



Spring 2006

AMC's Math Messenger

USAMO Expansion & to Approximately 375 Participants

Thanks to generous support from Art of Problem Solving Inc., the AMC is able to expand the USAMO to 375 students in 2006, with plans for further expansion next year. The goal is to select about 375 of the top scorers from this year's AIME, and AMC 12 A/B, AMC 10 A/B contests to participate in the USAMO. The first selection will be the approximately 240 highest USAMO indices of students taking the AMC 12 A and B. The lowest AIME score among those 240 first selected will determine a "floor value". The second selection of approximately 120 USAMO participants will be among students in 10th grade and below with an AIME score at least as high as the floor value. The student with the highest USAMO index from each state not already represented in the first or second groups will be invited to take the USAMO.

The USAMO is a prestigious event. The top 12 scoring participants on the USAMO will be honored at ceremonies on May 21 and 22 at the National Academy of Science, the U.S. Department of State building and the Mathematical Association of America Headquarters in Washington DC.

Reporting Instructions for USAMO

This year we are offering schools the option of sending USAMO answer forms by overnight express mail instead of faxing them. (Overnight express mail may be more convenient for schools with more than a couple of students participating in the USAMO, but faxing is still preferred.)

We are still asking those schools to fax us the single sheet T-III Certification Form to assure us your school did participate, and so we can anticipate the package arrival.

We are also asking schools to provide us with an "after hours" telephone contact number in case we need to contact the Exam Manager about missing pages, illegible faxes etc. We will begin grading the USAMO on Friday, April 21, and appreciate your assistance in helping us receive all the papers in time.

Remind your USAMO participants to write darkly. We recommend black ball-point pen for writing answers since it faxes most legibly.

Password Page on the 2006 USAMO

This year for increased security and to reduce the number of "casual visitors" viewing the USAMO and blocking access for legitimate participants, the USAMO pages will be behind a passworded entry web page. We will be providing the web-address and detailed access information along with the password when you receive your notification about your USAMO qualifiers.

NCTM National Meetings in St. Louis

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. We will be at the 2006 NCTM Annual Meeting and Exposition in St. Louis, April 26-29, and we hope to see you there. Please stop by and see us at Booth 2933.

The AMC will host a Reception from 5:15-6:30 on Friday, April 28th for the MAA 2005 Sliffe Award winners. The event will be held at the Holiday Inn Select, located across the street to the west from the St. Louis Convention Center. You are welcome to attend.

We will also be holding our problem-solving workshop with the contest committee chairs from 12:00 noon – 1:30 pm in America's Center Room 150. This is a good time to interact with the people who pick the questions, and put together the various contests. You can also gain insights from other teachers on how they prepare their students for the contests.

Pi Day

March 14 (3/14) is often celebrated as "Pi Day" by teachers, math clubs, students and mathematicians. It is a fun way for clubs and classes to celebrate mathematics in their school. Some clubs even celebrate at 3:00 pm (3/14, 1500 hrs) and serve pies. Of course, circle measurement, circumference, and area computation are elementary activities, but discussion of pi can range to irrationality and how to calculate and approximate the value of pi. Consider inviting a mathematician from a local college or university to come talk to your class or club about pi and its occurrence in higher mathematics. For more club activities, check the Club Ideas Section in the Math Club Package Booklet.

AMC Encouraging Colleges and Universities to Offer B-date Administration in 2007

To offer more opportunities for students and schools to participate in the AMC contests, the AMC will be encouraging colleges and universities to offer the 2007 AMC 10 B and the 2007 AMC 12 B administration on their campuses. Contact the local colleges and universities in your area to ask if they will be offering a B-date administration. The AMC will be encouraging the host institutions to couple the AMC 10 B and AMC 12 B with additional fun math team competitions, talks from mathematicians, tours of campus, and other mathematical career oriented activities. Of course, schools are still welcome and encouraged to offer the B-date administration of the AMC 10 B and AMC 12 B in their own building if that date is convenient for in-school administration.



The 2005 United 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

The 2005 International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO), was the 46th in the annual series of mathematical competitions for high school-age students. At the 2005 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. The 2006 IMO will be held July 10-18, in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

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:

Once again, we would like to post pictures on the web of your students, attached to the page that will give the AIME answers. We also like to use them in the Summary.

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

Please include the following information, which will caption the pictures:

School Name, Teacher, Class/Club, City, State
(optional: web address for school)

To Snailmail pictures to me, return them with your AIME answer forms, or send them to:

AMC Design
UN-L, 1740 Vine Street
Lincoln, NE 68588-0658

Thanks!

Steven Dunbar, Director
The Mathematical Association of America
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Use the enclosed AMC10 /AMC 12 registration forms to sign up for 2007!

2006-2007 AMC contest dates:

AMC 8 - Tuesday, November 21, 2006

AMC 10 & AMC 12 - Tuesday, February 6, 2007
or Wednesday, February 21, 2007

AIME I - Tuesday, March 13, 2007 or

AIME ii - Wednesday, March 28, 2007

USAMO - Tuesday & Wednesday, April 24-25, 2007

www.unl.edu/amc

amcinfo@unl.edu