



NACLO PRESS RELEASE

Results from the Invitational Round of the 2016 North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO)

Twelve students from the United States and Canada score highly in the Invitational Round of the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) and qualify for the International Linguistics Olympiad in India.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The results from the 2016 NACLO competition are now available.

The NACLO contest has two stages, an Open Round and an Invitational Round. Students solve problems in language analysis drawn from languages around the world. The problems range widely across traditional and computational linguistic topics: from orthography and transcription systems to syntax, semantics, morphology, and phonology. In the Open Round of the Olympiad on January 28, 2016, 1627 students from across the U.S. and Canada competed at more than 200 university and high school sites. The Open Round featured problems about Malay, Estonian, Cebuano, Hittite, the Sign Language of the Cistercian Order, as well as problems related to finite-state automata and context-free grammars.

The top 174 contestants (the top 10% of participants) were invited to the Invitational Round on March 10, 2016, and 167 competed. The Invitational round included ten problems on topics and languages such as Estonian, Tocharian, Nung, Hungarian, Somali, Javanese, word embeddings, Homeric infixation, court stenography, and Horn clauses.

The jury has finished grading the submissions for the Invitational round. The organizing committee of NACLO is pleased to announce the top U.S. and Canadian students.

Results from the Invitational Round of the Invitational Round of the 2016 NACLO:

The top four US students include Laurestine Bradford (Invitational Round winner) of Seattle, Washington, James Wedgwood of Seattle, Washington, Erik Metz of Ellicott City, Maryland, and Shuheng "Nelson" Niu of Cupertino, California. The next four US students are Margarita Misirpashayeva of West Windsor, New Jersey, Wyatt Reeves of Fort Worth, Texas, Jack LaFleur of Washington, DC, and Nilai Sarda of Atlanta, Georgia.

The top four Canadian contestants in the invitational round are Kevin Sun, Minh-Tam Nguyen, Lawrence Pang, and James Hogan, all of Ontario.

Four students were selected as alternates. Three are for the US team: Siye Zhu of Massachusetts, Swapnil Garg of California and Anjali Nambrath of New Jersey; and one is for the Canadian team: Jason Huang of Ontario.

The International Linguistics Olympiad:

All US and Canadian team members are invited to participate in the Fourteenth International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) in Mysore, India, on July 25-29, 2016.

The IOL will involve an individual competition, structured similarly to NACLO, as well as a team round in which group members collaborate to solve a more in-depth linguistics challenge. Past team challenges have featured problems from a wide range of languages including Mongolian, Lao, Hawaiian, Northern Sotho, and American Sign Language. The IOL has grown from six countries in its founding year (2003) to twenty-nine in 2015. The U.S. has participated since 2007 and Canada since 2011. The location of the IOL changes each year; in the past three years it has taken place in Manchester, UK, Beijing, China, and Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria. NACLO is currently raising money for the trip and will contact team members and their parents about travel arrangements.

Registration for the 2017 NACLO will start in September 2016.

More Information

NACLO - <http://www.nacloweb.org/> - contains practice problems, contest rules, and registration details for NACLO's competitions.

IOL - <http://www.ioling.org/> - contains a record of all past IOL problems and results

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