

# **Media Packet**

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## **Pioneer**

Thursday, April 22, 2004

### **Thank you to area teachers**

Dear Editor,

I'd like to give a big thank you to the teachers in the Big Rapids area. I teach an advanced class at FSU on the psychology of teaching.

This class requires an integrative interview with a K-12 teacher. Some of my students can't get home to interview a hometown teacher due to distance. This is a big problem for my out-of-state and international students.

The local teachers have been very kind in giving of their time to my students. My students come away from their interviews impressed with how much time, effort and dedication it takes to be an effective teacher. They also learn how funding, class size, state law and other factors outside of a teacher's direct control affect the educational process. Because of the many kind and dedicated teachers willing to share their time and expertise, my FSU classroom doesn't stop at the edge of campus.

Thank you, Jim C. Van Treese, Ph.D. Licensed Psychologist Assistant Professor of Psychology at FSU

## Pioneer

Thursday, April 22, 2004

### **If not through draft Ferris' McCoy expects an NFL call**

**By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State senior Matt McCoy is unsure whether his name will be called this weekend during the National Football League Draft, but he is confident of a call shortly thereafter.

McCoy, a 6-foot-8 and 266-pound offensive tackle, is listed on ESPN's Web site draft board among the top senior prospects at his position.

The Charlotte native, a two year starter at tackle after he moved from tight end, earned second-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors in his final season and took home the Eric Bennett Memorial Award as Ferris State's Most Valuable Offensive Lineman.

Tough luck, however, has plagued McCoy since the end of his senior season as nagging hamstring troubles knocked him out of the Las Vegas Classic all-star game and a later workout scheduled by his agent, Indianapolis based Buddy Baker, to showcase his physical skills.

"I had a pretty good chance of getting drafted, but since those hamstring pulls some of the teams interested in drafting me backed off a little," said McCoy, who enrolled in classes this winter at Ferris. "It's a little tough not knowing what's going to happen or where you could end up. ...

It's possible I could be headed anywhere in the country next week." Whether his stock rises high up a enough on some team's draft board that weekend or not - McCoy says there is interest in him.

"I fully expect to hear from some team by the end of Sunday night whether it's through the draft or someone signing me as a high-priority free agent," he said.

"There are like six teams that have shown some interest in signing me and having me in their camps."

McCoy started 11 games at tight end in 2001 as he had eight catches for 110 yards and a pair of touchdowns as a sophomore. As a redshirt freshman (2000), McCoy competed as a defensive tackle.

As a player who had the opportunity to catch the ball, make plays and scores a few touchdowns even, it was a difficult transition, at first, for McCoy to move to tackle - as it would be for most players.

McCoy has pretty much no regrets about the move - except maybe one.

"I definitely feel good about the move now and looking back on it I missed about two years of experience I could have had if I had moved over sooner," he said. "The transition from tight end to tackle isn't as tough in Ferris' offensive system as some people might think.

"Playing tight end in Ferris' system is a lot like playing tackle."

Come Monday morning, McCoy could be offered a contract by any team from New York, on the east coast; Detroit, in his backyard in the Midwest; Tampa, in the south; or Oakland, on the west coast.

His potential pro future is up in the air as McCoy hopes to join former Bulldog teammate Clarence Coleman, a member of the Buffalo Bills.

"It's exciting, but it also makes you a little nervous at the same time because in a short time I could be off to anywhere in the country to play," McCoy said. "I just have to get myself ready, go in, work hard and try to earn a spot."

## **Pioneer**

Thursday, April 22, 2004

### **Local business pitches in to help Ferris weight room**

**By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer**

BIG RAPIDS - The opportunity to extend a helping hand to student-athletes across the board at Ferris State caught the attention of Karl Linebaugh, who is president of Chemical Bank, and a fan of Bulldog athletics.

Linebaugh, on behalf of Chemical Bank, issued a check in the amount of \$1,000 toward the ongoing renovation project for the Ferris State University Varsity Athletics Weight Room housed in the Ewigleben Sports Complex. As a long-time supporter of athletics at Ferris, Linebaugh says this opportunity to make a contribution to the university is a particularly unique one.

