Computer teams deliver one-two punch at regionals

The University of Central Florida continued its mastery in the field of computer programming by capturing the top two places in the Association for Computing Machinery Southeast regional programming competition held several weeks ago on the campus of Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

The first-place team will now represent the university in the 19th annual ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest in Nashville, Tenn. on March 1.

UCF, which also had a team finish eighth in the 68-team field, has consistently ranked among the top teams in the Southeast region, which comprises schools from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and South Carolina. This marks the 13th straight year that UCF has had teams finish among the top three, and the sixth time in that stretch the university has placed first, including three straight top finishes from 1989-90 to 1991-92.

The appearance in the international finals will be the ninth for UCF, which has finished among the top seven in the world four times, including a second-place finish in 1986-87.

The competition involves teams of three programmers who try to solve between six and 10 problems within a five-hour time limit. Contests are held in 16 regions and include some 650 teams worldwide. The top two finishers in each region advance to the international competition, but because only one team can represent an institution, only UCF's first-place team will participate.

Members of UCF's first-place team, which solved six problems, are Travis Terry, Michael Smith and Eric Heimburg. The second-place team consists of Michael Kujawa, Joel Davis and Michael Both, while the other UCF squad is made up of Billy Foss, Plamen Petrov and Ambrose Feinstein. Team advisor is Ali Orooji, professor in UCF's computer science department.