



San Diego Science Olympiad Head Coach Meeting and Workshop September 16, 2017

Revised 9/14/2017

Event	Details	Start Time	End Time	Location
Check-in & Breakfast	Complimentary breakfast for Head Coaches & Speakers	8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Rooms 401-402
Head Coach Meeting	Overview of Tournament Rules and Regulations	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	Rooms 401-402
Break		10:30 AM	10:45 AM	
Head Coach Forum	Speakers: Uma Krishman, Maureen Quessenberry, Cass Kaminetz, Nicole Wu, and Lance Clifner	10:45 AM	11:45 AM	Annex B
Lunch (Head Coaches & Speakers)	Regional website and Team Management Software demo	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	Rooms 401-402
Study Event Forum	Speakers: Ben Clifner, Alan Gin, Michael Shiue and April Chen	12:45 PM	1:45 PM	Annex B
Roller Coaster B	Presenter: Scott Wooden	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Room 306
Towers B & C	Presenters: Ethan Tao & Lianggui Chen	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Room 305
Wright Stuff B	Presenter: Mike Jester	1:00 PM	2:30 PM	Rooms 401-402

Speaker Biography



Uma Krishnan, Science Specialist, Torrey Hills School.

I have been teaching for the past 15 years at Torrey Hills, doing hands-on Science for students in grades K -6, in the Science Lab.
For the past 10 years or so, I have been the head coach for Torrey Hill's teams. My students in 5th and 6th grades have challenged themselves to learn academic content way beyond their level and have built and tested machines in all the building events. My teams do well at the Regionals, and a few times, we have gone to the State Finals. Science Olympiad has given my students the rigor, dedication and interest to pursue topics and activities that are outside their regular grade level curriculum. It is a wonderful experience to watch my students compete among older students from Middle Schools, with such enthusiasm, joy and confidence. At Torrey Hills, my motto is, Having FUN is Mandatory and Winning is Optional!!!



Mrs. Quessenberry is currently a chemistry teacher at University City High School and this will be her fifth year as head coach for Science Olympiad. Three of the last four years, her school has advanced to the state competition. Fortunately, she inherited a well-functioning program with a very supportive community and predecessor. Over the past 7 years, she has coached events for both the middle and high school, from Chem Lab and Thermodynamics to Experimental Design and Metric Mastery. She has 4 children, all of whom have participated in and thoroughly enjoyed Science Olympiad, one of whom is still competing and one who has coached Experimental Design. Although she is newer to the head coach position, she has been involved in some capacity for the past 10 years and has seen the lasting impact this program can have on students.

Cass Kaminetz, Oak Valley Middle School
2015-2017 Head Coach

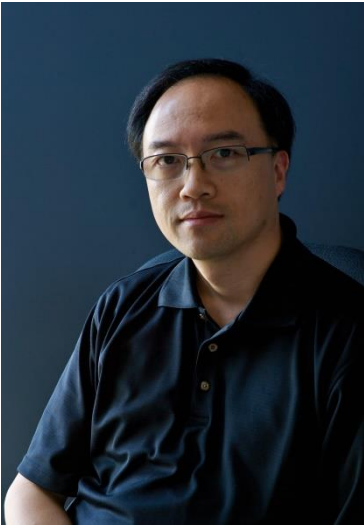
Cass Kaminetz is an estate planning attorney, but has been at home full time with her three children for the past seven years. She is an active volunteer, having sat on the PTA board at Stone Ranch Elementary for the past 6 years, where she currently serves as PTA President. Cass also leads the only elementary-level Debate Club in PUSD. She became involved with Science Olympiad at Oak Valley Middle School after seeing her son's passion for the program. Cass became Head Coach at Oak Valley with no prior Science Olympiad coaching experience or a science background. Under her leadership, however, the OVMS program went from 7th at Regionals to 2nd place, and from 14th to 7th to 1st at State, becoming the first San Diego team to earn a spot at Nationals in 20 years. She has coached Bridge and Towers, showing that even a lawyer with an English major can build. Cass has been married for 17 years to Lee, and they live in 4S Ranch with their three children, ages 14, 11 and 8.

Nicole Wu is a current high school student and previous member of Canyon Crest Academy's Science Olympiad (CCASO) organizational committee. CCASO is a completely student-run club that has competed in Science Olympiad for Regionals and State for five years, with a nearly-uninterrupted first place streak in Regionals during that time. CCASO has continually served as a hub for students to find and pursue their interests in STEM, participating with six 15-person teams (90 people). Along with organizing CCASO, Nicole has competed in Science Olympiad for five years and has coached multiple events.



Mr. Clifner is a software engineer and computational economist. Mr. Clifner's son attended Solana Pacific Elementary, Carmel Valley Middle School (CVMS), and Canyon Crest Academy (CCA), where he participated in Science Olympiad in both Divisions B and C. Since 2012, Mr. Clifner has coached Meteorology and RoboCross, and served as Head Coach at CVMS. Mr. Clifner currently acts as an advisor for the Science Olympiad programs at CVMS, Pacific Trails Middle School (PTMS), Ocean Air Elementary School, and CCA. His son has coached Meteorology at CVMS, will be coaching Crime Busters at PTMS and hopes to be coaching Forensics at CCA as well, so it appears that his son has caught the SO bug too.

