Welcome to RCJ (International) Dance! If this is your first time travelling with students to one of our international events you are in for a really memorable experience: if you’re returning after having teams at Atlanta, Bremen or earlier events, then welcome back: our volunteer staff running Dance this year look forward to meeting you all and renewing past friendships. One of the great strengths of RCJI is the strong international community we have established, and you are now very much a part of that!

The aim of this bulletin is to let you know what is happening in Suzhou for Dance before you arrive so you will feel more relaxed and confident and be able to enjoy your week even more. I can assure you that your experienced Dance Technical Committee (TC) have spent many, many hours over the past year preparing for this event so you can all enjoy a wonderful experience in the company of friends from around the world, be delighted and impressed with the standard of presentations from our excellent students, and hopefully(!) not have any problems!

Your committee:
Let me introduce you to our fantastic Dance TC members: these are the people who will be with you in Suzhou and will be helping you during the week. Please feel free to talk with any one of us about any concern you have – our goal is to give you and your team the very best week of robotic Dance possible.

Chairman: Ian Maud – Australia   icmaud@stpaulsags.vic.edu.au
Please feel free to contact me with any enquiries, and I will forward them to the person who can help you.

Dance Local Chair: Amy Eguchi - Japanese/American   amy_eguchi@bloomfield.edu

RoboCupJunior Local Chair: Li Shi – China   leeshi2006@gmail.com

TC Members:
Eli Kolberg – Israel   elik3@bezeqint.net
Nicky Hughes – UK   n.a.hughes@btinternet.com
Anja Tempelhoff– Germany   anjatempelhoffi@email.de
Eduardo Pinto - Portugal   eduardo.mpinto2@gmail.com

You can find a photo of each of these people and a short resume at a Web site to be announced soon – this will mean you will know who to look for in Suzhou for assistance, questions, etc.
The event:
We have many items to fit into the few days we will spend together, and the Dance TC has tried all sorts of combinations to make this work as well as possible. We have tried to give everyone the same opportunities; to not keep anyone up too late, or get them up too early; to make practice sessions available whenever possible; and to give spectators the greatest chance of seeing and enjoying your work.

The most recent schedule for RCJI Dance is included here, and also on the Website. Please note the following features:

- No teams should be at the venue on Monday, 14th July
- Teams should arrive, register and setup on Tuesday. You will notice that unlike previous years, we are holding interviews on this day, so we are not removing teams during performance times. Teams should book an interview time at registration. We are providing for some extra interview times on Wednesday as it is unlikely we can complete all teams on Tuesday.
- As for each day (except Monday) the venue opens at 7:00am and remains open until midnight. While we are not expecting nor encouraging teams to stay that late, it does mean testing and preparation can be carried out for some time after the scheduled events for the day conclude.
- We are hoping to hold a short welcoming social function for RCJ teams on one of the first evenings, and will let you know when this is organised.
- Wednesday and Thursday are when teams will perform. This is on the main stage, which is equipped with an excellent sound system and controllable overhead lighting. There will be a team of technicians controlling the sound and music at the stage and they will work with your team as much as possible to get the performance you want to achieve.
- As stated in the rules, it is the best of each team’s two performances that will be used to decide the finalists for the competition.
- Wednesday from 10:00 to 10:30am is the opening ceremony and we encourage all teams and mentors to attend. As you can see, there are no performances at this time.
- Friday morning is time for the Grand Finals for each division. Even if your team do not make the finals, we encourage you to attend to cheer and support other students.
- Once the finals are finished we will have a briefing to explain the SuperTeam program to teams. Rules for this will appear on the official Website shortly, and we will also highlight some features in our next Dance bulletin.
- The SuperTeam program was a highlight of the Atlanta RCJI competition for many students. It involves combining each team with two others, each from a different country, who probably do not speak the same language as your team! This ‘SuperTeam’ is then asked to prepare a new dance to present, using the same robots (can be modified) as before. The purpose of the SuperTeam program is to encourage students to meet and work with students from other countries, and to exchange ideas and culture. Please ask your team(s) to enter this and support it, as it was enjoyed very much by the participants last year.
- SuperTeams will present their performances on Saturday afternoon: the public will be present as spectators. Following this there will be a time to pack and clear the venue before we attend the award and closing ceremonies.
- To finish, we will have a dedicated RCJ social function, which is a last chance for teams to meet and mix with each other, to dance and unwind after a big week. Again, we encourage you all to be a part of this.
Other items:

- The performance stage will be marked as indicated in the rules. Some practice is available on the main stage and will teams will need to book a time to use the stage. It would be generous of teams to book a time that is not when teams that are performing in the next session need to practice.
- There will be a second stage available that is purely for practice so can be used almost continuously, as long as the music from the practicing team does not detract from the music of the team performing on the main stage, which we believe will be quite close by.
- Score sheets for interview and performance will be available to view on the Web shortly. It is in the interests of your team(s) to make sure you are familiar with these.
- Teams will have the same judging panel for both their performances to maximise consistency.
- If you come from a country that uses different mains power voltage to China, please make sure you bring adaptors and/or transformers with you! It is not the responsibility of the organisers to provide these for each team.
- We encourage teams to attend the welcoming social function either dressed in a manner that is recognisable for their country, or to decorate themselves in some way so others can recognise the country they represent (for example, bring a toy animal endemic to your nation, a hat, shoes – anything!). Past experience has shown it is a lovely and appreciated gesture if teams can also bring some small items to exchange with others, such as ‘business’ cards for their team, or cultural icons such as origami models from Japan. These serve as a memento and can be treasured by the recipient, and serve as a way for students to keep in touch around the world.
- Some religions and cultures involve restrictions on time or day when they can be involved in events such as ours. We will do our best to accommodate these teams as best we can; please make yourselves known to us if you need a specific time or day arranged.
- As you may expect, we are very keen to have our teams mix with each other, to talk and share information and stories. Students are free to roam any part of the setup area but should be mindful they are not to handle or interfere with any other team’s materials or equipment without their invitation.
- Team mentors are allowed to:
  o assist teams to carry equipment in to the setup area
  o set up their work area
  o remove equipment and materials from the setup area
  o assist with packing up
  ▪ apart from these, team mentors are NOT allowed in the work area. As explained in Appendix 1 of our rules, mentors found in the work area OR assisting students with programming OR construction of their robots risk having that team excluded from the event. This is a situation we all want to avoid, so please take note of this and avoid placing your team in jeopardy. We want to see students having the opportunity to show what they can achieve after all their work!
- If you have not been to a RCJI event before, there are several other leagues competing including university-level teams. Please encourage your students to take time to walk around and watch other leagues: they are sure to be impressed! They can also pick up great ideas for their own use, or see where they might like to be in another few years, and what possibilities are open to them. Most competitors and officials are enthusiasts such as ourselves, and will be pleased to discuss and demonstrate if asked at a convenient moment.

That should be more than enough to absorb for the time being! We will issue further bulletins as the need arises. Again, if you have any queries, please contact one of the Dance TC members and we will do our best to sort it out for you.

Suzhou will be fantastic! We look forward very much to seeing you all there; let’s have a great week!

-Maudy
On behalf of the 2008 RCJI Dance Technical Committee.