

# Media Packet

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## **Pioneer**

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

### **Ferris Theatre to perform William Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors"**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University Theatre has announced the upcoming production of William Shakespeare's play "The Comedy of Errors."

The play will open at 8 p.m. on Thursday evening, and also will be offered at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, as well as at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The show takes place at Williams Auditorium in studio style, so seats will be limited. Tickets are currently available.

The cost is \$4 for students and \$8 for the general public. The play is a crazy comedy based on a series of mistaken identities and the problems they cause. One set of identical twins the Antipholuses, MSU Jazz Ensembles I & II to perform at Ferris State University.

## **Pioneer**

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

### **MSU Jazz Ensembles I & II to perform at Ferris State University**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State's Williams Auditorium is presenting the Michigan State University Jazz Ensembles I & II on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m.

This evening of jazz is sponsored by Williams Auditorium in support of the Live! at Williams Performing Arts Series.

Tickets are available now at the Williams Auditorium Ticket Office, open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets also can be ordered on-line at [www.ferris.edu/arts](http://www.ferris.edu/arts) or over the phone at (231) 591-5600. All seats are reserved. Ticket prices are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students.

The concert is part of MSU's Sesquicentennial Celebration and will feature jazz standards from both their instrumental and vocal repertoire. The MSU Jazz Band I was recently awarded outstanding recognition at the 36th annual Elthurst College Jazz Festival.

Internationally renowned Rodney Whitaker, director of Jazz Studies at Michigan State University and one of the country's leading performers and teachers of jazz double bass in the United States, conducts the ensembles. Whitaker is a member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, and has received national recognition performing with the Terence Blanchard Quintet. He also has toured internationally as a featured performer with the Roy Hargrove Quintet.

The program prepares MSU graduates to enter the international jazz scene to work with repertory jazz ensembles, become recording artists, record producers and educators and to work with performing arts organizations. The program creates an environment conducive to the development of the next generation of jazz musicians within the confines of the university.

## The Grand Rapids Press

Friday, January 30, 2004

### **Ferris State coach thrilled to trade conflict for softball**

By Howie Beardsley

Since returning from her military obligations in Doha, Qatar, Ferris State University softball coach Keri Becker has surrounded herself with the sport she most loves.

After 11 months of active duty, it's the only way Becker knows how to get back into a normal routine.

"I've been able to hit the ground running while not having to worry too much about anything but getting the kids ready for the upcoming season, and not having to think too much about my recent past," said the 30-year-old Becker.

"I was actually a little nervous about getting back to coaching, especially when we had a big clinic two days after I got back," added the Bulldogs' seventh-year head coach. "But working six hours in a gym offering softball instruction to high school kids just came easy to me, and it felt so good."

Becker is a 13-year member of the U.S. Army Reserves, and holds the rank of sergeant with the 182nd Transportation Co. based in Traverse City.

The Howard City resident had her life turned inside-out last February, when Becker was called to active duty after the United States went to war with Iraq. Beginning April 9, she was stationed in Doha at Camp as Sayliyah, the site of U.S. Military Special Operations Command Central.

Becker said she was never in harm's way while performing her Army functions.

"Danger lurked around every corner, but I was in a very secure location," Becker said. "I was also stationed in other areas outside Doha, but I can't speak about those locations beyond the walls of my unit."

Becker was asked if America's presence in Iraq has been worthwhile.

"When you ask if it was worth it, that indicates there was a choice involved," Becker said. "What I had to do was involuntary, and it was hard to be separated from what you love to do and the people you love."

"However, looking back, it was a positive experience. I met some wonderful people who faced danger every day. You learn to have a lot of respect for people who voluntarily do what they do in the military every day."

Becker also respects how the entire Iraqi situation has been handled by President Bush and the nation's armed forces.

"You have to believe in what your government asked us to do, which is to liberate people who deserve a life," Becker said. "Speaking for myself, I believe that's what we should be doing."

"The U.S. military is usually designed to kick butt and then move on without rebuilding countries. But my views are to finish what we started and, in this situation, to rebuild Iraq. Those people now have hope in their eyes. We can't just up and leave them."

According to Ferris State athletic director Tom Kirinovic and the Bulldogs softball players, Becker's return has been a blessing for everyone involved.

"It was tearing Keri up not being here last season," Kirinovic said. "To see how excited she is to be back with her players, and the players back with their head coach, is wonderful."

"I think Keri now has a much different perspective on things after what she's gone through over the past year. She's a good coach and an even greater person, but she no longer sweats the small stuff. She is so positive, so upbeat and up-tempo about everything."

Kirinovic said he constantly worried about Becker's well-being in the Middle East.

"It's like being a parent to all of our coaches, so it was natural to think the 'What if it was Keri' when you heard that one or two more soldiers were killed," Kirinovic said.

"We haven't had a lot of opportunities to sit down and share war stories because she's been so busy since coming home, and maybe that's a good thing."

