

Summary of Activities (2007)

Association for Computing Machinery

FIU Student Chapter

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In general, the Fall 2007 semester was marked by a renewed interest in programming competitions. This was probably due to the extensive time and effort put into training a core group of competition team members between May and October 2007. The net result has been that we now have a core group of 8-10 leaders who have taken on an increasing amount of responsibility in running the organization. Secondly, supported by visits from software companies, the ACM club leadership has been actively campaigning for great awareness among students about applying for internships and joining departmental research groups. The establishment of a shared lounge area for student clubs in January 2008 has helped to improve the coordination among student leaders, and promises to be an effective aid to recruiting new student members.

ACM Southeast Regional Programming Competition

The FIU ACM chapter sent two teams to the ACM programming competition, held in Melbourne, Florida in October 2007. Both teams ranked 36th overall, out of 58 teams. The teams were coached by Kip Irvine and Hien Nguyen, a professor at Miami-Dade College.

Third Annual High-School Programming Competition

In April 2007, the ACM hosted the Fourth Annual FIU High School Programming Competition. Approximately ninety students from South Florida high schools participated in the event. This event was sponsored by IBM.

Undergraduate Programming Competition

In November 2007, the ACM club held an undergraduate programming competition for approximately 15 FIU students. First prize was awarded to George Sante. A second competition is scheduled for late February 2008.

Volunteer Tutoring Program

The ACM club continued its volunteer tutoring program throughout 2007 and into 2008, with a roster of 10-12 tutors. Tutors were available for subjects such as Beginning and Intermediate Java, Data Structures, Unix, Computer Architecture, Software Engineering, and Visual Basic. One tutor, Drake Campbell, reported giving 20 hours of his time during the Fall semester.

Guest Lecture: Jose Alvarez

Jose Alvarez, president of University Placement Services, gave a presentation for the ACM club about Entrepreneurship and the Web. Mr. Alvarez and his associates were the

2004 First Place winners in the FIU Venture Business challenge competition. Mr. Alvarez, a dynamic speaker, gave many tips to students on how to start a Web-based business.

Ultimate Software

A group of engineers from Ultimate Software, visited FIU in Fall 2007, and are scheduled again for Feb 12, 2008. Notable among the presenters were Greg Miller, of engineering recruiting, and Rafael Santos, VP of engineering. He and colleagues spoke about Agile Software development, Scrum, and automated Web testing systems. The lectures were very well attended, with standing room only. Approximately 15 FIU students have accepted internships and full-time positions at Ultimate Software within the past 2 years.

Student Picnic

ACM and the **Women in Computer Science** club held a very successful picnic for FIU students in Crandon Park in November 2007. Approximately 40 students attended.

Robotics Special Interest Group

In January 2008, a special interest group was created within ACM to focus on robotics. The group has attracted about 6 students, who will focus on both hardware construction and software to control the robots.

Graphics and Games Special Interest Group

The ACM Graphics and Games group, which had been inactive in Fall 2007, has been revived in January 2008. The group meets weekly, along with the Robotics and Security groups.

ASP.NET Training Seminars

The ACM club sponsored two hands-on ASP.NET training seminars for FIU students during November 2007.

Competition Problem Solving Workshops

Through the summer and Fall Semester 2007, Kip Irvine and Hien Nguyen (MDC professor) continued the competition problem solving weekly workshop series. This group helps prepare undergraduate students for programming competitions. The group will be reactivated during April, to begin preparing for the Fall 2008 ACM Southeast Regional competition.