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To: news@advancenewspapers.com
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Subject: Wyoming native helps Ferris take home math prize
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Following is a news release from Ferris State University. Please contact Leah Nixon if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you.

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Leah Nixon
Assistant Director of News Services
Ferris State University

leahnixon@ferris.edu, (231)

591-5604

Wyoming native helps Ferris take home math prize

BIG RAPIDS – On April 1, a team of three students from Ferris State University including graduate student Ngoc-Anh La of Wyoming, and seniors Jeremy Houser of Cadillac and Nathan Butler of Traverse City, won the 30th Annual Lower Michigan Mathematics Competition held at Hope College in Holland.

The team from Ferris took first place in the field of 35 teams from 11 different colleges and universities. Butler, Houser and La scored 57 points out a possible 100.

In the competition, teams of two or three students work together on 10 challenging mathematical problems over three hours, without any external aids or technology.

“This is a big accomplishment, defeating the historical heavy-hitters of Calvin, Hope and Albion colleges, among the rest of the teams,” said Michael Dekker, assistant professor of mathematics at Ferris.

Each year the winner of the LMMC gets to display the traveling Klein Bottle Trophy. A Klein bottle is “a non-orientable topological manifold, which technically only exists in four dimensions,” according to Dekker. A three-dimensional glass version adorns the LMMC trophy, which the Ferris team will keep for a year and defend at the 2007 competition slated to be held at Calvin College.

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 doctoral, master’s, bachelor’s and associate degrees, through nine academic colleges: Allied Health Sciences, Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Human Services, the Michigan College of Optometry, Pharmacy, Technology, Kendall College of Art and Design and the College of Professional and Technological Studies. Ferris also has a University College that provides students with instruction in study skills, reading, career exploration and features an Honors Program. Founded in 1884 by educator, Michigan Gov. and United States Sen. Woodbridge N. Ferris, the university’s mission is to be a national leader in career-oriented, technological and professional education.

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Ruth Ridderman

Administrative Secretary to Associate VP
for Marketing and Communications
University Advancement & Marketing
Ferris State University
420 Oak Street, PRK 101
Big Rapids, MI 49307
231-591-2373