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American Congress on Surveying and Mapping Magazine

March/April, 2005

Fenn Laboratory Dedicated

The John R. and Lynda D. Fenn Digital Photogrammetry and GIS Endowed Laboratory in the Ferris University's Swan Technical Arts Building officially opened earlier this year for lectures.

The lab is equipped with 15 stations designed exclusively to serve the needs of students in digital photogrammetry and geographic information systems, according to Saved Hashimi, department chair and professor of surveying engineering. "Each station is loaded with the state-of-the-art Leica Photogrammetry Suite and Leica High Definition Surveying systems, all courtesy of Leica Geosystems, and ESRI's ArcGIS 9.0 software."

"These truly revolutionary technologies in our classrooms will give our students a very distinctive advantage," said Hashimi. "This lab is the only one of its kind at the University, and it will touch the lives of all those who choose surveying engineering as a career path for as long as this institution exists."

The Fenns are neither Ferris alumni nor typical donors to the University. John is president of Fenn and Associates Surveying, Inc., in Shelby Township, a firm he founded in 1978 that now employs 45 persons. He was named Surveyor of the Year in 1998 by the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors, and in 2003 he served as president of the National Society of Professional Surveyors.

He and his wife, Lynda, who live in Sterling Heights, became aware of Ferris and its surveying program after he was invited to join the program's advisory board by Hashimi. Shortly thereafter, his firm established \$1,500 a year scholarship to support the program. That all changed when Lynda attended a WSPS meeting.

"My wife came with me to the state meeting and was talking with Dr. (Khagendra) Thapa (professor of surveying engineering), who mentioned that the company had been giving scholarships," recalled John. "Lynda asked how much, and he told her \$1,500. She turned to me and said, 'kinda cheap, aren't ya?'" John quickly increased his scholarship gift to \$2,500, and Lynda took a more active role by supporting an annual student auction fundraiser to the tune of thousands of dollars each year. And recipients worked for Fenn and Associates for a day.

As the relationship blossomed, the Fenns wanted to do more. They approached Hashimi with the idea of endowing a scholarship. He thanked them, then suggested they consider endowing a laboratory instead, creating a source of funds to keep the facility supplied with the latest surveying equipment and technology.

"It's a way to touch all the students in the program, because every surveying student will pass through that lab and benefit from it," said John. "Our support of students

comes through a love of the profession. I don't believe there's a school in the nation that can surpass Ferris in teaching surveying."

During the dedication ceremony, Fenn challenged industry professionals to contribute to the program, stating that he would match the gifts up to \$10,000 for the next year.

Business Update

April, 2005

Personnel

Grand Rapids - Kendall College of Art and Design's President, Dr. Oliver H. Evans, has been designated a Business Mentor by the Western Michigan Business Review. Dr. Evans was recognized for nearly 40 years in the business of education, for his leadership at Kendall College of Art and Design, and for the significant role he played in guiding the merger of Ferris State University and Kendall in 2001.

Grand Rapids - Kendall College of Art and Design announces that a logo design created by senior Graphic Design student Scott Tiedgen and submitted to the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan logo competition has been selected to represent that group's Governor's University Award for Commercialization Excellence program.

Cadillac News

April 02 & 03, 2005

Ferris to receive funds to renovate center

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University will get at least \$5 million from the state for renovating the school's Instruction Resource Center as part of an agreement between the governor and Legislature to balance Michigan's 2005 budget.

The money is part of \$200 million capital outlay initiative to assist renovation, maintenance and construction projects at universities and community colleges throughout the state. Ferris' IRC project totals \$7.5 million, with the difference being provided by the school.

The renovations will include upgrading furniture, equipment, plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems, as well as reconfiguring the teaching spaces to better suit today's learning environment.

When completed, the IRC will be used by the adjacent College of Business. The project will begin this year.

The Greenville Daily News

April 05, 2005

Area junior dragsters are ready for another season

HOWARD CITY - Samantha Gage is only 12 but she's ready for her third season of drag racing.

The reason she can't wait to get into the car and go roaring down the quarter-mile track at the Mid-Michigan Motorplex drag strip near Stanton is simple.

"It's the feeling of having friends there that I usually don't get a chance to see," Gage said.

"It gets me to appreciate all the sponsors who make it possible and also my dad:"

Her father is Gary Gage of Howard City, who spends plenty of hours putting his two daughters, Amanda, 15, and Samantha on the track in junior drag racing action.

Now is the time to get the groundwork done. Racing will start May 1 and continue every Sunday through September. Samantha competes in the junior division for ages 10 to 12 and Amanda in the senior division for 13 through 17-year-olds.

"I used to compete in the bracket races," Gary Gage said. "The kids would go with me. When they got older then I got them involved. I still have a car but I figured I needed to let the kids have the fun. When they get older I figure I'll race again:"

Gage invested his time building two new dragsters for his daughters. More than a year ago, he suffered a break-in at his residence, where the engines were stolen from both cars.

One was recovered by police and is being used by the Gages again while the other never was found.

The investment in both dragsters remains worth every penny, Gage said. "You know that they'll have a good time and it keeps them out of trouble," he said. "I do have a separate business of building cars for other drivers, although I've only done about one or two per year."

Gage, an instructor in the automotive program at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, said the junior dragster category gets more competitive every year.

"You also have to remember that they're doing it for fun," he said.

"It can get too competitive. I try to keep it in perspective and remind them that we're out there for fun. When it stops being fun, that's when we stop doing it. They're still just kids. It's not like they're going for a million dollars." Samantha's age is shooting for improvement. "Each year you get better and you learn from your mistakes," she said. "You find out if all the work you've done has been wasted or not."

Alpena News

April 08, 2005

Area would suffer if Ferris drops health program

The Ferris State University Board of Trustees will soon be making a decision that will affect health departments across the state. This decision is whether or not to cut the university's environmental health program after the current academic year.

Bill Taylor, assistant director of news services for Ferris, said when the university's board of trustees meets next month, the president of the university will recommend the board give the program the final axe.

According to Taylor, the program, which has been in existence for forty plus years, has seen enrollment drop from 157 students in the fall of 1992 to 20 students in the fall of 2004. No new students enrolled in the program last year.

