**USABO 15 National Finalist Bios**

**Kevin Bao | Troy High School, Troy, MI**

Kevin Bao is a senior at Troy High School in California. As this is his third time at the USABO Finals, Kevin is no stranger to the Biology Olympiad. He is President of his school’s Biology Olympiad Club and annually helps coach students in preparation for the exam. Kevin is also Captain of his school’s Science Olympiad Team which has recently taken its tenth first place national title this year at the University of Nebraska Lincoln. Kevin has conducted research on the Vampire Moth, hoping to obtain enough data to publish. In his spare time, Kevin enjoys making people laugh, playing piano, and wiki-surfing. This fall, Kevin will be attending Harvard University.

**Marcello Chang | Mira Loma High School, Sacramento, CA**

 **Marcello Chang is a senior at Mira Loma High School. He has been an active participant on his school’s nationally ranked Science Olympiad Team. He enjoys volunteering in service-oriented clubs such as the Spanish Honor Society (HS) (Co-President), Tri-M Music Honor Society (SC) (Founder/President), Dance Marathon (Committee Member), and Petco adoption events.  He plays in the school band, loves dancing, and is a member of his school’s dance team (2015 USA Dance Nationals - 3rd in Co-Ed, 6th in Large Hip-Hop). He has gained research experience in the Pleasure Lab at Institute for Pediatric Regenerative Medicine (IPRM) at the University of California, Davis School of Medicine (UCDMC) (co-author published paper). He makes music mash-ups, plays accordion, buzz cuts his own head in artistic patterns, and relaxes by reading SMBC Comics. He can be your gym/jogging/snowboarding buddy and likes to reconnoiter new trails to keep life interesting. This fall Marcello will attend the University of Pennsylvania.**

**Grace Chen | Bridgewater- Raritan Regional High School, Bridgewater, NJ**

Grace is a senior at Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School. She is Co-Captain of the Forensics (Speech and Debate) Team and as well as the Academic Team. She has conducted research on nanoparticle synthesis and was chosen to attend New Jersey Governor's School of the Sciences last summer. Besides science, Grace is interested in business, having won national recognition in Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA). During her free time, Grace is an avid flutist and art connoisseur. This will be her second trip to Finals, having won a USABO Silver Medal in 2014. Grace will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

**Rowan Cheung | Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica, CA**

Rowan Cheung is a junior attending Santa Monica High School.  She is a member of Samohi’s Oceans Bowl and Quiz Bowl teams.  In addition she volunteers at Santa Monica’s nonprofit aquarium and is president of her school’s Heal the Bay club.  Last year, Rowan made it to the quarterfinals of CIF doubles tennis for her school. Rowan has a love for the ocean and enjoys travel. She likes the outdoors and hiking and swimming. Her quiet moments are spent reading and reflecting on the beauty of nature.

**Jordan Docter | Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica, CA**Jordan Docter is a sophomore attending Santa Monica High School. She participates in Academic Decathlon and is a member of the Science Bowl Team with a specialty in Chemistry.  She is an accomplished violinist and is a member of the Symphony Orchestra at Santa Monica High School (SAMOHI). As a member of Sol-La Quartet, she was invited to represent young musicians of America at Incontri in Terre di Siena in Montepulciano, Italy this past summer.  Jordan also enjoys a multitude of sports.  As an attacking midfielder, Jordan was awarded MVP on her soccer team. She is also the Main Pitcher on her club’s softball team, the Patriots, and led the team to Nationals where they won the National Championship title.

**Yilun Du | Pullman High School, Pullman, WA**

Yilun Du is a senior currently attending Pullman High School. He will attend MIT this fall. Yilun enjoys doing research and has recently been doing work on the drug Dihexa and its possible implications on neurodegenerative diseases. He has recently co-founded the *Study of Life,* an online biological resource center where students can find various biological resources, blogs, contests, and tutoring. Yilun is a member of his school’s Science Bowl and Math Team, and also competes in various other Olympiads. Yilun enjoys playing the piano and reading various books in his free time.

