



NACLO Press Release

<http://www.nacloweb.org>

April 2, 2015

Results of the 2015 North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) – Invitational Round

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 29, 2015, 1706 students from across the U.S. and Canada competed at 200 university and high school sites. The Open Round featured problems from Danish, Greek, Aymara, Old Norse, Japanese, Shan, and Lao as well as several problems featuring formal and computational concepts including inversion transduction grammars, phonotactic constraints, and inference of semantic intensity. 170 contestants (the top 10% of participants) were invited to the Invitational Round on March 12, 2015, and 153 competed. This round contained problems from Old English, Georgian, Navajo, Malagasy, German, Maxakalí, and Hmong, as well as several problems dealing with key concepts in computational linguistics such as local ambiguity, finite state transducers, and minimum spelling trees. The grading for the Invitational Round is now complete, and the organizing committee of the Olympiad is pleased to announce the selection of the U.S. and Canadian teams.

US Team Selection:

The top four contestants in the invitational round, James Wedgwood of Washington, Conor Stuart-Roe of North Carolina, James Bloxham of Massachusetts, and Kevin Yang of Washington, are invited to the first U.S. team for the IOL.

The next four contestants, Aidan Langston of New York, Julian Gau of New Jersey, Jacqueline Bredenberg of Michigan, and Kevin Li of New Jersey are invited to the second U.S. team.

James Bloxham and Jacqueline Bredenberg both represented the U.S. in the 2014 International Linguistics Olympiad.

Nilai Sarda of Georgia, Kevin Li of California, Patrick Lin of California, and Abhijit Mudigonda of Oregon have been selected as U.S. alternates.

Canadian Team Selection:

The top four Canadian contestants in the invitational round, James Hyett of Ontario, Eugene Shen of British Columbia, Ben Zhang of Ontario, and Ella Bei of Alberta, are invited to the Canadian IOL team.

Kevin Sun, who resides in New Hampshire, Emma McLean of Nova Scotia, Zhenglin Liu of Ontario, and Daniel Marin of Ontario have been selected as Canadian alternates.

The International Linguistics Olympiad:

All US and Canadian team members are invited to participate in the thirteenth International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) in Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, on July 20-24, 2015. 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 Georgian, Lao, Sanskrit, Hawaiian, and American Sign Language. The IOL has grown from six countries in its founding year (2003) to twenty-eight in 2014. The U.S. has participated since 2007 and Canada since 2011. The location of the IOL changes each year; in the past two years it has taken place in Manchester, UK, and Beijing, China. NACLO is currently raising money for the trip and will contact team members and their parents about travel arrangements.

Registration for the 2016 NACLO will start in September 2015. For more information about NACLO or to try practice NACLO problems, visit www.nacloweb.org. For more information about the IOL, visit www.ioling.org.

Contact information about the press release – naclo15org@umich.edu