

# A Dragon Boat Competition with Fun and Sweat

The 3rd Annual Orlando Dragon Boat Festival Picnic

■ By Shally Wong,  
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The 3rd Annual Dragon Boat Festival Picnic, organized by The Chinese American Association of Central Florida kicked off on July 7th, a sunny Saturday morning at Moss Park in Orlando. It was the second time that other Asian organizations were invited to participate in the event.

The festivities were filled with food, fun and friendly competition. About 400 people attended the event. Chinese food, watermelons, Zong zi, the glutinous rice dumpling filled with pork and peanuts were served during the event.

Johnson Ng from the United Chinese Association of Florida brought up two 48 feet dragon boats from Miami for the race. One boat can hold up to 22 members: 20 paddlers, one steerer and the most important person, the drummer who keeps the team synchronized. Teams ranged from college students, church groups, business professionals, and Asian associations. Children from three different Chinese churches and a home schooling participated in this event for the first time. Since most of them were rookies, they trained vigorously with a veteran dragon boat racer. After the 3 hours race, The Flying Dragon (Adult Team) and The Chinese Church Group (Family Team) won the metals respectively.

This event is designed for giving the attendees an opportunity to glimpse a part of the rich Chinese cultural heritage and promoting team work which is now a key to success in the real world. There will be a formal Dragon Boat race organized by The United Chinese Association of Florida with more than 20 teams in a 2-day festival. The 5th Annual South Florida Dragon Boat Festival will be held on Oct 13 & 14, 2007 at Haulover Beach Park & Marina (10800 Collins Ave., Miami Beach). For further information, please visit [www.miamidragonboat.com](http://www.miamidragonboat.com) for details.



University of Central Florida Team I



▲ C.T. Hsu with the The Flying Dragon



University of Central Florida Team II

Gregory Maaswinkel and Gary King with their team members





Chinese American Association of Central Florida



Diana Faustmann from C.T. Hsu + Associates and her brother



Roberto Carlos Acevedo from the office of Orange County Property Appraiser and his brother



Karen Nguyen, UCF Student Advisor



Angie Chow, Advisor of CAACF and teacher of Chinese School



Trudie Tan & Victor Tan from CPH Engineers



Family Team Winner—The Chinese Church



Xien-Mei Tang, Johnson Young, Mrs. Young, and Nina Yon from Kissimmee American Chinese Center



Adult Team Winner—The Flying Dragon

Sponsors and the participating organizations included: 1st Oriental Supermarket, Asia Trend Magazine, Asian Pacific American Coalition at UCF, China Garden Restaurant, Gateway Insurance, Johnson Young – Travelodge Suites, Kissimmee American Chinese Center, Orlando Chinese Professionals Association, The United Chinese News of Florida, and The United Chinese Association of Florida.

Chinese American Association of Central Florida is a non-profit organization founded in 1969 in Orlando. CAACF established The Chinese School and The Dancing Troupe in 1980 to promote the Chinese education and to preserve the Chinese culture. CAACF web site: [www.orlandochinese.org](http://www.orlandochinese.org) / The Chinese School web site: [www.orlandochineseschool.org](http://www.orlandochineseschool.org)