Ferris State first baseman Nicki Merchant of Wayland also has been reluctant to ask her coach too many questions.

"We know about some things, and if we asked about certain things she went through, coach would tell us about them," Merchant said.

"The bottom line is coach has a different outlook on life now. She's so grateful to be back, and she definitely has a new outlook on everything after being around guns and tanks and all."

"Coach Becker is back with us," Merchant added, "and we no longer have to worry about her safety while she's thousands of miles away. We're a softball family again, and it's a great feeling."

## **Pioneer**

Weekend January 31 & February 1, 2004

### **Ferris artist-in-residence recovering from holiday winter sports accident**

BIG Rapid's Ferris State Artist-in-Residence University Robert Barnum is recovering from an accident he suffered on Christmas Eve while boarding with his son, Skyler, near his home in Canadian Lakes.

"We had been up and down the hill numerous times with numerous, typical falls, Barnum recalls "It was late and getting to be time to go to Christmas dinner that my wife and daughters were working on. I made one more run and have no clear idea of what happened next."

Barnum managed to get himself and his son home. From there, his wife Lisa rushed Barnum to Mecosta County Hospital.

"A former student of mine, a radiologist at the hospital, did a brain scan on me," Barnum says. "I was immediately strapped in a helicopter-and a surgical team at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids was set up to remove a blood clot on my brain." Barnum says his doctors told him that he "dodged a bullet" considering the potential severity of the injury.

Although he is not currently teaching, Barnum is reportedly making a far faster recovery than his surgeons originally anticipated.

Soon after the surgery Barnum met with one of the surgeons.

"He said that at first he had little hope I would recover the way he sees I am now" he said. Barnum was named Michigan Artist of the Year in 2002.

He was recognized in particular for his monumental painting on canvas "Of Thought and Reason," which was then still a work-in-progress.

On Aug. 29, the 130-by-10 foot work was unveiled at the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education.

Even as he recovers from his injuries, his work continues to achieve recognition.

His watercolor entitled "Sick Child" has been juried into the prestigious 137<sup>th</sup> annual American Watercolor Exhibit in New York City, and a multi-page article on "Of Thought Reason" is scheduled to be published in the May issue of The Artist's Magazine.

Barnum's doctors will continue to monitor his recover to determine when he can return to teaching - perhaps getting back in the classroom before the end of the current semester.

## **Pioneer**

Monday February 2, 2004

### **Kids Meet Brutus**

The Ferris State University Athletics Department hosted approximately 60 youth from the Eastwood Early Childhood Center for two sessions Wednesday (Jan. 21) at the FSU Sports Complex. The students, who were from Jennifer Bentley's PPI classroom and the "Focus on 4's" program, received a special visit from the Bulldogs' official mascot, Brutus, who is shown entertaining the children. FSU Assistant Athletics Director Brian Kegler provided a tour of the facilities and handed out posters, pom-poms and free tickets to the kids. Two student-athletes from the Ferris State hockey team, Nick Scheible and Zac Pearson, also gave the children a look at their ice hockey equipment while speaking to the youth in the Bulldog hockey locker room. The students toured both the Ewigleben Ice Arena and Jim Wink Arena on their visit.



## Pioneer

Thursday February 5, 2004

### **Ferris State signs 17 for 2004 gridiron recruiting class**

By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer

BIG RAPIDS -- Cole Meredith, of Big Rapids, and Baldwin's Rahseem Jones-Salaam represent two of the top local gridiron players as well as two key cornerstones of Ferris State's 17-man 2004 recruiting class.

Meredith, who stands 6-feet and weighs 180 pounds earned Pioneer Offensive Player of the Year honors in 2003, was the lone wide receiver signed by the Bulldogs. The Paris resident was one of many reasons the Cardinals finished as co-champions of the Western Waterways Activities Conference East Division and advanced to the Division 4 state semifinals.

Meanwhile, the 6-foot, 185-pound Jones-Salaam, who prepped under coach Joel Washington, is currently being penciled in as a defensive back, but could play a number of different spots for Ferris.

"It's really good for our program to be able to get a couple of local kids with the talent as well as the athletic ability that's necessary to compete at this level," said Ferris head coach Jeff Pierce. "Both of these guys are very good football players and it's nice for us to be able to get them because a lot of times you have situations where local kids aren't quite good enough to compete at this level or maybe are good enough to compete, but have the desire to get away from home for the first time.

"It's a situation that has worked out very well for us in that we have two local guys coming in who we feel will be able to compete and I think it's something that will help the university and the community continue to build even stronger bonds." Meredith finished with more than 600 yards receiving from quarterback Justin Csernai to go along with 10-plus touchdowns as a member of a balanced Big Rapids' offensive unit.

Pierce believes this class is one that should pay some dividends with stability as 15 of the 17 members of this class are from the state of Michigan. One of the standout members of the Ferris class is Coopersville's defensive tackle Jake Visser, a Class B All-State player, along with Stevenson linebacker Jeff Hollandsworth, a Class A All-State selection. "As a group our (signing class) has a cumulative grade point average of better than 3.0, which is something we also feel speaks to the high quality of their group," he said. "Half a dozen of the players we signed will qualify for some form of academic scholarships."

