

U.S. girls teams score gold, silver and bronze medals at China's Math Olympiad

Second place overall for team of American high school girls at international math competition

BERKELEY, California – The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) announced today that one of the two U.S. teams that competed this week at the ninth annual China Girls Mathematical Olympiad (CGMO) has placed second, behind a team from China, in the overall standings among 48 teams of girls from about ten countries throughout the world. Of the eight high school girls on the two U.S. teams, seven students won top honors—five gold medals, one silver medal and one bronze medal—and one student earned an honorable mention at the international competition held in Shijiazhuang, the capital of Hebei Province, China.

Gold medals were awarded to **Shiyu (Jing-Jing) Li** from Sunnyvale, CA, a graduate of Cupertino High School, who will enter the University of California, Berkeley this fall; **Jae Eui Shin**, a senior at Phillips Andover Academy in Massachusetts; **Elizabeth Synge** from Lexington, MA, a senior at Boston University Academy; **Lynnelle Ye**, who recently graduated from Palo Alto High School and will attend Stanford University; and **Shijie Joy Zheng** from Bellevue, Washington, a senior at Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire. A silver medal was won by **Cynthia Day** from San Jose, CA, a junior at Lynbrook High School; a bronze medal was awarded to **Adisa Kruayatidee** from Stevenson Ranch, CA, who is a senior at Phillips Exeter Academy; and an honorable mention acknowledged **Andi Wang** from Stoneham, MA, a recent graduate of Choate Rosemary Hall in Connecticut, who will attend MIT this fall. The team that ranked second overall consisted of Jae Eui Shin, Elizabeth Synge, Lynnelle Ye, and Shijie Joy Zheng.

“We are thrilled by the outstanding performance of the U.S. teams at the China Girls Math Olympiad,” said Robert Bryant, Director of MSRI, which is based in Berkeley. “This girls-only international contest provides an invaluable opportunity to encourage young women to study mathematics and develop their talent, which is important to fostering the future competitiveness of our country, and to enable them to meet and work with others who share their enthusiasm for math. The CGMO experience has a profound effect on the young women who participate, and it provides an inspiration to other students, helping them appreciate the fun and accomplishment of solving hard problems.”

The highly competitive, math tournament for teams of girls was held August 9-13 and the rigorous two-day exam was given on August 10-11. This year the CGMO drew 190 girls from about ten countries—including China, the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore. Founded in 2002, the CGMO began as a regional competition for teams of female students from China and other eastern Asian countries (including Russia). It was later expanded to invite teams from more countries and MSRI sent the first team from the United States in 2007.

This is the fourth consecutive year that MSRI has sponsored two U.S. girls teams at CGMO. The eight team members were chosen from the top ranks of the female finalists in the 2010 USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO). The teams' coach was Zuming Feng, a math teacher on the faculty of Phillips Exeter Academy, leader of the USA International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) team, and director of the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP) since 2003. Assistant coaches were Inna Zakharevich, who scored in the top 12 in the 2002 USAMO and currently a graduate student at MIT, and Sherry Gong, a member of the 2007 CGMO team, who attends Harvard.

The girls on the U.S. teams wrote an online travelogue to share highlights from their trip to the 2010 CGMO (<http://www.msri.org/specials/gmo/2010>).

The U.S. teams have a proven record of success, under coach Zuming Feng's guidance, at previous CGMO competitions: the first year, 2007, five team members won medals—one gold, one silver, and three bronze medals; in 2008, all eight team members won medals—two gold, one silver, and five bronze medals; again, in 2009, all seven team members earned top honors—two gold, three silver, and two bronze medals.

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About MSRI: The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI, <http://www.msri.org>), in Berkeley, California, is one of the world's preeminent centers for research in the mathematical sciences and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. Approximately 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 85 leading researchers at any given time for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, corporations, individual donors, and more than 85 academic institutions.