

2016 CSW High School Chemistry Olympiad

Wonderful news for the 2016 CSW High School Chemistry Olympiad! For the second sequential year one of our local students not only attended the Study Camp but was a member of the U.S. team that participated in the International Chemistry Olympiad in Tbilisi, Georgia. Also, four students earned High Honors by placing among the top 52 scores on the National Olympiad Examination. Read on; details later.

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 CSW is proud that it has participated in this Olympiad each year. The CSW conducts its Chemistry 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 twenty student places with the rule that a maximum of two students can be from one school. The Local Section examination purchased from ACS was used to select these 20 students, and we work with the high school chemistry teachers for this purpose. E-mail letters were sent to teachers asking for the nomination of up to twenty students to take the Local Section exam, which is a multiple choice of 60 questions. Teachers from thirteen high schools nominated a total of 133 students. Seven of the high schools are in Maryland, five are in Virginia, and one, a new charter school, is in Washington, D.C. The teachers administered the Local Section Exam to their students and returned the answer sheets to the CSW Coordinator Regina Cody for grading with the answer key from ACS. From the results of this exam the 20 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. Those students who scored 40 or above received Certificates of Honors (40-49) or High Honors (50-60).

The National Exam was given on April 22nd 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 19-25, across the U.S. to about 1000 students. The ACS had a separate grading site and team to grade the National exam. Joyce Tian from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, VA was among the 20 students who qualified for and attended the Olympiad Study Camp held at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA May 31 – June 15. Toward the end of the Study Camp Ms. Tian was selected as a member of the 2016 U.S. Alpha Iota Team to participate in the 48th International Chemistry Olympiad held July 23-August 1 in Tbilisi, Georgia, and she earned a silver medal. **Joyce, congratulations on a very successful Olympiad!** The other three members of the U.S. team were Alex Liu of The Village School, TX, who won the eighth highest ranking gold medal, Kevin Tang of Solon High School, OH, who also won a silver medal, and Zilu Pan from Canyon Crest Academy, CA, who won a bronze medal. The U.S. Team competed against 260 students from 66 countries.

The other three students from the Washington, DC area who earned High Honors from the National Exam are: Jesse Huang from Richard Montgomery High School, James Vinson from Montgomery Blair High School, and Aadith Vittala from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

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

Student	Chemistry Teacher	High School	City, State
Athreya Gundamraj	Michael Tomlinson	Academy of Science	Sterling, VA
Yoseph Mak	Ina Koppel	Chantilly High School	Chantilly, VA
Adithya Varadan	Ina Koppel	Chantilly High School	Chantilly, VA
Yasmin Alamdeen	Xu Duan	Holton – Arms School	Bethesda, MD
Ava Jurdanian	Xu Duan	Holton – Arms School	Bethesda, MD
Sach Thakker	Dr. Padma Iddamalgoda	James Madison High School	Vienna, VA
Ashutosh Ukey	Dr. Padma Iddamalgoda	James Madison High School	Vienna, VA
Matthew Seebald	Beverly Sivaslian	Landon School	Bethesda, MD
Sivan Tretiak	Leah Puhlick	Langley High School	McLean, VA
Andy Tan	Leah Puhlick	Langley High School	McLean, VA
Joshua B. Fernandes	Tran Pham	Montgomery Blair High School Magnet Program	Silver Spring, MD
James S. Vinson	Tran Pham		
Seungkyoon Bong	Prasad Gerard	Poolesville High School	Poolesville, MD
Matthew R. Feng	Prasad Gerard		
Jesse Huang	Brendan Mallory	Richard Montgomery High School	Rockville, MD
Kevin Ying	Brendan Mallory		
Joyce Tian	Hadan Kauffman	Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology	Alexandria, VA
Aadith Vittala	Hadan Kauffman		
Vijay Dey	Brett Bentley	Thomas S. Wootton High School	Rockville, MD
Ethan Liu	Brett Bentley		

I 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 Krufft, 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 helped proctor the lab practical, did initial lab clean-up, and assisted in the breakfast-lunch room.

Respectfully submitted by

Regina Cody

2016 Chemistry Olympiad Coordinator



2016 U.S. Alpha Iota Team: Left to Right: Zilu Pan, Joyce Tian, Alex Liu; Kevin Tang.
(Photograph taken by Cecilia Hernandez and reprinted with permission)