

May 10, 2005-May 20, 2005

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## **Pioneer**

May 10, 2005

### **Ferris softballs back in NCAA tourney**

BIG RAPIDS - For the first time, since the 1999 campaign, Ferris State makes its return to the NCAA Division II Softball Tournament.

The Bulldogs (30-18), the 2005 co-champions of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, officially learned of their bid to the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Region Tournament Monday. Ferris, seeded fourth in the region, takes on a very familiar foe in the opening round. The Bulldogs play No. 5 seed Northwood, at 10 a.m., at top-seeded Northern Kentucky University's Frank Ignatius Grein Field in Highland Heights, Ky.

"It's a great feeling for our program to be back in.... It's been six years since the last time we were in the NCAA tournament.... So, for us to get back this year is definitely a good feeling," said Ferris State head coach Keri Becker, whose team won the league tournament on Saturday at Currie Stadium in Midland with a 3-0 win over Northwood. "I give all of the credit for us making it back into the tournament to the kids on this team for staying strong as a team and working hard every day to get this bid for the program."

The winner of the contest between Ferris and Northwood advances to meet the No. 1 ranked team in the nation, Northern Kentucky, at 3 p.m. The Norse are a perfect 50-0 this season after winning the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship on Sunday. In the 12:30 p.m. game, No. 6 Gannon (32-16) battles No. 3 West Virginia Wesleyan (41-16), the champions of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. The winner between the two teams will take on No. 2 Southern Illinois Edwardsville (40-13) at 5:30 P.m.

Tournament games at Northern Kentucky, in the double-elimination format, are scheduled for Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday (if necessary).

Ferris defeated Northwood twice at the GLIAC Tournament, in Midland, over the weekend. Ferris defeated the Timberwolves 2-1, in the third round, and 3-0 for the championship. During the regular season, however, Northwood swept Ferris in a pair of games played in Big Rapids.

Becker, making her third trip to the NCAA Tournament as the head coach of the Bulldogs, says the seniors (Rachel Chartier, Amy Dollarhite, Navreet Gill and Melissa Worsley) deserve a lot of the credit for the success of Ferris,' program this spring.

"Every year the players come out and want to play hard for their seniors who are in their last season," she said. "These seniors have done so much from the minute they got here to keep getting better and better and for them to have an opportunity to compete in the NCM Tournament is something we're happy and excited about."

Ferris State also made a trip to the NCAA Tournament in 1982. In 1998 and 1999, the Bulldogs won the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Region championship and advanced to the national tournament. In 1998, the team finished third in the nation in Pensacola, Fla. In 1999, Ferris finished seventh in the national tournament in Salem, Va.

## **Pioneer**

May 13, 2005

### **Ferris State honors Dakkuri**

BIG RAPIDS - Professor Adrian Dakkuri of the College of Pharmacy has been selected as the International Educator of the Year by Ferris State University's Division of Academic Affairs.

During his 29 years at Ferris, Dr. Dakkuri has been involved in a wide activities pertaining to international education. He personally completed a sabbatical leave in Jordan and undertook joint research with scholars from Japan and Taiwan that resulted in the publication of several articles. Some of his international education activities have been student-oriented including service as advisor to the Muslim Student Organization as well as assisting international students with problems and issues they encounter in their adaptation to the United States. In addition, he has been faculty secretary to the Ferris Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa a position he has used to foster responsible global citizenship by arranging for international craft sales supporting cottage industries in the developing world.

Dakkuri has worked on curricular issues in the international setting and has been instrumental in designing and upgrading pharmacy programs at Yarmouk University and two other universities in Jordan. Presently, he consults on pharmacy education to Al-Isra University. He holds a baccalaureate degree in pharmacy from the American University of Beirut and a doctorate from the University of Illinois at the Medical Center in Chicago.

He also has been an active participant on university committees concerned with international issues as illustrated by his inclusion as a founding member of the international Education Committee. Within his field he has been a voice for international education, serving as a member of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists Task Force on Assistance to Pharmaceutical Scientists in Developing Countries.

