

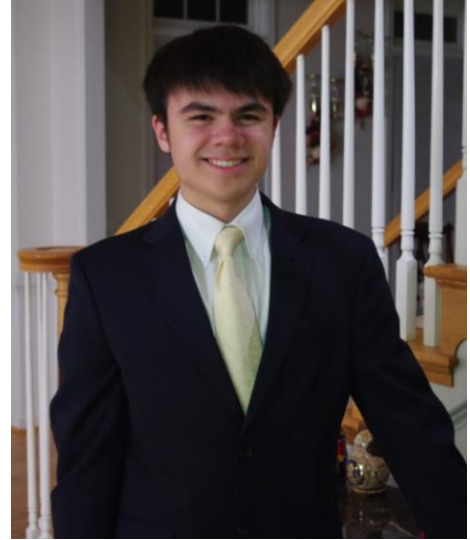
2011 TYAF Outstanding Taiwanese American Youth Award

William NanShan Lucht

It was in the quaint town of Fairfax, Virginia, of the year 1995, that I was born to predominately American and Taiwanese parents. The rolling hills of the Virginian Piedmont have been my home ever since. Raised in a family promoting education, I attended Nysmith School until 2nd grade before going to Bull Run Elementary School. Afterwards I learned at Rocky Run Middle School before finally landing myself in Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Since the principles of leadership should strike an important note in all of us, I have strived to become a better leader. From Rocky Run Middle School, I started to learn the principles of leadership through my election as the vice-president of the National Junior Honor Society and as the first president of our Model United Nations Club. At Thomas Jefferson High School, I continued this path of leadership in my freshmen year, when I was the president of my class, and in sophomore year, I was the vice-president.

Passion must also empower us, whether it is in any discipline. Perhaps out of sheer luck or randomness, one calling impelled me, History. Due to its historical connections, the language of the Romans inspired me. Yearly, I go to the Latin Conventions or the (VJCL), which entail creative, academic, and graphical contests. With the VJCL Convention having been attended, I often received top statewide awards in tests such as Roman Life, Roman History, and Greek while nationally scored in tests like Hellenic History (Greek History), Greek Life, and Literature.



Organizations and groups often define who a person is. One of organizations that I have been a member of is Quizbowl (a jeopardy-like trivia competition). On a similar note, I have been a member of Certamen (a Latin Quizbowl) and NLHS (National Latin Honor Society). To keep in physical shape, I have been on Cross Country teams and to sharpen my debate, I joined the Model United Nations Organization.

Compared to others, my story may seem easy; living in the fecund and safe environment in itself is a blessing to count. Perhaps among one of the most daunting tasks of the day is to decide whether to study or to sleep more. Despite this, one consistent problem had continually plagued me. Who was I? The very question of identity tugged my thoughts and feelings, for I was one of those “wasians” or “White-Asians.” To make matters more complicated, few people understood that beautiful island east of China, called Formosa. Since most of the Asian population of TJHSST is Chinese or Korean, those that did comprehend the situation of Taiwan often supported its subjugation by China. Despite this, I am proud to explain my full heritage. The virtues of the Taiwanese people, such as hard work, perseverance, kindness, and bravery will serve as a guiding light through the vast journey we call life.

William N. Lucht is son of Dr. David Lucht and Dr. Shue Jen Chuang.

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Phillip Y. Tran

I was born in Washington, D.C. and raised in Rockville, Maryland. Both of my parents came from Taiwan and most of my relatives live in Taiwan. I enjoy many types of activities, such as music, sports, Boy Scouts, and volunteer work.

From middle school on, I have participated many activities hosted by the “Tzu-Chi” foundation. I regularly swept streets, performed piano and violin at the senior center, packaged foods at Manna Food, and delivered foods to the needed families. I now volunteer in the Montgomery County public library in Quince Orchard. There are Taiwanese adults that work in the library. I usually communicate with them in Mandarin, which helps everybody because I am able to work around confusing situations by being bilingual.

