

2018 USABO FINALISTS BIOS



Sabrina CAI

**Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology,
Alexandria, VA**

Sabrina Cai is a sophomore attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST). She is treasurer of her school's Biology Olympiad club and an officer of WISE, a club that aims to inspire young girls' interest in STEM. Additionally, she is an active member of TJ's competition math team and participates in TJ Peer Tutoring. When not studying biology, she enjoys playing piano. She is also a rhythmic gymnast who has medaled in the United States Association of Independent Gymnastics Clubs (USAIGC) program at both regional and national levels. This summer, she will be doing internship at the National Institutes of Health on brain cancer.



Lucy Chen

Mounds View High School, Arden Hills, MN

Lucy Chen is a junior at Mounds View High School. She has been a member of her school's varsity Science Olympiad team for the past three years and has placed 2nd in Anatomy and Physiology as well as Cell Biology at the national tournament. Global warming and other environmental issues are very important to her. Accordingly, she wrote an essay that drew attention to the effect of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) on the oceans which won a silver medal in the prose section for the Bow Seat Ocean Awareness Contest. Her favorite areas of biology are neuroscience and molecular biology. Next year, she will be conducting research at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities on sex differences in the neurobiology of addiction. When she is not studying biology, she likes to read novels, draw, and watch Anime.



Allen Huang

Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego, CA

Allen Huang is a junior attending Canyon Crest Academy in California. This is his second year attending the USA Biology Olympiad Finals. He was a five-time qualifier for the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME), as well as a previous qualifier for the US National Chemistry Olympiad study camp. Allen is President of his school's Chemistry Club, Biology Club, and Science Bowl Club, as well as captain of his school's National Science Bowl team and member of his school's National Ocean Science Bowl team. He has conducted research projects on breast cancer therapeutic targets and is interested in the interactions between protein translation and cancer malignancy. When he is not pretending to study or working, he enjoys hiking, playing the piano, and seeing movies with friends.



Charles Huang

Lynbrook High School, San Jose, CA

Charles Huang is a junior attending Lynbrook High School. He is interested in molecular biology and organic chemistry. In the past, Charles has conducted research on biomaterials science, 2D materials, DNA computation, and nanoparticle simulations. He is a member of his school's Science Bowl and Science Olympiad team. Charles is the president of his school's Science Club and vice president of the Astrophysics Club. This year, Charles was a regional finalist in Siemens Science Fair for his research on the chemical vapor deposition of molybdenum disulfide. He was also an honors recipient for the Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO). In his free time, he enjoys studying earth science, woodcarving, and playing saxophone and table tennis.



Bhav Jain

Franklin Regional High School, Murrysville, PA

Bhav Jain is a junior attending Franklin Regional High School. He enjoys doing computational biological research and developing open-source computer aided drug discovery (CADD) models at the University of Pittsburgh. He is excited to be returning to UCSD, where his school team placed 3rd at the 2016 International Medicine Olympiad (IMDO). He enjoys playing the trumpet and will be a drum major for his school's marching band next year. Bhav is also the founder of the Franklin High School Science Bowl team and is on the Varsity Quiz Bowl team. He volunteers at Chinmaya Mission of Pittsburgh (CMP) as a student teacher and mentors students through the National Honor Society (NHS). Most recently, he was recognized with the 2018 President's Volunteer Service Gold Award (PVSA). In his free time, Bhav enjoys watching movies and playing ping pong.



Edward Lee

Liberal Arts and Science Academy, Austin, TX

Edward Lee is a senior at the Liberal Arts and Science Academy (LASA) in Texas. As a member of Team USA, he won a gold medal at the 2017 International Biology Olympiad in Coventry, United Kingdom. Edward specializes in biology events on his school's Science Olympiad team, and has earned two medals at the national level. He is a four-time American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) qualifier, and placed fourth in the 2016 Texas Music Teacher Association (TMTA) Student Affiliate Performance Contest in the piano solo competition. Aside from studying biology, Edward enjoys playing the piano, collecting coins, and practicing Tae Kwon Do. He is also well known for his skills at playing Tetris.



