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Macomb Daily News

February 26, 2006

Educational partnerships are as good as gold

At the 2006 Winter Olympics held in Italy, partnerships were the stuff that gold medals are made of. Figure skaters in the pairs competition depended upon each other to carry out complicated programs, players of every sort turned to coaches for strategy and technique, and countries relied upon corporations to sponsor their teams. And, so it is in Macomb County, where partnerships are helping make dreams of earning bachelor's and graduate degrees come true.

Introduced last summer, OU at Macomb is what Oakland University President Gary Russi termed "visionary partnership." Believed to be Michigan's first dual-degree program, it provides joint admission and concurrent enrollment at both Macomb and OU in programs focused on high-demand careers. Students will earn their associate's degrees from Macomb, followed by their bachelor's degrees from OU. They will attend classes first at Macomb's South and Center campuses and then at the Macomb University Center on Center Campus, where a new 40,000-square-foot classroom building is expected to open in 2007 to accommodate the additional programming. OU at Macomb, however, will likely begin accepting students as early as fall 2006.

The Macomb University Center, which has been offering bachelor's degree completion and master degree programs through partnerships with other colleges and universities since 1991, also figures prominently in an enhanced partnership with Walsh College. Together, the two colleges have developed the Honors Fast Track Program that allows students to earn a master of business administration degree in five years, instead of the traditional six: Students first earn an associate's degree from Macomb in general business, business management, accounting or marketing and then transfer to Walsh (provided they have earned a minimum grade point average of 3.3). Students can take approximately another year's worth of course work at Macomb prior to completing the remainder of their bachelor's and then master's degree requirements through Walsh College. These courses will be available at the Macomb University Center.

"This new program is an exciting opportunity for those who are clearly focused on earning an MBA," said Albert Lorenzo, Macomb president. "It gives students the ability to complete their degree more quickly while providing a significant cost savings through taking additional courses at the community college tuition rate."

Another Macomb University Center partner, Ferris State University has also expanded its programming, bringing its courses and faculty to Macomb's South Campus in Warren and East Campus in Clinton Township. Students can earn as many as 90 credits (sometimes more) toward a bachelor's degree in industrial technology and management, business administration with a concentration in leadership and organizational development, or criminal justice at Macomb (at its lower tuition rate). The remaining courses leading to the bachelor's degrees are offered at Macomb's South Campus for industrial technology and management, and business administration degrees, and at Macomb's East Campus, home to the Emergency Services Training Center, for the criminal justice degree.

Tuscola Advertiser

March 15, 2006

Art students display work at Saginaw museum

VASSAR - Vassar art students are no strangers to competing with the best of the best. Two Vassar seniors, John Horwath and Tony Pollick, have added to that tradition under the direction of veteran teacher Lois Parsell. The pair were selected to show their art works at the Saginaw Art Museum earlier this month for the Region 11 Michigan Art Education Association Show.

Later this month, they will find out if their pieces will move on to the Michigan Youth Arts Festival at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo this May. The show will display the top 120 youth art selections in the state.

The competition will then be narrowed down to 30 artists, who will be featured on a governor's tour. Finally, the top 18 will be selected to attend a special ceremony where their work will be matted and framed.

"We've had students there before," said Parsell proudly. Horwath and Pollick said they are hoping to live up to that challenge. As young artists, they both have much to offer - whether that's diligence or detail.

"I like to work with my hands," said Horwath, who plans to study pre-dentistry at Alma College next year. "I like fine detail work." Horwath, 18, entered a bleach painting, "Vincent's Shoes," in the competition. He modeled the piece after the work of Vincent Van Gogh. It took about two weeks to complete the piece, between playing basketball, membership with the National Honor Society and French Club and serving as the Student Senate President.

"I'm quite the procrastinator," he admitted. "But I guess the judges liked it."

Pollick worked tirelessly - 22 hours - on his contest submission, a pencil drawing he called "Triple Self Portrait." The piece is a self-portrait done in the style of Norman Rockwell.

"I stayed after class and worked on it and I did some work at home, too," he said. Pollick, who serves as co-president of the high school art club, is dual-enrolled in art classes through Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University. He also studies graphic design at the Tuscola Technology Center. He plans on pursuing a degree in graphic design at Saginaw Valley State University after graduating from Vassar.

Each art teacher belonging to the MAEA can submit five pieces to be displayed at the Saginaw Art Museum Region 11 show. Parsell chose five of the best and most unique pieces for the contest.

"I choose them based on how strong they are," she said. "I always try to take a variety. The students may not think it is their best work, but I know what's out there and I am mostly looking for the uniqueness of the piece."

Each year, the Vassar art students also participate at Art at the Inn, a Frankenmuth show exhibiting youth artists from around the area. This year's show will take place April 3 at the Bavarian Inn.

John Horwath is the son of John and Katherine Horwath of Vassar. Tony Pollick is the son of Rick and Ellen Bierlein of Vassar.

Muskegon Chronicle

March 21, 2006

Muskegon's Buzz

The official ceremony was March 3; the day Brendon Guzman was honored for making a difference in people's lives.

