

News Release

Computer science students capture medals at Bulgaria IOI

Waterloo, ON. (Thursday, October 22, 2009) - Four high school students represented Canada well at the twenty-first International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) held in Plovdiv, Bulgaria in August. The IOI is an international competition in computing for senior secondary students from around the world. More than 75 countries were invited to participate in the 2009 IOI in Bulgaria.



The Canadian team of Hanson Wang and Brian Bi (Woburn Collegiate, Toronto, ON), Robin Cheng (Pinetree S.S., Coquitlam, BC) and Peter Wen (Honourable Vincent Massey C.I, Windsor, ON) were selected from contestants in Stage 1 and 2 of the Canadian Computing Competition (CCC) held earlier in the year.

*(From left to right): Front row: Terry Bae, Peter Wen, Robin Cheng, Hanson Wang, Brian Bi
Back row: Graeme Kemkes, Ivan (IOI Guide), Richard Peng, Ian Munro, and Troy Vasiga*

Troy Vasiga who is a computer science lecturer at the University of Waterloo and the Chair of IOI 2010 worked with the competitors from Stage 2 of the CCC through to the end of IOI 2009. He was really impressed with how focused and interested all four Canadian IOI team members were. "It was clear each of the four guys had different strategies, but they each challenged and pushed the others to practice more, work harder and take on bigger challenges. I know that our team learned a lot from each other, and clearly, their hard work paid off, since each of them came home with a medal."

During the IOI the four high school contestants competed individually for two days of the competition, showing their skills in problem analysis, algorithm design and data structures as well as programming and solution testing. At the closing ceremony on August 21, a gold medal was awarded to Hanson, silver medals to Robin and Brian, and a bronze medal to Peter.

Cultural and recreational events in Bulgaria were organized for the remaining days of the competition, which included a daylong excursion to the Black Sea. Troy agreed that the week in Bulgaria was very memorable because "all members of the Canadian Delegation at IOI enjoyed the hospitality of the Bulgarian hosts, the food, the sights and the adventures."

The Centre for Education in Mathematics and Computing, which coordinates the Canadian delegation to the IOI, is delighted with the medal wins and looking forward to being the first Canadian organization to host the event at the University of Waterloo from August 14 to 21, 2010. For more information on IOI 2010 please visit our website at www.ioi2010.org.