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Macomb Daily News

July 3, 2006

Sculptures on display in Sterling

Art enthusiasts in Sterling Heights don't have far to go to check out the latest exhibit of sculptures. It's on the grounds of the Sterling Heights City Center at Utica Road and Dodge Park. SterlingScapes IV, the works of 10 artists, was unveiled last week. The sculptures will be on display at the city's police headquarters library and city hall for the next two years.

The program was put together by the Sterling Heights Cultural Commission, member Sharon Arend said. She said last year's exhibits proved so popular that the commission purchased a sculpture from the display.

She said that work is on display along with the borrowed pieces. Each sculpture has the name of the artist and description of the work.

The 10 works chosen were culled from a list of 17 artists who sought to have one of their pieces considered for public display.

"It says something about the popularity of this project," Arend said. "The city owns 10 pieces of public art and I think that's amazing."

Kathyrose Pizzo of Clinton Township had her steel piece of "Apollo" selected. The sculpture can be viewed in front of the police headquarters.

Pizzo, a 1985 graduate of Chippewa Valley High School who holds a master of fine arts in sculpture from Wayne State University, said her piece is based on using the word "vessel" as a metaphor for the body. She said it is made up of three sections and was put together at Wayne State.

She said the form resemble, the spacecraft Apollo.

"I work in three-dimensional size models with balsa wood," said. "If it looks good to tile I make it into a sculpture of metal."

Ray Katz's sculpture "Burst" is brimming with energy: The Pontiac resident said he is familiar with the area because he spends a lot of time in Sterling Heights en route to a friend's house.

"Burst" was purchased by the Cultural Commission for permanent view in city grounds. Katz has a master of fine arts degree in sculpture from Wayne State. He has been working in sculpture art for 40 years and shows his work regularly.

Katz recently completed "Celebration," another aluminum sculpture, at Ferris State University.

Lois Teicher, a nationally renowned sculptor, and the Cultural Commission juried the entries. Other works of art on display are: "Limestone Lyric" (limestone) by Marcia Perry of Saugatuck; "Spiral Note" (galvanized steel) by John Piet of Southfield; "Construction with Orange 4" by

John Neering of Grand Rapids; "Black Window" (painted steel) by Mark Beltchenko of Royal Oak; and "Lap Up" (bronze) by Doug DeLind of Mason.

Items on permanent display are: "Spirit of Sterling Heights" by the late Marcia Wood; "Ring Around the Rosie" by Bernadette Zacharas-Marcos; "The Bears" by the late Marshall M. Frederick; "Sarah's Heirloom" by Janice B. Trimpe; "In Use" by Ronald Ferrington Sharp; "Badge of Honor" by David Bollman; "Fireman & Child" by Edward Chesney; "Xs & 0" by Mark Beltchenko; "Centipede" by Thomas Haynes; and Ray Katz's "Burst."

Pinconning Journal

July 5, 2006

Welding competition winners

In a courtesy photo: On June 9, over 80 welding students competed in Big Rapids. Two Bay Arenac Career Center students, Joe Powers and Jordan Dzurka, placed first and third at the Ferris State University Welding Competition.

Both students were part of the Bay/Arenac Career Center Welding Technology Program. Joe Powers is from Pinconning High School, and Jordan Dzurka is from Western High School, and Michael Jones is their instructor.

Ann Arbor News

July 6, 2006

WMU, Ferris State OK tuition hikes

6% boost at Western; average increase at FSU to be 5.68%

Increases in state subsidies were not big enough to allow Western Michigan University and Ferris State University avoid raising tuition rates or the 2006-07 academic year.

Western Michigan trustees on Friday adopted a \$295 million budget that includes a 6 percent tuition boost.

A full-time freshman or sophomore from Michigan will pay \$3,088 for the fall semester, not including fees, compared with \$2,913 last fall. Full-time in-state juniors or seniors will pay \$3,412 this fall, up from \$3,219 last fall.

The budget includes an \$8.3 million deficit that WMU officials expect to cover by tapping savings, the Kalamazoo Gazette reported.

Also Friday Ferris State trustees approved a 2006-07 budget that includes an average 5.68 percent increase in tuition and fees. Full-time tuition rates will increase 6.82 percent while part-time students will see a lower percentage-increase.

Initial recommendations called for an overall average increase of 6.1 percent, the Pioneer of Big Rapids reported.

WMU's budget anticipates a 2.9 percent boost in state support, or \$3.2 million. "It's a positive move toward recouping the funding losses of recent years, but we're still \$14 million less than we were in 2003," President Judith Bailey said.

At Ferris State, higher state support will "barely cover" mandatory increases in payments into the Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System~ P`resid0it David Eisler said.

Under a tentative agreement between Republican legislative leaders and Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, Michigan's 15 public universities will get an average 3 percent funding increase in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1.

That would be the first significant state aid increase in the past five years and slightly more than most schools were expecting when budget talks began earlier this year.

Ann Arbor News

July 6, 2006

Aid formula favors U-M

State to dole out cash based on high-tech programs

LANSING - Michigan's public universities are churning out more grads - nearly 60,000 degrees in 2005, up from some 52,000 in 1999 - but not enough of them are math, science, health and other technical majors to fill future job demands, some policymakers say.

Less than 30 percent of degrees granted in 2004-05 are in those fields, according to a recent report from the House Fiscal Agency, a nonpartisan office of the Michigan House of Representatives.

A formula for next year's state budget is based in part on awarding more aid to universities that graduate students in those programs.

Eastern Michigan University with Saginaw Valley State University for granting the lowest percentage of its degrees in those programs - at 17.1 percent. Michigan Technological University, which specializes in engineering, granted the highest percentage at 83.4 percent.

The University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus granted 40.7 percent of its degrees in the technical fields.

The average of the 15 state universities was 29.7 percent. Degrees counted included associate, bachelor's, master's, doctorates and professional degrees.

Looking only at graduate degrees, U-M's Ann Arbor campus granted 44.8 percent of the total number of degrees in engineering and technology.

With the funding formula, Michigan lawmakers hope to encourage more investment in those programs - and recognize the fact that it's more expensive to educate when labs are involved.

