



Mariangela Lisanti

Intel Science Talent Search Winner 2001

When Mariangela Lisanti was named the top prize winner at the 2001 Intel Science Talent Search (STS) for her project on electron transport in nanostructures, she had no idea of the many doors it would open for her. "My life changed dramatically as a result of the Intel STS. ... I was invited to participate in events that I would never have even known about otherwise. ... Like a chain reaction, each of these events opened up other new opportunities and experiences for the future." She attended the Academy of Achievement along with other Intel STS finalists, where she met such people as Steven Spielberg, former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, and Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Human Genome Research Institute. The following summer, she was invited to speak at a conference given by the National Council for Research on Women where she met astronaut Sally Ride, National Science Foundation Director Rita Colwell, and Congresswoman Connie Morella. "It was incredible to hear their opinions on the status of women in science and on what can be done to improve the current situation."

In the summer of 2002, she spoke at the Student Technology Roundtable held in conjunction with the awarding of the National Medal of Technology. "It meant so much to be able to talk with other students during this event. Many came from local public schools where the opportunities were very limited; it was so important for me to be able to talk with them, to let them know of all the options that they have, and to motivate them to pursue these options."

Lisanti is currently a physics major at Harvard where she often meets fellow Science Talent Search participants, including some of her professors. Beyond basic coursework she hopes to take a graduate seminar on nanotechnology to build on the knowledge she gained through her lab work at Yale for her Intel STS project. "Over the past few summers, I have been collecting better data and doing more rigorous analysis and am getting closer to really understanding the data."

In addition, Lisanti is associate editor of the *Harvard Science Review*, is working on a committee to organize a Women in Science conference in April, and is developing a public service project in southern Italy where both her parents are from. "We are hoping to create a program that will motivate students in small, rural communities to pursue science (in particular, physics) by showing them the opportunities that are available to them."

When asked about future aspirations Lisanti quotes Eliot's *Four Quarters*: "We shall not cease from exploration/And the end of all our exploring/Will be to arrive where we started/And know the place for the first time."

"Never ceasing from exploration. That is what I aspire to. ... I love science because it asks questions about the universe and strives to answer them. These questions are so fundamental, though; they reach towards an underlying truth."