

Computer science programmers sustain winning streak

Programming team to attend international competition

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News Editor

The university is making quite a name for itself at the Association for Computing Machinery's programming competitions. This year's competition marks the fourteenth year that UCF has won first, second, third, or a combination of the two places during the ACM Southeastern regional programming competition.

UCF students Peter Singhofen, Joel Davis, and Matthew Henry of the "blue team" garnered second place in the regional competition held in Mobile, Alabama on November 18th. Two other UCF teams placed seventh and eighth in the annual programming marathon.

As Singhofen explains it, teams are chosen to go to regionals based on a local competition. "In the fall, a local competition is held and the top nine people there are split up into three teams of three." These three teams are then sent to regional competitions and the two top teams from regionals go on to the international competition. Last year, UCF had both of the two top teams at regionals, but, since only one team per school can go to the international competition, the second place team stayed in Orlando.

In the regional competition, the blue team solved five of the eight programming problems, equaling the total of the first place University of Miami team, which won the title with fewer penalty points. UCF was trailed by Florida Institute of Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Florida State University and Millsaps College. Approximately forty institutions throughout the southeast entered teams.

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Having won second place in the regional competition, the blue team is preparing for the international competition in Philadelphia in February. There, they will face 800 teams from around the world. Statistically, UCF has good odds with this competition—they have gone to the international finals 10 times and have finished in the top seven four times. Last year, the UCF team finished second at the international competition.

Asked how he feels about competing against so many teams, Singhofen states emphatically, "Anything, as long as I don't have to go back to Mobile."