International education has been an integral part of his academic life, according to Dakkuri. It has been his goal to instill within students and faculty alike an appreciation for the uniqueness of different cultures "in the hope that we all become genuinely (versus superficially) tolerant citizens of the globe," he said.

Dakkuri's academic service has been complemented by community involvement in international education. In particular, he is a past president of Big Rapids Rotary international and presently serves on the Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee which awards \$25,000 scholarships to two students annually for the purpose of studying abroad.

## **Pioneer**

May 13, 2005

### **FTL launches online MEAP Testing Pilot Program**

BIG RAPIDS - Approximately 1,000 to 2,000 Michigan sixth-graders will use computers to take their MEAP tests this fall as part of a feasibility study of using online assessment. The MEAP Online Testing Study will examine the advantages and comparability between administration of paper and pencil and computer delivery. The study, which also will look at user satisfaction and measurement accuracy, will determine if online MEAP testing offers enough advantages to students to pursue future use of this method.

The study is being conducted under the auspices of Freedom to Learn, which is administered by Ferris State University in partnership with the Michigan Department of Education. As many as 25 of the schools that were provided with laptop computers as part of the FTL initiative are expected to volunteer to participate. Students will be tested by computer during the Oct. 3-21 testing period using exactly the same questions as the paper and pencil versions of the MEAP English Language Arts and Social Studies tests.

Provisional scores on the online assessment will be provided within 48 hours of test administration. Scores on essay and constructed response items will be scored using the Pearson Knowledge Technologies automated essay scoring engine. Since the study will determine the comparability of the two different methods of administering the test, any differences found in scores will be adjusted to match the paper test administration.

“I believe the major advantage to online testing is that teachers will get the test results within 48 hours rather than waiting for months,” said Michelle Johnston, dean of Ferris’ College of Education and Human Services. “Even though these results will be only the raw scores, they will enable teachers to adjust their instructional practices to improve student performance over the rest of the year. That is our hope,” said Dr. Johnston:

She also noted that the ability to give the tests on the FTL laptop units would free up other computers in the schools.

“The accuracy of the results using online administration will be improved because of less chance for response booklets to be lost or cause other errors,” said Leslie Wilson, FTL director of professional and curriculum development. “Student testing time should be reduced with less paper shuffling and we expect substantial savings in resources.”

She added that long-range plans allow for paper and pencil versions for districts that do not meet the technology requirements for the foreseeable future.

Further information is available by contacting Johnston at (231) 591-3648 or <[Michelle\\_Johnston@ferris.edu](mailto:Michelle_Johnston@ferris.edu)>.

## **Pioneer**

May 14 & 15, 2005

### **Ferris' College of Business creates advisory board**

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University College of Business has formed a Leadership Advisory Board to assist in its efforts to keep abreast of the dynamic, changing needs of the business industry.

The 10-member board will provide a broad, unique perspective on how to address those changes and produce top-quality business students that will be sought after in the workforce.

According to Dean David Nicol, the board “allows us to determine what we need to be doing in order to foster a learning experience that will really benefit students across the board. We’re looking to the board for insight, to challenge us and to help us stretch in what we do for students.”

Board members represent different parts of the industry, and over half of them are Ferris alumni. The members include: Mike Bigford, president of Reed City Powerline Supply Company; Charles Christmas (B’87), senior vice president and CEO, Mercantile Bank of West Michigan, Wyoming; Dan Dershem (B’92), president, Lean Logistics, Holland; Norman Dillard, vice president of food and beverage/property, MGM Grand, Detroit; William John Hare (B’68), president, ABC Radio, Dallas, Texas; Ed Lacross (B’76), director, Dow Chemical, Midland.; Larry Meyer, chair/CEO, Michigan Retailers Association, Lansing; John Parker, chief marketing officer, Alticor, Ada; Steve Roznowski (A&S’76), vice president of human resources, Ferguson Enterprises, Newport News, Va.; and Michael Suman (T’70), consultant, Management Consulting, Holland.

