

More than 100 million people worldwide are chronically exposed to high levels of arsenic and are at risk of serious diseases, such as cancer and heart disease. A randomized trial of creatine supplementation is currently underway in Bangladesh. Yael is 17 years old.

A 17-year-old young man from East Setauket, NY, Jason Karelis studied an enzyme called MenD that plays a role in the biosynthesis of a lipid called menaquinone in *Staphylococcus aureus*, the bacterium that causes staph infections. Menaquinone is an electron carrier crucial to *S. aureus*. Jason constructed a mutant strain of *S. aureus* with a disrupted MenD gene and observed its growth on media only with menaquinone added, evidence that MenD is vital for *S. aureus*. Staph infections are a major public health concern and Jason's work provides a platform for a new class of antibiotics.

From Hilo, HI, Nolan Kamitaki designed a computer simulation to determine how viral characteristics and medical supply distribution patterns affect an epidemic's spread across a social network. Starting with a particle-based simulation to analyze basic interaction rates, he moved to a small world network, modeling an epidemic's spread across a population. Nolan's findings showed that children, due to their greater degree of social connection, are most useful for prevention and are the most effective recipients of medical processes. Nolan is 16 years old.

In the area of literature, we have a young woman from North Potomac, MD. Amy Levine, a 16-year-old, examines the shades of gray between black and white in her literature collection, *Grayscale Unraveled*. She demonstrates how life choices that have the greatest impact initially do not appear to be choices at all, but have the potential to be the most transformative. Amy's portfolio explores the small yet important events that determine who we are and how we live, while breaking down the black and white decisions people make to show the grayscale that describes the world.

Also in the area of literature, we have Nicole Rhodes, a 17-year-old from Vancouver, WA, who created the portfolio *The Dictionary of Distance* to explore different facets of distance in writing. She considers the distance between a piece's narrator and characters, the space between the author and the work, and the space separating characters and other elements to determine how distance alters memory. Through this examination, Nicole is able to analyze the writing process, the writer's perspective, and the final written product. Her portfolio includes a variety of forms, styles, and subjects, united in this investigation.

From Indianapolis, IN, Doreen Xu explores the foundation of evil in her philosophy portfolio, *The Roots of Evil*. She delves into the human psyche to examine several distinct sources of evil, concluding that all human evil is

caused by frustrated human desire. Doreen explores this newly defined dimension of evil with an enlightened perspective, fostering a new method of viewing evil. She hopes this will allow evil to be more effectively combated, leading to a more progressive and harmonious global society. Doreen is 16 years old.

The first recipient in the world of music is Melody Lindsay, from Honolulu, HI, who believes we celebrate mankind's best achievements through music. In her portfolio, *Harping Around the World: Cultural Leadership for the 21st Century*, she draws on her experience as a harpist to connect with audiences. She is particularly interested in inspiring young people to discover and pursue their own passion for classical music. Melody, at age 17, has performed on and serves as a Cultural Ambassador for NPR's "From the Top" and was a Focus on Youth Performer for the ninth and tenth World Harp Congresses.

From La Crescenta, CA, Connie Kim-Sheng seeks to convey the insights of classical composers in her portfolio, *Inspired by Beauty: Piano Masterworks*. Her performance of pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Debussy, and Ginastera provide musical texts that illuminate the span of human feeling and experience, demonstrating a multitude of complex harmonies. At 17 years old, Connie has performed on NPR's "From the Top," and for audiences in Sydney, Australia; Calgary, Canada; and Los Angeles. Through her music, Connie hopes to encourage greater respect for cooperation and pluralism in society.

A 13-year-old young woman from San Diego, CA, Sarina Zhang strives to show the beauty and emotional value of classical music in her portfolio, *Reaching out to the World with the Magic of Music*. Through performance, she strives to connect with her audience, moving them with the simple truth of classical music. A pianist and cellist attending The Juilliard Pre-College Division, she has been featured on NPR's "From the Top," performed at Carnegie Hall, and toured internationally with the San Diego Civic Youth Orchestra.

For exemplary works in the category of "Outside the Box," recipients include Allison Ross from Mercer Island, WA. She created a portfolio, *African and Western Heroes' Journeys in Literature: An Exemplification*. Against the backdrop of August Wilson's fiction and the constructs of Joseph Campbell's Hero's Cycle, she explores the relationship between classical Western and African hero mythologies. Allison, at 16, investigates the derivations, common motives and cultural differences between the two traditions offering original narratives and critical analysis. Through this work, Allison hopes that others will share her enthusiasm for exploring themes that unite our heritages.

