

IMO TRAINING CAMP

July 6 to July 21, 2007

REPORT

The 2007 IMO Training Camp started on Friday July 6 with the arrival in Calgary of five of the student Team members. (The sixth student and all three adult Team members this year were from Calgary.) Also arriving were two students from Vancouver, chosen, along with one student from Edmonton and three from Calgary, to participate in the Calgary portion of the Camp. Yufei Zhao from Cambridge, Ontario, and Lily Yen and Mogens Hansen from Vancouver, also arrived to help out at the first part of the Camp.

The participants were:

Canadian Team members: Kent Huynh, Steven Karp, Cynthia (Yan) Li, Alex Remorov, Jonathan Schneider, Jarno Sun;

Mexican Team members: Isaac Buenrostro Morales, Aldo Pacchiano Camacho, Marco Antonio Avila Ponce de Leon, Cristian Manuel Oliva Aviles, Fernando Campos Garcia, Manuel Jesus Novelo Puc;

Adult trainers: Bill Sands (Leader), Adrian Tang (Deputy Leader), Minh-Lac Bui (Deputy Observer), Rogelio Valdez Delgado (Mexican Deputy Leader), Amir Amiraslani, Ed Doolittle, Alex Fink, Mogens Hansen, Felix Recio, David Rhee, Lily Yen, Yufei Zhao;

“Local” (Alberta and BC) students: Mariya Sardarli from Edmonton; Julian Sun and Jonathan Zhou from Vancouver; and Jaclyn Chang, Jonathan Love, Danny Shi and Hunter Spink from Calgary.

Of the “local” students, Mariya, Jaclyn, Jonathan Love, and Hunter were already attending Joseph Ling’s CMS Regional Math Camp, so they only started attending the IMO Camp on Sunday morning after the CMS Camp had ended. Of these four, all but Mariya stayed in their own homes at night and only attended the Camp during the day. Of the adults, Amir, Minh-Lac and I stayed in our own homes at night. Everyone else was housed in Cascade Hall, an apartment-style Residence on campus, two students to a room. Meals were catered by the Students Union, at set times in a certain room.

In the first morning (Saturday July 7), all the Team members were taken to a nearby mall to purchase uniforms (pants for the males, skirts for the females). While this was happening, the remaining Camp participants attended that morning’s scheduled lecture in Joseph Ling’s CMS Regional Camp. That afternoon and the next morning, the IMO Camp continued with lectures and problem sets by Mogens Hansen and Lily Yen, and all Camp participants in attendance. On Sunday afternoon, all Camp participants were taken to the Calgary Stampede.

On Monday were lectures and problem sets by Yufei Zhao and Amir Amiraslani. Meanwhile, Lily and Mogens left the Camp to go back to Vancouver. Graham Wright

arrived in Calgary in the late morning to prepare for the Media Event to take place the next day. That evening he treated the adult Team members to supper at a nearby restaurant.

In the morning of Tuesday July 10, after some “fun” math activity in the morning, the “Media Event” took place from noon till 1:00 PM. At 3:00 the Calgary portion of the Camp ended with the departure of Graham Wright and all the local students. The Team members and trainers were then driven to the BIRS facility in Banff for the remainder of the Training Camp.

BIRS of course was again an unmatched setting for the Camp, with the facilities, the food, and the scenery all superb. Training continued, with an increased emphasis on mock contests.

There was a lot of coming and going during the Camp. Felix Recio arrived on July 12 and stayed until July 16. Yufei Zhao left on July 14, and Ed Doolittle and Alex Fink arrived on July 16. I left on July 17 to travel to Vietnam, and David Rhee arrived later that day.

The most notable innovation at this year’s Camp was the inclusion of the Mexican IMO Team in the training at BIRS. Due to their airline arrangements, the Mexicans could not attend the entire Camp, but they arrived in the morning of July 14 and stayed until July 19. The Mexican Team consisted of six students and the Deputy Leader, Rogelio Valdez Delgado. Rogelio gave two lectures on geometry which were very well received.

Besides the concentrated training that took place at BIRS, the Canadian and Mexican Teams were taken on two excursions. On July 14 we walked up and down Sulphur Mountain, and then had the opportunity for a welcome dip in the Hot Springs. And on July 18 both Teams were driven to the Columbia Icefields.

One slight medical incident occurred one evening. We learned that Steven Karp had a small cut in his ear that resulted in a small amount of blood gathering there, perhaps as a result of an insect bite. It was bothering him, so Minh-Lac and I took him to the emergency room of the Banff hospital, which miraculously was completely empty of customers when we arrived. The nurse on duty looked at Steven’s ear and recommended that we simply clean his ear and apply some antiseptic. So we bought the items at the drug store, and Minh-Lac expertly took care of his ear. For the rest of the Camp she kept watch on his ear, but the problem cleared up very quickly.

The Canadian Team left Banff on July 21 and returned to Calgary, from where they flew to Vietnam.

Many thanks to:

- The staff and management at BIRS, especially **Brenda Shakotko**, the BIRS Station Manager, who made our stay there so memorable; also **Nassif Ghossoub**,

the BIRS head, who “moved mountains” on short notice to make it possible for the Mexican IMO Team to train with us at BIRS.

- The following Trainers during the IMO Camp: **Lily Yen** of Capilano College and **Mogens Hansen** of Vancouver; **Yufei Zhao**, **Alex Fink** and **David Rhee**, former IMO Team members and current university students; **Felix Recio** of the University of Toronto; **Amir Amiraslani** of the University of Calgary; and **Ed Doolittle** of the University of Regina.
- **Alexis Roper** and **Betty Teare**, administrative staff in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Calgary, who helped to arrange the site of the Media Event, booked the food, and took the pictures at the Media Event.
- **Jag Kaur Samra** and **Grady Semmens** of Media Relations, and **Dave Wood** of the Teaching and Learning Centre, for assistance in setting up and running our successful and enjoyable Media Event in the Learning Commons on campus.
- Deputy Leader **Adrian Tang**, Deputy Observer **Minh-Lac Bui**, and trainer **Ed Doolittle**, who drove the Teams and Trainers to and from Calgary and to and from the Columbia Icefields.
- University of Calgary graduate student **Peter Papez**, who drove Vancouver student Jonathan Zhou to the Calgary airport on July 10.

– Bill Sands