

Although he served Connecticut for more than 5 decades, Bob's contributions were immeasurable. Connecticut has lost a great mind, teacher, and integral part of its political and progressive infrastructure. Connecticut and the Nation will never forget this great man. He lives on through his words and his tremendous acts of vision and courage as well as his passion for life, the law, and the State of Connecticut.

2012 INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the seven Connecticut students who have been named 2012 Intel Science Talent Search semifinalists. This elite, national competition seeks to honor high school students who excel in a science or math research project in order to "highlight the need for improved math and science education in the United States." Beginning in 1942, the Society for Science and the Public, SSP, has partnered with Westinghouse and then in 1998 with the Intel Corporation to offer this opportunity for young scientists and mathematicians. These 7 students from Connecticut have been selected from over 1,500 applications from around the country, and I am proud that they represent Greenwich, Guilford, Hamden, Lakeville, Wallingford, and Woodbridge Counties. Their hard work, motivation, and curiosity gives me great pride and hope in their ability to change the world. Using their intelligence, ideas, and passion, they can help solve some of our Nation's most pressing issues.

Student Zizi Yu from Amity Regional High School observed the severe food allergies experienced by some of her peers. Through a survey and a case controlled study, she took a closer look at what has been commonly called the hygiene hypothesis, finding a correlation between the age of exposure to certain foods and substances and the prevalence of allergies later in life. After being named a semifinalist on January 25, 2012, Zizi was selected as one of 40 finalists and traveled to Washington, DC, in March to meet with national leaders to present her findings.

William Bennett Hallisey and Ryota Ishizuka took a unique, independent science research class at Greenwich High School, where they were inspired to experiment with the intersection of biology and environmental studies. After learning about research conducted at Stanford University, William adjusted the materials previously used in experimentation and examined how silver nanoparticles and felt substrates could serve as an easily transportable, low-cost, and user-friendly filtration system, removing about 95 percent of a system's bacteria. Ryota Ishizuka looked at ways to harness the potential of microbial fuel cells to generate electricity through hydrogen output. She found that she could create a fully au-

tonomous water treatment system, powering a wastewater treatment reactor, by the reactions of bacteria found in the wastewater itself.

Guilford High School's Yuning Zhang used this competition, in conjunction with work at Yale University's School of Medicine, to express his interest in biomedical research. According to his advanced placement biology teacher, Ruth Heckman, Yuning is "so excited about doing research and wants to make it his future." After isolating kidney cells, growing them in enriched cultures, and staining and characterizing them, he compared these samples to non-selectively grown cells. He found that there was an over 70 percent increase in the amount of stem cells that would grow from selectively grown cells, which has incredible future applications for injury repairing and wound healing.

Aaron Shim of Choate Rosemary Hall used computer models and an opportunity to work alongside Yale chemistry professors to study organometallic complexes and their possible applications for renewable energy. His goal was to further refine the modeling methods of these complexes in order to expedite our understanding and utilization of the way hydrogen is stored in fuel cells. Over the course of his research, Aaron was motivated by and hopes to explore in the future how computers can help "us understand a little bit more about the natural world around us, helping solve real-world problems through their rather abstract power of mathematics and computation."

Hailing from Hamden High School, Yiyuan Hu examined MyD88—a protein involved in the body's immune system—and its role in DNA damage response. Through novel research of infectious diseases as part of Dr. Albert Shaw's laboratory at Yale University's School of Medicine, Yiyuan helped discover unexpected new applications for MyD88 to counter diseases tied to chemicals that help kill bacteria but can also damage DNA. Yiyuan has even inspired other students at Hamden High School to become excited about research and involved in the school's science club.

Student Seung Hyun Lee contemplated the Steiner ratio problem as part of an independent study project in conjunction with his math instructor at his high school, the Hotchkiss School, and Hofstra University's Professor Dan Ismailescu. Seung experimented with the field of combination optimization, a study that combines math and theoretical computer science, with the aim to advance our understanding of the Steiner ratio problem.

The success of these talented young adults is a testament to the care and dedication of the teachers, mentors, and administrators who nurtured them and their projects, giving the time and space for creativity, problem-solving, and experimentation. Even though the

Intel Science Competition has strict rules about independent student work, these brilliant mentors inspire their students to spend their free time researching new ideas and thinking big thoughts.

