

IN THE NEWS

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A team of four biology students representing the United States brought home four gold medals from the International Biology Olympiad. This is the first time all the gold medals were won by students from the same country. Held in Brisbane, Australia, the competition included 159 students, representing 40 countries. The four-member U.S. team was sponsored by The Center for Excellence in Education, which also runs the U.S. Biology Olympiad in this country. The members of the U.S. team all attended public high schools. They were Kay Aull, Fairfax, Virginia; ZeNan Chang, Santa Monica, California; Clinton Hansen, Oneida, New York; and Bradford Hargreaves, Shreveport, Louisiana;

Next year's Biology Olympiad will be held in Beijing, China in July 2005. The contest is open to all U.S. high school biology students. The students must be nominated by their schools, and must take a pre-qualifying exam. The top ten percent from this initial exam then take semi-final exams to determine 20 National Finalists. The finalists then compete in the USA Olympiad, held at George Mason University in Virginia. The top four medal winners from The USA Biology Olympiad will then compete in the International Olympiad.

The first academic international Olympiads were launched under the auspices of the United Nations in the 1960s. The programs have gradually expanded to include more than 70 participating countries across five continents. Currently, international academic Olympiads are held annually in mathematics, physics, chemistry, computer science, biology, and astronomy. The USABO National Finals is an all-expenses paid competition. More information on biology olympiads can be found at www.cee.org.



2004 Olympiad winners (left to right): Brad Hargreaves, Clinton Hansen, Kay Aull, ZeNan Chang. Photo by J. Sendova, Center for Excellence in Education

IT'S ALMOST PEAK TIME FOR CAPE MAY RAPTORS

Cape May, New Jersey is one of the most renowned birding areas in the world, due to its peninsular geography and prevailing westerly winds. In autumn, large numbers of southbound hawks, as well as other migrants, are steered toward the coast to Cape May, where most species stop to rest and choose a strategy for continuing their migration. Sixteen species of hawks migrate through Cape May each fall. Late September through mid October is peak time for raptors and Peregrine Falcons. A daily and annual raptor count is tallied each fall, and exceptional totals are recorded each year. For more information on bird watching in Cape May, see www.nj Audubon.org.

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