



**PRESS RELEASE: Eislers Remember Mothers with New Osprey Webcam Mobile Application**

**Betsy L. Musolf** to: Archive

06/20/2012 11:02 AM

lfitch, dclark, smasters, news, Torch, news, sthoms, bmcvicar,  
Cc: cvalade, jboomgaard, prupdate, news, mseward, mrmiller,  
newsroom, news, news, newsroom, news, mtyree, info, kkozlowski,

Included below is a press release regarding the development of a mobile app for Ferris State University's Osprey Webcam service, with a gift by Ferris President David L. Eisler and wife Patsy Eisler. Related questions may be directed to Anne Hogenson, Communications Specialist, University Advancement and Marketing.

Attached is a photograph of the dedication ceremony celebrating the new service and the Eislers' gift. The caption should read:

"Ferris' Osprey Webcam developer and professor Paul Klatt (left), app developer Rick Baker, Patsy Eisler, President David Eisler, Associate Vice President for Advancement Carla Miller and network technician Jacob Bouvrette dedicate the new Osprey Mobile Webcam App."



eisler\_osprey\_1.jpg

Here is a link to the story online:

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2012/june/ospreys.htm>

For Immediate Release  
Hogenson  
June 20, 2012

Anne  
Communications Specialist  
Ferris State University  
University Advancement and  
Marketing  
annehogenson@ferris.edu, (231) 591-2333

**Eislers Remember Mothers with New Osprey Webcam Mobile Application**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University President David L. Eisler and his wife, Patsy, have made a gift allowing Ferris to further develop its Osprey Webcam service, which streams live video of the pair of osprey that nests on the university's campus each summer.

Since its introduction by Ferris' Department of Biological Sciences in 2008, the Osprey Webcam has become a popular learning tool both on and off campus, among teachers and members of the public, alike. Education programs around the world, from college biology to elementary science classrooms, access the Osprey Webcam to provide students a rare look at the migrant birds as they nest and hatch their young.

The Eislers' donation allowed the development of a mobile application that will open up the

webcam service to users of Apple mobile devices.

“We have been very pleased to see how many people use the webcam to study the osprey, and the Eislers’ contribution has allowed us to take an important step in extending our services to even more users,” said Paul Klatt, professor of Biological Sciences and developer of the Osprey Webcam project.

Prior to the Eislers’ gift, a choice of live video stream or still images was accessible to users of desktop and laptop personal computers, with only still images available to users of Apple mobile devices. Given the rapid rise of smart phone and tablet PC use, and particularly the popularity of tablets as teaching tools, the Eislers’ timely donation stands to make the Osprey Webcam and its insights into the natural world even more accessible to new generations of learners.

“Our department developed a new video stream from the current Osprey Webcam so that the video feed could be used to power an Apple mobile application developed by professor Frederick Baker of Ferris’ College of Professional and Technological Studies at Ferris’ Grand Rapids campus,” explained Jacob Bouvrette of Ferris State’s Information Technology Services Department. “The app allows users to view the Osprey Webcam on Apple devices and could not have been realized without the Eislers’ support.”

The Eislers celebrated the gift, a memorial to their mothers, in a small ceremony near the ospreys’ nest on the one-year anniversary of the passing of Mrs. Eisler’s mother, Irene Johnson. President Eisler’s mother, Sarah Eisler, passed away in 2010. President Eisler credited his wife as the driving force behind the gift, and the couple gave the following formal statement of dedication:

“In loving memory of our mothers, Irene Johnson and Sarah Eisler, who taught us to love and appreciate nature.”

Mrs. Eisler also spoke fondly of her memories of her mother and the love of nature her mother and President Eisler’s mother had shared with their entire family.

“One of the first memories that I have of home is of sitting at our dining room table and watching birds on the birdfeeder out the window. We grew up feeding birds, and later both of my daughters did science projects on bird feeding that went to state. Bird feeding was always a part of my life.”

She added, “When my mother was visiting me, she would fill my birdfeeders, and both Dave’s mother and my mother taught us to love nature and be out in it, so this was just a really neat way of honoring them.”

The Osprey Webcam Mobile App is now available on iTunes as a free download for iPhone and iPad. For more information, visit the Ferris State University Osprey Webcam on Facebook or at [osprey.ferris.edu](http://osprey.ferris.edu).

Betsy Musolf  
News Services Communications Specialist  
Ferris State University  
Advancement and Marketing  
420 Oak St., Prakken 108  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
Phone: (231) 591-2991