Greenwich High School's independent science research class is taught by Andy Bramante, who left a 15-year career as a chemical engineer and chemist to inspire high school students to love research. An advanced placement biology teacher at Guilford High School and educator for 36 years, Ruth Heckman was excited to report that she gets to learn from students like Yuning Zhang. Zizi's research was guided by Deborah Day, science research teacher at Amity Regional High School. Kevin Rogers, the head of the science department and chemistry teacher at Choate Rosemary Hall, helped Aaron Shim work with an outside group at Yale University in furtherance of his research. Similarly, the instructor of mathematics at the Hotchkiss School, Marta Eso, worked with Seung Hyun Lee to complete an independent study research project at his high school and also at Hofstra University. And Sonia Beloin, teacher and adviser to the Science Bowl and Science Olympiad clubs at Hamden High School, mentored Yiyuan Hu, helping to facilitate his successful work at the Section of Infectious Diseases at Yale School of Medicine and supporting him to improve his presentation over time.

Several of these students were invited to join high-level study on their chosen topics at several select universities. Yuning Zhang, Aaron Shim, and Yiyuan Hu were invited into cutting-edge laboratories at Yale University. Yuning worked with Dr. Gilbert Moeckel, the director of the Renal Pathology and Electron Microscopy Laboratory at Yale University's School of Medicine. After reading some of their papers, Aaron was invited to join Professor Victor S. Batista's research team at Yale University's Department of Chemistry. Yiyuan Hu assisted Dr. Albert Shaw's laboratory in the Section of Infectious Diseases at the Yale School of Medicine, and Seung Hyun Lee worked in conjunction with Professor Dan Ismailescu from Hofstra University. I applaud this fruitful and nurturing relationship between high school students and universities.

I wish the best of luck to the seven Connecticut 2012 Intel Science Talent Search semifinalists as they continue to inspire others to dedicate their brilliance to STEM fields. I know my colleagues will join me in honoring these impressive accomplishments of our Nation's young people.

TRIBUTE TO SALVATORE PRINCIOTTI

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the Stamford Young Artists Philharmonic, SYAP, and most especially, Salvatore

Princiotti, SYAP's beloved founder and conductor, who is retiring after 52 years.

Currently, SYAP runs eight different ensembles for a wide range of ages, including the advanced Young Artists Philharmonic, an intermediate level orchestra, a string ensemble, flute choirs, jazz groups, and a Summer Jazz Workshop that draws student musicians from around the country.

SYAP has become closely connected to the Stamford area community. Its members are artistic ambassadors, sharing their love of music as a common language and source of connection with all of Connecticut. Through both classical and jazz programming, the SYAP shares different styles of music in venues around Stamford—outreach through plush melodies and moving rhythms—holding performances, for example, at Stamford Town Center, such as the popular outdoor concert series, Jazz on the Plaza.

Committed to a strong tradition of giving back to the less fortunate, the SYAP has partnered with the Union Baptist Church in Stamford where, in exchange for rehearsal space, it held an annual holiday concert whose proceeds benefited the church's senior members. In addition, the Philharmonic partners with the Waterside School in their Outreach String Program, offering lessons to students who cannot afford instruments.

SYAP's level of musicianship is first-rate as demonstrated by its relationship with the Stamford Symphony, which mentors the young musicians, sharing performances and giving workshops. However, the surest indicator of the high level of musicianship is the leadership and 52 dedicated years of the enormously talented violinist and conductor, Maestro Princiotti.

Sal Princiotti, or "the Prince," as he is called by the orchestra members, has dedicated a half a century to enhancing the lives of young musicians, inspiring a passion for melody with specific performances as temporary goals, but with overall experience as his motivating principle. Mr. Princiotti brings enormous talent to the SYAP as a graduate of the Juilliard School and past soloist at Tanglewood Music Festival under world-renown conductors Leonard Bernstein and Charles Munch. In addition to founding and leading the SYAP, and conducting the Ridgefield Symphony and Stamford Symphony, Mr. Princiotti maintains a busy, private teaching practice and has directed the string programs for the Greenwich and Darien school systems.

Under Mr. Princiotti's baton, the SYAP has performed for many significant commemorations, including the New York World's Fair in 1964, the rededication of the Statue of Liberty, and a program for President George H.W. Bush. In addition to enriching our Nation's history, Mr. Princiotti has ensured that his groups of musicians give back to their country through annual holiday concerts at Grand Central Sta-

tion for AmeriCares. He has also expanded the horizons of the SYAP, bringing them to Italy in 2001 and 2006 on an international tour. He is the author of a book—*The Heart of Music*—which explores the art of music education.