"There's no doubt we need more graduates from our universities from math, science, engineering and health programs," said Rep. Jerry Kooiman, R-Grand Rapids, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, who helped write the formula. "We're giving the universities money based on the outcomes in math and science to generate more degrees in those areas."

He said he hopes it will drive more decisions like Grand Valley State University's plan to double its engineering program.

EMU officials were unavailable to speak about the issue. Part of the reason for its relatively low percentage of technical grads can be traced to its history as a normal college and its current recognition as a major trainer of teachers and other educational personnel.

John King, vice provost for academic information at U-M, said he thinks the legislators' idea for a funding formula was a good one and said state universities need to help strengthen the state's economy. But he cautioned that the role of technology is increasing in many fields.

"It doesn't pay to maintain a 1950s idea of high-tech in the early 21st century, because name something that isn't high-tech," King said. "The good news is that we can expand to help address this need quite dramatically at the University of Michigan and other institutions of higher education in this state. The challenge is we have to do it across the board and not only in specific areas."

Students, he said, need to have an understanding of technology even if they plan to go into fields that are not traditionally thought of as high-tech. "You need to have a population that is sophisticated in using and leveraging new technologies and not just in creating them," said King.

A recent national report by the General Accounting Office raised concerns that the United States is not graduating enough people with high-tech skills, even as employment grows in those areas. It found that 27 percent of degrees were granted in science, technology, engineering and math fields in 2003-04, a drop from 32 percent a decade earlier.

During the same time period, employment rose 23 percent in the technology sectors, compared with 17 percent in other fields. In addition, the report noted that women and minorities are a growing segment of the work force, but those groups are traditionally under-represented in technical fields.

Getting more Michigan residents to post-secondary education has been a high priority of state leaders as Michigan's traditional manufacturing base erodes. The Cherry Commission, a 2004 group of college presidents, lawmakers, business leaders and others led by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, cited the need in the next decade for 100,000 new, skilled medical workers. It called for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to better inform the work force about job opportunities and the training required, and for better university tracking of what happens to graduates.

Both those projects are being developed, said John Austin, vice president of the State Board of Education and an adviser to the Cherry Commission.

For the most part, the free market dictates what programs are offered, and what students go into them.

Austin said he agrees with the approach to give more state aid to higher-cost programs to eliminate disincentives against them. But he said the Cherry Commission deliberately avoided any recommendations that would limit state aid only to those offerings where jobs were in demand.

"The Cherry Commission did not recommend a heavy-handed approach," he said.

Austin said the next great innovation could come from an artist or designer, rather than an engineer or scientist.

"We can't predict, based on what we need today, who the next Google inventor is going to be.

You don't want to kill off the golden goose of people who are nurtured in creative fields," he said.

Some career experts say the new mandatory high school curriculum, with four years of math, including algebra II, and three years of science, will help funnel more students to those programs.

William Potter, director of Ferris State University's Career Institute for Education and Workforce Development, said studies show that only about one-third of students are ready for college upon graduation from high school. Students who aren't ready for college-level courses aren't likely to go into difficult fields, he said.

"I think we need our students better prepared to make that choice and not to default away from it," he said.

There's still a need for liberal arts majors, said Dan Hurley, director of university relations and administrative services for the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan. For example, he said information technology companies sometimes prefer broadly educated workers because they adapt and can be trained.

Phil Gardner, director of research for Michigan State University's Collegiate Employment Research Institute, said students need a little more academic and emotional support to tough out the difficult academic courses in high-tech fields. In India and China, students are just put on a science path without options, he said, while U.S. students who become frustrated with a difficult set of courses are free to switch majors.

"Kids have to understand that science and math are hard, but there are ways to do it and you have to be persistent," Gardner said.

Oakland Press

July 16, 2006

WMU, Ferris raise tuition- rates

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Pioneer

July 25, 2006

Ferris volleyball coaches closely monitor athletes

Ferris State volleyball head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm takes at least as much pride in her vigilant interest in enhancing the academic progress of her athletes as she does in their sports exploits.

Brandel-Wilhelm, entering her 11th season on the bench in Big Rapids, knows about the potential pitfalls that can await first-year student-athletes. Because of that, she has a system in place to see to it that her freshmen keep their feet planted firmly on the ground as they acclimate themselves to what life is like as a college student-athlete in, oftentimes, a brand-new environment for the first time in their young lives.

"We have mandatory study hall six hours a week for every first-semester athlete and we also have it for any member of our team who has a grade-point average that's under a 3.0," said Brandel-Wilhelm, who has coached the Bulldogs to 20 or more victories in seven of her previous seasons at Ferris State. "We also monitor all of our athletes and randomly check with their professors to find out about their academic progress and see if there are any concerns that need to be addressed."

With student-athletes carrying full-load schedules, in the neighborhood of 12 to 15 credits a semester, Brandel-Wilhelm knows the time commitment is great for her players - young women in their late teens and early 20's. While the commitments of team meetings, other team functions, road trips, matches and practices are great, she also is quick to emphasize that they still are not a free ticket to skip classes.

Class attendance, according to Brandel-Wilhelm, is monitored closely.

"We have a team rule that class is mandatory... both in season and out of season," she said. "We know they have a lot of commitments they have to meet, but we also know it's important they attend class and are paying attention to keep their academic progress on track."

"We have meetings with our student-athletes who fall below 3.0 grade point average so we can figure out what we need to do to help them to raise their GPA," she added.

"We work on strategies to help them keep their academic progress on track and we try to ensure that they get the help they need and understand the resources that are out there for their benefit."

Ferris State offers an Academic Support Center available to all students and free of charge with a simple appointment or oftentimes merely by showing up.

The Academic Support Center is located in the Arts & Sciences Commons that separates the Science and Starr buildings on campus.

Also available, to students, is the Writing Center which is located in the ASC building in room 1017. This is another free tutoring service for students, staff and faculty. The Writing Center

staff offer help and guidance with everything from writing business letters, to working on papers, going over paper drafts, resumes and applications.

They assist with spelling, grammar punctuation and sentence structure among other things.

Academic success, however, begins with the individual athletes. "We're fortunate to have so many of our athletes who are working hard in the classroom and also are working hard in their sport," said Brandel-Wilhelm, whose Bulldogs were 2004 Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference -champions.