**Boyang Dun | Canterbury School, Fort Wayne, IN**

Peter Dun is a junior at Canterbury Academy in Indiana. He is the Founder and Captain of the school's Science Bowl Team and USABO club, a member of Model United Nations (UN) and Science Olympiad, and a two-time qualifier for the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME). He attended the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) last year after doing research on the CRISPR/Cas foreign nucleic acid defense system in bacteria. He is Chief Editor for his school's newspaper and plays varsity tennis. He enjoys listening to good music, reading Time and Discover, and playing tennis with his friends. He currently volunteers in the NeuroSurg Department at a nearby hospital and plans to continue his research over the summer.

**Michael Gao | Freehold high school, Freehold, NJ**

Michael Gao is currently a senior at the Medical Sciences Academy in Freehold High School. He is excited to come back to Purdue for his third year as a National Finalist. Michael is interested in a future career in medicine and has conducted a paid summer internship at the NIH last summer and volunteered extensively in his local hospital and first-aid squad. In addition to biology, Michael is Captain of his school's varsity swim team, a Varsity Cross-Country Runner, and an active participant in Model UN and Youth and Government. Michael will attend Princeton University in the fall.

**Siddarth Guha | Dulles High School, Sugar Land, TX**

Siddarth Guha is a senior who especially enjoys biology, chemistry, and M-theory, which he believes to be far superior to the Standard Model. However, these do not preclude his love for military history, art, and high fantasy. In his free time he likes to watch TV and Anime, browse Reddit, and follow current events and politics. He also plays tennis, practices piano, tutors and coaches middle-schoolers. He will be attending MIT with hopes of becoming a physician scientist in the future.

**Roger Jin | West Windsor Plainsboro High School- North, Plainsboro, NJ**
Roger is a junior at WWP High School North.  He began participating in the Science Olympiad in 7th grade and, in 9th grade, he and his partner won 1st place in Anatomy at the 2013 National Tournament.  This experience, along with courses from Columbia University's Science Honors Program, sparked his interest in neuroscience.  He went on to place 1st at the Central Jersey Brain Bee, and after mentorship from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School (RWJ) professors, Roger placed 6th at the 2015 National Brain Bee.  This year, Roger also served as Co-President of his school's USABO Study Group while at the same time cherishing the most intense year of Science Olympiad he has ever experienced.  Outside of biology, Roger is a two-time AIME qualifier and along with his group will be representing New Jersey at the 2015 National History Day Contest.  In his free time, Roger enjoys playing piano and tennis.

**Jueun Lee | Lexington High School, Lexington, MA**

Jueun Lee is a senior at Lexington High School. For as long as he can remember, science has been one of his biggest passions, especially biology and chemistry. He is the Captain of his school’s Science Bowl Team and has gone to the National Competition twice. Outside of science, Jueun actively plays the cello. He has participated in music festivals such as the Name All-Eastern and regularly plays chamber music with his friends. His favorite hobbies are senior slumping, reading textbooks and eating dinner at Panera. Jueun will be attending MIT in the fall with a major in Biology.

**Varun Mangalick | Mounds View High School, Arden Hills, MN**

Varun Mangalick is a senior at Mounds View High School. This fall he will attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study Computer Science. Varun's academic interests include computer science, biology, and mathematics, all of which he's explored through participation in the International Biology Olympiad, the USA Junior Mathematics Olympiad, and research in a computational biology lab studying the human microbiome. Varun's non-academic interests include macrophotography, running, Bollywood, and hip hop dance. His other passion is creative writing, and he has published the novel *Journey to Imalum*, available on Amazon.

**Zilu Pan | Canyon Crest Academy, San Diego, CA**

Zilu Pan is a junior at Canyon Crest Academy, where he is an organizer of the school’s Biology and Chemistry clubs. Zilu has also obtained High Honors in the United States National Chemistry Olympiad and qualified for the USA Junior Mathematics Olympiad. He is also involved in the school yearbook and will serve as Editor-in-Chief next year. He is a Japanese tutor and tries to inspire younger students to pursue math and science. In his free time, Zilu enjoys looking through magazines for inspiration, practicing calligraphy, playing piano, and watching soap operas such as *Revenge*.

**Neeraj Prasad | Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, VA**

Neeraj Prasad is a sophomore attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Virginia. Neeraj is an officer in his school’s Biology Olympiad Club, and he is nationally ranked on the Science Olympiad Team. As a freshman, he placed 5th in the University of Toronto Biology Competition. He also enjoys doing research. He won 1st place in the 2015 Virginia Regional Science Fair and qualified for the 2015 Virginia State Science Fair where he was a 2014 Siemens Semifinalist. This summer, he will intern at NIH. Neeraj is also a member of his school’s varsity tennis team.

