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USI ranks ninth in regional engineering competition

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) student club at the University of Southern Indiana finished ninth out of 19 colleges and universities in the Region 3 Student Hardware Contest held in Nashville Tennessee in April. IEEE Region 3 includes southern Indiana, southern Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, eastern Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, and Jamaica.

The contest involved building a robotic, autonomous vehicle that would maneuver around a track, electronically locate plastic cylinders, and deposit steel balls into them to score points. USI students Michael Plewke, Scott Talbert, Jeremiah Parker, Jake Kranpitz, Shayne Pattillo, and Rex Wilson have been working on the robot since fall 1999.

"I am very proud of our team," said USI IEEE student branch faculty advisor Brian West, assistant professor of electrical engineering technology. "Our team is comprised entirely of underclassmen, and we were competing against well-funded teams of seniors."

Contest results following in the order of completion.

University of Alabama at Huntsville
Old Dominion University
Virginia Military Institute
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of West Florida
University of South Alabama
University of Kentucky
University of Southern Mississippi
University of Southern Indiana
University of North Florida
University of Tennessee at Knoxville
University of Evansville
Guilford Tech. Community College
Southern Polytechnic State University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Mississippi State University
Chatahoochee Technical Institution
University of Louisville
University of Tennessee at Martin

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