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The Grand Rapids Press

January 5, 2006

No move to top for GVSU provost

ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP - Grand Valley State University's top academic officer said she has no plans to pursue the school's presidency, but definitely wants to keep her job when a new leader is hired.

Moving from provost to university president "is one of the traditional progressions" in higher education, Gayle Davis said Wednesday. "But I really enjoy the academic side of the university. There are a lot of things I'd like to do that I haven't finished yet.

"I'm hoping we find a really wonderful president."

Mark Murray is leaving GVSU to become president of Meijer Inc., probably after the academic year.

Trustees will hold a special meeting Friday to discuss a search committee, the first step toward picking a successor.

Meanwhile, as they drifted back to campus after the holiday break, faculty members got e-mail announcing the change at the top. Classes resume next week.

Murray gets high marks for leading a university with campuses stretching from Ottawa County to downtown Grand Rapids and for speaking up for GVSU in the annual chase for state tax dollars.

"He turned out to be the right man at the right time," said Ben Rudolph, a GVSU business professor for more than three decades.

"He had big shoes to fill. Don Lubbers was an institution unto himself," Rudolph said, referring to GVSU's previous president who served 32 years. "Everyone said Murray would have a hard time. He has a completely different personality than Don Lubbers, but he had a successful time."

Murray's departure "will be a loss for the university," said English professor Rob Franciosi, chairman of the faculty Senate.

"He seemed more like a political insider at first," Franciosi said of Murray's experience in state government. "He won over a lot of faculty who got to know him. Universities value the mind, and he has a good mind."

Faculty probably won't favor a new president who wants "to transform" GVSU, he said. "Most people are content where the university is right now and would not want someone to go in a radically different direction," Franciosi said.

Murray, a former state treasurer and budget director, hired Davis, a former associate vice president at Wichita State University, in 2002.

As provost and vice president for academic affairs, she is in charge of the academic side of GVSU, a specialty Murray admits he didn't possess when he arrived in 2001.

In Lansing, where Murray's grasp of government and politics served GVSU well, lawmakers said the university has thrived under his leadership.

Murray repeatedly reminded them the university was growing fast, even attracting students from the Detroit area. But still it lagged behind other state universities in per-student dollars.

Grand Valley's enrollment stands at 22,565 students, up 10 percent over 2001.

"Mark was very successful in taking steps toward equity. He was trusted" by Democrats and Republicans, said Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema, R-Wyoming. "When he tells the story of Grand Valley, people know he's truthful.

"At the end of the day, it meant dollars and cents."

Pioneer

January 5, 2006

Ferris pharmacy grads create hockey endowment fund

BIG RAPIDS - Big Rapids residents Douglas and Kim Hancock, Ferris State Pharmacy graduates, established the Hancock Family Hockey Scholarship Endowment Fund.

Both Doug and Kim are longtime supporters of Bulldog Hockey and support many hockey initiatives including the Blueline Club and the Hockey Ambassador program.

"We've seen past and present Ferris hockey players play an important role in our own son's hockey dreams," said Doug. "We just wanted to continue to foster this special relationship that is unique in our own community. We also wanted to return something to the Ferris hockey program that has provided our family with many great memories."

Candidates for the scholarship must be full-time students in good academic standing and be eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

They also must be dedicated to the success of the Hockey program and express an interest in supporting local area youth hockey programs.

"The Hancock Family Hockey Scholarship will help many kids in the future realize their dream of playing college hockey and will keep Ferris Hockey competitive on a national level," said Head Hockey Coach Bob Daniels.

"On behalf of the Ferris hockey team I would like to say how appreciative we are of the generosity they have shown in their willingness to secure the financial future of Ferris State hockey."

Scholarship funds, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per academic year, may be applied to tuition and books.

For more information or to make a gift to the Hancock Family Hockey Scholarship Endowment Fund, please contact the Ferris

Foundation at (231) 591-2391 or <fsufdn@ferris.edu> Details about establishing scholarships or endowments may be obtained from the Advancement Office at (231) 591-3825.

The Detroit News

January 8, 2006

Career prep starts now

Is it possible to get a head start on your career as a teenager?

William Potter, dean of the career-oriented Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Mich., says yes.

With plenty of experience in preparing kids for the world of work, the veteran college administrator says one thing to remember is that you have to be open. After all, you can't predict where your career is going to go.

He also emphasizes: "Follow your heart."

Here are more career-preparation suggestions for students:

Take whatever you do well and fashion that into a career, says Ray Green, a sales representative for Analysts International, which provides technology support for industry.

"You're going to have to work real hard," Green says, "so do something you like. Be passionate about your work."

