

UW-Fox Valley students score high in computer competition

THE NEWS-RECORD

MENASHA — Three students from the University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley recently competed in the annual Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest, placing higher than any UW Colleges team in the 38-year history of the event.

Dylan Hein, Beverly Porter and Brad Hanlon led the UWFox team to a third-place finish out of 17 teams participating in the event at the UW-Oshkosh.

The UWFox team also scored a 56th place finish out of the 213 teams representing 67 universities and colleges located in two countries that competed at 16 regional sites as part of the overall competition within the entire North Central America district of the ACM.

"In a competition where



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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-FOX VALLEY students (from left) Brad Hanlon, Dylan Hein and Beverly Porter were part of the team that finished third in the annual Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming contest.

most teams are composed of juniors, seniors and graduate students our freshman and sophomores performed phenomenally," said Bill Bultman, associate professor of computer science at UWFox and the team's coach. "This is

better than any (UWFox) team in the six years we've been participating."

With an enrollment of more than 1,700 students, UWFox is the second largest of the 13 campuses that comprise the UW Colleges.

Porter is a non-traditional adult student and mother from Oshkosh.

"I'm so proud of our team," she said.

"It's exciting," said Hanlon, a freshman from New London. "Even a few days after the competition I was still really excited. I never thought that would be able to place as high, being that we're a two-year school. Dr. Bultman helped us out a lot with his coaching. He prepared us well."

According to Mark Hall, assistant professor of computer science at UW-Marathon County, the ACM ICPC competition goes back to 1970, when it was started at Texas A&M.

"The idea quickly gained popularity within the United States and Canada as an innovative initiative to assist in the development of top students in the emerging field of computer science," Hall said.

"The 56th place finish of the UWFox team was the highest any UW Colleges team has ever finished in this competition and they tied with the highest number of correct solutions," Hall said.

"This finish was absolutely unbelievable, especially if you look at all of the four-year schools that finished behind them."

According to statistics kept on the AMC ICPC competition, UWFox has always been the top team from the UW Colleges since the Menasha campus started sending its students to the competition six years ago.

The contest rules dictated that each team could have three student programmers with a maximum of one graduate student on the team. Each team had nine programming problems to solve in five hours with time penalties for incorrect solutions.