



PROGRAM OF SCIENTIFIC INITIATION WITH EMPHASIS IN  
MATHEMATICS FOR YOUNG TALENTS

APRIL, 2017

*The Olympiad is only an excuse ...*

*(What we are looking for is to stimulate the study of mathematics throughout the country)*

## LA OLIMPIADA ES SÓLO UNA EXCUSA...

(Lo que buscamos es  
estimular el estudio  
de la matemática  
en todo el país)



**PROGRAM OF SCIENTIFIC INITIATION WITH EMPHASIS IN MATHEMATICS FOR YOUNG TALENTS**

Thanks to the support of our donors from GlobalGiving to the Project of “Scientific Initiation for 120 students in Paraguay”, who contributed with a part of the funds needed for our activities. This program aims to increase the young talents who are, definitely, the most valuable resource of our country.

It is the first and only program with these features in the country, has a national scope and proven international effectiveness and has been conducted continuously since 1989. It consists of three main steps:

- 1) Detection and motivation through National Mathematical Olympiads;
- 2) Academic and Scientific Training;
- 3) Incentive to Excellence.

The long-term impact intended with the program, is the continuous training of Paraguayan professionals in science and technology, which will be the engine for the social and economic development of Paraguay.

After the last report (November 2016), the Summer Intensive Courses for Young Talents was held from **December 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016** and from **February 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Each course was developed for 40 hours (80 hours in the summer) distributed by levels according to the students' knowledge. The activities were developed in Asunción and other 8 cities around the country. At the capital (Asuncion), students attended for one of different four levels: beginner, intermediate, early advanced and advanced, and in the other cities the courses were developed only in the initial level. During the classes, different types of problems are presented to the students:

- **Motivational problems**, that are chosen to motivate students in the issue of solving math Olympiad problems.
- **Challenge Problems**: those that need some theoretical tools that often they don't have. With the instructors' experience those new concepts are presented and developed through these well-developed problems.
- **Additional problems**: usually outside the main theme, that promotes interaction between the instructor and students. They are accompanied by different types of materials, such as: cards, balls, etc. It will be a more playful and open problem.

For this summer activities, almost 450 people were invited (those who participated in the final stage of the National Mathematical Olympiad). During December, 269 students attended to the courses. It should be noticed that 190 students from public schools had a complete scholarship from ITAIPU Binacional (OMAPA's Major Donor). Funds from GlobalGiving donors were used to give some partial scholarships to students from private schools, allowing their attending to courses.



From February 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the second summer course was developed. 159 students attended to these courses, however, for this course we didn't get any grant from other sources. Omapa gave partial scholarships for some students.

These courses are especially designed for increase the talent for problem solving of young students with mathematical skills, and thus enable them to achieve a higher level than the one they could reach

through the educational system in our country.





In addition, the courses' contents are a support for the training of our students who compete in Mathematical Olympiads. Last December, a student won a Silver Medal in the Rioplatense Mathematical Olympiad, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Then, another benefit of these activities is the improvement of our results in international competitions.



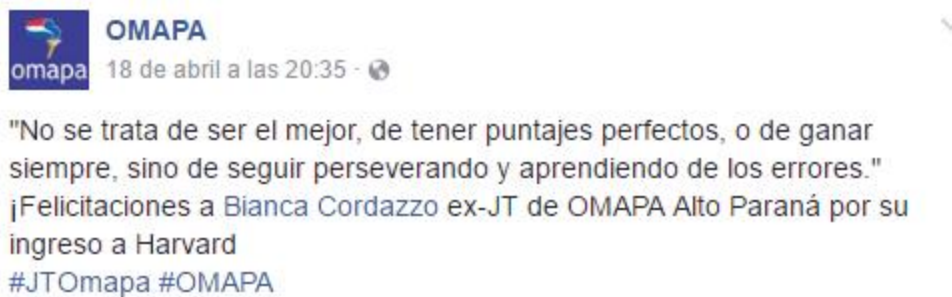
Donors can find more information at:

