

August 20th, 2006

## Today's reminders

- With the administration office, remember to:
  - ⇒ Check your departure times
  - ⇒ Download any pictures you want to be included in the official IOI CD
  - ⇒ Collect any extra copies you want of this and previous newsletter
  - ⇒ Buy souvenirs for your loved ones. Office will be open in the morning.
- Exchange contact information with your new friends
- Pack your luggage, check you have tickets, passports, visas, money, etc.
- Have a safe trip home

## Today's schedule:

1:30

*Bus Boarding to Cancun*

4:00—22:00

*Shuttles to the Airport*

7:30 –9:00

*Breakfast*

9:00—24:00

*Free Time*

## Today's birthdays

*"Las Mañanitas" for:*

- ⇒ *Rajko Mahkovic, Slovenia*
- ⇒ *Christopher Holder, Switzerland*

# Thank you for coming to the IOI 2006. Have a great trip back home!

As everything that starts has to end, IOI 2006 officially ended yesterday with the Awards and Closing Ceremony. Most of you depart today or have already departed. On behalf of all the staff and our country, we thank you very much for coming and we hope you had a great stay.

We had a great time having you all at this great event. It was a lot of work, but it was all worth it. A lot of you came and thank us for the hard work and made us feel really glad, we are happy that you liked it: that was the point of all our efforts and late nights.

We wish you very good luck in your trips back. For those of you staying in Mexico for a few more days, enjoy your holiday! Mexico is a beautiful place, and has a lot to see. And please come back and visit us any time you want. Mexico is your home too.



We are kind of sad this has come to an end. We have great memories of the event and we are sure it will be something we will remember for life.

See you in Croatia next year!

## A dream came true



The making of the IOI 2006 has been a dream for many of us for the last 4 years (since we got the IOI assigned in Korea), but especially for the Cepeda's family.

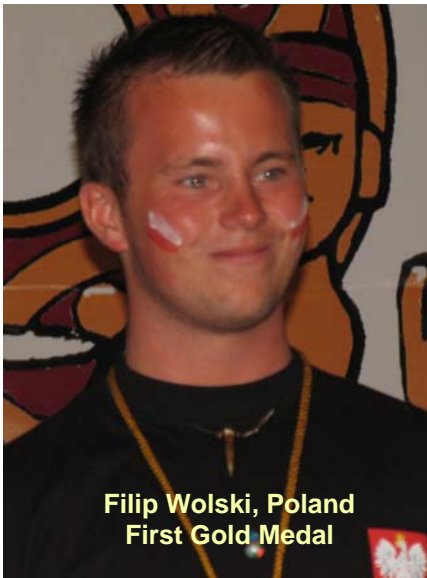
Arturo Cepeda and Margarita Garcia, have worked all their life in altruistic projects to improve technical education levels in Mexico.

Now they have the help of their son and daughters, who also enjoy these kind of projects. They work as a tightly integrated high energy team that gives their events a very warm approach and makes many of us feel very comfortable to be around.

On behalf of all the staff that has an admiration for this family, thank you so much for the great work and inspiration!

# The best of the breed at IOI 2006

At the IOI there are gold, silver and bronze medal, but then there is also a special recognition for the best 3 contestants all around. We interviewed them on this very special day and ask them how they feel.



**Filip Wolski, Poland**  
**First Gold Medal**

"This is a very special IOI for me, because of what happened, of course. I feel really really happy" said Filip Wolski.

"After the competition I felt good and I knew I could get a gold medal, after I started learning everybody else's scores, I got really nervous because I could possibly be among the best scores. But I didn't know I will be the best score. I learnt it at the Awards Ceremony. I was so excited and happy!", continues Wolski.

"This is my 4th, and my last IOI. So it was a great way for me (to retire). I have been going to Computer Science competitions for more than 5 years now. When I go back to Poland I will start my CS college degree at Warsaw University".