Brendon, a seventh-grader at Fremont Middle School, was named the student winner of the 2006 Gary Lowery Heart & Soul Award from Newaygo County at a spring conference sponsored by the West Central Career-Tech Partnership and Ferris State University.

But the real celebration came Monday.

That's when all of Brendon's classmates at Fremont Middle School turned out for a special assembly so principal Carolyn Hummel could announce his award - and present him with something even more precious than the plaque he'd already received a cap signed by the 2005-2006 Michigan State University basketball team.

A diehard Spartan fan, Brendon was allowed to wear the cap the rest of the day, even though dress code usually prohibits wearing hats and caps in school.

"He deserves it," Hummel said. The hat was a special gift from Kirk Wyers, director of Newaygo County Career-Tech Center, who shares Brendon's passion for MSU sports and is part of the group who named him this year's Heart & Soul Award winner. "He's the real deal, isn't he?" Wyers asked.

Brendon, 14, was born with multiple physical disabilities. A special education student, he has trouble speaking and no longer can walk on his own.

"He's really a special little guy," Hummel said.

In nominating Brendon for the Heart & Soul Award, Hummel, his teachers and therapists - Gyndi George Densmore, Nancy Sparks, Pete Zerfas and Amy Pumford - wrote that he is a "daily inspiration" who faces life "with determination, unbelievable courage and strength far beyond his 14 years."

"When you look at him and see what effort it takes for him to be in school, you know how remarkable he is," Hummel said. "Even if he's not feeling well, he gets a smile on his face and gives you a thumbs-up sign."

Brendon is the son of Kelly and Paul Guzman of Fremont. Kelly Guzman is a speech language pathologist for Newaygo County Regional Educational Service Agency (the former Newaygo County Intermediate School District). Paul Guzman teaches alternative education at Fruitport High School.

Brendon has two siblings - Kayla Jane, 10; and Gage, 5. His grandparents are the Rev. Susan and the Rev. Jerry Hagans of Muskegon, Ben and Louise Krill of North Muskegon and Linda and Bill Guzman of Spring Lake.

The Heart & Soul Award is given in memory of the late Gary Lowery, a former Ferris State University professor "who was everything good about education," Wyers said.

The award is given annually to a student and adult nominated by intermediate school districts in the West Central Career-Tech Partnership.

Those districts include Mason-Lake Intermediate School District, Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, Newaygo County RESA and Wexford-Missaukee Area Intermediate School District.

Ferris State University and West Shore Community College are also in the partnership.

The County Press

March 22, 2006

Bridge is good enough to eat

ATTICA-Students from Lapeer Ed/Tech Center recently built spaghetti bridges for a seventh annual March 17-18 Load Bearing Competition contest at Ferris State University.

Midges were scheduled to be tested for their ability to withstand more than 2 kilograms of weight. Students also tested their, engineering skills during the competition and winners were eligible for scholarships. The contenders included 20 teams from 14 high schools and were judged in such categories as authentic bridge design, oral presentation, written presentation and load-bearing competition.

Montmorency Tribune

March 22, 2006

Ferris pays for high marks

Ferris State University is offering an incentive for transfer students who are excelling academically. The scholarships are from \$1,500 to \$2,700 per year for students with 24 transfer hours and a 3.7 GPA or higher. Out-of-state students can qualify for in-state tuition under that incentive, too. Ferris is in Big Rapids, Michigan.

**Kincheloe, MI Community Voice, Harbor Beach Times,
Coldwater Daily News**

March 23, 2006

**Transfer Student Scholarships at Ferris Increase Enrollment
Incentive**

Ferris State University has a new incentive for transfer students who have performed well academically - extra cash. The money comes in the form of one of six transfer scholarships available to students making the move to Ferris from another academic institution.

The scholarships offer anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,700 per academic year or in-state tuition for nonresidential or international students and are two year scholarships with an option for a third-year renewal. The 2006-07 academic year will mark the first year the scholarships are available.

"This is our way of saying 'Hey, Ferris wants you,'" said Ferris Dean of Enrollment Services Ronnie Higgs.

Director of Enrollment Services Kathy Lake added, "There is a great pool of transfer students out there. These scholarships are not only a good opportunity for students but they provide a way for Ferris to strengthen its partnerships with community colleges."

To be eligible for one of the six scholarships, students must be enrolled full-time in an undergraduate, degree-granting program on Ferris' Big Rapids campus. Students who meet the requirements of more than one scholarship will be awarded the scholarship that provides the most funding. Priority will be given to students meeting requirements who are admitted by May 15.

Other criteria for the scholarships is as follows: Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship (\$2,700), 3.7 GPA with 24 accepted transfer credit hours, automatic renewal by obtaining a 3.5 GPA at Ferris; Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship (\$1,700), 3.5 GPA with 24 accepted transfer credit hours, automatic renewal with documentation by obtaining a 3.25 GPA at Ferris; Transfer Academic Achievement Scholarship (\$1,500), 3.3 GPA with 24 accepted transfer credit hours, automatic renewal by obtaining a 3.25 GPA at Ferris; Transfer

Residential Life Scholarship (\$2,000), 3.0 GPA with an associate degree, must live in a residence hall to receive automatic renewal by obtaining a 3.0 GPA at Ferris; Non-Resident Transfer Scholarship and International Transfer Scholarship (in-state tuition), 3.3GPA with 24 accepted transfer credit hours, automatic renewal by obtaining a 3.25 GPA at Ferris.

