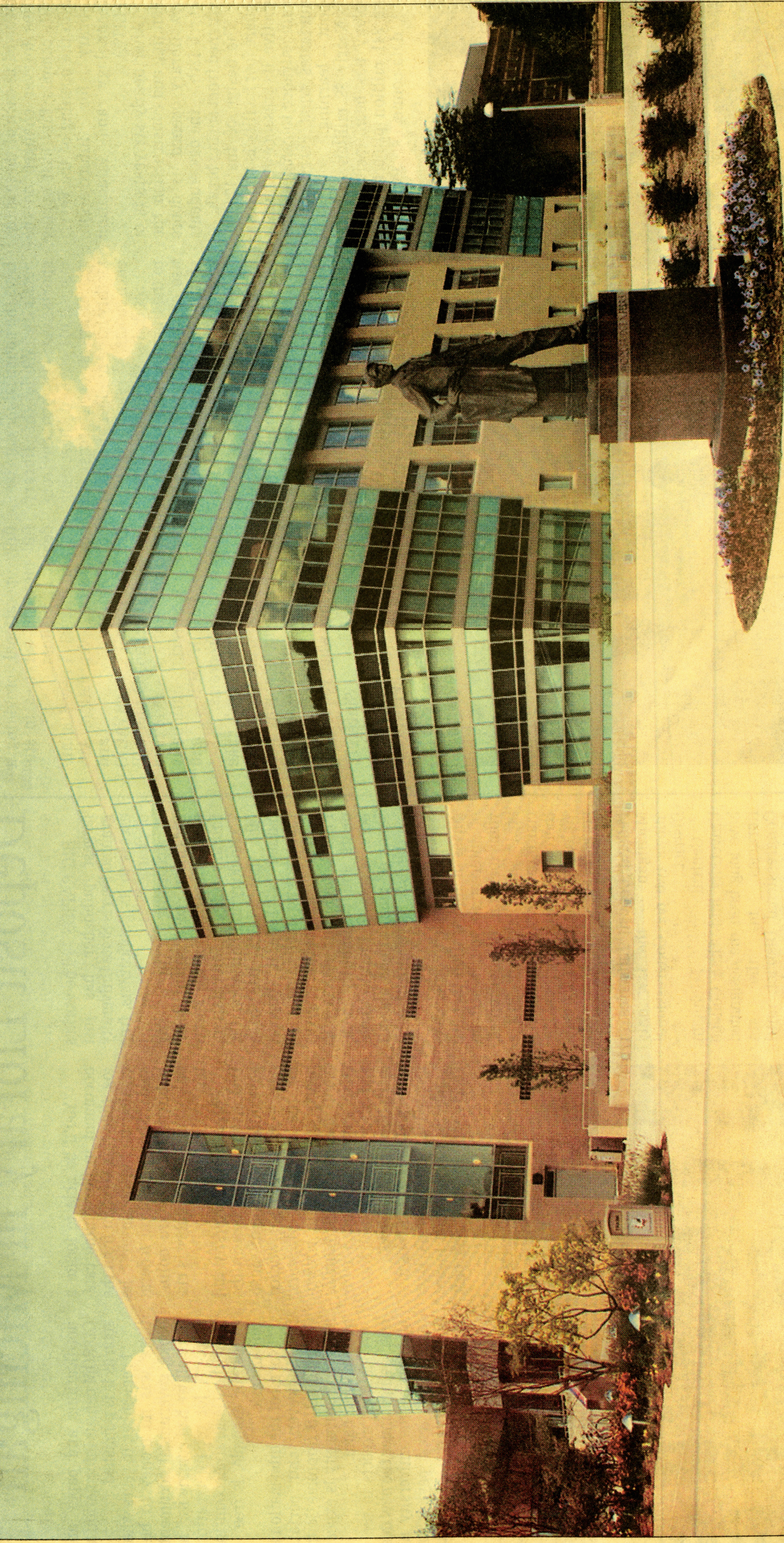
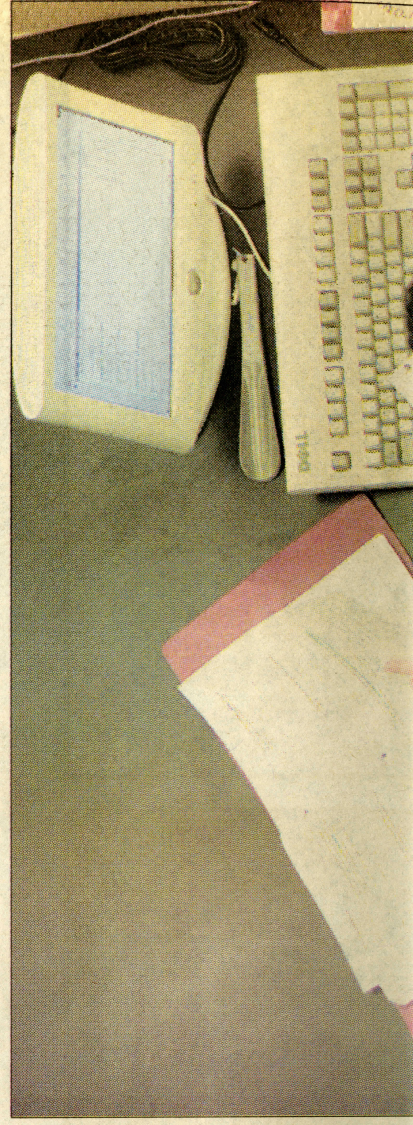
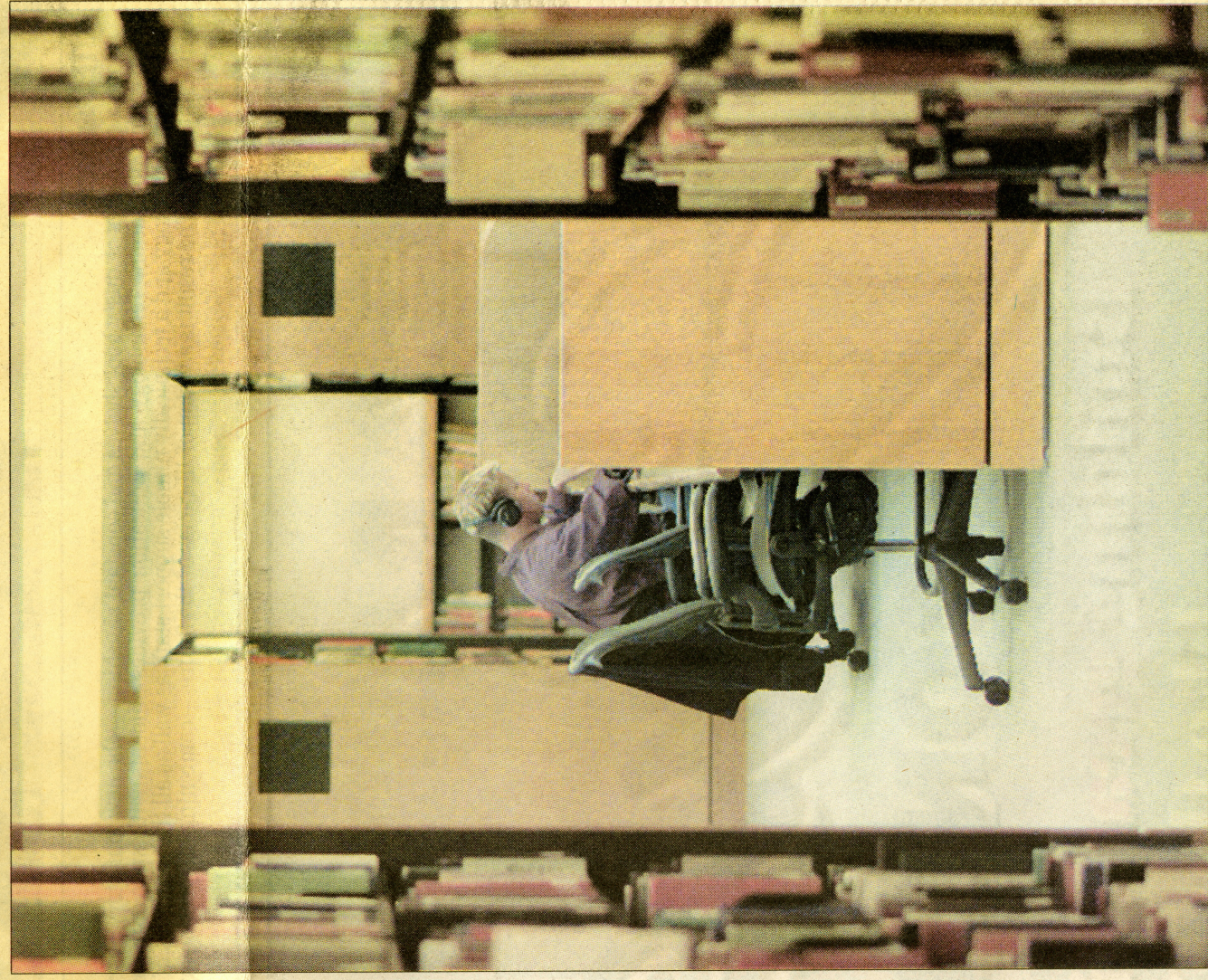


