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The Pioneer

Tuesday November 4, 2003

Allied Health Professions Week currently under way

BIG RAPIDS -Allied Health Professions Week is celebrated across the country Sunday through Saturday to honor health care providers working in the more than 80 allied health professions.

According to, the Health Professionals Network, allied health practitioners greatly influence health care delivery by supporting, facilitating and complementing the roles of physicians and other health professions. This collaboration is enhancing the quality of care in this country and abroad.

Faculty and staff of Ferris State University's College of Allied Health Sciences invite the public to join them in celebrating Allied Health Professions Week.

Community members are reminded to take advantage of the services offered through the college's Dental Hygiene Clinic. Services include teeth cleaning, fluoride treatment, dental X-rays and sealants at affordable rates during the day or evening. For an appointment or more information call 591-2260

The college's services extend beyond the campus and into the community as well. Dental Hygiene students have assisted Mecosta County General Hospital with screening exams of second- and sixth-grade children to determine a baseline of dental health. The dental hygiene students taught the children proper dental cleaning techniques while doctors performed the exams. Nursing students also are helping communities across Michigan by completing a required community-based project.

These students are part of a vital industry. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, allied health is one of the fastest growing fields in America and Ferris' College of Allied Health Sciences is helping meet industry demand.

The majors offered by the College of Allied Health Sciences are clinical laboratory sciences, dental hygiene, diagnostic medical sonography, environmental health, health services administration, medical records, nuclear medicine technology, nursing, occupational health and safety, radiography and respiratory Care - all with a 99 percent placement rate. The college also is planning to introduce a master of science in nursing degree next year

This fall, enrollment in the college was up nearly 22 percent, increasing from 1,245 students last year to 1,505 this year.

"We have 1,135 students on campus this semester and 870 students off campus. This is the largest enrollment we have had since before 1997," said Dr. Jacqueline Hooper, dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences

Pioneer
Wednesday December 24, 2003

Ferris Vice Presidential finalists announced

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University has announced five finalists for the position of vice president for Academic Affairs. The university's Vice President Search Advisory Committee met on Dec. 15, to select the following five candidates who have been invited to campus for interviews:

- Michael A. Gealt, dean, School of Engineering, Mathematics and Science, Purdue University - Calumet;
- Michael Harris, associate provost for Academic Affairs, Eastern Michigan University;
- Finnie A. Murray, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, Texas A&M University - Commerce;
- Thomas E. Oldfield, interim vice president for Academic Affairs, Ferris State University
- Vilas A. Prabhu, associate for Student Affairs and Administration, Oklahoma State

Pioneer

Wednesday December 31, 2003

Ward's signing gives Ferris major in-state recruit

By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer

BIG RAPIDS - Signing Fenton prep standout Missy Ward to national letter-of-intent has greatly enhanced a recruiting class that already has Ferris State women's golf coach Brad Bedortha enthusiastic about the possibilities.

Bedortha, in his fifth season as head coach of the men's and women's golf programs at Ferris, says the two-time first-team all-state golfer (2001-03) has an opportunity to have an immediate impact for the Bulldogs. In addition to being a two-time all-state choice, as she prepares for her spring senior season, Ward is a three-time All-Flint Metro League First-Team honoree.

"We are very excited to have Missy join our women's golf program," said Bedortha, a two-time Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year (2001-02 and 2002-03) of Ward, who plans to enroll in Ferris' Professional Golf Management program. "Missy was very highly recruited by a lot of (quality schools) in the state, like Grand Valley State and Western Michigan.

"She has a great attitude and we feel she is going to add a lot to our program for years to come," added Bedortha, who also signed Swartz Creek native Becky Hoffman, a two-time golfer in her own right and first member of his class for the 2004 all-state, as the recruit-05 academic year.

During her junior campaign last spring, Ward averaged 82.3 strokes per round on her way to earning top medalist for the third straight season as a member of the three-time defending conference champion Eagles. Ward, who received the All-Metro League's Scholar Athlete Award (2003) was a second-place finisher during regional competition and was fifth at the Michigan High School Athletic Association Lower Peninsula Division 2 State Final.

"Missy is a well-rounded individual who's highly motivated, well-prepared and has competed in numerous top level junior golf tournaments," Bedortha said.