Music and sports also play big roles in my life. Regarding music, I have learned piano since I was in kindergarten. I started learning violin when I joined the Lakewood elementary school orchestra in fourth grade. I performed piano and violin to entertain seniors at various senior centers during my middle school years. Starting in 9th grade, I focused more on my academic and community activities; I stopped the private lessons in both piano and violin. However, I still play them at home to enjoy the music.



I have always enjoyed sports. I was in the “Lakewood” basketball team via City of Rockville beginning in third grade up until ninth grade. Through weekly practice and games, my team has won first place many times. From 10th grade on, I have been on the Dragon Boat team in my Chinese school. My team won first place in the Dragon Boat competition in the Washington D.C. area last May. Besides basketball and dragon boat, I started learning Karate when I was in eighth grade. By practicing two times a week for three years, I finally earned my black belt last summer.

Boy Scouts is also an important part of my life. I have been a Boy Scout since 2006. I have worked on my position in my troop from Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader to now Quartermaster. Being a Boy Scout allows me to practice my leadership/teamwork skills. I have gained many leadership awards as a Boy Scout. The most recent examples are that I led my troop in the scout summer camp in Resica Falls Scout Reservation in Pennsylvania in 2011. My troop won the “Boy Scouts Cradle of Liberty Troop Award”. In addition, I received “Boy Scout Don Colner Junior Leadership Award” last fall.

I hope that by this time next year, I will have been accepted into a prestigious college or university.

Phillip Tran is son of Mr. Kevin Tran and Mrs. King-show Tsai.

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Enoch S. Hsiao

I have lived in Rockville, Maryland for as long as I can remember. Born into a Taiwanese family, I learned Mandarin Chinese as my first spoken language and grew up in a mixed cultural environment. Every time I stepped outside of my home, I was crossing the boundary between two very different worlds. I grew comfortable with not only American culture, but also the various cultures of my diverse friends and classmates, learning to cherish my own unique Taiwanese-American culture and accept all others.

As a senior in the Science, Mathematics, and Computer Science Magnet Program at Montgomery Blair High School, I've taken courses ranging from Three-Dimensional Computer Graphics to Cell Physiology. It was in the magnet program at Blair that I discovered my passion for computer science, a field that I pursue both inside and outside the classroom. I dabble in software development in my free time, but my first real computer science experience came with an internship at Webs, Inc. in downtown Silver Spring. I still work part time as an intern frontend web developer and will definitely continue pursuing web development in the future.

Outside of academics, I keep up with many other hobbies and interests. As a musician, I sing and play the violin, piano, and guitar. I am currently the musical director of my school's student-run acapella group, InToneNation, and have been playing violin in the Metropolitan Orchestra @ Montgomery College for 5 and half years. I am also an active boy scout in a local troop, serving leadership positions and participating in service projects. Finally, I also love photography, something I discovered more recently. I take pictures for my school's award winning newspaper, Silver Chips, and have enjoyed photographing all kinds of school and local events.

Throughout my life, I've explored many different academic and extracurricular interests, but I've always found me greatest passions to be rooted in my Taiwanese heritage. I thoroughly the juggling art of diabolo, commonly known as Chinese yoyo, and coached my Chinese school team for 6 years until I graduated. I currently perform at school events and teach friends, even starting a club at my school. One of my strongest activities has been Chinese speech competitions; I've placed in top places in local interschool competitions consecutively from 2003 till I stopped competing in 2010.

I hope to continue studying computer science and pursuing my various hobbies and interests in college, but I will never forget my Taiwanese heritage passed down to me from my parents. No matter what I do and where I go, I will always remember that I am a Taiwanese-American and will proudly keep my culture close to me as a part of who I am.



Enoch Hsiao is son of Mr. Tao-Long Hsiao and Mrs. Hsiu-Ling Lin.