# FLITE



## Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education



**Featured inside:**

- A word from President Sederburg, p. 2
- FLITE is a state Federal Deposit Library, p. 2
- Ferris students respond to new facility, p. 3

## Education at FSU enters a new era

Teaching, learning, research and the collaboration involved in each of these activities forever changed on the FSU campus this past spring with the opening of the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education (FLITE).

After nearly six years in of planning and construction, the new library opened its doors March 12th — the day students returned from spring break.

The design of the 173,000-square-foot facility is truly distinctive. Its presence at the new main entrance to campus communicates what Ferris is all about — learning.

Nearly \$9 million in technology has been included in the \$41 million project. Some 300 data-connected PCs are

available for student use in the library and 1,062 “user seats” have the potential for data connectivity. While the library sports a very open environment (1,011 of the 1,310 seating spaces are in open areas) the facility has a number of conference rooms.

Students and other visitors to the library are making great use of the nearly 40 enclosed study suites and meeting rooms.

In addition, a new campus quad provides a place for individuals to participate in recreational activities, attend outdoor events or just relax in the sun.

The Ferris campus will continue to be redefined and greatly improved. Next year at this time, the new Timme Center

for Student Services (the former Timme Library) will be fully operational, providing a full menu of services to students and visitors.

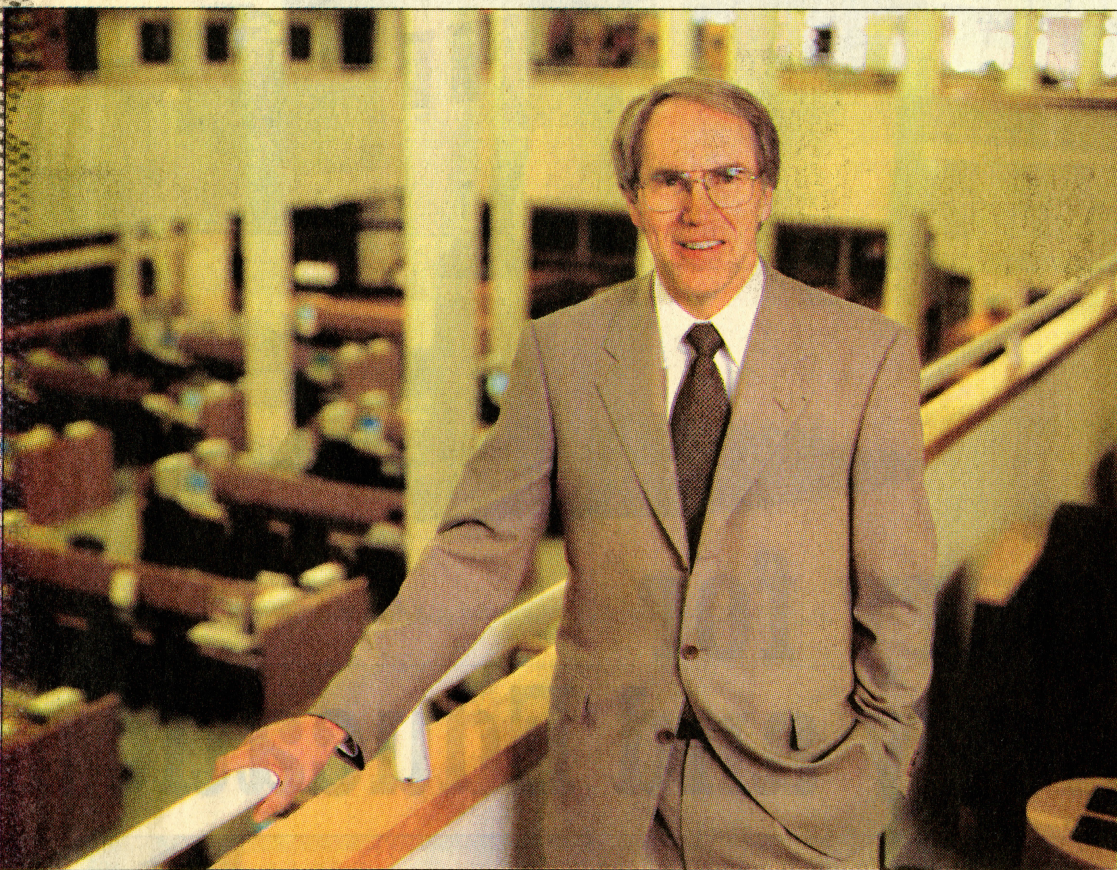
And in 2003, a new \$18 million Heating, Ventilation, Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration (HVACR) National Education Center will be up and running, serving the needs of Ferris’ nationally renowned HVACR and Construction programs.

If your travels don’t take you by Ferris’ main campus on a regular basis, now may just be the time to make a special visit to the university.

You’ll love what you see.

Sincerely,

**William A. Sederburg**  
President



### FLITE Summary:

Gone are the days of dusty bookshelves and constant shushing — the new four-story Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education provides students with state-of-the-art information technology and a technically nimble support staff, as well as all the resources of a traditional library. The result is a vision of libraries of the future — combining integration and interactivity with ease of access and use.

## FLITE now the newest Federal Deposit Library in Michigan

**BIG RAPIDS** — The world’s largest publisher has just granted Ferris State University access to its publications, free of charge.

According to Ray Dickinson, government documents librarian for the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education, the fact that FLITE has been named a Federal Deposit Library is no small thing.

The designation gives FLITE, and thus Ferris students and community members, access to literally thousands of publications put out by the U.S. government each year.

“You are able to order categories of information that are of interest to you, based on your location, demographics, etc.,” said Dickinson. “It’s a continually evolving process — there are 6,200 categories alone. We’re ordering about 1,200 categories to start.”

FLITE is now one of 43 Federal Deposit Libraries in Michigan — the law only allows two per Congressional District.

Central Michigan University and Alma College have long been the designated libraries in the 4th Congressional District, until Alma decided to drop the status this year.

Ferris doesn’t fit any of the other criteria for becoming a Federal Deposit Library, such as being a land-grant college or maintaining a law school. Dickinson credits Congressman Dave Camp and the librarians at the Library of Michigan as being the spark-plugs that made the designation possible.

The university should see 300-400 documents a month, many of which will be in electronic formats, which saves space and allows Dickinson and students to take full advantage of the computing resources available in FLITE.

“You’ll be able to locate a document in our online catalog, then link straight from the catalog to the document,” he said. “Sixty percent of federal publications now are online only — and that number is rising.”

Ferris State University and Dickinson are not new to the government document business — Dickinson has worked for the university 34 years, nearly all of it with government documents. He handles state government documents and also is patent and trademark librarian for Ferris.

