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**NEWS RELEASE – January 23, 2004**

## **OUC brings back Heavyweight Competition to annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest**

The popular heavyweight competition will be brought back to OUC's 21<sup>st</sup> annual Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest thanks to a local architectural firm.

The Huber McKenzie Turik Heavyweight Competition will make its debut at this year's contest to be held March 12 at the North Kelowna Campus Recreation Centre.

"We were forced to drop the heavyweight competition a few years ago due to financial constraints and the need for a more advanced weighing apparatus," says contest organizer Peter Murray, who is an associate professor in the Physics and Astronomy department. "But with the support of Huber McKenzie Turik Architects Inc. and the development of a new load application machine, we are pleased to be able to open it up to contestants again this year."

"We're happy to be able to support OUC in this way," says Art Huber, one of the firm's partners. "This popular community event not only encourages young people to explore the principles of physics and engineering in a fun way, but it inspires creativity and ingenuity. The heavyweight competition adds even more drama as students' skills are put to the ultimate test."

Students entering the competition will be vying for \$3,000 in prize money (\$1,500 – 1<sup>st</sup> place; \$1,000 – 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and \$500 – 3<sup>rd</sup> place). The record set at the last heavyweight competition is held by Bob Williams of Clyde, Alberta, who took first place with a bridge of 742 grams that supported a weight of just over 180 kilograms. The new Huber McKenzie Turik Heavyweight Competition allows for heavier bridges but with different overall dimensions than previous competitions.

Participants will also be eligible to apply for the Huber McKenzie Turik Scholarship or Bursary funds being established by the firm through the OUC Foundation. Both are valued at

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\$1,000 and available to those planning on or continuing their studies at OUC.

“Although there are stringent rules for students to follow when building their bridges, the design possibilities are endless,” says Dr. Andrew Hay, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Technologies. “That’s what makes the competition so fascinating for participants and spectators alike.”

This year’s competition is open to secondary and post-secondary students only, says Hay. “We want to challenge our students, as well as those from other post-secondary institutions and high schools to come up with an innovative design that will hold the most weight.”

But the ultimate judge will be the “Fettucine Faultline”, the testing apparatus designed and built by OUC instructor Henry Murphy with the help of Fender’s Autobody & Paint.

“We wouldn’t be able to put on a competition of this caliber year after year without the support of the local community and the efforts of the many volunteers,” says Hay. Some of the other supporters of this year’s competition include: the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C., the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of B.C., Multi-Power Products, Right-Weigh Scales, Kelowna Tool & Dye, Northside Industries, Earth Tech (Canada), Whitewater Composites, Monashee Adventure Tours, and the OUC Student Association – Kelowna.

There will also be a timed, team building competition for students on the day of the contest, as well as separate competitions for secondary and post-secondary students who want to build bridges at home or school and bring them in to be judged. The ever-popular Elementary School Demonstration is back, and this year elementary students are encouraged to build a replica of a Kettle Valley Railroad Trestle using pasta or Popsicle sticks and glue.

Rules and entry forms for all competitions are available on the website at <http://technologies.ouc.bc.ca/bridge> or by contacting contest organizers at 250-862-5473.

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For more information about the contest, contact Peter Murray at 762-5445, ext. 7514 or Dianne Powles at 862-5473 or visit the website at <http://technologies.ouc.bc.ca/bridge>.

For more information about the Huber McKenzie Turik Scholarship or Bursary, contact the OUC Foundation, 470-6091.