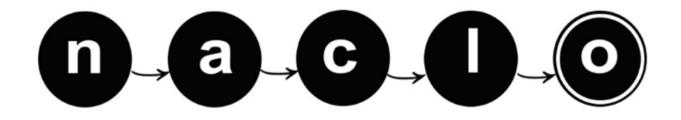The North American Computational Linguistics Open Competition (NACLO) announces the successes of the NACLO teams at the 19th International Linguistics Olympiad.

NACLO Teams win seven medals, a trophy for the team with the highest combined individual scores, and several other awards at the 2022 International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) in Castletown, Isle of Man.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three NACLO teams, each consisting of four high school students, brought back huge success at the 19th International Linguistics Olympiad, held from July 24 to 30 in Castletown, Isle of Man. The teams took home seven medals and one Honorable Mention in the individual contest, the team award for the highest combined scores, and a Bronze Medal in the team competition.

On July 22 and 23, the 2022 NACLO teams of the USA and Anglophone Canada traveled to King William's College in Castletown, Isle of Man to join 184 contestants in 50 teams from 36 countries participating in the 19th International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL).

Eight students represented the US on two teams (USA Red and USA Blue) and four students represented Anglophone Canada (Canada Moose). We congratulate all the members of this year's USA and Anglophone Canada delegations for making the national teams: Kunaal Chandrashekar of Mississauga, Ontario, Riley Kong of San Jose, CA, Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford of Chapel Hill, NC, Rishab Parthasarathy of San Jose, CA, Luke Robitaille of Euless, TX, Alex He of Monrovia, CA (who made the team but was unable to travel to the IOL due to COVID-19 travel restrictions), Tapas Gopalakrishna of Winchester, MA, Grant Wang of East Amherst, NY, Arul Kolla of Arcadia, CA, Emmy Bonser of Reno, NV, Kevin Yan of Delta, British Columbia, Perry Dai of Mississauga, Ontario, and Aidan Wang of Vaughan, Ontario. The students on the teams were selected through NACLO. This annual competition, held since 2007, has two rounds, which are held at universities and high schools throughout the USA and Canada. This year, over 1,100 students participated in the Open Round, a three-hour contest. The top 10% of students from the Open Round were invited to the next round, a more difficult, four-hour event.

The IOL consists of two events: the individual and the team contest. The individual contest is a six-hour event including five problems. This year, the individual round featured the following languages: Ubykh, Alabama, N|uuki, Arabana, Proto-Chamic, Phan Rang Cham, and Tsat. In the team contest, team members collaborate to solve one particularly challenging problem. This year, the team event involved a variety of problems related to the syntax and script of a historical language, Manchu, and its modern counterpart, Modern Manchu. Problem solving at the IOL relies on the ability of contestants to decipher the mechanisms of languages by using logical reasoning to test a range of hypotheses.

NACLO is proud to share news of the fantastic performance of the teams and announce the awards presented to team members.

In the overall individual contest team rankings, the 2022 USA Red team (Riley Kong, Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford, Rishab Parthasarathy, Luke Robitaille) won this year's **IOL Team Trophy** awarded to the team with the **highest Individual Contest Team Average**. This award brings the total number of times that the US has brought home the team trophy to nine in the 15 years it has participated in the IOL.

In the Individual Contest, the US teams brought home four medals and one honorable mention. One US team member, Luke Robitaille of USA Red, earned a Gold Medal, ranking fourth among all IOL participants. Three team members earned Silver Medals: Riley Kong of USA Red, Benjamin McAvoy-Bickford of USA Red, and Rishab Parthasarathy of USA Red. Emmy Bonser of USA Blue received an Honorable Mention. Additionally, by adding this year's Silver Medal to his 2021 IOL Bronze Medal, Riley Kong of USA Red entered the IOL Hall of Fame which honors those contestants who bring home medals in multiple years. USA Red also joined the IOL Hall of Fame as a Dream Team for having all four of its members winning individual medals in the same year.

The Canada Anglophone (Canada Moose) team took home three individual medals, with a Silver Medal awarded to Kunaal Chandrashekar. Kunaal thus also joined the IOL Hall of Fame, after also having taken a medal in the 2021 competition. Aidan Wang and Kevin Yan earned Bronze Medals.

In the Team Contest, the 2022 USA Red team won a Bronze Medal, ranking tied-highest out of the three teams awarded a Bronze Medal in the team contest.

Outside the competition, the IOL provided contestants with a variety of other enrichment activities. During a daylong excursion around the Isle of Man, participants visited Peel Castle, the House of Manannan (a museum detailing Manx history), and Port Erin. Later in the week, participants enjoyed a dance party, and everyone participated in a trivia game based on questions by US coach Dragomir Radev, culminating with Rishab Parthasarathy of USA Red coming second, only behind the collective audience.

Speaking of his experience, Grant Wang of USA Blue remarked, "I enjoyed screaming at the top of my lungs every time USA Red won something". Benjamin McAvoy Bickford of USA Red commented, "I truly enjoyed being able to see how Manx culture and especially music was surviving despite many challenges."

Kunaal Chandrashekar of the Canada Anglophone team reflected, "It was incredible getting to meet people from around the world who shared an interest in languages and linguistic puzzles, and both the competitions and the social events were a great time!" Indeed, there is great synergy when teenagers who share talent and interests congregate.

Emmy Bonser of USA Blue said, "I'll always remember complaining about the complexities of Chinese kinship the night before we got a kinship problem on the individual contest", referring to a lucky, spontaneous conversation in which team members tutored each other on the complexities of kinship systems, not knowing that they were going to need that knowledge the next day. Bonser also enjoyed, "endless rounds of (multilingual) GeoGuessr, all in a Cadbury and Ribena-fueled haze," referring to the team's favorite local snack food. Bonser further described leisure time activities, saying, "spending several hours trying to coordinate a game of polyglot telephone did end up going to waste when the message stayed the same even through a dozen people and a dozen languages". The students were just too talented to get the message wrong. Bonser concluded, "Meeting other linguistically-inclined high schoolers from around the world was also amazing. I can't wait for next year's contest, and hopefully I'll be able to attend the IOL again next year!"

NACLO congratulates the 2022 team members from Canada and the USA and thanks this year's IOL team leaders (Lori Levin, Daniel Lovsted, Suzanne Loosen, and Lauren Collister) as well as the members of the NACLO organizing committee, NACLO program committee, NACLO jury, NACLO graders, and NACLO coaches for their hard work and enthusiasm.

The Open Round of NACLO 2023 will take place on January 26, 2023. Registration will start in mid-September. To register, go to:

https://www.nacloweb.org/register_student.php.

A complete record of IOL 2022 results appears at https://ioling.org/results.

Additional photos from IOL 2022 can be found at:

https://www.facebook.com/international.linguistics.olympiad.

IOL 2023 will be hosted by Bulgaria.