



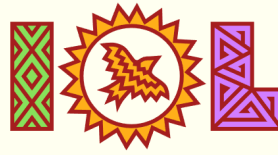
August 9, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) announces the successes of the NACLO teams at the 21st International Linguistics Olympiad.

NACLO competitors win 1st and 2nd place overall in addition to three gold medals and one silver medal in the individual contest at the 21st International Linguistics Olympiad in Brasília, Brazil.



**brasilía 2024**

For the first time in the Southern Hemisphere.



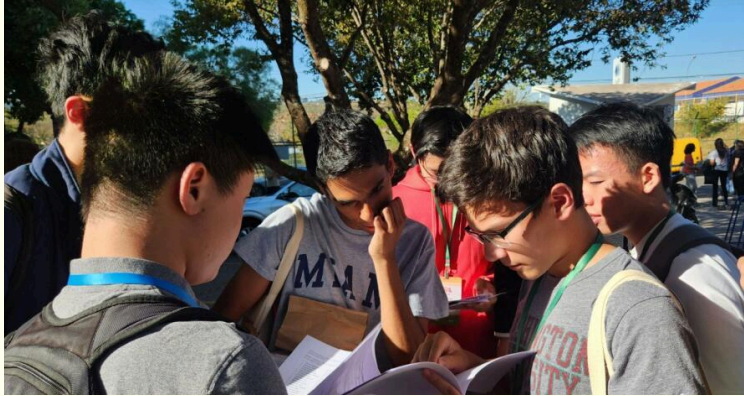
XXI International Linguistics Olympiad

July 23-31, 2024 | Brasília, Brazil

This year, the 2024 NACLO teams from the USA and Anglophone Canada traveled to Brasília, Brazil to join 206 participants in 52 teams from 38 countries participating in the 21st International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL).

The USA was represented by eight students on two teams (USA Red and USA Blue) and Canada Anglophone was represented by four students (Canada Moose). We congratulate the members of this year's USA and Anglophone Canada delegations for making this year's national team: Jonathan Sakunkoo of Palo Alto, California, Deeraj Pothapragada of Naperville, Illinois, Marvin Mao of New Jersey, Perry Dai of Missasauga, Ontario, Jonathan Ding of California, Aidan Wang of Vaughan, Ontario, Aaron Chai of New Jersey, Kevin Wang of Johns Creek, Georgia, Devin Joe of Glen Rock, New Jersey, Varin Sikka of Los Altos, California, Sophia Davis Morris of Whitby, Canada, and Linus Law of Painted Post, New York. This year's delegations were selected through their performance on the 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 1,900 students participated in the three-hour Open Round contest. The top 10% of students from the Open Round were invited to participate in the four-hour, more difficult Invitational Round.

The IOL consists of two events: the individual and team contests. This year's individual round consisted of five problems to be completed in six hours: Koryak, Hadza, Komnzo, Dâw, and Yanyuwa. In the team contest, each team collaborates to solve an especially difficult problem in four hours. This year, the IOL committee strayed from the norm and chose a team event involving problems related to computational linguistics: Lexicostatistics. 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.



*Last minute studying for the USA teams before the individual contest; Canada Moose hard at work on this year's team contest*

In the individual contest, the USA teams took home three gold medals and one honorable mention. Deeraj Pothapragada of USA Red scored the highest out of every competitor on this year's individual contest with a score of 79, and Devin Joe of USA Blue scored second highest with a score of 76.2. Varin Sikka of USA Blue also received a gold medal and Kevin Wang of USA Blue received an honorable mention. Additionally, by earning a gold medal this year in addition to his 2023 silver medal, Deeraj Pothapragada of USA Red entered the IOL hall of fame which honors contestants that bring home medals in multiple years.

This year, the Canada Anglophone team took home one silver medal and one honorable mention. Marvin Mao of Canada Moose was awarded a silver medal and Aidan Wang of Canada Moose received an honorable mention.

In addition to the competitions, the NACLO teams participated in a variety of activities around Brasilia. During tours of the city, participants visited Brazil's presidential palace, the Memorial of Indigenous Peoples, and the Bank of Brazil Cultural Center. Additionally, during the week competitors contributed to Brazilian linguistics wikidata, climbed (and swam in) the Itiquira Falls, met with indigenous leaders, watched Brazilian cinema, and enjoyed the IOL's tradition of Jeopardy, which Aaron Chai of USA Red won this year.

Deeraj Pothapragada of USA Red said, "I'll always remember talking about uncles just minutes before we got a kinship problem about uncles on the test. It was also amazing seeing the beautiful rich culture of Brazil."

Jonathan Sakunkoo of USA Red said, "Participating in IOL with my teammates and making new friends were an incredible experience! I'm grateful to Prof. Levin and Ms. Hammer for organizing it. One of the things I particularly enjoyed was discussing syntax, morphology, and other interesting topics with like-minded peers for hours on the bus. From thought-provoking discussions and competitions to swimming in the freezing waterfall with friends and mingling with international participants, every moment was enriching. I had one of the best times of my life. I'm humbled by all the great minds and kind souls surrounding me."



NACLO congratulates the 2024 team members from the USA and Canada and thanks this year's IOL team leaders (Lori Levin, Robin Hammer, Ken Jiang) 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 the 2025 NACLO will take place on January 23rd, 2025, and the Invitational Round will take place on March 13th, 2025. Registration will begin in mid-September.

The 22nd IOL will be held in Taipei, Taiwan.

View this year's full IOL results here: <https://ioling.org/results/2024>