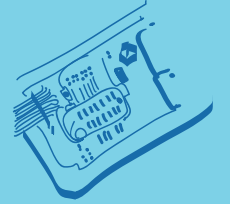
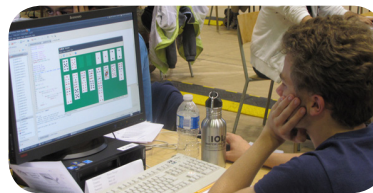
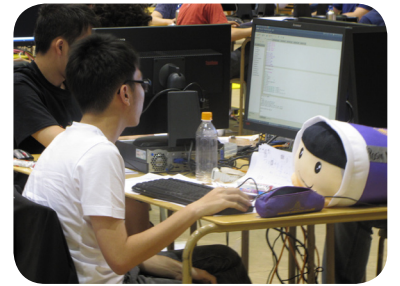
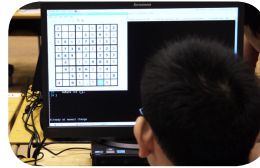
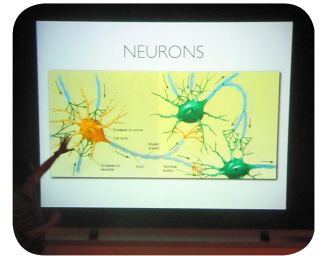
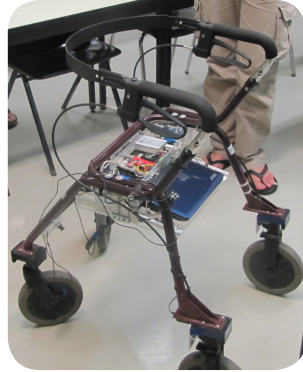




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IOI DAILY



20 HOURS

Team Hong Kong was one of the last teams to arrive on Saturday. Technically, they arrived Sunday morning because they didn't get here until midnight and unfortunately missed dinner. On top of that, they had to endure a 20-hour flight from Hong Kong with a layover in Taiwan. Luckily, they were able to eat and catch up on their sleep while on the airplane.

Being veteran competitors, they are use to dealing with travelling upheavals before big international competitions. Man-lok is actually a returning member who competed at IOI 2008. Man-hin is also a former member, competing at last year's IOI in Bulgaria. He was also here in Canada this past May for the Canadian Computing Competition.

Despite the team's experience, they hold Team U.S.A., Team China and Team Japan in high regard as these three teams have all done well at past IOI's. Team Hong Kong's goal this week is to finish in the top half of the competition and win a medal. A medal would signify all their hard work thus far.

One thing is for certain though, they are going to celebrate their achievements with some dim sum – the food they miss the most – once they get home.



It took them 20 hours to get here and they want more than just Canadian gifts. After taking part in national competitions, Team Lithuania was selected this past April to take part in IOI 2010. Unbelievably, their only preparation was a four-day training camp earlier this month, where they held a small competition amongst themselves (they wouldn't say who won). Other than that, they've largely been practicing on their own. As Lithuania is a small country (with only 3.5 million people), the programming community is pretty tight. The four delegates met each other through a number of national programming competitions. They also competed in the Baltic Olympiad in Informatics in Estonia, where three of the team's six contestants placed in the top 20.

But it's not just about the competition for them. They are most looking forward to seeing Niagara Falls and going on the Maid of the Mist boat ride. Team Lithuania also hopes to meet new friends and develop connections with other "informational minds" before leaving IOI 2010.



PLEASING OUR GUESTS

Joanne Kursikowski and Dean Murray are heading up the IOI entertainment committee, as they have planned a variety of excursions throughout the week for the guests of the IOI competitors. In a way, they are considered the 'host' and 'hostess' of IOI 2010. The guest excursions included a trip to the Elora Gorge, a cruise on the Grand River, a trip to Stratford for shopping and a matinee of the musical Evita. Friday's excursion is a trip to St. Jacobs.

For this last trip, a specially booked train will stop directly in front of the Davis Centre to pick the guests up and take them to St. Jacobs for a day of shopping and sightseeing.

Joanne has been to Elora Gorge in the past and says it is set in one of the most picturesque areas of Ontario. It will be a perfect prelude to Niagara Falls, which will take place tomorrow. Of the many planned excursions, Joanne and Dean are looking forward to the Grand River Cruise and the musical. Evita has received rave reviews in the news and should be appealing to all guests despite possible language barriers. Joanne actually considered taking the guests to a Shakespeare play but Shakespeare is often a challenge for English-speaking people. She decided instead to have the guests see a modern musical. Joanne and Dean are very excited to meet all the international guests and show them a little bit of our own backyard.



NIAGARA FALLS

Now that the competition is over, it's time to relax and enjoy sightseeing. Your Thursday excursion takes you to one of our most famous vacation destinations - Niagara Falls.

The Region of Niagara is one of the most prolific areas in Canada sustaining farmland, orchards and vineyards. Niagara Falls itself is a stunning spectacle and is a must see for first time visitors to Canada. The waterfall is created by Lake Erie emptying into Lake Ontario both of which were covered by the Wisconsin glacier over 70,000 years ago. The erosion by the glacier resulted in portions of the earth being dug out and these "holes" are where the Great Lakes currently sit.

