

# Excellence

## Center for Excellence in Education

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*Boyang (Peter) Dun works alongside the other 2016 National Finalists at Marymount University*

**Boyang (Peter) Dun** has proven he knows a few things about biology, and what it takes to succeed in the USA Biology Olympiad (USABO) and beyond.

The Fort Wayne, Indiana resident has competed in USABO 2014-2016, and has been a member of Team USA in both 2015 and 2016, earning gold medals at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO) both years. Most recently he won gold as part of

the four-member Team USA in Hanoi, Vietnam July 17-24, 2016. In 2015 at the IBO in Denmark, Dun had the distinct honor of placing second in the world amongst individual scores. This year he

finished tops amongst Team USA and 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the 284 participant field.

“USABO is a competition with multiple tiers, and depending on your level of commitment, you can reach as far as you want,” Dun said. *“I felt like the sky was essentially the limit, which motivated me to dedicate my all to learning biology.”*

Dun stated his participation overseas in both the 2015 and 2016 IBOs was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Although for someone with his prowess, it ended up being twice- in-a-lifetime.

*“It is such an incredible honor to know that you’re representing your country at an international competition,* he said. “I probably will never be able to experience so many different cultures in a single place again. During our off time, it was incredible that in a single volleyball game, you could find German, Swedish, Australian, Korean and American kids playing (together). My most memorable experience was probably the nightly dance parties we had at IBO. It was an intermingling of countless cultures with their various music and dance styles.”

The recent Canterbury School Class of 2016 Valedictorian is taking his talents this fall to Stanford University. He is undecided on a major, but is certain it will be STEM-related as he hopes to go into business management at a tech firm one day.



*2016 Team USA from left to right: Thomas Xiong, Boyang (Peter) Dun, Varkey Alumootil and Bowen Jing*

“I now have the confidence to step out of my comfort zone and explore new things after finding success with the Biology Olympiad,” Dun said. “I am now equipped with a broad understanding of the life sciences and its practical applications. STEM is incredibly rewarding to pursue, but it also requires a large time commitment. It’s good to find your passion in it while you’re still young.”