

## The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) announces the winners of the 2019 Invitational Round

Top scoring students in the Invitational Round of the 2019 North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) qualify to represent the USA and Canada at the 2019 International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) in Yongin, South Korea, in July, 2019.

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The NACLO contest consists of 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 topics in linguistics, from phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics to writing systems and natural language processing.

In the Open Round of this year's contest on January 24, 2019, 1506 students from across the U.S. and Canada competed at more than 200 university and high school sites. The top 10% of the Open Round participants, 152 students, were invited to participate in the Invitational Round on March 7. The two rounds featured problems about Maltese, Ndebele, Catio, Lopit, Mongolian, Hanunó'o, Witsuwit'en, Mayangna, Vietnamese, Afrihili, Róng, Sranan Tongo, Polish, as well as computational topics, such as synchronic Begriffsschrift formulas, natural language inference, disambiguation, and character-level language modeling.

The Anglophone Canadian team is chosen through NACLO while the Francophone Canadian team is chosen through OLCLO. Although the two competitions work closely together to create challenging problems, they are distinct organizations. The Francophone Canadian team will be announced later in April.

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

The top four US students (Team Red) are Wesley Zhang (Individual Round winner) of San Diego, California; Brian Xiao of Berwyn, Pennsylvania; Russell Emerine of Marietta, Georgia; and Ziyang (Heidi) Lei of Wallingford, Connecticut. The next four students (Team Blue) are

Andrew Tockman of Houston, Texas; Pranav Krishna of Edison, New Jersey; Katherine He of Palos Verdes, California; and Ethan Flanagan of Bellingham, Washington.

The top four Anglophone Canadians are Tianhua (Ken) Jiang of Ottawa, Ontario; Tianqi (Max) Jiang of Ottawa, Ontario; Zhening Li of Waterloo, Ontario, and Nathan Kim of Toronto, Ontario.

Five students are alternates for the US teams: Jeremy Zhou of Houston, Texas; Skyelar Raiti of Toledo, Ohio; Daniel Carter of Cary, North Carolina; Soren Schmidt of Fayetteville, Arkansas; and Maurya Reddy of Seattle, Washington. Two students are alternates for the Anglophone Canadian team: Jasper Jian of Toronto, Ontario, and Oliver Weizel of Toronto, Ontario.

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 will participate in the Seventeenth International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) in Yongin, South Korea from July 29 to August 2, 2019.

The IOL will involve an individual competition, structured similarly to NACLO, as well as a team round in which team 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 35 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 five years it has taken place in Beijing, China; Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria; Mysore, India; Dublin, Ireland; and Prague, Czech Republic.

Registration for the 2020 NACLO and OLCLO competitions will start in September 2019.

## 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

## Contact

Dragomir Radev – [dragomir.radev@yale.edu](mailto:dragomir.radev@yale.edu)

Aleka Blackwell - [aleka.blackwell@mtsu.edu](mailto:aleka.blackwell@mtsu.edu)

Lori Levin - [lsl@cs.cmu.edu](mailto:lsl@cs.cmu.edu)

Daniel Lovsted - [daniel.lovsted@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.lovsted@gmail.com)

Andrés Pablo Salanova - [kaitire@uottawa.ca](mailto:kaitire@uottawa.ca)