Ward, owner of numerous team golf records at Linden High School, compiled an 82.3 stroke average as a sophomore, finished fourth in regional competition and 12th in the state. During her freshman season, the Linden star placed fifth at the regional championship and 13th in the state as she posted a stroke average of 87. Ward, also a competitive cheerleader for two years, was the first girl named overall junior club champion at Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden where she won her first women's championship flight.

With the signings of Ward and Hoffman, Bedortha is gearing the Bulldog program to stay at or near the front of the pack in the GLIAC, region and nation for years to come and perhaps higher recruiting.

"This is the best thing class we've had years coaching at State," he said.

"What's significant I've went after Michigan because high talent level. The program has certainly been a big plus in getting the recruits we've targeted."

Pioneer

Tuesday January 6, 2004

Traverse City native to join Volleyball squad

By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer

BIG RAPIDS - Jessica Dezelski will the Ferris State crimson and gold colors in the fall armed with a wealth of athletic ability and volleyball potential.

Dezelski, a 5-foot-10 right-side hitter from Traverse City West High School, earned honorable mention all-state honors as a junior with 456 kills, 419 digs and 82 blocks to go along with 63 assists and 165 aces for the Titans.

Thanks in large part to Dezelski's efforts; T.C. West staked its claim to the Big North Conference championship.

The Bulldogs are hopeful Dezelski can have a major impact in the fall as he makes the jump from high school to college.

"Jessica is a very athletic player who has a lot of growth ahead of her physically and as a volleyball player," said Ferris State head volleyball coach Tia Brandel Wilhelm, who took a senior-free Bulldog squad to a 15-14 record and third place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference at 12-6 in the North Division. "We feel she is going to add a lot to our program.

"Jessica has a strong desire to make a significant impact early in her career," added the eighth-year coach of Dezelski, who competed in USA Volleyball as a member of the Inside Out 18 and Under Gold Juniors. "Her addition will help strengthen our offensive attack due to her versatility and outstanding work ethic."

In addition to 2002-03 all-state recognition, Dezelski was a member of the Traverse City Record-Eagle All-Region Dream Team.

A big reason for those post-season honors was a strong .340 attack percentage and 86-percent serve efficiency as she competed in all 134 of Traverse City West's games.

"We believe Jessica will fit in well with our fast-paced aggressive style of play," Brandel Wilhelm said.

"She's a strong competitor who will develop well within our system and has big potential for growth."

Dezelski, who has her sights set on a major in elementary education, is the second player signed by the Bulldogs for the fall 2004 campaign. She joins Muskegon's Andrea Zylstra, who is in the midst of her senior year on the court for Mona Shores High School.

Ferris is expected to return all 12 letter winners from last season's team. Among the returning players for the Bulldogs will be outside hitter Karla Fairbanks, who earned honorable mention All-American honors courtesy of the American Volleyball Coaches Association as well as Ashley Green, who earned AVCA all-region recognition.

Pioneer

Tuesday January 6, 2004

Ferris State's Vesely earns weekly honor

By Sandy Gholston Pioneer Sports Writer

BIG RAPIDS - Eric Vesely's breakthrough performance, with a goal and two assists in Friday's 7-5 home win over Alaska-Fairbanks, did not go unnoticed.

Vesely was named Central Collegiate Hockey Association Rookie of the Week Monday morning courtesy of a press release from the league's Farmington Hills.

Eric Vesely, a 5-foot-11 freshman left winger from Woodstock, Ill., was part of a huge effort put forth by the Bulldogs' fourth line. Vesely, along with freshman center Matt Rutkowski and sophomore right-winger Nick Scheible, accounted for four goals and three assists in the CCHA victory over the Nanooks at the Ewingleben Ice Arena during the first of the two-game set.

Rutkowski, who just as easily could have walked away with the weekly three assists. Scheible tallied two goals and an assist and Vesely had a breakthrough night with his first career goal and two helpers on Friday.

"I thought our fourth line played really well out there." Daniels said Friday night. "Matt Rutkowski has played pretty well this season with seven points in eight games. He's a good little playmaker for us.

"Nick did a good job finishing both of his chances he had and then, of course, Eric got the first goal of his career so we were very pleased with the production that we got from that line."

The line of Vesely, Scheible and Rutkowski entered the game with two goals and six assists for eight points.

Vesely, whose goal Friday was the first of his career, entered the season in search of a way to climb the Bulldogs' depth chart among a group of talented forwards. He also is one component of a freshman class that has paid fast dividends for the Ferris State coaching staff.

