The following professors were nominated for the 2007 TopCoder Collegiate Challenge Prestigious Professor Award, for making "a profound difference" in the lives of their students.

Professor: Salwa El-Gama

Professor Salwa El-Gamal is currently the Vice Dean of Society and Environment Development in Faculty of Computers and Information at Cairo University. Years ago she took on her shoulders the responsibility of getting Cairo University involved in programming competitions, like ACM and IOI. There were no trainers, sponsors and even no culture which made the job even harder. However, believing in not only the scientific benefits from such participations but having a far look in the future for generations (me among them now) that will be competitive with their colleagues in the world and who has different mentality and distinguished computer science skills, she started to look for brilliant students, prepare them for competitions, look for sponsors, organize events. She did this until we reached the level we are at today in which we have qualified for ACM world finals three times (I was a member in the last time team), winning the ACM Regionals many times and most importantly spreading the culture of these types of competitions. These efforts led by Professor Salwa paid off now as we now have a high experienced staff and continued training camps. Her most recent achievement is to push and succeed in adding courses to the syllabus that target enhancing students' knowledge of important aspects of CS like algorithms and advanced data structures. Having that said, I must say thanks to TopCoder for giving me this opportunity to express to professor Salwa on behalf of Cairo University students how grateful we are for her continuous efforts.

Professor: Myhail Medvedev

When I was a young boy, all the pupils were taught such a poem during their first school day: "Every large thing in the world starts from a little one and also great Lenin (one of the greatest tyrants in the world history and the founder of the Soviet Union) started his life from the Primer". The times when children had to worship tyrants are now forgotten. And I can choose by myself the people whom I want to say "Thank you". I used 100 words and I told you nothing about my Professor, who was our ACM coach. He started from a little – taught us to work hard and believe in ourselves. He was working extra hours for free to teach us algorithms. That was he, who showed us the TopCoder site. And on behalf of all of us I want to say: "Thank you, Mr. Medvedev". Now my Professor has new ACM team. We see each other quite rarely. But we met when I came home from the TCO final. During the coffee break I told him about TopCoder College Tour. I always knew that Mr. Medvedev is not a man who likes to shelve ideas. But even I was impressed when in two weeks I received an e-mail where Mr. Medvedev informed me that he and TopCoder Community Director in Eastern Europe had a meeting with the University authorities about TopCoder College Tour in Ukraine. Good job, chief!

Professor: Dr. Jerzy W. Jaromczyk

Dr. Jaromczyk is not only an excellent teacher; he shows a real interest in students, not even necessarily the ones in his class. I first met him in my sophomore year and he talked with a friend and me to get to know us, what we wanted to do with our degrees. I joined the programming team that he coaches where he turned me on to TopCoder as a means of practice. He is an excellent coach and an excellent teacher. I have been performing research in Bioinformatics under him since my sophomore year, and he is very interested in making connections across disciplines. He is the sole reason that I am interested in going to graduate school for computer science, and I hope that this nomination will do him justice in some sense, though it doesn't even come close to expressing how great of a teacher, advisor, and role model he has been.

Professor: Vitaly Bondarenko

In my country most smart people don't want to lecture in a university, because lectors do not receive good money. But some heroes exist, those who think not only about money and who are smart enough to make money and make lectures in university as a second job or as a hobby. One of such brave spirit exists in our university. We call him Bond. His full name is Vitaly Bondarenko and he was one of the first winners of IOI from Ukraine in 1992. After being the winner of IOI, the spirit of competition never left him and he was one of the people who developed a national school computer competition to a high level as an organizer and judge. After finishing education in university, he did not leave Ukraine as lot of smart people in my country do in order to find a better life in Silicon Valley. He stayed to become a true hero of the motherland – a lector in university. And not so long ago he also became an organizer for ACM teams of my university and he manages to make a community of people who has a desire to challenge hard tasks, to challenge the world in order to make it different. And now a community can play a big role in the life of students, especially first year students, who from their first days in the university, can be involved in the beautiful world of colored balloons, two second time limits and fifteen minute challenge phases, which help students to become professionals in a computer science field.

