  
Sergeant-at-Arms