Taylor said the university has made a concerted effort over the years to market the program and recruit new students, but has had little or no success with their efforts.

"It's sort of unheard of for a college to run a program for just 20 students," Taylor said.

"That just wouldn't be a good use of resources."

If the administration of Ferris follows through with their plans, and drops the program, health departments in the state might have to look harder to find qualified applicants.

District Health Department No. 4 will probably have to search harder.

"Right now we have 10 staff environmental sanitarians, and five of those are Ferris graduates," said Scott Smith, District Health Department No. 4 environmental health director.

Smith estimated there are about 1,000 sanitarians practicing environmental health in the state. He believes there will be a number of turnovers in coming years due to retirement and career shifts.

"We need qualified, educated individuals to fill those positions so that we're providing a benefit to the community by protecting health through environmental control," Smith said.

He said the applicant pool would probably be reduced locally, and new employees might require more training, if Ferris cuts its environmental health program.

According to Smith, Ferris has the only accredited undergraduate environmental health program in Michigan. He said some universities have programs that are similar, but these programs are not targeted specifically for students going into the environmental health field after graduation.

“People coming out of that program at Ferris State University are trained to practice environmental health as an environmental sanitarian,” Smith said. “When we review applications for candidates for an open position, we look for them to get into the work force and start performing as quickly as possible. If we have applicants from other universities, we can utilize them. It just takes more time during orientation and training.”

The District Health Department Board of Trustees recently sent a letter to the Ferris requesting the administration reconsider its decision to cut the program. Smith said many other district health departments in Northern Michigan have made a similar appeal to the university.

Pioneer

April 29, 2005

Hill-Kennedy to replace Root as circuit judge

LANSING - Scott P. Hill-Kennedy has been appointed the new 49th Circuit Court Judge, serving both Mecosta and Osceola counties.

The appointment was made by Gov. Jennifer Granholm Thursday.

He will be completing the six-year term held by Judge Lawrence C. Root, who announced his retirement in late December 2004.

Hill-Kennedy, currently the vice president for Governmental Relations and General Counsel at Ferris State University since 2000, begins his term as of May 31.

Root was first elected Nov. 2, 1976, and he continuously served in that position for 28 years.

Hill-Kennedy will serve as judge until the next general election - scheduled in 2006 - when he will have the option to run for election.

Mecosta-Osceola Bar Association President Miles Postema made the announcement of Hill-Kennedy's appointment at the organization's annual Law Day luncheon Thursday noon.

"I learned today (Thursday) Gov. Granholm had appointed Scott, and I know he is going to make a fine judge," Postema said at the luncheon.

"Everyone in this room has been waiting for the completion of this process," Hill-Kennedy said. "It's a wonderful thing to be a part of this community, which is willing to participate in the judicial process."

"I will work very hard to be fair and treat everyone with respect," he added. "I also look forward to working with (77th District Court) Judge (Susan) Grant and (Probate Court) Judge (LaVail) Hull."

State officials said the appointment process began in mid February, taking nearly three months to complete. Hill-Kennedy's past experiences include serving as adjunct professor of labor and employment law and a staff and union relations manager at Grand Valley State University; attorney for Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt and Howlett in Grand Rapids; and a law clerk at both the U.S. Court of Appeals and U. S. District Court.

He currently holds the position of executive director of the Ferris Foundation and is a member of the Western Michigan Legal Services Board of Directors.

In addition, he has served on the panel of Fact Finders and Grievance Arbitrators for the Michigan Employment Relations Commission.

Hill-Kennedy has a doctorate of jurisprudence from the University of Arizona and a bachelor's of arts degree, majoring in education, from Michigan State University.

Pioneer

April 30 & May 1, 2005

Congratulations ...

Our congratulations go out to: Scott Hill-Kennedy who was named Thursday by 'Gov. Jennifer Granholm to serve as judge of the 49th Circuit Court which includes Mecosta and Osceola counties.

He replaces retired Judge Lawrence C. Root for a term expiring Jan. 1, 2007.

A Big Rapids resident, Hill-Kennedy most recently served as chief governmental relations and legal officer for Ferris State University, having served the university for over 13 years.

He served as the interim president of Ferris after the departure of former FSU President William Sederburg and before the arrival of present FSU President David Eisler.

He earned his law degree from the University of Arizona College of Law (now known as the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law) and his under graduate degree from Michigan State University. Before earning his law degree, he taught emotionally impaired students in Tucson, Ariz.

- Jana Hurley was recently selected as the 2005 Woman of the Year by the Ferris Professional Women. The FPW's selection of Hurley, dean of student life and director of housing at FSU, was based on her participating in activities to enhance the status of all women, encouraging women to exercise their rights and roles in the Ferris community and continuing to be a model of professionalism to students and other colleagues.

- Allene Long for her selection as the 2004 Big Rapids 'Parks and Recreation Board's Citizen Recognition Award.

Long has been a long-time environmentalist who led the charge to establish Recycle! of Mecosta County and then fostered its operation through years of dedicated work. She also has been involved in the Earth Day litter clean-up and the milk jug recycling contest for area elementary students.

To honor her effort she will receive a plaque from the Big Rapids City Commission at its meeting Monday night. A tree will be planted in recognition of the award.

- Doris Platt for recent recognition through the USA Weekend's Make A Difference Day campaign for her tireless efforts crocheting mittens and scarfs for children in need and for serving as a full time volunteer for the Retired Senior Volunteer program.

Detroit News
May 01, 2005

Michigan Briefs

Proposed snowmobile trail draws concerns

TOPINABEE – A proposed snowmobile trail to connect Gaylord and Cheboygan has drawn concerns from some area residents that their quiet neighborhoods could be affected. The state Department of Natural Resources plans to announce this week whether any of three proposed snowmobile trails could link Gaylord, Indian River and Cheboygan. State DNR director Rebecca Humphries is expected to make a recommendation at the state Natural Resources Commission meeting Thursday.

