Summary of Activities (2008)
Association for Computing Machinery
FIU Student Chapter

Report Date: January 10, 2009
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Programming Competitions

The FIU ACM chapter sent two teams to the ACM Southeast programming competition, held in Melbourne, Florida, in October 2008. The teams were coached by Kip Irvine, the club's faculty advisor. Professor Giri Narasimhan conducted weekly workshops in advanced algorithms for team members throughout the Fall semester. His excellent efforts have encouraged a small core of top-notch students to prepare for next year's competition.

The ACM club held an undergraduate programming competition for FIU students in September 2008. A small group of students participated, and we encouraged the group to join our competition team workshops.

High-School Programming Competition

The ACM club hosted its 5th Annual FIU High School Programming Competition (May 2008). Ninety students from 13 area high schools participated in the event, which was sponsored by Microsoft. Greg Miller from Ultimate Software was the keynote speaker, along with Dr. Yi Deng. Special breakout sessions were held for the high-school coaches, conducted by Joe Cutrono from Ultimate software. The competition has recently begun attracting more teams from other counties, including top schools such as Dillard High School and Ocoee High School.

Volunteer Tutoring Program

The ACM club continued its volunteer tutoring program throughout 2008, in partnership with the WICS (Women in Computer Science Club). Jeremy Conn was the coordinator, and a set of guidelines and principles was developed for the tutoring program. Tutors were available for subjects such as Beginning/Intermediate Java, Data Structures, Unix, Computer Architecture, Logic, Software Engineering, and Visual Basic.

Company Visits

SCIS was visited numerous times throughout the year by Ultimate Software, Goldman-Sachs, IBM, Microsoft, TekSystems, and Deutsche Bank. These companies have shown a heightened interest in recruiting out top students. The presentations were well attended, often with standing room only.

Engineering Round Table

ACM members attended an informative round-table discussion (Dec 2008) with Carlos Icaza and Walter Lipp, both software engineers from Silicon Valley. The visitors offered excellent insights into how to be successful as a developer, how to build a career, and the current state of venture capital and technology.

Student Picnic

ACM and the **Women in Computer Science** club held a very successful joint picnic for FIU students in Crandon Park (Oct 2008). Approximately 20 students attended.

Toy Drive with the Women in Computer Science Club

ACM and WICS students organized a toy drive (Dec 2008) for the Miami Childrens Hospital. Approximately $400 in toys was delivered to the hospital by students from both clubs.

ACM Special Interest Groups

The ACM special interest groups, headed by Mike Oltmanns, Ruben Duque, and Jeremy Conn, had an outstanding year. They focused their activities in three areas: robotics, graphics, and network security.

Michael Oltmans and Edward Guerra from the the ACM Robotics Special Interest Group did several presentations and workshops at the College of Engineering's *Engineering Gala* (Feb 2008). Their focus was on the Lego Mindstorms robot.