“All of our members are from different parts of industry and we want that different perspective,” said Dr. Nichol. “Each will bring to the table their own perspective of what is necessary to achieve success, and within their different organizations, what are the skills and abilities they would look for in potential employees.”

“This will allow us to determine what it is that we should be doing with our students in their learning experience that will cause them to be desirable by employers,” added Nicol.

He also noted that in addition to the different sectors of business and industry, and the local and national perspective; some of the members are engaged in international business.

“We can’t teach the courses we taught 15-20 years ago. The needs are very different.

The expectations are very different. We look to these successful individuals to help us understand how the business environment, locally, nationally and internationally, is changing,” said Nicol.

The board will meet two times per year, with subsequent subcommittee meetings scheduled throughout the year.

## **Pioneer**

May 14 & 15, 2005

### **Paramore, Watson receive Ferris Academic Excellence**

#### **Awards**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University faculty members James Paramore and Phillip Watson have received the 10th annual Academic Excellence Awards from the Division of Academic Affairs.

The awards honor faculty who have demonstrated excellence in areas such as development of innovative teaching and learning strategies, professional service or research and service to students, according to Michael Harris, vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Paramore is currently the Interim Associate Dean and Professor in the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) where his interests include contact lenses, vision ergonomics and ethics.

“Professor Paramore’s teaching has been innovative and creative,” said Dr. Harris.

“Besides demonstrating expertise in the college’s core curriculum courses pertaining to contact lenses, including lecture, labs and clinical instruction, he has explored effective ways of facilitating student learning.”

He also has taught ethics, challenging students to look critically at their role as health professionals, and their responsibilities to patients and their communities.

In addition, Paramore has excelled in scholarship. He has published in a variety of journals such as the Journal of the American Optometric Association and the International Contact Lens Clinic Journal. He has recently authored a series of articles in The Michigan Optometrist.

Paramore was the recipient of the Michigan Optometric Association’s Emil Arnold Award and his accomplishments have been acknowledged at the national level by his involvement as a manuscript referee for the Journal of the American Optometric Association, Review of Optometry, International Contact Lens Clinic, Optometry and Vision Science, and his membership on the review board for the Journal of Optometric Education.

He has been the point person for the development of the new optometry curriculum.

According to MCO Dean Kevin Alexander, “Dr. Paramore has made very significant contributions to the program by leading the curricular change as well as his lifetime dedication to MCO.”



Paramore received his baccalaureate in psychology from the University of Houston and his doctorate in optometry from the University of Houston, College of Optometry. He served for two years in the Air Force before joining the faculty at the University of Houston, where he was assistant to the dean and taught courses in the area of contact lenses.

Dr. Watson, professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, has designed the forensic biology track at Ferris and has developed popular instructive Web pages for mock crime scene instruction. He also has been involved in the Ferris Study Abroad program.

“Dr. Watson’s work is innovative, of high interest to his students and is in the best tradition of university curriculum meeting the ever-changing needs of our students,” said Harris.

Watson has received numerous grants from a Ferris, US AID, the US Forest Service and was a Senior Fulbright Fellow, teaching in Africa in 1993 and 1994. He has published 10 source books or lab manuals and contributed or co-authored numerous research articles in his areas of specialty. He also has authored the “Forensic Biology Laboratory Manual” and “Environmental Science Quick Notes.”

One of his students’ best captured his dedication when he wrote: “Dr. Watson is an excellent instructor. He uses technology in his classes, mixes media and involves the class through discussion, assigned readings and in-class activities. He uses much humor and students talk about his sense of adventure and wonder.”

Watson received his bachelor’s in biology and master’s in zoology from Eastern Michigan University and his doctorate in entomology from the University of Illinois.

**Pioneer**  
May 14 & 15, 2005

**Congratulations to...**

Congratulations to...

- Frank C. Wheatlake, who has been reappointed to the Natural Resources Commission for a term that will expire Dec. 31, 2008.

