

Dr. Keller's Blog
Thursday, June 25, 2009

Yesterday was the final day for the afternoon seminar, and as I write this the students are just starting their last morning seminar. The faculty for these courses have been wonderful – many of them have taught in AGS for years. One faculty member told me he may have to have surgery, and he was going to postpone it until after AGS because he enjoys the experience so much. The faculty don't get paid much to do this, and their stipend is the same now as it was when AGS started in 1987 so they aren't in it for the money. The faculty have provided students with experiences that they could not get anywhere else: visits to hospitals and courthouses, interactions with engineers and newscasters, the chance to use sophisticated (and expensive!) geographical and chemical instruments. Students frequently report that their AGS courses helped them pick the profession they wish to go into, and some have said that they have eliminated potential careers once they've seen what practitioners actually do. Both situations are valuable.

After their afternoon seminars, the students gathered in the corner of the Cafeteria for the annual awards dinner. The informal ceremony featured awards for the top teams – overall and in dodge ball – as well as the students' choice for most popular male and female students: Robbie Hindsman and Katie Lamberth. In addition, there were "paper plate" awards presented to those who didn't get to go horseback riding, to a high maintenance individual, and other silly categories as determined by the residence staff. The students and staff then posed for pictures.

After dinner, students had the option of shopping at the Summit, while the Arts Experience class attended the dress rehearsal of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at Vestavia Hills Methodist Church.

Remember that the closing ceremony begins tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. in Brock Recital Hall (the first building on the left after coming in the main entrance to Samford). Family members are encouraged to attend. A reception will follow in the Lounge of the Wright Center. I'll spare you the outdoor reception in heat and humidity with unhealthy ozone and pollutant levels.

Please drive safely, and I hope to see you tomorrow.