

2019 CSW High School Chemistry Olympiad

The U.S. High School Chemistry Olympiad is an annual program for high school students that has been organized by the American Chemical Society (ACS) since 1984. The Chemical Society of Washington (CSW) is proud that it has participated in this Olympiad for all 36 years. The CSW conducts its Local Section Olympiad at two levels; the first level is the Local Section examination in March and the second level is the U.S. National examination in the latter half of April. For the National exam ACS allotted the CSW eighteen student places with the rule that a maximum of two students can be from one school. About 1000 students across the U.S. take the three part National exam, and the twenty students who have the highest scores are invited to the study camp in June at the University of Maryland – College Park campus. Four students from the study camp attendees are selected for the U.S. team to participate in the International Chemistry Olympiad in July.

CSW purchased the Local Section examination from ACS to select the 18 students, and we collaborated with the high school chemistry teachers for this purpose. E-mail letters were sent to teachers asking for the nomination of up to 20 students to take the Local Section exam, which is multiple choice of 60 questions. Teachers from 24 high schools nominated a total of 188 students. Twelve of the high schools are in Maryland, nine are in Virginia, and three in Washington, D.C. The teachers administered the Local Section Exam to their students and returned the answer sheets to the CSW Co-Coordinator for grading with the answer key from ACS. From the results of this exam the 18 students were selected to take the National Exam for the CSW. All the students who took the Local Section Exam received Certificates of Participation as did their teachers. Nine students who scored 50-60 received Certificates of High Honors, and 24 students who scored 40-49 received Certificates of Honors.

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) Exam was given on April 26th in the Bioscience Education Center at the Germantown Campus of the Montgomery College. This exam consisted of three separate parts, one written multiple choice, one written essay response, and one laboratory practical and was given in the same time period, April 23-29, across the U.S. to 1017 students. Since the National Science Bowl was held in the metropolitan area at the same time, ten students from eight other Local Sections took the National Exam with the CSW students. The ACS had a separate grading site and team to grade the National exam. William Xu from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology attended the Chemistry Olympiad Study Camp, which was held at the University of Maryland – College Park on June 2-13, 2019. Five students who took the National Examination for the Chemical Society of Washington did very well on that exam. William Xu and Kaien Yang from Thomas Jefferson earned High Honors. Dan Ni from Langley High School and David Fang and Christopher Tong both from Montgomery Blair High School earned Honors. 154 students out of the 1017 students across the United States earned High Honors or Honors on the National Exam.

The U.S. team of four students for the International Chemistry Olympiad was selected from the 20 students at the Study Camp. The 51st International Chemistry Olympiad competition was held July 21-30 in Paris, France where Team USA won three gold medals and one silver medal. Team USA was composed of

- * Edward Jin, Arnold O. Beckman High School, CA, Orange County Local Section - Gold
- * Anton Ni, University High School, CA, Orange County Local Section - Gold
- * Yajvan Ravan, Churchill High School, MI, Detroit Local Section - Gold
- * Albert Liu, North Hollywood High School, CA, Southern California Local Section - Silver

The seventeen students who took the U. S. National Exam for the CSW are listed below along with their teachers and high schools. These students also received ACS Certificates.

Student	Chemistry Teacher	High School	City, State
Estela Millan	Deanna Tomanelli	BASIS Washington DC Public Charter School	Washington, D.C.
Hamza Alsamraee	Ashley Saccomando	Centreville High School	Clifton, VA
Revanth Veju	Ashley Saccomando	Centreville High School	Clifton, VA
Ema Nakayama	Xu Duan	Holton – Arms School	Bethesda, MD
Dan Ni	Leah Puhlick	Langley High School	McLean, VA
Belinda Xi	Leah Puhlick	Langley High School	McLean, VA
David Fang	Tran Pham and Erik Lodal	Montgomery Blair High School	Silver Spring, MD
Christopher Tong	Tran Pham and Erik Lodal	Montgomery Blair High School	Silver Spring, MD
Maria Hancu	Prasad Gerard	Poolesville High School	Poolesville, MD
Angela Sun	Katherine Lin	Richard Montgomery High School	Rockville, MD
Katherine Zhao	Katherine Lin	Richard Montgomery High School	Rockville, MD
David Hla	Leslie George	Saint Alban’s School	Washington, DC
Samuel Rhee	Leslie George		
William Xu	Hadan Kauffman	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	Alexandria, VA
Kaiyen Yang	Hadan Kauffman		
Brant Jiang	Brett Bentley	Thomas S. Wootton High School	Rockville, MD
Grace Li	Brett Bentley		

We thank very much the individuals below who gave generously of their time and knowledge to make the National Exam day possible.

At the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College, Professor Scot Magnotta, Chair of the Chemical and Biological Sciences Department and Vivian Kruft, Lab Manager, who did all the preparation for the Lab Practical.

Dr. Elinor Santor, Retired, who helped proctor the written exams and assisted in the breakfast-lunch room.

Mr. Xu Duan, chemistry teacher at Holton-Arms School, who proctored the lab practical, did initial lab clean-up, and assisted in the breakfast-lunch room.

Mr. Altair Maine, chemistry teacher at North Hollywood High School, CA and National Science Bowl Chaperon, also proctored the lab practical.

We thank very much Dr. Jason Schaff for spending a Saturday helping us grade the Local Section Examination.

Regina Cody

India James

2019 Chemistry Olympiad Co-Coordinator