

INDEPENDENTS

The Newsletter of the Florida Council of Independent Schools

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from the executive director...

Spring is a time for national and state conferences in the independent, nonpublic school world.

NAIS – March 1-4, independent school educators met in 20 degree weather in Boston for the NAIS Annual Conference. It was a celebration of good speakers, interesting exhibits and wonderful networking opportunities with other independent school heads and association directors. Pat Bassett, President of NAIS, took the opportunity to announce a new Association Relation Task Force (ART) to explore the possibility of collaboration between state and regional associations and NAIS. An exploratory meeting was held in Miami with the Executive Committees of NAIS, SAIS and the FCIS Board. As a follow-up to that meeting, representatives of all three associations will meet in Atlanta at Children's School. An association consultant has been engaged to facilitate. The group will try to determine if a re-engineered or merged relationship might make sense and increase efficiency and reduce costs to our member schools.

CAPE – Ten days later, and in much milder weather the Council for American Private Education met March 11-12 in Washington, D.C. This annual meeting is composed of meetings with other state and national associations, the USDOE, Congressional and White House Briefings. The state CAPE's introduced new associations representing North Carolina-South Carolina and Arizona. Past FCIS Head of School, Steve Robinson represented the new Arizona association. Speakers in Congress, the USDOE and the White House all talked about the new education budget and the \$4,000 Federal Opportunity Scholarships that will be available to children in failing schools. The USDOE staff at the Office of Nonpublic Education urged association execs to encourage schools to become providers in Title I programs, particularly the Supplemental Educational Services (SES) program. Graduates of private schools who qualify for college Pell Grants are also eligible for Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG). For information on both programs, go to www.capenet.org/new.html. The highlight of the D.C. trip was a meeting with two-time presidential candidate Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN). His very articulate and pragmatic defense of school choice initiatives was impressive.

TALLAHASSEE – March 22, 2006 the FAANS Directors met with Virginia Gentles, Director of the Office of Independent Education and Parental School Choice of the FLDOE and her staff. A discussion of common issues and initiatives

led to an agreement to again collaborate on a joint document to help parents select a nonpublic school in Florida. FAANS President Ken Wackes will move ahead with that project. Another area of concern for the Department is VPK. The public schools do not have the capacity to offer VPK programs during the school year nor in the summer. Only 13% of the 90,000 four-year olds in the program attended public institutions last year. The state would like to see many more nonpublic schools participate in the VPK program. For more information, go to www.myfloridaeducation.com/earlylearning. While FAANS could not agree on a lobbying strategy for the legislative session, FCIS continued to be actively involved. As we go to press, the following legislation was being passed: HB 7119 (Arza) established a task force to study FHSAA transfer and recruiting rules. The task force will consist of proponents and opponents of the recent change in FHSAA transfer policies. A steroid testing proposal was defeated. After 3 years of negotiations, Sen. King's CS/SB 256 – accountability for McKay and Corporate Tax scholarship programs passed. FCIS has supported efforts to hold schools accountable for the state dollars received without a lot of intrusion in to school administration. The bill includes a provision for random visits to schools that participate in these programs. HB 7087/SB 306, the main education bill of the session, limits starting dates for public schools to 14 days before Labor Day. This will become effective in the 2007-2008 school year.

-Attempts at a Constitutional amendment to protect the choice scholarship programs failed by one vote in the Senate. An attempt to revisit the class size amendment also failed by a narrow margin.

HEADS' RETREAT – Just a reminder, the annual Heads' Retreat will be held June 16-18 at the Hyatt Resort in Bonita Springs. Pat Bassett, President of NAIS and his staff will be our major presenters.

FALL CONVENTION – The FCIS Annual Convention will be held Nov. 9-10, 2006 in Jacksonville at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront. A very energetic area school committee is psyched about FCIS coming to Jacksonville. Let's not disappoint them.

Congratulations to Nancy Alberts, Head of School, and the faculty at Seven Bridges Preparatory School in Orange Park. Their FCIS/SACS accreditation was approved March 31, 2006.

