

---

OUC NEWS RELEASE – February 28, 2005

***Record number of competitors at  
OUC's 22nd Annual Spaghetti Bridge Contest***

OUC's Spaghetti Bridge Building Contest will host a record number of competitors when the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual competition gets underway Friday, March 4 at the North Kelowna Campus.

There are more than 175 entries in the HMA Architects Heavyweight Competition, post-secondary and secondary team and individual competitions, as well as nine schools entered in the elementary school demonstration category.

“The popularity of the contest grows each year,” says Dianne Powles, one of the organizers of the event. “Bringing back the HMA Architects Heavyweight Competition has certainly attracted international interest, but we also have entries from students who have participated in the past, moved away, and are coming back specifically to compete.”

Entries include teams from schools throughout the region, across B.C. and as far away as the Netherlands, Hungary, Iran and the Czech Republic.

The team-building competition gets underway at 9:30 a.m. in the Recreation Centre, with judging for individual secondary/post-secondary entries beginning at 11 a.m., the team competition at 11:30 a.m., and the heavyweights at 1:15 p.m. Students from nine elementary schools in the region will showcase their version of a floating bridge in the demonstration category at 10 a.m. Guest judge will be Kelowna-Mission MLA Sindi Hawkins.

András Köves, one of the winning mechanical engineering students from Budapest Politechnic, will be back in Kelowna to defend the school's title along with three of his classmates. Matyas Kuttyik, who accompanied Köves last year, was the grand prize winner of the HMA Architects Heavy Weight after his bridge broke all records by holding a load of 256.13 kg.

He will be joined by other international students from the University of Tehran, Delft University of Technology, Amir Kabir University of Technology and the Technical University of Liberec. Some of foreign students have won competitions in their respective countries to earn the right to compete at OUC. But they will face stiff competition from a number of post-secondary and secondary school students from the Okanagan region.

Prizes will be awarded for the most functional pre-built bridges to individuals as well as teams who participate in an on-site, timed building competition.

“We are grateful for the community support this contest has received for so many years,” says Dr. Andrew Hay, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering Technologies. “It is a unique way to teach students some basic concepts of engineering design and provide them, and the many spectators, with a fun and entertaining experience.”

Participants could also come away with scholarships and cash awards. Each event rewards the top five students or teams with a prize. The HMA Architects Heavyweight competition is offering students an opportunity to win \$1,500 for the first-place winner, \$1,000 for second place and \$500 for third place. The local architecture firm has also established two \$1,000 scholarships contest participants can apply for. Students competing in the individual and team categories can win cash awards valued up to \$150 and hardware.

Additional sponsors of this year’s contest include: OUC, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C. (APEGBC), Foundation for Education and Advancement in Technology (FEAT), the OUC Students’ Association, OUC Faculty Association, Blair Sportswear, Canada Safeway, Earth Tech (Canada) Inc., Fenders’ Autobody and Paint, Kelowna Tool & Die, Monashee Manufacturing Corporation, MSS Engineering, Multi Power Products, Northside Industries Inc., Whitewater Composites Ltd., Air Liquide, Okanagan Precision Machine Ltd., Omega Communications, Right Weigh Scales, Save-On Foods, and West Manufacturing.

-30-

For further information about the contest, contact Dianne Powles at 250-862-5473.