



Chairman of the International Committee

Greetings from your International Committee of the IOI. I say "your" IC because the IC exists to serve you. The purpose of each newsletter is to keep you informed on matters relating to IOI. Your input is always

welcome. After the last IOI bill was paid, we ended up spending just under \$400,000. We were able to hold an IOI at a relatively low cost because of the support and volunteer contributions from the faculty and staff of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and the USA Computing Olympiad staff.

The Dell computers were used for two weeks at no cost. We bought 330 low cost computers from Dell and resold them to faculty, staff and people in the community for \$550 -- which was our cost. So it is possible to conduct an IOI without a lot of money if you have a university and a staff willing to provide services at no cost. I will always be thankful to my colleagues at UW-Parkside and the USACO staff for their enthusiastic volunteer support for IOI 2003.

Microsoft saved the day for us by providing all \$400K. They were impressed enough with the IOI organization to extend this same funding offer for the next four years to future hosts of IOI. This should be a relief for those faced with the IOI fundraising responsibility. It was clearly the most challenging part of IOI 2003 for me. This money comes with no strings attached for those concerned about Microsoft as a sponsor.

Now, we turn our attention to IOI 2004 in Athens, Greece. If the contact person has changed for your country from the one used in 2003, please send an email to Mr. Spyros Bakoyiannis, Greece, sbakogia@epy.gr so he will have an up-to-date list of the country contacts. The contact person is necessary for sending out country invitations to IOI 2004.

As always, please feel free to provide feedback to me or any of the IC members listed at the end of this newsletter.

Don Piele

From the desk of the Executive Director

This is the first newsletter of the year since many of us were all together at IOI 2003 in Wisconsin. It also comes to you with a whole new look and I hope you like it. It is time for us to upgrade our image and this is the first step in that direction. Please let us know if you approve!!

I am sure those who were at IOI at the lovely University of Wisconsin Parkside campus will agree that it was a most enjoyable week. The campus and the surrounding area created wonderful opportunities for all to interact and get to know each other better. The change of emphasis worked well and the easier pace of activities without the frantic rush from one venue, meeting or dinner to another was enjoyed by all. For me one of the highlights (and there were many) was the General Assembly dinner on board a boat cruising off the coast of Chicago. There was enough time to enjoy the dinner, entertainment, the view and to move around and speak to old and new friends.

The year ahead promises to be a very exciting one and there will be many challenges. I am continuing with my efforts to bring new countries into the IOI family.

Negotiations are under way with Panama, New Zealand, Pakistan and the Dominican Republic. There are also initiatives to encourage attendance from those countries who participated in the Arab /African Olympiad in Egypt in 2002. I also hear that South Africa are hard at work preparing for an African Regional Olympiad in 2004.

IC are also moving with the times. Acting on the initiative of IC Chairman Don Piele, members of the International Committee will meet by using the latest technology to communicate in discussions. A trial run proved that this was a most effective means of communication and the first full meeting is scheduled for early November. Look for a report in the next issue of IOI News.

It is my sincere wish that you will use IOI News as your vehicle to communicate, not only with us but your colleagues in your countries. Please therefore, distribute this issue as widely as possible.

Till next time, kind regards and good wishes,
Lionel Hartmann



Quo Vadis IOI?

No organization can survive in the future if it does not look at and record its history. IOI has been in existence since 1989 and since then many thousands of young people have participated in IOI. We have records of who won medals,

but there is much we have lost track of. Prof Stanislaw Waligorski of Poland has done outstanding research in this area. What we need now is some of the interesting stories from previous IOI's and what has happened to previous medallists and contestants.

Romania, thanks to Prof. Dr. Adrian Atanasiu, has set an example by including a fascinating article in the brochure issued at BOI2003. The achievements of all their contestants in BOI since 1993 have been recorded, but more importantly they managed to trace many of them in various parts of the world. They are now Professors, IT specialists, holders of Masters degrees and Doctorates. Many of them occupy top jobs. Well done Romania!!

Maybe we need to start building up a database of IOI Alumni.

This is an appeal to assist us in building up our history. Gokturk Ucoluk, Chairman of IOI 1999 in Turkey has volunteered to drive this initiative. He will be very happy to hear from any one who has information about IOI and where some of our bright young contestants are. He can be contacted at ucoluk@ceng.metu.edu.tr

IOI Scientific Committee - Its role in IOI.

The IOI Scientific Committee (ISC) was established by the General Assembly (GA) at IOI'99 to improve the process of preparing and executing the IOI competitions. The improvement concerns both the efficiency of the process and the control over its quality.

Until IOI'99, the preparation and execution process suffered from a "scaling problem". The tasks and the related grading material (including test cases for example) were prepared over a period of many months by the Host Scientific Committee (HSC), often consisting of just a few dedicated individuals.