Hands-on experience is crucial, from learning how to fix computers or computer viruses in your basement to building skills through an internship, adds the firm's vice president, Bill Murray.

Incorporate real-world knowledge and interests into your life, says Debbie Bayer, a retired police lieutenant, mother of five and director of an emergency services training center.

Someone who loves video games, for instance, should get a subscription to PC World magazine. Along with keeping up with technology, she says, reading "good, structured sentences" will prove helpful later.

No matter what you're interested in now, know that it could change in the future.

"What (you) like now may not be what (you) like two or four years from now," says Melanie Myers, coordinator of the construction management program at an Oakland Community College campus.

"And don't assume that college is for everyone. Some students are better-suited for trades management - - and there's nothing wrong with that."

Try volunteer work, says Jean Jernigan, assistant director of membership services for the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants.

It not only exposes you to a field, but also lets you see if you're interested enough to pursue a career.

"Beyond that, it might be a resume-builder," she says.

Keep a clean record, advises Pamela Newsome of the Oakland County Sheriffs Department.

"Many teens don't realize that what they do now counts," she says. "Everything they do today affects their ability to be hired in the future."

Grand Rapids Business Journal Express

January 9, 2006

IT Industry Growing Quickly

GRAND RAPIDS - In only its third year in West Michigan, transplant technology firm Norseman Games is looking to carve out a new industry cluster around its battle-tested niche.

Its core product is the online fantasy role-playing game The Realm Online. At 10 years old and in its third version, The Realm is the oldest and largest gaming environment of its kind.

In 2003, the Wocholz family acquired the game and began plans to relocate it from Silicon Valley to Grand Rapids. COO Ellington Ellis, the Indiana stockbroker in charge of the Wochholz family's assets, was recruited to take over the day-to-day operations of the fledgling company. Admittedly, he first suggested operations remain in California, but could not persuade the family against a West Michigan headquarters.

"I'm not from the area (and) neither is Mike or AJ, but we're glad we're here," Ellis said, referring to General Manager Michael Crow and Research and Development Director Akio "AJ" Yokoyama. "And if we're going to be living here, we want to make it a great place for gaming. We want to produce these games from the talent we have here in the community."

Norseman, the only company of its kind in the Midwest, has teamed up with another Midwest exclusive, Ferris State University-Grand Rapids' Digital Animation and Game Design program.

In partnership with The Right Place Inc., FSU and Grand Valley State University, Norseman has formed the Technology Sustainability Advisory Council (TSAC). Through this, Norseman hopes to spearhead an initiative similar in intent to the region's Life Sciences Corridor.

"There is a passion for biolife in this area; that's why you're seeing such growth in that," Ellis said. "Life sciences is a great and wonderful thing, but it's still tunnel vision. If we have multiple strong industries growing, then if one of us gets a cold, we won't all get sick."

In the long run, TSAC hopes to entice West Coast companies such as EA Games and Sony to establish West Michigan satellites. In the short term, the FSU program will produce its first graduates in 2007, and Norseman hopes to have jobs waiting.

Albeit from a small base, the combined computer and mathematical occupations is expected to grow faster over the next decade than any other field in the Grand Rapids area - including health care - with a 32.4 percent projected increase between 2002 and 2012, according to the state's labor office.

Yet, the field is largely overlooked by the community and underserved by economic development and educational efforts. West Michigan barely noticed when homegrown e-commerce firm iMart was acquired by publicly traded Smart Online last fall.

As a first-phase venture in an extremely competitive industry dominated by large market companies, iMart developed relationships with Fruit of the Loom, Fashion Bug, Chadwick's of Boston, Bissell and Alticox. Its platform was used in InforMD's Advoca interactive system, one of the first launches from the West Michigan Science and Technology Initiative.

On that note, the first commercial product from the Van Andel Research Institute was not a pharmaceutical but a software application, XenoBase, released on the same day as iMart's merger announcement.

"The Grand Rapids region is looking for innovative ways to take part in the information age," said iMart CEO Gary Mahieu. "At the grassroots level, entrepreneurs are ready to take part in doing that. But at the government, university and policy level, we're not ready to do that."

A year ago, Troy-based NuSoft Solutions acquired Sagestone Consulting - an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and one of Grand Rapids' most prolific young technology firms.

"iMart, as with Sagestone, was acquired for all the right reasons," said Sagestone founder and NuSoft President of Business Development Keith Brophy.

As it turns out, for a manufacturing cluster West Michigan has a disproportionate number of national caliber technology firms, Brophy said. Most of these are small companies, but so are the majority in California and elsewhere. And with its entrepreneurial attitude, West Michigan may be better suited for IT growth than even Silicon Valley.

