



Willowbrook Rotarian

Friday noon meetings at County Line BBQ 13850 Cutten Rd, Houston

February 22, 2013

Today's Program

special thanks to Rusty Schlattman

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Janet Siefert

Faculty Fellow in Statistics, Rice University

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Phylogeny Reconstruction, Prokaryotic Biochemical Systems and Ecosystem Evolution, Origin of Life, RNA's and Astrobiology.



Hi! I'm Dr. Janet Siefert, and I'm a molecular evolutionist at Rice University in Houston, Texas
In my work, I think about how microbes evolve. I do this using genes. (That 's the molecular part of my job-genes are molecules, which contain strings of special chemicals that define the characteristics of an organism.) Genes control EVERYTHING in a living organism. There are lots of gene strings deposited in special data "banks" that you can reach through the Internet. We produce a lot of these strings in my lab. I download these and then use computers to investigate and analyze them in

many different ways. The tricky part is to think of very creative ways to analyze them. Once you do this, it can tell you a lot about how an organism changes as it adapts to its living conditions. This can help us look at how microbes might evolve on another planet.

Man and his spaceships: Vehicles for extraterrestrial colonization?

The resiliency and adaptive ability of microbial life in real time on Earth relies heavily upon horizontal gene transfer. Based on that knowledge, how likely is earth based microbial life to colonize extraterrestrial targets such as Mars? To address this question, we consider manned and unmanned space exploration, the resident microbiota that is likely to inhabit those vehicles, the adaptive potential of that microbiota in an extraterrestrial setting especially with regards to mobile genetic elements, and the likelihood that Mars like environments could initiate and sustain colonization.

Books of the World Sorting—Saturday, Feb 23 Total Quality Books
Interact District Conference –Saturday Feb 23,24 Deer Park HS So Campus
Rotary World Understanding & Peace Day—February 23
Feb 28-Mar 03 –PETS Hyatt DFW
EAFK Nitsch Elem March 07
STRIPES Dedication—March 15 10:30 EAFK donation



Invocation	Pledge	Rotary Minute	60 sec Commercial
22-Feb ?	?	M. Boudreaux	T. Lewis
1-Mar P. Baker	S. Kureshy	R. Bills	M. Leonard
8-Mar K. Akiens	J. Kaltenbach	R. Berleth	?
15-Mar G. Aguren	D. Kaltenbach	P. Baker	S. Kureshy
22-Mar A. Watsky	Jr. Jackson	K. Akiens	J. Kaltenbach
29-Mar B. Ullom	Sr. Jackson	G. Aguren	D. Kaltenbach



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