



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
NEWS SERVICES & MEDIA RELATIONS
HOMETOWN NEWS RELEASE PROGRAM

For Immediate Release
April 11, 2005

Contact Bill Taylor, Asst. Director, News Services
taylorb@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2065 or 591-5604

Local students participate in teambuilding competition

BIG RAPIDS – Several local high school students recently competed in the annual Spaghetti Bridge Competition at Ferris State University. The program spanned two days in the Rankin Student Center’s Dome Room.

A total of 22 schools were entered in the competition, which featured a written report, oral presentation, authentic bridge design and load-bearing competition.

Members of each of the top three teams received partial scholarships to Ferris and the top five teams were awarded cash prizes. The actual bridge building occurred on the second day of competition when each team constructed the strongest structure possible using just two pounds of dry spaghetti and glue. The bridges were then tested for weight-bearing capacity.

Participating locally were two Kenowa Hills High School teams. The “Knight Stalkers,” consisting of students **Brett Wainright, Ashley Brinkert, Dan Corner** and **Samantha Rettig**, and coaches **Mike Johnson** and **Christine Soderquist**, took first place in the authentic bridge competition and fourth in the oral competition. The second team, “Knight Slayers,” included students **Jessica Everest, Luke Gauld, Katherine McCarthy** and **Carl Sobel**. The team took second in the written competition, and was also coached by Johnson and Soderquist.

Photos, past winners, a transcript of the rules and more is available online at the Spaghetti Bridge Competition website, located at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/othersrv/sbridges>.

Ferris State University is a four-year public university with campuses in Big Rapids, Grand Rapids and satellite campuses across the state. Ferris offers more than 170 educational programs, including doctorate, master’s, bachelor’s and associate degrees, through nine academic colleges: Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, Pharmacy, Technology, the Michigan College of Optometry, Kendall College of Art and Design and the College of Professional and Technological Studies. Ferris also has a University College featuring an Honors Program and providing students with instruction in study skills, reading and career exploration. Founded in 1884 by educator, Michigan Governor and U.S. Senator Woodbridge N. Ferris, the university’s mission is to be a national leader in career-oriented, technological and professional education.