**Aneesh Samineni | Lynbrook High School, San Jose, CA**

Aneesh Samineni is a junior at The King's Academy. He is a National Finalist at the USA Biology Olympiad and a two-time National Finalist Invitee to Physics Olympiad. In addition, he won first place twice in the Physics Bowl contest and is a three-time American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) Qualifier. Aneesh is the Founder and President of his school's Science Club. He received the Presidential Service Award for his dedication in helping children with special needs in 2014 and elderly patients with Alzheimer's and Multiple Sclerosis in 2015. His volunteer experience includes building houses for underprivileged families in Mexico, volunteering at nursing homes, and raising funds for medical camps in rural villages through his non-profit organization, *Care4Community.org*. Aneesh is currently doing research on *Neuroborreliosis* at Stanford University School of Medicine. In his leisure time, he enjoys swimming, playing piano, and chess.

 **Kentaro Tanaka | Live Oak Academy, Santa Clara, CA**

Kentaro Tanaka is a junior attending Santa Clara High School. At his school, he co-founded both the American Mathematics Competitions (AMC) Club and the Maker Club. He is a two-time American Invitational Math Exam (AIME) qualifier and is in the silver division for the USA Computing Olympiad (USACO). In sports, he runs as a varsity athlete in both cross country and track for his school. He also spends time practicing Shorinji Kempo, a Japanese martial art, and he enjoys Japanese calligraphy. In his free time, he reads and programs android applications.

**David Wu | Troy High School, Troy, MI**

David Wu is currently a junior attending Troy High School in Troy, Michigan. He enjoys doing biological research, and has investigated such diseases as cancer and strokes. With this research, he was a 2014 Siemens National Finalist. He won the second place award ($50,000) for his work investigating the potential for exosomes to promote axonal growth. David is the Vice President of his school's Biology Competitions Club and a member of his school's Science Olympiad Team. When he is not doing research or studying biology, David enjoys hanging out with his friends, playing the violin and piano, and volunteering/tutoring fellow students through his work with his school's National Honor Society.

**David Xu | Charter School of Wilmington, Wilmington, DE**David Xu is a senior at the Charter School of Wilmington. An active member of his school’s Math League Team and the Lehigh Valley ARML Fire team, he is a three- time United States of America Junior Mathematical Olympiad and the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAJMO/USAMO) qualifier, a United States Mathematical Talent Search (USAMTS) Silver Prize Winner, and a Who Wants to Be a Mathematician National Finalist. David’s interest and involvement in physics has qualified him as a United States Physics Team (USAPhO) Semifinalist. A 2014 RSI Scholar, David has been named both an Intel STS Semifinalist and a Siemens Competition Semifinalist. Last year, he qualified as a USABO National Finalist and a Finalist invitee. He enjoys playing piano and provides music therapy to local seniors. In his spare time, he enjoys running and playing tennis. This fall, David will attend Harvard University.

**David Yang | Bergen County Academies, Hackensack, NJ**

David Yang is a junior attending Bergen County Academies. He is an avid writer of various genres ranging from poetry to science writing, and is committed to making complex scientific concepts accessible to the public. Combining these interests, he has competed in a number of science essay competitions. He was the First-Place Winner of the DNA Day Essay Contest and Grade Winner of the Young Naturalist Awards. Additionally, he is a United States Physics Team (USAPhO) Semifinalist, three-time United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (AIME) Qualifier, and United States Computing Olympiad (USACO) Silver Division Qualifier. He currently leads the Biology Club, Computer Science Team, and Oxfam Club, and enjoys juggling the Chinese yo-yo, ballroom dancing, and playing the guitar.

**Maxwell Zhu | Cambridge Educational Institute, Chino Hills, CA**Maxwell Zhu is a junior attending Walnut High School, where, among other activities, he is an Editor-in-Chief for his school's national award-winning yearbook. He also is captain of the Debate, Mock Trial, and Spoken Word Poetry Teams, Director of the Walnut Debate Outreach Program, and Secretary-General of the Model United Nations Club. He is a member of his school's Science Olympiad Team. When he isn't locked away in some room finishing an essay for his International Baccalaureate diploma, you can find him writing poetry, watching and following NBA, playing Xbox, and reading books.