Wheatlake is chairman and CEO of Reed City Powerline Supply Company.

The commission establishes general policies for the Department of Natural Resources and hires the department's director.

- Ervin Ray Easton of Maryland, who has been named the 2005 Distinguished Alumni of Reed City Public Schools.

Easton has a distinguished service record with the U.S. Navy and in governmental relation positions following his military career.

He will share accolades with the Class of 2005 at commencement exercises on Sunday, May 22, some 55 years after his own graduation from Reed City High School.

- James Paramore, who has received an Academic Excellence Award from the Division of Academic Affairs at Ferris State University.

He was recognized for his innovative and creative teaching methods as the interim associate dean and professor in the Michigan College of Optometry and for significant contributions to curricular change and lifetime dedication to the MCO.

- Phillip Watson, who also received an Academic Service Award from FSU's Division of Academic Affairs. Watson, a professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, has designed the forensic biology track at Ferris and has developed popular instructive Web pages for mock crime scene instruction. He also has been involved in the Ferris Study Abroad program.

Watson was recognized for his innovative, high-interest teaching methods.

- Adnan Dakkuri, a professor in FSU's College of Pharmacy, who has been selected as the International Educator of the Year by the Division of Academic Affairs.

Dakkuri's selection was based on a wide-range of activities in international education over his 29-year career at Ferris.

## **Pioneer**

May 14 & 15, 2005

### **Beta Kappa Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma presents awards**

BIG RAPIDS - The Beta Kappa Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International presented several awards on April 23 at its annual spring brunch.

The Friend of Education award went to Maxine Sofoulis. The Friend of Education award is given to a person who is not currently an educator or working in education but has given an ongoing presence in the community in their support of education.

Three \$500 scholarships were presented to young women currently in or going into education. Scholarship winners were Ferris State University students Jennifer Genter and Kari Stevens and high school senior Rebecca DeBoek.

In addition The Chapter Woman of Distinction is given to an educator who has given service to Delta Kappa Gamma, shows professional leadership and exhibits outstanding personal characteristics. This award was presented to Linda Myers.

Local member Helen Popovich received the 2005 State Woman of Distinction award at the State Convention in Grand Rapids recently. In addition to the extensive contributions that Popovich makes to education, the involvement at the local chapter and in the community, she has also been the state president of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International and is currently chairman of the International Educational Foundation, with many hours of work internationally on behalf of education.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

May 15, 2005

### **Awards and achievements**

Julie Soczek of FlexChecks Inc., was designated a Certified Payroll Professional by the American Payroll Association.

Warner Norcross & Judd LLP was named one of West Michigan's 101 Best & Brightest Companies to Work For, an annual competition co-sponsor by the Michigan Business & Professional Association and the Michigan Food & Beverage Association.

Charu Pant, sous chef for Webster's restaurant, received a 2005 AAA Four Diamond Award from AAA Michigan.

**Robert S. Fogarty Jr., chairman and chief executive officer of Kindel Furniture Co- received an honorary doctorate from Kendall College of Art and Design for his influence on the American furniture industry.**

## **The Detroit News**

May 17, 2005

### **6th-graders go high-tech, will take MEAP tests on Web**

About 2,000 Michigan sixth-graders this fall will become the state's first to take MEAP tests online.

The state hasn't yet decided who will use computers to take the Michigan Educational Assessment Program tests. But most of the children likely will be among those who received laptop computers through state and federal grants. The computers have gone mostly to urban districts such as Detroit, Pontiac, Grand Rapids and Saginaw. With the online testing, teachers will see exam results on each child within 48 hours, allowing them to make immediate adjustments in their teaching methods to address kids' learning gaps, according to Michelle Johnston, dean of the College of Education at Ferris State University.

"Normally, it takes weeks and weeks to get results, and a lot of time has elapsed," Johnston said. Dave Stahlbusch of Clare said his daughter's grades improved dramatically after she received a free laptop. He supports the idea of online MEAP testing.