I am in the company of many others who have demonstrated their appreciation of Mr. Princiotti. He was the 2000 recipient of the Film and Arts Bravo Network Award, the 1987 Stamford Community Arts Council Arts Award, and has been inducted into the Stamford High School Wall of Fame. Mr. Princiotti holds the keys to the City of Stamford, and is a most treasured member of the Stamford area and the State of Connecticut.

"The Prince's" final concert will be held on May 6, 2012, at the Palace Theater in Stamford, CT, where friends, family, alumni of the orchestra, and current young artists of this esteemed group will spend hours wrapped in melodic memory in celebration of more than 50 years of artistry, education, and true connection. At this event, a scholarship fund and chair will be dedicated in Mr. Princiotti's honor. I can say with certainty that there is no need for a chair for the Maestro to be remembered for decades to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JEROME D. SCHNYDMAN

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Jerome D. Schnydmann who will be retiring on June 30 from Johns Hopkins University. Jerome has spent his adult years at Johns Hopkins, first as a student and All-American lacrosse player, graduating in 1967, then as an assistant lacrosse coach from 1968 until 1978, when he rose from assistant director to become the director of undergraduate admissions for the schools of Arts and Sciences and Engineering. He went on to serve as executive director of the Office of Alumni Relations and, most recently, as the secretary to the board of trustees and executive assistant to the president of Johns Hopkins.

If you count Jerome's stint as captain of the 1967 National Championship Lacrosse Team, he has served Johns Hopkins University for 4½ decades and he has done so with grace, intelligence, compassion, and distinction. He received the Alexander K. Barton Cup for "strong character, high ideals, and effective moral leadership" upon graduating. In 1998, he was inducted into the Johns Hopkins Athletic Hall of Fame. In 2003, he was inducted into the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

There will be 10 different disciplines at the University honoring Jerome Schnydmann for his distinguished service. That is no surprise: he has been the "go-to" guy for everyone and everything. Generations of Hopkins students, faculty, and staff on any of the

University's campuses—from Homewood to East Baltimore; from Bayview to SAIS in Washington, D.C.; from Bologna to Shanghai—all know of Jerome and the fine work he has done on their behalf and on behalf of the University. Whether someone works in the Homewood garage or is a Nobel Laureate exploring the cure for cancer, he or she counts Jerome as a friend. He has great respect for the institution, and especially for those who work each day to create and sustain the "Hopkins family."

I am proud to say that Jerome and his wife Tammy, a special education teacher, are personal friends. Their children—Becky and her husband Larry, and Andy and his wife Nancy—and their grandchildren—Sophie, Jason, Tucker, and Cassidy—are an integral part of Baltimore. When Jerome retires from Johns Hopkins University, he is excited about serving as the president of his synagogue, Beth El, and spending more time with his family and friends in Baltimore and Bethany Beach.

I ask my colleagues to recognize the enormous contributions that Jerome has made to the Johns Hopkins University and Baltimore communities and to wish him well in his well-deserved retirement.●

RECOGNIZING THE GELATO FIASCO

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, in anticipation of the warm spring weather upon us and the long summer days ahead in my home State of Maine, our thoughts quickly turn towards fun in the sun and cool refreshing treats. Today, I rise to commend and recognize The Gelato Fiasco, located in Brunswick, ME, for developing and growing a niche market serving delectable frozen gelato treats while expanding and creating economic opportunities across the State.

In 2002, the founders of The Gelato Fiasco, Josh Davis and Bruno Tropeano, were students at Bentley University in Waltham, MA, and dreamed of starting their own company and becoming successful entrepreneurs. As the two students spent their time exploring various ventures, this team decided to open a homemade gelato store as a result of being dissatisfied with the gelato options available to them throughout the Northeast.

Made mostly from milk and sugar, gelato has less fat than standard ice cream and also contains less air, making the final product denser. Taking advantage of the small gelato market that existed with an estimated 1,500 gelaterias total in the United States Bruno and Josh saw an opportunity to market a superior version of the delicious Italian treat. Determined to serve a top quality gelato, The Gelato Fiasco features only the best local ingredients available.

In these uncertain economic times, as young entrepreneurs, Josh and