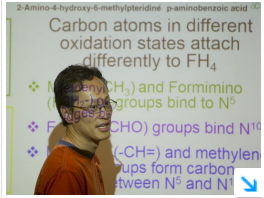


Biology Olympiad back at Purdue; 4 to make cut

Haley Dover, hdoover@jonline.com 6:39 p.m. EDT June 10, 2014



(Photo: Michael Heinz/Journal & Courier)

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For nearly two weeks, 20 of the nation's smartest high school students have listened and learned from leading biologists during the 12th annual [USA Biology Olympiad](#) at Purdue University.

Exams — a practical and a theoretical — start Wednesday. On Thursday, the four chosen for the national team will start preparing for next month's [International Biology Olympiad](#) in Bali, Indonesia. The U.S. team is the defending champion; all four team members earned gold medals. Team USA was the 2011 champion, too.

More than 10,000 students registered for the olympiad; open and semifinal exams produced finalists from 10 states. The lone Hoosier is Boyang Dun of [Canterbury School in Fort Wayne](#).



Boyang Dun of Canterbury School in Fort Wayne listens to a lecture Tuesday in Lilly Hall at Purdue University. "It's been pretty intense so far," the USA Biology Olympiad participant says. "Everyone is pretty competitive, but we took a practice practical, and things are looking good for me so far."

(Photo: Michael Heinz/Journal & Courier)

"The testing process gets us kids that we really don't have to worry about," said Clark Gedney, a Purdue faculty member. They are motivated and engaged, he said.

In laboratories across campus and in Discovery Park, the 20 standouts have enhanced their knowledge of cellular- and microbiology, plant anatomy and physiology, animal anatomy and physiology and genetics.

"It's been pretty intense so far," Dun said. "Everyone is pretty competitive, but we took a practice practical, and things are looking good for me so far."

Charles Gleason, a [Brown University](#) sophomore and former gold medalist in international competition, is working as a mentor this year.

"They have a lot of time to ask really specific questions that might stall an AP bio class for two hours," he said. "We can answer those."

This is the fifth consecutive year that Purdue has co-sponsored the event with the

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"These students really are our future," Gedney said, "and it's looking bright."

20 standout students

The national finalists at Purdue for the USA Biology Olympiad are:

* **California:** Kevin Bao, Troy High School, Fullerton; Nithin Buduma, Lynbrook High School, San Jose; Jeff Chow, Cambridge Educational Institute, Chinos Hills; Jackie Osaki, Santa Monica High School, Santa Monica; Aneesh Samineni, The King's Academy, Sunnyvale; Austin Wang, Flintridge Preparatory School, La Canada Flintridge; Catherine Wu, Canyon Crest, San Diego; and Zhongxia Yan, Davis Senior High School, Davis.

* **Indiana:** Boyang Dun, Canterbury School, Fort Wayne.

* **Minnesota:** Varun Mangalick, Mounds View High School, Arden Hills.

* **New Jersey:** Grace Chen, Bridgewater-Raritan Regional High School, Bridgewater; and Michael Gao, Freehold High School, Freehold.

* **New York:** Erin Kim, Kappa Academy, Bayside.

* **North Carolina:** Peter Luo, William G. Enloe High School, Raleigh.

* **Oregon:** Abhijit Mudigonda, Westview High School, Portland.

* **Texas:** Siddarth Guha, Dulles High School, Sugar Land.

* **Virginia:** William Long, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science & Technology, Alexandria.

* **Washington:** Yilun Du, Pullman High School, Pullman; Ming Liu, Mountain View High School, Vancouver; and Peter Lu, Mountain View School, Vancouver.

