



Gena Rozenberg

*Bronx High School of Science, The Bronx
Winner, Physics*

Essay title: Eric A. Cornell and the Bose-Einstein Condensate

Born in Kiev, Ukraine, Gena Rozenberg came to the U.S. as a three year old with his family and adapted quickly to his new home in New York City. He has lived in various parts of Queens and currently resides in Briarwood. The son of a teacher and an engineer, Gena believes his parents are his greatest role models. "They taught me the value of hard work and determination and have always encouraged all of my interests," he says.

That interest has always involved science. "I greatly admire all scientists and engineers because it is their discoveries and inventions that improve society and propel it forward," he says. "I definitely see myself becoming a scientist someday. Physics or engineering fascinates me, and I hope to study electricity, magnetism, nanotechnology, atomic physics, and condensed matter physics."

An honors student who loves playing basketball and tennis, Gena enjoys being a member of the Judaic Cultural Society and the US FIRST Robotics team at school. "These activities have taught me a lot," he says, citing his interest in people. Outside of school, he also volunteers at a Riverdale nursing home called the Hebrew Home for the Aged.

His decision to write about Nobel Laureate Eric Allin Cornell came about through serendipity. "In my readings I happened to come across several references to Bose-Einstein Condensates and the experiments involving them," he said. Intrigued, he yearned for some free time to study Cornell's work

in depth, and when he heard about *The Laureates of Tomorrow - Nobel Essay Contest*, he jumped at the opportunity. "He was the one who achieved the first Bose-Einstein Condensate. I couldn't wait to read more about his work and how he did all of the groundwork for deeper experiments on Bose-Einstein Condensates," he explained.

In researching his essay, he found the Nobelprize.org site to be "extremely informative and helpful." A videogame fan, he regretted that he didn't have enough time to play or fully explore the games available on the same web site. "I found time to compose and finish my essay only through meticulous planning and effective time management," he says, citing his hectic schedule.

Upon hearing that he had won, "I was thrilled, and so were my parents, who were so proud of me," he says. Though he is a seasoned traveler - "I've been to Canada, Spain, the Dominican Republic, France, and Italy," he believes "my trip to Sweden will probably be the most memorable."

He added that the Nobel Prize embodies the level of achievement he hopes to someday achieve for himself. "I look forward to graduating high school with honors and getting into a prestigious university that specializes in engineering or physics," he says. "From there, I hope to someday make a discovery or create an invention that will benefit society in some way."

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