"We want to make student transfers a seamless process and we are kick-starting the process by helping students with their educational costs," Higgs said. "This is one of the first steps of many to improve the transfer process at Ferris State University."

In reviewing enrollment records for transfer students from the 2005-06 academic year, 43 students would have been eligible for the Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship and more than 100 would have been eligible for the Transfer Academic Achievement Scholarship, according to Lake. University officials hope to see the number of eligible transfer students double for the 2006-07 school year.

Further information about one of Ferris' six transfer scholarships is available at www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/TranSchol.htm

**Midland Daily News, Monroe Evening News,
Zeeland Record**

March 26, 2006

Scholarships available at Ferris

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The scholarships offer anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,700 per academic year or in-state tuition for non-resident or international students and are two-year scholarships with an option for a third-year renewal. The 2006-07, academic year will mark the first year the scholarships are available.

For more information, see www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/TranSchol.htm.

**Grand Rapids Press, Sault Ste. Marie Evening News,
Daily Mining Gazette, Detroit Legal News**

March 26, 2006

Three-foot dynamo starts college at Ferris State

GRAND RAPIDS (AP) - Put up for adoption as a baby because she might be too much to handle, 20-year-old Valarie Franklin has become an expert at overcoming challenges.

She's somewhat of a celebrity in her hometown of 5,500 people and has met a fair number of celebrities herself, including golf legend Tiger Woods and former Detroit Pistons center Bill Laimbeer.

Franklin likes shopping for clothes, listens to Blink 182, chows down on pizza and catches every horror flick that comes to the big screen.

She has a passion for animals, especially a golden retriever named Sunny who's been at her side every day for four years, including the past two years at Ferris State University where she is studying to be a pharmacist.

Sunny fetches items out of reach, opens doors and stands up on counters when store clerks are oblivious to Franklin's presence.

Franklin, who is 3 feet tall, was born with osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bone disease, a condition that makes her bones prone to breaking.

The dark-haired dynamo with a squeaky voice is persistent when it comes to being treated like others, and her biggest challenge has not been from peers or insensitive clods.

The biggest have come from institutions: a suburban school district unwilling to install an elevator so Franklin could get to class, and most recently, a scholastic powerhouse unnerved by Sunny.

The Davison School District near Flint eventually installed the elevator a week before Franklin started class, and Hartcourt Assessment let Sunny accompany her while she took a delayed pharmacy school entrance exam. She and Sunny were ejected from a previously scheduled test last summer in Grand Rapids.

"They honestly thought Sunny would bark or bite someone," Franklin said while running a brush across the sleeping dog's coat. "Can you see that? This is what he does. He was already asleep when they told me I had to leave."

Franklin's pursuit of a college degree is a natural progression for this voracious reader, who in fourth grade breezed through more than 100 books during a two-month program.

She graduated in the top 10 of her high school class and was described by teachers as "balanced" and "motivated."

"I've been lucky, and with all the people I've ever known in my life, no one has ever made it an issue," Franklin said of her physical limitations.

"She has a spark that draws people in because she never feels sorry for herself and wants to do everything other people do each day," said James Binkley, of Davison, a Shriner and Masonic Lodge member who has known Franklin since the Shriners began helping her with medical expenses when she was a toddler.

Numerous events have been held to help the Franklins pay their bills, including an annual golf outing called "On the Tee for Valarie."

When she needed a customized van for college, a spaghetti dinner sold 275 tickets, part of \$8,000 collected.

Since her arrival at Ferris State University in 2004, she has met dozens of people who've come up to introduce themselves and talk to her. Part of the attraction is Sunny, which suits her just fine.

"Sunny gets all the attention now instead of me, and i think that's great," Franklin said. "He's a much bigger deal now for people, and when we go out in public, they'll stare at him instead of me." Her tenacity and outgoing personality come from her parents, DyAnne and Harry L. Franklin.

"We've been fighting for Valarie ever since we adopted her," said Harry, a retired GM skilled tradesman who is running for Davison School Board of Trustees. "All we want is for her to have the same opportunities as everyone else."

For most of her life, Franklin and her parents have been at odds with an education system reluctant to make accommodations for her special needs.

The most recent situation occurred last summer when Franklin was told she could not take the PCAT exam at Grand Rapids Community College because she did not list Sunny as an accommodation on her application form. The presence of her service dog violated the policies of the testing company, she was told.

Franklin left the test room in tears and waited more than two hours for friends inside also taking the test.

"If it was just about me and Sunny, I could have let it go pretty easily," Franklin said. "But it's a lot bigger than that. What if someone else wanted to bring their service dog to a test? You can't just walk away."

She filed a police report with GRCC campus police on the grounds her civil rights were violated under the Americans With Disabilities Act. The issue quickly was settled when the brass at Hartcourt Assessment in San Antonio, Texas, scheduled a special make-up test for Franklin at the Ferris campus in Big Rapids.

