

For Immediate Release
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Ferris' Muter receives prestigious Udall Scholarship

BIG RAPIDS – Bret Muter of Saginaw, a junior at Ferris State University, has become the school's first recipient of the prestigious Morris K. Udall Undergraduate Scholarship.

The applied biology (environmental biology track) major, who has a minor in English/professional writing, received one of 80 merit-based scholarships of \$5,000. There were 436 students nominated nationally for the awards that are made to college sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated outstanding potential and a commitment to pursuing careers related to the environment.

Muter earned the honor based upon his grade point average, participation in community service projects, an essay that he submitted and a commitment to serving society in the future in a manner that will protect and enhance the environment. In conjunction with the award, he will attend a Scholar Orientation Weekend on Aug. 10-14 in Tucson, AZ.

The national award capped a very active school year for the Honors Program student. Muter recently received a grant from Pierce Cedar Creek Institute to conduct a summer research project at that biological field station south of Hastings. He will study the effects of walking trails on the community of macroinvertebrates (insects) in grasslands and forest habitats.

This spring he was instrumental in organizing his fellow students to stage an Honors Program variety show to benefit the Big Rapids Community Library. He also serves as president of the University's Outdoor Club and this winter helped to arrange a week of "Outdoors Brought Indoors" programming that featured an appearance by wildlife enthusiast Jack Hanna. Muter last fall helped the group conduct an education program about Michigan birds for the local Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization.

In addition, he writes articles on outdoor recreation, nature and environmental issues for the *Torch*, the Ferris student newspaper, and works for Ferris' Card Wildlife Education Center, leading educational tours of the natural history museum.

Muter has also served as a volunteer with the Mecosta County Chapter of Pheasants Forever, Mecosta County Conservation District, Mecosta County Parks and Recreation and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In addition, he is a member of the Ferris Athletic Band, Honors Student Advisory Board, Omicron Delta Kappa and Student Alumni Gold Club, and is a peer mentor for freshmen in the Honors Program.

A member of the Dean's List for four consecutive semesters, Muter was named the Honors Program's Outstanding Leader in 2004 and also received its Rising Star Award. He previously received the Ferris Dean's Scholarship for three years and the Saginaw Field and Stream Conservation Scholarship in 2004.

The Udall Undergraduate Scholarships are funded by the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation established by the late Secretary of the Interior to President John F. Kennedy.



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