PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS! President Janet (left) presented Paul Harris Fellowships to Jeff Romine (8 time recipient!) and Melissa Stuart, first time recipient.

NEW BANNERS: Randy Smith brought us banners from the 2008 International Convention, along with a banner he received on his visit to Ukraine. Ralph Cupelli presented a banner from the Chula Vista (CA) Rotary Club and also one with the 2015-16 RI theme “A Gift to the World.”

A PHOTO JUST FOR FUN! DGE Ralph presented his first pin to a key district team member, Dale Schenewerk (left), who will serve as district conference chair. Dale shows us his pin!

50-50 DRAWING: Corey Eagen did not pull a winning card; pot now up to $2,312!!

CLASSIFICATION TALKS - MELISSA STUART AND COREY EAGEN: After an introduction by Wes Roper, Melissa Stuart began her talk speaking about her education: PhD, Microbiology: University of Missouri-Columbia, 1989; MS, Microbiology, Kansas State University, 1985; BS, Biology: Missouri Western State University, 1983 and the jobs she held during that time. As an undergraduate, she worked as a laboratory technician. While pursuing her master’s degree, she worked as a teaching assistant. At the same time, she took graduate level courses and performed thesis research investigating the human immunological response to the protozoan parasite Giardia lamblia. requiring isolation of the parasite from fecal specimens! After obtaining her master’s degree, she spent the next four years working on her dissertation research project. Her lab studied various aspects of the immune response to the malaria parasite Plasmodium falciparum. Her job was to determine why people with malaria tend to develop rheumatoid factors more often than uninfected people. Rheumatoid factors are antibodies best known for causing joint inflammation in people with rheumatoid arthritis or other related conditions. Her research showed that although malaria patients are more apt to develop rheumatoid factors than normal persons, the incidence of rheumatoid arthritis is no higher in malaria patients than uninfected people. The rheumatoid factors were providing a protective effect for the malaria patients. They worked by sticking the parasites together to prevent them from infecting additional red blood cells. In this way, the rheumatoid factors reduced the parasitic burden of people with malaria. In 1989, she joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service as a postdoctoral fellow, working in two laboratories both dedicated to finding alternatives to chemical pesticides to control harmful insect species. In 1992, she was hired as an assistant professor of microbiology/immunology at KCOM. During those first years, she continued her beneficial insect research in collaboration with the USDA, which provided financial support. Her final collaborative project with the USDA was to develop monoclonal antibodies that could interfere with the metabolism of harmful insects. She developed antibodies to an enzyme and showed that these antibodies could prevent protein synthesis in fall armyworm cell cultures. If she had continued this research, the next step would have been to modify an insect-specific virus to deliver these antibodies to insects in the field. However, a change in the leadership of her department necessitated a change to research that was less agricultural and more health-related. Currently, she has two graduate students in the Biomedical Sciences program who are studying the protozoans Trichomonas vaginalis and Trichomonas tenax. T vaginalis is the most common non-viral sexually transmitted microorganism in the world. It is estimated that 2-5 million Americans are infected. Trichomoniasis leads to preterm births, low birth weight, and facilitation of HIV transmission. They are performing basic research on the parasites's metabolism. Their long-term goal is to develop new treatments for trichomoniasis that target this enzyme. In their second project, they are researching Trichomonas tenax. (cont’d page 2)

Guests:
Judie Klinginsmith (guest of Ray Klinginsmith)
Scott Johnson (guest of Jim Harding)
Shaun Sommerer (guest of Randy Rogers)
Katia Pallais (Int'l Student from Nicaragua)

Upcoming Programs/Events:
February 4: Kelly Nelson/Agriculture
February 11: Sara Riffer/YMCA
February 18: Damon Kizzire/Kirksville R-III
February 25: DGE Ralph Cupelli/Expectations for his Year
February 27: Rotary/Rotaract/Interact Game Night
March 4: NO MEETING; March 5: RKDS Awards Dinner
CLASSIFICATION TALKS (cont'd)