"We want all of our athletes to get above a 3.0 grade point average and we want to have them graduate with a GPA higher than 3.0.

"Plus, we know if they have the discipline to manage their time and be successful in class then that's only going to mean they are likely to be disciplined, athletically."

Ferris State Athletics Director Tom Kirinovic knows of the pressure on the student-athletes at his university and others like it across the country.

Kirinovic is pleased to see so many of the Bulldog student athletes do not settle for merely remaining eligible, but in fact strive for even higher academic status.

"Certainly, the academics side is tied to their eligibility and the 'kids know if they do not take care of business in the classroom they are not going to be eligible," he said.

"The thing I have been pleased with is we have so many student-athletes who take pride in keeping their grade point average high and spend a lot of time working at the academics to maintain that standard... They want to be successful not only in the athletic part of it, but also academically."

Cadillac News

July 25, 2006

Day in the life of a community police officer

CADILLAC - Pete Fimbinger can't remember a time when he didn't want to be a police officer.

"I don't know what triggered that," he laughed, "but now that I'm older I just want to help people solve problems and be the one out there to protect the community. I never had any doubt in my mind that's what I wanted to do."

A graduate of Ferris State University with a degree in criminal justice, he explained that his senior year was spent in a police academy training facility modeled after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Academy.

"I feel it was top notch training," he said. "I feel confident in what I'm doing and real prepared."

Pete graduated in May and was immediately hired for the seasonal position of a Cadillac Community Policing Officer. He can be seen patrolling the streets of Cadillac on his bike.

When the job ends in September, his goal is to find a full-time, year round position.

Describe your responsibilities.

We are fully empowered police officers in the downtown area. We deal with a lot of city ordinance violations, like skateboards on the sidewalk and curfew violations. We also oversee Rock the Dock and the jazz in the park. And we go through the skate park a lot.

We are supposed to be talking to people and our main thing is community relations. We can write tickets like a normal officer.

How are you received by the public?

I think the downtown business owners are happy to have us. When I walk downtown everybody is nice. With the kids, they respect you but some might think you are out to get them. I just want to talk to the kids at the skate park and they are hesitant and a little reserved. I think our presence and talking to the teenagers is positive. The police officers aren't out to get them. We deal with people fairly.

What have you observed about the youth?

I knew this when I was a kid - they like to see what they can get away with. They want to push our buttons and see how far they can get with what they are doing. But I think with kids, as long as you treat them fairly, you can earn their respect by being fair and consistent. Then they think it's cool that they know you.

What are your working hours?

A typical afternoon shift is noon to 8 p.m. The night shift is from 8 p.m. until 4 a.m. It usually slows down by 3 a.m. You'd be surprised what's actually out there. There's plenty of nightlife.

What is your biggest fear?

You have to be thinking of safety at all times. Just coming out of the academy, they've drilled that into us. Do I feel unsafe? No. I feel prepared for the worst and if the worst happens, I'm ready to accept that and deal with that.

What is our favorite part of the job?

I love being outside and talking to people. It's my dream and I always wanted to do this.

I'm out there right out of school doing my job and not everybody in my academy was as fortunate as me to get a job right away.

Detroit Free Press

July 25, 2006

NOVI: Police department names top cop and top civilian (Oakland briefs)

The Novi Police Department has named Detective Mark Boody as Police Officer of the Year and communications manager Joseph Burchett as Police Civilian of the Year.

Boody joined the department in 1995 after graduating from Ferris State University. In 2003, he was assigned to the investigative section, where he serves as the department's juvenile investigator. Boody is a member of the Oakland County Child Abuse Advisory Board.

Burchett joined the department in 1990 after serving in the same capacity in West Bloomfield and in Grove City, Ohio. He supervises a staff of 16 in a regional dispatch center that serves the Novi and South Lyon police and fire departments and the Lyon Township Fire Department.

Midland Daily News

July 25, 2006

Lynch to get first shot at city's top spot

An experienced leader from within the City of Midland government will interview for the city manager position being left open by Karl Tomion.

Tomion's last day is Aug. 4, and he will begin as Port Huron's city manager on Aug. 7.

Assistant City Manager Jon Lynch said he made his interest in the position known early in the process when the mayor and a councilman approached him about the possibility.

"With Karl's departure and the community having the opportunity to fill that need, I'm very excited to potentially fill that role," Lynch said.

Assistant City Manager Jack Duso also was approached, but did not have an interest in interviewing for the position.

Lynch has led Midland's Planning Department and later took on additional duties, becoming assistant city manager. He has almost six years of experience working closely with other city staff, the Planning Commission and the City Council.

He has a bachelor's degree in urban planning from Michigan State University and a master's degree in public administration from Central Michigan University. Lynch said he has taught as an adjunct faculty member in Ferris State University's public administration program for a few years.

Lynch was identified by many people who met with hiring consultant G. Stevens Bernard. Bernard, senior vice president with The PAR Group, created a profile for and expectations of the next manager.

"The ideal candidate will be an experienced, creative, flexible and adaptable professional who can effectively address the city and community needs, and who has the ability to work in partnership with the mayor and council to professionally represent the city in a variety of economic development, intergovernmental, regional and community settings," he said.

He said Lynch's name was mentioned by several people during interviews with council members, city department heads and community leaders.

"There certainly was a very, very strong consensus, not only of community leaders but key staff as well, that Jon possesses the qualities to lead this community into the future," he said.

City Councilman Tom Adams supported moving forward with interviews with Lynch. He said if a strong internal candidate exists, candidates from outside Midland's government might be reluctant to apply for the position.

The council set a special meeting to gather community input and interview Lynch for 7 p.m. Aug. 7 at City Hall, 333 W. Ellsworth St.

On Monday, the council appointed Duso as interim city manager. He will serve beginning Aug. 5 until the position is filled full time.

Pioneer

July 26, 2006

Traveling... does not get student-athletes out of studying

Sault Ste. Marie, Houghton and Marquette are just three of the long road trips many Ferris State athletes regularly make.