And finally, in his "Outside the Box" project, a 15-year-old young man from

Cupertino, CA, Anshul Samar seeks to make learning a side effect of fun with his project, *Igniting Interest in Chemistry with Elementeo Chemistry Card Game*. In *Elementeo*, players battle with their element army, activate reactions, create compounds, and conquer opponents using black holes and slippery bases. Anshul hopes that by introducing young people to chemistry in a fun and interactive manner, they will discover a passion for science and pursue it throughout their lives.

These brilliant young men and women are essential for the success of their generation. It is our duty to recognize, support, and nurture their progression through academia as they mature into the leaders of their generation. We should consider ourselves privileged that some of the triumphs of these ingenious young minds have already born fruit. I would like to thank the Davidson Institute for making such scholarships available and for taking the time to seek out these worthy candidates. I would also like to thank each winner and applicant of the Davidson Award for showing to us the promise and potential your generation holds. We can rest assured that our future is in good hands.

TRIBUTE TO ERNIE HARWELL

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to the man whose voice was the sound of summer, to the man who guided Michiganders through baseball seasons for more than 40 years. I rise in tribute to Ernie Harwell.

For those who love baseball and the Detroit Tigers, Ernie Harwell's easy Georgia drawl on a summer evening has been a tonic after a hard day's toil. He has been our eyes and ears at the corner of Michigan and Trumbull and, later, at the team's new downtown ballpark. Since 1960, when Ernie broadcast his first Tigers game, until today, perhaps no person, no player nor manager, has been more closely identified with Tigers baseball. Certainly none has formed so strong an emotional tie with the fans of our team.

Ernie grew up in Atlanta, and he often tells fans that as a boy he was tongue-tied, coping with a speech impediment, but with therapy and hard work, he turned his voice into a tool so powerful it brought the game to life. His first broadcasting job was with the minor league team in his hometown, but in 1948, when broadcasting legend Red Barber of the Brooklyn Dodgers fell ill, Dodgers general manager Branch Rickey called down to Atlanta. He asked if he could bring up young Ernie to fill Barber's seat at Ebbets Field. OK, the Atlanta general manager replied, but you will have to give me something in return. And so Ernie became the first and so far only broadcaster in baseball history to be included in a trade, sent to Brooklyn for a minor league catcher.

That was one of Branch Rickey's finest deals. In Brooklyn and then in Baltimore, Ernie honed his craft and won

the admiration of fans. He was the television broadcaster for one of the most famous moments in baseball history, Bobby Thompson's "Shot Heard Round the World" in 1951. The national networks began to tap his talent for other events, such as pro and college football games and the Masters golf tournament.

And then, in 1960, he came to Detroit.

It is hard to describe to those who aren't from Michigan or fans of the Tigers just what Ernie Harwell meant to us over the next five decades. His voice on the radio guided us through good seasons and bad, through our city's times of prosperity and of tragedy. Through that ebb and flow he was a constant, his voice never too excited, never too downcast. We rejoiced when he told us an opposing batter took strike three "like the house by the side of the road," chuckled as he reported a foul ball had become a souvenir for a fan from Detroit or Howell or Warren or Lansing, or another town Michigan fans recognized. In the first days of every March, at the opening of his very first broadcast of spring training, Ernie announced the official end of Michigan winter with a reading from the Song of Solomon:

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land."

But over the decades, Ernie became more to us than just a welcome voice on the radio. He became a friend. For as good as he was behind the microphone, he is an even better man, and the quality of his character shone brightly, on his broadcasts and on the countless times he greeted fans with a hearty hello, or treated a clubhouse attendant with the same respect and affection as the million-dollar ballplayer. We came to respect and honor his voice, but to cherish his great heart.

This beloved friend is hurting now. His illness, he tells us without a trace of bitterness, will soon take him from us. But as he faces what he calls the end of his journey, the greatness of his heart has once again shined forth.

Last night, the Tigers took a break from the heat of another pennant race to pay tribute to this legend and friend. Amid the cheers and tears, Ernie once again put the fans first. Here is what he said:

"In my almost 92 years on this earth, the good Lord has blessed me with a great journey, and the blessed part of that journey is it's going to end here in the great state of Michigan.