Melissa Stuart said that in addition to the research she performs at KCOM, she serves as Course Director for the Immunology I and II courses, and as part of the teaching team for the Infectious Diseases and Microbiology courses. In August 2014, she took on new teaching duties in the Missouri School of Dental and Oral Health, where she taught Immunology in the fall and is helping to teach Microbiology II starting next week. She serves on several committees at KCOM, including the Admissions Committee, Institutional Review Board which oversees research projects involving human subjects, and the Student Scholarship Committee. She has been an applicant interviewer since her first year at KCOM, served on three departmental chair search committees, and is currently the chairperson for one of the accreditation subcommittees for KCOM reaccreditation. Since 2004, she has served on the Item Review Committee for COMLEX Level I, which is the first in a series of qualifying exams that osteopathic students must pass in order to become practicing physicians. She has submitted questions for use on COM LEX Level I each year since 1999, and is a Certified Item Writer. She greatly enjoys serving as Faculty Advisor for the ATSU Rotaract and has found that Rotary has truly enriched her life.

COREY EAGEN, our treasurer, began his talk by humorously suggesting that delinquent dues payers would be asked to come forward to pick up statements!! Kidding aside, he then spoke about his education, career and family. Corey said he was born in Moberly and his family moved to Kirksville when he was three. He started school at Mary Immaculate but transferred to public school in seventh grade to play football and sports of various types were very important to him through his college graduation. During those years he learned some of the most valuable life lessons that he’s not sure he would have ever learned elsewhere. It taught him about priorities, hard work, how to deal with adversity and how to work with a team. After graduation he attended Truman State University. While not the main reason, one of the reasons was that he would continue to play baseball. They had recruited him to play catcher. He played all four years during his time at Truman, and played six different positions - not one of them was as catcher. At the time he didn't think much of it, he just wanted to play, he didn't care where. It was more than just getting playing time, however, it was learning to adapt and have a willingness to change. He said that he thinks that in the world we live in today that is essential. When he started at Truman, he didn't really have a good idea what he wanted to do. Growing up he had always thought of becoming a veterinarian, so he considered that route for a short while - probably about as long as the time it took him to figure out that you had to go to school just as long to be a doctor. He had taken some accounting classes in high school and enjoyed them. His older brother, however, was just finishing his degree at Truman in accounting and he didn't want to do the same thing as him. So he was left with his third choice, Computer Science. Well it didn't take me long to figure out that a Computer Science major wasn't for him. He was an accounting major by the end of the next week! By 2009 he was working as an intern at A.T. Still in the Controller's Office getting ready to graduate with still not knowing exactly what he wanted to do. So what do you do when you don't know what to do .... you go to school. So another year of school and he had his Master's in Accounting with a concentration in Taxation. It was pretty much a no brainer after that to take the CPA exam - after all, he had just graduated from one of the top 10 universities in the nation for first time pass rates on the CPA exam. He passed, of course. Later that summer after six years of dating he married Kate. A couple of weeks later he started working at a local accounting firm. A year later he made one of the toughest decisions of his short career and decided to leave that firm and to go work for another local accounting firm owned by Larry Gardner. He was wanting to slow down, and was looking for someone to eventually take over his business. A year and half later he bought his firm, where he is today. He's been married to Kate for 4 years now. They have a soon to be 2 year old Hayden and are expecting another little one in April. At the office they're in the midst of tax season. While that makes up a big part of our business, contrary to popular belief they do work the rest of the 9 months of the year. They currently have about six full-time employees. They concentrate in tax planning and tax preparation-which ranges from individuals to small to mid-size businesses. They also do quite a bit of bookkeeping, payroll, and accounting which involves financial statement preparation and those sort of things. He also just recently earned his CFP license, which recognizes him as a certified financial planner. The exam is very similar to the CPA exam that covers a set of core topics including estate planning, investments, retirement, insurance, and income tax. His wife questioned why he needed it and he explained to her that he was using as a hedge tactic for the day they do away with the tax code. He’s not sure if she bought it or not. While it does do that, he felt that the knowledge he gained in preparing for the exam gave him the opportunity to better advise his clients. There is so much more than just preparing a tax return. I think you have to take a person's whole financial picture into account. (Pictured above from left are President Janet, Corey, Melissa and Wes Roper.)