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Ferris' Alspach, Horn honored at PKD Convention

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University faculty member Sandy Alspach was installed as the 43rd President of Pi Kappa Delta, national forensic honorary fraternity, at the PKD annual Convention and Tournament Awards Banquet held recently in St. Louis.

Fellow Department of Humanities faculty member Gary Horn performed the installation. Dr. Alspach noted in her inaugural address that Horn, her friend and mentor, had made the same commitment as PKD national president exactly 20 years earlier.

Alspach, professor of communication and coach of the Ferris speech team, will serve as president through 2007. Her primary responsibilities include guiding the organization through the national honoraries tournament in March 2006 in Gatlinburg, TN, and the national convention and tournament in March 2007. The 2007 national tournament will be held at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant.

In a special ceremony at the convention, Horn, professor of humanities, was inducted into the PKD Hall of Fame for his four decades of service to the organization and to intercollegiate debate. He was joined at the ceremony by his wife, Jeanne, family and friends. Earlier in the week, he was a participant in a panel of past presidents, sharing their stories of great and not-so-great moments in PKD history as part of an oral history project to preserve the story of PKD.

Pi Kappa Delta was formed in 1913 by collegiate forensics coaches to recognize excellence in speaking by undergraduates. The motto of the organization is “the art of persuasion, beautiful and just.” Students are invited to membership when they demonstrate excellence in communication activities and a commitment to community service.

Eight Ferris students became PKD members this academic year: Rita Ellison, Jennifer Lindensmith, David Malewitz, Heather Moss, Scott Sanderson, Ross Saur, Joe Viviano and Kyle Webster. Cami Sanderson-Harris and Kristi Gerding were made members of the Order of Instruction honoring their work as forensics coaches.