"About this IOI I will say it was great. First, because of what happened with me. Second because just being in Mexico is great. I really like it because it is very different from Poland, so it was a great experience.

In fact I will stay in Mexico for 3 more weeks to dive, because I am also a diver. I am really happy with this experience, thank you Mexico!" finished Wolski.



**Jae Hyun, Korea**  
**Second Gold Medal**

"Today is the happiest day of my life!!! I have been practicing for 5 years for this competition, although this is my first IOI. I am in 10th grade so I might be able to come to the IOI next year." said Jae Hyun from Korea.

"I wanted to win a gold, but I never never thought I will be the 2nd best gold of the competition! That was great to learn.

"About this IOI I can say the first day was easy, the second day was hard, and the judging system was very good.

Merida is a beautiful place, even though it is hot and humid, I like it a lot. Mexico is a lot better than what I have imagined, the meals, the weather is all nice. All the competitors are very nice persons and Chichen Itzá is just amazing!" continues Hyun.

"When I graduate from highschool I will study computer science. I have an inclination for Bioinformatics and Artificial Intelligence." concluded Hyun.



**Fan Long, China**  
**Third Gold Medal**

"The feeling of a gold medal is really good! This is my second IOI. Last IOI I also won a gold medal but I was in 13th place, so it is great to now be the 3rd" said Fan Long from China.

"Overall, coming to the IOIs has given me a lot of confidence and knowledge. When you solve a problem you get very happy. I use computers for everything, and I like video games a lot. I think many of us do".

"About this IOI I think Mexico has been a very good hosting country. The only thing I did not like was the sun, because my face and shoulders got burnt at the beach, and it is a little painful!"

"When I graduate from high school, I will study computer science." finished Fan Long.

# Issue 8, Sunday, August 20th

# NEWSLETTER

## Other Awards at the Closing Ceremony

Many other awards were given at yesterday's Awards and Closing Ceremony.

President Zide Du gave recognitions to IOI Outstanding Contribution Persons which included a list of 18 chairmen:

1. Prof. Peter Kenderov, Bulgaria
2. Dr. N. Krasovsky, Soviet Union
3. Prof. George Philokyprou, Greece
4. Dr. Peter Heyderhoff, Germany
5. Dr. Alicia Buñuelos, Argentina
6. Dr. Yngve Lindberg, Sweden
7. Mr. Ries Kock, Netherlands
8. Dr. Péter Hanák, Hungary
10. Prof. Alexandre Cerveira, Portugal
11. Dr. Gokturk Ucoluk, Turkey
13. Mr. Jari Koivisto, Finland
14. Prof. Ha-Jine Kimn, Korea
15. Prof. Don Piele, USA
16. Dr. Spyros Bakogiannis, Greece
17. Prof. Krzysztof Diks, Poland
18. Mr. Arturo Cepeda, Mexico

And IC and ISC members that retire including:

1. Dr. Wolfgang Pohl (retires from IC)
2. Prof. Don Piele (retires from IC)
1. Dr. Marcin Kubica (retires from ISC)
2. Dr. Ismail Hakki Toroslu (from ISC)
3. Dr. Jyrki Nummenmaa (from ISC)

Arturo Cepeda, Chairman of IOI 2006, recognized the help of staff, sponsors, Merida, Yucatán and Mexico's government and ministry of Education. He gave special recognition to his family, to Hugo Ryckeboer, Don Piele and Jyrki Nummenmaa for their help in the organization of this event, and to Sergio Gonzalez for the great coordination of the meals and party activities.

Then Gustavo Guerrero gave the awards for the special tournaments including Robo Aluxes, Balero, Table Tennis and Futbolito.

César Cepeda, the chairman of the Host Scientific Committee gave the medal awards starting with bronze and silver.

Between Silver and Gold we had a celebration with a Marichi Band and then the special award for Rostislav Minelov Rumenov from Bulgaria. Rostislav was given this award because he was the only one to get right the "Joining Points" problem from Day 2 of the competition.