Pioneer

January 10, 2006

Ferris State plans week full of activity to observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day

BIG RAPIDS - The calendar denotes Monday as Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a national holiday, but Ferris State University has stretched the observance out to include a week of activities and education.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Week seeks to bring people together, both across campus and in the community, as well as educate and raise awareness of social injustices both past and present.

"Our purpose was to promote Dr. King's dream of unity and togetherness on our campus," said Karen GreenBay, one of the organizing committee co-chairs. "This is our first time in a while doing activities to this extent on campus."

GreenBay added part of the purpose was to make people aware of King's goals "and have our Big Rapids community and our Ferris community and students come together and help achieve those goals."

For a complete schedule of events, please see the accompanying information box.

Events are free and open to the public, with the exception of the Legacy Ball, which is by invitation only. Monetary donations will be accepted, with all proceeds going to the Mecosta and Osceola County Walk for Warmth fund-raisers.

Activities begin on Sunday - King's birthday - with the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March. Marchers will begin at Merrill/ Travis Hall at 2 p.m. and march to the Rankin Center lobby, where refreshments will be provided.

After the march, a community church service has been scheduled for 4 to 5:30 p.m. at the United Church of Big Rapids.

"Dr. King was a Baptist minister," GreenBay said. "We are tying, in with one church to bring his mission to our churches to bring the community in that way."

After the service, a soul food dinner will be offered at Cafe Ferris, located in West Commons 110, the same building as Ferris Public Safety (in front of Cramer Hall).

Soul food, explained GreenBay, is a type of cuisine found in the Southern region of the country and includes dishes such as fried chicken, fried fish, greens, black-eyed peas and chittlins.

Monday, the official observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, will begin with the Tunnel of Oppression from 1 to 6 p.m. in Rankin Center Rooms 153/155. The Tunnel is

a display of pictures of people being oppressed, from past and present. It will run every day through Friday, at varying times.

"It's quite graphic; troublesome," said fellow co-chair Karyn Benner. "It's dark, it's lit by lamps. It takes people anywhere from a few seconds to two hours to go through it....

Every group of people has been oppressed."

This activity is not recommended for children. Viewers should be at least middle-school age or older, organizers said.

Also on Monday are four one-hour activity and discussion sessions from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Rankin Center.

"They're all hands-on educational learning type things with discussion," Benner said.

"Each addresses diversity."

Benner described the session organization as "conference-style," with all activities taking place at the same time. Participants may begin wherever they choose and go through all of them or just take part in the sessions they find most interesting.

The Albatross will invite participants to enter a room where they may not speak and must do as they are told. Participants will make assumptions about the society in the room, which will be shared during a discussion of what the society really is like.

Baby Mall will assign participants a baby of a certain racial and socioeconomic background. They will circle the room, attempting to obtain everything from clothing to education for the child as it grows up. Discussion will center around these experiences.

Guess What? invites people to come into a room and react to others based on a label on their forehead - such as "dumb blonde" - while not knowing what the label on their own head reads. At the end, people try to guess what their label was and discussion centers on how they felt when they were treated like that stereotype.

Killing Us Softly will show a video about oppression faced by women with participants having a discussion afterward.

The annual Student Tribute will run from 6 to 6:30 p.m. on Monday in the Rankin Center Dome Room, with several speakers, speeches and poems. Following the tribute, "1,001 Black Inventions," a play from Washington, D.C., will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the same location.

Highlighting Tuesday's events is an interactive activity called "White Privilege" at 11 a.m. at the Rankin Center Dome Room and a showing of the video "CRASH" with a panel discussion at 6 p.m. in the Pharmacy Auditorium.

"White Privilege is an interactive activity with discussion. It's a nationally-known program that's used quite often," Benner said.

The panel for the "CRASH" video discussion will include faculty, staff and students.

"If you haven't seen the movie, you need to," Benner said, adding the film is not suitable for children.

Thursday, Calvin Levels, a California actor, will portray James Baldwin in "Down From The Mountaintop."

The play, rated PG-13, examines Baldwin, an American writer involved in the Civil Rights Movement and addresses homosexuality, organizers said.

Also on Thursday will be another video and discussion. The video, "Skin Deep," will be shown at u a.m. in Rankin Center Room 238. It is "about race and how everybody is connected," Benner said.

Friday brings the Gospel Blow Out from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Rankin Center Dome Room. "The intent is to invite students, faculty and staff to sing and perform at that time," GreenBay said.

A group of high school students from Grand Rapids, Raqad, also will be performing during the Blow Out.

Capping off the week's activities is the invitation-only Legacy Ball. The wrap-up activity will recap the week's events and serve as the setting for the presentation of the money raised all week to Walk for Warmth.