Executive Director
C. Skardon Bliss

W O R K S H O P S

Carrollwood Day School: Tribes TLC Basic Course E-mail: TRUDIC5187@aol.com	June 19 - 22	Tampa
Cultural Diversity 12th Annual National Institute www.milton.edu	July 10 - 15	Milton
ERB: Annual Conference www.erbtest.org	Oct 18 - 20	NYC
FCIS: Heads' Retreat Administrators' Retreat 2006 Convention www.fcis.org	June 15-17 July 30 - Aug 1 Nov 9 - 10	Bonita Springs Delray Bch Jacksonville
ISM Summer Institute 2006 40 Workshops www.isminc.com/si	June 18 - July 22	Wilmington/ Salt Lake City
NAES Biennial Conf. 2006	Nov 16 - 18	Hollywood
NAIS School Leadership Institute Gettysburg Leadership Institute Summer Diversity Institute Institute for Leadership in Sustainability Financing Schools Institute Institute for New Heads School Leadership Institute for Exp. Heads School Leadership Institute www.nais.org	June 14 - 17 June 23 - 25 June 23 - 30 June 25 - 29 July 6 - 9 July 7 - 12 July 18 - 21 July 23 - 27 July 25 - 28	Potomac Gettysburg Co. Springs NJ Potomac DC San Jose Canada Chicago
NBOA Summer Institute 2006 www.nboa.net	Jun 19 - 23	Portland
Other Florida Workshops www.privateschoolconsultancy.com		

TEACHERS

Global Scholar 2006

Washington & Lee University
Global Scholar is a two-week summer enrichment program that offers rising juniors and seniors the chance to immerse themselves in college-level coursework on international relations.

July 2-15, 2006
www.globalscholar.org

Religious Diversity in America

Intensive Summer Course for Independent School Teachers and Educators. The Interfaith Center of New York and The University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education
June 20-27, 2006 - \$850

www.interfaithcenter.org

MISC

– The House panel overwhelmingly approved a nine-day break in July from sales tax on books, clothes and other back-to-school items.

– In the 2004 elections, the IRS looked at 82 501(c) (3) nonprofit groups and found that a majority had violated the ban on political activity.

– NCES released its biennial report on private school demographics. Results from the 2003-2004 Private School Universe Survey can be downloaded at: <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2006/2006319.pdf>

In Memorial Patricia Wynelle (Nell) Moore Cohen (1922-2006)

Mrs. Cohen's career began 63 years ago, where she taught first grade for years before opening her own school, *The Lads' & Lassies' Kindergarten*. Nell, her husband (William Cohen) and their three daughters moved to Central Florida in the fall of 1962. In the fall 1968, Nell and Bill Cohen found the perfect location to open **Park Maitland School** with 32 K and 1st grade students. By the very next fall, her reputation had grown, and the school went all the way up from K4-grade 6. The school was voted as the "*Best in Central Florida*" in the private schools K-8 category by readers of Orlando Magazine.

Mrs. Cohen is survived by her husband, and three daughters who collectively work to honor their mother's dream by overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school and carrying out her vision.

If you would like to make a donation in Mrs. Cohen's memory the family would be grateful. VITAS Hospice Charitable Fund, Manor Care, 2075 Loch Lomond Drive, Winter Park, FL 32792 or FIRST Book, www.firstbook.org (donate online by choosing: Donate In Honor of...).

School News

Berkeley Preparatory 7th grader, Jack Pinnell, won the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee and will head to Washington D.C. in May for the national competition. ■■■ **Pine Crest Preparatory School**, Fort Lauderdale, 4th grader, William Keiser, and 7th grader, Oliver Larkin, represented Pine Crest at the state level of the National Geographic Bee. Senior, Jessica Vance, was awarded the NSCC Commendation Ribbon and named as Sea Cadet of the Year. Pine Crest students earned 59 medals at the Broward County Solo and Ensemble Festival. Pine Crest Alumna and teacher, Alison Moss, was selected as the 2006 winner for the Deaver Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching. Sixteen Pine Crest students advance to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Awards.

■■■ **Pine Crest at Boca Raton School** has announced that Robert Goldberg has been named permanent Head of School. ■■■ Four Middle School students from **The Weiss School** achieved state recognition in the Duke University (TIP) talent search. Mrs. Lemieux was chosen by her col-

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Technology - Public and private purchases of IT will remain strong this year. Business IT spending growth will decrease next year, so firms that can hold off will find more bargains.

Economy - Growth is holding steady for a full year at a little above 3%.

-Economic forecasts predict 2 million more jobs, interest rates will continue to increase and inflation moderating to 2.8%.

-Long-term interest rates will rise more slowly through year end. The 10-year Treasury yield near 5%. By year end, the 10-year Treasury note is expected to hit 5.25%, while the average 30-year fixed rate mortgage should climb to 6.75%.

