



# NEWSLETTER

16<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIAD IN INFORMATICS [www.ioi2004.org](http://www.ioi2004.org)

## SCHEDULE

### contestants

8:30 FIRST CONTEST  
*Contest Hall*

13:30 End Of Contest

### leaders

8:30 GA MEETING 3  
*Restaurant*

15:00 Informal GA Meeting  
*GA Hall*

17:00 RESULTS  
*Translation Rooms*

20:00 APPEALS DUE

21:00 GA MEETING 4  
*GA Hall*

### guests

8:30 Excursion to Nafplion

17:00 Return to IOI Village

## IOI 2004 “takes off” with songs and dances



The opening ceremony of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Olympiad for Informatics, held yesterday in the large Auditorium of Philosophy Faculty of Athens University, will be an event to remember for many of us, as our guests had their first real contact with another side of the Greek mentality, enjoying traditional as well as popular songs and dances, from all over the country. For the vast majority of the contestants and their leaders in the fully-packed Auditorium (top photo), it was the first time to listen “live” to *bouzouki*, to feast upon the colorful dresses of the girls and the somber ones of the boys costumes (high-school students themselves, like them), to enjoy the music played and sung by the all female (minus one) band of the Music High School of Pallini. (continued page 4)

### Question of the day to...

**Prof. Yannis Keklikoglou,**  
vice president of Athens TEI



**Why is the  
International  
Olympiad in  
Informatics  
important?**

Approaching this Olympiad from a technological as well as cultural point of view, the contestants have the opportunity to exchange and share different cultures and experiences, they bring from their respective countries. With an intellectual “fermentor” and the support of their advisors, they can present quality products and ideas. That is why, from the very start of this international competition, Athens TEI supports it actively, in the belief that it may reveal new talents, which will lead the multi-disciplinary fields of Informatics in our society in the years to come. Good luck to all of you!



**GOOD LUCK TO ALL CONTESTANTS  
ON THEIR FIRST CONTEST TODAY**

(continued from page 2)

Of course, you've heard the speeches (the vice rector of the UofA, the vice president of TEI of Athens, the representatives of EPEAEK, chairman Piele and chairman Bakogiannis) and you've been praised for your interest and specialization on Informatics. Yet, the epitome of the day was something said by the Minister of Education in her recorded message – that the man is still (and always will be) the master of technology. And this is something we should all bear in mind...



Spyros Bakogiannis



Dr. D. Assimakopoulos,  
Vice Rector of the University of Athens



The Opening Act, the group from the Music High School of Pallini

**PROFILES**



**University of Athens  
Department of  
Informatics and  
Telecommunications**

It was officially founded in 1989 and today the Department has 36 full-time faculty members, about 20 permanent employees who belong to the technical and administrative personnel, and many research associates, most of whom are PhD candidates and post-doc researchers supported by externally funded research and development (R&D) projects and programs. More than 1200 undergraduate students, 200 postgraduate students and 100 PhD candidates are enrolled in the Department's programs. The undergraduate studies program of the Department of Informatics and Telecommunications reflects the convergence of "Information Technologies and Telecommunications", effected by the domination of digital technology and the resulting unification of information and communication systems.

Who is your favorite  
volunteer?  
Come by the Press Office  
and vote.

**IOI 2004 IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP OF**

**Organizers**

**Supporters**

**Sponsors**



**GREEK  
COMPUTER  
SOCIETY**



**University of  
Athens  
Dept. of  
Informatics  
&  
Telecommu-  
nications**



**Technological  
Educational  
Institute of  
Athens  
Dept. of  
Informatics**



**OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME  
INFORMATION SOCIETY**



**ΕΜΜΑΑ  
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΙΣΤΙΚΟ ΚΕΝΤΡΟ  
2008**

*Αναπτύξτε τον εαυτό σας. Ανάπτυξη για όλους.*



**SCHOOL BUILDINGS  
ORGANIZATION S.A.**



**GRAND SPONSOR**



**GOLD SPONSOR**



**SILVER SPONSOR**



**SILVER SPONSOR**



**SILVER SPONSOR**



**BRONZE SPONSOR**

**WE THANK THEM ALL**

# In your own words

## (Part 1)

One of the best parts of every Olympiad (either scientific or athletic) is the opportunity to meet very interesting people from all over the world, to exchange views and ideas, to learn from each other, even start a lifelong friendship. The International Olympiad in Informatics is no exception to this rule – more than 300 high-school students from all over the world, champions in Informatics in their respective countries, gathered in Athens to take part in this competition. The mixture of different cultures, different languages, different tastes and different customs is a really wonderful experience.

Take for example, Mei Sim Tong (photo 1), a contestant from Macau China and one of the only six girls taking part in IOI2004. Her interest in Informatics started while in form 3 and in her two last schools she competed with groups in networks. As a girl... yes, it is harder to be accepted! She is “the girl” in the group, the special one. But, now she is going to University, so she has to focus on her studies...

Tamara Barron (photo 2) is a volunteer from Minesotta. She heard about IOI from a friend of hers and as she is currently living in Greece, she decided to get some work experience, before leaving for school, so... here she is!

“The accommodation is great, of quite high standards” says Christian Ebke (photo 3), a 19 year-old contestant from Germany, adding that “the volunteers are very friendly and welcoming”. Is he anxious for the competition? As a matter of fact, yes, as more and more people arrive...



Mei Sim Tong being interviewed by Tatiana



“No, I’m sorry your badge is not ready yet”



“No problem. It’s a good excuse to come to the reception again”

### DAY 1 PICTURES



Jakob Gath and Lu Zhang Gram (photo 4), two 19-year-old contestants from Denmark, confessed that this is the first competition they take part. The first one is a little bit shy, yet he tells us that he started preparing last year. His friend finds the “hotel” nice, but slightly messy, due to the lack of organization (well, how could be different, with so many busloads arriving all at once?). Gram feels constantly nervous, in spite of the friendliness of the volunteers. He entered the competition following the advice of a friend, that had competed last year himself...



Relaxing before the Big Day

Arthur Charguiraud (photo 5), a teacher and deputy leader of the French team, is much more relaxed not being a contestant, yet can't wait to see the end-results. Very satisfied from the accommodation, but a bit upset that the pool wasn't open at that time of the day.



The pool will be cleaned and open on Monday.

Sandaruwan Gunathilake (18 year-old) and Pavinda Jayasiri (17), are two contestants from Sri Lanka, who have taken part in the 15<sup>th</sup> IOI, in the US. Both are content with what is provided in Sri Lanka and they will stay in their country, even if they win a medal. And... yes, they like Greece a lot, it's a wonderful country. Nervous? No, not at all (that was two days ago...) but they're afraid they'll become nervous, when the competition starts (big day, today...) What about training? They have been involved with Informatics for three years and they train for 8 hours during week-ends, with good teachers. And what do they do, when they're not training or studying? They just like to play cards!



“We like Greece a lot”

*\* Reporting by Tatiana K. and Alexandra P.,  
Photos by Nicholas K.*