Additionally, the Legacy Award will be presented at the ball.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Award is one of FSU's highest student honors.

It is presented to individuals who "exemplify excellence in leadership, passion for service and have demonstrated a commitment to social responsibility in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." organizers said.

This is the inaugural year for the award, which will be given to a student.

The entire ball is to acknowledge and thank the students for their efforts throughout the week, GreenBay said.

"Without the students, it would be very difficult to do all this," she said.

Daily Press & Argus

January 10, 2005

'Hateful' artifact exhibit coming-Museum promotes racial tolerance

What was considered a negative for the city of Howell is now being looked at as a positive.

Last year, the Ku Klux Klan memorabilia auction at the end of January caused controversy throughout a community that has tried hard to rid itself of the perception that it's a breeding ground for KKK activity.

Now the city, along with the Livingston 2001 Diversity Council, is welcoming a traveling exhibit from Ferris State University titled "Hateful Things - Objects from the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University."

The 39-piece traveling exhibition will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; Saturday, Jan. 21 and Sunday, Jan. 22, at the main floor of the Howell Opera House, 123 W. Grand River Ave.. The museum will also be open from 3-8 p.m. during the weekdays next week.

Before opening to the general public, a media preview and press conference has been scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the opera house.

The Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia features an extensive collection of objects that trace the history of stereotyping blacks. The exhibition of these items and images is meant to stimulate examination of the historical and contemporary expressions of racism, as well as promoting racial understanding and healing.

Dr. John Thorp, the director of the museum, said it has been to mostly college campuses including Mott Community College, Aquinas College, and Delta Community College.

The exhibit in Howell is recommended for middle school and high school groups, but the public is also welcome to attend. School groups may schedule visits during the week by calling (734) 878-2112.

"In those contexts, it has been well-received," he said. "Faculty members have brought classes and designed assignments around the subject."

While the intentions of the museum are good, there is some fear that people may misinterpret why such a display is coming to downtown Howell.

"One thing we want to convey to the general public is these items are in a museum for the purpose of education," said Vic Lopez, president of the Livingston 2001 Diversity Council. "That is the opposite of what happened with the auction."

Lopez said the exposure to hateful things that have never been seen before will be offensive to a lot of people, but it's meant to eliminate those things from happening in the future. It's not a coincidence that the museum is opening just a day before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. Lopez said this museum should be seen as a tribute to King's work.

Thorp said there have been people who saw a two- or three-minute presentation, and weren't paying close attention to it, who objected to it.

"We made the effort to contact the individual directly," he said. "There is much more to this than they perceived what was happening."

The relationship between the Ferris State museum and the Livingston 2001 Diversity Council began last year because of the auction. Originally community leaders and members of Livingston 2001 wanted to buy a robe with the intention of burning it.

Instead, they purchased a \$700 KKK women's cape to donate to the Jim Crow Museum.

"As a group, we wanted to combat what the auction was representing," Lopez said.

Howell's reputation took a huge hit in the late 1980s and early 1990s when former KKK Grand Dragon Robert E. Miles moved to Cohoctah Township and would hold cross-burning rallies. Miles died in 1992. A few years later, the KKK held a rally on the steps of the historical Livingston County Courthouse in downtown Howell. The council was founded in 1988 as a response to the cross-burning incidents that took place in the county.

Lopez believes that having the museum exhibit in Howell could contribute to wiping away those perceptions that outsiders have about Howell.

"We will continue to show through constant media exposure that we are not that type of community," he said. "It will take some time, but we have made tremendous improvements over the years."

Pioneer

January 11, 2006

FSU art gallery exhibit

BIG RAPIDS - Recent works by artist Wade Eldean will be on exhibit Jan. 10 through Feb. 3 at the Ferris State University Rankin Art Gallery.

The majority of Eldean's work in the gallery will feature yarn as a medium. Yarn paintings in Huichol culture, a Mexican tribe, relay and create visual representations of personal and cultural beliefs. The paintings represent visions of the tribe's Shaman, a spiritual leader. His visions give insight into their culture and spirituality. Like that tribe, Eldean's visions are created in yarn paintings. The yarn is a cultural storyteller, relaying his visions to others.

Eldean's primary resource of inspiration comes from his 11-year-old son, Ryan. His work represents and celebrates children's irresistible qualities, such as innovation, naivete, love, instinct and play that they appear to innately possess. His artwork is a reflection and pro-active commentary on the connection with children, their need for adult presence, guidance, love and insight. His work celebrates and reminds the viewer of the important role and relationship adults have in society with children.