"The laptop made her more task-oriented with her homework and completing assignments, and more organized," said Stahlbusch, whose daughter, Davann, 14, attends Clare Middle School. "(Getting quick test results) helps teachers to know where students are failing, and where to focus their teaching."

## **Pioneer**

May 17, 2005

### **Foundation awards Exceptional Merit Grants**

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris Foundation has awarded Exceptional Merit Grants Awards totaling \$31,402 to nine Ferris State University faculty and staff members.

Recipients and their proposals were:

- Kimberly Beistle, program coordinator and assistant professor of dental hygiene, and Kathleen Harlan, assistant professor of dental hygiene, for “Visual and Technological Enhancement of Dental Hygiene Clinical Practice;”
- Rhonda DeLong, assistant professor in the School of Criminal Justice, for “Promoting and Enhancing Crimes Scene and Patrol Education;”
- Judith Elsey, enrollment services supervisor at Ferris-Grand Rapids, for “The Peer Mentoring Program;”
- Carrie Forbes, distance education librarian in the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education, for “Online Library Instruction;”
- Thomas Hollen, assistant professor of mechanical design, for “Development of Modeling Prototyping and System Development Shop;”
- Hengli Jiao, assistant professor of mathematics, for “Web Homework Assessment System;”
- Ronald Mehringer, assistant professor of electrical/electronics engineering technology and computer networks and systems, for “Cisco Academy Instructor Training;” and
- Randy Stein, associate professor and department chair of mechanical design, for “Development of Acoustic Analysis Capability for FSU.”

Members of the Gift and Grants Committee who provided guidance and recommendations to the Ferris Foundation Board were Deb Cox, Carla Erlewine, Kim Hancock, Tom Hartwig, Scott Hill-Kennedy, Clare Johnson, Ron McKean, Carla Miller, Tom Oldfield, LaVal Perry, Randy Phelps, David Sobota, Erin Weber and Adam Wetherell.

The Exceptional Merit Grants Program was established by the Ferris Foundation to promote excellence in faculty and staff. Applicants submit proposals for projects which demonstrate exceptional merit in advancing the mission of the university.

Project funding may involve the programming operating costs, matching grant expenses, travel, seed money and equipment dedicated to specific programmatic objectives. Grant awards did not exceed \$5,000.

## **Pioneer**

May 18, 2005

### **An Officer's Memorial**

Dedication: Big Rapids Department of Public Safety Director Kevin Courtney addresses the audience at the Second Annual Peace Officers' Memorial Ceremony outside FLITE Library on the campus of Ferris State University Tuesday afternoon. The ceremony was designed to honor the memory of those men and women who have died in the line of duty, as well as recognize the joint efforts of local law enforcement officials who courageously work to make the community a safe place to live. The following law enforcement agencies and officials participated in the ceremony: Big Rapids Department of Public Safety; city of Evart Police; Federal Bureau of Investigation, Grand Rapids; Ferris State University Department of Public Safety; Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers; Mecosta County Sheriff Department and Posse; Michigan National Guard; troopers from the Michigan State Police (MSP) -Lakeview, -Mount Pleasant and -Rockford posts; MSP Aviation, Lansing; canine unit, MSP-Reed City; chaplain, MSP-Rockford; Osceola County Sheriff Department; bagpipers, Grand Rapids MSP Crime Lab; bagpiper, MSP Regional Office, Lansing; and Reed City Police Department.



## **Detroit Free Press**

May 19, 2005

### **Fire captain's wife earns praise for safety efforts**

Debra DeNapoli of Livonia has received the Michigan Safety Conference's distinguished service award for her work with the group's health-care division.

DeNapoli, the safety director at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, makes sure the hospital complies with government safety codes, monitors employee accidents and oversees safety education and the disposal of hazardous materials.

DeNapoli has a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University and is a certified health-care safety professional. She also serves on the conference's executive committee as the divisional vice president and will assume the presidency in 2008.

