



**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**NEWS SERVICES**

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**Ferris names endowment fund, dedicates theater season for Sakalauskas**

BIG RAPIDS – The community is invited to join Ferris State University in honoring Dr. William Sakalauskas Oct. 29 during a ceremony where the 2005-06 Ferris Theater season will be dedicated on his behalf. The dedication ceremony will take place in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium at the Ferris State Theater performance of *Lysistrata*. The show begins at 8 p.m.

Sakalauskas was director of Ferris Theater from 1979 to 1998 and recently the Dr. William Sakalauskas Scholarship Endowment Fund through the Ferris Foundation also was established in his honor.

Considered a theater generalist, Sakalauskas developed a rich and varied theater program for Ferris students, giving them a wide range of theater experiences. Opportunities offered students involved in Ferris' theater program under Sakalauskas' tutelage include working with professional actors and playwrights.

The audience also benefited from Sakalauskas' innovation when he enhanced the theater experience by placing audience members on stage with actors to turn G. Mennen Williams Auditorium into a small theater venue for more intimate plays.

Sakalauskas also made scholarship opportunities available to the hardest working students to attend the Stratford, Ontario, Canada, Shakespeare Festival.

“It is a pleasure to honor professor Sakalauskas for his many years of service and support for the theater program at Ferris,” said Matthew A. Klein, dean of Arts and Sciences. “It could not be more appropriate to honor those efforts in part by inaugurating a scholarship that will help ensure support for students' involvement in theater for many years to come. I offer my thanks to all of Bill's supporters and the work they did to create this meaningful event.”

The scholarship endeavor in his name is available for full-time students with a GPA of 3.0 or higher who are eligible to participate in Ferris Theater. Candidates must have made significant contributions to the theater program and be able to conduct themselves as ambassadors of Ferris Theater.

Scholarship funds will be applied to University-related costs such as tuition, books and other educational expenses. Theater faculty will make the selection of the recipient and eligibility for the school year's second semester is dependent upon the candidate's ability to continue to meet scholarship criteria.



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For more information or to make a gift to the Dr. William Sakalauskas Scholarship Endowment Fund, please contact the Ferris Foundation at (231) 591-2391 or [fsufdn@ferris.edu](mailto:fsufdn@ferris.edu). Details about establishing scholarships or endowments may be obtained from the Advancement Office at (231) 591-3825.