In 1999 Eldean received a master of fine art degree from the University of Idaho in Moscow, Idaho and in 2004 he received a master of business administrator from Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids Eldean has shown his work nationally since 1997.

The Rankin Art Gallery, is open weekdays from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. A reception and gallery talk featuring Eldean will take place Jan. 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This event and regular weekday visits are open to the public at no charge.

Detroit News
January 11, 2006

Howell's 'Hateful Things' exhibit tramples racial stereotypes

Local leaders hope display, dialogue one year after KKK auction will erase negative image.

HOWELL -- Memorabilia from the Ku Klux Klan will be back in public view at a downtown business next week, starting on the national holiday honoring civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Organizers of the display say the intent is to help combat racism.

"We are hoping to educate and engage people," said Pat Convery, president of the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce.

The traveling exhibit from Ferris State University's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia will be at the Howell Opera House for the King Day observance Monday. It is the first event in an effort by community leaders to address issues of diversity.

A diversity awareness workshop program also is in the works, although the Howell City Council hasn't decided whether to contribute public money to the effort.

Last year, an auction of Ku Klux Klan robes and other paraphernalia planned at the Ole Gray Nash Auction House on the King Day observance created an outcry and reignited perceptions of racism in Howell. The business rescheduled the auction.

"Hateful Things," the traveling Jim Crow exhibit, contains 39 items from the 19th century to present characterizing African-Americans in stereotypical ways.

"The response to the exhibit in our viewings has saddened viewers, but has been favorable, given the nature of the items," said Ferris professor John Thorp, who organizes the exhibit tours. The exhibit went on tour about a year ago, visiting mostly college campuses to heighten awareness and understanding.

"It's just going to cause more uproar because of Howell's history," said Nancy Anderson, 49, a downtown business owner.

However, Howell resident Chris Cotter, 47, said the display will be no different than the historic artifacts shown to educate at the Holocaust Museum in West Bloomfield.

The event is free, paid for by the Livingston 2001 Diversity Council.

Local leaders are also in the planning stages of setting up "A Community Conversation About Diversity" in mid-April.

The one-day event will offer diversity awareness, leadership and community development training for leaders and members of the Howell-area community.

Livingston 2001 Diversity Council, Howell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Howell City Council would pay the National Conference of Community Justice \$15,000 to put on the program. The Howell City Council is still debating whether to pay its end of the deal - \$3,000.

There is a history of KKK activity in Livingston County. Robert Miles, a former Klan Grand Dragon, lived in Cohoctah Township, north of Howell, where he burned crosses and held KKK rallies. He died in 1992.

Pioneer

January 12, 2006

Lifelong Learning Experience Series Kicks off Jan. 19

BIG RAPIDS - The Mecosta County Commission on Aging (MCCOA), in partnership with the Ferris State University Center for Extended Learning (UCEL) and the Ferris Emeriti Association, is gearing up for the kick-off of the Lifelong Learning Experience Series Jan. 19.

According to Karen Stillwell, director of the commission on aging, the series will help people continue to learn throughout

"I'm hoping people at least continue keeping their brains active and keeping themselves active by attending these classes," Stillwell said. "They can stay young by keeping informed.

"I attended one of the classes on a trip to Grand Rapids," she said. "It was wonderful. It was a super experience. It was a painting class."

According to the series' Web Site (<http://www.ferris.edu/ucel/lifelonglearning/>), the series "is designed to acquaint participants with a variety of topics, because it is when you are learning something new that the mind is most active."

Sessions will range from politics to the environment.

Many area and community leaders will share their knowledge with those in attendance throughout the series. They include residents of Mecosta and Osceola Counties and Ferris State University staff and faculty.

Stillwell noted the speakers of the classes are giving their time to teach the classes.

"The speakers, for the most part, are volunteering the time," she added. "Any cost for the classes are usually for supplies which will be needed."

The sessions are planned to be interesting and affordable for everyone, the Web site adds.

Session No.1 Biology of Type 2 Diabetes Thursday, Jan. 19, 10 a.m. to noon

Speaker: Douglas Former, professor of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences

Where: Ferris' CPD building, 1020 Maple Street, Big Rapids

Description: Diabetes is characterized by high blood sugar caused by defects in insulin secretion or action, or both. Type 2 diabetes is extremely common, affecting a large portion of the adult population and a growing number of children. Type 2 is often referred to as adult onset diabetes. This program will discuss the relationship between diet, exercise,

insulin and Type 2 diabetes, and the reasons diabetes can lead to blindness, kidney failure, nerve damage and heart failure.

The cost of this session is \$5. Pre-registration is required and the fee will be collected at check-in.