Professor: William Clossin

The educational system in the United States is constantly hampered by budget cuts, rising costs, politics overruling logic, and various other forms of red tape that get in the way of the end goal of going to school. I never did complete college, in fact, I have only done a few courses here an there. But in spite of frustrations for the above reasons, the most influential person in my educational development was the Computer Science department head at my high school. Readily picking up on both my skill and interest in computers, he constantly pushed me to do more complex projects, and saw that I got the support I needed, both at school and at home. He had several very long telephone conversations with my parents explaining things such as what type of college I should attend, and even helping to convince them to buy me a new computer. Towards my last two years there, he assisted me with signing up for several "made up" course numbers, so that I'd still be able to spend time in the lab despite having no more courses I could take. I was able to learn quite a bit by assisting with setup and administration of two different network platforms during my time there. Perhaps most interesting, he told others about my interest, and willingness to help. There's nothing quite like a Phys-Ed teaching approaching you in the hall to say, "How would you like to not have to swim today?"

Professor: Mohammed Taha

In Egypt education is bad; you can notice that we have a huge number of university graduate students while we have no industry. We expert nearly everything, and that's to express how we didn't learn enough to do something. However, I was fit to learn programming, maybe I'm not very smart, but at least I have the desire. Engineer Mohammed Taha saw me and he knew that I wanted to learn, so he started to teach me programming and algorithms. I was visiting him everyday to show him what I did and what I should do next. I'm not very good from my rating in TopCoder and that's explained why I didn't find any job till I became 23 years old. So he taught me how to use the little experience I have to make great things. Since then I have found many jobs and now I teach C programming in the same university with my professor. My professor is yellow colored in TopCoder while I'm gray, that shows the difference, but his lessons gave me enough to work in the university. Special Thanks to my professor "moh_taha_eg".

Professor: Yue Chen

Professor Yue Chen has been the lead-coach of Zhejiang University ACM/ICPC team from early 2000. Since then, Professor Chen encourages the ICPC team members, as well as the students in CS College to take part in online programming contest to practice. From the summer 2002, many of ZJU students became active members of TopCoder, usually they take part in the SRM contests at the very beginning, since algorithm is the sole of the programming. Professor Chen even treated TopCoder ratings as a part of the evidence to select ICPC team member. That is part of the reason why there are so many TopCoder members from Zhejiang University (check http://www.topcoder.com/stat?c=school_avg_rating). Some ZJU students also tried Component Design / Development contests, and they have had very good achievements. In last year's TCCC, "PE" won the development contest, and "maone" got 2nd place in the design contest. Professor Chen is very kind and warm-hearted; the students in ZJU call her "Chen Yue Sister", instead of "Teacher Chen".

Professor: Wenhu Wu

If not Petr, ACRush would be the top coder in algorithm contest! Yes, China is really a power house in this amazing community. If you ask the members from China, they will tell you about Professor Wenhu Wu from Tsinghua University, who is really a leader and a guide of young algorithm talents from China. As an alumni of Tsinghua University myself, my contact with Mr. Wu started several years before my entering into the university. Mr. Wu is the coach of the China IOI team and has been working for this for over 20 years, since 1980s. Thanks to his great effort, many middle (even primary) school students learn skills of programming and algorithms at a young age. I'm one of the students who benefits from his good books and lectures. Without him, maybe I would not be a CS student now. No Chinese competitor would deny that he is the most influential teacher of algorithm contests in China. Professor Wenhu Wu has a lot of stories. He has kept the record of long distance running in Tsinghua University for over 40 years. Now he is about 70 and he is still giving lectures of basic programming skills. This is a very famous course and attracts students from the whole university. As a rumor, I even heard that recently Miss Wu, the VP of TopCoder China, visited his lectures and asked him questions. I really hope Professor Wu could show up in this year's finals and compete with the top Chinese programmers together!