Jurors find former Ferris student guilty

BIG RAPIDS – After deliberating into the night Friday, jurors found a former Ferris State University student guilty of murdering a suspected cocaine dealer. Shannon Keys was convicted on three charges, including second-degree murder. Prosecutors said Keys took part in the robbery attempt that led to the shooting death of Jeremiah Jake Monroe on March 12, 2003, in Big Rapids. But defense attorney Dennis DuVall argued that Keys played a far smaller role in the robbery attempt than what was presented by the prosecution.

Marquette County, Delphi negotiate lease

SAWYER – Marquette County is negotiating a new five-year lease with Delphi Automotive at the former K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base, county officials said. The company is asking the county to construct a one-mile winter test track as part of the new agreement, said County Administrator Steve Powers. According to a report given to the Marquette County board, Delphi indicated it would not renew the lease, which expires July 31, if the test track is not constructed.

Detroit News

May 01, 2005

Colleges to set up inside high school

Lansing Community College, Ferris State will lease space in new Marion Twp. building.

MARION TOWNSHIP -- When Parker High School opens in 2007, it will have two higher education partners within its walls. Howell Schools officials, along with officials from Lansing Community College and Ferris State University, signed an agreement Friday that will link the three educational bodies inside Parker High School.

Under the agreement, both Ferris and Lansing Community College will lease space inside the building.

Parker students will have the option of taking college courses along with their high school classes. Their families could save money, because the cost of the college-level classes would be lower than the tuition they would pay at a university, said Lucian Leone, director of Lansing Community College's Livingston County Center in Marion Township. "Relatively speaking, it's an incredibly good value," Leone said.

"In Livingston County, Lansing Community College's costs are \$88 a credit hour. At Michigan State, for example, it's over \$200 an undergraduate credit hour."

Lansing Community College will relocate its Livingston County Center to Parker once the building is completed. The college will have access to up to a dozen classrooms, Leone said.

"The nice thing about this agreement is it allows us to be more flexible," he said. "We can make it fit our needs."

The agreement is good news to Michelle Morgan, a 39-year-old Howell resident with a fifth-grade daughter in the Howell school district. "If students have an opportunity to take college courses while still in high school, that would give them a huge advantage," Morgan said. Ferris State University, based in Big Rapids, already has a presence at the community college's Lansing campus. But this would be the first time the university would set up classes inside a high school, said Jennifer Hegenauer, marketing director for the University Center for Extended Learning, the branch of Ferris involved in taking programs from the university to communities.

"We're really pleased to be able to offer programs for the residents of Livingston County," Hegenauer said.

"This builds on our partnership with Lansing Community College." Plans are under way to give future students, either at Parker or at another site, the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree without having to take classes out of the county.

There are also plans to promote interaction between college and high school students. The college students, for example, could act as mentors to younger students and help them with class work and other challenges, Leone said.

Howell area voters approved a \$97.62 million bond issue in 1993 that allowed for the renovation of Howell High School as well as the construction of Parker High School.

Parker will be built on the south side of Wright Road, just east of D-19 in Marion Township. Plans call for a 295,000-square-foot school designed for up to 1,400 students.

Pioneer

May 04, 2005

Ferris State to award more than 1,500 degrees

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University will award more than 1,500 diplomas and present five honorary degrees during the university's annual spring commencement exercises in Wink Arena Friday and Saturday.

Some 1,544 students of the 1,816 eligible graduates are expected to participate in four ceremonies recognizing those who completed graduation requirements during the 200405 academic year.

The Ferris Board of Trustees will confer honorary doctorate degrees upon Paul Boyer (business and industry), of Grand Rapids; Roger and Debra Card (business and industry), of Mount Pleasant; Rick Johnson (public service), of Leroy; and Richard Sauve (business and industry), of Fenton. The recipients will deliver brief acceptance remarks.

Johnson will address graduates of the College of Education and Human Services and College of Pharmacy Friday at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sauve will give his remarks to College of Technology graduates at 9 a.m., Boyer will speak to College of Business graduates at 12:30 p.m. and the Cards will address graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Allied Health Sciences and Michigan College of Optometry at 4 p.m.

Commencement ceremonies for Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University will be held May 7 at 10:30 a.m. in the Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids. Kendall will confer an honorary doctor of arts degree upon Robert S. Fogarty Jr., chair and chief executive officer of Kindel Furniture Company.

Ferris Commencement weekend alumni activities are highlighted by the annual Alumni Spring Reunion Banquet May 5 at 6 p.m. in the Holiday Inn Conference Center Ballroom.

The program features the induction of members of the Class of 1955 into the Society of Golden Eagles (50th anniversary), recognition of the Class of 1965, and presentation of the Ferris Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Awards to Richard "Dick" Dolack, of Muskegon, and Randy Seaman, of Lowell, and Pacesetter Awards to Mark Guindon, of Linden, and Michael Pung, of Mount Pleasant.

The Ferris Professional Women will host their annual FPW Commencement Breakfast May 6 from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room.

The program will feature recognition of FPW Woman of the Year, Jana Hurley, and presentation of the Helen Bennett Award to the university's outstanding female student-athlete.

Pioneer

May 04, 2005

Ferris Board to consider renovation

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University's Board of Trustees will take action on a renovation of the Instructional Resource Center during its regular meeting Friday in the Timme Center for Student Services. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. in Room 201 V-W and is open to the public.

Ferris recently received \$5.625 million in state capital outlay funding to renovate the IRC to focus on serving academic programs associated with the adjacent College of Business. The university must match one-fourth of the cost, or \$1.875 million, making the remodeling of the 1969 structure a \$7.5 million project. The board will review the refinancing of three general revenue bonds to provide funding for the project.

Trustees will consider a recommendation to close the Environmental Health and Safety programs in the College of Allied Health Sciences at the end of Winter Semester 2006. The programs experienced an 87.3 percent enrollment decline from Fall 1992 to Fall 2004.

Despite extensive student recruitment and marketing efforts, no new students were among the 20 enrolled last fall.

Program reviews conducted by the Academic Senate, college dean and department head recommended that the baccalaureate in Environmental Health and Safety Management and associate degree in Environmental Health and Safety Technology be discontinued.

After a thorough study and analysis of all data, the vice president for Academic Affairs and president concurred with the recommendation.

