

To the friends of the Connecticut Science Fair,



Greetings. It is Wednesday May 16, 2007 – and Wednesday is the ultimate day at the International Science and Engineering Fair – because it is competition day. Today is the day our students, poised, articulate, yet gently nervous, approach the exhibition hall to share their amazing ideas with judges.

Our day begins at a sleepy 7 am when the students congregate for our buffet breakfast in the hotel. Even though there is a nervous anticipation in the air, the students wisely and heartily partake in eggs, fruits, juices, breads, and miscellaneous breakfast meats. The students head upstairs to dress. We meet with them again at 8:15, now all dressed and ready to go.

Mr. & Mrs. Muller, our unsung heroes who tirelessly provide a royal experience for the students, have the emergency supply of water and cough drops for the students to take as they leave. They always provide such a special experience with such wonderful attention to the details that constantly makes our adventure so memorable. A few well wishes and we are off. Ironic how the adults are in shorts and t-shirts, while the students are the epitome of professionalism in their suits.



Along the way, we stop for some photos. Don't forget to check the photos out at the ISEF section of the CSF website: We update them daily!

Bob Wisner has left early; he will be judging in the special awards category for United Technologies. UTC is the generous title sponsor of the Connecticut Science Fair, and we are indebted to their continued support of student science research excellence.



The students are engulfed by the swarming mass of 1500 students at the Convention Center. They enter, and we are left to wait to see how it all goes . . .

The students return for lunch. We have ordered sandwiches ahead, and the students ravenously consume them. The students feel confident. They all appear to have had a positive experience. Questions are hard, but the students feel they are able to address the judges competently.



The students return for round two of judging. Although the students have a break at 4 o'clock, they remain at the convention center. They eventually return around 6:30 – a long and challenging day. The students trade some war stories and wonder how they did.

The day ends with an adult and a student mixer in the local science museums. We join together around 9:30 for a spectacular lightening show (*part of Mother Nature's plan, not ours . . .*) before heading back to the hotel. A long, tiring, but certainly, exciting day.

Please feel free to send your impressions and comments to me at labancaf@newtown.k12.ct.us. See you tomorrow!

For the Connecticut Science Fair and Science Horizons,
Frank LaBanca
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