Mark Bomersback has emerged as a regular starter at left wing on one of the Bulldogs' top two lines and has come on strong with five goals and two assists in his last seven games.

Also, first-year defenseman Giovanni Flamminio, Joe Van Culin and Jim Jensen have garnered quite a bit of quality playing time this season.

Michigan State's Kevin Estrada was named the CCHA's Offensive Player of the Week highlighted by a hat trick in a 7-2 win over Northern Michigan on Friday.

Goaltender Matt Violin of Lake Superior State was named defensive player of the week as he stopped 75-of-79 shots to lead the Lakers to a win and tie against Western Michigan.

The Bulldogs left Big Rapids on Monday morning en route to a two game road series against Nebraska Omaha.

The teams split a late November series as UNO won the first game 4-1 on Nov. 21, but the Bulldogs (9-9-2 overall, 5-8-1 CCHA) bounced back one night later to win 4-0 at the Ewigleben Ice Arena.

Traverse City Record Eagle
Wednesday January 6, 2004

End of Cadillac campus tough for school, town

The handwriting on the wall at Northwestern Michigan College's Cadillac campus was easy enough to read. A bad financial, situation was only going to get worse, from the state level on down.

So NMC officials did what most everyone acknowledged was the only thing they really could do by deciding to close down the campus. Classes will end there at the close of the upcoming summer semester.

Between declining enrollment and big cuts in state funding, the campus is expected to post a loss of \$40,000 for the year. If that was the extent of the problem College officials would likely be lobbied to stay. But more state cuts are coming; and enrollment was on a steady decline. Continued losses seemed a certainty.

For the hundreds of Cadillac-area residents who had taken classes there over the past 16 years, including 164 of them this semester, the news had to be frustrating.

Students had been able to get associate's degrees or take classes that could help with their career relatively-close to home. Now, the nearest opportunity will be at Baker College's Cadillac campus, at NMC's home campus 50 miles away or at Ferris State University, 40 miles to the south.

The Traverse City and Ferris State options get worse - even downright dangerous - with the onset of winter.

It's a major reduction in options and convenience, and it's no exaggeration to say the decisions will likely change lives.

Some of the first to be affected will be students at Cadillac High School who are now dual-enrolled at NMC.

The dual-enrollment program offers students a chance to earn college credits without having to pay the price of college tuition. In Cadillac the NMC building is within walking distance of the high school

Dual-enrollment programs like the one there have been a major step toward college for thousands of northern Michigan students lucky enough to live in towns with a community college or close enough to drive to one.

Now that option is gone, and it won't easily or soon be replaced The state is anticipating even bigger deficits next year. Even if full funding is restored sometime soon, another satellite campus could take years to create.

Cadillac students will be able to take online courses, but they have never proved as popular or successful as face-to-face class time, officials admit. If the decision was a difficult one for NMC officials to make, it is even more difficult for Cadillac residents to take.

For those who aren't ready for or can't afford to attend a college out of the region, the chances of a degree or even classes that can help a career just become more remote than ever.

Tough times dictate tough choices, and this was one of them.
Traverse City Record Eagle

The Associated Press State & Local Wire

January 9, 2004, Friday, BC cycle

Ferris State, school district settle logo dispute

In a dispute involving bulldog mascot logos, Ferris State University has decided to throw a bone to St. Charles Community Schools.

Both the Big Rapids University and the Saginaw County school district have used bulldog logos for at least 20 years. The only obvious difference between the line drawings is that Woody, the Ferris State bulldog, has an encircled "F" hanging from its collar.

The two sides recently struck a deal that will allow the district's mascot, Charlie, to continue adorning caps, T-shirts and other school-related merchandise - as long as St. Charles follows a few stipulations.

Ferris State trademarked its logo in 1979. It is the original work of an alumnus, Terry Davenport, who now lives in the Atlanta area.

St. Charles officials were unable to say where their logo originated.

Holland-based Licensing Resource Group sent a written cease-and-desist request last month on behalf of Ferris State to St. Charles High School. The letter said the Holland firm had found at least 10 examples of St. Charles using the logo in sports programs, advertising and yearbooks.

"We would not knowingly use something that was a trademark of Ferris State," St. Charles Superintendent Joseph G. Rousseau told The Saginaw News. "We tried to put ourselves in their shoes. We certainly understand their concerns."