Eugene Lee

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, VA

Eugene Lee is a sophomore attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) in Virginia. He is especially interested in the fields of cellular biology, physiology and chemistry. He believes that the study of biology is closely associated with environmental care and social responsibility. He is a member of the TJ cross-country team, All-District Band in Fairfax County, and the Northern Virginia Youth Wind. When he is not studying biology, he likes to work out, practice chemistry problems, read newspapers, watch movies, and enjoy basketball games.



Derrick Liang

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, VA

Derrick Liang is a sophomore attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST). In the future, he hopes to combine his primary interests in biology and computer science. He is a two-time American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) qualifier and is in the USA Computing Olympiad (USACO) gold division. This summer, he will be working at the Lombardi Cancer Center to research lung cancer immunotherapy and how anticancer agents combat specific genetic abnormalities in lung cancer tumors. He has won several regional cello competitions and has also been invited to perform as a soloist by the Reston Community Orchestra. In the fall, he runs cross country, and in the spring, he is a thrower on the track and field team, a recently qualifying for districts in shot put.



Shree Mohan

Dulles High School, Sugar Land, TX

Shree Mohan is a junior at Dulles High School with a variety of interests. A qualifier for the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO), and the platinum division of the United States of America Computing Olympiad (USACO), Shree thoroughly enjoys problem-solving of any nature. This year, he co-captained his National Science Bowl team to a 7th place finish. When not partaking in academic endeavors, Shree plays basketball, watches animal documentaries, and practices piano.



Atharv Oak

West Windsor Plainsboro High School South, Princeton Junction, NJ

Atharv Oak is a junior at West Windsor Plainsboro High School South. He moved to New Jersey in August 2017 from India and is fluent in English, French, Hindi, and Marathi, his native language. All areas of science interest him. Atharv is an American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) qualifier and a member of his school's Math Club, Science Bowl and Science Olympiad. He is a Hitops Teen Council member and also volunteers at hospitals. He is a varsity swimmer and enjoys playing cards in his free time. He is interested in molecular biology and plans to pursue a career in medicine.



Nithin Parsan

William P. Clements High School, Sugar Land, TX

Nithin Parsan is a sophomore attending William P. Clements High School. He is a member of his school's Science Bowl team and has placed 2nd two years in a row at the state competition. Nithin is an officer of Clements Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) Club for the second time and is the current Science Bowl Coordinator. In addition, Nithin is a member of the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) state science team that was declared the 2018 Texas UIL Academic Overall Champions. He has a passion for research, especially concerning aging. During his free time, Nithin can be found reading Wikipedia, studying chemistry, hiking, and making jokes about biology.



Henry Shen

Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge, TN

Henry Shen is a junior at Oak Ridge High School. He is the Captain of his school's Science Bowl team, and this year marked his third time going to National Science Bowl. Henry also conducts research on sensorineural hearing loss at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He is the founder of his school's Biology Olympiad club and placed sixth in the 2018 University of Toronto Biology Competition. Henry plays piano and violin and recently won the Tennessee Music Teachers Association (TMTA) Senior Piano Concerto Competition. Henry also runs track and cross-country. In his free time, Henry enjoys listening to Nicki Minaj, the queen of rap



Kimberly Shen

Mounds View High School, Arden Hills, MN

Kimberly Shen is a sophomore attending Mounds View High School. She has participated in Science Olympiad since 7th grade. Her interest has grown immensely in biology and astronomy. She has competed in three Science Olympiad National Tournaments and has won six national medals. Kimberly is also an avid pianist. This year, she was the first prize winner of the prestigious Schubert Club Competition and competed in the national finals of the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Senior Piano Competition. She is also a graduate of the University of Minnesota Talented Youth Mathematics Program. In her free time, she enjoys collecting stuffed animals.