It was also a growing experience for Franklin. Her parents fought many of the earlier battles. This time, Franklin took the lead.

Satisfied the testing company had changed its policies, the Franklins took no further action.

The Grand Rapids Press

March 27, 2006

Knowing our boundaries

Michigan doesn't have to fear a shooting war with Ohio or dig trenches along the Indiana border. But the state should be ready to defend itself in court, where modern-day border skirmishes have been fought.

Two bills in the state Senate, sponsored by Sens. Tom George, R-Portage, and Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelenau, would help us do that. Lawmakers should pass them.

One measure would require that a legal description of state boundaries be written into law and included in the Michigan Manual, a government guidebook. The second would mandate that state-produced graphic representations of Michigan include the two peninsulas, the portion of the Great Lakes within our borders, and islands appropriate to size and scale. We have nearly 350 named islands. Forty percent of the state's area is water - our water.

That point shouldn't be lost on anyone; not when the thirsty Southwest is looking greedily at the Great Lakes, the repository of the vast majority of fresh water in the United States. Clarifying Michigan's boundaries and creating an accurate map aren't just interesting geography-buff exercises. More than half-a-dozen times since statehood, boundary ambiguities have led to changes. Three times in the 20th century, Michigan lost territory in these border beefs.

A 1926 U.S. Supreme Court dispute with Wisconsin resulted in Michigan relinquishing a wedge of land to that state at the Upper Peninsula's western edge. In another court-settled dispute about the same time involving shipping channels, four islands on the eastern edge of Green Bay - which Michigan had considered its own - went to Wisconsin, too.

Yet another dispute revolved around a redrawn map of state boundaries from the U.S. Geological Survey in the early 1950s that changed our border with Ohio near Toledo. In the early 1970s, the U.S. Supreme Court resolved the case in Ohio's favor awarding Ohioans 150 -square miles of Lake Erie that had been ours. Michigan once printed boundaries in the state constitution. But the 1963 revision of that document omitted the description.

After that, the boundaries didn't appear anywhere in official literature. That could leave the federal government or other states to draw the lines. Having a full, accurate description in official state documents can our first line of defense in boundary disputes, and touchy on everything from mineral rights to homeland security since some of the state's borders are international.

Augmenting – and completing- Michigan's map makes an important symbolic point. The Great Lakes state isn't just land. The lakes themselves are treasures, and a battle ground. The lesson should be impressed on residents and school children.

Credit for pushing this cause goes to retired Ferris State University Geology Professor Richard A. Santer of Big Rapids. As an educator, he long ago noted Michigan's historic land losses and the partial maps that omitted so much of the state. He urged lawmakers to do something about it.

Now they can, by passing these bills when they come before the Senate in late April or early May. Knowing who we are as a state begins with knowing where we are - by our definition.

MI Biz West

April 3, 2006

Rockford Construction named ACG Outstanding Growth Award Winner

Rockford Construction Co. Inc. CEO John Wheeler was part philosophic, part nostalgic, part gracious, and part self effacing in his acceptance speech on March 22 in front of Association for Corporate Growth Western Michigan Chapter.

The general contractor and construction management company that Wheeler co-founded with partner Michael Van Gessel was the recipient of the 2006 Outstanding Growth Award by the ACG Western Michigan Chapter.

With the tune of a Willie Nelson song as a background. Wheeler started his speech by taking a look back on the company's growth since its humble beginning in 1987.

Wheeler highlighted the growth of a company with a few million in sales in the early years. \$40-\$50 million in sales in 1996 to \$283 million and 200 employees today.

He told the audience that surrounding yourself with the best people makes the difference. "Our biggest asset is people, the second is our technology," Wheeler said.

After living in Indianapolis for seven years Wheeler returned to his native Grand Rapids and saw opportunity in downtown Grand Rapids.

"We looked around at downtown and it was pitiful, Wheeler said The company bought up a lot of property for as little as \$10 a square foot with the strong belief that downtown would take off. The company's instincts were right on with the proof in the blossoming of downtown Grand Rapids spurred on by significant developments like the Van Andel Arena.

Wheeler appeared to be in awe of his company's far-reaching achievements. "A successful company is one in a state of happy expansion," Wheeler said.

Wheeler told ACG members that Rockford Construction made the decision to acquire the building expertise to renovate downtown buildings and "find companies interested in moving into the core area." Company founders knew they wanted to offer turnkey solution and not become "a low bid contractor."

In partnership with Rockford's sister company, Rockford Development Group, Rockford has left its handiwork on Monroe Center's retail corridor and the Cherry Street Landing, which is home to several Rockford projects -Cooley Law School and Western Michigan University, Bank of Holland, E03, Black Rose Irish Pub and the 70 Ionia mixed-use building.

Wheeler inspired and entertained the audience with altruisms and clichés that have served Rockford Construction well. "Keep it simple," "your word is your bond," "honesty in all dealings" became company credos. In the early years Wheeler said the company confined our wants and expectations to reality and knew success would not be immediate.

Acting ethically and morally is more important than getting bogged down with rules regulations and policies "People don't want to be managed they want to be led.