Session No. 2

Treat Yourself Like Company Wednesday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m. - noon Speaker: Shannon Lindquist, MSU extension office educator Location: Ferris' CPD building, 1020 Maple Street, Big Rapids

Description: Create a four-star dining experience at home. Discover simple tricks to make every mealtime special. Learn tips for adding zip to plain meals, both on the plate and off. Nutrition information will be specific for seniors.

The cost of this session is \$5. Pre-registration is required with the fee collected at check-in.

For more information or to register for a session of the Lifelong Learning Experience Series, contact the Ferris State University, the University Center for Extended Learning at (231) 591-2340 or toll free at (800) 562-9130. Transportation is also available from the MCCOA. For transportation information, contact the Mecosta County Senior Center at (231) 972-2884.

Pioneer

January 12, 2006

Ferris recreation center offers SCUBA diving class

BIG RAPIDS - Anyone who used to watch Jacques Cousteau movies in school and wish to swim with the fish by a coral reef can get the training to do so locally.

The Ferris State University Student Recreation Center will provide the location for a Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus (SCUBA) diving class led by Ingrid Franczek. Registration for the remaining class openings closes Friday. The class is open to everyone age 10 and older.

Those interested in the class should go to the Student Recreation Center desk and tell the worker they want to sign up for the SCUBA class. At that time, students are required to pay the full \$280 class fee. For that fee, students will receive training and use of all equipment necessary to SCUBA dive except personal gear - mask, booties, fins and snorkel.

Franczek, a certified Professional Association of Divers Instructor, will lead the class through almost all the work necessary to become a certified open water diver. The class does not include the open water diving required to get certification. Students will be given a referral to complete that portion elsewhere, or they can sign up with Franczek to complete the open water dive in the spring or summer.

Franczek charges \$100 for the open water dive, which also includes all equipment necessary except personal gear.

"A full class (including the open water dive) is \$385. I've kind of broken it up," Franczek explained.

The reason for splitting the certification in that manner is students may wish to complete their open water dive at a different location over spring break or on a family vacation. Franczek does not feel it is right to charge the full class fee, only to have students go elsewhere for the open water dive and have to pay again.

Personal gear can be purchased from Franczek at the first class - 6 to 9 p.m. on Jan. 29, the orientation session. Subsequent classes are scheduled for Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26.

Personal gear will cost between \$200 and \$300, she said. Purchasing a mask from Wal-Mart will not work for SCUBA diving because diving masks must be tempered, Franczek said, which means the mask is able to withstand the underwater pressure without leaking.

"What they're getting is top-quality gear," Franczek said, explaining SCUBA equipment must be fitted to each individual diver. "At orientation on the 29th, I will have personal gear available, and I will do a custom fitting at that time."

She added the personal gear for SCUBA diving also can be used for snorkeling.

In addition to the special gear available from Franczek, students will need to know how to swim and bring a swimming suit. Requirements to pass the class include a 200-yard swim and 10 minutes of treading water.

"It's not timed; it's not an agility thing," Franczek said of the swim, adding anyone who can do the frog or float on their back and move themselves forward for the 200 yards can pass. "A lot of my students didn't pass the swim the first time.... You can do it as many times as you need to pass. If the person does not give up on themselves, I will not give up on them."

The class will be offered again in the spring, Franczek added.

"I'm hoping to run (a SCUBA diving class) every semester," she said.

Franczek said she cannot fully describe what it is like to dive.

"It's cool, it's really neat," she said. "It's like walking on the moon... (And once you're a certified open water diver) that never expires."

Pioneer

January 12, 2006

Scheible family establish hockey endowment

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University graduates Bill and Lynne Scheible of Big Rapids have established the Scheible Hockey Scholarship Endowment Fund through the Ferris Foundation. Funds will support Scheible Hockey Scholarships awarded to fulltime students in good academic standing who are eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics.

The scholarship endowment fund was established to honor their son, Nick. When Ferris recruited and signed Nick, he was a non-scholarship player. Since then, the Central Collegiate Hockey Association has honored him with several academic awards, and his coach recognized his leadership abilities by naming him alternate captain the past two years. Nick is now a scholarship player in his fifth season.

"It was always Nick's dream and goal to play Division I hockey," said Bill. "We are so proud of his accomplishments as a non-scholarship player who is now a scholarship recipient and four-year letterman. We would like the scholarships to help other non-scholarship players as they pursue their dreams of playing college hockey at the Division I level, Bill added.

Candidates for the scholarship must: be dedicated to the success of the hockey program and display the desire to constantly improve their playing abilities. The amount of the scholarship will be as maximum of \$1,000 per academic year and funds will be applied to tuition, books and other education-related expenses.

