



2008 Fair
60th Anniversary

Connecticut Science Fair Association, Inc.

at the

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair – Atlanta, Georgia, May 11–16, 2008

www.ctsciencefair.org

Theresa Oei's Wednesday at ISEF

We started out the day bright and early around 6:45 a.m. We had a hearty breakfast on the 4th floor at the restaurant. Afterwards we got suited up for the day of judging. We walked over to the Georgia World Congress Center for the start of the judging at 8:30. (I brought along my stuffed whale shark from the aquarium for good luck!) Finalists received an index card with their scheduled Grand Awards Judges time slots on it. Each session lasted 15 minutes. Special Awards Judges did not have particular times but roamed about. There was extra time at the beginning and end of the day for their judging. Each finalist had approximately 4-6 Grand Awards Judges scheduled for an interview. Judging proceeded until 11:45 when there was a 1 ½ hr. break for lunch. Mr. Muller had arranged for us to meet at a restaurant in the Congress Center. At 1:15 we were back at our projects for judging. The afternoon went smoothly until 3:15 when there was another short break. From 3:45 through 6:00 was supposed to be the special awards judging; however, few judges came around. Consequently, these hours were spent socializing with neighboring projects. The finalists in my row started a card game. After judging we had pizza in the Muller's room. Then we went to the student mixer at the Georgia World Trade Center at 7:00. It was a flop. After approximately 10 minutes, Alex, Fiona, and I were ready to leave. However, that crazy Dayton and Eliza stayed the whole time until 10 p.m. We called Mr. Muller and he came by to pick us up. While waiting for him we posed with the flags at the World Trade Center. Alex, Fiona, and I came back to the hotel and watched my first horror movie, *The Eye*. It was weird. Period. However, I made Fiona close the closet and curtains when we went to bed. Just in case there were any mystical beings in there. That was the end of the a very eventful day. Goodnight.

Dayton Horvath's Thursday's ISEF

The day started out with a phone call around 9:00 am notifying me that there was no hot water in the building for at least another half hour. Knowing that we had to leave at 9:45 made the morning schedule interesting to say the least. Dressing up similar to judgment day (Wednesday), we walked over to the convention center where public viewing was going on from 10 to 2. On the whole, it's a time where thousands of little kids walk around with pencil and worksheets asking what one's independent variable and controls were. Lunch was far from ideal as the lines were long, the food still being prepared, and not enough places to accommodate everyone. Talking to other people from previous encounters made the day go much quicker and definitely added to the social experience that Intel ISEF is proud of. In addition to the millions of dollars in prizes and hosting the best high school science researchers in the world, there is a definite feeling of being

around people who are as smart or much smarter than you are. Everyone has some things in common and the strangest friendships can come about from a simple “Hi, where are you from?” It’s this that I found more strongly at the fair this year than the academic experience. For dinner we went to Prime Meridian, an upper scale restaurant at the Omni Hotel across the street. The charcoal shoe leather was exquisite in texture and color leaving little to the imagination of how close the grill temperature was in comparison to the surface of the sun. On the other hand, everyone else enjoyed his or her meal without much hindrance. Leaving the restaurant for the special and government awards ceremony, we ran through the rain and got there right as people were allowed in. There was no keynote speaker yet the ceremony starting at 7:00, with us seated since 6:30, ran until 10:10. A total of 3 hours and forty minutes sitting in a chair, watching people get up on stage to receive their awards. Words cannot describe how long it felt, however congratulations do go out to Fiona for being the first of and only one of us up on stage to receive a commendation for her work. The night ended in the Muller’s room discussing the days’ events, science fair organization and planning, as well as many thank you’s back and forth for all the hard work that went into making this trip as flawless and fun as it has been.