"I deeply appreciate the great people of Michigan. I love their grit. I love the way they face life. I love the family values they have. And you Tiger fans are the greatest fans of all. No question about that."

There is an example of true courage and grace for all of us to try to follow.

Soon, this great voice will be silenced, a great heart stilled. But Ernie Harwell's love of the game, his human-

ity, his courage, will remain with us always. I treasure the moments I have spent with him. I thank him for the hours of joy he has given me, my wife and children, and the people of Michigan. I wish him and his beloved wife Lulu all the joy they deserve.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JARED C. MONTI

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I hope the Senate will take time today not just to remember but to honor the sacrifice and courage of SFC Jared C. Monti of Raynham, MA. It is a solemn privilege to do so for a man who has been awarded our Nation's highest military decoration—the Medal of Honor.

Sergeant Monti joins an elite group of Americans who have received the Medal of Honor. Just 3,447 before him—all soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen of uncommon courage, valor, and gallantry—have been so honored. He is the sixth to be awarded the Medal of Honor for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Millions of Americans have defended our Nation's liberty for more than two centuries. But these 3,447 and now Sergeant Monti—risked their lives above and beyond the call of duty. And 617, like Sergeant Monti, gave their lives for the cause of America's freedom.

Our soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen perform acts of bravery every day. But some of those acts, like Sergeant Monti's on June 26, 2006, exceed even our country's highest expectations.

During his more than 12 years in the Army, Sergeant Monti was recognized by his superiors as a man with a career of unlimited potential ahead of him. But Sergeant Monti's final act of bravery, on that fateful day in June 2006, also showed him to be a selfless leader with uncommon courage.

Sergeant Monti was leading a patrol of 16 troops on a mountain range in Afghanistan when attacked by a Taliban force of more than 50 fighters. Sergeant Monti not only prevented the Taliban force from overrunning his unit but also positioned his forces to disrupt a flanking attempt.

The sergeant managed to call in air support which eventually forced the enemy to retreat and prevented the patrol from being overrun against overwhelming odds.

When he realized one of his fellow soldiers was missing, he went searching for him. He found him lying wounded and exposed in the open ground. Sergeant Monti exposed himself to heavy enemy fire three times trying to rescue the wounded soldier. On the third attempt, the sergeant was mortally wounded.

Sergeant Monti's ability to act quickly and decisively in the midst of enemy fire is testimony to his leadership, without which his patrol's casualty rate that day would have been substantially higher.

Courage is one of the virtues we as Americans admire most. That is why the highest military decoration—and one of the oldest—our country bestows on its soldiers is the Medal of Honor. It has been awarded only to the few possessing a special brand of courage, heroism, and patriotism, Americans like Sergeant Monti.

Sergeant Monti was an extraordinary American and an extraordinary soldier, one of extraordinary gallantry. By his actions, he has taken his rightful place in the revered company of our country's most selfless heroes.

By tradition, Medal of Honor winners are shown the highest respect with salutes by all ranks, from the Commander in Chief on down. It is a fitting tradition for we stand in awe of these brave warriors. So I am proud to join all those saluting Sergeant Monti this day, including the Commander in Chief. And on behalf of a grateful nation and his home State of Massachusetts, we also salute his parents, Paul and Janet, and express our gratitude to them for their sacrifice which cannot be expressed in words.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING LEONID NEVZLIN

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Leonid Nevzlin on his recent appointment to serve as international chair of the United Jewish Communities UJC/ Jewish Federations of North America 2009 General Assembly in Washington, DC, beginning on November 8 of this year. Leonid's leadership in the Jewish community and his commitment to so many philanthropic causes around the world make him a natural for this important role. I am pleased to commend him today on this honor.

The UJC/Jewish Federations of North America plays an extraordinary role in inspiring a spirit of philanthropy and service. It has brought notable energy to the Save Darfur movement and continues to promote effective lobbying on a broad range of social justice issues. The UJC's General Assembly, which is held annually, is an event that brings people from across North America and the world together to discuss and to plan the organization's important work.

Leonid Nevzlin has shown a steadfast commitment to human rights, social justice, and democracy in his life and philanthropic work. Born and educated in Russia, Leonid began his philanthropic efforts by establishing the Moscow Jewish Cultural Center and worked to develop a number of Jewish educational programs that serve communities throughout Russia. As president of the Russian Jewish Congress, Leonid showed his leadership on a range of noteworthy causes, including preserving Jewish culture.

Leonid continued this service when he moved to Israel and established a