The Bulldogs also signed 6foot-4, 267-pound defensive tackle Ryan Northup of Sterling Heights as well as defensive ends Tom Thornton of Flushing (6-4, 230) and Kyle Walker (6-2, 220) of Grand Haven. Walker's older brother, Stephen, is currently a member of the Ferris State gridiron roster. Remaining on the defensive side of the football, the Bulldog

coaching staff added linebackers Nick Henne of Owosso and Kevin Noe of Belding along with defensive backs Kyle King of Lafayette, Ind, and Zach Wadsworth of West Ottawa High School in Holland - the same school that produced current Bulldog football and basketball freshman C.J. Van Wieren.

On the offensive side, Ferris was looking to add some depth to a line that was injury plagued last fall. Pierce is happy with the guys he has added, 6-4, 280-pound Mike Vipond of Lake Odessa's Lakewood High School and 6-8, 290-pound Matt Westrate of Holland and Zeeland High School, to his line and believes some have the ability to play line on either side of the ball.

"We feel we've added some athletic linemen, who may be listed as defensive lineman, but also could switch to the other side of the team and become very athletic offensive lineman," Pierce said. "A lot of that will depend on how things play out once they come into camp in the fall.

"We initially didn't plan to take that many (five) defensive linemen, but there were a lot of talented linemen out there and because of our needs we took advantage."

Having graduated all-conference star tailback Derek Fudge, Ferris decided to add some depth to its backfield with the signing of tailback Jared McKinstry of Lemont, Ill., and fullback Alex Shattuck of Mason.

Pierce added a pair of players who competed previously at Grand Rapids Community College in defensive back Tim King and defensive end Eric Malloy.

King, a native of Oak Park and graduate of Walled Lake Western High School, is a 6-3, 200-pounder; Malloy, a native of Grand Rapids, honed his prep skills at Creston High School under head coach Sparky McEwen, a former Ferris State quarterback.

The Bulldogs finished with an overall record of 6-5 last season and are scheduled to open the 2004 fall campaign in Big Rapids at Top Taggart Field against Grand Valley State.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

Thursday, February 05, 2004

### **Ferris State signs seven from GR area**

By Howie Beardsley

Ferris State University coach Jeff Pierce didn't have to travel far to fill the needs of his football program.

Pierce signed 17 high school and junior college transfers to national letters-of-intent Wednesday, with seven of those recruits coming from Grand Rapids-area schools.

The local high school players to sign are all-state defensive tackle Jake Visser of Coopersville, Belding linebacker Kevin Noe, West Ottawa defensive back Zach Wadsworth, defensive end Kyle Walker from Grand Haven and Matt Westrate of Zeeland.

Two additional newcomers to the Ferris State program are Grand Rapids Community College transfers Tim King, a defensive back, and defensive end Eric Malloy of Creston.

"Our biggest needs were at defensive line and defensive backs, and we just had to go down the road to get them," said Pierce, a former FSU defensive back who has a 60-39 record in nine seasons as head coach. The Bulldogs went 6-5 in 2003.

"The nice thing about the defensive linemen and defensive backs is, if they're athletic enough, and don't cut it on defense, they can become very good offensive linemen and skilled players. And I like the athleticism of all the linemen and defensive backs we recruited."

Particularly Visser, who was a first-team Class B all-state selection. The 6-foot-2, 250-pounder averaged 10 tackles per game for the Broncos, was a three-year starter at both offensive and defensive tackle, and led Coopersville's to a Division 4 district final berth last season.

"Jake is a big guy who is very athletic and will be very helpful with our program in the future," Pierce said. "And Zach is a multi-talented guy who can easily play other positions for us.

"Both those guys, like Kyle and Matt, have a lot of potential coming into a college program."

Walker will join his brother, redshirt flanker Stephen Walker, at Ferris State. Wadsworth will be reacquainted with redshirt quarterback C.J. VanWieren, who he played with at West Ottawa.

Pierce typically doesn't search the junior college ranks for immediate help. He made an exception this year with King and Malloy.

"Those are two individuals who can come in and be competitive right away, because they have more maturity, and they're coming from a quality program run by (GRCC) coach Jim Schulte," Pierce said.

King is the younger brother of Central Michigan strong safety James King, while Malloy played at Creston with current Bulldogs starting flanker and return specialist Carlton Brewster.

The Ferris State recruiting list also includes Baldwin defensive back Rahseen Jones-Salaam, Big Rapids wide receiver Cole Meredith and offensive lineman Mike Vipond of Lake Odessa Lakewood.

Besides two-time NCAA Division II champion Grand Valley State University and Ferris State, four additional members of the Great Lakes Conference signed scholarships with area players.

