

Science Olympiad puts young minds to the test

By Chris Engle
Sports/A&E Editor

Middle and high school students filled ACC's hallways and classrooms on Saturday, March 12 during the annual Regional Science Olympiad tournament.

The tournament, which draws teams of about 15 members each from northern Michigan schools, consists of a broad range of events that challenge team members' ingenuity and mental capacity to accomplish certain tasks.

The events include Reach for the Stars, Road Scholar, Water Quality, and others that test the participants' capability to do anything from identifying constellations and using maps to testing for contaminants in a water sample.

There are also events that require teams to construct an object before competition and to test its limits during the event. These include The Wright Stuff, Tower Building, and Robot Ramble, where teams construct an airplane, tower, or robot to perform a certain task.

In Tower Building, one or two members of a team construct a tower of balsa wood and glue that will support a suspended bucket of sand. As sand is added to the bucket, the tower creaks and pops but often is capable of supporting over 30 pounds. Others, however, are not so lucky and explode under the pressure, sending splintered pieces of wood into the air (participants must wear safety goggles!). Alpena High School's tower, tested by Melissa Marzean, held over 37 pounds without breaking, but was disqualified for having a width larger than the specifications allow.

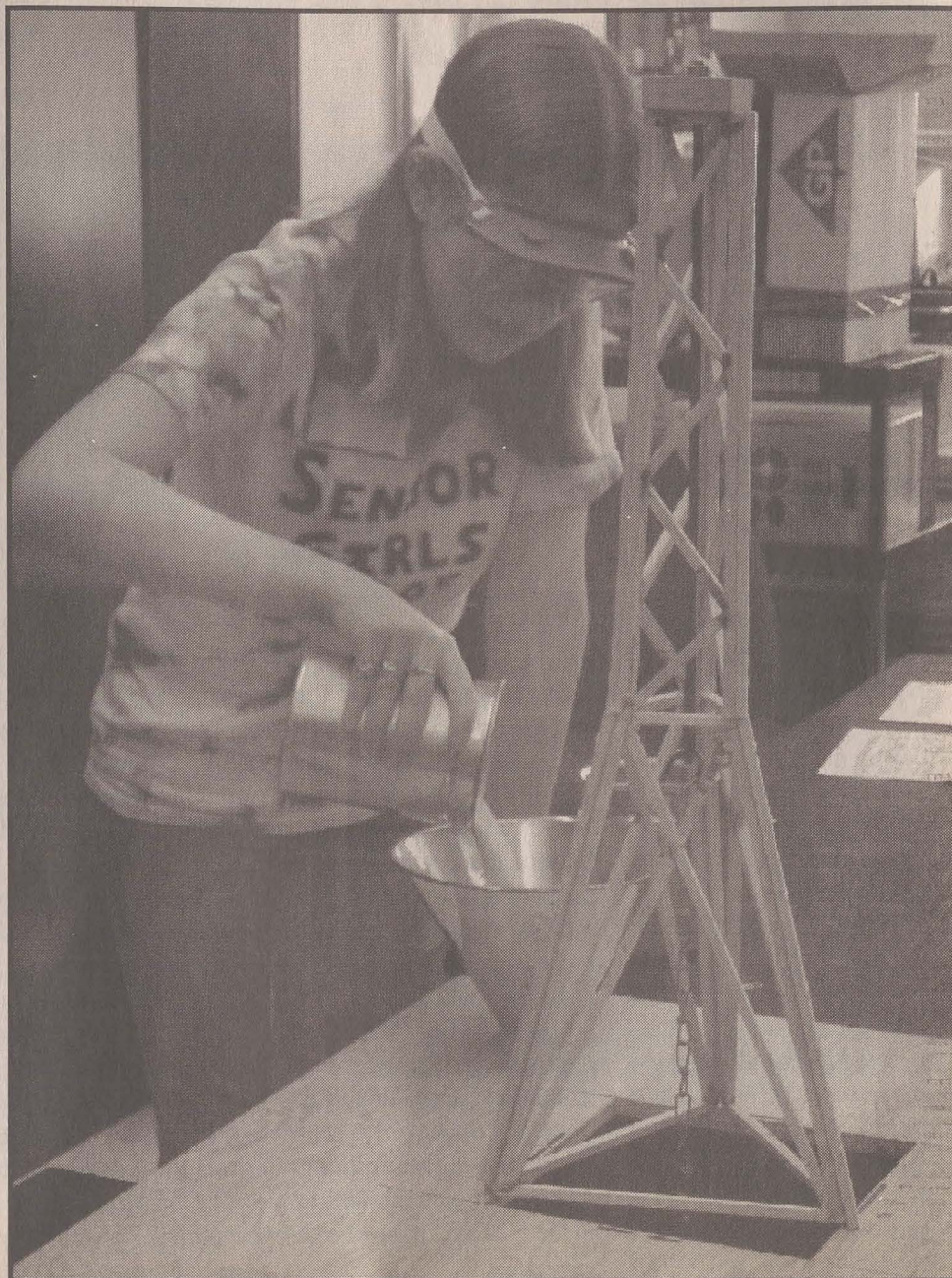
The Wright Stuff is an event where two teammates work together to build a model rubber band powered airplane out of balsa wood and thin paper. The rubber band is wound tight and as it unwinds, rotates the propeller, sending the plane through the air. Teams are judged by how long their airplane maintains flight, and at this year's competition, Thunder Bay Junior High School

soared above the competition with a plane that gracefully circled the airspace and brushed the rafters of the gym for nearly three minutes, before touching down to a roar of applause from the audience.