The Scheibles are longtime supporters of Ferris Athletics. In 1994 they, established the Lynne and Bill Scheible Football Scholarship Endowment. Bill; played for the Bulldogs in the 70s and was a three-year starter under the reigns of coach Nick Coso.

For more information or to make a gift to the Scheible Hockey Scholarship Endowment Fund, please contact the Ferris Foundation at (231) 591-2365 or fsufdn@ferris.edu.

Details about establishing scholarships or endowments may be obtained from the Advancement Office at (231) 591-3825.

Daily Press & Argus

January 13, 2006

Mixed reactions greet exhibition-Collection of racist memorabilia visits as city looks to leave reputation behind

That's where a traveling exhibit from Ferris State University titled "Hateful Things - Objects from the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University" will open to the public on Sunday.

"I just think it's stupid; I don't think there's any pros," she said. "The way that it makes the people feel ... it's got to be horrible."

Danny Arens, manager of the Blue Willow Tea Room in Howell, disagrees.

"I'm quite excited about it," he said.

"I think it's important to acknowledge the history of our country," said Arens, who plans on visiting the exhibit. "Without acknowledging it, we can't learn from it, even if it's lamentable."

The 39-piece traveling exhibition of racist memorabilia will be open from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; Saturday, Jan. 21; and Sunday, Jan. 22, at the main floor of the Howell Opera House, 123 W. Grand River Ave. The exhibit will also be open from 3-8 p.m. weekdays next week.

The reaction throughout the city has been mixed, as some people see the free exhibit as a chance to learn from previous mistakes, while others view it as another jab at Howell and the county's reputation.

Howell's reputation took a huge hit in the late 1980s and early 1990s when former KKK Grand Dragon Robert E. Miles moved to Cohoctah Township and would hold cross-burning rallies. Miles died in 1992.

A few years later, the KKK held a rally on the steps of the historical Livingston County Courthouse in downtown Howell. The diversity council was founded in 1988 as a response to cross-burning incidents that took place in the county.

Last year, national media featured a Howell auction house that was selling Ku Klux Klan memorabilia. Community officials say only media from Detroit, Lansing and Howell have inquired about the upcoming exhibit.

Still, Howell Area Chamber of Commerce President Pat Convery said she's glad to see such a high profile educational opportunity come to the city.

The exhibit will also show, she said, that Howell is trying to overcome its "undeserved reputation."

"I think understanding our differences and the history of racial stereotyping is important to move forward in diversity issues for this community," Convery said.

Business owners are also supportive of the exhibit, which opens to the public on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

"Hopefully, this brings positive-minded people downtown so they see what a nice town Howell is and they come back again," said Copper Pickle manager Roy Fox, whose establishment is next door to the Opera House.

Some residents think the exhibit is a good idea - they just don't want to see it in Howell.

"This county has a bad rap for it," Howell resident Lori Mazzocco said. "Any other county, it's good because it's history. I think it's all a part of life and people need to get over it."

The Ann Arbor News

January 13, 2006

Higher education

Providers of higher education in Livingston County meet monthly as part of the Livingston Higher Education Network, a loosely knit group whose members discuss collaboration of services. Each acts as a referral base for services in the county. Here's who's involved:

Central Michigan University www.cel.mich.edu

Cleary University www.cleary.edu

Eastern Michigan University www.emich.edu

Ferris State University www.ferris.edu

Lansing Community College www.lcc.edu

Mott Community College www.mcc.edu (click on Livingston Regional M-Tech Center)

The Ann Arbor News

January 13, 2006

Racist memorabilia to help honor King's legacy

Diversity Council builds exhibit to show examples of hate.

The birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. will be observed in Livingston County with an exhibit of racist memorabilia.

The Livingston 2001 Diversity Council is bringing the exhibit "Hateful Things - Objects from the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University" to the Howell Opera House beginning Sunday.

Vic Lopez, president of the Diversity Council, says, "This exhibit shows hatred and examples of a time when blacks were treated like a lower class. There are pictures and sketches, and items of hatred. We don't recommend bringing children to see it who are younger than middle school age."

Lopez says the purpose of the exhibit is to educate the community. The Diversity Council purchased a Ku Klux Klan robe during an auction early last year and donated it to the Ferris State University museum in Big Rapids. The museum was set up to examine historical and contemporary expressions of racism and to promote racial understanding and healing.

David Pilgrim, curator of the museum, helped to found the museum with his collection of memorabilia, which he says can teach people important lessons. The exhibit includes 39 items dating from the late 19th century as well as from the time of the civil rights struggle for racial equality.