Headed to Northwood University are Hudsonville linebacker/tight end Tommy Lamb (6-2, 215), Middleville running back/wide receiver Darrin Tape (5-9, 160) and two-way lineman Terry Turner (6-2, 255) of state Division 6 champion Ravenna.

Two other members of Hudsonville's state Division 2 semifinal squad also will play in the GLIAC. They are quarterback Brek Trevino (6-foot, 185) at Michigan Tech and defensive tackle Dan Stapf (6-3, 250) at Hillsdale College.

Middleville linebacker Scott Brooks (6-1, 175) and Grandville quarterback Buddy Rivera (6-foot, 190) will compete at Northern Michigan.

## **Pioneer**

Friday February 6, 2004

### **Student interest drives second Rubber and Plastics Career Fair at Ferris State University**

BIG RAPIDS - A renewed interest in rubber industry careers has prompted officials from Ferris State University and the Rubber Manufacturers Association's General Products Group to co-sponsor a second Rubber and Plastics Career Fair.

The event will take place Feb. 20 at Ferris State's National Elastomer Center and is intended to brief high school students on the school's Rubber and Plastics Engineering Technology degree programs, as well as potential career opportunities.

"We are pleased with the overwhelming interest in the Ferris State program," said Kevin D. Ott, RMA vice president.

"We've received a lot of positive feedback from the last career fair and we're building on its success by sponsoring a second fair in short order."

The inaugural career fair, held in October, attracted more than 220 area high school students.

The career fair is partially funded by a grant received from the National Association of Manufacturers' Center for Workforce Success, a division of the association that works with US manufacturers to address the critical need for a highly trained 21st-century workforce.

The Rubber Manufacturers Association is the national trade association for the rubber products industry. Its members include more than 100 companies that manufacture various rubber products, including tires, hoses, belts, seals, molded goods and other finished rubber products. RMA members employ more than 120,000 workers and account for more than \$21 billion in annual sales.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

Friday, February 6, 2004

### **GVSU chief seeks tuition cap**

Grand Valley State University President Mark Murray said he will recommend the university cap next year's tuition increase at 2.4 percent in order to ensure the school's current level of state funding.

The move would restore \$1.8 million in state aid, as outlined in Gov. Jennifer Granholm's executive order in December.

That order requires universities to hold tuition increases for the 2004-05 school year to no more than 2.4 percent to maintain their levels of state funding in the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Universities that agree to halt increases also will be reimbursed, in part, for the 5 percent reduction they saw in this year's budget.

Murray said his recommendation shows respect for the governor's strong commitment to higher education, even in tough times.

"We're well aware of the fiscal challenges that the state faces," he said.

For this year, Grand Valley was set to receive \$59.1 million from the state, an amount reduced to \$56.1 million in December. Now, the university would receive \$57.9 million this year and would maintain that level of funding next year. "We have a long history of keeping our tuition as low as possible, and (the governor's plan) accelerated our budget review," Murray said.

The Board of Trustees is expected to take up Murray's recommendation in the spring.

In the past year, GVSU students have seen a combined 7.7 percent tuition increase. This semester carried a 3.8 percent increase; putting tuition at \$2,824, up \$197 from the fall semester, which itself saw a 3.9 percent increase.

At Ferris State University, administrators are waiting for a clearer budget picture before compromising, a spokesman said.

"Michigan's deficit might be deeper than it's currently been budgeted for," Marc Sheehan said. "We really need to see what the final numbers will look like to see how to (set) tuition rates that allow us to provide our students with the kind of education they expect from us.

"It seems to me that a lot of the fiscal situation is still changing," he said.

The Ferris board is set to meet Feb. 21. The board last year raised tuition 9.9 percent, setting its annual rate at \$6,044.

Western Michigan University president Judith Bailey announced in January that it would recommend a tuition increase of 2.4 percent.

"We will be moving in that direction (and) it will be contingent upon the state holding us harmless for 2004-2005," spokesman Matt Kurz said.

The university expects to receive about \$3 million in reimbursements.

"We decided to move forward because it gives the opportunity to plan for the upcoming year with some sense of what our budget will look like," Kurz added. "We felt this was the best thing we could do for our students and give us some stability although we will experience some significant budget cuts."

This school year, WMU's tuition went up by 12.4 percent, putting its annual rate at \$5,535.

The Michigan State University Board of Trustees already has approved the tuition cap, as have leaders at Wayne State University and Oakland University. Saginaw Valley State University's board also is considering the pledge.

## Pioneer

Weekend February 7 & 8, 2004

### Administrators hoping to attract students

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University is a big facility; too big to be standing idle all summer long, according to David Eisler, the school's president. To help deal with recent, state-wide budget concerns, F'SU administrators have devised a plan to put that "down-time" to good use.

Beginning this spring, Ferris is offering a new four-week summer term for students hoping to get a jump start on the fall I semester, as well as those with only a few credits needed to wrap up their education.

To help attract students during the summer months, the university is offering several incentives, both academic and financial said Eisler, "The idea is that we've reworked the course schedule at Ferris to offer four-week terms.