In addition to those trips to the Upper Peninsula, teams also make travel plans for regular stops in Ohio and Pennsylvania as part of normal Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference competition. So, whether it's a 450-mile trip to Houghton or a 457 mile journey to Erie, Pa., Ferris student-athletes always make sure to pack their textbooks, lecture notes and writing utensils with their clothes, uniforms and other essential items.

Long road trips are quite a challenge for all of the student-athletes of the various teams, but so too are even the shorter ones - ones to places like Detroit, Hillsdale, Midland, Saginaw and even Grand Rapids.

"We know that even if we're going on one of those long road trips, like when we go to the U.P., we're still going to have to find some time to get in the studying we need to do," said sophomore Caitlin Hutchison, a member of the Bulldog basketball team that was ranked 20th-best in the nation, in Division II, for highest team grade point average with 13.350.

"A lot of times, when we're staying in a hotel, we'll get off the bus and get ourselves into the hotel and then we'll come down to the lobby or some place like that to do our studying."

In addition to those longer GLIAC road trips, Ferris also traveled 1,590 Plus miles to Kingsville, Texas and another 1,540 Plus miles to Miami Shores, Fla. for different sorts of tournaments. Ferris' softball team makes a weeklong spring trip to Florida every year where the athletes take their books to study in spite of the fact they are on a mid-semester break.

Two years ago, the volleyball team traveled to the southern California area and then on to a trip later in the season to Wheeling, W. Va.

"Our players have a lot of time commitment and a lot of traveling that they do and that's one of the reasons we have as much mandatory study time as we have for them," Ferris volleyball coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm said as she started to explain the challenges of the many student-athletes at colleges and universities around the United States.

"Our players are dedicated to not only being successful in volleyball, but also to being successful as students.... They have shown the discipline to be a champion on the court and then take that same discipline into the classroom to be successful."

The players know they have to be up for the challenge - especially on trips to places like the Upper Peninsula that can last as long as five days.

That translates to hours upon hours of time on a bus, in an airport, on a plane or in a hotel, but all away from the comforts of home. The players love to enjoy the good times, particularly

when they are in places like southern and central Florida, southern California or the heart of Texas, but it's not always easy.

"It's really tough," senior softball player Emily McLean, a former GLIAC Player of the Year for her exploits on the diamond, said. "When you're in about the middle of your season and you're getting near the end of the semester in your classes, like for us in April and early-May, you have a lot of things that are piled on top of you...."

One of the things you have to do, especially when you have those long road trips, is you have to set aside the time to study and make sure that your time management is good so everything balances out between work and softball."

The players know they must avoid an out-of-sight-out-of-mind mentality when it comes to academics while on the road. They know they can not totally tune out their classroom responsibilities just because they are out of Big Rapids.

"We make a lot of road trips. during the course of the season, so one of the things we have to do is work ahead a lot of times;" said hockey player Joe Van Culin, whose team last winter traveled to Colorado, Wisconsin, Ohio twice and Nebraska a couple of times. "We try to stay ahead of the game and a lot of times that works for us because we have to do it with those long road trips."

Track and field athletes oftentimes have to take unique steps to ensure they get the chance to hit the books on road for meets. Particularly during indoor season, as Ferris State does not have a facility to host, the Bulldog track and field athletes spend a lot of time on the road in competition in places all over Michigan and the Midwest.

"Some times, we have our books out and we're studying right on the track when we have the time," said sprinter Ashley Farr, who joined her teammates at places like Findlay, Ohio, Saginaw Valley State, Grand Valley State and, for some, out to Massachusetts for the NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships.

"We also have our books with us when we are at the hotel, on the bus or in the van when we're on our way to something or when we're on our way back home from some kind of meet.

"You do what you have to do to stay on track."

Time management is everything with these long road trips for the athletes.

"Some times the road trips are at tough times of the semester ... when you're making some long road trips ... like during finals," said Big Rapids native Kyle Schuberg, who sprints, and long jumps for Ferris State after doing the same on the local level for the Cardinals for years. "You have to work even harder to stay on top of everything and not lose focus ... even though you're on the road."

Pioneer

July 27, 2006

Playing a sport helps academic experience for Ferris athletes

BIG RAPIDS - Casey McKinnon manages to keep herself plenty busy between her academic responsibilities and athletic career as a Ferris State golfer.

McKinnon, a two-time honorable mention NCAA Division II All-American, devotes a lot of time to a heavy load of classes at this late stage of her academic career. Enduring 400-level classes, however, makes for major-league time commitments and concentration.

McKinnon, however, is a firm believer that being a student-athlete benefits her, academically, far more than some people might want to believe.

"Being on a sporting team at Ferris allows the athletes to register for classes first," said McKinnon, a native of St. Ignace and former Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year, who helped the Bulldogs finish second in the nation in the NCAA Division II Championships in May. "Our coach (Brad Bedortha) likes us to schedule classes in the mornings and early afternoons so practice time can be scheduled around 2 or 3 (p.m.). I spend a lot of my extra 'morning time' (sometimes starting at 6 a.m. or 7 a.m.) doing class work and studying for exams."

With their schedules in place, Bulldog student-athletes can focus on how best to meet their academic and athletic responsibilities on a daily basis.

The special registration, for the student-athletes, is one of the little perks, but it also is done so coaches and student-athletes can work together to plan strategies to help ensure success in athletic competition and the classroom.

McKinnon, like so many of her fellow student-athletes, believes the discipline attributed to sports benefits her in the classroom as well. Ferris State volleyball head coach

Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, has long acknowledged athletics can help student-athletes maintain focus the classroom and in other facets of their lives.

Brandel-Wilhelm has numerous programs in place that help keep her athletes focused to not only remain eligible, but excel above and beyond the minimum standards.

"We have mandatory study hall six hours a week for every first semester athlete and we also have it for any member of our team who has a grade-point average that's under a 3.0," she said.

"We also monitor all of our athletes and randomly check with their professors to find out about their academic progress and see if there are any concerns that need to be addressed."

Ferris State Athletics Director Tom Kirinovic has several unique views on the value of athletics with respect to student-athletes.

His youngest son, Matt, has played football and basketball at Division III Hope College in Holland.

His oldest son, Blake, is involved with the athletics department, at Ferris State, and has spent a lot of time working with and better getting to know many of the student-athletes in different sports.