To take you on your day's journey, buses will arrive at Village 1 at 06:30 and depart at 07:00 sharp. Breakfast will be held earlier at 05:30 and close at 07:00. Make sure you are on time, as you won't want to miss the excursion to Niagara Falls.

This natural wonder of the world, made up of the American and the Horseshoe Falls, is on the border between the United States and Canada. It is estimated that 16 million visitors see the Falls each year. You will be able to view the Falls up close on the Maid of the Mist, which is a boat ride where you can experience the mist on your face and the wind in your hair. The Journey Behind the Falls tour is where you can trek behind the Falls to have another unique experience. On both tours you will be provided with a rain poncho to help keep you dry. However you still may get a little wet so cover and protect items (e.g. cameras and other electronic devices) that can get water damaged.

Midway through the day, you will enjoy a delicious lunch at Betty's Restaurant. Be sure to meet your bus captain at the Maid of the Mist Bus Management Centre to take you to the restaurant that is an attraction in and of itself satisfying customers for over 40 years. It is known for its home cooked food and award winning pies. After lunch contestants may have some spare time to venture out to Clifton Hill or Lundy's Lane. These areas have arcades, haunted houses, wax museums and more! For nature lovers, the Niagara Park Botanical Gardens is an oasis, which is also home to the Butterfly Conservatory.

Once your day at Niagara Falls is over, buses will meet at the Maid of the Mist Bus Management Centre to return to the University of Waterloo.

THEY'RE HERE

This is one team that can handle anything that is thrown their way. Their journey took 28 hours with the time difference but Team South Africa didn't quite realize how tired they were until they arrived in Waterloo. They say that they like everything so far including the nicely designed campus.

This lively group was chosen by means of a three-round national competition that started with 38,000 students who worked on an easy task down to 2,500 and finally 20 students who did two mock IOI's. The top ranking South African students have arrived in Waterloo but not without great difficulty.

One competitor, Sean Wentzel won a Science Olympiad before coming to Waterloo and got to go to London. His team's route to Canada involved a stop in London; however, when trying to cancel his ticket from Cape Town to London, the airline didn't cooperate. They wouldn't allow Sean to get on the plane in London so organizers ended up paying \$900 for a new ticket for Sean. Their troubles didn't end in London.

Team Leader Pieter Waker travels often and uses only carry-on luggage. However, in London, Pieter's luggage was 1 kg over the weight limit and he was forced to check it in. Unfortunately, Pieter arrived here before his luggage. It was left in London while he made his way to Canada. In flew Air Canada (the largest airline in Canada) who returned his luggage to his hotel before Pieter even noticed. Who knows, maybe they saved all their luck for the competition?

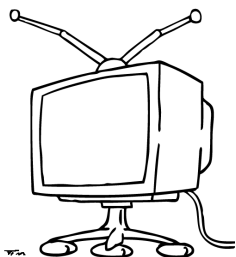


HAVE YOU BEEN IN THE NEWS OR ON TV?

Has your IOI team been in the newspaper or on television at home? If so, we'd love to hear about it. Please send an email with the url of the media story to Steven Furino at scfurino@uwaterloo.ca

Do you blog? We'd love to hear about that too! Again, please contact scfurino@uwaterloo.ca.

Thanks!!



IOI Daily Team:

Karen Cole
Steve Furino
Kim Schnarr
Joseph Collins
Colleen Ivits
Chris Nelson
Jennifer Nguyen

Famous Canadians

In Hollywood, there's Michael J. Fox, Kiefer Sutherland, Keanu Reeves, Donald Sutherland, Jim Carrey, Dan Aykroyd, Mike Myers, Mathew Perry, Kim Cattrall, Pamela Anderson, Rachel McAdams, Eric McCormick, Leslie Nielsen, Ryan Reynolds, Sandra Oh, Evangeline Lily, Christopher Plummer and William Shatner.

Musicians include Neil Young, Joni Mitchell, Ann Murray, Avril Lavigne, Leonard Cohen, Michael Bubl , Robbie Robertson, Alanis Morissette, Arcade Fire, Celine Dion and Bryan Adams.

Writers include Margaret Lawrence, Michael Ondaatje, Alice Munro and Margaret Atwood.



THURSDAY AUGUST 19, 2010

TIME	EVENT		
	CONTESTANTS	LEADERS	GUESTS
07:00 - 08:00	Niagara Falls (Breakfast - 05:30 to 07:00)		
08:00 - 09:00			
09:00 - 10:00			
10:00 - 11:00			
11:00 - 12:00			
12:00 - 13:00			
13:00 - 14:00			
14:00 - 15:00			
15:00 - 16:00	Dinner		
16:00 - 17:00			
17:00 - 18:00	GA Meeting (DC 1350)		
18:00 - 19:00			
19:00 - 20:00	Free Time		
20:00 - 21:00			
21:00 - 22:00			
22:00 - 23:00			
23:00 - 24:00			

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