



NACLO PRESS RELEASE

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Results from the Invitational Round of the 2018 North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO)

Sixteen Students from the USA and Canada score highly on the Invitational Round of the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) and Olympiade Linguistique Canadienne - Canadian Linguistics Olympiad (OLCLO) and qualify for the International Linguistics Olympiad in Prague, Czech Republic.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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 25, 2018, 1766 students from across the U.S. and Canada competed at more than 200 university and high school sites.

A total of 176 students (the top 10% of participants) moved on to the Invitational Round on March 8, 2018. The two rounds featured problems about Gilbertese, Northern and Central Pame, Albanian, Palauan, Vietnamese, the N'ko script, Menya, Chalcatongo Mixtec, Sinhalese, Nivkh, Fijian, Tamil, Beja, as well as more computational problems such as synchronic context-free grammars and tokenization, semantic ambiguities, phonological assimilation, and shift-reduce parsers.

This year, the Anglophone Canadian team was also chosen through NACLO while the Francophone Canadian team was chosen through OLCLO. Although the two competitions work closely together to create challenging problems, they are distinct organizations.

The organizing committee of NACLO is pleased to announce the top U.S. students and Canadian students.

Results from the Invitational Round of the Invitational Round of the 2018 NACLO:

The top four US students (Team Red) include Andrew Tockman (Individual Round winner) of Houston, Texas, Ethan Chi of Cupertino, California, Brian Xiao of Berwyn, Pennsylvania, and Swapnil Garg of Sunnyvale, California. The next four students (Team Blue) are Mihir Singhal of Palo Alto, California, Pranav Krishna of Edison, New Jersey, Russell Emerine of Marietta, Georgia, and Benjamin LaFond of Boston, Massachusetts.

Four students were selected as alternates for the US teams. They are Sahil Patel of Charlotte, North Carolina, Chris Gilmer-Hill of Beverly Hills, Michigan, Karina Halevy of Los Altos, California, and Maurya “JP” Reddy of Seattle, Washington. In the event that any of the team members are unable to travel to the international contest, some of the alternates will be called on to replace them.

The top four Anglophone Canadians in the invitational round are Ken Jiang of Ottawa, Ontario, Nathan Kim of Toronto, Ontario, Kevin Liang of Coquitlam, British Columbia, and Shuli Jones of Toronto, Ontario. Two students were selected as alternates for the Anglophone Canadian team. They are Gabriel Kammer of Niskayuna, New York and Manqiu Wu of North York, Ontario.

The top four Francophone Canadians in the OLCLO competition at the invitational round this year are Corinne Soucy, Georges Awaad, Nathan Samson and Georgiy Yeryomin, with Andrei Ghiran as an alternate.

NACLO was partially funded by the US National Science Foundation, the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics, and the Linguistics Society of America.

The International Linguistics Olympiad:

All US and Canadian team members are invited to participate in the Sixteenth International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) in Prague, Czech Republic from July 26 to 30, 2018.

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 more than forty in 2018. The U.S. has participated since 2007, the Anglophone Canadian team has participated since 2011, and the Francophone Canadian team has participated since 2017. The location of the IOL changes each year; in the past four years it has taken place in Beijing, China; Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria; Mysore, India; and Dublin, Ireland.

Registration for the 2019 NACLO and OLCLO competitions will start in September 2018.

More Information

NACLO - <http://www.nacloweb.org/> - practice problems, contest rules, and registration details

OLCLO - <https://olclo.org/> - practice problems and registration details

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

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