We have the facility, we have faculty who want to teach in summer time and we have students who want to take courses in the summer.

"We're hoping that over time this will create a lot of interest." To help motivate students to study during the summer months, the university is offering the following deal: those who take a 10-meal contract in the school's dining facility will receive - free of charge - a private room.

"We're very hopeful about how this will be received," said Eisler. "Big Rapids is very pleasant in the summer and the folks in academic affairs have done all the work devising some great David Eisler course schedules."

Those schedules are designed specifically for students who want a head start on the upcoming regular semester and those who are almost finished with their education.

"This is great for kids just short of a degree," said Eisler. "It gives them a chance to complete their education without having to wait (for the fall semester; this just makes sense for those, folks."

Eisler admits the program probably won't draw huge numbers of students this coming summer, but he seems convinced (it will grow over time.

"I think this is right for Ferris," he said "It won't make a big change for this summer, but it's a start. This; is a way for students to get some courses they might not other wise be able to take."



Eisler added he hoped the incentive of free living quarter would make the prospect of summer time education more palatable to students. "We have to find ways to hold costs down so students can afford to live here," he said.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

Saturday, February 07, 2004

### **Ferris promises to cap tuition hike**

By Barton Deiters

Ferris State University will hold tuition steady for the rest of this school year and will limit next year's hike to 2.4 percent -- but the tuition pledge comes with a warning that a looming budget shortfall will mean reductions in staff and services.

The Ferris Board of Trustees, which also oversees the university's Kendall College of Art and Design, agreed to the tuition plan Friday. The decision allows the university to continue receiving the current level of state funding.

In December, Gov. Jennifer Granholm issued an order that those schools that raise tuition beyond the rate of inflation would be looking at a cut in state funding for next year. Current tuition rings in at \$6,044 per year for Michigan residents.

But with increases in enrollment and spiraling costs for staff health care, among other issues, university officials say expenses are outpacing increases in revenue.

Last year, Ferris raised its tuition nearly 10 percent after the Legislature cut state funding to colleges and universities.

"When the economy has problems, we get an increase in enrollment," said Ferris President David Eisler. "It's very challenging."

Ferris has an annual budget of about \$126 million, and administrators will look to trim about \$2.5 million.

Eisler said the cost-cutting will be accomplished through employee attrition and not filling open positions. He said there are no plans to lay off anyone.

Granholm issued a statement Friday afternoon lauding Ferris for "agreeing to accept her challenge" to keep tuition at the level of inflation.

"Agreeing to not raise tuition higher than the rate of inflation sends a clear message to Michigan students and families that Ferris State is committed to helping them reach their goals and is committed to keeping higher education affordable," Granholm said in the written statement.

Eisler said he decided to bring the decision before the board Friday to send a clear message the university was supporting the governor's plan.

"We believe she is really trying to help us," Eisler said.

Grand Valley State University President Mark Murray said Thursday he would recommend the board of trustees also agree to limit tuition next year. Western Michigan University's board will consider a similar recommendation from its president, Judith Bailey, by the spring.

The state's largest institution of higher learning, Michigan State University, already has pledged to keep tuition hikes next year at the rate of inflation.

## Pioneer

Weekend February 7 & 8, 2004

### Ferris State sets limits on tuition

BIG RAPIDS - Administrators at Ferris State University have agreed to maintain a 2.4 percent cap on tuition increases for the 2004-2005 school year. Several other state universities are doing the same.

Those who do not may be hit with a substantial reduction in state funding. Wayne State University and Oakland University Jennifer Granholm on Wednesday signed off on the so-called tuition pledge.

Ferris did so Thursday. The pledge requires universities to limit tuition increases for the 2004-2005 school year to less than 2.4 percent, the rate of inflation, to avoid a reduction in state funding for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

Gov Jennifer NI. Granholm applauded the decision of the Ferris State University governing board for accepting her challenge to not raise tuition beyond the rate of inflation. The Ferris State announcement comes on the same day Grand Vallev State University President Mark Murray says he will recommend to his governing board that it too, accept the governor's challenge

"I am thrilled that Ferris State University has decided to hold the line against tuition increases and keep the American dream of college alive for our young people," said Granholm. "

Agreeing to not raise tuition higher than the rate of inflation sends a clear message to Michigan students and families that Ferris State is committed to helping them reach their goals and is committed to keeping higher education affordable."

The tuition restraint language was included in a supplemental spending plan approved by lawmakers last year to balance the state budget for the current fiscal year.

Universities that agree to the pledge also will get back 3 percent of the 5 percent reduction they saw in Gov Jennifer Granholm's executive order to balance this year's budget. They also will keep that level of funding in the new fiscal year.

FSU President David Eisler said, "We are very supportive of the governor's recognition of the significant needs of higher education in Michigan. Ferris State University understands that these are times of extraordinary financial challenge for the State of Michigan.

"Over the past two years \$7.7 million of state funding has been eliminated from the university budget. At the same time, the University has experienced record increases of enrollment.