Faculty members will be reassigned and arrangements are being made on an individual basis to assure a graduation plan for each student who is currently enrolled.

The board also will consider, among other items, approval of rolling a per-credit, off-campus tuition assessment (general fee) into tuition; a franchise license agreement for a Quiznos Sub location in Rankin Center's Pug Cafe; a professional services contract with Bentz, Whaley, Flessner to provide on-going counsel for operations of university Advancement and Marketing; and a lease agreement with ALLTEL Cellular to place cellular communications antennas atop Cramer Hall.

Detroit News

May 04, 2005

Fallen officer's kin rebuild lives, home

Scene of the crime in Hazel Park transformed, put up for sale; proceeds will create animal shelter.

HAZEL PARK -- Matt Wilson stood in the front room of the house on East Jarvis and peered out the front door to motion to where his wife, Jessica Nagle-Wilson, a Hazel Park police officer, was killed on the front lawn.

The ranch-style house was once owned by Hans-George Hofe, who gunned down 26-year-old Nagle-Wilson as she stepped from her patrol car to respond to a neighbor's complaint about Hofe's dog in July 2002. Hofe was sentenced to life in prison without parole.

Wilson, along with Nagle-Wilson's parents, Bill and Debbie Nagle, got possession of the house about two years ago and were determined to make some good out of the tragedy.

They wanted Hazel Park's officers, neighbors and the children on the playground at United Oaks Elementary across the street to have a sense of peace. So they began renovations to turn what they called the "black hole" of the community into a home and will use sale proceeds to start an Oakland County animal shelter in Nagle-Wilson's honor.

"We are doing this for my wife," Wilson said, smiling. "This is definitely something that she would be proud of. Everything that we do is what we think she would want us to do."

Bill Nagle remembers when he first stepped onto the porch of the house where he stood with Wilson for 45 minutes before twisting off the lock to go inside.

"When I first saw the inside it was disgusting -- there wasn't a room in good shape," he said, referring to the peeling vinyl floor in the bathroom, mahogany paneling on the living room walls and outdated electrical wiring and broken plumbing.

"I didn't want it to be known as the house where Jessica was killed," he said. "I wanted to change it for the neighborhood and now people can drive by and not have a constant reminder of what happened." Wilson and Nagle spent last summer putting up new siding and landscaping and poured concrete to make a new driveway, front porch and sidewalk.

In the sidewalk a replica of Nagle-Wilson's police badge is embedded into the concrete as a memorial to her.

Robin Hand has lived next door to the house for nine years and said the renovations have turned things around for the residents on the street. "Now we have a fresh start," she said.

"The family put aside their feelings for a good cause. They did a wonderful job with the house and it has made a world of difference in our neighborhood."

Last fall they began working on the interior, adding new wiring, copper plumbing and a wood floor in the kitchen along with cabinets, countertops and appliances. When renovations were completed in March the family put the house up for sale and held an open house. Since then the home has attracted some interested buyers.

“This is a symbol of Jessica. We are giving something back for her,” said Nagle, a Macomb resident. “This was all her. I worked here, but she did this.”

The open house was Debbie Nagle’s second trip to the house and her first time inside.

“It was easier than I thought it would be -- I was dreading that day,” she said. “When I got there it didn’t look like the house where such a horrible thing took place and it met the goal that Bill and Matt wanted to accomplish.”

The Nagles are searching for a site for the animal shelter they hope to build with proceeds from the house sale, which will go to the Jessica Nagle-Wilson Charitable Foundation.

Nagle-Wilson graduated from Ferris State University in 2000 with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice and served with the Hazel Park Police Department for 18 months before she was killed. She was married to Wilson, a former Detroit police officer now with the Oakland County Sheriffs Department, for two months.

“Closure may never come,” Debbie Nagle said. “This is just another step for us to go through.”

The portion of the block where the house stands has had a rebirth, said Bill Nagle.

“It isn’t the ugly house on the block anymore,” he said. “I am thrilled with what we did with it. It is the same location, but it is not the same house.”

The Grand Rapids Press

May 04, 2005

GVSU, Ferris reach nationals

ALLENDALE - In the final minutes of Tuesday's NCAA Division II regional action, members of the Grand Valley State and Ferris State women's golf teams could be seen exchanging hugs and high-fives.

The two teams beat out Northern Kentucky, who had an ill-timed day off, to qualify for the nationals.

Grand Valley, which won its first-ever East Region championship, fired a 306 to finish with a three-day total of 959 at The Meadows.

Ferris State's 966 was good for second place, while Northern Kentucky fell to third place (974) after leading its competition by five strokes following Day 1.

"Obviously today we played very well," said Grand Valley coach Lori Stinson, who reached the Division II national tournament for the fourth time in five years.

"We figured we had an opportunity to reach the national tournament if we just stayed patient and played our own game."

Only the first and second place teams qualified for the national tournament, held May 11-14 in Silver City, N.M., near Albuquerque.

"We were thinking we had to play a fine round of golf to get here and hope for some luck," Ferris State assistant coach Phil Walling said. "Northern Kentucky has played well all year so they had to have an off day in order for us to have a chance."

It's funny how the game of golf works sometimes. That off day helped the Norse fall from first to third and out of contention, giving local standouts Melissa Sneller (Zeeland) and Enid Gage (Wyoming Park) the thrill of seeing the Lakers win their first-ever regional title on their home course.

"I feel really honored and privileged to go," Gage said. "I didn't know how well we were doing until we made the turn onto the back nine, and even then we had to stay in our own frame of mind."

Added Sneller: "We're going to enjoy this day first and then worry about nationals later."

Sneller, who shot 79 and 80 during the two 18-hole rounds Monday, took advantage of slightly warmer temperatures and calmer winds to fire a 75. She tied teammate Laura Leatherman (Caledonia) for low-score honors in the final round, with Kristi Vienneau firing a 77 and Gage shooting a 79.

Ferris State, which finished second in the nation a year ago behind Rollins, got a 75 from Heidi Aittama and a 77 from Elena Robles to lead the way. Casey McKinnon (80) and Becky Hoffman (81) also posted top scores for the Bulldogs.

