

**From:** [Sandy C. Gholston](#)  
**To:** [Archive](#); [Shelly L. Armstrong](#)  
**Subject:** Ferris releases 125th anniversary coffee table book  
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**Attachments:** [frontcoverphoto.jpg](#)

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Included below is a press release regarding the fast-approaching release of Ferris State University's coffee table book, "Ferris State University: The First 125 Years" to the public. The release of this coffee table book is one component of Ferris State University celebrating its 125th year of existence throughout the 2009-10 academic year.

Also, attached to this e-mail is a photo of the book for your use.

Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release  
Aug. 26, 2009

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### **Ferris State University: The First 125 Years coffee table book to be released**

BIG RAPIDS – For 125 years, Ferris State University has built a tradition of educating and training students to meet the challenges of the real world.

The University's history has been documented in a new coffee table book that will be released to the campus and local communities and the world on Sept. 1. "Ferris State University: The First 125 Years" comprehensively chronicles the progression from Big Rapids Industrial School to Ferris Institute, to Ferris State College to what it is today: Ferris State University. The book is filled with photos that range from rare and historical to unique and modern. The images of Ferris State University are accompanied by the stories that have helped define the University during its first 125 years.

"Ferris State University is a remarkable feature in the varied and broad terrain of American higher education," said Ferris State University President David L. Eisler in the foreword. "This book captures the heritage and vitality that makes Ferris an institution comfortable in its own skin and more ready than ever to transform lives."

The book takes the approach of telling Ferris State University's history more from a storytelling standpoint than the typical historical perspective. Beginning with stories about the University's founders (Woodbridge and Helen Ferris), the book takes readers through 125 years of history that includes tragedy of Old Main burning down, the rebirth of the campus beginning in the late 1950s, the modern era of campus development and the University's continuing commitment to provide a quality and practical education.

While the book contains plenty of information known to many people who are familiar with the history of Ferris, it also contains interesting Ferris facts some people may not know about. The books will be available for purchase at the Barnes and Noble Lundberg Bookstore, on the Ferris campus; and other local businesses such as Great Lakes Book and

Supply, the Old Pioneer Store and Emporium and the Ice Arena Pro Shop at a cost of \$24.95. The book can be ordered online at <http://ferris.bncollege.com/>.

Proceeds from the book benefit *the Opportunity@125* scholarships for students.

“The Ferris State University tradition has many different aspects conveyed in these pages,” Eisler said. “Some readers will laugh remembering a campus prank. Others may think about where they were during convulsive times that threatened the survival of the institution and the world they knew. Younger readers will be less influenced by nostalgia than entertained by how different we all looked not so long ago, though proud to be part of such a place that has touched their own loves, or those of family and friends.”

On Founders’ Day, Sept. 3, Robert Barnum, Ferris Artist In Residence; Jim Place, a Hall of Fame football player for the Bulldogs; Marc Sheehan, a contributing writer for the book; and Bob Andrews, the last surviving student who was injured in the Old Main Fire, will be on campus to sign copies of the book.



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