USENIX notes

2010 ELECTION FOR THE USENIX BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ellie Young, Executive Director

The biennial election for officers and directors of the Association will be held in the spring of 2010. A report from the Nominating Committee will be emailed to USENIX members and posted to the USENIX Web site in December 2009 and will be published in the February 2010 issue of *;login:*.

Nominations from the membership are open until January 6, 2010. To nominate an individual, send a written statement of nomination signed by at least five (5) members in good standing, or five separately signed nominations for the same person, to the Executive Director at the Association offices, to be received by noon PST, January 6, 2010. Please prepare a plain-text Candidate's Statement and send both the statement and a 600 dpi photograph to jel@usenix.org, to be included in the ballots.

Ballots will be mailed to all paid-up members in early February 2010. Ballots must be received in the USENIX offices by March 17, 2010. The results of the election will be announced on the USENIX Web site by March 26 and will be published in the June issue of *;login:*.

The Board consists of eight directors, four of whom are "at large." The others are the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The balloting is preferential: those candidates with the largest numbers of votes are elected. Ties in elections for directors shall result in run-off elections, the results of which shall be determined by a majority of the votes cast. Newly elected directors will take office at the conclusion of the first regularly scheduled meeting following the election, or on July 1, 2010, whichever comes earlier.

USACO TEAMS SHINE

Dr. Rob Kolstad, Head Coach, USA Computing Olympiad

USENIX-sponsored USA Computing Olympiad teams won the team championship at the Central European Olympiad on Informatics and placed second at the world championship IOI in Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

After a very competitive training camp held for the USA's top 15 competitors during the first week of June at the University of Wisconsin—Parkside, extra funding enabled our traveling teams to participate in two international championships.

Coaches Rob Kolstad and Jacob Steinhardt traveled to Târgu-Mureş, Romania, for the July 8–14 Central European Olympiad on Informatics. The CEOI is occasionally persuaded to invite the USA as a guest team; we think of ourselves as sort of the western region of Central Europe. A total of 57 competitors from 11 countries converged on Romania for the intense competition.

This Olympiad was just 100km east of the location of our previous CEOI in Romania in Cluj, and still in the heart of Transylvania. Dracula's influence was felt throughout our stay, especially when visiting tourist spots.

Compared to the 300+ competitors at the international championships (IOI), these competitions are relatively intimate and much more challenging for medals. Because of the limited number of medals available (only 1/12 of participants earn Gold medals; 2/12 for Silver; 3/12 for Bronze) and about the toughest competition in the world (except for China and a few individuals in random countries), the most prestigious medals are very difficult to win. The intimacy does enable the students to get to know each other much better, especially since the cultures are dramatically less diverse and easier to absorb.

The CEOI results were fabulous! Four USA students competed at the CEOI. IOI alternate Michael Cohen had a great finish in his first international outing, and three of our team won medals, as well as placing in the top 10:

- Gold Medal, #1, Neal Wu, from Baton Rouge, LA
- Silver Medal, #6, Michael Cohen, from Chevy Chase, MD
- Silver Medal, #8, Brian Hamrick, from Annandale, VA
- #36, Travis Hance, from West Chester, OH

Neal's 400 points were 60 more than the second place winner's (a stunning victory margin), and he was one of only three students earning above 300.

Just a month later, Coaches Rob Kolstad, Brian Dean from Clemson, and Richard Peng from the University of Waterloo escorted Neal, Brian, Travis, and Wenyu Cao from Belle Mead, NJ, to the International Olympiad on Informatics in beautiful Plovdiv, Bulgaria. (Wenyu had been unable to attend the CEOI, because it conflicted with the International Math Olympiad where he was representing the USA in an allied competition.)

The two-hour bus trip from the airport in Bulgaria's capital of Sofia wound through oak- and fir-covered rolling hills. The decreasing angle of the sun really brought out the natural beauty of central Bulgaria (just the first of many aspects of the trip that exceeded any rational expectations).

The coaches' hotel, seven minutes away from the students' hotel, sported rooms that were nicer than any non-suite I've ever stayed in. A relatively large ante-room led to the main bedroom with its living area slightly separated from the sleeping section. Windows looked out over the four swimming pools, with the city lights glimmering in the distance. Many meals were served poolside from a buffet with more than 100 items, almost all of which I found edible! What a treat for this year's IOI accommodations.

Like the CEOI, two five-hour competitions (each with one easy and three extremely challenging tasks) were interspersed with tours of the re-

CEIO team, left to right: Michael Cohen, Travis Hance, Brian Hamrick, Neal Wu, Coach Jacob Steinhardt

IOI team, left to right: Travis Hance, Wenyu Cao, Brian Hamrick, Neal Wu

gion and of the city. The "old city" adjoined the students' hotel, so sight-seeing was without stress.

Our students performed extremely well in the event:

- Gold Medal, #7, Neal Wu, 665 points
- Gold Medal, #15, Brian Hamrick, 642 points
- Silver Medal, #28, Wenyu Cao, 613 points
- Silver Medal, #40, Travis Hance, 566 points

Wenyu was just three points away from a gold medal. The USA's total points ranked second among all countries, exceeded only by powerhouse China.

The awards ceremony was held in a 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheater. Not only were our competitors honored by medals, but Coach Kolstad was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for contributions to the IOI and training of competitors from countries around the world.

All in all, a fabulous end to a super season for USACO.

USENIX is a principal sponsor of USACO, along with Booz Allen Hamilton and IBM.

The USA Computing Olympiad continues to hold monthly competitions for three divisions of competitive programmers. This year's contests have each drawn 1,000 or more competitors from more than 60 countries. Thanks to USENIX and its membership for continuing sponsorship of this great program.

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.
Jane-Ellen Long, Managing Editor