

Computer team among top in Southeast — again

The UCF student computer team will be on home turf in Orlando when it battles for the world title in March. The three-person team won entry into the International Collegiate Programming Contest by finishing in second place in the Southeast Regional Contest earlier this fall.

With 72 teams competing in the regional competition, UCF teams placed second, third, sixth and 20th. This year's winner, Georgia Tech, solved the same number of problems as UCF's best team, but had fewer penalty points to put it first. The top two teams in the Southeast advance to the world championships.

Computer teams in the regional were from Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama and Missi-

ssippi. The University of Miami finished fourth, the University of Florida ninth and Florida State 12th.

"We have always finished in the top three in our region. No other team in our region has done that," says Ali Orooji, computer science professor and adviser to the team the past 11 years.

"We have finished as high as second in the world, as well as fourth, fifth and seventh out of more than 2,000 teams from more than 60 countries. The UCF team is in the top 1 percent in the world. These teams are the cream of the crop."

To prepare for competition, the UCF computer teams practice seven hours each Saturday for 20 weeks.

— Susan Loden