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People & Places

High school honors

William Long, a rising senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, won a gold medal and finished in fifth place at the 25th International Biology Olympiad, held recently in Bali, Indonesia.

Long was one of four students selected to represent the United States at the international competition, and was the top American finisher. Participating countries sent their top four students — winners of their own National Biology Olympiad — to the international competition.

The top 20 finalists in the USA Biology Olympiad were chosen from nearly 10,500 students based on their scores on the USA Biology Olympiad open and semifinal exams.

A total of 238 students from Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe and the Americas competed in the International Biology Olympiad, 145 of whom earned gold, silver or bronze medals. Competitors take a theoretical exam and a practical exam, which covers cell and molecular biology, plant anatomy and physiology, animal physiology and systematics, and ecology and ethology.

The IBO is designed to challenge students to expand their talents and encourage them to pursue science as a career, to facilitate exchange experiences among academics from around the world, and to promote communication and cooperation among students, teachers and academic institutions.

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