

Grant Wang

Senior at Williamsville East High School, East Amherst, NY
MIT Class of 2028

Hobbies:

Tennis, Table Tennis, Spikeball, For the Win! on AoPS, Scavenger Hunts, Protobowl, GeoGuessr

Clubs:

3-Year Captain and First Singles Player of Varsity Tennis Team, Founder of Logic Puzzle Club, Founder of Physics Club, 2-Year Captain of Science Olympiad Team, Captain of MasterMinds (NAQT in Upstate NY) Team, Newspaper Club, Math Club

Contest/Competition Experience or Honors:

Regeneron STS Top 40 Finalist (2024), International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL) Team Silver Medalist (2023), IOL USA Red Team (2023), IOL USA Blue Team (2022), NACLO 3rd Place in US (2023), NACLO 7th Place in US (2022), Regeneron ISEF 3rd Place (2023), ISEF 1st Place CIA Award (2023), ISEF 3rd Place NSA Award (2023), NYSSEF 2nd Place (2023), WNYSEF 1st Place (out of all projects) (2023), 3× AIME Qualifier (2021-2023), USNCO National Exam (2023)

Autobiography:

At the University at Buffalo, I was a fledgling bird, trying various research opportunities under the guidance of kind professors. But one evening, everything changed when a paper on using computational linguistics to solve social problems caught my eye. It seemed like the perfect fit for me; since I was a kid, I had been interested in math and language, and I had also been taking part in a computational linguistics olympiad.

Having tragically lost a friend to cyberbullying recently, I knew exactly what I wanted to do. I wanted to develop a computational linguistics AI model for detecting offensive language on social media. But all the computational linguistics professors at the University at Buffalo were unavailable, so I had to pursue the project on my own.

Determined to avenge the loss of my friend, I spent late nights drinking coffee, brainstorming, reading papers, and coding. I had to make sure to include diverse training data, idioms, and colloquialisms so that “Break a leg!” wasn’t deemed offensive. Soon enough, all the hard work had paid off. I had developed a tool proficient in recognizing explicit and implicit hateful content in 100 languages. Social media users could now use the tool to filter out offensive posts for their mental health.

This intellectual experience was the pivotal point in my life when I realized my true calling: to use the power of AI and computational linguistics for societal change.

I am honored to be a member of the 2024 U.S. Team for IOAI, and I could not have done it without the support of many people. Thank you to Dr. Xia and Dr. Zhang for mentoring me on my previous research projects and helping me to become the researcher that I am today, and of course, thank you to my family for always supporting me in all my endeavors.