

Chapter Recruitment Program
ACM - University of the Philippines Student Chapter (UP ACM)
<http://www.upacm.org>

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Our Student Chapter experienced a resurgence in its recruitment this 2005, with an increase in its members from roughly a dozen to over 90 Chapter members and 9 ACM International Members for the second semester of the University's academic year. In the past, the Chapter was composed mostly of graduate students and faculty members of the Department [<http://www.engg.upd.edu.ph/cs/>]. This resulted in non-renewal of membership as most had graduated and/or continued their studies abroad.

Recruitment into our Chapter for the last semester began with announcements at the Department, including an upcoming General Assembly to accommodate the new members. Those who attended that GA, held last January 15, 2005, had their membership fees waived. During the assembly, new attendees were oriented on UP ACM and ACM International, discussing the benefits of joining both the Chapter and the international organization. Committee signup sheets were passed around. After that, free snacks for everyone were given out.

A one-month membership period was set for the semester, although those who were not able to attend the GA had to pay the membership fee. Nevertheless, joining the Chapter still appealed to many, especially through the PR skills of the External Affairs committee.

Within that month, new recruits were drafted into committees, and a second GA was held to re-orient the members especially those who had not attended the previous GA, as well as acquaint the committee members with one another. Committee Heads discussed the functions of his/her own committees and plans for the semester.

Come the 20th Computer Science Week, attendees of the opening ceremonies were given an overview of the Chapter's goals and functions. We also displayed brochures of ACM International at the CS Week Exhibit held at the 2nd floor lobby of the Melchor Hall, home of the University's largest college, Engineering [<http://www.engg.upd.edu.ph>].

During that week, too, our Chapter held its very own programming competition, one that was patterned after the ACM ICPC. At the start of the event, participants were briefed on what the ICPC is all about. Winners, who were given cash prizes and certificates during the closing ceremonies of the CS Week celebration, automatically became members of UP ACM for free and now belong to the pool of hopefuls for the UP Diliman delegation in the ICPC Finals in Manila. This event served as a powerful magnet for everyone interested especially in programming, gave them a glimpse of the ICPC environment, and all in all exposing them to a major aspect of ACM International.

Now, as the start of classes approach, UP ACM will go all out to attract young blood in the coming CS Freshmen Orientation, by introducing the Chapter and ACM

International, holding a game development talk featuring UP ACM's very own game to be entered in the country's top game development competition (UGotGame), sponsoring the Extra Challenging Amazing Tour Factor, and by instantly advertising UP ACM with its own Chapter t-shirts.

In the coming months, too, our Chapter will visit the country's premiere S & T secondary institution: Philippine Science High School. The Chapter shall tie up with the PSHS computer club, Computron, to foster the value of academic excellence in computing. More importantly, as PSHS is one of the breeding grounds for the country's best programmers and IT leaders, the Chapter wishes to tap into the analytical talents of these young students at the earliest stages.

Along with all these, the Chapter continuously promotes ACM Professional/Student memberships by placing prominent posters in the busy corridors of the Department of Computer Science, and announcing the advantages of membership at every assembly held or event sponsored – especially how members from developing countries get a discount for international memberships.

With such a dedication to membership through all these recruitment schemes – now, more than ever – UP ACM is looking to best its own numbers and produce even more impressive membership statistics within the coming year.