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Ferris Printing program observes 50th anniversary

BIG RAPIDS – Alumni and emeritus faculty members recently gathered at Ferris State University to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Printing and Imaging Technology Management program.

The Homecoming weekend activities included a golf outing, welcome tent and dinner hosted by the Graphic Arts Association. More than 50 persons attended the event with alumni representation spanning every decade from the 60s forward.

Returning emeriti included Bob Stechschulte from Bluffton, SC, and Bob Utke from Winter Haven, FL. “This was a weekend of many firsts,” said Utke. “Our first 50 years and the first time a printer (senior Printing Management major Crystal Flutur of Ludington) was elected Homecoming Queen.”

The program began at Ferris in 1954 when a certificate in general printing was offered in answer to a request by the Michigan Press Association to train pressmen and linotype operators to fill a shortage of those skilled tradesmen. “Over the last 50 years, the department has responded to the needs of the industry by adding B.S. degrees in Printing Management and most recently in 2000, a B.S. degree in New Media Printing and Publishing,” said Pat Klarecki, department chair.