

NATURE

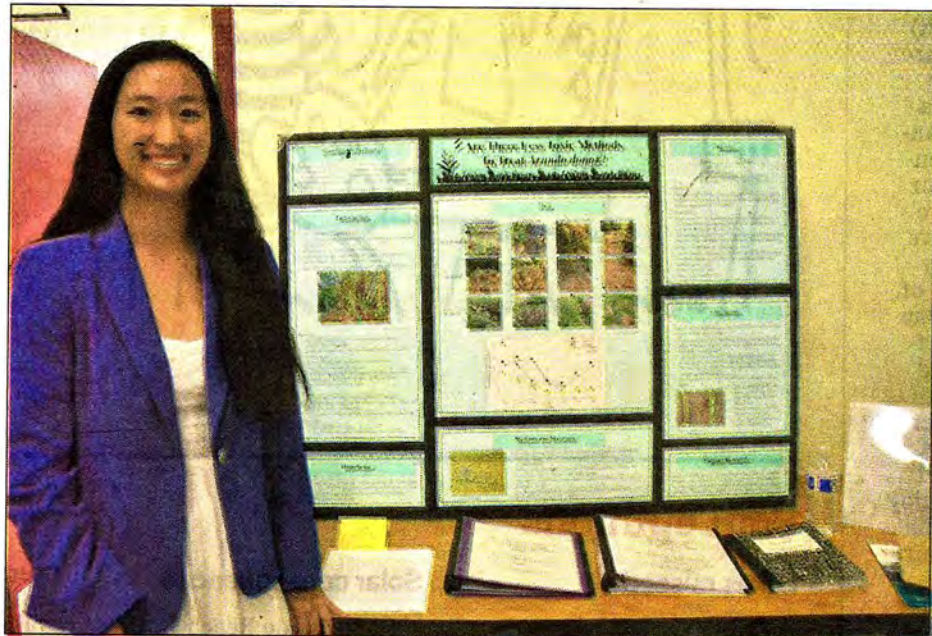
Teens recognized for science skills

Peninsula High School's Sarina Liu has won second place at the Palos Verdes Science and Engineering Fair in the Earth and Space Science category. She also won a special award given by the Association for Women Geoscientists.

Sarina, a junior, studied less-toxic herbicide treatments to manage the invasive weed *Arundo donax*, a harmful invasive plant that disrupts the ecology of plants and animals along streams and rivers in Southern California.

Five other Conservancy student researchers were awarded Honorary Mention March 23.

Earlier in March, conservancy student researchers Tiffany Min, 14, of Palos Verdes High School, and Daniel Park, a senior at Peninsula, won second place from the Southern



Sarina Liu

COURTESY PHOTO

California Paleontological Society at the L.A. County Science Fair. Tiffany and Daniel par-

ticipated as a team with the conservancy's 2015-16 Citizen Science Wildlife Tracking Program. They hiked in the 99-acre Three Sisters Reserve every Saturday from November through March 2016, collecting data on the prey of coyotes and foxes to investigate if rain patterns affected their diets, a press release said.

"Giving students the opportunity to do hands-on field research on the preserves inspires them to explore their natural surroundings and deepens their understanding of how protecting and restoring habitat benefits local plants and animals," said Andrea Vona, conservancy executive director, in the release.

The students were supported in their research gathering by the conservancy's stewardship staff, the release said.