

“Technology is an active process” is what we learned from her; and it goes without saying, she is quite the dynamo. I’m talking about Abbey Blocker. We had the pleasure to see her at Assembly as she zoomed into our club meeting from Cape Town, South Africa to give us an update of her “life journey” in pursuit of a Ph.D. Currently, she is reviewing the necessary steps needed for completion of this next degree, as she shared with us that she has now completed her Masters. We were able to see some of the equipment she was instrumental in developing, as well as the communication process that will be used to get the information from the remote health care center to the doctor for review. One such item is a digital stethoscope that plugs into a computer that will allow a doctor at another location to listen to the heart and lungs of a patient in real time. She has Beta tested this program and process with nurses currently being trained to us it. So far, the nurses and doctors involved have been happy with this design and are eager to learn more.

Travel – she spoke of the various areas she has been visiting, some as far as 7 hours from Cape Town. These are all areas she may be interested in working at in the future. She also spoke of her visit to Nairobi, Kenya where she spoke at a conference and listened to other presenters to learn more about what is becoming available in her field. A highlight, of course, was a safari ride experience. Who wouldn’t love that!

Challenges – This part is quite enlightening. (What we take for granted, and what the rest of the world experiences.) She talked of three challenges that she has experienced so far: Loadshedding, Striking, and Weather. **Loadshedding** is a process of sharing energy over a region because there is not enough for everyone to have it at the same time. It is scheduled so that everyone can prepare, but the time frame ranges from 2-12 hours of outage. Some have personal generators to support their services during this period, and everyone makes sure that all their devices are fully charged. **Striking** brings demonstrations and disruption of transportation and other services. Taxis drivers protest government taxation and block roadways, food and needed goods cannot be delivered, and students protest certain fees that need to be adjusted due to economic status. And finally, **Weather** is a personal challenge. Windy, rainy, and very cold, she is struggling with hail and occasional snow. Most buildings do not have heat or air conditioning, and this Florida girl wasn’t quite ready for this! It was great to see her again and listen to what she has already accomplished. (Read Abbey’s blog at <https://blockerabby1.wixsite.com/abbyschronicles>) Abbey will be back in town at the end of December for 3 weeks, and she will be visiting out club in January. We can’t wait!!!

Other News:

* We have coming up – The Blessings Pantry, beer pouring at the Stone Crab Jam, the Path Demolition, packing of Medical Supplies, Salvation Army bell ringing, food distribution for CWOW for Thanksgiving, and gift purchasing for the Family Resource Center. Dates and times are on the club calendar on Dacdb and our club website. (Also in Pres. Tom’s weekly)

*CART – Maria shared that there will be district wide activities to raise monies for CART. There is a golf tournament, a golf ball drop, and a wellness walk. Info on all these can also be found on the Dacdb calendar or contact Maria Nunez. By the way, our club has already raised \$399.85 this rotary year. Good job everyone!

H/s Dollars - \$305

50/50 - \$52 to Tom Slaymaker

Next Meeting – Nov. 14