Construction - Supply shortages on steel cause the price to rise toward \$650 a ton this summer. That is an increase of approx. \$135 a ton since late 2005.

leagues as The Weiss School Teacher of the Year. ■■■ **Shorecrest Preparatory School** was honored with the national Award of Excellence for E-Bytes, a weekly on-line newsletter. ■■ **Donna Klein Jewish Academy** students have taken to heart the lessons of the Torah and have collected "gently used" school uniforms and sweatshirts, as well as clothing for adults, in an effort to help families at Pinegrove Elementary School who may not have clothing for school or work. DKJA senior, Dor Yasur, was chosen for four spectacular sports accomplishments, one being the 2004-2005 "Player of the Year" by the FHSAA coaches from private schools in Boca Raton. ■■■ **Saint Stephen's Episcopal School** has announced that Upper School Latin teacher, Geoff

Revard, has been elected President of the Classical Association of Florida for a two-year term. ■■■ Three seventh graders from **St. Mark's Episcopal School** in Palm Beach Gardens qualified for the State Recognition Ceremony. These students represent the top 25% of the Duke Talent Search population. St. Mark's and the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department joined forces to present "Internet Safety for Children" on April 11th. ■■■ Three 8th grade **Admiral Farragut Academy** Cadets won 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize in the 31st St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society's Student Essay Contest entitled, "Celebrating My Culture in America". ■■■ **St. Joseph's Episcopal School** held a special "grandparents rule" celebration March 17th.

Winners of the 2006 DeWitt E. & Vera Hooker Fellowship Grant

- ** Connie Siemonof and Arvi Balseiro of The Cushman School, \$1,400 for "*Thinking Like daVinci...An Intergenerational Project*"
- ** Dean Fusto of Episcopal High School, \$3,000 for "*Emerging Leaders in the Middle School: Preparing Students for Stewardship and Leadership in the 21st Century Global Community*"
- ** Linda Lynch, Bryan Thomasey and Bryan Librizzi of Jacksonville Country Day School, \$1,500 for "*Global Olympics - A World of Friends*"
- ** Chip Layson and Stacia Hujik of Lake Highland Preparatory School, \$950 for "*Thematic Team Magazine*"
- ** Sean Murphy and Ben Hoke of Palmer Trinity School, \$3,150 for "*It Takes a Village to Raise a Child*"

Grants and Scholarships

Fulbright Awards Around The Globe

The Fulbright Scholar Program is offering American education professionals lecture and research awards throughout the world during the 2007-2008 academic year. The application deadline is August 1.

<http://www.cies.org>

Braitmayer Foundation Education Grants offers grants of up to \$35,000 for K-12 education projects throughout the United States. Of particular interest are school-reform initiatives and professional-development opportunities for teachers. Application deadline is Jun 1. <http://www.braitmayerfoundation>

**Head of School
Bayshore Christian School
Tampa**

Head of School to administer overall school program for 400+ students (age 3 - grade 12) and 60+ FT/PT teachers and staff. Will have hands-on involvement in all phases of school operation. Replacing retiring Head of 14 years. The school, established in 1971, has a good reputation and is in solid financial condition. Candidate must be a born-again Christian, willing to be involved in Bayshore United Methodist Church, a church which is conservative in values and Charismatic in worship. Send resume to: Brent Byerman, Senior Pastor, bbyerman@iol14.com or fax (813) 835-1404

2006-07 StatsOnline Key Dates

Part 1 and Part 3 - Salary, Tuition, Enrollment Surveys, and Executive Compensation
May 1 - Open all surveys
June 23 - Early bird close
July 10 - Benchmarking available to early birds
Sept 29 - Final closing of Part 1
Oct. 23 - Benchmarking available to participants
Part 2 - Fin Aid, Financial Ops, Giving, Staff Info
Oct. 20 - Early bird closing
Nov. 13 - Benchmarking available to early birds
Nov. 17 - Final closing of surveys
Dec. 22 - Benchmarking available to participants

FCIS Upcoming Events

Heads' Retreat

Hyatt, Bonita Springs, June 15-17, 2006

Administrators' Retreat

Marriott, Delray Beach, July 30 - August 1, 2006

Convention 2006

Hyatt, Jacksonville, November 9-10, 2006

www.fcis.org

Heads' Luncheon Hosts

- Kris Charlton - Miami
- Robert Goldberg - Boca Raton
- William Jablon - Tallahassee
- Dr. Lourdes Cowgill - Ft. Lauderdale
- Gordon MacLeod - Tampa
- John Zeller - Bradenton
- Charley Zimmer - Jacksonville
- Warren Hudson - Orlando
- Dr. Charles Clark - Vero Beach

Thank you for hosting the 2006 Heads'
Luncheon in your area

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