

Balisciano: Benjamin Franklin Science Fair and also we send our educational office fair out to London schools and farther afield with her Benjamin Franklin traveling suitcase to build relationships between ourselves and schools. And one of the things that they do in terms of looking at Franklin Fun and Science they do experiments related to canal depth that was something that Benjamin Franklin was looking at. He was doing something called the glass harmonica and the children explore how to invent their own musical instrument. Franklin's own, which he developed at Craven Street was something that both Mozart and Bach and Beethoven composed for. We have had an average of 200 hits per week on our very good website, which encourage you to visit, which is www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org. As Colleen pointed out we've had very illustrious visitors from all over the world including from Washington, Mrs. Cheney. We have received the 2006 award from the Royal Society of British Architects for the conservation work that was led by our very own Ann Kiers, who is here this evening. And Ann is both a U. S. and U. K. board member. And we are so grateful for a matching gift of \$150,000.00 from the Pugh Foundation, which has been supported by Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Smith and the Benjamin Franklin House Foundation. And we've garnered blue chip press from among others CNN, Time Magazine, National Public Radio, The New York Times, Town and Country, the BBC, the London Sunday Times and others. So we've made great strides but yet there is still much to

do. We are working to increase awareness of the house and its many offerings through guidebooks, tour operators, event organizers and the like to expand visitor numbers further. And we must move forward toward generating a significant endowment of approximately eight million dollars to cover annual expenditure and to ensure the long term sustainability of the building and its aims. I'd like to thank our host tonight, the State Department, Kurt Volker and Colleen Graffy and their colleagues for their support of this event, and of course the U. S. embassy in London. Walter Isaacson who is soon to share his edition, David Brownwood and the whole of the Benjamin Franklin House Foundation board and especially Ellen McArdle who is administrator of our U. S. foundation for making this evening such a resounding success. And I'd now like to welcome Robert H. Smith to the podium. Mr. Smith is chairman of the Charles E. Smith companies and is one of the most stalwart supporters; I'm pleased to say of Benjamin Franklin House. He and Mrs. Smith have given critical support and advice, which has led to the opening of 36 Craven Street, and which is helping to progress our educational mission. And if you haven't yet visited or if you have you will have seen the Robert H. Smith Study Center at the top of our building, which supports myriad subjects of research related to Benjamin Franklin. As I ask Mr. Smith to come forward let me relate the rest of what Benjamin Franklin said in the quote I excerpted

just a moment ago. Perform without fail what you resolve. With your help I know we can do just that.