"I've always had a chance to see the commitment of our student-athletes and also see the benefits of their being involved in athletics in my different roles here in the department," said Kirinovic, who holds a business education degree from Ferris State and a master's degree in education administration from Central Michigan.

"Having my sons involved in athletics, throughout their lives and with Matt playing intercollegiate sports, at Hope, and Blake being involved with our athletes here at Ferris ...

I've got a chance to see the impact it has had on them.

"It has taught them so much about being able to balance their time and their lives out and to keep them more focused on what they need to do.... Our student-athletes have high standards in the classroom and tend to perform, actually, even better than the overall student body."

Under Kirinovic's leadership since 1999, more than 350 Ferris student-athletes have earned academic all-conference honors.

Much of that is due to the emphasis the coaches put on study time and academic excellence.

"We have study table even when we're on road trips," sophomore basketball player Teghan Thelen said. "There is a lot of work you have to get done, but being a part of the basketball team, and for other athletes being a part of their teams, athletics helps to keep you more focused and it keeps you from procrastinating as much as you probably would."

Pioneer

July 27, 2006

An A+ model student

Hutchison one of many athletes who take academics seriously

Caitlin Hutchison maintains a busy schedule, but she makes sure to never let it adversely affect her, academically.

Hutchison, a sophomore member of the Ferris State basketball team, takes her academic success seriously - as evidenced by the fact she maintains a 4.0 grade point average through her first two college semesters, lives in an honors dorm (Henderson Hall) and thanks to her performances on CLEP tests stepped onto campus with 22 college credits.

While Hutchison approaches basketball with an intense competitiveness, she also does the same when she is in one of the classes for her history major and international studies minor at Ferris State University.

"In my classes, I feel like I am pretty competitive in the way I approach my work and in the way I approach my tests," the Riverview native said. "When I am taking a test, or when I am working on an assignment, it really bothers me even if I get one wrong.

... I am a perfectionist when it comes to academics and I always want to make sure I do the best I can. ... I feel like when I get one wrong I will look back on it and see the answer and wonder how I did not get that one right. ... I feel like I should have known it."

Hutchison, who is president elect of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), has a whole list of duties to complete as part of being in the Honors Program. Dating back to 1997, the program is designed to attract high-level students - students much like Hutchison.

Among other things, she has to perform community service for 15 hours per week as well as three cultural events - as a way of broadening the horizons of the Honors Program students.

Hutchison performed some of her community service by helping out with Salvation Army as well as basketball-related clinic-type activities. As far as cultural events, she has visited on-campus places like the Card Wildlife Education Center and Wildlife Museum, located in the Arts & Sciences Commons on the Ferris State campus.

"It's a commitment to be in the Honors Program, but it's also something that's been great," Hutchison said.

"I feel like basketball has been good to me, while being in the Honors Program, because it helps me to stay focused with my studying and it helps me with time management and staying on top of things and not procrastinating as much.

"I like the fact that basketball and school work together so well because school is important to me and basketball is important to me and they both help each other," she continued, "and me, to stay focused."

Although Hutchison has managed to maintain a 4.0 grade point average, through her first two college semesters, she insists it does not come as easy to her as most people might tend to think. Some parts of it come easy, she confesses, but for the most part she says the success she has experienced in the classroom is about maintaining focus and working hard at it - similar to what has to happen for her or anyone else, on the basketball court.

"I do a good job of memorizing things, but I also have to read, read and read a lot," said Hutchison who averaged 17 points and 10 rebounds per game during the 2004 season for Riverview High School as she helped the team to an 18-5 record during the regular season and a third-straight district championship. "I know that I have to stay focused on the reading or it is not going to be as easy to get things done." -

The 5-foot-m Hutchison, a third-team 2004 Detroit News and Detroit Free Press Class B All-State pick who played in 15 games last season as a freshman, devotes a lot of time, hours upon hours per day to studying.

The 2004 Huron League All Academic pick during her senior year in high school, spends about three or four hours a day to work.

The Bulldog women's basketball team is ranked among the top 20 NCAA Division II basketball teams in the nation, academically, at No. 20.

That ranking is a tradition the squad started years ago, but has maintained over the years - even as names and faces in the program have changed.

The coaches monitor academic progress. Additionally, if not more importantly, the players police themselves by staying on top of their own academic progress and taking a strong interest in their own individual futures.

"We have grade checks that are done to make sure we're all doing well in our classes and to find out if there are any problems that have to be looked at or if someone maybe needs some help in an area," said Hutchison, whose Ferris State team finished 18-10 last season.

"We've all done a good job of knowing that we have that tradition and wanting to do everything we can to make sure that we maintain that tradition."

Pioneer

July 28, 2006

Student-athletes work hard to make up assignments work hard to make up assignments

Ferris State athletes travel all over the country, to represent the school in various competitions, but that does not mean their academic work vanishes.

Whether it's the long trip to the Upper Peninsula, a journey down to Ohio or out east to Pennsylvania, Ferris State athletes log a lot of time on the road. Oftentimes, for long weekend road trips that can span as many as five days, athletes have to be excused from classes, but not from the work that ultimately has to be completed to the satisfaction of the instructors.

Sophomore basketball player Caitlin Hutchison was a quick learner, during her first year of competition as a student-athlete, about work needing to be completed.

"There are times, when you're going on a road trip, and you know that you're going to miss some time so you have to work it out with your instructor," the 5-foot-n forward said. "While we some times do not take the test, in that atmosphere with the other students, we still have to take those tests when we get back and a lot of times they end up being harder than what we would have had in the first place.

"It's something that we have to do ... so, the makeup tests don't really faze me."

Ferris State Athletics Director Tom Kirinovic knows his athletes have a lot of demands for their time, but he also says they ultimately are in school for education. Kirinovic has watched his athletes log a lot of time on airplanes, buses and vans to represent the university in athletic competition.

His head coaches make sure to tell athletes to pack their books and homework with them to keep the student in student-athlete. Kirinovic feels his athletes do have a lot of responsibilities, but he has been impressed with the way they seem to get the job done on the court and in the classroom and have fun at the same time.