These forces have created significant challenges to the people and programs at Ferris as they seek to provide access to quality career-oriented education." Ferris State joins Oakland, Wayne State and Michigan State universities in accepting the governor's challenge.

Mike Boulus of the President's Council, which represents Michigan's 15 public universities, said universities with a big undergraduate population of Michigan residents may have a harder time agreeing to the deal than those with large numbers of graduate and out-of-state students.

"I think each university will take a good and serious look at the pledge," he said.

The Michigan State University Board of Trustees has approved the tuition language. Michigan State President Peter McPherson said that even with a smaller-than expected reduction in state funding, the university will have to cut more than \$20 million from its budget.

The state's general fund budget for the current fiscal year could be up to \$1.3 billion in the red if no policy or spending changes are made. The general fund deficit has university and community college officials especially concerned about reductions if they fail to sign off on the pledge because their budget mostly comes from general fund revenue.

Reductions in the higher education budget for the upcoming fiscal year would continue a recent trend. In fiscal 2000, universities got \$1.5 billion from the state, or about \$7,000 per student.

Funding dropped to \$1.4 billion this fiscal year, giving universities \$5,646 per student as enrollments have grown. Instead of getting 59 percent of their operating revenues from the state, as they did in 1992-93, universities now get 40 percent.

To offset state funding universities have increased their tuition rates an average 10 percent a year since the 2001-2002 school year.

The average cost of tuition and fees for a 30-credit academic year currently is about \$5,919 for undergraduates who are from Michigan.

Said Eisler, "As an institution Ferris State University is continued to providing the highest quality education at a cost that is affordable to both our current and future students. In this context, we strongly support and accept Governor Granholm's proposal that universities limit tuition increases."

Further, we appreciate her leadership to restore funding to higher education and protect universities from further funding reductions. For these reasons we recommended today that the Board of Trustees accept the governor's proposal."

Eisler said there is no doubt that the university's actions will have an impact on operations. Acceptance of this proposal will require significant reductions for the 2004-2005 university budget.

However, we believe this action is in the best long-term interests of the state, our university, and our students and recognizes the economic realities we face."

Bruce Parsons, chair of Ferris' Board of Trustees, said, "The governor's action is a positive sign that the pattern of declining state support for public higher education that has escalated over the past year, in particular; is slowing.

## **Pioneer**

Monday, February 9, 2004

### **Friends of Ferris help to promote the mission of FSU**

Ferris State University is unique among Michigan's 15 state universities.

Ferris remains true to its founder, Woodbridge N. Ferris, who believed that education, should go beyond the acquisition of knowledge to deal with the enrichment of life and that education had to deal with the changing needs of the times.

Today, FSU can boast of the greatest array of programming across a spectrum of associate through master's degrees offered at any Michigan University.

It ranks among the best at placement of its students in the vocations of their choosing and continues to adapt to the needs of the times.

Yet, the continue competition for higher education dollars requires a diligent involvement in the political process to ensure that our legislators and other political officials remain in tune with FSU's special educational philosophy.

A great deal of FSU's programming comes with a high concentration of expensive equipment not inherent in the offerings of most liberal arts colleges, a point that requires constant attention in ever-changing political circles.

The Friends of Ferris is an invaluable tool in the universities political attached as its members work as a political action committee to spread the world of the university's mission and goals.

Much of the committee's funding comes from an annual, dinner and auction scheduled this year for 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21 at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center.

The auction for this 15th Annual Dinner and Auction fund-raiser will follow a 7 p.m. dinner and will include custom jewelry, a stained-glass Bulldog, a weekend stay at the Beaver Lodge, an autographed Detroit Red Wings jersey, a weekend package at the Manistee National Golf and Resort, an autographed baseball signed by Hank Aaron and other hall-of famers, a \$500 Great Wolf Lodge certificate and much more.

Help support the committee's work and have a great time, as well, by coming to the Friends of Ferris Dinner and Auction on Saturday; Feb. 21.

# **The Grand Rapids Press**

Monday, February 09, 2004

## **Ferris calls for testing after tuberculosis case**

BIG RAPIDS -- A Ferris State University student has tuberculosis, prompting health officials to urge about 100 classmates and school employees who came into close contact with the infected student to be tested.

The student lives off campus and apparently has not eaten in the school dining halls, university leaders said. His illness was diagnosed by university health center staff.

The Mecosta County Health Department will send letters in the next two weeks to the estimated 100 people who came in contact with the student. The letter recommends that they take a common skin test to check for TB infection.

But any student or campus employee will be provided with free TB skin testing at the school health center, University President David Eisler said.

"It is common health practice for people who have been exposed to the disease to have a skin test," said Paul Sullivan, university health center director. It usually takes six weeks from the time of exposure before tuberculosis can be detected by the skin test.

Tuberculosis is an infectious disease that usually attacks the lungs. Symptoms often include fever and a cough that will not go away.

