

USA Wins 4 Gold Medals in International Biology Olympiad--One Winner from Virginia



In an unprecedented feat of accomplishment in the 15 years of the International Biology Olympiad Competition, the USA Team won four gold medals last week at the 2004 International Biology Olympiad (IBO) in Brisbane, Australia. According to the Center for Excellence in Education - sponsor of the USA Biology Olympiad - no nation, including the U.S., has previously attained such extraordinary success. This is the second year of U.S. participation in the international competition. Approximately 160 students representing 40 countries competed in this rigorous competition in Australia.

One of the four golds was awarded to Katherine Aull, a senior from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria. Aull, with a perfect 1600 score on her SAT test, excels in science competitions and exams, winning the 2004 National Science Bowl, a silver medal at the 2003 International Biology Olympiad, fifth place at the National Ocean Science Bowl, and a variety of awards for math, science, and forensics. She will study electrical engineering and computer science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology this fall.

In addition to Katherine Aull, the other three Team USA gold medalists were Bradford Hargreaves from Caddo Parish Magnet High School in Shreveport, Louisiana; Clinton Hansen of Oneida High School in Oneida, New York; and ZeNan Chang from Santa Monica High School in Santa Monica, California.

Dr. Alan Christensen of George Mason University and Dr. William Stuart of the University of Maryland, who served as U.S. team coaches, observed, "These kids are extraordinarily motivated and refreshingly diverse in intellectual style. As tomorrow's scholars and leaders in biology, they will be honing the competitive edge of the future of biological sciences."