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June 8, 2008

AP Chem – Reflection on interview

On May 30, 2008, the Bethlehem Central High School's AP Chemistry class conducted an interview with Professor John Delano. Through discussion, we discovered that his childhood was one unlike our own. He lived in New Hampshire on an extremely quiet and contained road, and was the last house on his street with electricity. Although this may seem strange to most people, to him, it was what he considered normal, and actually appreciated the simplicity of his life as a child.

Professor Delano often spoke of epiphanies that he had as a child, one in particular being when he heard the news that satellites were going to start revolving around the world. Most children would find this to be an insignificant moment in history that later in their lives would have more meaning, but to him, it meant so much. After hearing such news, he then went outside to observe this, and instantly fell in love with the concept of changing and making history with aerospace technology. That was his first epiphany. After this, his goals throughout his schooling were revolving around the concept of changing the course of history. He wanted to pursue his dreams, and when he was a student in college, he was able to work for NASA, a huge accomplishment and great step towards success.

As Professor Delano's studies progressed, he began to find interest in other topics as well as NASA's aerospace research that he had currently been doing. He became interested in finding the oxidation states of the earth's atmosphere and the core of the earth. He made many predictions and successfully found findings that led to further

research and conclusions during his research, but his main interest seemed to be the analysis of footprints.

Footprints, when mentioned, seemed to spark a new thread of emotion and enthusiasm for Professor Delano. He seemed passionate about his work up until this point, but no where near as passionate as he was when the analysis of footprints was brought up. Professor Delano proved to me, as well as the others in the group, that work does not need to be just hard and boring; it can actually be quite interesting and intriguing. This is when he told us that what you do when you get older should never feel like a 'job.' Going to work every day should feel as though it is an honor and a way to pass time in enjoyment rather than something that you are doing just to get paid.

Speaking with Professor Delano showed me that work is supposed to be fun, and if you work hard getting to the point where he was in his career, or anywhere close to that, you can enjoy work as an adult and live everyday of your life with no regrets to what you could have been doing if you only followed your dreams from the start. I am so glad that I had the opportunity to interview with Professor John Delano because after speaking with him and listening to him talk, he really made me believe that life as a working adult doesn't have to be dreadful and you don't have to sit in a cubical every day just to make money; if you follow your dreams and pursue your interests, work as an adult doesn't have to feel like work at all, it can actually be fun.