About 350 cases are reported in the state each year, health officials said.

The airborne disease is transmitted by air but is not highly communicable, health officials said.

It more commonly is spread between close friends or family members after repeated contact in a closed space.



## **Pioneer**

Weekend, February 7&8 2004

### **Ferris student infected with tuberculosis**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University officials have become aware that a Ferris student who lives off campus has been diagnosed with an active case of tuberculosis.

The student was diagnosed by the Birkam Health Center medical staff who informed the Mecosta County.

As a precaution university health services staff is working closely with county health officials to identify classmates, faculty and staff and others who may have come in contact with the infected student.

Those individuals who are believed to number about 100 will receive a letter in the next two weeks from the county health department recommending that they take a common skin test to check for TB infection.

The TB test will be offered free by the county health department and Birkam Health Center to those who have been identified as coming in close contact with the infected student and others who might have good reason to be tested.

"It is common health practice for people who have been exposed to the disease to have a skin test," said Paul Sullivan; director of the university's Counseling and Health Centers. According to the American Lung Association, tuberculosis is an infectious disease that usually attacks the lungs, but can attack almost any part of the body, and it is spread from person to person through the air.

When people with TB in their lungs or throat cough, laugh, sneeze, sing, or even talk, the germs that cause TB may be spread into the air. If another person breathes in these germs there is a chance they will become infected with tuberculosis though repeated contact is usually required for the infection.

"It is important for people to understand that there is a difference between being infected with TB and having TB disease. Someone who is infected with TB has TB germs, or bacteria, in their body meaning the body's defenses are protecting them from the germs and they are not sick. Someone with TB disease is sick and can spread the disease to other people." Sullivan explained.

It is not easy to become infected with TB. Usually a person has to be close to someone with TB disease for a long period of time, and it is usually spread between family members, close friends, and people who work or live together. It is spread most easily in closed spaces over a period of time and has about a six-week incubation period," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said even though it is difficult to become infected with TB, university officials felt it was appropriate to err on the side of caution and apprise the university community of the situation.

Ferris President David Eisler sent out a campus wide notice to faculty staff and students late today informing them of the situation, and health center staff will be holding informational meetings with students next week to educate them about the disease and answer any questions they may have.

## **Pioneer**

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

### **TB tests available at Ferris**

BIG RAPIDS - Testing for tuberculosis and educational sessions have been set up on the campus of Ferris state university following announcement that a student had been diagnosed with the disease.

As a precaution, about 100 students, faculty staff and others who are believed to have come in close contact with the student, will be notified with a letter this week from the Mecosta County Health Department.

Also, any other student, faculty member or employee related to this situation who desires to be tested will be provided free TB skin testing.

Clinics will be held at the Birkatn Health Center this week through Friday from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 4:30 p.m. except for Thursday when the clinic closes at 3:30 p.m. Next week, clinics will be held on Monday and Tuesday from 9 to 11 am and 1 to 3 p.m.

FSU President David Eisler said testing is being recommended and offered as a precaution. It is relatively difficult to become infected with TB unless you have been close to someone with TB disease for a long period of time in closed spaces, he said. Educational sessions for those interested will be conducted at the Birkam Health Center on a space available basis at the following times.

Educational information is available on the Birkam Health Center Web site. Further information and updates can be accessed on the Birkam Web site

## **The Detroit News**

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

### **Higher education benefits all Michiganians**

In her State of the State address, Gov. Jennifer Granholm said "Our Michigan colleges and universities are extraordinary." In fact, she said it twice. But public funding for Michigan's universities has been shrinking. One reason for this lack of support is that the universities have not done an extraordinarily good job of explaining the value of what we do.

Many people believe universities help a bunch of rich kids to get richer, but do little for the average person. It's true that many students are from affluent families but for students from modest backgrounds, an affordable college education can make a huge difference.

But universities actually help to raise the wages of those who don't have a college education, as well as those who do. When more people get a college education, there will be more people competing for the high-end jobs, and fewer competing for the jobs at the bottom of the economic ladder. When there are more people competing for the top jobs, the wages in those jobs will be less than they would otherwise be. And when fewer people are competing for the low-end jobs, the wages in those jobs will be higher than they would otherwise be.

Thus, education is equalizing. When the level of education is higher, the spread between the wages of high-end jobs and low-end jobs will be reduced.

This is not just idle theory. The equalizing effect of education is documented by one of the most dramatic economic events of the last century.

Back in 1910, only 11 percent of students were finishing high school.

Many districts did not even have a high school. Thus, the vast majority of workers had low levels of skill. With all of those workers competing for jobs as laborers and farm hands, it's not a surprise that the distribution of income was very unequal.

However, the state legislatures passed laws to force school districts to provide for a high school education. By 1940, some 60 percent of students were finishing high school. By 1960, the figure was above 80 percent. More workers were competing for skilled jobs, and fewer were competing for low-paying jobs.