In addition, FLITE was designated a State Census Data Center in April, which means Ferris will receive electronic

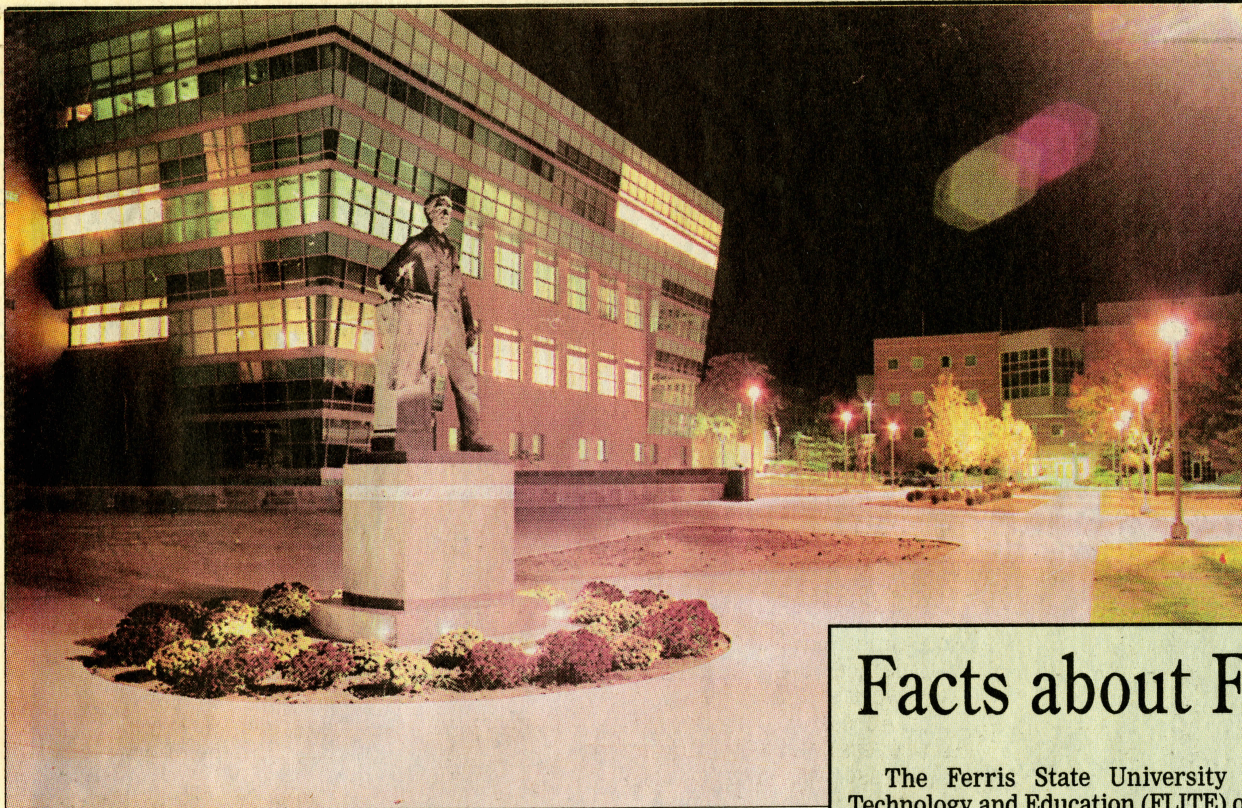
notifications and paper and CD-ROM census information as soon as it is published.

“I remember, in years when there was no money to buy books, government documents were all we had coming in,” he said. “A lot of information, from the General Accounting Office, for example, is free — you just ask.”

Not all of the information is free, however, and certain things, like U.S. Supreme Court reports, a university is expected to have on hand.

Dickinson expects to see a cost savings under the new designation as the university no longer finds itself paying for documents library patrons take for granted.





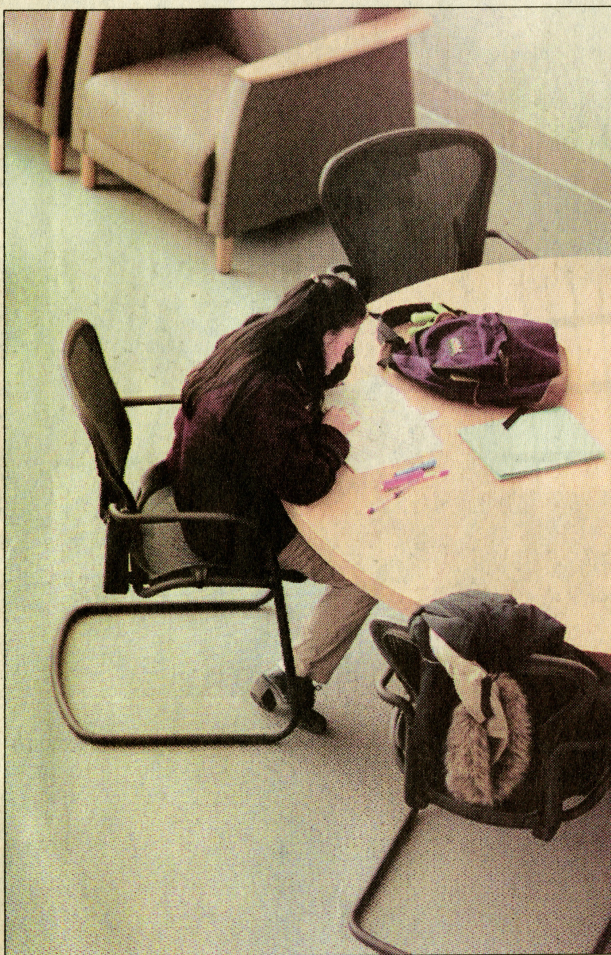
## Facts about FLITE:

The Ferris State University Library for Information, Technology and Education (FLITE) opened in March 2001.

