

Computer team places seventh in world

UCF finishes fourth in nation after solving four problems

World's top teams

- 1) University of Waterloo, Canada
- 2) University of Otago, New Zealand
- 3) Duke University, USA
- 4) Washington University, USA
- 5) Vrije Universiteit, The Netherlands
- 6) University of California at Berkley, USA
- 7) **University of Central Florida, USA**

The University of Central Florida computer team placed seventh internationally and fourth nationally in a worldwide computer programming contest sponsored by the Association for Computing Machinery.

The ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest Finals of 1994 in Phoenix was attended by 35 teams, each consisting of three members. The teams were given eight computer programming problems to solve within five hours, and were ranked according to the number of problems solved within the least amount of time.

The team from the University of Waterloo, Canada, solved six problems, taking first place. Teams receiving second through sixth place rankings solved five problems each. They were the University of Otago in New Zealand, Duke University,

Washington University, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam of Netherlands and the University of California at Berkeley. UCF's team solved four problems.

"I think the university and all of Central Florida should be proud of our team. The students' international and national rankings not only shows off their talents, but reflects the caliber of computer science training offered at UCF," said team faculty advisor Ali Orooji.

The three UCF team members, all computer science majors, are graduate student Robert Franceschini, senior Michael Smith and junior Travis Terry.

Each team at the competition was given one computer on which to work. Part of UCF's team training was to determine when each player should use the computer, which problems to answer, and how to develop computer

programs that best address problems presented. To prepare for the competition, team members underwent more than 20 weeks of training that included solving problems similar to those asked at computer programming contests.

Teams competing in the contest were from 15 regions representing 626 computer teams. The five largest regions submitted three teams each to the contest finals; the other 10 submitted two teams each. The three teams representing the Southeast Region, which comprises Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Mississippi, were from Florida. They were UCF, the University of Miami and the University of South Florida.

UCF earned a berth in the international finals by finishing second in regional competition in November. A second UCF team finished fifth in the regional field of 58 competitors.