<http://www.omapa.org/equipo-paraguayo-rumbo-a-argentina-para-la-olimpiada-matematica-rioplatense/>

<http://www.ultimahora.com/joven-fanatica-los-numeros-gana-plata-matematica-n1046654.html>

*At OMAPA, we pursue our country's social development by promoting our students through the improvement in the quality of their education. We intend to create a scientific and technological community committed to our social, entrepreneurial and cultural needs and prepared to solve our nation's problems. We believe that progress in standards of living, quality of life, science, technology, economic growth and social inclusion can be achieved through the improvement of mathematical education. Through our programs, we are reaching areas of our country with scarce resources, in which young people have fewer opportunities of education. With this, we are fulfilling one of our most important goals: making social inclusion through education.*

We are proud to inform our donors that some of our students were accepted in the world's most prestigious universities to follow the bachelor degree, and even two of them have been accepted directly into a master's program (from high school to master program in pure mathematics) at IMPA (Intitute of Pure and Applied Mathematics, [http://www.impa.br](http://wwwimpa.br)). For us these achievements are very important, not only for these bright young people, but also because it shows the whole country, that working hard towards a goal can achieve great results.



Bianca Cordazzo, de Ciudad del Este a Harvard: "Las Olimpiadas despertaron mi interés y aprecio por las matemáticas y las ciencias en general" OMAPA

*"It's not about being the best, having perfect scores, or always winning, but about persevering and learning from mistakes."* Congratulations to Bianca Cordazzo, Former Olympic-Mathematician of OMAPA Alto Paraná for joining Harvard.

<http://www.omapa.org/bianca-cordazzo-de-ciudad-del-este-a-harvard-las-olimpiadas-despertaron-mi-interes-y-aprecio-por-las-matematicas-y-las-ciencias-en-general/>





"Yo me despertaba a la una de la madrugada todos los sábados para tener las clases en Asunción durante dos años, y si alguno por ahí se pregunta si vale la pena, la respuesta es que vale la pena siempre que te guste." (Elvis Agüero ex-Olimpico-Matemático de OMAPA becado por el IMPA) #OMAPA #JTOmapa



Elvis Agüero becado por el IMPA: "Omapa fue una llave que abrió mi mente a nuevos horizontes" OMAPA

"La gente cree que el talento es el secreto del éxito intelectual. Con 17 años me falta mucho por aprender y el talento ha influido poco en todo mi avance. Con..."

*"I waked up at 1 AM every Saturday to have classes in Asuncion for two years, and if anyone out there wonders if it's worth it, the answer is that it's worth it whenever you like." (Elvis Agüero Former Olympic-Mathematician of OMAPA, awarded by IMPA)*

<http://www.omapa.org/elvis-aguero-becado-por-el-impa-omapa-fue-una-llave-que-abrio-mi-mente-a-nuevos-horizontes/>





Gerardo comenzó en OMAPA a los 8 años, con la Olimpiada Kanguro, también se destacó en la Olimpiada Nacional, lo que le dió acceso a participar del Programa de Iniciación Científica, en el que logró destacarse para representar al país en diferentes olimpiadas internacionales de matemática. #OMAPAJT



### Joven Talento de OMAPA de Bachiller a Maestría en el IMPA OMAPA

en la Olimpiada Iberoamericana de Matemática celebrada en Puerto Rico, y en la siguiente edición celebrada en Chile en octubre '2016 trajo una

<http://www.paraguay.com/nacionales/del-colegio-directo-al-postgrado-159631>

<http://ultimahora.com/c1067898.html>

Please notice that for the execution of these activities, OMAPA provided its own funds together with the donations of Itaipu Binacional, Conacyt and GlobalGiving. These donations are extremely useful and really help us to achieve our goals. We hope to keep receiving the support of our donors, to whom we thank for their support.

We encourage our donors to follow our activities through the organization web page:

<http://www.omapa.org.py/>

as well as the social networks:

Twitter: @OMAPApY

Facebook: <https://es-la.facebook.com/omapa.org.py>