

July 13, 2005-July 23, 2005

# Media Packet

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## **Pioneer**

July 13, 2005

### **Performances: Thursday, Friday**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University student Rod Oden will be presenting his student-directed one act "The Insanity of Mary Girard" written by Lane Robertson Thursday and Friday at 8 p.m. in the FSU Rankin Center Centennial Room.

Oden has spent eight years working on the production. "It deals with very relevant issues for yesterday and today's audiences," Oden said. "It shows a feminist point of view that helps to express the abuses and oppressions women in the 1700s had to live with."

There is adult language and themes discussed in the production, so parental discretion is advised.

To reserve your tickets, please call Oden at (231) 598-0597.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

July 15, 2005

### **Ferris students: Prepare to dig deeper**

BIG RAPIDS -- Students soon could pay more to attend Ferris State University, where the Board of Trustees was expected to vote today on a proposal to raise tuition by 8.9 percent and room and board by 4.5 percent.

If approved, incoming students would pay \$6,740 for tuition and \$6,816 room and board for a total cost of \$13,556.

Ferris President David Eisler said he understood the sacrifices today's college students made and took that under consideration before recommending the increase to the board.

"We've tried to work really hard and keep the increases down and give the students more financial aid," Eisler said.

The board also was expected to vote on a proposal to boost student financial aid by 13 percent.

Ferris administrators based their budget on receiving about \$48 million in state funding for the coming school year, about \$960,000 less than the university received last year.

But the funding future is uncertain. A state Senate higher education funding proposal would cut the Ferris allocation by \$200,000, while a House proposal would boost funding by \$1.3 million.

The Ferris board also will vote on similar increases at Kendall College of Art and Design, where freshmen would pay \$11,455 in tuition this fall.

That would be a 7.4 percent increase over last year, depending on the combination of general education and studio courses.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

July 16, 2005

### **Big Rapids: Ferris tuition rises**

Ferris State University students will pay more to attend school. Trustees approved tuition increases Friday, ranging from 3.5 percent for part-time and graduate students to 8.9 percent for students taking 13 to 15 credits.

Full-time, in-state undergraduates will pay \$3,370 per semester, \$422 more than last year.

Room-and-board rates will go up 4.5 percent.

## **The Pioneer**

July 19, 2005

### **Support Ewigleben endowment fund for PGM students**

Some 30 years have passed since Ferris State College (now university) established the first professional golf management program in the nation. Robert L. Ewigleben, just a few short years into his 13-year tenure as president of Ferris was instrumental in nurturing the infant program into a successful curriculum for students interested in a career in the golf industry as a PGA member.

Students in the program earn a bachelor's degree in business and credits toward membership in the PGA of America. It's not unusual now to find graduates of the FSU program serving as club pros at golf courses across the nation.

"Dr. Ewigleben's support of Ferris' PGM program from its very beginnings has been tremendous," said Matt Pinter, PGM coordinator at Ferris. "He was the driving force behind its creation and has continued to be involved with the program in numerous ways..."

Now Ewigleben is taking his long-time support a step further by creating the Robert L. and Esther J. Ewigleben Endowment Fund to support scholarships for full-time students enrolled in the PGM program here. Earnings also may be used to enhance and improve golf course operations.

No one who remembers the soft-spoken but persuasive 13th president of Ferris is likely to be surprised at his continuing support of the PGM or other sports programs at Ferris.

He also was responsible for bringing Division I hockey to Ferris and the beginnings of the Ewigleben Sports Complex on the southwest side of the campus. Katke Golf Course also was opened just a year before the PGM program.

In fact, Ewigleben built a reputation of outstanding achievements during his years as a teacher and administrator which included 40 curriculum changes, the establishment of the Michigan College of Optometry and the Manufacturing Resource and Production Center and numerous other achievements in his presidency here from 1971 - 1984. He also worked hard to help Ferris forge relationships with universities throughout the world and building exchange programs between Ferris faculty and those in Belize, Columbia, and the Asian and African continents.

Many of us also remember how he began the transformation of a once barren landscape at a rapidly growing university into what is now a beautifully landscaped university.

Ewigleben and his late wife Esther were truly strong supporters of Ferris and the surrounding community during their decade plus residency here.

And, he hasn't quit giving back to Ferris and Big Rapids.

Now we can help him make the PGM program available to students who might not otherwise have the financial means by donating to this new endowment fund.

Contact Debra Jacks, director of Planned Giving at (231) 591-3817 or [jacksd@ferris.edu](mailto:jacksd@ferris.edu) to make a gift or for more information.

