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NEWS SERVICES

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Ferris Rube Goldberg Team Going for Second National Championship

BIG RAPIDS – For the second time in three years, Ferris’ Rube Goldberg team hopes to win another National Championship on March 28, 2009. The annual competition held at Purdue University is a challenge of engineering feats to construct and successfully run a machine of ordinary items to complete a single task – this year’s challenge is to replace an incandescent light bulb with an energy efficient light source.

The team is made up of seniors Nate Andresmooi (Hart), Mike Dunakin (Grand Rapids), Scott Mclain (Waterford) and Joel Truax (Charlotte); the team is rounded out by sophomore Brian Swain (Whitehall) and freshman Bryan Williams (Lupton). Participants are in electrical engineering technology and mechanical engineering technology programs.

Dunakin is the team captain and the only member on the current team to have been on the 2007 National Championship team. “Every year’s team is different,” Dunakin said. “However, this team seems to be just as motivated as the ‘07 team.”

In the five years of competition, Ferris has walked away with one first-place and two second-place finishes in challenges that included squeezing juice from an orange, making a hamburger and shredding five sheets of paper, to name a few.

The National competition has teams from Purdue University, University of Illinois, University of Texas, Texas A&M, Penn State University, University of Toledo, and this year

a team from Canada among others.

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