April Cheng is a sophomore at Canyon Crest Academy. She began participating in Science Olympiad in 6th grade, but 8th grade is when her passion for the competition sparked. That year, she participated in the state competition for the first time for Carmel Valley Middle School, achieving first place for her favorite event Reach for the Stars in regionals, invitationals, and state. Inspired by her Reach for the Stars coach, she went on to coach that event at CVMS the next year, while participating in Division C on behalf of CCA. As well as fulfilling her role as a participant, she devoted most of her time to coaching, making and writing her own presentations, homework, quizzes, exams, emails, a website, review games, and more. Her students placed excellently at invitationals, swept regionals, and placed first at state. After placing 1st at state in Astronomy, she moved on to become the second freshman elected onto the CCA SciOly steering committee, and is looking forward to a new season of Science Olympiad. She plans to coach Optics and Astronomy at CCA in the upcoming season.



Michael H. I. Shiue, Ph.D.

Dr. Shiue is currently a Senior Principal Scientist at Pfizer Global Research & Development with over 17 years of pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry experience. He has been coaching Division B Experimental Design for both the Carmel Valley Middle School (CVMS) and the Ocean Air Elementary School since 2013. For the past three years as the Head Coach of the CVMS Experimental Design teams, the majority of Dr. Shiue's teams placed top 20 in the San Diego Regional Science Olympiad, including First Place in this event three years in a row. His training emphasizes scientific research etiquettes such as ethics, critical thinking, analytical and data reporting skills. Students who were trained by him gained essential skills that are transferable to other areas of learning throughout their education. Dr. Shiue's two daughters participated in Science Olympiad while at Ocean Air and CVMS. They are currently attending the Bishop's School in La Jolla. Their strong academic performance, particularly in mathematics and science, can be attributed to their exposure to various science and engineering subject matters through Science Olympiad.



Ben Clifner has competed in Science Olympiad at the division B and C levels for a total of 5 years now, and he intends to compete for the remainder of his high school career. He attended Carmel Valley Middle School and is currently a junior at Canyon Crest Academy. Science Olympiad was an important factor in developing his interest in science. Last year, he coached Meteorology at Carmel Valley Middle School and his students fared quite well at the San Diego regional competition. This year, he will be coaching events in both division B and C.



Dr. Wooden is a molecular biologist having worked for Amgen, Applied Molecular Evolution and Eli Lilly. He currently serves on the Del Mar Union School board where he is an advocate for Science Olympiad and STEAM+ programs. His two children attend Canyon Crest Academy and Carmel Valley Middle School where they have participated in Divisions C and B competitions. Dr. Wooden has been active in Science Olympiad for five years, including serving as head coach for the CVMS program in 2015-16. During that time, he ran the inaugural CVMS invitational. He has coached and assisted in various events including Heredity, Roller Coaster, Anatomy and Physiology, and Scrambler for both Ocean Air Elementary and CVMS. He has attended the San Diego and Los Angeles Regionals the SoCal State, and many Invitational competitions, including those at Muscatel, Kraemer, and Mesa Robles. In addition, Dr. Wooden has served as a judge for the San Diego Science and Engineering Fair for several years.



Ethan Tao is a senior high school student at Canyon Crest Academy who has participated in Science Olympiad for 6 years in a row starting from 6th grade. Each year, he has participated mostly in build events, including the Bridges/Towers/Boomilevers event, and has achieved first place in the State competition for these events 4 times. He has also gotten first in other events such as Helicopters as well. Ethan has coached Science Olympiad for 3 years, 2 for elementary school and once for high school. His students have placed well in Bridges and Towers both in regionals and state. Over these years, he has learned about constructing crafts and the theories behind it, as well as how to work with other people. These events have inspired him to pursue the path of engineering.

Name: Lianggui Chen

Science Olympiad Coach for the past 16 years.

Head Coach for TPHS for 2 years

State Science Olympiad Officer for the past 2 years.

Coach School including CVMS, TPHS, Torrey Hill and CCA

Coach events: Wright Stuff (main one), helicopter, Glider, Tower, Bridge, bloomer level, Wright it do it, Simple Machine, Bollon racing, ..etc

Result, Multiple regional, invitational, and state first place, and more

Education: PhD



Mr. Jester was a patent attorney for 40 years. Mr. Jester's three children attended Francis Parker School in San Diego where they participated in Science Olympiad in both Divisions B and C. Since 2002 he has coached nearly every Science Olympiad building event. Mr. Jester has attended over thirty regional, state and National Science Olympiad competitions. He has coached teams to at least 6 gold medals in the Wright Stuff event at the SD regional and SoCal State Science Olympiad competitions. Both of Mr. Jester's sons and his daughter graduated from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). They are currently employed as electrical engineers. Participation in Science Olympiad was a big factor in nurturing their passion for science and engineering.



Dr. Alan Gin is Associate Professor of Economics at the University of San Diego. He became interested in Science Olympiad and started coaching when his daughter and son participated at Mesa Verde Middle School in Rancho Peñasquitos. He previously coached the event Compute This (no longer contested) and most recently coached Road Scholar, culminating in a first place finish for the Mesa Verde team in that event in the 2016 Southern California State Science Olympiad competition. He is currently heading up the Science Olympiad effort at Bell Middle School, an urban school in Paradise Hills whose student-body demographics are typically underrepresented in the STEM fields.