## **The Detroit News**

July 18, 2005

### **Students fear tuition hikes**

Weeks before colleges start fall semester, many in Michigan still don't know what they'll have to pay.

A sudden jump in the cost of college had Erin Moore, 18, working a double shift this weekend as a waitress at Max & Erma's restaurant in Birmingham.

"I've been working a lot because I need the money. I'm paying for half of my school, splitting it with my parents," said the Grand Valley State University sophomore whose fall tuition bill got an unexpected \$450 steeper with a 7.6 percent rate hike 10 days ago.

Classes start for many at Michigan's public universities in six weeks, yet thousands of students and their parents still don't know how much they will have to pay. Substantial tuition increases were ordered in the last four weeks by five of 15 state funded universities. The state's biggest colleges -- University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University -- are expected to set new rates this week even though the Legislature remains undecided about the state's higher education budget.

Hikes have been in the 7 percent to 9 percent range, with the exception of a package of increases of up to 19 percent at Central Michigan University, which came with a promise of no increases for current students over the next five years.

For students and their parents, coming up with an extra \$500 to \$1,000 this fall could be a major setback. Moore was hoping to invest her summer earnings in other important things.

"It's not just money to spend on whatever," said the Southfield resident, who is studying elementary education. "I'm thinking about bringing a car up there, so there would be gas and insurance, plus there are the things we need for the apartment. The idea of getting some new software for my laptop, that's out now."

Her parents, Bob and Renee Moore, are discouraging their daughter from seeking an off-campus job when she returns to Allendale. They would rather she spend time on studies.

"We knew there would be an increase. We didn't expect this much," said Bob Moore, a teacher at Rochester High School. "With our second daughter a junior in high school, it's going to be tough in a couple of years."

Others are dealing with similar financial hurdles in planning for the coming school year. "I might have to take a break," said Tiffani Eaton, 22, who graduated last spring from Wayne State and planned to return for teaching certification and classes toward a master's degree. With Wayne State proposing an 18.5 percent tuition hike, Eaton doesn't think she can afford what could amount to a \$1,000 increase.

"If tuition goes way up and my husband (a Detroit Police officer) gets laid off, I'm not sure I can make it happen," said Eaton, who has saved earnings from her summer job as a parking attendant at the college. "I've just got to find a way to finish this. It was our investment in getting me a good job."

Later-than-normal action on the state budget, along with significant differences between proposals from the House, Senate and governor have made it hard even for the experts to know what's coming next. Daniel Hurley, spokesman for the Presidents Council, a lobby for the leaders of the state's public universities, said tuition is being discussed at every school.

"It is so hard to say even what the ranges (of tuition increases) will be. We believe there are going to be some significant aberrations," Hurley said. "This (the budget controversy in Lansing) puts everyone in a significant bind."

Last year, universities kept tuition hikes near the rate of inflation, about 2.8 percent, under a deal with Gov. Jennifer Granholm. But this year, without any deals and with lawmakers still negotiating the budget, university officials say their hands are tied. Cuts were made over the last four years as the state reduced college appropriations by nearly \$300 million. Tuition increases now are seen as the only way to assure operating revenue.

Saginaw Valley State University President Eric R. Gilbertson explained after Friday's decision to raise tuition 7.5 percent that his students and their parents needed to know what the bill will be. Full-time Saginaw Valley students will pay an extra \$339, bringing tuition to \$5,281 a year.

"We had planned to act on tuition in June, but we also had hoped the fog would clear on the state budget, but it has not," Gilbertson said. "We couldn't wait any longer."

Sarah Mazhar, 22, was leading a tour of prospective students and their parents at Wayne State University on Friday when she learned of her school's proposed tuition increase.

Mazhar is a part-time employee of the college.

"Wow. I'm so close to being done," said the Rochester Hills resident, who added that she might look for a second job. "I have no choice except to keep going, but that's a lot."

Julie Nardone, a member of Wayne State's Class of 1985, was touring the campus with her son, Anthony, 16, a high school junior who also is considering Oakland and Ferris State universities. Cost may be a deciding factor.

"This is not what I want to hear right now," the Shelby Township resident said about her alma mater's proposed increase.



Oakland University administrators last week told board members the state's budget uncertainties leave the school with a \$7 million shortfall. An emergency session may be called to consider a tuition increase prior to the board's next scheduled meeting Aug. 3.

#### Tips for affording college

Look into combined degree programs, which can save money.

Take advantage of tuition prepayment discounts. Some colleges offer discounts of up to 10 percent for early payment.

Consider loans, grants and scholarships. Remember the deadlines and plan ahead. Some aid is given out on a first-come, first-served basis.