Finally came the Gold Medals. The first 8 places were given the "Diana" to celebrate by the "Mariachi Band".

The absolute first place Filip Wolski, was given a special trophy that included the 3 medals.

Among the most celebrated contestants were Phithaya Phothilimthana from Thailand, for being the only awarded girl at the competition. Henadzi Karatkevich from Belarus, for being the youngest awarded competitor (he is only 12), and for being just 2 places below the gold medal.

Chun-Sung Ferng from Taipei, for being just one medal away of the gold medal!



Rostislav Minelov Rumenov, Rumania



Luis Enrique Vargas, México

And Luis Enrique Vargas, alias "El Compa" for being a medalist from the Host Country.

Congratulations to all of them!!!



Phithaya Phothilimthana, Thailand



Henadzi Karatkevich, Belarus

# IOI 2006

## Behind the scenes

The IOI is a big event. More than 76 countries, more than 800 people involved. There is a lot of work to do behind the scenes, and we will like to thank all the people that made this happen including our sponsors.

Here we will mention some the people that were very important for the IOI and were also available for the picture! To the rest of you thank you too. You made this possible and it was all great. We will remember it forever.

Leobardo helped coordinating all the people from the Instituto Tecnológico de Mérida, including the people that helped installing and desinstalling the computer labs and also in the RoboAluxes contest.



**Leobardo Cortés**  
Instituto Tecnológico de Mérida



**Paula Martinez**  
Immigration Process

Most of you met Paula at the IOI Souvenir store. She also helped with immigration process coming and going to get your country permits.

Angeles helped with emails, visas, arrivals and departures.



**Angeles Cepeda**  
Visas, Accomodation, Arrivals

Most leaders were in touch with her several weeks before arrival and during the whole week of the IOI.



**Toñita**  
Treasury

Toñita had the important role of keeping the money safe. She also helped with the registration.



**Tono Flores**  
IT Servides



**Elizabeth Monroy**  
Administration Staff

Elizabeth helped with during the registration process getting back packs, T-Shirts, badges ready. Printing announces, copies, etc. You probably met her at the souvenir store.



Monica and Elia were our "solve everything" super

girls. Thanks a lot girls!

I could not get the names (it is 4 am and I don't want to wake up anybody that can tell me) but I was able to get the pictures of two girls and a guy that also helped a lot. Thanks a lot you guys!

Issue 8, Sunday, August 20th  
**NEWSLETTER**

**IOI 2006 Behind the scenes (cont)**



**Sergio Ramirez**  
Photography

You met Sergio taking pictures everywhere. Some of his pictures are amazingly good.

He also prepared for you the picture introduction and music for the Awards Ceremony, and the picture selection for the official IOI CD. Thank you Sergio, for working so hard even when you have not slept for long hours!!!



**Silvia Lopez**  
Journalist

Together with Ana Paola, Silvia contributed to a lot of the articles of this newsletter and also to the printing and distribution. Hope you enjoyed them!



**Gustavo Guerrero**  
GA Assembly Coordinator

Gustavo was in charge of the GA Assembly, he also helped technical and administration staff, and even us at the newsletter at late ours. Thank you Gustavo for all the hard work and for making us feel more relaxed!!!



**Jorge Diaz**  
City of Merida

Jorge was in charge of Merida City coordination. Through out the previous months he helped us negotiate here in Merida from Mexico City. During the IOI he helped as part of the logistics staff.



**Sergio Gonzalez**  
Food and Parties Coordinator

I was here in March, to check for the last details of the IOI, before Sergio took control of the food and parties, and this August, I saw a great difference in the meals and parties.

Sergio got the prehispanic food for us. He coordinated the meals at SXXI, he coordinated the balloon launching and the fabulous leader dinner at Rey Pakal. He also coordinated the Carnavallito's, The Marimba's, The flowers at the center of the tables, and the Tequila and Mezcal for the prehispanic food.

