

Connecticut Science Fair Association, Inc.

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## CT SCIENCE FAIR ISEF NEWSLETTER DAY 3– Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Today was our big adventure on the city tour riding the Segways. After about 40 minutes of video and manual training we attempted, and the word **is attempted**, to defy gravity and our natural reaction to want to jump off to stop. That is the worse thing you can do. All momentum is done by leaning forward or backward and turning the hand control on the left handle for right and left direction. It took some time to feel comfortable with the action. Knowing how to ski would shorten the learning curve. The students were, of course, much quicker to pick up the technique. It is not as easy as it looks and we were standing on the Segways for three hours navigating busy cross streets and trying to avoid pedestrians. There was the “youthful” group, which consisted of



our 5 students, and the

“seniors” group, which Andy didn’t quite qualify for either, so we allowed him to join our group as long as he didn’t show off too much. He didn’t do too many wheelies but seemed to take to it naturally. The rest of the “seniors” were tentative at first but about ½ way through we felt fairly comfortable. We did have a few scrapes and bruises (I won’t divulge who!) When we were stopped by our guide to talk about “Ted’s” restaurant, Ted Turner actually walked by and said a few words to us. The guides told us it was very unusual for the tour to see him but he does have a private residence in the building above. Atlanta is **Turner Turf**, yesterday CNN and today his restaurant. Not everybody walks about with a cummerbund in the middle of the day. Our guide pointed out many points of interest but I know myself I wasn’t giving him my



undivided attention for I was still trying to balance and stay on the Segway. Atlanta does have a detailed history and many interesting stories were revealed. The moral of the story is to be sure to know what you are getting into when you have to sign a liability release for to participate!

The students separated from the adults for most the afternoon with various activities. They were probably happy to have some free time on their own. Theresa and Dayton went to alumni gatherings and many others joined in a question and answer session with a panel of seven Nobel Laureates. There is not too many times that you will get that much brain power in one room. Perhaps one day some students from the 51 participating countries here at 2008 ISEF will become a Nobel Laureate themselves!

We have a wonderful group of students this year representing our winners from the CSF and Science Horizon and they are doing our organization and all it’s sponsors, parents, teachers, and everyone involved with the CSF proud. They are shining examples of what is **right** about the youth of today. We hope that their time here this week will be one of many happy memories and newfound experiences. Whether we go home with awards or not is not the



important thing. What is important is the learning experience and the maturity they may have been gained during the week. All the rest is icing on the cake.

The welcome event was staged at the Georgia Aquarium & World of Coca-Cola. We had dinner and did a self-tour of the world's largest aquarium. The three-year-old aquarium has eight million gallons of fresh and marine water. We said hello to beluga whales, penguins, and whale sharks—the largest fish on the planet. There actually is a tunnel you pass through that has fish swimming right over your heads. The World of Coca-Cola served dessert and we could sample some of their 70 samples of their products. A 4-D movie was viewed and photos opportunities with one of the Coca-Cola white polar bears so well known for their innovated commercials.



After back in our hotel some of the students had sessions with Mr. Wisner and Mr. Bramante talking about their judging experience anticipated for tomorrow. What is needed now is a good night's sleep.

Sue Wisner