"I've had to be very sensitive to the amount of games, practices, fund-raisers, trips and everything else that we put on our student-athletes during the course of the year," he said of Ferris State student-athletes who have competed in all reaches of the United States from Michigan.

Ohio and Indiana in the Midwest to as far away as tournaments or regular-season events in Florida, Hawaii and Alaska. "We still have to remember, that even through everything, they are student-athletes first and that is why student always comes first when you say student-athlete to describe them.

"In addition to all of the things they do, with their teams and with school work, we also from time to time have guest speakers that come in and other activities that we some times schedule

for them," he continued. "That is one of the reasons I am so impressed with the amount of time our student-athletes put in to be at a high level in academics as well as athletics."

Missing classes, from time to time, is one of the necessary aspects of being a student-athlete at colleges and universities across the country.

"Our players have a lot of time commitment and a lot of traveling that they do and that's one of the reasons we have as much mandatory study time as we have for them," said Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, the head coach of the Bulldog volleyball team.

"Our players are dedicated to not only being successful in volleyball, but also to being successful as students.

"They have shown the discipline to be a champion on the court and then take that same discipline into the classroom to be successful."

Some times, student-athletes will have to make arrangements to turn in homework assignments or take tests, quizzes and exams ahead of time.

Other times, Bulldog student-athletes must take a makeup exam after the fact.

But, as Hutchison said, the makeup exams or homework assignments can be made tougher than the original assignment.

"You've got to do what you've got to do," Ferris State track and field athlete Dia Price said. "We do have some times where we're missing classes or we have to turn our homework in earlier or whatever, but it's something that just has to be done and you have to find a way to get it done."

There have been times student-athletes have had to take tests on the road or turn in assignments via e-mail when out of town or out of the state.

"There is a lot of planning that takes place and a lot of time you have to spend working with your professor to get things done," Ferris hockey player, and team captain, Adam Welch said about the burden of keeping a balanced schedule balanced.

"School is the biggest reason that we're here and we know we have to make sure we're taking care of that along with our athletics.

"We have times where we've on the bus going to some place and a lot of us will be working on a homework assignment or studying so we're ready to take a makeup test when we get back to Big Rapids and have to go to class on Monday, he added.

"So, even though we're on the road, and we're playing in a hit game, we're also knowing we're still going to have that work to makeup when the game is over."

The Grand Rapids Press

July 30, 2006

Students urged to prepare for jobs of the future with high-tech college degrees

Calvin College senior Sarah Mange traded her violin for a lab coat. Three years ago, when she started college, she had aspirations of a career in music. She signed up for orchestra, chorale and the entry-level courses required for a music major.

But late in her freshman year, Mange reconsidered her career options.

"With music, I felt the only thing I could do was education," said Mange, 21.

Mange had taken one biology class at Calvin and decided to switch directions and declare biology as her major.

"I find it really fascinating," she said. "We're discovering how things work and what makes things happen in a forest or in your body."

In February, Mange, a Kalamazoo native, began working in a lab at the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids studying bone development. But she hasn't bailed on music.

She plays violin in the orchestra and sings in the chorale.

"It's not like I've dropped it," she said. "But I won't do that as a job."

Some Michigan lawmakers and educators think the state's economic turnaround hinges on more students following Mange's lead.

Jobs of the future

Although Michigan's public universities are churning out more grads -- nearly 60,000 degrees in 2005 up from about 52,000 in 1999 -- not enough of them have math, science, health and other technical majors to fill job demands.

Less than 30 percent of degrees granted in 2004-05 are in those fields, according to a recent report from the House Fiscal Agency, a nonpartisan office of the Michigan House of Representatives.

The percentage of high-tech degrees ranged from 17.1 percent at Eastern Michigan University and Saginaw Valley State University, to 83.4 percent at Michigan Technological University, which specializes in engineering, according to the report. Degrees tallied include associate's, bachelor's, master's, doctorates and professional.

On average, the state's 15 public universities grant 29.7 percent of their degrees in high-tech fields and 70.3 percent in general degrees.

Still, there will continue to be a need for liberal arts majors, said Dan Hurley, director of university relations and administrative services for the Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan. For example, he said information technology companies sometimes prefer broadly educated workers because they adapt and can be trained.

The House Fiscal Agency limited its research to the public universities funded by the state, but all Michigan graduates contribute to filling high-tech jobs.

Costly educations

At Calvin College, 27 percent of students graduated with degrees in the science, math, health, technology or engineering fields, said Tom Van Eck, director of institutional and enrollment research.

About 31 percent of credit hours taken at Grand Rapids Community College during the winter semester were in the sciences and math, according to annual reports. The nursing program is at full capacity, and students took 8.8 percent more math classes in winter 2006 than they did in winter 2005.

Michigan lawmakers hope to encourage more investment in those programs, acknowledging it's more expensive to educate when labs are involved.

A formula for next year's state budget is based in part on awarding more aid to public universities that graduate students in those programs.

"There's no doubt we need more graduates from our universities from math, science, engineering and health programs," said Rep. Jerry Kooiman, R-Grand Rapids, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, who helped write the formula. "We're giving the universities money based on the outcomes in math and science to generate more degrees in those areas."

He said he hopes it will drive more decisions such as Grand Valley State University's plan to double its engineering program.

The focus is consistent with a move to strengthen Michigan high school graduation requirements in 2007. Under pressure, the Legislature and state school board this year fortified the requirements to include four years each of English and math (including algebra I, algebra II and geometry), three years each of social studies and science (including biology and chemistry or physics).

The state report on college degrees dovetailed with a recent national report by the General Accounting Office, which raised concerns the United States is not graduating enough people with high-tech skills, even as employment grows in those areas.

The report found 27 percent of degrees were granted in science, technology, engineering and math fields in 2003-04, a drop from 32 percent a decade earlier.

During the same period, employment rose 23 percent in the technology sectors, compared to 17 percent in other fields.

In addition, the report noted women and minorities are a growing segment of the work force, but those groups traditionally are under-represented in technical fields.

GVSU ranks 12 out of the 15 public universities for graduating students in science, technology, engineering and math. Fred Antczak, dean of liberal arts and sciences, said the school is steadily improving its reputation for preparing students for medical, dentistry and pharmacy schools.

