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Included below is a press release regarding Ferris State University's upcoming commencement exercises. Further information is available by contacting Leah Nixon, assistant director of News Services.

For Immediate Release
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Students Prepare for Graduation at Ferris

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University will bestow degrees upon nearly 500 students during two commencement ceremonies Saturday, Dec. 20, in Wink Arena.

Ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, and Professional and Technological Studies. Ceremonies will be held at 1:30 p.m. for the colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Education and Human Services, and Engineering Technology. The College of Pharmacy and Michigan College of Optometry hold commencement exercises in May.

The commencement speaker for both ceremonies will be 2008 Distinguished Teacher Dr. Khagendra Thapa, professor of Surveying Engineering. He holds five degrees from four countries, including his native Nepal, Canada, England and the United States.

Thapa has taught at Ferris for 21 years and has been actively involved in professional organizations, as well as the community. He was appointed 2008-09 commissioner of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, an organization he has been involved with as an evaluator for many years. He also is involved with Ferris' Academic Senate, for which he has been involved since 1989. Annually, he will continue providing scholarship assistance to one Surveying Engineering student. He and his wife, Rajni, are members of the University's President's Club Donor Society.

"Teaching is a noble profession in which I can make a difference in the lives of others," he said. "The students I teach are not my children, but when I see them succeed, I feel good that I made an impact in their lives."

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