



October 2013

## The MAC Smallbore Shooter of the Month



The MAC Smallbore Shooter of the Month is Victoria Brown of Akron University

It has been a challenge for Victoria to keep shooting since in her sophomore year she had to have knee surgery in the middle of the season. Then yet again her junior year, the other knee. But through all this, Victoria has been a true blue Akron Zip by attending every training session in an attempt to get back on track to being a champion. Now in her senior year Victoria is healthy (fingers crossed) and eagerly attacking her last season like she means it. It seems for every match Victoria is getting stronger and better. Currently the number two smallbore athlete on the team with averages in the 570's, Victoria will be a key player in the success of the team this season. And she is no slouch in air rifle either with a season average slightly over 580.

**as a junior (2013-13):** Named to the second-team All-Mid Atlantic Conference in air rifle...had a personal best, and team best of 586 in air rifle fired in a matched against Murray and averaged the second highest on the team with 577...recorded a smallbore personal best of 570 in the second match of the season, against Navy...clinched an average of 562 in smallbore on the season.

**as a sophomore (2011-12):** Named second team All-Mid-Atlantic Rifle Conference for the air rifle and to the MAC All-Academic team ... garnered second team All-Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference honors for both guns ... named MAC shooter of the month for October ... was second on the team in season averages for air rifle (576) and smallbore (567) ... shot a personal best 585 in air rifle in the NCAA Qualifier against Ohio State to place fourth ... fired a 575 against USP in smallbore ... took first in the MAC 40 shot air rifle (386) ... swept the smallbore (574) and air rifle (582) against the Coast Guard ... led the team with a top gun honors in air rifle (576) against VMI ... a member of the first place Mid-Atlantic Rifle Conference team for smallbore and the MAC second place air rifle team ... also a member of the Western Intercollegiate Rifle Conference 2nd place smallbore and air rifle teams.

**as a freshman (2010-11):** Was a member of the MAC 2nd place smallbore team as well as a member of the MAC 2nd place air rifle team ... also was a member of the WIRC 3rd place smallbore and air rifle teams ... ended her season at the WIRC Championships leading her team with a season best of 571 in smallbore, with a knee injury cutting her season short ... was the recipient of the WIRC 1st place smallbore handicap match award (most improved shooter).

**Prior to Akron:** Joined the Burlington (Vt.) Rifle and Pistol Junior Team during her freshman year of high school ... won the Vermont State Junior Olympic Qualifier for air rifle in 2008, 2009 and 2010; and the smallbore qualifier in 2009 and 2010 ... qualified for the National Junior Olympics in air rifle and/or smallbore in 2008, 2009 and 2010; allowing her to represent Vermont at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. ... competed at the NRA National Championships at Camp Perry, Ohio, in 2007 and 2008 for both 3-P and prone ... won numerous NRA sectional matches during her high school career and claimed the Vermont State smallbore championship in 2009 ... competed in the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit postal match in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 ... in 2010 qualified to attend the National Army Marksmanship Unit match in Fort Benning, Ga.

**Personal:** Born in Vermont ... parents are Peter Brown and Susan Anderson-Brown ... majoring in biology.



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## The MAC Air Rifle Shooter of the Month



The MAC Air Rifle Shooter of the Month is Kaiying Liao of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Kaiying (Kai) graduated valedictorian from Interlake High School in Bellveau WA in 2010. While in high school she was active on her school's soccer and badminton teams. Kai is a computer science major and expected to graduate in 2014. She has a 4.7/5.0 Cumulative GPA and is fluent in Mandarin.

When arriving at MIT Kai walked on to the rifle team with no previous experience. She has participated in MIT Varsity Rifle for the last 3 seasons and is in her final season of eligibility. During the last 3-years Kai has steadily improved. She pushes herself and her teammates to improve each and every practice. As a freshman Kai shot smallbore exclusively and added air rifle to her repertoire as a sophomore. She also made her first appearance on the 5-person team in air rifle during her sophomore year. This was a significant accomplishment as she was the only underclassmen to make the 5-person team. Her hard work and determination not only improved her scores but it also forced her teammates to dig deeper and work harder in turn. She shot personal high scores in the most important matches of the season last year.

Entering her final year of eligibility Kai was elected team captain by her teammates and has excelled at displaying the leadership qualities that perpetuate team cohesion. At the mid-point of her final season she has exceeded expectations both on and off the range. During the final two matches of October she lead the team as the highest scoring MIT shooter in air rifle by scoring 567 in both matches.

In addition to her duties as captain of the rifle team, she also serves as the VP of Risk Management for Alpha Chi Omega. While at MIT Kai has also participated in the

Student Athletic Advisory Council (SAAC), MIT Dance Troupe, and has served as an Orientation Leader.

This past summer she worked at Microsoft Research Asia (Beijing China) where she worked with the Human-Computer Interaction group in exploring various presentation styles and media. The previous summer she worked in Pasadena California's Jet Propulsion Laboratory with NASA where she added additional features and functions to Plot-Oh-Matic, a tool created for engineers and scientists to view telemetry data sent from the Mars Science Laboratory (MSL) during cruise and surface operations. She has also interned with Syntheon LLC in Miami FL where she processed query data and developed the ERGO online user interface using Javascript, HTML, and the Google Earth API.

In addition to her summer internships Kia works during the school year. Most recently she worked with TouchUp where she collaborated with a team working to design and implement a custom system and interface for controlling an adjustable bed in a multiple sclerosis patient. This resulted in a wireless system centered around a tablet based system. She has also worked with the MIT Department of EECS as a Lab Assistant and with MIT's educational institution where she directed participants in clinical trials to investigate ankle-foot prosthetics design. She has worked with the David H Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research where she produced and examined polymeric hydrogels for laryngeal applications and drug delivery.

After graduation Kai plans to work for Microsoft Research in Beijing over the summer and fall semesters. In the spring she will return to MIT to pursue a master's degree in computer science which she will finish in 2015. In her spare time Kai enjoys recreational sports, badminton, hiking, traveling and trying international cuisine.