

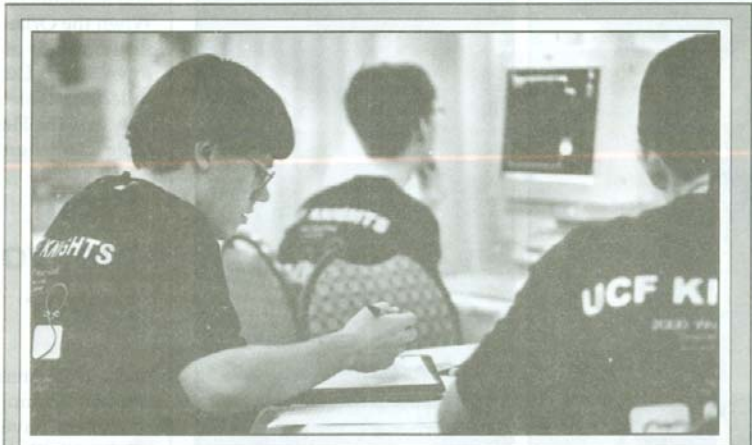
# Computer team ranks in top one percent

UCF computer team ties with MIT for 15th place in worldwide competition for college students.

**A**tie with MIT for 15th in world competition places UCF's most recent computer team in the top 1 percent in the world, says Ali Orooji, faculty adviser and computer science professor. "You have to put things in perspective. I'm very happy, very proud," he says.

The three team members — Ambrose Feinstein, Jonathan Kolb and Phillip Dexheimer — had their sights on one of the top 10 positions at 2000 World Finals of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest. They had hoped to match past UCF teams, five of which placed in the top 10 in world competition since 1982.

But a top 10 position may very well happen at next year's competi-



Jacque Brund

**UCF student Phillip Dexheimer, left, works alongside his team members, Ambrose Feinstein, middle, and Jonathan Kolb, during the worldwide college contest in computer programming.**

tion in Canada. "If the same team comes back next year, I wouldn't be surprised to see them place in the top five," Orooji says. As this was only their first world competition, all three

members of the team might be eligible for one more year — if no more than one of them graduates.

"All three are seniors, but I think only one will graduate by next fall,"

Orooji adds. "The team is allowed to have one graduate student."

Orooji admits that the problems presented at all of the contests nowadays are more difficult than in the past. "Ten years ago, you didn't have students learning programming in middle and high school. Now, you have to make the problems harder so they're a challenge. Also, you don't want any team to be able to solve all of the problems."

More than 13,000 students on 2,400 teams competed in regional contests around the world with 60 of those teams qualifying for the world contest. Participants came from such countries as Australia, Canada, China, Germany, Poland and Russia.

This year, the contest was held in Orlando at the Radisson Hotel Universal with Orooji as the director. The IBM-sponsored event included prestigious schools from around the country, including Harvard, Stanford, and the California Institute of Technology. First place was taken by St. Petersburg State University of Russia.

—Joanne Griggs