

As the member of the Board of the USSR schoolboy Physics Olympiad I have known Ivan Ivanov since 1991 when he won the Second Diploma at the final stage of that Olympiad. In 1992 Ivan won the First Diploma and got a special award for the best experimental score. In 1993 Ivan participated in the International Physics Olympiad (IPhO), Williamsburg, VA and was awarded Silver Medal there.

Every year a small group of students and MIPT professors conducts winter and summer sessions of the Russian IPhO team. The aim of the sessions is to select and to train upon selection the team of 5 schoolboys. Of course, guidance and experience of those who themselves have got through both these sessions and the IPhO is extremely useful in our work. These students invent problems to solve, give seminars, laboratory classes and examine schoolboys' knowledge of physics. I highly appreciate Ivan's activity as a member of our group and hope that the time spent on the preparation of our team gave him an excellent teaching practice.

I would like to pay your attention to Ivan's remarkable scholastic ability. His GPA is 4.0 (it means Oleg has got only "excellent" grades) and I am sure that he will be able to keep on in the way he started. For his excellence in studies Ivan was awarded Fellowship of FIAN (Lebedev Physical Institute, Moscow) and "Eximer" Fellowship. Both Fellowships are awarded to 2 students out of 83 undergraduates of the Department.

Working at MIPT for many years I can compare Ivan's abilities with those of other MIPT students. For the last 5 years I have been closely working with several students like Oleg. For example, XX and XX (both are graduate students at Harvard now), XX (now he is a graduate student at MIT), XX (now he is a graduate student at Yale) and XX (he is a graduate student at Rice). All of them participated in the USSR Physics Olympiad and IPhO brilliantly, and used to work as instructors in the sessions of the previous IPhO team. In my opinion all of them (including Ivan Ivanov) belong to the top 2% of MIPT students.

Those listed above are, of course, very different and everyone of them is unordinary person in his own way. Still they have one feature in common – it is their independent, maybe sometimes erratic way of study. Due to this feature their knowledge of physics is often far greater than it is required by Department of General Physics at MIPT. For example, XX was offered graduate admission by several U.S. universities while being in his second year of studies at MIPT.

I have no doubts that Ivan is able to study at the Graduate level successfully .

Dr. Pert P. Petrov
Professor of Physics,
Deputy Chairman of General Physics Chair,
Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology,
Leader of the Russian IPhO Team