



Winning pasta bridge holds 68kg

Engineering students enjoy building bridges with spaghetti

SPONTANEOUS applause greeted the winners of the University of the Sunshine Coast's inaugural spaghetti bridge competition after their 219g structure, made from only pasta and superglue, was able to carry a weight of 68kg.

Second-year Civil Engineering students Ryan Hofman and Sean Thrussell applied principles they had learned in the subject, Mechanics of Materials, to construct a model bridge that could carry a load 311 times its own weight.

The contest was held in late March and involved 10 groups of two students testing bridges they had designed and built over several weeks.

There was plenty of anticipation and excitement as each team stepped forward with their bridges, and the lecture theatre was filled with gasps and sympathetic groans as each bridge eventually buckled, snapped or simply splintered under weight during testing.

USC's Senior Lecturer in Civil Engineering Dr Terry Lucke said the contest inspired creativity and enthusiasm and demonstrated some basic principles of engineering.

Rebecca Campbell of engineering firm Covey Associates presented the winners with A\$200 in prizemoney and a perpetual shield.

■ Engineering students take part in USC's inaugural spaghetti bridge competition.