"Normally we would try to make a donation and try to split it up among as many athletic programs as possible," Linebaugh said. "This is such a great situation because we know the money is going to go to help all the athletes at Ferris State since all of them make use of the weight room.

"We wanted to do something to help out with the upgrade of the facility." The goal of the campaign, ultimately, is to raise \$30,000 through donations to help with the purchase of multipurpose racks, leg extension machines, leg curl machines and Olympic lifting platforms.

Additionally, Ferris hopes to improve the interior appearance of the weight room with wall mirrors and a new floor for a room used by the athletes of all 15 varsity athletic sports at the university and others.

"Karl and Chemical Bank have been great supporters of Ferris State and all of its athletic programs," said Ferris State Assistant Athletics Director.

## **Pioneer**

Friday, April 23, 2004

### **Ferris State University launches new degree**

BIG RAPIDS - The College of Allied Health Sciences has announced an innovative new Master of Science in Nursing degree that will welcome its inaugural class August. The 36 hour program consists of a 24 hour nursing core, practicum, and thesis or other scholarly project, and a 12-hour concentration with options in nursing education, administration, or informatics.

The MSN represents a graduate level collaboration between Ferris' Colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Education, and Business.

"Our goal was to create an MSN that maximizes career options for nursing professionals within the specific concentrations, delivered by experts in those areas," said Allied Health Sciences Dean Jacqueline Hooper.

The MSN with the nursing education option is intended for educators who wish to enhance their credentials and hone job required skills. It also meets the needs of nursing professionals interested in pursuing a career in education.

One of the most significant evolutions in health care in recent years is the increased application of information communications, integrated information technology, and applications. Students electing the 12-hour concentration from Ferris Master of Science in Information Systems Management program will benefit from unique educational opportunity to address the need for nurses to be skilled in information systems.

"The goal of reduced paperwork, faster and more efficient data capture, record keeping, communications between hospitals and satellite facilities, online insurance systems, legal and legislative requirements aimed at insuring privacy are a huge challenge to health care," said Julie Coon, head of Ferris' Nursing and Dental Hygiene programs.

## **Pioneer**

Weekend, April 24&25, 2004

### **Future inventors strut their stuff at Ferris State show**

**By Michael Taylor/Pioneer Senior Reporter**

BIG RAPIDS - Sure, anyone can toss a T-shirt into the bleachers of a crowded stadium. But how much cooler is it to have the job done by a noise-sensing robot, one that responds to the cheers of the fans?

A lot cooler, according to Adam Stewart and Sophia Williams, two Ferris State University technology students who unveiled their "Cheer Activated Multiple Shot T-Shirt Launcher" Friday morning at the school's Rankin Center.

With every component of the device fabricated by hand, the project took the two students more than five months to complete.

The T-shirt launcher was just one of several marvels of student engineering on display at the center throughout the day. More than 20 projects created by students in the Computer Networks and Systems, Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology programs, filled the center's Dome Room.

In addition to the display booths, half-hour live demonstrations of the projects were held between 8:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. in an adjoining room. The projects are a part of program requirements that seniors plan, design and build a capstone project and make a presentation before their faculty, peers and guests.

Some of the projects on display ranged from "Study of Acceleration of Piston-Slider and Crank Mechanism" to "The Ultimate Fishing Pole Holder," to "Effects of Parallel and Series System Pumping" to the T-shirt launcher.

Stewart and Williams said their project has not been used at a Bulldog sporting event yet, but they have hopes it soon will be.

## **Pioneer**

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

### **Ferris student Designs River Bank Run T-shirts**

BIG RAPIDS - The Fifth Third River Bank Run partnered with senior students in the Ferris State University visual design and web media program to design the 2004 event t-shirts. In addition, the students collaborated to develop the entire creative advertising campaign for the race.

"We were thrilled with our experience with Ferris students for our 2004 campaign," said Kristen Aidif, race director, Fifth Third River Bank Run.

"This is our second positive experience with the visual design program, which last year was offered at Kendall School of Art and Design. The students are professional and provide a lot of new, exciting design concepts. In addition, we are pleased to offer the students first-hand work experience in their chosen field."