One day before the actual competition, these tasks (but not the grading material) was disclosed to the GA. The GA had very limited time to assess the tasks for approval and translation. This gave rise to long, intense, emotional discussions (a few well-informed persons versus a large group with little information), taking place under severe time constraints.

Unfortunately, the GA sometimes discovered serious deficiencies in the competition material, which needed to be repaired at short notice. This caused severe schedule delays and anxiety among delegations. Even worse, quality issues were sometimes only noticed after the competition, when it was practically impossible to take corrective action.

The ISC acts as an intermediary between GA and the HSC in the preparation and execution process. The ISC represents the GA and operates independently of the HSC. The ISC has more time to assess the competition material, and it has access to all the relevant information. In that way, the gap between a few persons with much information and a large group with little information is bridged more efficiently.

To serve this purpose, the ISC needs to be intimately familiar with all aspects of the IOI competition. This includes computing science knowledge (both theory and practice), but also experience with organizational details, and a feeling for the spirit of the IOI.

Details of ISC membership are defined in the IOI Regulations. For its operation, the ISC has adopted a set of guidelines (available on the ISC webpage). For instance, the HSC is obliged to submit the IOI competition material to the ISC for a careful review about three months prior to an IOI.

Short-term quality control is not the only duty of the ISC. The ISC also

- advises the Host SC,
- advises the International Committee,
- provides an opportunity for future Host SC Chairs to gain

- experience by taking a look behind the scenes, and
- supervises long-term developments concerning the IOI competition.

In all of this, it is important to remember that the ISC is intended to represent the GA. In fact, most ISC members have been GA members and they often return to the GA after serving on the ISC. The GA as a whole is too large to carry out all the ISC duties directly. Input from the GA, whether requested or given spontaneously, is essential for proper operation of the ISC. We hope to cooperate in an effective yet relaxed manner.

Dr. Tom Verhoeff
ISC Chair

Welcome to the IC

IOI 2003 saw 2 new members elected to the International Committee:



Dr Wolfgang Pohl is the Executive Director of Bundeswettbewerb Informatik in Germany. He studied computer science at the University of Bonn, and finished with the diploma in 1992. From 1988 to 1992, he was employed by the HCI department of the former National Research Institute of Computer Science, working on intelligent user interfaces. From 1992 until 1999, he worked on several projects in the area of user modeling, using techniques like formal logics as well as machine learning. His dissertation also dealt with user modeling, and he received his PhD from the University of Essen in 1997. Wolfgang has been involved in IOI since 1999 and has been active in the CEOI.



Ivo Separovic B.Sc, E.E., is the Chairman of IOI 2007 in Croatia. He holds a degree from the faculty of Electronics and Informatics at the University of Zagreb. He has been involved in Olympiads in Croatia for many years and has attended eleven IOI's since 1993. In that time contestants from Croatia have received 34 medals. Ivo is also one of the founders of the CEOI and his experience and enthusiasm will be valuable on IC.

Meet your new ISC members

We are happy to welcome the following two new members to the International Scientific Committee.



Dr. I. Hakki Toroslu is currently Associate Professor in the Computer Engineering Department at METU in Ankara. He obtained his Ph.D. at Northwestern Univ., Evanston, IL, USA. and has contributed to 8 International journals and attended 20 International conferences. He has been involved with IOI since 1993 and has attended several IOI's and served served in several capacities in Turkey.



Marcin Kubica qualified with an MSc in computer-science from the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics at Warsaw University in 1994 and PhD (from the same Faculty) in 2001. He is currently assistant Professor at the Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Mechanics, Warsaw University. His Research interests are formal specification methods, model checking, automated theorem proving and software engineering.

IC Members:

Jari Koivisto, Finland, *jari.koivisto@oph.fi* (Host IOI 2001)

Ha-Jine Kimn, Korean Republic, *hjkimn@ajou.ac.kr* (Host IOI 2002)

Dr. Don Piele, United States of America, *piele@uwp.edu* (Host IOI 2003)

Spyros Bakoyiannis, Greece, *sbakogia@epy.gr* (Host IOI 2004)

Dr. Krzysztof Diks, Poland, *diks@mimuw.edu.pl* (Host IOI 2005)

Arturo Cepeda, Mexico, *acepeda@suxel.com* (Host IOI 2006)

Ivo Separovic, Croatia, *isepar@public.srce.hr* (Host IOI 2007)

Mario Cruz, Colombia, *olimpia@venus.uanarino.edu.co* (elected at IOI 2001)

Yasser M. Abdel Ghany, Egypt, *yasserag@aast.edu* (elected at IOI 2002)

Dr. Wolfgang Pohl, Germany, *pohl@bwinf.de* (elected at IOI 2003)

Lionel Hartmann, South Africa, *lhartman@iafrica.com* (Executive Director)

The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world,

Are the ones who do!

(Poet Jozef Imrich)