Among its features:

- The FLITE building is 173,000 gross square feet (versus the 57,000 square feet in the former Timme Library).
- FLITE includes room for collection expansion, up to 440,000 shelved items.
- The facility also includes 300 networked computers with Internet access and 1,200 installed computer jacks with 586 currently live.
- The building has 60 study rooms for private or group study, 10 seminar rooms, two multimedia labs, an adaptive technologies lab, a distance learning room, a darkroom and a graphics studio.
- A Family Study Room provides space appropriate for students accompanied by children.
- When classes are in session an extended-hours study area is usually open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Vended beverages and snacks are available for purchase off the Informal Study Court and may be consumed in this area.
- FLITE will continue to house growing collections of carefully selected paper and digital resources.
- In August the library implemented a new online catalog system from Innovative Interfaces Inc.

*For more information on FLITE services, log on to [www.ferris.edu](http://www.ferris.edu) and click the FLITE graphic at the lower right corner of the screen. Photos taken throughout various construction stages are available for viewing at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/news/construction/library>.*



# Ferris State University takes FLITE into the 21st Century

**BIG RAPIDS** — The staggering size of the new Ferris Library of Information, Technology and Education seems to overwhelm the surrounding buildings and sets the building apart as the crown jewel of the Ferris campus.

The new library is called a signature building because it dared to challenge the general notion that every building at Ferris State should look alike.

FLITE does have slanted sides — the top of the structure is wider than the base, so that exterior walls gradually slant inward as the building meets the ground. Its architecture confused some students during construction — comments such as, “The sides of the building aren’t straight,” or “Where is the entrance to this place?” were common.

The entrance to the building became clearer as the construction continued. The thinking

behind locating the main entrance on the south side of the structure is now apparent — it opens upon the clock tower and the center of campus. And the new library has become overwhelmingly popular among students.

“FLITE really improves students’ access to the outside world,” said junior Sarah Halsey.

Oak doors and trim grace the lobby area as you enter the building, softening the modern, technical look of the 21st century.

Located in the southwest corner of the library is a study area that is open for students use “24/7” (24 hours a day, seven days a week). The space is definitely not the usual library study area.

Filled with comfortable chairs and numerous data ports, the study lounge’s furniture is sure to outclass any college student’s living room decor.

“That study lounge is the best thing at the library,” said junior public relations major Amy McElmurray.

In fact, the chairs may be too comfortable — almost every night finds students catching a few z’s in the study lounge.

Scores of flat-screen Dell computers fill the main area of the first floor, receiving heavy use from students and community members. From e-mail to research, these computers receive a workout from the minute the doors open until the last staff person leaves.

Also located on the first floor is a large private study lounge for class to convene. Filled with more than 50 computers, this room is used for extended-learning programs and has become a valuable asset to the library.

The first floor also has printers and computers that can print not only in English and other languages, but also in Braille.

The floor contains several service desks, as well. These desks are staffed around the clock by Ferris State librarians ready to answer any question about the resources available in FLITE.

“My favorite part of FLITE is the fact that if I need help, I can turn around and find a service desk close by,” said junior international business major Julie Pitsch.

A grand staircase trimmed in oak takes visitors from the first floor to the second. The staircase is complete with a wide landing overlooking the computer terminals and is a great place for students to look down onto the first floor and find friends typing away.

The second floor is home to a variety of study rooms and some of the library most popular books. The study rooms are located on the perimeter of the second floor and are equipped with large conference tables, great for group projects or student organization group meetings.

Space is limited on the second floor because the center floor area is missing, open up the look of the main floor. On the



west side of the second floor is another large reading area, which also can be used to host large functions or alumni events. The area also contains a balcony overlooking the intersection of State Street and Perry Avenue and the surrounding area. The reading area is a great place for students to get away from the noise of the nearly 10,000 students at Ferris and simply watch traffic and time fly by.

To gain access to the third floor of FLITE, students can take a winding staircase at the west side of the building. The third floor contains long desks for studying; bookcases are located on the outer perimeter of the main area, as well as more study rooms with conference tables.

The third floor, like the other floors in the building, contains quite possibly the most comfortable desk chairs available on the market today.

The chairs are so comfortable, in fact, that faculty and staff have requested the desk chairs for their own personal offices. The third floor also has a small computer area, located next to the elevators.

Most students use these computers to look up quick information for reports or to surf the Web during a short study break.

The bathrooms on the third floor, as well as the rest in the building, are definitely not your grandmother’s bathrooms — each comes complete with motion sensors that turn off the lights to save after an extended time of no movement.

The fourth floor mainly is used for administrative purposes, but also features a large skylight running down the center of the entire structure.

The middle of this floor, similar to the second floor, is open for viewing of the third floor and gives the third floor the look of cathedral ceilings. The fourth

floor also houses Dean of Library and Instructional Services Richard Cochran’s office, as well as a darkroom, studio space and the Center for Teaching Learning and Faculty Development.

