



Romanian Master of Mathematics

7th Edition, Bucharest, February 25th-March 1st of 2015

NEWSLETTER ISSUE 1

THE TEAM

STUDENTS:

Malina Achinca, 11th E

Karina Balan, 10th C

Calin Enache, 9th H

Alexandra Ficiu, 11th E

Bogdan Mihai, 10th B

Nicholas Visoianu, 9th H

TEACHERS:

Corina Vint

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Iulia Manicea

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Who teaches? But who learns?

The opening ceremony of the 7th edition of the Romanian Masters of Mathematics international competition took place on 26th of February 2015 in Aula Magna at Bucharest University of Economic Studies building. Many Romanian personalities were present there: Mr. Paul Petrovan , the Prefect of Bucharest, Mr. Andrei Chiliman, mayor of district 1 of Bucharest, Mrs. Mihaela Tania Irimia, general director of the Lifelong Department of the Romanian Ministry of Education and Scientific Research, Mr. Constantin Trăistaru, general education inspector of Bucharest, Mr. Daniel Grigorescu, general inspector of Mathematics at the Romanian Ministry of Education and Scientific Research and professor Radu Gologan Phd, President of the Romanian Mathematical Society.



As each country's team was assigned a group of guides formed by the students and teachers of "Tudor Vianu" National High School of Computer Science, the contestants were asked to tell their opinion regarding certain aspects of our country and the competition we organized.

Mălina Achinca, student guide, 11th grader, talked about her experience with the contestants from France:

While asking my team about their opinion regarding my country, I was presented a very interesting way of seeing things. My question was the following: "How do you see Romania compared with France?"

“Well, Adrien Lemerrier answered with a serious face, it is hard for us to decide whether the name *little Paris* should be given to Bucharest or not. This city confuses us. You have many buildings affected by decrepitude, but then the Parliament Palace comes. Moreover, look at all those new things at McDonald’s that we don’t have!” His answer made me think of the famous Romanian historian, essayist, philosopher, journalist, novelist and diplomat: Neagu Djuvara. He asserts that we, the Romanians, are a combination between the Orient and the Western world. And it seems that in a certain way, our new friends think in the same way.



I was surprised when the French contestants from the region called Champagne asked us if they could go and eat something from the Romanian specialties. They behaved like real tourists: they even asked us to tell them a few words in Romanian. After waking up, we had breakfast at the canteen and then took the bus in order to visit Bucharest. It was awesome! However, there are a few things we can’t omit: the small imperfections of our city. But they seemed amazed by the plenitude of explanations we offered. They concluded that it was undoubtedly odd to see the skeleton of the biggest church from Romania that would be constructed in Bucharest.



The tour of our city finished with a conference at the Mathematical Institute. And the Topological Dimension was an interesting subject for me too. This is why I chose to participate in this event as a guide: we learn from each other, we deal with different mentalities. Last, but not least, we made friends.



There were funny incidents too. One member forgot to leave the key of the room downstairs, as he was supposed to, so that the Mexican students staying in the same room panicked. They couldn't find the key. But in the end both of our teams took it as a moment of distraction.

Karina Bălan, student guide, 10th grader, also took an interview to her team:

As the American team's guide I decided to ask some of the boys a few questions. However, they did not hesitate to be honest. Here is my interview with Michael Kural and Ryan Alweiss of the US team:

INT: How has Romania treated you so far?

Michael: Romania has been treating us nicely overall: we got to see a tour of Bucharest and the weather has been much better than in the US.

Ryan: Romania has too many smokers. Everyone smokes in public spaces and it's annoying. But overall it's a nice country. The weather this week is pretty good.

INT: How do you feel about the atmosphere of the competition so far?

Michael: The atmosphere has definitely been cooperative rather than competitive. We made friends from the UK team and we are sharing a room with two members of the Chinese team. It's been very cool to talk to them!

Ryan: The atmosphere is pretty good. I talked to the British and Ukrainian teams and they were very nice. Also the US team is pretty nice ☺

INT: What do you expect from the Romanian Master? Do you have any predictions?

Michael: The problems have been of high-quality in the years RMM has been held, so hopefully the same will hold true from now on. I also hope for #3 or #6 to be a geometry problem, which is the best subject.

Ryan: Predictions: the Chinese team is going to win, and the US will get 2nd place. There will be at least one geometry problem, and at least one combinatorics problem.

INT: How is Romanian Master of Mathematics: better/worse than other international competitions you have been participated in?

Michael: RMM is both: better and worse than every international competition I've competed so far.

Ryan: RMM is not comparable to the null set*.

*In mathematics, a null set is a set that is negligible in some sense.

INT: Since you went on a tour around Bucharest today, I feel it is now appropriate to ask, do you like Romania? Would you come back?

Michael: Ignoring the lack of Wi-Fi, Romania is an interesting place to visit with a culture that's definitely different than America's. If I had the time, I might come back to explore some of the places we haven't seen, or interact with the mathematical community.

Ryan: I like Romania and I would come back, maybe. It does not seem like there's much stuff to do, though.

INT: Are you enjoying the Romanian cuisine?

Michael: We only ate at the cafeteria, but the cheese and the “pilaf” were very good.

Ryan: What is Romanian cuisine? We had pretty generic foods. I really liked the “pilaf”.

Nicolas Vişoianu, student guide, 9th grader, also asked the members of the Bulgarian team a few questions regarding the Romanian Masters of Mathematics contest.

Int: Where are you from?

Hristova: My team is from Bulgaria, and we are here to win!

Int: How was your trip to Romania?

Hristova: It was a bit too long because we had to change buses; otherwise it was fine.

Int: What was your first impression? How is Bucharest?

Hristova: It is a really nice place, warmer than I expected. And it actually looks a bit like home.

Int: How was your interaction with your guides?

Hristova: They seem to be really nice people and they they actually are a very important part in the whole project. They have helped us with a lot of things.

Int: What did you do at the conference held in the Mathematics Institute?

Hristova: We attended an interesting lecture about polydimensions.

Int: What do you think of the place where you're staying?

Hristova: It is great. I like it. And the food is good too.

Int: What are your feelings regarding the contest?

Hristova: I'm slightly nervous because this is the first time I am attending the Romanian Masters of Mathematics.

Int: Do you feel prepared?

Hristova: Well yes, we had a week of preparation before the competition.

Int: Have you been studying during your free time here?

Hristova: No, I have not been practicing for the past few days, neither have my teammates. We tried to relax and free our mind from stress. Since we arrived here we have rested as much as possible to gain our strength.

Int: What do you think about your rivals, are you afraid of them?

Hristova: My rivals are the exercises, not the other competitors.

Dear contestants, we would like to thank you for the interviews, and wish you good luck at the contest!

To sum up, today it was fantastic: we laughed and we had fun. The activities that our school organized were well chosen. Anyway, we all learned something new today, and who knows, maybe we will need this knowledge one day.

