HiLT Lab News
HUMAN INTELLIGENCE AND LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGIES

TAMS Student Sachit Menon Advances to Second Round in NACLO Competition

NACLO 2015

The HiLT Lab participated in hosting the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO) 2015. NACLO is an educational competition for U.S. and Canadian high school students in computational linguistics, the science of designing computer algorithms to solve linguistic problems. The competition challenges students to develop strategies for tackling problems in real languages and formal symbolic systems. UNT was one of the top seven universities in North America as far as the amount of students who registered for the competition, along with Carnegie Mellon University, Stanford University, Columbia University, University of Maryland, University of Toronto, and Princeton University. This is the seventh year for UNT to host a NACLO local competition.

Thirty two students participated in this challenging high school competition on January 29th. Of the 32, one student, Sachit Menon, qualified for the second round of the competition.
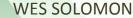
Sachit Menon

Sachit is 16 years old and currently attending the University of North Texas as a first year Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS) student. This was his first time participating in NACLO. Sachit is also a member of the university's Junior Engineering and Technical Society, TAMS Linguistics Society, and TAMS Forward Tutoring.

Wes Solomon wins 1st Place in Computer Science Category of Graduate Exhibition

HiLT member Wes Solomon won first place in the Computer Science and Information Technology category of the 2015 Graduate Exhibition. His presentation was in Predicting Changes in Systolic Blood Pressure Using Longitudinal Patient Records which consists of using a database that contains records of medical events and their dates, along with features from the clinical note associated with each database entry, a logistic regression model is used to predict roughly what the patient's blood pressure will be at a given future date.

WES SOLOMON

Lab Member Keerat Baweja Receives 2015 NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award

Our own HiLT Member, Keerat Baweja, won an NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Award for the Dallas/Ft. Worth area. The award recognizes high school females who are dedicated to computing related activities, such as research, hackathons, or robotics and who show leadership and perform community service. Award recipients for the DFW Affiliate of NCWIT's Aspirations award were selected for their aptitude and interest in IT and computing, solid leadership ability, good academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

Keerat Baweja

Keerat is a senior in TAMS at UNT. Keerat was first introduced to the world of engineering when her 8th grade robotics team competed in the BEST and VEX International Robotics Championships. Since then, she has stuck with robotics. She is currently the Co-Captain of the TAMS robotics team. She has participated in BEST, TCEA, and FIRST Robotics, winning numerous awards. Keerat is also part of the Science Team and has placed in the top three in her events. She also does computer science research based on machine learning and natural language processing in the Human Intelligence and Language Technologies Lab at UNT. Keerat plans to double major in Mechanical Engineering and Computer Science. One day she hopes to create machines that help people in third world countries, especially her home country, India.