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Computer science students represent campus well at MICS conference

Summary: Technical research papers, programming, and robotics bring students success.

(April 26, 2010)—University of Minnesota, Morris computer science students represented the campus well at the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium (MICS). The annual conference focuses on integrating computer-based technology into teaching and learning processes of all disciplines, along with incorporating the study of this technology into the curriculum. Conference activities include technical research paper sessions, programming and robotics contests, a keynote address, and a Career Fair for student participants.

Fernando Trinciante ’10 and Isaac Sjoblom ’11 received the Best Undergraduate Student Paper Award for their paper and a presentation on “Choosing Efficient Inheritance Patterns for Java Generics” in a field of 40 papers.

The team Kevin Arhelger ’10, Zach Smith ’12, Tim Snyder ’13 received first place in the programming competition in a field of 44 teams. Eugene Butler ’11, Brian Goslinga ’11, and Chad Seibert ’11 took sixth place.

The robotics team, Eugene Butler ’11, Chad Seibert ’11, Isaac Sjoblom ’11, and Zach Smith ’12, earned sixth place in a field of about a dozen teams. It has been a number of years since Morris had a robotics team, and Morris computer science students hope participation will continue.

Brian Valerius ’11 presented a paper on “Exploring Web Testing Tools For Use In A Classroom” and Jacob Thebault-Spieker ’11 presented a paper on “Can Protocol and Application Layer Statistics Improve Client-Server Responsiveness?”

“MICS provides an excellent opportunity for Morris computer science students to present their work to a large audience of computer science students and faculty, to practice their problem-solving skills in challenging competitions, and to learn about many research approaches and new technologies from other presenters,” says Elena Machkasova, associate professor of computer science. “Morris students once again came back from MICS with a highly impressive list of accomplishments on every front. This shows that we have excellent students and a strong computer science program. Great job, everyone!”

The MICS was established in 1967, making it one of the nation’s oldest conferences focusing on computer-related issues at smaller higher education institutions.

Photo below from left:
The programming team, Tim Snyder, Kevin Arhelger, and Zach Smith, receiving their award.

Photo below from left:
The competition judge, Isaac Sjoblom, Eugene Butler, Chad Seibert, and Zach Smith watching the Morris robot compete.

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