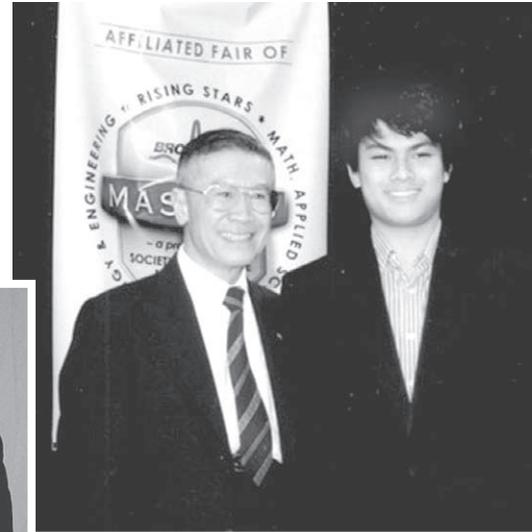




Science Project



Dr. Nelson Ying and Hans Lau



ISEF



State Science Fair

What an inspiring experience – Science fair! ■ By Hans Lau

In January when I was busy preparing my research project for Orange County Ying Expo Science Fair, I questioned myself why I spent extra time and efforts in addition to my overloaded junior IB schoolwork to participate in a science fair. However, when I watched President Obama's state of the union speech, I was drawn by his message on education – winning our future by research and innovation. I felt I was reaffirmed about my passion in science when President Obama said, "Maintaining our leadership in research and technology is crucial to America's success. But if we want to win the future -- if we want innovation to produce jobs in America and not overseas -- then we also have to win the race to educate our kids. We need to teach our kids that it's not just the winner of the Super Bowl who deserves to be celebrated, but the winner of the science fair. We need to teach them that success is not a function of fame or PR, but of hard work and discipline." Since my early childhood, my parents have always encouraged me to work hard and do things with a good purpose and mission. I first experienced the joy of discovery after using a microscope to examine a tail from a lizard. This passion of research was confirmed by my instructor in my 9th grade summer genetics course at John Hopkins University as she commented I was wired to do lab work and recommended me to continue this pursuit in a local research institution.

I am thankful to have met two mentors in my life that directed my path to scientific discovery. Dr. Chow, a Physics Professor at UCF, encouraged me and guided me in the research area that he was doing. He gave me a lot of valuable insight during the research process. Dr. Chow accepted me as an intern to work in his lab during my 10th grade summer. Besides, I had a chance to shadow a cardiologist, Dr. Cen who has taught me patience and dedication towards her patients. Her care and determination to cure her

patients stimulated me to sharpen my perseverance skills. These mentors directed me and pointed the direction of my future that I am heading.

My experiences in the County and State Science Fairs have further inspired me to pursue my interest in science for my future career. I had met a lot of bright students who are also deeply passionate about their scientific work. At the State Award Ceremony, the works of all participating students are recognized by judges, educators and sponsors through valuable face to face communications. I deeply appreciate the many sponsors such as Dr. Nelson Ying and volunteers who committed a great deal of resources and time to support the Science Fair. Their interest and passion in supporting a new generation of future scientists for new discovery is in fact a great inspiration for us to commit further in something we are still not sure and clear.

Science fair is an important venue to inspire young people to pursue their endeavor in scientific innovation and research, and to formally recognize their hard work, discipline and perseverance in achieving academic excellence. Such desire and purpose is desperately needed for our generation to rise up and win our future in a challenging world through innovation and technology leadership. For information of Dr. Nelson Ying Orange County Science Fair, visit <http://yingexpo.com>. For State Science & Engineering Fair of Florida, visit the website of www.floridasef.net



Hans Lau, is a rising senior at Winter Park High School in the International Baccalaureate program. He enjoys playing tennis, violin and creating some music. He is the Founder and President of REACH whose mission is to promote the recognition and experience of Asian Cultural Heritage by reaching out to the community. He is also Assoc. Concertmaster of Florida Symphonic Youth Orchestra. In the future, he plans to study biotechnology in college.