

*To the friends of the Connecticut Science Fair,*



Our continued greetings from Indianapolis – home of the 57<sup>th</sup> Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. I hope you enjoyed reading about our traveling and setup adventures as well as Jason Clain’s skiing passion. If not, be sure to check out the first newsletter as well as all of the great pictures at [http://members.cox.net/ct\\_isef/ISEF2006.shtml](http://members.cox.net/ct_isef/ISEF2006.shtml)

As we ended the night last evening, some of our great students got their White Castle burgers! I’m not quite sure if their expectations were met.



Today brought some speeding adventure. We headed out to the Indianapolis Speedway – racetrack of the Indy 500. After a few u-turns we actually made it and took a long drive through what seemed to be (in the words of the students) a gianormous compound. Did you know there is actually an 18-hole golf course inside of the track? We watched a few cars speed by us and Drew and Pratistha took the challenge to capture one of the racecars on their digital cameras. We took some time at the Indy museum and saw a large collection of restored vehicles dating back as far as the early 1900s.

Jonathan had the opportunity to meet with his fellow Science Talent Search winners in the afternoon while the rest of the students agreed that Chinese food would make a great lunch. Later, at the convention center, six Nobel Prize Laureates conducted a q&a session in the Excellence in Science and Technology Panel discussion, as students from all over the world asked questions ranging from research to professional challenges.

We all met up back at the hotel and walked to the Indiana State Museum for the welcome event with the other 3000 students, teachers, and fair officials. The museum was alive with excitement. Rumor has it that a goose wandered (perhaps it was coaxed?) into the museum and it ran around for a few minutes before being escorted back outside by security. Students traded pins and met up with friends they have made from around the world.

Students returned to the hotel. Some interviewed with me, and some rehearsed one last time with Mr. Wisner before heading off to bed. Tomorrow is our big day! Judging begins at 9 am and ends at 7 pm. We wish our students the best of luck – we know they will be superstars!



Trivia Fact & Question of the Day: Snapple seems to be the beverage of choice for these five students. How many bottles of Snapple have we purchased for the students in our first three days at ISEF?

Answer: **36!**

And finally . . . we continue to meet our scientists. Today Alex Capecelatro shares with us a little about himself that you probably wouldn't read in his resume. His project, "Nanoengineering Aerogel for Insulin Insulation" is in the Engineering category.

A student, a horologist, a photographer, a biker... A man of many interests, hobbies, and talents, it's hard figuring out what exactly to tell you. Outside of my research, I am actively involved in many academic, athletic, and volunteer activities. One of my favorite hobbies is my bicycling. I refer to it as a hobby rather than a sport because of everything outside of the actual riding that I do. I run a website called [www.bikeflat.com](http://www.bikeflat.com) I film and edit videos, take pictures, make how-tos, etc. for the website. I also put on two events a year, one in the spring and the other in the fall, where friends come from all over the east coast to meet up, ride, and have a good time. I have filmed for a number of DVDs in the field and have had my photographs in a couple magazines.

The type of biking I do is called "flatland", which is essential BMX, or trick biking, on flat ground. It is not a very popular sport and I am proud to say that I am a very active member in this community. I have met people from all around the world and have traveled to contest in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Rhode Island, and Canada. The last competition I entered was in Providence, Rhode Island where I placed 3rd in the expert category. This sport is a very individual sport and it allows me to travel, meet new people, and create images and videos which are seen all around the world.

For the Connecticut Science Fair and Science Horizons,

*Frank LaBanca*

Newtown High School



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