

Computer team soars above the competition

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A test of brain instead of brawn marked the eighth annual Southeast regional collegiate computer programming competition. Students from across the Southeast converged upon the College of Charleston last weekend for the three day event.

58 teams from various states sent representatives to the event

sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery. Among the hopeful contenders for first place were three, three member teams from UCF.

Overall UCF placed first, fourth and eighth in the competitions. This first place victory is the 16th consecutive year that UCF has placed first in the competition.

"Everyone wants to beat UCF," faculty advisor Ali Orooji said. "The students on this team are very talented, devoted, and

committed."

Orooji has been the faculty advisor for 10 years is happy with the teams performance and recent publicity that they are receiving.

The team keeps in top mental condition by practicing 10 Saturdays during the fall and 10 in the spring. Practices consist of one hour lecture discussion problems and solutions, followed by five hour problem solving and a one hour follow up.

"We have former students

that were members of previous teams help to train current team members," Orooji said.

The hard work and time commitment has certainly paid off for UCF. Since entering the computer programming competition UCF has never placed below third.

"In the competition the teams are given 10 problems to solve in five hours. They are mixed problems some in geometry, and some in text processing," Orooji

said.

This year's team consists of senior Bryan Kline, Michael Kujawa, junior Phillip Dexheimer, senior Ambrose Feinstein, junior Drue Pautz, junior Chris Bubelis, senior Danny King and sophomore Ellie Portugali.

Now that the team has placed in the Southeastern finals the team is off to the national finals in February or March in Atlanta Georgia.