



NEWS RELEASE

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Cards Establish Scholarship for Ferris Wildlife Center

BIG RAPIDS – Benefactors Roger and Debra Card have taken steps to ensure the continued success of their Card Wildlife Education Center at Ferris State University with the establishment of the Card Scholarship.

The Mecosta couple's scholarship fund helps staff the Wildlife Center by awarding students \$2,500 a year for four years, beginning with their freshman year. Each year a new freshman is selected to receive the scholarship. The students work at the center, serving as tour guides, caring for the collection and assisting with outreach programming while they attend Ferris.

“We are just pleased to have the opportunity to make these scholarships available,” said Roger Card. “It is important to the operation of the Wildlife Center that we can have students committed to help during their years at Ferris.”

Thus far, four Ferris students have received Card Scholarships. Candidates for the award, in addition to meeting academic requirements (which include a high school grade point average of 3.25 or higher and an ACT score of 23 or higher), must have excellent verbal communication skills. Consideration is also given to participation in extracurricular activities such as involvement in clubs, sports and volunteer work. Any students interested in applying may contact Bruce Beetley, center supervisor, at 231-591-5633 or beetleyb@ferris.edu.

“Roger and Debra Card have made it possible to do amazing things with the Card Wildlife Education Center,” said Matt Klein, College of Arts and Sciences dean. “With four thousand visits each year, it is one of the most accessed facilities we have on campus, and the Cards' scholarships have provided students with meaningful educational experiences. I am pleased that Ferris has recognized the Cards' long term relationship with the University by awarding them honorary doctorates” said Dr. Klein.

Roger Card is a 1963 graduate of the College of Technology, and both he and his wife have hunted big game worldwide for many years. They have donated or loaned animal mounts and pledged significant support for development and maintenance of the Wildlife Center. Their scholarship fund extends their commitment to Ferris and broadens their generosity in helping to educate students throughout the community and the state.

The Cards became inaugural members of the Woodbridge N. Ferris Society, the most prestigious of the University's Donor Societies, in 2004 and were recipients of honorary degrees in business and industry at the recent 2005 Spring Commencement.

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Their 5,000-square-foot Card Wildlife Education Center opened in 2000 in the Arts and Sciences Commons Building and has more than 160 specimens of animals from around the globe. The facility serves as an educational resource for K-12 students, the Ferris community and the whole of mid-Michigan. The Wildlife Center focuses largely on North American mammals, especially those from Michigan. Nearly 4,000 persons per year tour its displays which also feature exotic species from South America to the South Pacific, Africa and Asia.

More information on the Card Wildlife Education Center is available at www.ferris.edu/card.

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