King was a leader in the civil rights movement whose policy of nonviolent protest was a dominant force from 1957-1968, the year he was killed at the age of 39. The Lorraine Hotel where he was shot is now the National Civil Rights Museum. His birthday is observed as a national holiday, this year on Monday. The Howell school district has the day off for King's birthday. The Brighton school district is the only other district in Livingston County off that day, but the reason given is as a professional development day.

The Jim Crow laws were made to enforce racial segregation in the U.S. in the post-Reconstruction period starting in 1890 and regulated separate use of water fountains, public bath houses, and separate seating on public transport. The name comes from the character in a minstrel song written by Thomas D. Rice.

Lisa Carolin can be reached at licarolin@livingstoncommunitynews.com or at (810) 844-2010.

The Detroit News

January 13, 2006

'Glory' has a trio of Michigan ties

James Gartner had been considering making the jump from directing commercials to directing feature films for a number of years, but nothing he read seemed quite right.

Until he encountered "Glory Road," the story of a small college basketball team that won a national championship while breaking racial barriers.

"This thing came my way almost two years ago now. It just had a lot of elements -- emotion and humor and drama," Gartner says. "There aren't many of these stories that allow such a blend of feelings and passions in a single film."

So Gartner, one of the top directors of commercials in the country, signed on, unconsciously completing a Michigan triangle that runs through the film.

The star player on the Texas Western team that is the center of the film was Bobby Joe Hill (played by Derek Luke), a Detroit kid overlooked by other colleges. The producer of the film is Jerry Bruckheimer, the Detroit-raised producer ("CSI," "Pirates of the Caribbean"). And Gartner, who still lives in Traverse City with his wife and three kids, was raised in Huntington Woods ("Right by the zoo," he says) and graduated first from Berkeley High School and then Ferris State.

For him, the move from commercials to a full-length feature was liberating.

"In commercials you're having to build humor or emotion in a small unit of time. Every frame counts," he says. "When you step into the feature world you can use space, and pauses. You have the time to give a moment of relief you just don't get from commercials."

Still, his experience proved more than handy.

"With commercials, I felt like I did 500 movies, they just happened to be 30 and 60 seconds long," he says. "The beauty of commercials is you face so many different problems. I don't think anything production-wise came up on this movie that I hadn't faced before."

Tired and talking from a New York City hotel room, Gartner admits that at first the idea of working with Bruckheimer was a bit intimidating. He was concerned he "might get lost in the process."

"Jerry gets very involved in story and the finished product, but not in an inhibiting way, in an encouraging way," Gartner says. "He brings you on and then he doesn't smother you."

So far Gartner has been heartened by audience reaction to the film -- "The audience claps, they laugh, they cry, it's been remarkable" -- but he hasn't made any plans for his next feature. For now, he's just looking forward to eventually making it home.

"Michigan's a great place to raise your kids, it's pretty special," he says. "It kind of anchors my soul a little bit."

Pioneer

January 13, 2006

The Homage that Follows' to be presented by Ferris State Theater

BIG RAPIDS - Williams Auditorium will once again be filled with props, actors and a fantastic stage courtesy of the Ferris State Theater program with its play, "The Homage that Follows" which it will be performing next week.

The story involves a man who has a Ph.D in mathematics, but decides to become a farmhand for a popcorn company. A daughter of the man who owns the farm, a television personality, also gets involved in the mix. The man ends up later becoming obsessed with this girl.

The play was written by Mark Medoff and is based on Rebecca Schaeffer, who was an upcoming television actress who was shot on July 17, 1989 by a stalker.

"It's not Disney," said Katherine LaPietra, referring to the content of the play. LaPietra is a Ferris professor, who is also directing the play.

Students and staff of Ferris State will be performing in the small play - which contains only five roles. John Gallinat will be playing Archie Landrum, Vicky Taylor will be playing Katherine Samuel; Cary Smith will be playing Lucy Samuel; Chay Jenkins will be playing Joseph Smith; and Keith Bogucki will be playing Gilbert Tellez. The stage was designed by David Pierce and the lighting design was done by Lena Jager.

"Production is going very well. We have a very good and talented group," LaPietra stated, noting the group could no longer use their script books.

Seating arrangements will be different than the previous Ferris State Theater productions. Unlike the spring and fall shows, this play will offer studio seating - meaning the chairs will be on the stage giving the audience a closer look at the stage and actors, and the actors a closer look at the audience. All winter shows have studio seating arrangements.

Performances will begin at 8 p.m. on Thursday through Saturday with a matinee showing on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets will be \$8 for general admission, \$6 for senior citizens, and \$4 for students. They are available for purchase at William's Auditorium.

Tickets also are available online. Parents are advised, this is a play the children should not attend due to the content of the play.