USA Computing Olympiad Contest

USA Computing Olympiad (usaco.org) is a nonprofit organization supporting computer science education in the USA and worldwide by identifying, motivating, and training high-school students in programming and problem-solving for its Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. Each year it runs 4-6 online programming contests at all levels. With proper guidance, motivated students could pick up basic programming and problem-solving skills to pass the Bronze level in 6 months, and pass the Silver level in an additional 6 months. Students who have passed the Silver level have programming proficiency beyond that of typical computer science freshman, and they have priority for being admitted into top tier universities. Students who have performed well in the Platinum level contests are nationally exceptional and have significant advantage in being admitted into top-tier universities, and the top 24 of them (also considering other factors like age) are invited to participate in an intensive summer training camp. The top four of these invited campers will then represent USA in the international programming contest called “International Olympiad in Informatics”.

While USACO has online resources for preparing students in USACO contests, they are only meaningful to students who have already been engaged in the learning track. Most of the high schools do not have faculty to prepare their students for the advanced programming and problem solving skills required to perform well in USACO contests. Around the nation there are many weekend and summer programs for training students in mathematics, but there are few programs for helping students in computer science problem-solving.

Pace University Saturday Programming Workshops

This program aims at high school students within one-hour driving distance from Pace University’s Pleasantville campus located at 861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Prior programming courses or skills are not required. The workshops will run every Saturday 9am – 12pm during the fall and spring semesters in computer labs at Goldstein Academic Center on the Pace University Pleasantville campus. Both Java and C++ are supported by our accomplished faculty and PhD students. Free study resources, including tutorials and the Seidenberg Portable Lab based on cloud computing technology, will be provided. Students can use the Seidenberg Portable Lab to practice on site, at school, and at home. This program will differentiate instruction based on students’ prior programming preparation. In addition to programming, the workshops will also teach new technologies including mobile app development and web application development.

In fall 2015, 32 high school students in the tristate area have already successfully completed this program.

Pace University and Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems

Pace University is nationally recognized for excellence in professional education. The Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems is among the few and earliest universities that offer computer science programs in a school dedicated to computing. In 2013 US News & World Report ranked Pace University #1 for Best Online Bachelor’s Programs out of a field of 237 colleges/universities, and Pace University’s MS in Internet Technology #13 for Best Online Graduate Computer Information Technology Programs (Boston University #14, John Hopkins #16). Since 2004 Pace University has been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Information Assurance Education (IAE) by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).
Registration: Register online at http://community.seidenberg.pace.edu/innovation/weekend-programming, and mail a signed parent/guardian authorization letter and a check of $200 registration fee, to the order of “Pace University”, to “Ms. Susan Downey, Seidenberg School, Pace University, 861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570”. Purchasing orders are also accepted.

Location: Rooms 300, 314, 315 and 320; Goldstein Academic Center, Pace University, 861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570.

Time: 9am-12pm, every Saturday from January 30 through May 7, 2016

Main Contact: Dr. Lixin Tao, Chairperson of the Computer Science Department, Westchester; ltao@pace.edu

Web: http://community.seidenberg.pace.edu/innovation/weekend-programming or http://goo.gl/FHSRRn
Pace University Weekend USACO Programming Workshops
Part of Pace University Computer Science Magnet Initiative

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

As parent/guardian of ___________________________, I give him/her permission to register for and participate in Pace University’s weekend USACO Programming Workshops each Saturday during Pace University fall and spring semesters.

Signature:

Name: _____________________________________________________
Address: _____________________________________________________
Phone: _____________________________________________________
Relationship to the Student: Father____ Mother____ Guardian____
Date: ____________________________

Note: Please mail the signed copy of this form with your $200 registration check, to the order of “Pace University”, to “Ms. Susan Downey, Seidenberg School, Pace University, 861 Bedford Road, Pleasantville, NY 10570” to reserve your seat.

Event Registration Site: http://community.seidenberg.pace.edu/innovation/weekend-programming or http://goo.gl/FHSRRn

Event Description: http://community.seidenberg.pace.edu/files/Pace-CS-weekend-program.pdf