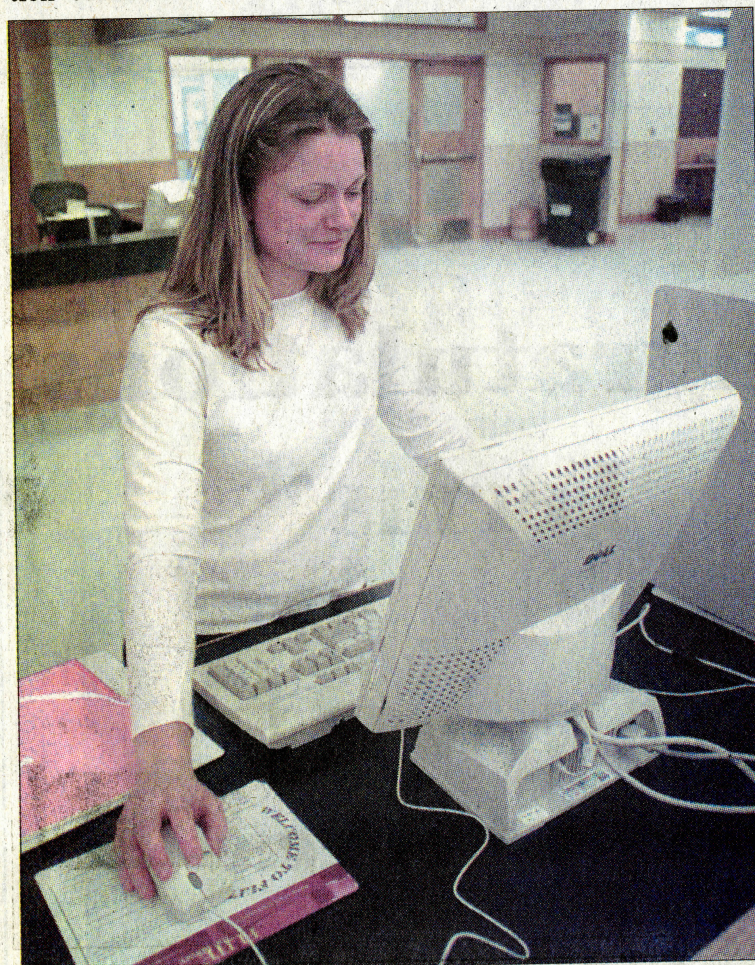
State funds for the FLITE construction project also created the campus quad, located southeast of FLITE. The campus quad is a large grassy area bordered with trees, park benches and walkways. The quad already has been used for several campus events, such as Ferris Fest.

The students love it.

“FLITE brings the look of Ferris State up to the standards of other top notch universities,” said Pharmacy major Todd Eddy.

“Ferris is really improving the campus drastically and FLITE and the Campus Quad are great examples.”

*Written by Nick Wasmiller, a junior at Ferris State University majoring in public relations.*



# Large and in charge

## Computing resources, size are biggest improvements according to FLITE staff

**BIG RAPIDS** — Despite improved services and state-of-the-art technology, most staff members of the Ferris Library of Information, Technology and Education (FLITE) draw a blank when asked about their favorite aspect of the new library.

"It's hard to pick just one thing as my favorite," FLITE staffer Kathy Bearden said. "The study rooms are nice for the students — obviously the décor — and the computers, they just whiz!"

Fast computers are a common topic in these discussions, and the library has a technical staff on duty during all library hours to assist students. The size of the building definitely makes an impression, as well.

"I just member thinking, 'Wow, this is a big building,'" said

Sharon Hamel, assistant to the dean for library and instructional services. "We wanted the library to be quiet enough for students to

get their studying done, but also have some areas, such as the first-floor information commons, where students are encouraged to talk. The way it is set up, the higher you get in the library, the quieter it gets."

"It's nice because students can be a little louder down in the large first-floor computer area and not disturb the other students," said Bearden. "In the old library, there was really not much space for people to go. Here students can have

group meetings in the study rooms or get away from everyone and study on the third floor."

Hamel's thoughts on the build-

**"I remember not being able to believe how large the building was."**

**— Carrie Forbes**

ings astounding size are echoed by the entire FLITE staff. "I remember not being able to believe how large the building was," said librarian and instructor Carrie Forbes. "The building just looked like a cathedral or something straight out of Europe."

Comfort was also a huge concern for the planning of FLITE.

"It was important to have a comfortable place for the students to sit," said Hamel. "We ended up ordering three different sizes of chairs to fit different body types." The chairs are designed to help to reduce back injuries, as well as carpal-tunnel syndrome.

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the new library is that students enjoy being there.

"Different programs even seem to have different areas to hang out," said Hamel. "The pharmacy students have a place on the third floor next to the pharmaceutical section, and the international students seem to enjoy sitting in the periodical section on the first floor."

When first told about the new library, staff said they were simply ecstatic.

"We were all excited," said Bearden. "Who wouldn't be?"

That same enthusiasm appears to be infecting the students.

"They really seem to enjoy the computers and having a place to meet their friends," said Hamel. "FLITE's more than a just library — it's become a place to hang out and have fun, too."

