

**From:** [Leah D Nixon](#)  
**To:** [Archive](#); [Shelly L Armstrong](#)  
**Subject:** Ferris Celebrates Shakespeare's Birthday  
**Date:** 04/18/2008 03:15 PM

---

Included below is a press release regarding Ferris' celebration of Shakespeare and his 444th birthday. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release  
April 18, 2008

Leah Nixon  
Ferris State University  
Assistant Director of News Services  
[leahnixon@ferris.edu](mailto:leahnixon@ferris.edu), (231) 591-5604

### **Ferris celebrates Shakespeare's 444th birthday**

*"O Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?"*

*"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."*

*"To be, or not to be: that is the question."*

These are just a few of the most celebrated lines written by English poet and playwright William Shakespeare. To celebrate his 444th birthday this month, the Languages and Literature department at Ferris State University is holding a birthday celebration in the Campus Quad on Thursday, April 24, to honor the man who is known as the one of the greatest writers in the English language.

Starting at 11 a.m., the Campus Quad will be filled with Ferris students, faculty and staff as they perform sonnets, soliloquies, arguments, insult hurling, music and sword fighting in period costumes. Birthday cake, flowers and fruit will also be available.

"It's become a tradition at Ferris to honor William Shakespeare, to celebrate the significance of a man who is one of literature's greatest influences," says Ferris literature professor Dr. Paul Blake. "It's also a great way to get the students and faculty involved together doing something outside the classroom that teaches the students about Shakespeare, his writings and the time period in which he flourished."

The public is invited to attend Shakespeare's birthday celebration. For more information contact the Languages and Literature department at (231) 591-3988.

- 30 -

Leah Nixon  
Assistant Director of News Services  
University Advancement & Marketing  
420 Oak Street, PRK 101  
Ferris State University  
Big Rapids, MI 49307-2031  
(231) 591-5604 / fax (231) 591-2985