DIVISION II MEN: Grand Valley State's golfers will need a similar collapse by Northern Kentucky's men to have a shot at a trip to nationals. Northern Kentucky has a two-day total of 590 in action at St. Joseph, Mo., while the Lakers are at 608 and Northwood at 609. Ferris State is fifth at 611. Only the top team in each of the men's regional brackets moves on to the national finals.

Pioneer

May 05, 2005

Ferris to present five honorary degrees at commencement

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University will confer honorary degrees upon five recipients during its annual commencement exercises Friday and Saturday.

Selected for the distinction by the university's board of trustees are: Paul Boyer, of Grand Rapids, vice chair and co-chief executive officer of Meijer, Inc.; Roger Card and his wife, Debra, of Mount Pleasant, owner of The Card Companies and Card's Draw; Rick Johnson, of Leroy, immediate past speaker of Michigan's House of Representatives; and Richard Sauve, of Fenton, technical sales representative for Leica Geosystems, Inc.

Boyer, who graduated from Ferris with a bachelor's degree in marketing, also holds a master's degree in business administration from Western Michigan University. During his 35 Years with Meijer, he has held many key management positions including senior vice president of distribution, senior vice president of distribution and properties, SourceClub president and executive vice president. He became president and C00 in 2002 and a member of the board of directors in 2003.

He has been active in Ferris alumni events, serving on the Ferris alumni board and receiving the 1992 Distinguished Alumni Award. Thanks in part to highly successful alumni such as Boyer, Meijer and Ferris have developed a strong working relationship over several decades.

Through the generosity of Roger and Debra Card, Ferris is home to the Card Wildlife Education Center - a 5,000 square-foot facility with more than 160 specimens of animals from around the world. Roger Card is a 1963 graduate of Ferris' College of Technology, and both he and his wife have hunted big game around the globe. Together, the Cards have donated or loaned animal mounts and pledged significant support for development and maintenance of the center.

In addition, Roger and Debra established the Card Scholarship, which awards \$10,000 per year. The scholarships highlight their commitment to Ferris and their involvement in educating students throughout the community and state.

Born and raised on a farm in Osceola County, Johnson has an extensive history of service in education. He first achieved public office on the Pine River Board of Education in the early 1980's. His six years on the Pine River board taught him valuable lessons about maximizing dollars in the classroom, experience that he carried over into the Michigan House of Representatives, where he became speaker in 2001.

Johnson's hands-on style, attention to detail and focus on the future of Michigan have been key in the implementation of digital and information technology systems throughout the state. In November 2001, he introduced the concept of Freedom to Learn, an innovative program designed to increase student performance, empower teachers and provide opportunities for all Michigan students through wireless technology. After a pilot

program in 80 schools showed increases in test scores and student involvement, he announced the Learning Without Limits project in 2003.

Sauve, who received a bachelor's degree in surveying from Ferris in 1983, is an international Global Positioning Systems surveyor. He has earned Leica Geosystems' Heinrich Wild Sales Excellence Award each year from 1998-2004 in recognition of his sales, which were the highest above target in the western hemisphere.

Sauve's expertise in surveying has allowed him to work on projects around the world, from Algeria to Norway, Chile to Iran and Abu Dhabi to Beijing - not to mention many projects in the United States. He is a frequent guest instructor for Ferris' Surveying Engineering Technology program, teaching the use of the latest surveying technologies.

For the last five years through his advocacy and activities with students, Ferris' program has enjoyed significant support, including equipment, accessories and contributions from Leica Geosystems.

The Grand Rapids Press

May 05, 2005

Kendall student hits big time

GRAND RAPIDS - Noah Packard believes he inherited his artistic ability. His father, Russell, is a woodworker and furniture maker and his mother, Amy, is an artist.

“I got a little from each of them,” said Packard, 25, who is to graduate Saturday from Kendall College of Art and Design with a degree in furniture design.

“My father and I have built furniture together,” he said. “He even built the prototype for one of my designs that I sent to him by e-mail.”

Packard graduates as Kendall's 2005 Studio Excellence Award winner in the school's furniture design department. He is one of five students, one from each major course of study, to receive the award this year.

It is one of several honors Packard has earned at Kendall, and now he is heading to New York to work with prominent furniture designer Vladimir Kagan.

“He is really into traditional furniture design,” said Packard, a 1997 graduate of East Kentwood High School. “When I interviewed with him, he gave me a project to do right on the spot.”

Kagan has been designing furniture since 1947. He is famous for his enormous kidney shaped couches, his wooden chairs and tables with boomerang curves.

“For him to get a job with Vladimir (Kagan) is incredible,” said Max Shangle, chairman of Kendall's furniture design program. “This is the first time Vladimir has ever brought in a student specifically to help, because he has projects that need someone with design and computer experience.”

In 2001, Kagan received an honorary doctorate degree from Kendall. He also visited the campus this year for a book signing of his new title, “The Complete Kagan.”

“Vladimir called me when he was looking for someone to work with him,” Shangle said. “He said, ‘Send me someone good,’ which is what I did.”

The offer to work with Kagan presented Packard with a choice. He was offered a paid internship after an initial visit with Kagan, which meant that he had to start work six weeks before graduation.

“There was no way I was going to turn that down,” Packard said. “I made arrangements to do the work to complete my classes so I could take off for New York.”

At Kendall, Packard learned all aspects of furniture design and how to use a computer program that allowed him to design furniture in three dimensions. He also learned the importance of detail.

“I learned what is possible and impossible when designing furniture,” he said. “I need to keep in mind that what I do has to be a good design, marketable and able to be built.”

Pioneer

May 06, 2005

Ferris alumni spur donation of international trucks, engines

BIG RAPIDS - When two alumni of Ferris State University acted on a valuable lesson they learned as undergraduates, the university's Heavy Equipment Technology (HET) program was the benefactor.

HET recently received four trucks and six engines from International Truck and Engine Corporation, of Warrenville, Ill. The gift-in kind donation was spearheaded by alumni and International employees Jim Balkonis and Mike Peters. The trucks are 2000 International High Performance Vehicles (HPV) with fully integrated multi-plex electrical systems.