Wheeler told the audience on being an entrepreneur Wheeler noted that all companies go back to a single idea - one person one idea Look what happens - its just amazing."

Wheeler told the audience he encourages employees to become involved in their communities. The company supports hundreds of non-profits and developed and managed two annual fundraisers - Rally for Hope and Hunger and Hammer for Hope and Hunger.

ACG local chapter president Tom Ranville said Rockford Construction stood out from the group of stellar candidates for the growth award because it typifies how a company can serve customers employees and the communities where it does business through strong corporate growth.

The Grand Rapids Press

April 3, 2006

High schoolers can earn college credit in Kendall dual-enrollment program

HOLLAND - Top teen artists who attend one of six Michigan high schools can jump-start an art college education with as much as a year's worth of college credits.

West Ottawa, Saugatuck, Coopersville and Grand Rapids Union high schools in West Michigan, and Vassar and Tecumseh on the east side of the state, offer four freshman art classes through Kendall School of Art and Design.

Students who take all four junior and senior-year classes could earn up to 12 credits for Kendall or another college.

"I feel like this is the real deal," said Chelsea Morrison, 17, a West Ottawa senior who hopes to major in an at the University of Michigan next fall. "These classes are intense, and my drawing skills have improved so much."

Kendall's dual enrollment program began with six students in 2001 at Union.

Last year, seven Union students were awarded scholarships to Kendall. Five have them for next fall. "Attending Kendall is like grabbing the brass ring for these kids," said Chad Williams, principal of Union's ACE - Arts, Communications and Entertainment - program. About 60 percent of the ACE students live at or below the poverty line, he said.

Rick Brunson, now a Kendall instructor, was a Union teacher when he envisioned an arts focused high school, such as Interlochen or the New York School of Performing Arts, made popular by the TV series and movie "Fame."

Twenty-two West Ottawa students are taking a Kendall class twice a week from Jan Propst, a Kendall adjunct professor. They have paid the \$96 difference between West Ottawa's state funding and Kendall's tuition.

Seventeen students are in the Kendall class at Saugatuck. Seven paid the \$550 Kendall tuition to earn college credit, teacher Christa Wise said.

"We're flattered Kendall invited us to be a part of this," Wise said. "My students taking it for Kendall credit are all considering an art major or minor. I think the work they're producing can stand up to anything I've seen at Kendall."

The college-level art classes are more focused on fundamentals than high school art classes, Wise and Propst said. Students can build portfolios with sufficient variety and depth to be accepted into an art school.

"The difference between teaching high school and college feels like the difference between Paula and Simon," Propst said, comparing "American Idol" judge Paula Abdul, who is a source of encouragement, and Simon Cowell, a hypercritical judge.

Earning college credit in high school is not unusual. West Ottawa routinely helps students pay for classes at Hope College or Grand Valley State University that are not taught at the high school, with 28 enrolled this trimester.

"What's different about dual enrollment art is that it's taught on our campus," said David Zimmer, assistant superintendent at West Ottawa, noting travel and cost savings.

Conceivably, a motivated high school graduate could enter Kendall with enough credits to be classified as a sophomore, Wise said.

A key factor will be whether Kendall credits are accepted at other schools, Wise said. Michigan State University accepts them, but Morrison said U-M typically denies the transfer unless students file an appeal. Grand Valley State University has not yet accepted the Kendall credits, Propst said.

Pioneer

April 8 & 9, 2006

FSU students participate in Bowl for Kid's Sake

Fund-raising: In a courtesy photo Members of the top pledge team for Ferris State University's Annual Campus Bowl for Kid's Sake pictured from left to right are Jim Vickey, Megan Cellini, Nick Roush, Rita Ellison, Jackie Larson and Mike Slocum. They raised \$341.25 to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters. A total of \$5,658 was raised to provide activities for over 150 children in Mecosta and Osceola counties.

The Source

April 10, 2006

Phillips to receive journalism award

Although he's won several awards and has been nominated for an Emmy, Sterling Heights Television Broadcast Production Specialist Matt Phillips said he is still humbled whenever he wins awards.

Phillips is being honored with a Wade H. McCree Award for the Advancement of Justice at the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in East Lansing April 22. The award, presented by the State Bar of Michigan recognizes broadcast and print journalists who help foster greater understanding of the inherent values of the legal and judicial system through their published materials.

The award recognizes an episode of "Legally Speaking", which Phillips produces. The show is a cooperative effort of Sterling Heights and the Macomb County Bar Association.

The award-winning episode profiled Kenneth Wyniemko, a Macomb County man freed from jail after DNA testing exonerated him in the 1994 rape of a Clinton Township woman. Former Macomb County Prosecutor Carl Marlinga, Innocence Project founder Norman Fell, Gail Pamukov, defense attorney for Wyniemko and local attorney Brian Legghio, former MCBA president, were featured in the same episode.

"We have had the chance to take CE'Legally Speaking' to the next level, to make it more about people in general and how the law affects their lives," Phillips said. "That particular episode showed one man's determination to get out of jail for a crime that he did not commit."