*Written by Nick Wasmiller, a junior at Ferris State University majoring in public relations.*

# Nationally-known tech writer headlines FLITE dedication

**BIG RAPIDS** — Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education dedication ceremonies will have a national flavor on Sept. 24 as Senior Newsweek Technology Editor Steven Levy delivers the keynote address.

An award-winning writer, Levy will speak at 10 a.m. in the Williams Auditorium about "Intellectual Property Rights in the Electronic Library in the 21st Century." Dedication activities will begin at 8:30 a.m. with light refreshments in the Extended Study area at the front of the library and will run until 4 p.m.

Levy joined Newsweek in January 1995 as a contributing editor and columnist, and was named senior editor in September 1996. He writes major feature stories for Newsweek's Science & Technology section, as well as a regular column, "Random Access," which appears in the monthly feature "Focus On Technology."

Levy covers such wide-ranging topics as Internet censorship and the Microsoft anti-trust case, and helps chart the magazine's overall coverage of the world of cyberspace.

## The day-long dedication activities are as follows:

**8:30 to 10 a.m.**

Light refreshments in Extended Study Area

**10 to 11 a.m.**

Keynote Address, Steven Levy, "The Electronic Library in the 21st Century," Williams Auditorium

**11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Dedication Ceremony in Extended Study Area

**12:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Luncheon Buffet (invitation only) in Dome Room, Richard Cochran, master of ceremonies