As a result, the income distribution became tremendously more equal. Between the late 1920s and the early 1950s, the income going to the poorest 80 percent of families went up from about 45 percent of the total to about 60 percent. That is a revolutionary change. In today's economy, a shift of that size would mean an increase of about \$1 trillion per year in the incomes of the poorest 80 percent.

Since about 1975, the income distribution has been moving in the other direction, toward greater inequality. This is largely because the supply of highly educated workers has not kept pace with the demand. (In the early 20th century, a high school education was enough to qualify a person as a highly skilled worker. In today's economy, high skill means college.)

If not for affordable, high-quality college education, more workers would have been competing for the jobs at the bottom. As a result, the inequality of the last generation would have been even greater.

The governor is right when she says Michigan's universities provide extraordinary services for the people of the state. But you wouldn't know it from the state's budget for higher education. After adjusting for inflation, the state's contribution to Michigan's universities decreased by about 16 percent in just the past two years. Declining financial support from the state has led the universities to raise tuition increase class sizes and otherwise reduce services. Our ability to be extraordinary is being eroded year by year.

If the current budgetary trends continue it will become more and more use this difficult for middle and lower income families to send their children to college. That will mean that more and more people will end up competing for the jobs at the bottom, and the gap between rich and poor will continue to widen. I don't look forward to a future like that, and I hope the governor and the members of the Legislature don't.

## Pioneer

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

### **Granholm budget presumes all 15 public colleges take tuition pledge, cuts private tuition grants**

LANSING (AP) - Michigan's 15 public universities would avoid a cut in their state funding in the upcoming fiscal year but needy students attending private colleges would lose access to state scholarship money under Gov. Jennifer Granholm's upcoming budget proposal, a source close to the governor's office said Tuesday.

The Democratic governor's spending plan for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 will be presented Thursday by budget director Mary Lannoye.

It assumes that each of the state's public universities will agree to keep this fall's tuition increases below the rate of inflation said a source, the governor's office who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity

The tuition restraint agreement set in a supplemental budget approved last year requires universities to limit tuition increases for the 2004-2005 school year to less than 2.4 percent the rate of inflation, to avoid a budget cut for the fiscal year that Oct. 1.

Universities that the pledge also gets back 3 percent of the 5 percent reduction they saw in an executive order Granholm issued last year to balance the budget for the current fiscal year. They get to keep the higher level of funding in the new budget year.

Granholm will recommend that lawmakers reduce funding by 3 percent for universities that don't take the tuition pledge, the source said.

It will cost the state \$52 million to replace some of the money cut from this year's budget and keep that level of funding in place for the upcoming budget year, the source said. That cost will be offset by eliminating scholarships to needy students attending private colleges and universities, which would save \$65 million, the source said.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

### **Ferris offers TB clinics after student is infected**

BIG RAPIDS -- Ferris State University scheduled two clinics for about 100 people that might have been in contact with a student who was diagnosed with tuberculosis last week.

University spokeswoman Shelly Armstrong said a handful of students who cannot attend next week's clinics have been tested.

Armstrong said the school has received "a handful of calls" from students that have respiratory conditions wanting more information.

Last week, a student was diagnosed with tuberculosis and those believed to have been in contact with the student were to be notified by the Mecosta County Health Department.

Clinics will run from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Monday and Tuesday.

The university also will offer informational sessions for the public at its Birkam Health Center, 1019 Campus Drive in Big Rapids, at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. today and at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday.

"Given that it's an infectious disease, and it's rather rare to have someone (infected) in a college campus setting, we thought it was important to be as proactive and provide as much information as possible for anyone that wants to know more about the disease," Armstrong said.

## **Pioneer**

Thursday, February 12, 2004

### **Eastern Michigan's Harris named VP at Ferris State**

BIG RAPIDS - Michael Harris, associate provost and professor of political science at Eastern Michigan University, has been named vice president for academic affairs at Ferris State University.

Ferris' Board of Trustees will formally approve Dr. Harris' appointment at its Feb. 21 meeting in Big Rapids.

Harris was selected from among five finalists who were chosen from a national search. He will begin his new job July 1.

Harris replaces Tom Oldfield, who has been serving as the interim vice president and will return to his post as Ferris' associate vice president for academic affairs.

In making the announcement Wednesday, Ferris President David Eisler said, Harris brings to Ferris State University a very strong academic background and experiences that fit precisely many of our institutional needs.

"I'm confident Dr Harris will provide the strong leadership Ferris needs for its educational programs. I find his academic vision, knowledge, understanding and innovative thinking regarding academic programs to be extraordinary. His engaging personality and concern for others are qualities that will enable him to build the strong working relationships needed among faculty, staff and students at Ferris."

In accepting the position, Harris said, "I'm delighted and honored to have been chosen as Ferris chief academic affairs officer. During my campus visit, I was most impressed by the warmth expressed by the entire campus community; the faculty's energy, enthusiasm and dedication to student success; the quality of academic programs; the students' passion for the university, and the commitment, dedication and professionalism of the administration.