Ferris State University offers a design application class that gives students one of their first opportunities to be involved in a current and community project. Brooke Gilbert and Sarah Hintz created the 2004 t-shirt design.

The following students also were a part of the Fifth Third River Bank Run design team: Jacob Lett, Amanda Bannink, Sandra Beach and Adam Bunday. These students met with event managers to discuss criteria, budgets and time lines on a variety of components.

They all work under the creative direction of Barbara Loveland and Linda Powell, visual communication professors.

"The students were broken into teams and worked on the 2004 race theme and logo, identity standards to include colors, typography and logo use, training guide, training apparel, entry form, participant confirmation, postcard, billboard design and race day t-shirt," explains Linda Powell, visual communication professor, Ferris State University.

"The Fifth Third River Bank Run has proven to be an exciting, but challenging project for the students who have contributed many hours of their time and talent."



## **Pioneer**

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

### **May Day speaker coming to Ferris**

**By Michael Taylor/Pioneer Senior Reporter**

BIG RAPIDS - It's only called the "May Day" speaker because that's traditionally when Ferris State University held the annual event in the past. This year's speaker will take the stage of the William's Auditorium tonight at 7 p.m.

Dr. Michael Fowling, an actor since age 11 and billed as "Mykee," presents a one-man show depicting several different characters.

Tickets for the show are free but must be picked up at the Williams Auditorium box office.

Fowlin received a bachelor's in psychology from Evangel University in Missouri where he also was involved with the speech and drama department.

He received his doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Rutgers in 2001 and has worked combining his acting talents and education to help teenagers throughout the states.

According to event organizers, Fowlin "... transcends normal grouping and stereotypes and lives out his mission of unity.

"He is an intense and dynamic young man that has and will continue to change the lives of teens."

His show, titled "I am Not the Enemy," deals with stories of mistreatment of the elderly, the forgotten "A student and children who live in atypical homes as well as the "invisibility factor" of individuals with disabilities. This event is being funded by the Student Activity Fund of student government.

## **Pioneer**

April 29, 2004

### **McCoy signs rookie free agent pact with Lions**

**By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State's Matt McCoy took a major step toward realizing a lifelong dream Monday when he signed a rookie free agent contract with the Detroit Lions of the National Football League.

McCoy a 6-foot 8 and 266-pound offensive tackle was one of 17 hopefuls who inked deals with Detroit Monday after the 2004 NFL Draft. The Charlotte native knows he will not have long to bask in the glow of his NFL pact as the team hosts its first mini-camp which begins this evening and comes together again later in June for the Organized Training Activities.

"I had a lot of confidence that even though I was not drafted I would still come away with a free agent deal and Detroit was one of the places I felt would be a good fit for me," said McCoy, who grew up a fan of the Lions. "Detroit and San Diego were the two teams that showed the most interest in me and Detroit was the first team that put a good deal on the table in front of me."

McCoy, who earned second-team All-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors as a senior last fall and won the team's Eric Bennett Memorial Award as its Most Valuable Offensive Lineman, already has been assigned jersey No. 77 by the Detroit franchise.

"It was a big relief for me to finally know where I'm going and to have all of the negotiations finished," McCoy said. "It gives me time to get to work on improving my conditioning for training camp since I know where I'm going to be this summer." McCoy left the negotiations with the Lions to his agent, Indianapolis-based Buddy Baker, who hammered out a deal with the Detroit front office.

"I left all of the negotiating with him, it's over and I'm excited to get to Detroit to begin this mini-camp," McCoy said.

During the 2001 season, McCoy started 11 games at tight end for the Bulldogs and caught eight passes for 110 yards with a pair of touchdowns.

In his second year as a starter at tackle, after he moved over from tight end as injuries mounted, McCoy served as an offensive team co-captain.

McCoy would be the second former Bulldog active in the NFL as he would join former Ferris three-time All-American Clarence Coleman, who signed a free agent deal as a wide receiver with the Buffalo Bills in 2002. As a rookie, Coleman had eight catches for 69 yards in his first NFL game last winter for the Bills.

McCoy likes his chances to make the club.

"I'm just going to go in and work hard to try and get a spot," he said. "They only drafted one offensive lineman (tackle Kelly Butler out of Purdue in the sixth round)."