Phillips, 30, has been with SHTV since his graduation from Ferris State University in 1997. He has been a full-time Broadcast Production Specialist since 2001. He said that working with SHTV has given him the chance to work in different capacities, like producing, writing and working both behind and in front of the camera.

"With CE'Legally Speaking,' I get the chance to be more creative, and I like working with Charlie and Rick," Phillips said. "Everyone here is always willing to help me out. Local attorney Charlie Langton hosts "Legally Speaking" and Rick Troy is the executive director of the Macomb County Bar Association.

Cadillac News

April 10, 2006

Outlook good in job market for college grads

While 2006 college graduates aren't going to see bigger paychecks than their predecessors of recent years, they are likely to have an easier time finding a job.

Graduates will encounter a more robust hiring environment despite the tenuous financial situation of the state's auto industry.

"The problem in Michigan is more psychological than the numbers," said Dr. Phil Gardner, director for the Collegiate Employment Research Institute at Michigan State University. "When you have the auto industry and Delphi in trouble that hire so many, the numbers go into a tail spin. It in effect sends the message that there aren't jobs in Michigan, but smaller employers (under 250) are hiring."

In the annual employment survey conducted by MSU, Gardner found 40 percent of the reporting companies said they plan to hire if the economy doesn't slow down.

Jen Murphey, Manpower's professional division recruiter covering an area from Big Rapids to Marquette, agrees with Gardner's job outlook.

"The jobs are here and the money is here," she said.

"You can make a living and have a career in northern Michigan. Yes, your salary may be less than in Grand Rapids or Detroit, but you can support yourself and a family," she said.

College grads can expect entry level salaries up only two to three percent over last year, basically a cost of living adjustment, according to Gardner.

"In northern Michigan, students entering the work force can anticipate salaries in the low to mid 30s," Murphey said.

Fueling the hiring is the realization on the part of companies of the benefits young graduates bring to the table.

"The best thing for companies to do is to hire college grads," Murphey said. "They're eager to get to work, motivated and don't require huge salaries. They are sought after."

The MSU study shows majors most in demand this year include accounting, nursing, civil and environmental engineering, electrical engineering and pharmacy. But graduates may have to apply creative thinking to the job search.

"If you look in the same old places, it's going to be tough," Gardner said. "Michigan is going to have to look at a broader range of companies and work with kids to understand what kinds of jobs are out there."

They'll also have to apply a new savvy to the job hunt, according to Barbara Renne, assistant manager of Student Employment and Career Services at Ferris State University.

"A lot of students mistakenly think all they have to do is sign up on a Web site," she said. "That's a mistake. It's only a tool."

The reality, according to Renne, is that 82 percent of jobs are filled through networking before they are advertised.

Mark Cerny, a 2006 Baker College Cadillac graduate and founder of a student association for the surgical technology field, said most of the students in the program made solid connections for future employment during internships. However, not all will have jobs waiting for them and networking is in the strategy to secure permanent work.

"You go to conferences and it's a chance to find out who's hiring and pass your resume around," he said.

A job hunt should begin with a self-assessment to identify skills, according to Renne.

"The job is not going to fall on your lap," she said. "The best thing is to physically take your resume to them."

She also recommends sending a letter to the interviewer after the job interview.

"I've heard recruiters say they hold resumes waiting to see if they (applicants) follow up," Renne said.

Other avenues for breaking into the marketplace include job fairs and recruiting companies. The successful student will be aggressive in the job search and use available tools.

"There's a lot of competition out there," she said. "You've got to find ways to make yourself stand out."

Pioneer

April 10, 2006

FSU Festival of Cultures: Closing the cultural divides

BIG RAPIDS - The 18th Annual Ferris State University International Festival of Cultures showcased more than 30 countries Sunday afternoon.

International students of FSU participated in the event by representing their native countries including Afghanistan, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Hong Kong, China, Cuba, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Ireland, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Puerto Rico, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Scotland, South Korea, Sudan, Switzerland, Vietnam and Zambia.

The different booths offered samples of the country's traditional food, drinks, souvenirs; posters and students who were of that country were available to answer questions. Of the 32 booths, 18 offered fresh homemade samples of ethnic food.

"This is just a wonderful opportunity for the local community and members of the Ferris community to experience cultural diversity," said FSU International Student Advisor Amela Malkic. "There are more than 200 international students attending FSU right now and most of them participate in the festival."

The event was sponsored by the International Student Organization of FSU with support from the finance committee of Student Government, University College and Enrollment Services. Festival posters were designed by students in the FSU visual design and web media program.

Pioneer

April 11, 2006

Dancing to all kinds of music!

Dancing: In a courtesy photo, The Fly Dance Company performed at Ferris State University at Williams auditorium Monday night at 8 p.m. George Casco, Isaac Barron, Rock Williams, and Javier Garcia performed a number of dances to the beat of various tunes. The Fly Dance Company is directed by Kathy Musick Wood.

Cadillac News

April 11, 2006

The real 'CSI': A lesson in forensics by Dr. Telgenhoff

You may not want Dr. Gary Telgenhoff to talk for you anytime soon, but you may want to hear him talk Tuesday.

