

IOI NEWSLETTER



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Don Piele

As you will have seen from Troy's announcement on the IOI-Announce Mailing List, Don passed away on October 12.

Don's involvement with the IOI began in 1992 when he obtained permission from the US Department of Education to select and enter a team at IOI '92, held in Bonn, Germany – which won 2 gold medals on debut. He then established USACO and camps to train and select the US teams.

Don wrote a report of that first IOI, finishing with "... ten wonderful days at IOI'92. This will be a tough Olympiad to follow." Follow it he certainly did, attending IOIs for the larger part of two decades.



The next year he was voted on to the IC and worked for it for 11 years.

In 2003, the United States of America was the host country with Don as the chair.

Don was an inveterate photographer and anyone participating during his IOI years would have seen him camera in hand snapping away. There can be few present during those years who was not captured on film. Indeed, when he stood on stage as Chairman in 2003 one of the first things he did was take a picture of the audience!

He retired from the US organisation in 2010.

Brian Dean, the current US leader said "Don Piele was a wonderful friend, colleague, and mentor, and I probably have him to thank more than anyone else for creating opportunities that helped me along the way towards being a successful computer scientist."

A large portion of the IOI community have fond memories of Don and his passing is mourned by many.

A note from the President

Dear Friends,

In order to make a tradition that the recently elected IOI President presents to the community her/his vision for the future development of the Olympiad I'm sending this message.

I deeply regret to start my expose with the sad news – the death of our respected colleague, long time member of the IC of IOI and Chairman of IOI'2003, prof. Donald (Don) Piele. He was coach of the team of USA for IOI since 1992 to 2005 and creator of USACO – the training concept that has many followers nowadays. The community will never forget the contribution of Don. We have to keep the memory of all of colleagues that dedicated part of their lives to the Olympiad, because we are a family.



The passing away of Don, and linked with it letter of the President Zide Du to me, as well as some observations of mine from the recent years, led my thoughts to the fundamental problem of the “generation conflict” (or “generation gap”). There is no doubt that we have a brilliant new generation in IOI – bright young professionals, most of them ex-contestants. They are our proof that the Olympiad is something valuable and our hope that it will continue to exist. But it is important to stress also that the innovations and experiments, inevitable and typical for the young generation, have to be done carefully, to pass through the experience of the elder generations. We are obliged to turn the “generation gap” into a constructive force and to make the Olympiad better and better.

Another problem that I'm strongly concerned with is the lack of teachers in Informatics all over the world and the corresponding absence of the subject in the curricula of secondary schools. I'm happy to understand that last year the IC of IOI decided to dedicate the annual seminar to training teachers. Otherwise, I should to propose the same. The IOI community is obliged to turn the attention of the responsible governmental institutions all over the world to the fact that Informatics nowadays is as fundamental a discipline as Mother Language and Mathematics and has to be taught in each stage of the regular schools.

There are, for sure, many other problems that have to be solved and I hope we will solve them together.

With this I would like to wish to all of you a successful year and to meet in Almaty!

Krassimir Manev

President of IOI

IOI Workshop

Planning is underway, with proposed but not confirmed dates of April 19-24. Mile Jovanov (Macedonia) expects to have more details in about 2 weeks.

GA and IC Minutes

The final (but unapproved) minutes from the GA are available on the website (http://www.ioinformatics.org/a_d_m/ga.shtml).

The minutes from the IC meeting in Taiwan are also available and are also unapproved until the IC convenes again.

Scholarships

As you are probably aware, the University of Waterloo has the Michael & Ophelia Lazaridis Olympiad Scholarship which is open to medallists from the IOI or IMO to apply for. **Each year, four students are awarded full scholarships, including tuition, residence, meals and textbook.** Applications are due February 9th 2015 and the forms are available at <http://math.uwaterloo.ca/math/future-undergraduates/funding-and-awards/entrance-scholarships>

If other countries (or universities) have scholarships targeted specifically at IOI medallists, then this newsletter may be a place to spread that information.

A Note from the Executive Director

Madhavan has (he hopes!) completed his duties by publishing the minutes of the last GA and the last IC meeting. My personal thanks for his guidance and very well organised "hand over" of the ED business. After only a short time in the role, I am now very aware of the gratitude owed him by all of us.

A newsletter has been started several times previously. This attempt to restart it, so that the community stays connected and informed between IOIs, will only succeed if you send me news. So please feel free to contact me with anything of interest to the community.