Since the Lions drafted no offensive linemen in the first three rounds and some of the current members of the unit are in or near contract years, McCoy thinks Detroit is as ideal a situation as there is for him in the NFL.

"My goal is to go out and impress the coaches and try to get one of those tackle spots," McCoy said.

Ferris offensive coordinator Matt McCarthy says the NFL signing is great for McCoy as well as for the program.

"This is great for our program because it can help us draw a higher caliber of student-athlete and know they possibly will have an opportunity of going to the NFL," McCarthy said in a statement. "Matt has good size and moves well which attracted the NFL teams.

"Hopefully Matt can fall into a spot where they (Detroit) need him provided he continues working hard and can stay healthy."

## Pioneer

Thursday, April 29, 2004

### **Ferris optometry professor obtains university's first-ever product patent**

BIG RAPIDS - The Saladin Near Point Balance Card, developed by Ferris State University Optometry Professor Jim Saladin, dramatically reduces the time it takes for vision professionals to assess patient problems in the aiming and focusing of the eyes. By doing so Saladin obtained a patent, which is the first-ever assigned to the university.

Presently used tests for near point eye function can take more than 10 minutes. With the Saladin Card, assessments are completed in about a minute.

"Taking advantage of procedures developed, the card was designed so technicians can do quite a bit of the testing," Saladin said. "We can't afford inefficiencies these days."

Vision professionals use the 6-inch by 8-inch laminate card to assess the near-point eye function of patients.

"The card checks for fixation disparity and heterophoria," explained Saladin, who has done extensive research on these problems.

Fixation disparity is a minor misalignment of the eyes, while heterophoria is a more serious misalignment. Saladin's research has shown that fixation disparity and heterophoria should have a known relationship to each other if the vision system is operating efficiently. He noted that some fixation disparity is expected, and the card helps determine if there's an abnormality.

"A problem in binocular function can occur when the eyes are not precisely aiming and focusing at the same distance and on the same object," Saladin said. "Such problems often lead to headaches, sleepiness and other forms of discomfort."

Ferris State University has entered into an agreement with Bernell Corporation in Mishawaka, Ind., to manufacture and market the device. Saladin said his card sells as a kit for about \$95 to vision professionals. Although Saladin does not have current sales figures, about 500 cards had been sold in the first six months to practitioners in this country and overseas. Ferris' Media Production Department produced an instructional video to accompany the card.

Patenting the Saladin Card took more than two years, although the system has been selling for more than a year with a patent pending. Ray Dickinson, government document specialist and trademark depository library coordinator for Ferris, said many Ferris professors hold patents, but Saladin's is the first one assigned to the university. Dickinson helped Saladin do a patent search on the U.S. Patent & Trademark office Web site to facilitate final work by a patent attorney.

Saladin, a professor of Optometry at Ferris since 1978, earned his OD in Optometry from Indiana University and a Ph.D. in Physiological Optics from University of California Berkeley. He also taught at Ohio State University and was a Defense Department consultant on stereoscopic mapping for almost 20 years.

**A home for racism's relics: University museum uses cultural icons as civil rights tools**

BIG RAPIDS, Mich. -- It all started for David Pilgrim with the "mammy" salt shaker. It was toward the end of the U.S. Civil Rights era in the early 1970s. Pilgrim, now a 45-year-old sociology professor at Ferris State University, was about 13 when he came across the dispenser at a flea market in his native Alabama.

For years in the United States, particularly in the South, it was common to find salt and pepper shakers, cookie jars and other kitchen and household items made to resemble a "mammy" -- a stereotypical image of a heavysset, kerchief-and-apron-wearing black housekeeper and nursemaid.

Pilgrim doesn't recall his exact frame of mind when he impulsively bought the salt shaker. But he vividly remembers what he ended up doing with it: he smashed it to pieces.

He took much better care of the 4,000 or so other related items he acquired over the years in the name of education. All are now housed at Ferris State's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, which Pilgrim has put together over the past seven years.

The term "Jim Crow" originated with a character done in blackface by a white performer named Daddy Rice in the 1800s. Later, it was used as a stereotypical image of blacks and associated with racist and segregationist laws.

