



## NEWS RELEASE

(10-07-05)

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### **Ferris alumni to serve as Homecoming parade grand marshals**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University alumni Dan and Luanne Rothstein were selected to serve as grand marshals and will appear in the 2005 Homecoming parade on Saturday, Oct. 15, at noon in downtown Big Rapids.

Jeremy Mishler, director of Ferris Alumni Relations and one of many people who recognized the Rothsteins' dedication, choose the couple to serve as grand marshals as a result of their community involvement and "long, strong history" in Big Rapids.

When asked to be the grand marshals for this year's homecoming parade, both were overcome with joy.

"I've watched homecoming parades my entire life," said Luanne, a life-long resident of Big Rapids. "I was absolutely thrilled and honored to be asked to be in one."

Dan and Luanne, who graduated from the College of Business in 1964 and the College of Arts and Sciences in 1963, respectively, have been heavily involved in Big Rapids activities for many years, said Mishler.

As avid members of the community, the Rothstein's long-standing history began in the 1920s when Luanne's father attended Ferris to receive his high school education. Coming from a poor family, he would "feed the boiler" in order to pay for his tuition. Later, he served on the board of control (referred to now as the board of trustees) and served on the alumni board.

During the 1960s, freshmen Dan and Luanne met for the first time on a blind date. The men were referred to as "pinheads," the women, "townies." During the time, Luanne said the ratio of men to women was about 8:1, so impressing the "townies" was very important.

The rest, of course, is history.

Throughout the years, the Rothsteins have been avid supporters of Bulldog hockey, participating for six years in the Blueline Club, four of which they served as co-presidents.

They have also been involved with the city's Sesquicentennial Celebration, for which Luanne served as chairwoman. The celebration marked the anniversary of the birth of Helen Gillespie Ferris, co-founder of Ferris State University.

In addition, Dan is also serving his second four-year term on the Big Rapids City Commission.

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