

# From the 2009 Science Fair Winner

**Alex Rablau**



*The dust has long settled in the huge exhibit hall of the Reno-Sparks Convention Center, but I am still sorting through my thoughts and feelings about having attended the 2009 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF). If I had to choose only a couple of words to describe them all, they would be overwhelmed and inspired.*

*It all started here at the Flint Area Science Fair and I feel honored and fortunate to have had my science project among the two projects selected for ISEF from the tremendous amount of good work presented at the 2009 FASF.*

*I have always been interested in science, from taking things apart, to putting them back together (sometimes), to blowing up my Dad's stabilized DC power supply (sorry, Dad!). My participation in the FASF, and subsequently in the Intel ISEF, has elevated this interest to a whole new level. I am more enthusiastic and motivated in science and engineering than ever before.*

*This has been one of the greatest learning experiences of my life, beyond what any classroom experience could have provided. Not only did I learn a lot about science, but also about taking initiative, following through with the work, and presenting my project in an intelligent way for audiences of various levels of understanding. These are all assets that I now carry with me into every aspect of my life, and I have no doubt that they will serve me well as a future college student.*

*My message to all FASF participants and stakeholders is one of motivation and encouragement. To students: believe in yourself; great things can start with a science fair project. To parents: never stop encouraging your children and get involved, you might learn a thing or two yourself in the process. To teachers: science learning begins in the classroom but should not stop there; lay the foundation for your students and encourage them to further explore on their own. Last but not least, to all the FASF sponsors: your generous support makes it all possible. Thank you, and please keep investing in FASF—you are investing in the future of our science and engineering.*

*Good luck to all 2010 Flint Area Science Fair participants!*

*Alex Rablau*