**DAAP structures class builds bridges to break them down**

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| Second-year architecture majors built bridges and tested how much weight they could hold during the Bridge Break Wednesday. Media Credit: Robert SextonSecond-year architecture majors built bridges and tested how much weight they could hold during the Bridge Break Wednesday.  |

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Architecture students do not burn their bridges, they break them, which is exactly what they did Wednesday at DAAP for the annual Bridge Break event.

"When I arrived at the department the secretary said to me, 'Bridge Break is on the eighth Wednesday of Winter Quarter,'" Tom Bible, a DAAP architecture professor and instructor for Structures Lecture I, said. "I wasn't about to argue with that."

Sophomore architecture students make bridges out of wood, wood glue and string for their first structures class. Each bridge must be eight-feet long, and the pieces of wood that are used cannot be longer than five-feet or wider than a half-inch.

"It is an extravagant celebration put on for the sophomore architecture students by the sixth year master of architecture students," Bible said. "It also involves the sophomores building eight-foot-long wooden bridges that can supposedly hold the weight of the three designers."

If the bridge does not break, either more people will try to stand on it, or Bible's son has permission to take a sledge hammer to it.

Bridge Break always has a theme that is organized by the sixth-year master of architecture students. This year's theme was called "The Bridge is Right," which was based off the show "The Price is Right." Bible was the host, acting as Bob Barker, and instead of guessing the price of items, student contestants bid on how many people each bridge could hold.

Past Bridge Break themes have been centered around Willy Wonka, Saturday Night Live and James Bond.

"This is a fun project. It is one last thing to do as a class before we graduate and it is a nice week off from our thesis," Michael Hernandez, a sixth-year master of architecture student, said.

"For most students, this is the first time that they will be on a structure that they have designed or built while it collapses, and we hope it will be the last time," Bible said.

He repeats this to his students every year he has been in charge of Bridge Break.

"I have been at UC for 15 years and have done Bridge Break that whole time," Bible said. "It was started long before I came, but no one knows for sure when. I even talked to a former student who graduated in 1977 who did this as a freshman that did not know."

"Sophomore architecture students in their first structures class build the bridges, the sixth-year master of architecture students put on the show and the faculty pay close attention to see how they are spoofed by the sixth-year students," Bible said.

The lecture hall in DAAP's Aronoff Center for Design and Art filled with laughter as the master students showed the commercials they produced to fill time between "bridge-bidding." One commercial was about stimulants - products to help keep students awake to finish their work.

"Bridge Break is mostly about fun, I think it is good for the faculty to have the students make fools of us once a year at least publicly, it keeps us human," Bible said.