Judges for the events included ACC staff members, who had the chance to encourage the young participants to attend their own courses after graduation.

The awards ceremony was held in the gym after more than six hours of events and competition. Medals were given to participants in each event by rank of third, second, and first place. Alpena High School scored two gold, three silver, and five bronze medals. Thunder Bay Junior High School took 16 gold, 5 silver, and 2 bronze medals, and were also awarded a first place trophy and an invitation to the state competition.

Congratulations to all the participants, and thank you to everyone who provided encouragement and made them feel welcome here at ACC!



Alpena senior Melissa Marzean tests a tower (photo by Chris Engle)

Kappa Beta Delta welcomes 29

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a few of the qualifications.

There are currently 314 business students attending Alpena Community College, therefore the top 62 students were eligible and invited to join Kappa Beta Delta. 14 out of the 62 students were currently members, so invitations were sent to the other 48 students. Out of the 48 potential candidates 29 students and two adjunct faculty members pledged their honor to uphold the KBD Honor Society Pledge on March 11, 2005.

New facility could benefit Alpena

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professional and 680 industrial. The estimated annual payroll is \$64-95 million and times that with 5.5 and you'll get the economic impact." That would average between \$3,520,000,000 and \$5,225,000,000 a year. In 2003, the average U.S. aerospace engineer had nearly twenty years experience and earned a salary of \$82,227 annually with fringe benefits for an additional 35%. That calculates to \$111,000 per year.

"Estimated at a 30 year basis to fill all these tankers will get all the contracts from the U.S. government it would have a huge impact throughout the community," added Peltier. "By Monday (March 7) we'll have our final draft version and

Kappa Beta Delta has been involved in many service projects and activities throughout the year. These events allow students to participate in service projects while representing Kappa Beta Delta.

KBD inductees were congratulated with a membership certificate, a diamond shaped pin, a rose, and a candle.

If you are interested in Kappa Beta Delta, or upcoming events, contact co-advisor Mary Jane Thompson at 358-7313.

Wednesday it will be taken to Lansing."

The only negative variable to this project is the amount of people that would come to Alpena. It's estimated that over 3,000 people would be affected.

There will be more traffic, as well as more people filing for health care, and more police will be needed, and so on.

The same thing happened to Traverse City. They suffered because the road circulation system is not good, and Alpena has that problem too.

Currently, Alpena would route the road to the facility north of the city, and the Michigan Department of Transportation would build it. The road would be public, but once on the site it would become private.

Northwood offers another option for ACC students

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well-known business school located in Midland that is looking to expand their outreach, and the school felt Northeast Michigan would benefit. They have been on ACC's campus for almost a full year and came here after a year of talking with ACC.

Stephanie Schulze is a current student working on a four-year degree with Northwood. She recommends this program to anyone pursuing a higher education, particularly adults who work full or part time with family responsibility.

"When you are an older student with work and family responsibilities, you cannot just afford to pickup and leave," Schulze says. "Northwood paves the way for continuing education while realizing the needs of non-traditional students."

The ability to achieve a four-year degree while still in Alpena is a very convenient opportunity for Schulze and other students who don't have the means to leave for a large

university.

"The availability to complete a four-year degree close to home is so critical, and without it I don't think I could have ever thought of seeing myself the whole way through."

Northwood also offers a variety of options in continuing your education with online courses, independent study, express classes, and the traditional classroom atmosphere. Sessions of classes at Northwood are broken up into twelve-week terms. Most classes are six weeks long, one night a week, while some accounting courses are spread out over the twelve-week term. They also offer college credit for work life experience and volunteer opportunities granting up to a years worth of credit. Also, all the instructors for their course are from Northwood, which offers new perspectives on different subjects. Also, Northwood classes will not be dropped due to low numbers. All classes run as scheduled regardless of the amount of people in it.

As far a graduating from Northwood, all students who plan to graduate are required to take one class at their main campus in Midland. This class is a weekend event that will have seminars, major speakers, and business leaders form around the world.

Northwood University's Alpena Program Manager Barb Muessig is thrilled at the response that they have got from Alpena Community College and said that ACC's extreme support has helped their success tremendously. They are currently exceeding their goal of enrollment and have felt very welcomed and needed on campus. Muessig has assured that Northwood is here to stay and is very committed to the people of Northeast Michigan. For more information, check out www.northwood.edu, or contact Barb Muessig by e-mail: muessigb@northwood.edu, phone: 358.7302, or stop by the office during regular hours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Center on ACC's campus

Students enjoys Washington experience

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breathtaking," said ACC student and Student Senate President Jessica Slominski. "It's not often that students from a small, rural town like Alpena receive the chance to witness a significant point in history like the inauguration of a President.

"The Pentagon was also inspiring in the fact that we were able to see where the plane hit on September 11, and where a memorial has been set up in its place," Slominski continued. "It was a somber moment when we all realized how many people had died on that day in the exact same place where we were standing."

Students received partial funding from the Alpena Community College Student Senate. All involved had a memorable experience that will not soon be forgotten. The knowledge gained from a firsthand experience goes a step further than what can be learned in a classroom.

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