Alexander Tsao

Troy High School, Fullerton, CA

Alexander Tsao is a senior at Troy High School and will be attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall. He has attended USABO Finals since 2016 and was a member of the 2017 Team USA and won the second place gold medal at the 2017 International Biology Olympiad in Coventry, United Kingdom. In his free time, he enjoys coding and watching House MD. He wants to further the field of biology through research, combining his passion for biology with a penchant for programming.



Jessica Woo
Kappa Academy, NY

Jessica Woo is a junior attending Kappa Academy. She was born in Guam. She hopes that with her love for biology, she can apply it to a future career that can help others. She frequently volunteers and has discovered that she loves it when she can help people, even if it's just a tap on someone's shoulder on the streets to tell them that their bag is open. During her free time, she can be found watching movies or trying out different food. Her favorite way of de-stressing is by showering her dogs with affection.



Wenbo Wu
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology,
Alexandria, VA

Wenbo Wu is a junior at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) and a returning USABO Finalist. He is fascinated by evolutionary differences amongst gymnosperm lineages and the genetic mutations behind them. Wenbo enjoys math very much and is an American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME) qualifier who has taken advanced math classes, such as multivariable calculus and complex analysis. He is the 2018-2019 captain-elect of the Science Bowl team that placed in the top 12 at 2018 Nationals and a three-time gold medalist on the National Latin Exams. Wenbo is in his second year as an editor of TJ's literary magazine Threshold. Besides studying biology and chemistry, Wenbo amuses himself by writing poetry, playing the trombone, and watching Doctor Who.



Helen Yang
Northwood High School, Irvine, CA

Helen Yang is a sophomore attending Northwood High School. She is passionate about genetics and neuroscience, and hopes to conduct research in these fields in the future. Helen is a member of her school's Science Olympiad team where she specializes in biology events. In addition, she is an avid violinist and fencer and has participated in the California All-State Symphony Orchestra and qualified for the USA Fencing National Championships. When she isn't studying biology, Helen can be found reading satire, surfing Wikipedia, playing with her needy, fluffy white cat, or inspiring her non-science friends with biological phenomena.



Jason Yang

West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North, Plainsboro Township, NJ

Jason Yang is a senior attending West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. In addition to the USA Biology Olympiad, he also participates in the Astronomy and Astrophysics Olympiad. He is a captain of his school's Science Olympiad team in which he has competed in the Anatomy & Physiology event since sixth grade. Jason also enjoys programming and occasionally helps write problems for High School Capture the Flag (HSCTF), a high school computer science competition. In his free time, Jason likes to do astrophotography, play piano, and contemplate the meaning of life by watching thought-provoking Anime.



Jason Zhang

Troy High School, Troy, MI

Jason Zhang is a junior at Troy High School. He is especially interested in molecular biology and has conducted research on lung cancer genetics and the use of molecular biomarkers as diagnostic tools. Jason is also an active member of his school's Science Olympiad team and Biology Club, as well as competing in Science Bowl. Outside of biology, he is a member of his school's Cross Country and Track and Field teams. He also plays the viola in the Troy High Symphony Orchestra. In his free time, Jason enjoys running, walking his dog, and binge-watching Netflix.



Lucy Zou

East Brunswick High School, East Brunswick, NJ

Lucy Zou is a sophomore at East Brunswick High School. Believing in the ability of biology to improve the lives of many, she has pursued research on RNA therapies for glioblastoma multiforme under New Jersey's Governor's STEM Scholars program. She is also a first-place recipient in the biology division of the New Jersey Science League, an Emperor Science Award winner, and a semifinalist in the U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad. Interested in the intersection of virtually all fields of study, Lucy is a two-time national gold medal recipient in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards and a prizewinner in several piano competitions. When she is not studying, she enjoys drawing and caring for her small backyard garden.