Balkonis, International's TEM development manager, is a graduate of the Heavy Equipment Service Technology program and earned his bachelor's degree in Automotive and Heavy Equipment Management in 2001. HET graduate Peters is a technical service manager for International based in Indianapolis, Ind.

While taking classes in the College of Technology, they were educated on the latest equipment in their fields, a hallmark of specialized programs at Ferris. During a visit to campus in 2004, they noticed a need to upgrade some of the equipment in the program.

"We looked at the quality of the equipment and realized that some replacements were called for," said Balkonis. "To keep an education relevant for students and far graduates to survive in the business world, we knew that Ferris needed to stay abreast of technology and product information."

"With that in mind, Mike and I started to check around to find trucks and engines that could be donated," added Balkonis.

He and Peters started making plans with Keith Cripe, Ferris department chair and professor. The project took a little more than a year before the equipment was delivered to the Heavy Equipment Center late last month.

"We were concerned with the quality of the education the heavy equipment students receive at Ferris and the kind of graduates that enter the industry from this program," said Balkonis. "That was why we were so intent on helping."

Peters said he was inspired to arrange the donation because he recalled his Ferris; instructors as being highly motivated to seem, their students succeed.

"They were very interested in making sure we received our education and they also helped us find employment," said Peters. "They had a desire that Jim and I and many others would be able to perform on the job."

Said Cripe, “The timing of this donation was perfect. We just had an advisory board meeting and part of our discussion involved a curriculum review addressing some of the new advancements in the field that we needed to incorporate.”

“The donation of this equipment will permit our students to become familiar with these new systems and will put them ahead of the game when they encounter them on the job,” explained Cripe.

Pioneer

May 06, 2005

Congratulations Ferris graduates

Starting today and continuing tomorrow, more than 1,500 students will be receiving degrees from Ferris State University.

Most of those people will now be leaving Big Rapids to pursue careers in their chosen fields. Others will continue their academic pursuits here or at other institutions of higher education. And, some will even choose to stay in our community to begin their new lives as working Americans.

Whatever the case, they all deserve our congratulations for completing a major goal in what has become now, more than ever, a lifelong learning experience.

Most of these students have lived among us for two or more years and in many cases have participated in and contributed to the betterment of our community.

Hopefully the majority have enjoyed their experience here and will return to visit many times in the future.

Obviously, we won't be looked upon as the ideal community for all Ferris graduates, but we certainly hope our way of living in this west-central Michigan rural community has and continues to touch their lives.

We wish you all the best of luck in your endeavors and hope our paths cross again in the future.

Pioneer

May 06, 2005

Ferris State engineering technology students honored

BIG RAPIDS - Four College of Technology students at Ferris State University were chosen by faculty advisers of the Michigan Epsilon Chapter of Tau Alpha Pi for induction into the national honor society for engineering technology students.

The new inductees are John Colasanti, of Three Rivers; and Mark Finnigan, of Saginaw, seniors in mechanical engineering technology; Jason Easlick, of Hemlock, a sophomore in mechanical engineering technology; and Adam Wagie, of West Bend, Wis., a senior in electrical and electronics engineering technology.

“Eligibility for membership is limited to the top four percent of all full-time students who have completed at least three-fourths of their studies in an eligible engineering technology program,” said chapter advisor Jim Rumpf, associate professor of manufacturing engineering technology.

“In addition to being academically eligible, candidates must be recommended by their faculty group,” added Rumpf. “So, these inductees were not only academically outstanding, but also have displayed excellent character during their careers at Ferris.”

Earlier in the semester, the candidates completed their community service requirement for induction by assisting at the annual Woodbridge Ferris MathCounts competition. Rumpf and faculty advisers Chuck Drake, Ken Kuk, Ron McKean and Gary Ovans processed the nominations during this semester.

Inductees received their certificates, keys and diploma seals at a recent presentation ceremony conducted by Michael Harris, vice president for academic affairs.

The students will have their names added to the Tau Alpha Pi plaque on permanent display in the lobby of the College of Technology dean’s office.

Tau Alpha Pi is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Membership is open to both associate degree and baccalaureate candidates.

The society’s purpose is twofold: to recognize high standards of scholarship among students in engineering technology programs and to promote and encourage scholastic achievement by offering outstanding engineering technology students membership in the society.

Tau Alpha Pi rewards selected scholars for past achievements and accomplishments, while encouraging a lifetime of commitment to learning and scholarship.

More information on the society can be found at the organization’s Web site <www.taualphapi.org>.

Pioneer

May 06, 2005

Ferris student presents poster at national chemistry meeting

BIG RAPIDS - Ryan Littich, of white Cloud, a chemistry major enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences at Ferris State University, presented a poster at the 229th American Chemical Society Meeting and Exposition held in San Diego, Calif.

The poster promoted the green chemistry activities of the ACS student affiliate chapter, and the results of undergraduate green chemistry research conducted by Littich and student, advisor, Dr. Pasquale Di Raddo.

Littich, a 2002 Big Rapids High School graduate, is actively involved in the student affiliate chapter of the ACS, is a Structured Learning Assistance facilitator for general chemistry and quantitative chemical analysis, and is a lab assistant for chemical manufacturing and analysis in the industrial Chemistry Technology program.

Pioneer

May 07 & 08, 2005

Graduation highlights weekend for Ferris students

BIG RAPIDS - More than 1,500 diplomas and five honorary degrees are being presented during Ferris State University's annual spring commencement exercises in Wink Arena this May.

Ceremonies continue today with Richard Sauve, of Fenton, giving his remarks to College of Technology graduates at 9 a.m.; Paul Boyer, of Grand Rapids, to College of Business graduates at 12:30 p.m.; and Roger and Debra Card, of Mount Pleasant, are addressing graduates of the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Allied Health Sciences and Michigan College of Optometry at 4 p.m.

Rick Johnson spoke during Friday evening's 6 p.m. ceremony for the College of Education and Human Services and College of Pharmacy.

The Ferris Board of Trustees conferred honorary doctorate degrees upon Boyer (business and industry), the Cards (business and industry), Rick Johnson (public service) and Sauve (business and industry).

