

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Media Advisory

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**Bay Area members of U.S. girls team arrive with medals at SFO on Wed., Aug. 19**

*Four high school girls from San Jose and Cupertino score highest honors—Gold, Silver & Bronze trophies—at prestigious international math Olympiad for girls in China*

■ **WHAT** – Four members—all from the Bay Area!—of the award-winning U.S. girls team arrive at the San Francisco Airport tomorrow on Wednesday, August 19. All seven team members won medals at the 8th annual China Girls Mathematical Olympiad (CGMO) held in Xiamen in Fujian Province, China. The highly competitive, international tournament for teams of girls from around the world was held last Wednesday through Sunday, August 12-16. Seven countries participated this year - China, the United States, Russia, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Macau, and Singapore – and sent a total of 51 teams. This is the third year that the Berkeley-based Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) has sponsored a U.S. girls team at CGMO, which was founded in 2002. The seven high school students chosen for the 2009 team were selected from the top ranks of the female finalists in the 2009 USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO). The girls wrote an on-line travelogue from their trip to the CGMO (see <http://www.msri.org/specials/gmo/2009>).

This is the second year in a row that every member of the U.S. girls math team has won a trophy at CGMO. In 2007 the U.S. team had five of its eight members earn medals: three girls, all from the San Francisco Bay Area, earned bronze trophies, one girl placed for a silver medal, and another girl—who tied for first place in the overall competition—won a gold medal.

- **WHEN – WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 at 9:10 a.m.** on United flight #862 (to confirm flight arrival time, please call 800.241.6522).
- **WHERE** – At the **International Terminal at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), outside the U.S. Customs area and Immigration exit in the Arrivals level Lobby.** For a map of SFO, please see <http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/orphan/meet/index.html>
- **WHO** – The four girls on the U.S. team returning home to the Bay Area include: Gold medalist **Jing-Jing (Shiyu) Li** from Sunnyvale, a senior this fall at Cupertino High School; silver medal winner **Patricia Li** from San Jose, who recently graduated from Lynbrook High School and enters the MIT this fall (Patricia also competed on the 2007 U.S. team at CGMO and won a bronze medal); and two bronze medalists, both from San Jose, **Ramya Rangan**, who will be a sophomore at the Harker School, and **Cynthia Day**, a sophomore at Lynbrook High School.
- **PHOTOS** – Available by request to Anne Pfister at [annepf@msri.org](mailto:annepf@msri.org) or call 510.642.0448.
- **SPONSORS** – Funding for the U.S. CGMO team was provided by Microsoft, Google, the Akamai Foundation, the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI), the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), the Shiing-Shen Chern Foundation for Mathematical Research, the Sunlin and Priscilla Chou Foundation, and Science Workshop.

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. More than 2,000 mathematicians visit the MSRI each year, and the Institute hosts about 80 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 90 academic institutions. The MSRI is involved in K-12 math education through its annual *Critical Issues in Mathematics Education* conferences for educators, math circles, the National Associate for Math Circles (NAMC) and its website, and Olympiad competitions, in undergraduate education through its MSRI-UP program, and in public education through its "Conversations" series of public events.