"Science is facilities-intensive, and it's very difficult to make a great leap forward in terms of percentages," Antczak said. "I think the real measure is, 'Are you making steady improvements?'"

From winter semester 2004 to winter semester 2006, the school saw 329 more students majoring in math and sciences. Antczak also said he has made hiring math and science professors a priority.

With help from state funding, a new engineering facility is under construction in Grand Rapids and Antczak said there is talk about a new basic sciences building in Allendale.

"We are slowly but surely expanding our instruction in math and science," he said.

Grand Haven native Tim Poulton took advantage of GVSU's improving premedical program, but after several years in the business world.

Poulton, 32, said when he was a student at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, he wasn't certain what he wanted to do. Science was too rigid, he said.

After working as an international consultant, he decided to return to Michigan and go to medical school. He earned a second bachelor's degree from GVSU in April in biomedical sciences.

"I think, for me, the big difference was I really knew what I wanted to do," he said. "It was much easier for me to be interested and motivated."

Poulton will attend medical school at the University of Michigan in the fall.

Getting more Michigan residents into post-secondary education has been a high priority for state leaders as Michigan's traditional manufacturing base erodes.

It starts in high school

The Cherry Commission, a 2004 group of college presidents, lawmakers, business leaders and others led by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, cited the need in the next decade for 100,000 new, skilled medical workers. It called for the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth to better

inform the work force about job opportunities and the training required and for better university tracking of what happens to graduates.

Both projects are being developed, said John Austin, vice president of the State Board of Education and an adviser to the Cherry Commission.

For the most part, the free market dictates what programs are offered and which students go into them.

Austin said he agrees with the approach to give more state aid to higher-cost programs to eliminate disincentives against them. But he said the Cherry Commission deliberately avoided any recommendations that would limit state aid only to those offerings where jobs were in demand.

"The Cherry Commission did not recommend a heavy-handed approach," he said. Austin said the next great innovation could come from an artist or designer, rather than an engineer or scientist.

"We can't predict, based on what we need today, who the next Google inventor is going to be. You don't want to kill off the golden goose of people who are nurtured in creative fields," he said.

Some career experts say the new mandatory high school curriculum, with four years of math, including Algebra II, and three years of science, will help funnel more students to those programs.

William Potter, director of Ferris State University's Career Institute for Education and Workforce Development, said studies show only about one-third of students are ready for college upon high school graduation.

Students who aren't ready for college-level courses aren't likely to go into difficult fields, he said.

"I think we need our students better prepared to make that choice and not to default away from it," he said.

Grand Rapids native and biomedical engineering junior Joe Uzarski was worried if he could compete against other students at Michigan Tech. The school turns out 83 percent of its graduates in high-tech fields.

Finding a major that fascinated him made all the difference. With prosthetics and implants, biomedical engineering applies science to human life, Uzarski said. He earned a 4.0 GPA and is spending the summer at school doing tissue research and surgeries on mice.

"Some of the stuff is so interesting, it's like reading for leisure," Uzarski said.

Phil Gardner, director of research for Michigan State University's Collegiate Employment Research Institute, said students need a little more academic and emotional support to tough out the difficult academic courses in high-tech fields.

"Kids have to understand that science and math are hard, but there are ways to do it and you have to be persistent," Gardner said.

Where Scientists are

Percentage of degrees, which are considered “high cost” degrees for universities offering them, in math, science, health, engineering and technical fields awarded in 2004-05:

UNIVERSITY	HIGH COST
Michigan Tech	83.4%
Ferris State	50.9%
UM-Ann Arbor	40.7%
UM-Dearborn	34.9%
Wayne State	31.1%
Lake Superior	30.7%
Michigan State	30.4%
Northern Michigan	24.5%
Oakland	23.2%
UM-Flint	21.8%
Western Michigan	20.5%
Grand Valley	20.1%
Central Michigan	17.7%
Eastern Michigan	17.1%
Saginaw Valley State	17.1%
State Wide Total	29.7%

Hometownlive.com

July 31, 2006

Clinic offers hockey, life tips

The emphasis was on taking responsibility when the Troy Police Department recently hosted its second annual youth hockey clinic.

The Responsible Life Choices Hockey Clinic was co-sponsored by the Troy Sports Center, which donated ice time and meeting rooms for the clinic, Troy Beaumont Hospital and Wal-Mart.

About 60 youths joined in the week-long clinic. The clinic provided boys and girls ages 8-10 and 11-14 with 90 minutes of on-ice training each day, in conjunction with a series of classroom presentations on youth oriented issues. On-ice instruction was being provided by a division one-college hockey player from the Ferris State University Bulldogs of the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, as well as the lead instructor from the Troy Sports Center's Hockey Instruction Operations.

In addition, volunteer Troy Police Department personnel acted as assistant instructors during the on-ice portions of the program.

Classroom topics included health, fitness and nutrition, presented by representatives from Troy Beaumont Hospital. Presentations on responsible and ethical life choices; drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse prevention; personal safety; Internet safety; leadership; and, home alone responsibilities will be presented by representatives from the Troy Police Department.

Members from the Sports Center's Core Hockey Training Program provided a tour of their on-site training facilities, and spoke on athletic conditioning, injury prevention and the health hazards of performance enhancing substances.

A Friday afternoon pizza party and a Troy Police Youth Hockey Clinic jersey for each participant were provided by Wal-Mart.

White Lake Beacon News

August 1, 2006

Swimming up stream

"Swimming Up Stream" is an appropriate name for the fourth Art Walk sculpture which was unveiled last Monday afternoon.

There were struggles locating the piece created by Robert L. Barnum of Mecosta. Valerie Rabe, executive director of the Arts Council of White Lake which is developing the Art Walk leading to the organization's 25th year in 2010, said the original location for the sculpture, at the intersection of Main and Mears streets in Whitehall, didn't work because the city did not own the land.

Scrambling for a new location, Montague Mayor Henry Roesler Jr. suggested a location on Dowling Street next to Comerica Bank branch office, and alongside the bike trail. It can be seen by persons using the trail or by motorists driving along Dowling Street.

Roesler said Comerica agreed to have the sculpture located on their property.

The sculpture unveiling even swam up the stream. There was a downpour that morning, but it had stopped by the ceremony.