The museum's mission is to help people understand historical and contemporary racist expressions and serve as a resource for civil rights and human rights organizations.

"As you consider how they use these materials, it's a powerful, powerful teaching library in terms of tolerance and understanding for others," says Ferris State president David Eisler.

Pilgrim gave the museum his entire collection of figurines, T-shirts, comic books, ash trays, souvenirs, movie posters and other related items. As its curator, he receives a small budget from the university to expand the collection.

"The same way we use sex to sell items today, we used to use race," Pilgrim says. "A disproportionate number of items in here are advertising pieces or had their origins in advertising."

The room's display cases are filled with startling anti-black words and images: drawings of watermelon-devouring black children and bug-eyed, ever-grinning grown-ups; black men portrayed in cartoons or photos as either thugs or lazy, inarticulate and easily

frightened; women depicted as either mammies or lascivious, scantily clad Jezebels.

"Every group has been caricatured in the United States, but when you deal with Africans and their American descendants, they've been caricatured more, more often and, arguably, more viciously," Pilgrim says.

Drawings show black children sitting at the edge of a swamp, the words "Alligator Bait" written below them.

Pilgrim says he has no problem finding things to add to the collection at swap meets, art galleries and online auctions, such as EBay. Many items are still being made and passed off as originals.

The public may visit, but there are no set hours of operation because access is hindered by the location in an academic building. Visitors must make special arrangements through Pilgrim's office or the office of John Thorp, the museum's director, or be part of a university-approved academic course, workshop or seminar. A museum guide, often a sociology student, must be present to discuss the exhibits and answer the questions that inevitably arise.

"For the first time ever, many of them are having a genuine conversation about race when they're in here," says Thorp, who heads up Ferris State's social sciences department.

Tim Chester, director of the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, says his institution has thousands of similar items in storage. He and his staff have been grappling with how best to use theirs. Visitors to the two museums have different expectations, so caution must be exercised when displaying such artifacts, Chester says.

"These objects have immense power, and you could put them out in contexts in which they would mean different things to different people," he says.

It has been about two years since Rev. John Frye, the teaching pastor at Bella Vista Church in Rockford, toured the museum with some other members of his church's ministry staff. He hasn't forgotten the impact it had on him.

"I felt sadness, I think I felt anger, and then I just felt overwhelmed," Frye says. "I did not know how much racist memorabilia there actually was out there."

Note: This AP article ran in many other papers in the U.S. and Canada.

## **Pioneer**

Monday, May 03, 2004

### **Ferris State University commences this week**

BIG RAPIDS - More than 1,000 students at Ferris State University are set to take part in graduation ceremonies on Friday and Saturday at Wink Arena on the Big Rapids campus, in four separate ceremonies.

On Friday graduation will take place for the College of Pharmacy and the College of Allied Health Sciences at 6 p.m. Three ceremonies on Saturday include the College of Business at 9 a.m.; the Michigan College of Optometry, College of Education and Human Services and College of Arts and Sciences at 12:30 p.m.; and the College of Technology at 4 p.m.

Each ceremony features a keynote address by one of four honorary doctorate recipients:

- Brian McDonald of Oldsmar, Fla., pharmacist and winner of Ferris' College of Pharmacy Andreson Award are renowned for identifying the pharmacist's role in providing personal care to hemophiliacs. McDonald is chief executive officer and president of Hemophilia of the Sunshine State, Inc.
- John Wheeler of Belmont, a partner in Rockford Construction Company, is a graduate of Ferris State University who has served on many Ferris boards and was named Ferris 1997 Distinguished Alumnus. He was the lead contributor to the university's Wheeler Pavilion at Top Taggart Field. Rockford Construction has been recognized as one of the fastest-growing companies in the country.
- John Logie, esteemed former mayor of Grand Rapids and a partner in the law firm Warner Norcross & Judd, helped establish an agreement between Ferris, the city of Grand Rapids and the Grand Rapids Art Museum for the conveyance of the historic Federal Building, currently home to GRAM, to the university upon completion of museum's new facility.
- Alton Granger and his wife Janice, of Lansing, made the lead gift to Ferris for the university's new Granger Center for HVACR and Construction Management building. As chairman of the Granger Construction Company, recognized as one of the top 200 construction firms in the nation, Alton Granger has been involved with every project undertaken during the company's 40 years of operation.

