

# The ReSET Report

Retired Scientists, Engineers & Technicians

August 2009 • Volume 30

Chief Executive Officer: Harold Sharlin  
Executive Director: John Meagher  
Communications: Katie Beddingfield  
Distribution: Roberta Goren

## Washington Latin Volunteer Tests New Approach

In only his second year as a ReSET volunteer, Dr. Marty Stein is something of a pioneer in the 4th and 5th grade classrooms at Washington Latin School in Washington DC. Stein has been developing experiments that reinforce and augment the teachers' science curriculum, more closely tracking the classroom program than does the typical ReSET volunteer.

According to Stein, this lecture/lab approach more commonly seen at the high school and college level benefits these kids by "opening their eyes and making them wonder—especially if the experiment provides something tangible

for the kids to take home and play with later."

But such coordination can present scheduling difficulties.

For one project on measuring solar electricity,

Stein ordered solar panels for miniature cars. The first shipment arrived in pieces. Stein couldn't get the second batch of panels to work right either



**Marty Stein checks the meter used to measure the electricity generated when mini solar-powered cars are exposed to light.**

at first, forcing Stein to improvise on his feet—and share another important lesson: "When things go wrong, it is always exciting," says Stein.

## ReSET Event Draws Energized, Engaged Group

A group of more than two dozen ReSET supporters and volunteers gathered June 14 in Washington, DC for a reception to honor the combined contributions to ReSET's success over the past year and to plan for the next.

With an eye toward mining untapped resources, veteran volunteers, such as Bob Stern, who has spent more than 15

years in the classroom with ReSET, mingled and shared insights with newcomers like Janay Jones, an optical engineering student eager to get



**Volunteers Rich Repplier and Sarah Deeb discuss ReSET initiatives.**

involved. Classroom success stories ranged from the student who memorized pi to 1,000 digits to the hands-on appeal of dry ice and soap bubble sublimation experiments.

Harold Sharlin, ReSET CEO, praised the group's efforts to inspire young students. ReSET Executive Director John Meagher summarized the spirit of ReSET volunteers from the words of Plutarch: "Kids are not vessels to be filled but candles to be lit."

If you would like to receive future issues of The ReSET Report by email, please let us know—and help save a tree! Contact Roberta Goren at [rsgoren@verizon.net](mailto:rsgoren@verizon.net)

### Donate Now!

Your Contribution Will Make a Difference!

Please mail your donation to:

ReSET  
P.O. Box 9400  
Washington, DC 20016

Or donate online at:  
[www.resetonline.org](http://www.resetonline.org)

### Science Quiz Answer:

The Higgs boson is an undiscovered elementary particle that, if it exists, gives other particles mass—as was postulated by physicist Peter Higgs in the 1960s.



RETIRED SCIENTISTS,  
ENGINEERS & TECHNICIANS

**P.O. Box 9400**  
**Washington, DC 20016-9400**  
**www.resetonline.org**

***It is elementary...***

**In an interview about his recent movie, *Angels and Demons*, Tom Hanks referred to the term Higgs Boson. What is it?**

**...See inside for answer**

## Record Number of ReSET Volunteers Round Out 2008-2009

During the 2008-2009 school year, ReSET reached record highs in the number of volunteers and schools, despite a slight drop in the number of participating students, due solely to program scheduling difficulties.

“Demand for ReSET programs is stronger than ever,” says Executive Director John Meagher, “However, our volunteers are sometimes unable to execute planned programs because teachers are struggling to deal with rapidly changing expectations and priorities.”

ReSET’s Roberta Goren, Harold Sharlin and Meagher have held a series of meetings with school principals in the past few months to ensure scheduling is back on track for the upcoming school year. “our multi-year trend in the number of programs and students reached

### ReSET DATA TRENDS

YEAR	# VOL'S	SCHOOLS	STUDENTS
'02-'03	11	4	528
'03-'04	12	5	528
'04-'05	14	5	616
'05-'06	15	5	660
'06-'07	15	7	704
'07-'08	15	8	792
'08-'09	16	13	748

is extremely positive,” reports Meagher. “We will find ways to resume that pattern.”

Also of note this school year, the ReSET Board of Directors endorsed welcoming DC public charter schools as ReSET partners. Charter school enrollment continues to grow; 36% of DC public school students now attend charter schools.

In 2008-2009, ReSET programs were presented at four charter schools: two in the Center City Public Charter Schools (CCPCS) network in Shaw and on Capitol Hill, at Washington Latin School, and at the Kipp DC Key Academy. CCPCS has requested that ReSET provide programs at four additional charter schools, further boosting ReSET’s recruiting requirements.