Commencement ceremonies for Kendall College of Art and Design of Ferris State University will be held today at 10:30 a.m. in the Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids. Kendall will confer an honorary doctor of arts degree upon Robert S. Fogarty Jr., chair and chief executive officer of Kindel Furniture Company.

Pioneer

May 07 & 08, 2005

Ferris to close Environmental Health and Safety programs

BIG RAPIDS - The Environmental Health and Safety programs at Ferris State University, which experienced a drastic enrollment decline over the past 12 years, will be closed at the end of Winter Semester 2006.

Ferris' Board of Trustees Friday approved a university recommendation to close both the baccalaureate in Environmental Health and Safety Management and associate degree in Environmental Health and Safety Technology programs. The programs had undergone an 87.3 percent enrollment drop from a high of 157 students in the fall of 1992 to a low of 20 students in the fall of 2004. Extensive student recruitment and marketing efforts failed to remedy the situation as no new students were among the 20 enrolled last fall.

Subsequently, the Academic Program Review Council of the Academic Senate conducted a program review of the programs and recommended to the full Senate that the programs be discontinued. The Senate then voted to recommend program closure. College of Allied Health Sciences Dean Jacqueline Hooper and Health Management Programs Department Head Ellen Haneline conducted an independent review and also recommended program closure. Following a thorough study and analysis of all materials and data submitted, Michael Harris, vice president for academic affairs, concurred with the recommendation of the dean, department head and Academic Senate and recommended to President David L. Eisler that the programs be closed.

"This is not something that we take any pleasure in doing," said Dr. Harris concerning the program closure. "On the other hand, with the current budget situation in Michigan higher education, and with universi2 ties being asked to make the best use of their resources, it would not be prudent for us to conduct a program for only 20 students."

Harris noted that faculty members in the programs will be reassigned and arrangements are being made on an individual basis to assure a graduation plan for each student currently enrolled. No additional students are being admitted to the programs.

Pioneer

May 07 & 08, 2005

Ferris to renovate Instructional Resource Center

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University's Instructional Resource Center will undergo a \$7.5 million renovation to better serve academic programs associated with the adjacent College of Business.

The Ferris Board of Trustees Friday approved the renovation project and the refinancing of three general revenue bonds to provide funding. Ferris received \$5.625 in state capital outlay monies to remodel the 1969 structure and must match one-fourth of the cost, or \$1.875 million. Ferris officials noted that the Business Building has exceeded its instructional capacity and the IRC is not fully utilized in its current configuration and condition, thus necessitating the re-purposing of the facility.

The renovation will include floor plan reconfiguration, upgrade of all building envelope and interior finishes, as well as replacement of furniture, fixtures and equipment. New construction will include connection of the IRC to the Business Building. Plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems will be upgraded with highly energy efficient systems that will meet academic programmatic requirements and greatly reduce operational and maintenance costs.

With the exception of repaired weather damage, the 54,700 gross square foot IRC has had only minor cosmetic renovation and normal maintenance since it was built. The building currently includes four auditorium-style general education classrooms seating approximately 240 people each, four laboratories associated with the College of Education and Human Services' Television and Digital Media Production program, classroom/ computer lab space associated with the College of Business' graduate Information Systems program and faculty/staff office space.

With an anticipated late summer start for construction, Ferris President David L. Eisler has appointed Michael Harris, vice president for academic affairs, to organize an effort to seek user input on the IRC remodeling. Open campus meetings with an architect were held earlier this week.

In other business, the board of trustees approved a recommendation to roll the \$21 per credit, off-campus tuition assessment (general fee) into tuition, effective summer semester 2005.

By changing the assessment from a separate fee, Ferris administrators seek to make off-campus rates more attractive for students by allowing for more of the cost of their instruction to be paid for by their employers.

Also, the board approved:

- the acquisition of a franchise license agreement to locate a Quiznos Sub shop in the Rankin Center's Pug Cafe. The project is a result of the university's quest to maintain

and improve dining customer satisfaction. Costs for the franchise and necessary renovations and equipment will be provided from the Dining Services and Maintenance Reserve funds;

- a professional services contract with Bentz Whaley, Flessner to provide on-going counsel for operations of University Advancement and Marketing;
- a lease agreement with ALLTEI. Cellular to place cellular communications antennas atop Cramer Hall;
- a contract for an Authorizer's Oversight Information System computer program automating the oversight function of Ferris' Charter Schools Office;
- charter schools board appointments and reappointments;
- reauthorization of the Marshall Academy;
- the recommendation of Ferris' Kendal College of Art and Design to confer an honorary degree of Doctor of Arts upon Robert S. Fogarty chair and chief executive officer of Kindel Furniture Company; and
- reconfirmed the date of the next board meeting as July 15.

Pioneer

May 07 & 08, 2005

Endowed scholarship commemorates Farrell, Ferris administrator

BIG RAPIDS - Mark Farrell, son of the late Ferris State University administrator, Dr. James V. Farrell, established a scholarship endowment fund commemorating one of his father's academic achievements.

The Jim Farrell Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund will award \$1,000 annually to candidates enrolled as full-time students in the second year of an associate degree program in the College of Arts and Sciences with the intention of pursuing a bachelor's degree program in one of the university's colleges.

Dr. Farrell served Ferris for 18 years in several key leadership positions, including his tenure as Vice President of Academic Affairs from 1971 to 1977.

"My father established what was then called the 'two-plus-two' program at Ferris, so that students who came in with an associate degree could get a bachelor's degree in two more years," said Mark, in explaining the focus of the scholarship.

Farrell also served as dean of the School of General Education (now the College of Arts and Sciences) from 1958 to 1969 and vice president of Student Affairs from 1969 to 1971.

"My father was important in the growth of Ferris State College. For me, the scholarship is a good way to remember him, and it's a good tie to my time at Ferris, as well," said Mark, who is currently on leave from his position as a senior manager with Capgemini and who graduated from Ferris with a degree in applied mathematics.

