UCF computer team finishes in top 3 for 16th straight time

We're No. 1 — again.

UCF's computer teams continued in their winning ways earlier this month by placing first, second or third for the 16th consecutive year in the Southeast Regional Collegiate Computer Programming competition.

UCF teams finished first, fourth and eighth at this year's competition, sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery, and held at the College of Charleston in South Carolina. UCF's first-place team solved six of 10 problems to win.

"Everyone wants to beat UCF," says faculty adviser Ali Orooji. "But they have not made the level of commitment our students have made."

Now, members of UCF's first-place team are back at their marathon Saturday practice sessions, solving programming problems, to get ready for the worldwide finals in Atlanta in February. The top two teams from each region are invited to the finals.

As in most competition, experience helps. Two members of this year's first-place team, seniors Bryan Kline and Michael Kujawa, were on last year's first-place team. Their partner this year is senior Joel Davis.

In all, 58 teams competed in the competition. Other top finishers were Miami (second), Florida International (third), Georgia Tech (fifth) and Florida State (sixth). Teams are ranked according to the number and speed of problems they solve in five hours.

"They mix the problems, some in geometry, some in text processing, and so on. The problems are getting harder each year because the skill level of the students is getting higher," Orooji explains.

— *Jerry Klein*