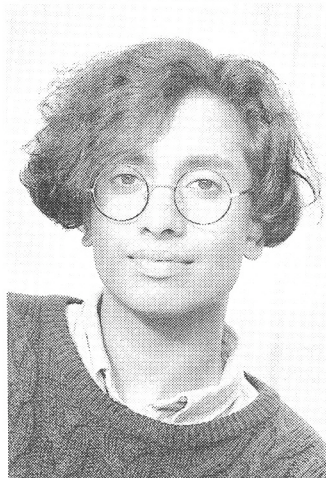


About the Author

Ravi Vakil's resumé reads like a dictionary of superlatives. During his high school years he won every major mathematics competition. These include first place standing in the *Canadian Mathematical Olympiad* for two successive years, first place standing in North America on the 1988 *USA Mathematical Olympiad*, and two gold medals and one silver medal in the *International Mathematical Olympiad*. He also won first prize in the *Canadian Association of Physicists Competition* and led his high school computer team to three provincial championships. Ravi was valedictorian of his 1988 graduating class at Martingrove Collegiate Institute in Metropolitan Toronto and was awarded the *Academic Gold Medal* and the *Governor General's Award* for excellence.

PHOTO BY JEWEL RANDOLPH



During his undergraduate years at the University of Toronto, Ravi raised his brilliant achievements to new heights. In all four years he placed among the top five competitors in the prestigious North American *Putnam Mathematical Competition*, qualifying him as Putnam Fellow in each year. He graduated in 1992 with B. Sc. and M. Sc. degrees; for his B. Sc., he was awarded the *Governor General's Medal* for the highest graduating marks at the University of Toronto.

Ravi's extraordinary achievements have not prevented him from pursuing his many other interests. These include squash, debating, student government, journalism, and *Amnesty International*. For this breadth of involvement he has received numerous scholarships including the *John H. Moss Memorial Fund Scholarship* for the best all-round graduating student at the University of Toronto.

In spite of these personal successes, Ravi Vakil is a compassionate person with an eager willingness to help others. He has worked extensively as a coach of the Canadian Team to the *International Mathematical Olympiad* from 1989 through 1995. He is also co-founder of *Mathematical Mayhem*, a mathematical problem-solving journal for high school and undergraduate students — the only student-run journal of its kind in the English-speaking world!

Ravi Vakil is currently a Ph.D. candidate in pure mathematics at Harvard University, working in Algebraic Geometry under the supervision of Dr. Joseph Harris.