The former Cadillac resident and Las Vegas forensic pathologist will be speaking at Ferris State University's Williams Auditorium 7 p.m. Tuesday. The title of his talk is "Speak for you: The real Vegas CSI."

Besides being the "Comic Coroner" he is also a consultant for the hit CBS show "CSI."

"I didn't want to get up and bore the heck out of these audiences," Telgenhoff said of his speech. "I decided to try and bring a little 'stand up' with it. I'd like to think it is both educational and entertaining."

His speech, which is about two hours, covers growing up in Cadillac and struggling as a high school student, to his love of Rock 'n' Roll, to college, his job and the beginning of "CSI." He finishes with some "interesting cases" he has seen on his job.

"Most people are entertained by death," he said. "Television, movies, music prove my point. Society is intrigued by death and sex.

"Well I just happen to be in the right profession at the right time."

Just a quick warning about the speech, Telgenhoff brings slides.

"But of all the people that come to see this presentation, few ever leave," Telgenhoff said.

"In fact, it is often hard to shut down the questions at the end of the thing."

He said there is a lot of humor used during his speech. While he remains light-hearted in the exam room, there is a line he will not cross.

"I must also emphasize that I have a job to do," he said. "I am able to perform my duties and yet remain light hearted. Not everyone can. In fact, there would be some I my profession who would not understand my humor. S Humor is a coping mechanism. It lightens the air and allows for conversation and instruction. And during my presentations, it helps to set an atmosphere in which people can explore things they might not necessarily do otherwise."

There have been instances where Telgenhoff has not been able to keep his sense of humor during exams. When John Entwistle of The Who died in Las Vegas and recently when a child died and a police officer was killed.

"The community still isn't over it," Telgenhoff said of the police officer. "I think I actually managed a tear or two S something I thought was dead in me."

The following day Telgenhoff will be speaking at Eastern Michigan University, where he received his master's in biology and physiology.

Pioneer

April 11, 2006

Ferris State University HVACR program wins national training award

SAN JOSE, Calif. - The National Air Conditioning Contractors of America (ACCA) announced March 30 that Ferris State University won the 2006 Jeff Forker Award for Excellence in Training.

"We congratulate Ferris State University for its dedication and hard work on behalf of the industry," said ACCA CEO Paul Stalknecht.

The school was nominated by FSU ACCA Student Chapter students, who cited four areas in which the FSU HVACR programs excel:

Professionalism: Professors work collaboratively to ensure the curriculum is built on a solid foundation and supplemented in a cohesive manner. The result is students and alumni who are extremely knowledgeable in all aspects of HVACR.

Trade Involvement: Students and faculty regularly attend ACCA sponsored events in order to increase their knowledge of cutting-edge technology in HVACR and host orientation seminars for new products as well as existing products.

Community Service: Both faculty and students are involved in Heat's On, a volunteer program that ensures low-income housing has adequate HVACR inspections and that systems operate reliably. Load calculation course students conduct energy audits for local businesses and schools to educate the public about possible energy savings they can achieve.

Creativity: The state-of-the-art Granger Center for Construction and HVACR building houses classrooms as well as laboratories that are consistently updated with new technologies in order to give students a hands-on experience with products.

The infrastructure and HVACR components of the building become part of the students' educational experience.

The students who nominated Ferris are Tia Barraco, Chris Foupht, Robert Tillema, Robert Arlt, Jason Kopczyk, Kim Seaman, Caleb Ringelberg, Scott Chvojka, Matt Overweg, Jason Williamson, Gerard Lucas, Jack Page, Gary Schrader and Kevin Mattison under the direction of ACCA student advisor, Joe Compton, associate professor and student co-advisor, Jannifer Anderson, HVACR department secretary.

Other finalists for the award were Peaden Air Conditioning & Heating, Panama City, Florida, and ACCA Texas, the state ACCA chapter.

Pioneer

April 11, 2006

FSU students read to kids at St. Mary's

Visitors reading: In a courtesy photo, Ferris State University hockey players recently visited St. Mary Catholic School to read to the students for March is Reading Month. FSU students Matt Frank (left) and Justin Lewandowski (right) are pictured with Mrs. Delphine Defever's third and fourth graders. Also visiting the school were Brendan Connolly and Cory Courturier.

Pioneer

April 11, 2006

Dinner benefits Card Wildlife Education Center

BIG RAPIDS - The looks on children's faces say it all when walking into the Card Wildlife Education Center at Ferris State University. Little mouths droop in awe at the array of mounted animals placed before them such as a baboon, hippo, lion and polar bear.

A wildlife education resource in the Mecosta County area for more than five years, the center will be honored during a benefit dinner April 11 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Big Rapids. The wild game dinner begins at 7:30 p.m., with festivities beginning at 6:30 p.m., and a Card Wildlife Education Center open house at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$90 per couple. The plated wild game dinner includes a choice of venison chop loin, Cornish game hen or salmon. Also featured throughout the evening will be silent and live auctions, raffles and live entertainment by Ferris sophomore Ashley Grutter, who most recently competed for a spot on the television show "Nashville Star."

Proceeds from the dinner will benefit a mini-grant program designed to help defray transportation costs for schools wishing to bring student groups to the museum, as well as center renovations that include dedication of another room to house animals from Asia.