His younger sister, Mary Jo, is a graduate of the College of Pharmacy, his mother, Mary Lou, earned an associate degree as a legal assistant from Ferris, and his two older brothers and older sister also took classes at Ferris.

Candidates for the Farrell Scholarship must have earned a 3.0 or higher grade point average. The award may be applied to any costs related to attending the university.

Selection of the recipient and management of the application process rests with the dean of Arts and Sciences.

Further information or gift forms for the Jim Farrell Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund are available by contacting Debra Jacks, director of planned giving, at (231) 591-3817 or <jacksd@ferris.edu>. Details about establishing scholarships or endowments may be obtained from the Advancement Office at (231) 591-2391.

Pioneer

May 09, 2005

Ferris welcomes 1,800 new alumni

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University welcomed more than 1,800 students into the ranks of alumni last weekend during annual Spring Commencement ceremonies held in the Student Convocation Center.

More than 1,500 graduates participated in the four separate ceremonies which also featured the presentation of five honorary doctorate degrees. Ferris honored Paul Boyer, of Grand Rapids, vice chair and co-chief executive officer of Meijer, Inc.; Roger Card and his wife, Debra, of Mount Pleasant, owner of The Card Companies and Card's Draw; Rick Johnson, of Leroy, immediate past speaker of Michigan's House of Representatives; and Richard Sauve, of Fenton, technical sales representative for Leica Geosystems, Inc.

Graduates' families and friends filled the Student Convocation Center's Wink Arena for the ceremonies Friday evening and Saturday morning, midday and late afternoon. Diplomas were presented to those who completed graduation requirements during the 2004-05 academic year. Graduates earned doctoral, master's, bachelor's and associate's degrees and certificates.

Commencement ceremonies for Ferris' Kendall College of Art and Design were held Saturday at Fountain Street Church in Grand Rapids. Also Saturday, Ferris graduated its largest class ever as part of Northwestern Michigan College's Commencement ceremonies in Traverse City. Forty-two of the 81 students eligible to receive degrees or certificates through the Ferris University Center for Extended Learning's Northern Michigan campus participated in the graduation event.

The first day of summer semester classes for Ferris students will be June 17. Fall semester classes begin Aug. 29.

Pioneer

May 09, 2005

Ferris tennis teams to compete in nationals

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University men's and women's tennis teams both advanced to this week's NCAA Division II Sweet Sixteen by claiming Great Lakes Regional championships last Friday at the Racquet and Fitness Center in Big Rapids.

Both Ferris teams will now advance into the 16-team single elimination national championship field slated for this Wednesday through Saturday at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Fla. The Bulldog women's tennis team, which is ranked 18th in the current Intercollegiate Tennis Association Division II national poll, will square off against South Region champion Valdosta State (Ga.) in Wednesday's round of 16 while the 35th-ranked FSU men's squad will face West Florida of the South Region in the Sweet Sixteen. Valdosta State's third-ranked women's team is currently 17-2 overall while top-ranked West Florida is presently 26-2 overall this campaign in men's tennis action. The FSU-UWF men's match will start at 10:30 a.m. with the Ferris-VSU women's tilt set for first serve at 4 p.m.

The winner of Wednesday's Valdosta State-Ferris women's contest will meet the winner of the Abilene Christian (Texas)-Lynn (Fla.) match in Thursday's national quarterfinals. The Bulldog men's team would battle either Lynn or Drury (Mo.) on Thursday by winning their opening match. The championship matches are scheduled for Saturday.

The Bulldog men's tennis team claimed its sixth consecutive regional championship by defeating Great Lakes Valley Conference member Southern Indiana by a 5-4 score in Friday's title match. Ferris, which is currently 13-9 overall this campaign, will advance to the round of 16 for the ninth time in school history. FSU is making its eighth-straight and 11th all-time tournament bid to date.

FSU's women's squad, which is midst its 10th consecutive and 15th all-time NCAA Division II Tournament appearance, reached the final round of 16 for the second time in four years and the sixth time overall by defeating fellow Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference member Grand Valley State 5-1 on Friday in the regional finals.

The Bulldogs improved to 17-2 overall and earned their fifth regional crown in the last seven seasons to date.

The national championships will be co-hosted by the Central Florida Sports Commission and the Sunshine State Conference.

Last season (2003-04), both the Ferris State men's and women's teams registered their first-ever victories in the NCAA-II Sweet Sixteen as the Bulldog men defeated Kutztown (Pa.) 5-2 and the women's squad beat Millersville (Pa.) 5-0 in the round of 16 held in Altamonte Springs.

Fifth-year FSU women's head coach Dave Ramos is presently also serving as Ferris' interim men's tennis head coach this spring on and off the court.

Pioneer

May 10, 2005

Hulsman Endowment to aid Ferris State forensics students

BIG RAPIDS - Remembering a faculty advisor's role in his education has led a Ferris State University alumnus to establish an endowment fund benefiting forensics.

“I always appreciated the role my forensics advisor, the late Professor Richard Cronk, played in my educational experience while I was completing my bachelor of science degree in business education,” said Howard J. Hulsman, a 1962 graduate of then Ferris State College.

In gratitude, the Hulsman Endowment Fund will be used to support the activities of Ferris’ forensics program.

The fund will support opportunities for students to participate in dynamic forensic programming, including tournament expenses such as entry fees and travel as well as scholarships for debate team members. Candidates for Hulsman Forensic Scholarships must have a minimum 3.25 grade point average, leadership abilities and a commitment to the advancement of the debate program.

Recipients will be chosen by the debate coach in consultation with the chair of the Humanities Department.

College of Arts and Sciences Dean Matt Klein is thankful for the new opportunities that the endowment fund will create.

“Our students have a superb record of achievement with debate team performances and activities, and Mr. Hulsman’s generosity will make it possible to develop even stronger undergraduate opportunities and a stronger debate program. The faculty, students and I are pleased and grateful for this gift,” said Dr. Klein.

Further information or gift forms for the Howard J. Hulsman Endowment Fund are available by contacting Debra Jacks, director of planned giving, at (231) 591-3817 or <jacksd@ferris.edu>. Details about establishing scholarships or endowments may be obtained from the Advancement Office at (231) 591-2391.