Look into a work/study program.

Starting off at a community college can reduce costs. Detroit News research

#### Tuition increases

Michigan Tech: 7.7 percent

Grand Valley State: 7.6 percent

Central Michigan: 19 percent for a five-year plan Y Ferris State: 8.9 percent

Saginaw Valley State: 7.5 percent What's next

The state's 10 other public universities are to set rates by Aug. 5.

Wayne State, Michigan State and the University of Michigan are expected to meet this week to determine tuition.

## **Pioneer**

July 20, 2005

### **VanDykes establish endowment fund**

BIG RAPIDS - Local residents Gordon and Pat VanDyke have established the Gordon and Pat VanDyke Hockey Scholarship Endowment Fund. Funds generated will support hockey scholarships for full-time student-athletes enrolled at Ferris State University.

The VanDykes, longtime supporters of the hockey program, have been active with Solid Ice and the Ferris Blueline Club since their inception, and have been involved with Ferris hockey since the Robert L. Ewigleben Ice Arena was built in 1975.

"Gordon and I really enjoy Bulldog hockey and have been supporters ever since it started," explains Mrs. VanDyke. "We felt it was important to support the scholarship program for the kids, since money may be harder to come by in the future. It was as simple as that."

Tom Kirinovic, athletics director at Ferris, knows first-hand how important external financial support is for the university, and for Bulldog Hockey to continue to be competitive in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

"The VanDykes have been tremendous supporters of our hockey program since its inception. This endowment is a continuation of that support and we thank Pat and Gordon on behalf of all the young men that will benefit for many years to come from their wonderful gift," says Kirinovic. "The VanDykes are truly making a difference in the lives of these student-athletes."

Scholarship recipients must be in good academic standing, eligible to participate in intercollegiate athletics, be dedicated to the success of the hockey program, and conduct themselves as ambassadors of the University on the ice, on campus and in their communities.

Endowments, such as the one created by the VanDykes, help strengthen Bulldog Hockey and the University. If you would like more information or would like to make a gift to the Gordon and Pat Vandyke Hockey Scholarship Endowment Fund, please contact Carla Miller, associate vice president for Advancement, at (231) 591-5428.

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

## **Pioneer**

July 21, 2005

### **Bulldog Bonanza plans under way**

BIG RAPIDS - The Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce, Ferris State University, and the Downtown Business Association of Big Rapids have teamed up with our sponsors: the yet to be named business association representing the businesses on the south end of Big Rapids (Sears Mad Dogs Deli, Save A hot, etc.) plan the 15th Annual Bulldog Bonanza!

Bulldog Bonanza will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 14 at the FSU Wink Arena from 4 to 7 p.m.

Bulldog Bonanza, is a mini expo, an opportunity to showcase products or merchandise to 2,500+ potential customers - new and returning FSU students.

This year the theme is "Tune In to the community so vendors are asked to dig out their old Jim. Hendrix costume or Dolly Pardon wig, paste on some side burns, bring in the strobe lights and foggers, am: show the Ferris students that they have landed in Funky Town! Then is a prize for the best decorated booth.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

July 21, 2005

### **Better tracking of dropouts**

High school dropouts ruin their chances for success and can create problems for society. A report by a national education group says that Michigan and other states are reporting artificially high graduation rates. The first step in resolving that issue is to make sure the state's system of measuring dropout rates is accurate.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act, states have to report graduation rates to the U.S. Department of Education. Michigan officials reported a graduation rate of 85 percent for the 2002-03 school year. The Education Trust, a nonprofit education advocacy group, did an analysis of information submitted by the states. Except for two states, all were inaccurate. Michigan's actual rate was estimated to be 74 percent. The report revealed a disturbing pattern of states not accurately accounting for students who drop out. The figures reflect the number of students who drop out. The figures reflect the number of students who finished in four years but not those who dropped out along the way.

There is no uniform, standardized national method of measuring graduation rates. In Michigan, the state collects graduation data; however, the numbers are only as good as what school districts provide. The figures aren't audited, though they should be.

To its credit, the state is moving toward an improved data collection system that tracks individual students via unique identifying numbers. The Legislature should support this while fast-tracking the system with appropriate funding. Still, more can be done in the interim to produce more accurate figures.

Dropouts add to Michigan's unemployment rate. Local school districts say they are constantly working on coming up with innovative ways to hold students long enough to prepare them for a complex world. Gone are the days when students could leave school and walk into a high-paying job at a manufacturing plant. Dropouts typically find themselves in need of some public assistance.

