

For Immediate Release
March 10, 2005

Contact Bill Taylor, Asst. Director, News Services
taylorb@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2065 or 591-5604

Michael, Tali Harris confirm belief in quality nursing education

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University Vice President for Academic Affairs, Michael Harris, and his wife, Tali, have confirmed their deep regard for the quality of nursing education by establishing an endowment to fund student excellence through nursing scholarships.

The Tali and Michael Harris Student Excellence in Nursing Endowment will recognize full time juniors in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program who have shown academic and clinical achievement. Candidates must have earned a minimum 3.5 grade point average and submitted an essay describing their career aspirations and professional values and goals.

“Since beginning her career as a nurse, Tali has focused her professional efforts to ensure the effective delivery of patient care while enhancing excellence through nursing education,” said Dr. Harris. He believes that, “Nursing excellence is the result of rigorous academics combined with compassion and interpersonal skills.

“We have established this scholarship endowment to help future nurses gain access to the educational and practical experiences that will enable them to serve as advocate, teacher, supporter and protector as they provide outstanding care to their patients,” he noted.

Harris joined Ferris last July from a position as associate provost and professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University, where he received the university’s Distinguished Teaching Award and the Alumni Teaching Excellence Award. He has written three books and published numerous articles.

Tali Harris has worked as an RN (B.S.) for close to 30 years in a variety of different health care settings and leadership positions, including as an instructor in nursing school. Both Michael and Tali expressed “appreciation for the quality and dedication of the faculty and staff in the School of Nursing at Ferris.”

Further information or gift forms for the Tali and Michael Harris Student Excellence in Nursing Endowment are available by contacting Debra Jacks, director of planned giving, at 591-3817 or jacksd@ferris.edu.