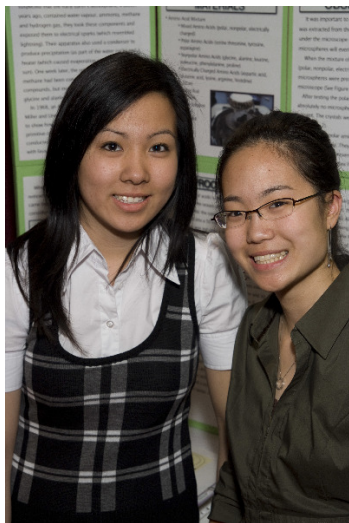


CWSF 2008 - Ottawa, Ontario



Ling Mei Iv, Vivian Pang

An Unsolved Mystery: The Origin of Life

Division: Physical & Mathematical Sciences / None

Category: Senior

Region: Bay Area

City: Brantford, ON

School: North Park Collegiate & Vocational

Abstract: Life on Earth likely involved amino acids clustering together forming cell-like structures (microspheres). We investigated whether certain types of amino acids were more likely to form microspheres than others. We heated the three groups of amino acids, separately, with lava rocks and saline solution. Nonpolar amino acids formed into microspheres. Polar and electrically charged amino acids did not come together into any cell-like shape.

Biographies

Ling Mei - My name is Ling Iv, I attend North Park Collegiate in Brantford, Ontario. I am a grade 12 student going to the University of Waterloo for kinesiology in September. In school, I'm involved in Students' Council, Anti-Racism Committee, Drama Club, and the Environment Club. This is my first year entering the Bay Area Science and Engineering Fair and it has been a great and memorable experience for my last year of high school. My partner, Vivian Pang, and I won the Silver Merit Award, Zonta Award, Investigative Science Award- Second, the McMaster Chemistry Department Award, and two trips to the Canada Wide Science and Engineering Fair in Ottawa.

Vivian - My name is Vivian Pang, I am 17 years old and attend North Park Collegiate Vocational School in Brantford. In my four years there, I have been a part of the volleyball (3 years) and the badminton (2 years) team. I have also been participating in flute ensemble (2 years) and Wind Ensemble (4 years). I am part of the Anti-Racism Committee, and a new environmental group at school. I volunteered at a second language school in Cambridge and I was an assistant coach for my public school's volleyball and badminton team. I used to play Brant Youth Volleyball, in collaboration with the Ontario Volleyball Association (OVA) and in my first year, I won t...