Grand Rapids has battled an estimated 40 percent dropout rate in recent years. Other local districts, are significantly lower such as Wyoming at 3.41 percent and Kenowa Hills at 1.9 percent. There is no acceptable dropout rate. The state should have the ambitious goal of its elimination.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has a goal of doubling the number of college graduates - or graduates of other post-secondary programs - in the next 10 years. Getting a firm grasp of the dropout rate is among basic starting points. Unreliable information erodes public confidence and obstructs education reform. The consequences of not getting a diploma are felt throughout life.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

July 21, 2005

### **Wayne State ups tuition 18.5 percent**

DETROIT - The Wayne State University Board of Governors voted Wednesday to approve an 18.5 percent tuition increase for the 2005-06 school year.

University officials cited increasing enrollment and decreasing state appropriations as the reasons for the hike.

"Without a major tuition increase, we can no longer maintain our academic programs and services to students," Nancy Barrett, Wayne State University provost and senior vice president, said in a statement released by the university. "We have been serving many more students with fewer dollars - a trend that must stop."

During the past two years, Wayne State's enrollment has increased by 2,000 students, and that number is expected to go up this fall, Barrett said.

At the same time, state funding has declined by nearly \$40 million over the past four years, forcing university officials to cut operating costs, programs and part-time faculty, she said.

Under the 2006 General Fund Budget approved by the governors Wednesday, the per credit-hour rate for in-state freshmen and sophomores will increase from \$159.80 to \$189.40. For in-state juniors, seniors and post-bachelors, tuition will increase from \$188.40 to \$223.30 per credit hour. The cost of graduate student tuition will rise from \$284.90 to \$337.60 per credit hour.

The budget also includes a \$6.6 million increase in student financial aid to offset tuition differences for students in need, the university said.

## **Pioneer**

July 22, 2005

### **U-M tuition goes up 12 percent, MSU has different increases**

LANISING (AP) - It will cost 12.3 percent more to attend the University of Michigan this fall than it did in the last school year under a new budget approved Thursday by the university board.

The Michigan State University Board of Trustees also signed off on new tuition rates for the upcoming school year at its Thursday meeting. Returning students from Michigan will pay 9.3 percent more, but new students will pay 13.5 percent more than freshmen last year.

The tuition announcements were the latest in a round of recent hikes at colleges across the state, which range from 7.5 percent at Saginaw Valley State to 19 percent at Central Michigan.

University officials have said tuition increases are needed to offset repeated cuts in state funding. It is unclear how much the 15 public universities will get when the state's new fiscal year starts Oct. 1 because Gov. Jennifer Granholm and lawmakers still are negotiating.

Although next year's higher education budget is not set, the Democratic governor did not refrain from criticizing the tuition hikes Thursday. She argued that university boards could do more to reduce spending.

"The kind of increases we are seeing right now are unacceptably high," said Granholm, who wants to double the number of college graduates during the next decade.

New full-time University of Michigan students from the state will pay \$9,213 for the upcoming academic year, an increase of \$1,012 from the 2004-05 school year.

University of Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman said the loss of state funding in recent years has threatened to compromise the university's academic excellence.

"We cannot hope to make it through another year of low salary increases and minimal investment in our academic programs without resulting damage to our core business, Coleman said in a written statement." "My most important obligation is to ensure that quality continues."

The University of Michigan's new budget sets aside nearly \$85 million for financial aid, an additional \$3 million will go to low- and middle-income students from Michigan.

At Michigan State this fall, returning students will pay an average \$7,652 for the upcoming school year, up \$652 from last year. New Michigan State students will pay \$7,944 for the 2005-06 school year, up \$945 from last year.

"Increasing costs for student is always difficult, and we've focused on enhancing value and addressing future needs to ensure we can continue to provide top-quality education for our students and the state," Michigan State Board of Trustees Chairman David Porteous said.

Michigan State is increasing its financial aid by 15 percent to help students afford the higher cost of college.

The university's largest pool of financial aid is more than \$48 million.

The University of Michigan's Board of Regents also voted Thursday on the budgets for campuses in Dearborn and Flint. Students at both of those colleges will see their tuition go up 11.9 percent this fall.

University of Michigan-Flint students from Michigan will pay about \$5,500 for a full academic year under the new tuition rate, up from \$5,200 they paid last year. At the Dearborn campus, full-time students will pay \$6,690 this year, up from \$6,002 last year.

Only a handful of state universities have not yet set their tuition for the 2005-06 school year, including Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan and Oakland. Northern Michigan's board is scheduled to discuss tuition at a meeting on Friday.