

Lauren and Yer
Sponsor-A-Scholar Class of 2011

Yer and I met last spring when she was finishing her Freshman year at Bay View High School. I was new to mentoring and wasn't entirely sure what to expect. However, I was drawn to the idea of providing support to hard-working students who are committed to the learning process and who have plans to go to college.



One of Yer's many interests is Biology. It's among her favorite classes and a subject she may study in college. Even on the outings we've taken together, Yer's desire to learn more about science is clear. We had a great time pulling up weeds at the Urban Ecology Center on a trip organized by SAS and saw a wonderful Audubon exhibit at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

In a rather unexpected twist this winter, I moved back to my hometown, San Francisco. Since then, and really, ever since we've known each other, email has been an essential means of communication for us. Despite the distance, Yer and I have stayed in touch by email. We communicate every few days and keep each other up to date about what's happening in our lives. I sent her photos of a cable car trip I took last week and I know that she recently celebrated the Hmong New Year with her family and will be moving soon. Even if I don't have an adventurous story to share, I still write to Yer every few days just to say hello.

There are so many things that make Yer an incredible person -- she's learning to play guitar, she loves foreign language films, she is compassionate, and her positive attitude is contagious. It has been a privilege (and so much fun!) to get to know Yer and I can't wait to see what she will accomplish in these coming years.