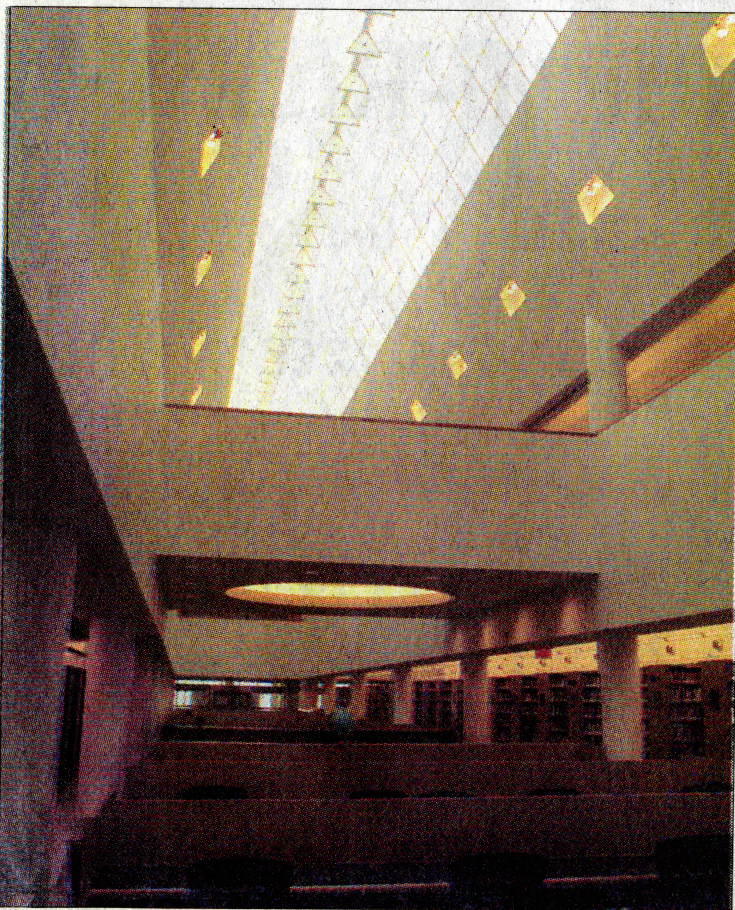
**2 to 3 p.m.**

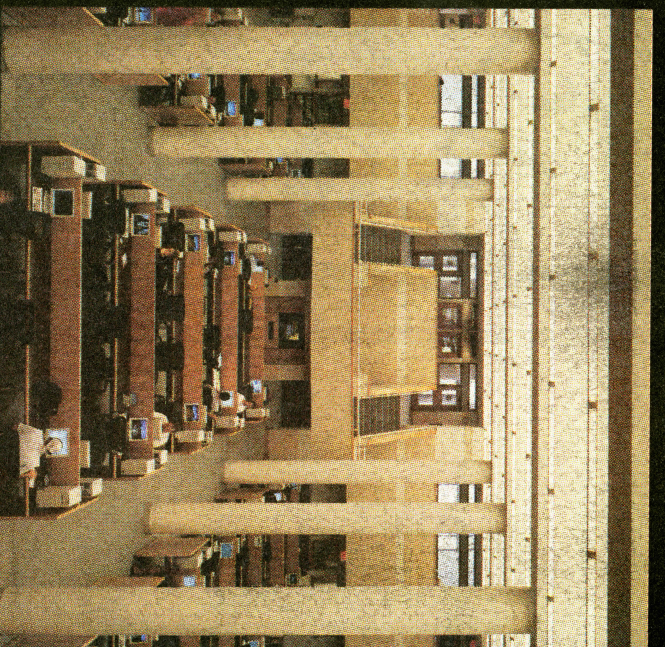
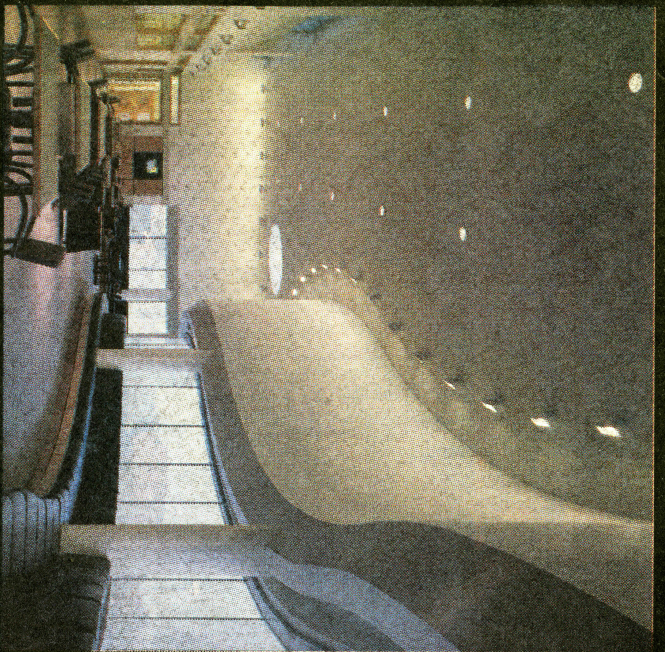
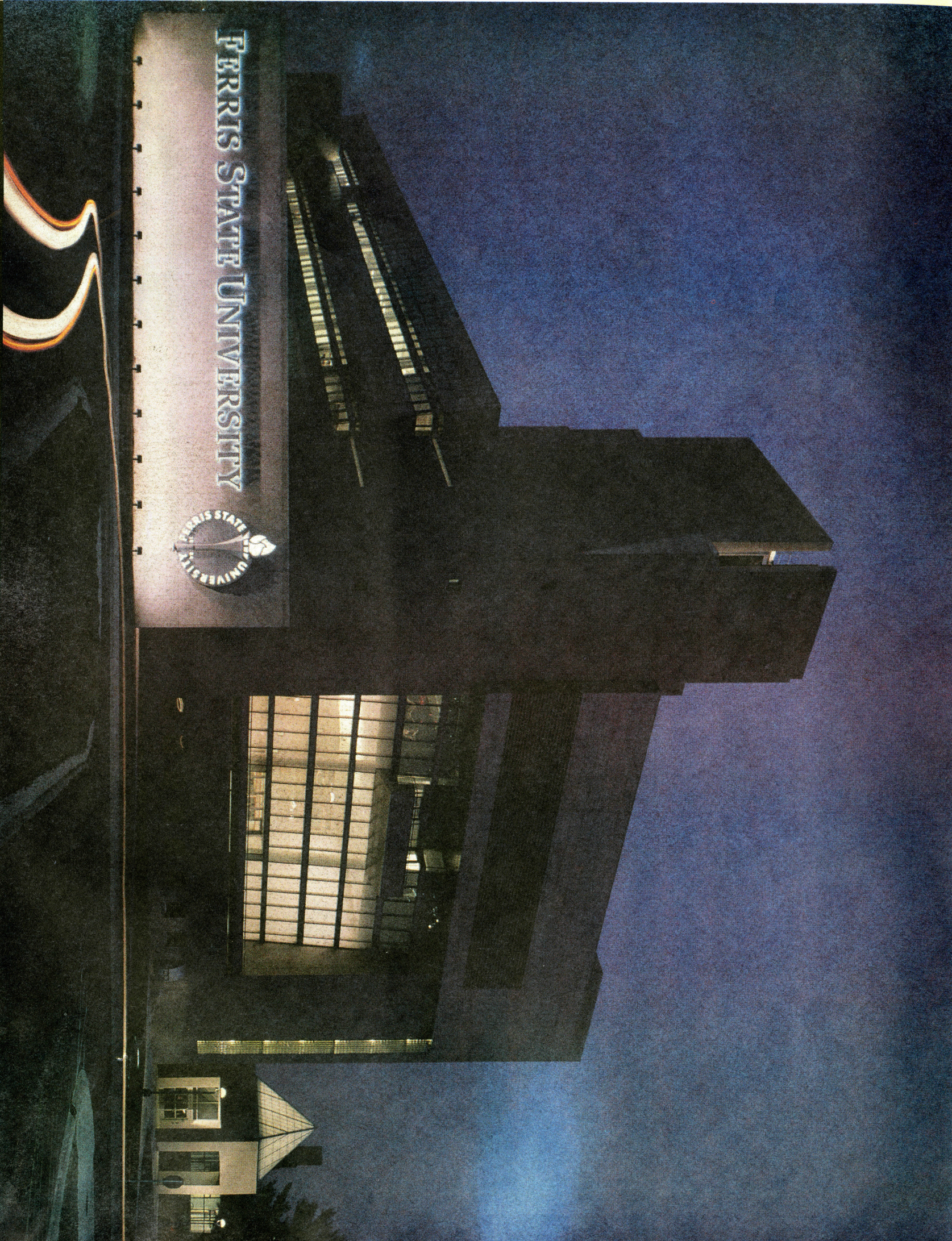
Panel Discussion about the specifics about the building in Centennial Dining Room or Elastomer Building

**3 to 4 p.m.**

Open Reception in Extended Study Area

*Tours of FLITE will be available to the public from noon to 5 p.m. on Monday. The public is welcome to attend all sections of the dedication, unless specified in the agenda.*





# Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education (FLITE)

Ferris State University