This year's ceremony is special for a group of 16 Canadians from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The group earned Bachelor of science degrees in Technical Education, and 15 of the graduates will travel with family and school officials to Big Rapids to participate in graduation ceremonies. These graduates who are journeymen, including electricians and plumbers, also teach at Red River College. In addition to taking courses at Red River, they enrolled at Ferris, studying via online courses and direct-taught classes through a special partnership with the university.



The Canadian government now requires teachers to have earned at least a bachelor's degree. This program, accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, helps students fulfill the new requirement.

## Pioneer Group, USA Weekend

April 16-18, 2004

### Local Honorees Make a Difference Day Awards

**Are your neighbors receiving special awards for helping others last Oct. 25?**

- These honorees in your region are among 545 newspaper awards, each selected by USA WEEKEND Magazine for its carrier newspaper.
- To see all honorees, go to [makeadifferenceday.com](http://makeadifferenceday.com). Or request a list by writing to: All Awards, USA WEEKEND, 7950 Jones Branch Dr., McLean, Va. 22107.

#### **MICHIGAN**

- (Adrian) Daily Telegram. Siena Heights University Sport Management Association and the Boys and Girls Club of Lenawee.
- Alpena News. Michele and Shannon Sherrill Mix.
- Battle Creek Enquirer. Endeavor Charter Academy: Sptinefield.
- (Benton Harbor-St. Joseph) Herald
- Palladium. Roosevelt Elementary School PTO, Stevensville.
- (Big Rapids) Pioneer. **Ferris State University** Volunteer Center.
- Cadillac News. Health Occupations Students of America, Wexford-Missaukee Area Career Technical Center.
- Detroit News and Free Press. Brenda Coyle, Cindy Foster, Shellie Gravila, Mary Hardy and Marie Wallace, St. Clair Shores; Janine Gretz, Clinton Township; Donna Alexander, Macomb; Laura Hills, Warren; Sharon Spahar, Oakland. (Esanaba) Daily Press. American Legion Post 301, Rapid River.
- (Greenville) Daily News. Lakeview Middle School, Lakeview.
- Hillsdale Daily News. Tibbits Opera House, Coldwater.
- Holland Sentinel. Hope College Volunteer Services.
- (Houghton) Daily Mining Gazette. Keweenaw Community Foundation.
- (Iron Mountain) Daily News. Ladies Auxiliary VFW Felch-Breen Post 4803, Felch. Lansing State Journal. Michigan State Medical Society Foundation, East Lansing. Midland Daily News. Lake Huron Area Council, Boy Scouts of America.
- (Owosso) Argus-Press. Memorial Healthcare. Petoskey News-Review. Community Church of God, Charlevoix, and Lighthouse Missionary Church, East Jordan.
- (Port Huron) Times Herald. Bethany Sanger of Kids in Distress Ser«ee~. St. Clair.
- (Sault Ste. Marie) Evening News. Lori Whealy's 4<sup>th</sup>-grade class, Washington Elementary School

## **Pioneer**

Friday, May 7, 2004

### **Ferris State to open new Granger Center**

BIG RAPIDS - Students enrolled in Ferris State University's Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration and Construction programs don't have to settle for an ordinary classroom.

They are among the first to study in the new \$18 million Granger Center for Construction and HVACR, a one-of-a-kind virtual 3-D teaching tool.

The 75,000-square-foot virtual learning laboratory features a two-story mechanical room where plumbing, electrical, heating, cooling, structural and construction components are in view and color-coded. Its multiple mechanical systems include geothermal heating and cooling and in-floor radiant heat.

Ferris' four-year program in HVACR is the only one of its kind in Michigan and the largest and most widely recognized of only two similar programs in the United States. Ferris also is one of only several colleges and universities in Michigan and the United States to offer a 4-year degree in Construction Management. Two-year degrees in each discipline are also offered.

