MSRI Mathematical Sciences Research Institute

U.S. team members all score medals at China's Girls Math Olympiad
Eight American high school girls win gold, silver & bronze medals at international math competition

BERKELEY, California – The Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) announced today that all of the young women on the U.S. team that competed this week at the tenth annual China Girls Mathematical Olympiad (CGMO) have won medals. Among the eight high school girls on the U.S. team, two students won gold medals, one student won a silver medal, and five students were awarded bronze medals. The girls-only international competition was held in Shenzhen, near Hong Kong in Southern China's Guangdong Province.

Gold medals were awarded to both **Danielle Wang,** 14, from Campbell, California, a freshman entering Westmont High School this fall, and **Victoria Xia,** 15, from Vienna, Virginia, a sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. A silver medal was won by **Julia Huang,** 15, from Saratoga, CA, a sophomore at Lynbrook High School. Bronze medals were awarded to **Rebecca Burks,** 16, from Los Altos, CA, a junior at Danaidae Learning Studio; **Christina Chen,** 16, from Newton, Massachusetts, who is a junior at Newton North High School; **Sarah Herrmann,** 15, from La Jolla, CA, a junior at La Jolla High School; **Elaine Hou,** 15, from Seffner, Florida, a sophomore at C. Leon King High School; and **Haotian (Tiffany) Wu,** 16, from Sugar Land, Texas, a junior at Clements High School.

"We are thrilled by the outstanding performance of every member of the U.S. team at the China Girls Math Olympiad," said Robert Bryant, Director of MSRI, which is based in Berkeley. "This international competition provides an invaluable opportunity to encourage young women to study mathematics and develop their talent. The CGMO experience has a profound effect on the young women who participate, and it serves as an inspiration to other students, helping them appreciate the fun and accomplishment of solving hard math problems."

The highly competitive, international math contest for teams of girls consisted of a rigorous two-day exam that was given on August 1–2. This year the CGMO drew 190 girls from countries such as Japan, Russia, the United States, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Macau, Singapore, and China. Founded in 2002, the CGMO began as a regional competition for teams of female students from China and other eastern Asian countries. It was later expanded to invite teams from more countries and MSRI sent the first team from the United States in 2007.

This is the fifth consecutive year that MSRI has sponsored a U.S. girls team at the CGMO. The eight team members were chosen from the top ranks of the female finalists in the 2011 USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO). The teams' coach was Zuming Feng, a math teacher on the faculty of Phillips Exeter Academy, the leader of the USA International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) team, and the director of the Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program (MOSP) since 2003. The team's assistant coaches were Inna Zakharevich, who scored in the top 12 in the 2002 USAMO and is currently a graduate student at MIT, and Maria Monks, who begins Ph.D. studies this fall at the University of California at Berkeley.

The girls on the U.S. team wrote an online travelogue to share highlights from their trip to the 2011 CGMO (see http://www.msri.org/specials/cgmo/2011).

The U.S. teams have a proven record of success at previous CGMO competitions: in the first year, 2007, five team members won medals—one gold, one silver, and three bronze medals; in 2008, all eight team members won medals—two gold, one silver, and five bronze medals; again, in 2009, all seven team members earned top honors—two gold, three silver, and two bronze medals; and last year (2010), seven students won medals—five gold, one silver, and one bronze—and one student earned an honorable mention.

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About MSRI: The **Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI,** http://www.msri.org**)**, in Berkeley, California, is one of the world's preeminent centers for research in the mathematical sciences and has been advancing mathematical research through workshops and conferences since its founding as an independent institute in 1982. Approximately 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 85 leading researchers at any given time for stays of up to one academic year. The Institute has been funded primarily by the National Science Foundation with additional support from other government agencies, private foundations, corporations, individual donors, and more than 85 academic institutions. MSRI is involved in K–12 math education through its annual "Critical Issues in Mathematics Education" conferences for educators, math circles, Julia Robinson Math Festivals, the National Association for Math Circles (NAMC) and its website, and Olympiad math competitions; in undergraduate education through its MSRI-UP program; and in public education through its "Conversations" series of public events.

About the MAA: The **Mathematical Association of America** (**MAA**, www.maa.org) is the largest professional society that focuses on mathematics accessible at the undergraduate level. The association members include university, college, and high school teachers; graduate and undergraduate students; pure and applied mathematicians; computer scientists; statisticians; and many others in academia, government, business, and industry. The MAA welcomes all who are interested in the mathematical sciences. It was formed in 1915. There are now more than 20,000 members in this organization.

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