October 30, 2010

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The Computer Science Department sponsored four teams for the 35th annual Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest. "The Battle of the Brains is the Olympics of the computer programming world," says Michael Karasick, vice president of strategy and technology at IBM Software Group. "These students push their minds to the limit, manipulating technologies such as analytics, system optimization and collaboration to effectively solve a semester’s worth of computer programming in just five hours. The amount of talent that we have the opportunity to witness each year is truly impressive and a testament to the value of this competition." The contest challenges teams to use their programming skills and rely on their mental endurance to solve complex, real-world problems under a five-hour deadline.

UW competes in the Rocky Mountain Regional contest, which had four sites this year. At the Fort Collins site, UW teams competed directly against 18 teams from the Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Mesa State University, Montana State University and the U.S. Air Force Academy. The regional contest covers the geographic area of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Eastern Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and New Mexico (excluding Dona Ana county). In all, there were 52 teams competing in the regionals for the top spot with the winner advancing to world finals in Egypt.

The UW teams:
- WyoGold: Ryan Harrod (Gillette), Jay Wuensch (Gillette) and Frank Zebre (Kemmerer)
- WyoBown: Don Brockus (Cody), Zebulon Fross (Lysite), and Mason Hall (Casper)
- WyoPokes: Dustin Brown (Jackson), Sean Ludtke (Cheyenne), and David Peek (Cheyenne)
- WyoCowboys: Joshua Herr (Cheyenne), Chris Prosser (Thermopolis), and Brett Riotto (Wilson)

Coach for all the teams: UW Computer Science Lecturer James Ward

Members of the local student chapter of ACM honed their skills at programming as well as learning to write successful proposals for travel fund requests. They were granted funds from the ASUW Activities Council and the UW Enrichment Fund for Engineering.

Over the five hours of the competition, the four teams worked hard and submitted a number of programs. When the final results were counted, the WyoGold team had finished first in the Fort Collins site and 10th in the regional contest.
WyoGold: Frank Zebre, Ryan Harrod, and Jay Wuensch

WyoBrown: Don Brockus, Mason Hall, and Zeb Fross

WyoPokes: Dustin Brown, Sean Ludtke, and David Peek

Coach: Jim Ward (not pictured)

Results from the ICPC 2009