Students, faculty, staff, administrators and major donors will celebrate the official opening of the Granger Center for Construction and HVACR, 605 S. Warren Ave. today (Friday). Refreshments will be served beginning at 1 p.m., with the formal dedication taking place at 1:30 p.m. followed by tours of the new facility.

Offering remarks will be Bruce Parsons, Board of Trustees chair; Gary Granger, trustee; David Eisler, Ferris president; Al and Janice Granger, who made the lead gift for the building's construction; and Charles Matrosic, interim dean of the College of Technology.

**Pioneer**  
Friday, May 7, 2004

**'Back in the Day' highlights renovations at historic projects**

BIG RAPIDS - The Fairman and Nisbett buildings have played a central role in the history of Big Rapids.

Both built in the late 19th century on the sites of the county's first hotels, the venerable buildings have survived fires, bankruptcies and cycles of economic boom and bust.

Today, the historic structures have entered their newest phase as the Fairman-Nisbett Residences for seniors.

A reception with the theme of "Back in the Day," will give the Big Rapids community the chance to tour the renovated Nisbett-Fairman Residences, 208 Maple St. in downtown Big Rapids today from 6 to 9 p.m.

Interior designer and Kendall College of Art and Design alumna Lisa Wall, and architect and Ferris State University grad Pat Birtels will be on hand to give tours of the historic buildings and talk about their role in the buildings' renovations. Wall received the Gold Achievement Award from the National Association of Home Builders and the Seniors Housing Council in recognition of her work on the buildings.

"I had such a passion for this restoration," said Wall. "It was easy to get swept up in the enthusiasm of the community. I wanted to create something special for the residents and community."

The two Italianate structures are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Their restoration incorporated the buildings' original molding, hardwood 10-foot doors and masonry along with such modern updates as banquet facilities, a billiard room, art gallery, greenhouse, computer lab and more to meet the needs of senior residents.

"We put tools in place for the residents to embrace a new path in life in buildings that have new lives themselves," said Wall.

The event, which will include hors d'oeuvres, refreshments and live music, is sponsored in part by the Downtown Business Association and Ferris State University.

## **Pioneer**

Monday, May 10, 2004

### **Ferris State swells ranks of alumni with commencement**

BIG RAPIDS - Rain moved in after Ferris State University's first commencement ceremony for the Colleges of Pharmacy and Allied Health Sciences on Friday evening, May 7, but did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of seniors graduating the next day.

In four separate events more than 1,400 students became Ferris State alumni during the May ceremonies at Wink Arena on the Big Rapids campus. The Saturday, May 8, ceremonies graduated seniors in the Colleges of Technology, Business, Education and Human Services, Arts & Sciences and the Michigan College of Optometry.

Ferris alumnus and honorary doctorate recipient John Wheeler, a partner in Rockford Construction Company, addressed graduates in the College of Business.

"You should be very proud to be a Bulldog," said Wheeler. "I wasn't able to attend the ceremonies when I graduated because I had a job before I graduated. So today is really my own commencement, which is pretty cool. Always look back and remember this place. I will always hold this University in highest respect and regard."

Other honorary doctorate recipients were Brian McDonald, chief executive officer and president of Hemophilia of the Sunshine State, Inc., former Grand Rapids Mayor John H. Logie, and Alton and Janice Granger who came to the graduation fresh from dedication of Ferris State's new Granger Center for Construction and HVACR.

Among the more than 1,400 Bulldogs taking place in commencement were 14 Canadian students who traveled 22 hours by bus from Red River College in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

In addition to taking courses at Red River, they enrolled at Ferris, studying via online courses and direct-taught classes through a special partnership with the university. Nonetheless, some of the students had to travel long distances—even before the bus ride to earn their degrees. "Some of us drove back and forth more than 37,000 kilometers over the last two years," said Vernon Jordan. "In American terms, that's about 25,000 miles."

During the ceremonies, Eisler made note of other graduates who persevered to receive their degrees. Eighty-three-year-old Audry Ditmas graduated with a degree from Ferris State's Social Work program. And she might not yet be done with her education.

"It has been great fun attending college with all the great young people," said Ditmas. "So much so that I'm gathering information to possibly pursue a master's degree."

Eisler also took note of John Emmons, spouse of former state Sen. Joanne Emmons.

