Fall 2005

AMC's Math Messenger

The School Winner Plaque is Back!

By popular demand from many teachers, the AMC 8 School Winner Plaque is back! The AMC 8 School Winner Plaque is a beautiful 9 by 12 walnut plaque with space for 12 engraved plates with the names of your year-by-year school winners. Teachers who gave the AMC 8 (then known as the AJHSME) in the 1980's and 1990's will remember that the AMC provided an initial walnut plaque and a school winner plate each year to schools participating in the AMC 8. Difficulties shipping the plaques and plates in a timely and efficient manner forced us to discontinue this popular program, but comments from teachers told us you missed having this recognition program for your math scholars. We found a way to bring it back! In your AMC 8 Report form that you will receive in December 2005 you will find an web-address that will allow you to directly order from our supplier. The AMC pays for the initial plaque and engraved name plate in the first year, and the annual engraved plates in subsequent years. More details and detailed instructions will be included in your AMC 8 Report, so watch for it!

Important Teacher Survey

We want to learn what you think about the AMC 8 contests. Our questions are on the back of the Certification Form, page 8 of the AMC 8 Teachers' Manual. Mark your responses using the grid on the back side of the School ID form. Please help us by answering these questions!

Free Gifts in this Package!

We have some free gifts for you in the package with your contest materials! You will find a colorful trio of posters to display and advertise the contests, and a copy of a previous year's AMC 8 to practice with. When we return your scores to you, we will include a "sticky-note pad". We hope you enjoy these materials and let us know how you used them!

Congratulations to NCTM School Registration Winners

At the NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition last April in Anaheim we had the privilege to meet and talk to many of you in person. At the same time, we had a drawing for a free registration for this year's AMC 8 contest. The winner for 2005 was:

Pat Sickles
Durham Public Schools,
Durham, North Carolina

Hope to see you at the 2006 NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition!

AMC 10 Competitions in February 2006.

The 7th annual AMC 10 Contest will be on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 or Wednesday, February 15, 2006. The AMC 10 is a 25-question, 75-minute, multiple-choice contest. The content is algebra, geometry, number theory, counting, and logic problems at the level usually covered in 9th and 10th grades. If you have high-scoring or accelerated students, you may be interested in having them challenge themselves with this contest.

AMC 8 Math Club Booklet

In response to requests from teachers for training materials to help students prepare for the AMC 8 contests, we have created the expanded and improved 2005 AMC 8 Math Club Package. The Math Club Package is an approximately 120+ page book of materials and ideas to help you and your school start a math club. In the Math Club Package we have

- guidelines for starting a club,
- tips for coaching a math team on problem solving,
- a calendar to help plan math club meetings and plan for the AMC contest year,
- a listing of other math competitions: local, regional and national,
- an annotated collection of web sites which contain additional ideas and assorted problems for solution,
- an annotated list of books and publications for broadening students skills,
- pages of formulas which frequently occur in problem-solving, and
- *All new!* 50 master pages of AMC 8 problems and solutions for use in teaching problem-solving.

The problems are indexed by topic, NCTM standard and difficulty level to help you find exactly what you need to coach your students. These problem study guides are based on our experiences in demonstrating AMC 8 problems to teachers and students. The Math Club Package incorporates ideas from Edyth May Sliffe award-winning teachers.

You can order the Math Club Package on the AMC 8 Registration form, in the lower right hand corner of the form. You can find the form for printing on our web site at www.unl.edu/amc, then choosing Registration, then AMC 8 Registration 2005.

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The 2005United States IMO Team, from left: Zuming Feng - Head Coach, Brian Lawrence, Thomas Mildorf, Sherry Gong, Robert Cordwell, Hyun Soo Kim, Eric Price, and Melanie Wood - Assistant Coach .

International Mathematical Olympiad Announces Winners

High School-Age Team from USA gains 4 Gold Medals, 2 Silver Medals

The 2005 International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), was the 46th in the annual series of mathematical competitions for high school-age students. At this year's IMO, 513 of the best young mathematicians from 93 countries competed in solving 6 problems posed in a grueling nine-hour test administered over two days (July 13 and July 14). The competition poses six math questions to be solved that would daunt even some professional mathematicians. Overall, the IMO awarded 43 gold medals, 80 silver and 129 bronze medals. More details on the IMO are available on the web at www.imo2005.org.

Overall, the six members of the USA team won 4 Gold medals and 2 Silver medals. The team from China ranked first overall. The USA team ranked second among all 93 participating countries.

- **Robert Cordwell** who graduated from Manzano High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, received a Gold medal.
- **Sherry Gong** who attends Philips Exeter Academy in Exeter New Hampshire, and is from San Juan, Puerto Rico, received a Silver medal.
- **Hyun Soo Kim** who graduated from Academy for Advancement of Science and Technology in Hackensack, New Jersey, received a Silver medal.
- **Brian Lawrence**, who attends Montgomery Blair High School of Silver Spring, Maryland, received a Gold medal and had a perfect paper.
- **Thomas Mildorf** who graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, won a Gold medal.
- **Eric Price**, who also graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School of Science and Technology in Alexandria, Virginia, won a Gold medal.

Problem Proposing:

Give your great mathematics problem an audience of thousands of students and teachers worldwide! The American Mathematics Competitions is always in need of good new mathematics problems for our contests. If you would like to join our panel of problem proposers, please contact Steve Dunbar at sdunbar@math.unl.edu and we will send you a Problem Proposer enrollment form, along with directions for submitting mathematics problems to us.

Send us Your Photos:

In past years, teachers have sent us pictures of their classes or clubs taking the AMC contests. Again, this year we want to strongly encourage that. We would like to post the pictures on the web, attached to the page that will give the AMC 8 answers.

To submit your pictures, first check on the school policy on photographs of students, and in compliance with that, send them electronically to:

rroyer1@unl.edu

The preferred size for display is 6"x8", with a resolution of 72ppi (580 x 435 pixels), though other sizes are acceptable. Please include the following information, which will caption the pictures:

School Name, Teacher, Class/Club, City, State

(optional: web address for school)

(If a school submits more than four pictures, we reserve the right to select from those submitted)

Steven Dunbar, Director
The Mathematical Association of America
American Mathematics Competitions
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2005-2006 AMC contest dates:

AMC 8 - Tuesday, November 15, 2005

AMC 10 & AMC 12 - Tuesday, January 31, 2006
or Wednesday, February 15, 2006

AIME - Tuesday, March 7, 2006
or Wednesday, March 22, 2006

USAMO - Tuesday & Wednesday, April 18-19, 2006

MOSP - June , 2006

AMC 8 - Tuesday, November 21 , 2006

www.unl.edu/amc amcinfo@unl.edu