

NESA Virtual Science Fair *in Athens*

By Stuart Fleischer, NVSF Project Manager and Science Teacher, WBAIS, Israel



The NESA Virtual Science Fair projects met in Athens for two face-to-face sessions. The middle school teachers were graciously hosted by Christina Bakoyannis at the ACS Athens Campus.

The NVSF Middle School group is represented this year by thirteen international schools of which ten are from NESA. There were several special guests this year at the meeting; collaborating and providing support to the NVSF was Dr Julie Lambert from Florida Atlantic University. Julie will be acting as the first NVSF E-Mentor Support Professor. She will recruit and manage over 100 new e-mentors ensuring an even better success rate and experience during the science fair.

Dr Gabriella Johnas-Ahrend from Technische Universität Dortmund attended for additional training as the NVSF concept has begun in Germany. As a science educator and physicist, Gabriella was amazed by the level of expertise asked for and given to middle school students in NESA. Not only is the science fair concept extremely weak in Germany, the fact that it is being supported through e-learning applications like Blackboard was even more astounding. The National Association of Independent Schools also sent their new NAIS – Virtual Science Director for training at this event. Dr Whitney Elmore from Macon State College in Georgia, a former e-mentor for the NVSF has taken on the role of NAIS-VSF Director.

So the NVSF seems to have healthy roots and is continually planting seeds around the world! We are looking for another amazing year. Carey Johnson from TAISM took home the Dr Robert Sills Outstanding Science Achievement Award and the travelling trophy for the 2009-10 year!



Bea Cameron and John Gates

The 5th grade team met during the NESA Fall Leadership Pre-Conference in Athens and tackled basically the same issues as their sister-MS project. There were many new faces in the crowd; Shobhana (AIS Chennai), Amy (ACS Beirut), Jaime (AIS Johannesburg/Pretoria), Michelle (CAC), Stephanie (LS Nepal) and Christina and Genevieve (BFS Barcelona). Nick Mitchell, Lisa Mancuso and Susie Geller aligned the NVSF5th to common standards and benchmarks, added essential questions and enduring understandings.

WBAIS took home the new "Cameron Cup." This trophy recognizes Dr Bea Cameron's contribution to the success of the 5th grade NVSF. There are 13 teams also participating in the NVSF5th project this year.

Jimmy Leeper from AS Doha is the project coordinator and will have his hands full as the project continues to grow. Only two years ago, there were four teams in the NVSF5th.

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The Klingenstein Center for Independent School Leadership *Awards Fellowship to Head of School*

By Mark English, Superintendent American School of Jeddah



Mark English

Dr Mark A. English, Superintendent of the American International School of Jeddah, has been awarded a fully-funded fellowship to the Klingenstein Center for Independent School Leadership's 2010 Heads of Schools program at Teachers College, Columbia University. This distinguished award, granted to just twenty heads of school annually, provides independent school leaders with an opportunity for focused professional enrichment, renewal, and reflection.

For two weeks in January, visiting heads from around the world gather together at the Columbia University Campus for intensive study to examine educational issues and policies facing independent school educators. The Center attracts and selects educators who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment or potential for excellence and equips them with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for informed and effective practice. The 2010 cohort

includes Heads from all areas of the United States in addition to participants from Namibia, Panama, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Swaziland, Thailand and Turkey.

The Klingenstein Center is dedicated to improving the quality of independent school education by developing and strengthening leadership among teachers and administrators who work in independent schools in the United States and throughout the world. All fellowships and graduate programs focus on instructional leadership, collaboration and teamwork, a commitment to social justice & diversity, and reflective practice.

Drawing upon a record of success that spans more than thirty years and the full resources of Teachers College and the other graduate schools of Columbia University, the Klingenstein Center stands alone in its capacity to develop leaders for independent schools.