Thanks Sergio, you did a great job!

## IOI 2009: Bulgaria

Krassimir Manev is the Chairman of the IOI 2009 that will be held in Bulgaria.

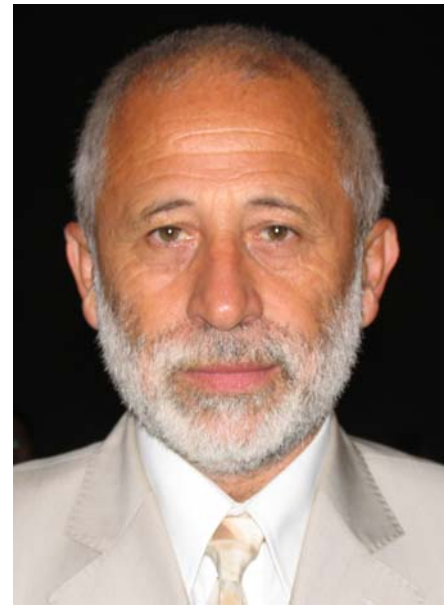
Bulgaria was the host country for the IOI and Krassimir was one of the organizers of that Olympiad. "I feel like the father of a little child that is growing and that is going to be 20 in IOI 2009. I feel very happy and proud. The IOI has grown a lot. In the first IOI, only 13 countries participated, mostly from the ex-socialist countries. Now we have almost 80 countries" said Krassimir.

The idea of the IOI came from the Math Olympiads. In 1982 Bulgaria was producing an apple compatible computer that a lot of schools were able to afford. So the kids started to learn how to program. "That is when we thought, why not make a competition where they can test what they have

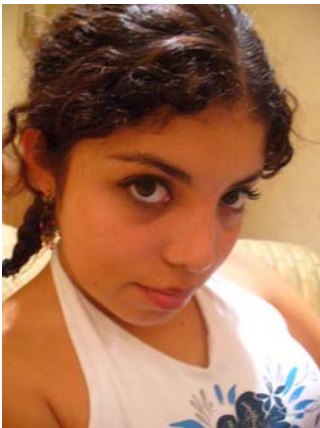
learnt? In 1982 we started a small competition. In 1987 the first non official contest where we got the assistance of 7 or 8 countries. In 1988 we went to UNESCO to get a certificate to officialize the IOI as a contest for the propagation of science among young people. In 1989 we organized the first one. There was only one task question, and 6 or 7 gold medals."

"I like this competition since it motivates you to be creative, reactive and fast. In real life you are not asked to solve problems in 5 minutes, but having the ability to solve them fast sure helps" said Manev.

"I congratulate all the competitors for being among the best programmers of their countries, and I will wait for you at Bulgaria 2009!"



## Farewell Good Bye



The IOI is finally over. Today most teams will go back to their respective countries and life will go back to normal.

I can say that despite the sleepless nights, the heat and the mosquitoes, it was worth it and I would definitely do it again. Lucky you if you will get together again in Croatia.

I guess that in every international event, people get mixed feelings when everything is over. You are happy because you know you will be back to your life and loved ones. And sad because you know that you won't ever go through the same experience again no matter how many IOIs you attend in the future.

Not the same place and more important, not the same people. In the end it is the people what makes it all worth it.

Alright, I don't want my last article in this paper to make everyone sad.



## IOI 2010: Canada

Troy Vasiga is the Chairman of the IOI 2010 that will be held in Waterloo, Canada.

Canada was elected as the host country for 2010 during the last GA Meeting at IOI 2006.

Congratulations and the best of lucks to you guys!



In fact, I want to thank you all because eight days is a ridiculously short amount of time to meet all of you, but this way I was able to reach almost everyone even if we were never formally introduced.

I hope you are taking great memories with you. In the end they are the most precious thing you can take with you wherever you go.

I hope everyone has fun at Croatia next year.

With a lot of affection, *Ana Paola*.