Rabe thanked DTE Energy Foundation for sponsoring the fourth sculpture on the Art Walk in which the arts council hopes to have as many as 25 sculptures along the paved trails in Montague and Whitehall.

Rabe also introduced Mary Wisnom, former arts council executive director, who was at the unveiling. She got the Art Walk off the ground.

Barnum, who is a professor of art at Ferris State University, said public art benefits a community. "Public art has a lot to do with the character of a community."

He said it is the artists' job to create the art, and the viewers' job to interpret it.

Swimming Up Stream is a six-foot high, three dimensional steel art with shapes of humans and fish swimming fluidly together. The quarter inch thick steel is painted blue.

The concrete base was provided by WinBerg Construction.

The theme of the Art Walk is "An Artist's View of White Lake."

Roger Royer, regional manager for DTE Energy, said the location is good for the sculpture. "We appreciate the mayor's help and for Valerie's following through."

Royer said the foundation has donated \$7 million dollars to communities across the state for arts, community development, environment, leadership and education.

Pioneer

August 1, 2006

Montague ArtWalk sculpture latest Barnum unveiling

BIG RAPIDS - Robert Barnum, a Ferris State University art professor and the school's resident artist, unveiled one of his latest works July 24 in Montague.

The 400-pound steel sculpture "Swimming Up Stream" is the fourth piece of the

Montague ArtWalk and the latest project Barnum has completed with Ferris students. About 60 students contributed in some way to the project, with four students lending considerable time to the effort.

The 14-inch steel was cut, welded and bent all at the FSU Creative Arts Center. From art students discussing the design to the welding engineering student who improved on the welding, students were involved in the entire process.

The opportunity for such projects on campus enriches everyone, Barnum said, including the technology students who assist.

"That's the beauty - they're faced with challenges they wouldn't get in their program," Barnum said. "Construction and art have never separated - we're in the same business."

Barnum was selected to create the sculpture, commissioned by DTE Energy, as the result of a statewide competition. The piece, containing the forms of men, women and fish, is meant to illustrate the dynamics of life in a waterfront community.

"It hints of the rather accelerated life water seems to bring," Barnum said.

The forms themselves are bent and the entire piece will sway slightly with the wind to incorporate movement into the work, Barnum explained.

Savannahnow.com

August 1, 2006

A high school diploma just isn't enough

Savannah Tech's customized training helps employers find workers to suit specific needs.

Job applicants who expect to get a paying position had better bring something more than a high school diploma to the interview.

"Industry is tired of hiring people straight off the street," said Thomas Crandell, director of corporate services at Ferris State University in Michigan, which runs the National Council for Workforce Education. "It used to be if you graduated high school and could carry a lunch box you could get hired in manufacturing. But kids aren't learning applied knowledge in high school. What they learn they don't know how to apply, and that makes it difficult for them to pick up a good job."

But Savannah Technical College has developed customized training programs that get high school graduates into good jobs and produce qualified workers for local industry.

Demand for skilled workers

Workers just out of high school used to be able work their way up in manufacturing and service jobs. But those industries have become more complex and require skilled workers with certification.

In fact, six out of every 10 jobs in America are available only to workers who gained advanced skills and training in college or technical schools, according to the American Council on Education's 2004 School to College Transition report.

That shift has led the nation's educators, politicians and business leaders to call for all high school graduates to complete at least two years of college-level academics.

But answering that call isn't so easy in states such as Georgia, which has the second-highest dropout rate in the country and the third-lowest number of 18 to 24-year-olds enrolled in college.

A large number of young Georgians don't even have high school diplomas.

A recent study by the conservative-leaning think tank, the Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, reports that 44 percent of the Georgia students leave school without graduating.

And many of those who graduate are going to work and not college.

Only 28 percent of the state's 18- to 24-year-olds enroll in college.

Work force development

Savannah Technical College's Economic Development Division offers services that help build the skills of the unskilled workers in Chatham, Effingham, Bryan and Liberty counties. They create customized training courses for businesses, designed to upgrade the skills of current employees. When students complete the customized programs they are guaranteed a job interview.

Kerry Scott, president of International Longshoreman Association Maintenance and Repair Local 2046 said Tech does assessments to determine if their workers have welding skills that would qualify them for jobs repairing containers and chassis. They are also working to create a welding training program.

"We're working with them now to set up an apprenticeship program to train people in welding," Scott said. "There's really no training for that around here."

If companies are looking to attract a large number of applicants for a highly specialized job, Tech will also set up diploma and certification programs designed to generate graduates who are trained to suit.

Orafol USA Inc., a self-adhesive PVC film manufacturer opening its first U.S. headquarters and manufacturing site in Bryan County this summer, has an agreement to train prospective employees for 400 jobs. Training will include everything from an overview of the manufacturing process to working with decimals and digital calipers.

Tech also created certification programs designed specifically for Gulfstream, which is planning a \$300 million expansion. Training in aircraft structural assembly, warehousing and distribution, and customer service is open to those with high school diplomas and GED certificates.

"We expect the partnership with Savannah Tech will result in a larger, more qualified local candidate pool, which is a benefit to both Gulfstream and the community," said Gulfstream spokesperson Julie McCoy.

Tech is also developing an airframe and power-plant certification school to train and license future maintenance technicians.

Students benefit just as much as the companies, said Ken Boyd, vice president for economic development at Savannah Tech.

"If a person goes out there and supplements their high school education with skills that businesses are hunting for, that company will guarantee them an interview," Boyd said.

"Companies know the students coming out of our programs are exactly what they want to hire."

Many people who want higher paying jobs, but don't have the education and skills to get them, think college is beyond their reach. But by offering on-site training programs many unskilled people are getting technical college training.

A Savannah Tech instructor comes on site to assist with the masonry, basic carpentry, and concrete forming training courses offered at St. Paul CME Technical Training Center downtown.

"Even if they don't have a high school diploma they can start this program and work on their GED as they go," said Donnie Gillis, instructor and director of the St. Paul training center.

The program has a 65 percent completion rate and all program completers are certified as apprentices in their specific trade.

"When they finish, they may get 15 or 16 contractors making them job offers," Gillis said.