Computer Team to Vie for International Title

Southeast regional champs, the UCF Computer Science team, will be vying against other top finishers at the annual international computing competition Feb. 21 in Washington, D.C.

The international competition, the 14th annual ACM Scholastic Programming Contest, is sponsored by AT&T Computer Systems and will feature teams from 24 universities in the United States, Canada, Europe and the Pacific Rim.

The four-man UCF team who had to beat out 40 other schools from seven different states at the regional level is pitted against some tough competition including Calif. Institute of Technology; Case Western Reserve Univ.; Purdue Univ.; Columbia Univ.; Harvard Univ.; Stanford Univ.; Swarthmore College and Virginia Tech.

Team members are Bill Brown, Don Cross, Mark Schnitzius and Peter Popovich and alternate Robert Franceschini.

To prepare, the team has been practicing for six hours every Saturday, according to team advisor Ali Orooji. The practices consist of meetings, mock competition and more meetings.

"The practices are just like the competition, with one team competing against another," Orooji says.

Orooji is very proud of his team's performance. "Winning the regional competition was not an easy task. We're the best in the Southeast and that is the kind of thing that gives UCF national recognition." ❏