Although interrupted by life circumstances and career changes, Emmons this year completed his associate's degree in Accounting 57 years after beginning work on a business degree at the Ferris Institute in 1947.

## The Grand Rapids Press

Thursday, May 06, 2004

### **Ferris student stretches Army training to rubber work**

By Melissa Kruse

You could say going from sewing up bodies to mixing up black carbon was something of a career stretch for Kathy Frank.

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But stretching is no problem for the newly minted rubber expert.

Frank, 38, who studied rubber engineering technology, will receive her bachelor's degree from Ferris State University this weekend, with 1,600 other graduates. More than 1,400 are expected to participate in the commencement ceremonies.

As a certified surgeon's assistant in the Army for 10 years, Frank has sewn up more than 400 patients, but she chose to trade in her needle to try her hand at Ferris' newest program.

"Rubber was sort of a stretch from surgical assisting, sewing bellies shut. I wasn't making enough, and I was turned off by the option of Army nursing because of the threats involved with dirty needles and not being in control of my schedule."

Her rubber engineering technology studies involved a lot of chemistry for compounding rubber as well as classes in manufacturing, electronics, product development and tooling.

"I think of making rubber as cooking recipes," said Frank, who was raised in Big Rapids.

Graduates from the 6-year-old program have gone into compounding, product development, tooling, process engineering and quality control.

Frank, a mother of two teenagers, starts work at Avon Automotive in Cadillac on June 1, where she will be a management trainee.

Only two other women have graduated from the program, and Frank is the only woman receiving the degree this year.

Frank, who also served as president of the Ferris State Rubber Group, coordinated the first Ferris State University rubber and plastics career fair last fall, which drew more than 230 high school students.

Four commencement ceremonies will take place Friday and Saturday at Wink Arena on the Big Rapids campus.

Ferris also will graduate its first MBA class this weekend.

## **Pioneer**

Weekend, May 8&9, 2004

### **Ferris dedicates Granger Center**

BIG RAPIDS - Between 300 and 400 people gathered on a bright spring afternoon Friday to help officially dedicate Ferris State University's new Granger Center for Construction and HVACR.

Friends, alumni and industry representatives attended the dedication along with members of the university and Big Rapids community, as well as Alton and Janice Granger, whose lead gift helped make the new \$18 million facility a reality. "Jan and I are very supportive of education," said Alton Granger during remarks before a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

"We love this place we've had the privilege to work here for 10 to 12 years. Also, the industry has been very good to us and what better way to repay an industry than to help educate its future leaders?"

The Granger Center's 45,000 square-foot addition to the former Construction Technology Center gives the Construction Technology Management and Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration departments 75,000 square feet of new or renovated space for their programs.

Designed by the architectural firm of Albert Kahn Associates, Inc., the Granger Center features a number of mechanical systems - including geothermal heating and cooling - that are open to view, making the entire building a learning facility. Students can trace systems from beginning to end. Four rooms that are study carrels and student offices also double as "environmental test chambers," that can be heated and cooled by students to get hands-on experience in the working of different systems.

In addition to the Grangers, others speaking at the dedication included Ferris President David Eisler, Board of Trustees Chair Bruce Parsons, Interim College of Technology Dean Charles Matrosic and trustee Gary Granger, son of Alton and Janice. Sending congratulations on the building's dedication were U.S. Sen. Carl Levin and Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

"Thank you. for the opportunity to participate in the dedication ceremony for the Granger Center," Stabenow wrote in a congratulatory letter. "It's been a pleasure working with you to support your vision for a comprehensive learning center. I'm glad I had the opportunity to tour the facility last fall so I could see first-hand what an excellent addition it is to the university. This state-of-the-art facility will provide new and exciting opportunities for current and incoming students."



Also sending their congratulations were U.S. Rep. Dave Camp and Michigan House of Representatives Speaker Rick Johnson. Michigan State Sen. Michelle McManus was on hand to help celebrate the new building.

"I believe this is the finest structure of its kind in the country - no, make that the world," said Eisler.

The world-class building is home to classes in Ferris' CTMG and HVACR programs as varied as Advance Construction Computer Techniques and Thermodynamics of Refrigeration.