She is married to Livonia Fire Capt. Paul DeNapoli and is the mother of two teenagers.

## **Pioneer**

May 20, 2005

### **Ferris male nursing student wins award**

BIG RAPIDS - Randy Linstrom, a first-year Associate Degree Nursing (ADN) student at Ferris State University, has been selected to receive one of the Michigan 2005 Breaking Traditions Awards from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Office of Career and Technical Preparation.

The award recognizes outstanding students who have been successful in a Career and Technical Education/Occupation program area that is nontraditional for their gender.

Linstrom is breaking a tradition in nursing as a male and an older adult with a prior career. He earned a degree in horticulture from the University of Illinois in 1977 but eventually learned that humans were more important than plants.

“Of all lines of employment, no other career cares more for people than the nursing profession,” said Linstrom. Thus, in the winter of 2004, he started as a pre-nursing student at Ferris. Linstrom has maintained a high grade point average, an enthusiasm for learning, and a kind, caring relationship with patients and peers while maintaining his role as husband and father. To increase his knowledge of nursing even more, he has taken an extern position at a Grand Rapids hospital.

According to Arlene Morton, nursing program coordinator, being the only male in a class of 34 could present a challenge.

However, Linstrom appears comfortable and well accepted by his female peers. She said that he is often seen offering support and encouragement to the other nursing students.

“He is an excellent role model to the other students and well deserving of this award,” added Morton.

## **The Grand Rapids Press**

May 20, 2005

### **Golfers show unity over rival**

ALLENDALE - Ferris helps cheer GVSU's Sneller to title. Who says Bulldogs and Lakers can't play nice together?

Certainly not members of the Ferris State and Grand Valley State women's golf teams, who made the Great Lakes Conference proud last week when the GVSU Lakers finished second to champion Rollins (Fla.) College at the NCAA Division II tournament, and the Bulldogs placed fourth.

But it was the scene at the 18th hole of Saturday's final, round of competition that was the real feel-good story when Laker senior Melissa Sneller of Zeeland was locked in a two-player battle with Florida Southern's Pamela Feegans to decide the individual national champion, and coaches and players from both GVSU and FSU were there to cheer Sneller on.

Rooting for Sneller

The league rivals came together as one to offer support for Sneller, who used a winning, five-foot putt to edge Feegans for the crown.

"We have a huge rivalry with Ferris. We want to beat them, they want to beat us," Sneller said. "But they cheered for us all week, and we for them."

"After I made that putt, I think the Ferris girls screamed just as loud as my team. After I got off the 18th hole and finished signing my card, all of (the Bulldogs) came up to congratulate and hug me, like my teammates."

For those familiar with the intense rivalry between Ferris State and Grand Valley - particularly in basketball and football - such a scene might seem peculiar.

But not to head coaches Brad Bedortha of FSU or the Lakers' Lori Stinson.

"We play so much with Grand Valley at tournaments. We're paired with them all the time," Bedortha said. "Our kids are friends with their kids, and vice versa. I talk to the Grand Valley kids all the time at tournaments. There's a great relationship between the two of us."

"Yes, there's a rivalry. They want to beat us, and we want to beat them. But after all our tournaments are over, we shake hands and move on."

Renewing rivalry

Two weeks ago, at the GLIAC meet in Ashland, Ohio, Grand Valley took first ahead of the Bulldogs.

“We play a practice round the day before the tournament, I go to the hotel to unload my bags and I hear all this commotion out in the hallway,” Bedortha said. “It’s our players meeting up with the Grand Valley players.”

“It’s one of the neatest things,” Stinson said. “They want to beat us and we want to beat them. But whenever Brad or I want to know where our kids are when we’re in the same tournaments and in the same hotels, we just check the two teams’ rooms, where they’re usually playing cards together.

“When we finished sixth last year at nationals and Ferris was tying Florida Southern for second, we were rooting for the Bulldogs. Just like Ferris was joining our team to cheer on Melissa at the end, and that was really cool.”