Local Entrepreneur Champions Young Inventors

Man donates $10,000 to Academy

CONCORD MONITOR Jan. 15, 2003
by Marian Morton

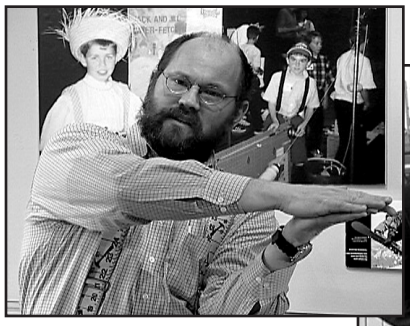
Money will go to Young Inventors' Program

Local inventor and entrepreneur Alex Slocum has bestowed $10,000 on the Academy of Applied Science's Young Inventors' Program.

Explaining the motivation behind his donation, Slocum recalled his own childhood experience of trying to find an outlet for his ideas.

"Invention can work for the school system as a catalyst," Slocum said. "Invention teaches you that whenever you're told you can't do something, you probably can—and make some money doing it, too."

About 5,000 students from 40 schools around the state participate in the Young Inventors' Program. In some schools, teachers incorporate the program into math and science classes; in others, it's offered as an after-school extracurricular activity. Program Director Pamela Hampton said Slocum's donation will help the program expand into more schools, providing teacher training workshops and student handbooks to guide aspiring inventors.



Video captures courtesy of **Nashua tv13**

While in Sandown Central School's program, Eric Klaxton, a 13-year-old from Sandown, invented a blinking luggage tag to help travelers identify their bags in the airport and a Braille overlay for a microwave oven keypad to help the blind use appliances.

"I just liked it, coming up with problems and being able to solve them," Klaxton said.

Gov. Craig Benson and Robert Rines, a lawyer and inventor who founded the Academy of Applied Science in 1963 and the Young Inventors' Program in 1987, praised Slocum yesterday at a news conference for helping to promote student interest in math, science and technology.

American students are being outperformed in math and science by their peers in most other countries, Rines said.

"You can't be an inventor today without education, and you can't be an inventor without technology education," he said.

Benson said Slocum was an example of the partnerships he wants to promote between businesses and schools.

"His willingness to step up and help in the academy…that's what I think is a real role model for New Hampshire," Benson said.

Slocum said he started building treehouses and go-karts while growing up in McLean, VA. He dropped out of high school, he said, when he ran out of math and science courses to take and enrolled at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when he was 17.

He earned his first patent, which was for a fold-away snowplow for his pickup truck, while still at MIT, and has since secured several more for his machine tools. He now lives in Bow, runs AESOP Inc., a firm that helps manufacturers around the world to improve machines in their factories, and sits on the board or directors for the Academy of Applied Science.

Top left: Alex Slocum enthusiastically demonstrates science principles in action.

Above right: Governor Craig Benson (l.), Dr. Robert Rines, and Alex Slocum.

Above: Inventor/Entrepreneur Alex Slocum(l.) presents the Academy of Applied Science's Young Inventors' Program with a check for $10,000.

Science academy gets $10,000 to push student inventiveness

THE UNION LEADER Jan. 15, 2003
by Warren Hastings

Concord entrepreneur and MIT graduate Alex Slocum yesterday presented a $10,000 check to the Academy of Applied Science.

The Academy was founded to encourage young people to develop interests in science…and help [them] become competitive in math and science with students in other countries.

Dr. Robert H. Rines, who founded the Franklin Pierce Law Center and is a physicist, engineer and lawyer, said that even after spending billions on education nationally, the U.S. is still behind in science instruction. As a result, U.S. technology companies are turning to foreign-schooled recruits, Rines and the Academy assert.

Investing for the Future

INVENTORS' DIGEST
March/April 2003

M.I.T. Mechanical Engineering professor Alex Slocum is a dynamo, and one of the things he's very passionate about is encouraging the next generation to be inventive. In January, Slocum presented a check for $10,000 to the Young Inventors' Program (YIP) of the Academy of Applied Science.

The Academy's founder, Robert Rines, explained that, "It's vitally important to our nation's future that we teach our next generation to think creatively. American students are being outperformed in math and science in most other countries."

The Academy's long-term goal is to make the YIP program available throughout the nation.

Inventive Minds

NEW HAMPSHIRE BUSINESS REVIEW
January 24 – Feb. 6, 2003

When Alex Slocum, professor of mechanical engineering at MIT, decided to start a company of his won in Bow, he named it Advanced Engineering, Systems, Operations and Products—AESOP, for short.

"If you read Aesop's fables, you find they always have interesting twists and turns at the end," Slocum said. "That's the way I think all invention and developing goes."

Slocum provided an interesting turn of events himself when he presented a $10,000 check to the Academy of Applied Science in Concord for the New Hampshire Young Inventors Program.

Dr. Robert Rines, Academy President, said the academy wanted to highlight the AESOP gift to encourage other businesses in the state to support the Young Inventors' Program.

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