The museum currently has rooms dedicated to displays of animals from Michigan and North America, Africa and Asia, and South America and the South Pacific, along with a conference room.

"The center is a wonderful educational resource and definitely worth the trip for area school children," Ferris senior and center volunteer Bret Muter said. "We hope to be able to open the opportunities the center offers to a much larger audience."

The Card Wildlife Education Center is a 5,000 square-foot facility located on the ground floor of the Arts and Sciences Commons building on Ferris' campus. The primary function of the center is to serve as an educational resource for Ferris students, K-12 school children and community members.

Educators and others may make arrangements to bring their classes or groups to the center by calling Dr. Joseph Lipar at (231) 591-5633 or (231) 591-5387 for an appointment.

Tickets for the benefit are available through April 12. For more information, to purchase benefit dinner tickets or to make a gift to the Card Wildlife Education Center, please call (231) 591-3615.

Pioneer

April 12, 2006

Evidence leads the way

A life of science and rock and roll. Dr. Gary Telgenhoff, a graduate of Cadillac Senior High School, explained to University students, visiting friends and a curious public the real-life of a forensic pathologist at G. Mennen Williams Auditorium Tuesday, as part of the Ferris State University Arts and Lectures series.

Telgenhoff, the Deputy Medical Examiner at the Clark County Coroner's office in Las Vegas, spoke of the differences between TV and reality, when it comes to the CBS drama series "CSI: Crime Scene Investigator." His expertise in the field is a reason he is a consultant for the hit show.

"I'm here to show you the difference between what my job is really like and what you see on TV," he said to the audience. "What you see on TV is not real."

He explained how unlike TV, there are more than the CSIs involved when it comes time to solve crimes. There are homicide investigators, toxicologists, ballistics experts, insect experts, himself and assistants and many others who contribute to solve the crimes or suspicious deaths as a team.

"The real CSIs work really hard," he noted. "They dig in the sand and have to collect anything and everything they can. It can get pretty dirty."

"But I love what I do," Telgenhoff added.

He noted it was vital for people to enjoy what they were doing. "The most important thing is to decide what makes you happy in life," he said. "For me, it was rock and roll."

Along the way science became something I liked and that led me here to speaking to you here tonight."

He added his job was not the most luxurious, but he enjoys doing it. He said he does not let outside pressure influence his job.

"Anybody can guess why or how someone died," he said. "But you have to let the evidence tell. In a court setting, I don't care if a person is guilty or not, I just have to tell them what the evidence from the body says."

Telgenhoff also described some of his cases.

One case was of a Las Vegas "performance arts" establishment bouncer who was found dead inside the home of a friend who was out of town. Blood was pooled from the kitchen to the bedroom, where they found the aspiring actor. Telgenhoff stated the cause of death as multiple stab wounds to the abdomen and, chest, causing extreme

bleeding 4 bloody footprint led investigators to the man's shoe, which he had been wearing at the time of death.

Telgenhoff concluded, following the autopsy, it was determined the man had large quantities of methamphetamine in his system and had cut himself due to the hallucinations.

With a wide variety of what he may find every day on his job, Telgenhoff noted that he always has to expect the unexpected, but let the evidence determine the cause of death.

Although the job can get depressing, Telgenhoff has his sense of humor to help him through the day, while exploring his passion of music - writing, producing, recording and singing - at night.

He even had "Speak for You," a song he wrote, played in an episode in the series' first season.

To learn more about Telgenhoff and his musical adventures, visit his Web site <www.skinnerrat.com>.

Pioneer

April 12, 2006

Ferris Professional Women select Benner Woman of Year

BIG RAPIDS - Since 1982, the Ferris Professional Women have been recognizing women leaders at Ferris State University through the FPW Woman of the Year award, which this year honors Karyn Benner, college day and special programs coordinator, Office of Minority Student Affairs.

"Karyn is an outstanding role model for young women and distinguished herself this year by her extraordinary efforts," said Jana Hurley, the 2004-05 FPW Woman of the Year. "Many of her contributions related directly and powerfully to the support of women's education via the creation of the Virtual Women's Center, Women's History Month and participation in the Vagina Monologues. Karyn has proven to be an effective leader and a tireless collaborator."

Benner's leadership on the Ferris campus also can be seen through her work serving as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week committee co-chair, among other campus involvement.

"If there is one woman on the Ferris State University campus that deserves the Woman of the Year Award for 2005-06, hands-down it is Karyn Benner," said Matt Eickhoff, student engagement and activities coordinator, who nominated Benner for the award.

"Karyn has dedicated innumerable amounts of time and energy to several causes that help recognize women on our campus and further women's issues."

Ferris Professional Women Treasurer Lisa Besemer said this year's candidates all were phenomenal. "We have so many awesome women on this campus. We really feel fortunate to have such great women among us in the Ferris community."

The Ferris Professional Women strive to promote experience, learning and growth through networking for the organization's members. Active membership is open to people employed at Ferris, their spouses and retirees. For membership information, contact one of FPW's officers by visiting www.ferris.edu/htmls/othersrv/FPW/officers.htm.