Ferris State officials said they took into account the number of years St. Charles had used the logo and the strong attachment expressed by students and residents for their bulldog.

"In the end, we took into consideration that St. Charles' use had gone on for a number of years and that there was a very enthusiastic allegiance to the logo," said Marc Sheehan, a Ferris State spokesman.

St. Charles school officials must reapply every five years to use the logo. The artwork must be reproduced uniformly and used in good taste.

Pioneer

Tuesday January, 13 2004

Counterfeit currency leads to arrests

BIG RAPIDS - Two Ferris State University students have been charged with conspiracy to counterfeit and maintaining a drug house, the result of a six week investigation by the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety and the United States Secret Service.

Shamarr Ferguson, 21 of Detroit, and Courtney Baltimore, also 21 of Detroit, has been arraigned in Mecosta County's 77th District Court after turning themselves in Jan. 8.

Ferguson has been charged with conspiracy to counterfeit federal currency, four counts of counterfeiting federal currency, one count of possession with intent to deliver marijuana and one count of maintaining a drug house.

Baltimore has been charged with one count of conspiracy to counterfeit federal currency, four counts of counterfeiting federal currency and one count of maintaining a drug house.

The charges came after officers from the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety and the Secret Service executed a search warrant at a Rose Street residence on Nov. 20 as part of their investigation into a rash of counterfeit bills that had been passed in the Big Rapids area. The search revealed counterfeit currency in various denominations and stages of completion, the computer equipment used to print it and a supply of paper on which the counterfeit bills had been printed. Police also reported recovering marijuana, drug packaging material and cash from the residence.

Authorities were alerted by a local pizza delivery carrier who said he received two counterfeit bills after making a delivery to the Rose Street address. Police said they later linked a previous counterfeiting incident to a resident of the home.

"This is a case where the investigating officers gathered good information on each complaint which gave us the ability to link separate incidents together," Big Rapids Public Safety Director Kevin Courtney said. "The cooperation we received from the Secret Service was invaluable and such cooperation makes our job much easier."

Pioneer

January 14, 2003 weekend

Ferris State freedom march to be Monday

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Office of Minority Student Affairs and the Office of Residence Life will lead faculty, staff, students and community members in the annual Martin Luther King March for Freedom at 2 p.m. Monday.

The march will begin in the Merrill/Travis residence hall and continue down the State Street sidewalk then past the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education. The march will conclude in the campus quad with a speech by Raymond Gant, director of Minority Student Affairs, and other campus administrators.

Participants are invited to stay after the speech for coffee, donuts and a chance to reflect on Dr. King's life and work.

Pioneer

Tuesday, January 20, 2004

Ferris Enrollment Rises

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University is beginning the Winter 2004 semester with 531 more students than last winter - the second highest winter to-winter enrollment increase in 25 years.

This winter's system-wide enrollment of 10,972 represents a 5-percent increase over last winter's total of 10,441 students.

Ferris President David Eisler attributes the growth in enrollment to the conscientious efforts of the entire campus community.

"This is a shared success that reflects the collective efforts of faculty, staff and students in all areas of the university who work tirelessly all year long to promote Ferris," he said.

"Students come to Ferris because there is no public institution of higher education in Michigan who has our unique blend of technical, professional and interdisciplinary programs that prepare students for careers," Eisler said.

The university is especially pleased by a nearly 6-percent increase in the number of continuing students.

"The fact that we have more than 572 continuing students this winter is a clear indication that our current students are satisfied with their experiences here and want to come back. It also shows that our students are better prepared for the college experience," said Dan Burcham, vice president for Student Affairs.

Burcham said he expects the university to continue to attract well-qualified students as it raises admissions standards. Next fall, Ferris will increase its admissions standards for the second consecutive year.

A breakdown of the total enrollment shows there are an additional 459 on-campus students enrolled this winter compared to last winter for a total of 9,527. This includes students who are enrolled in classes offered on the Big Rapids campus as well as Ferris' Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids.

Off-campus winter enrollment increased by 72 students, bringing the total number of students attending programs offered through the College of Professional and Technological Studies at Ferris' Grand Rapids campus and through the University Center for Extended Learning to 1,445.

The majority of Ferris' colleges experienced growth with the most noteworthy increases in the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Allied Health Sciences, Education, Pharmacy and Technology.

Burcham said new recruitment strategies emphasize the integration of marketing, recruitment and retention activities system-wide. These strategies include personalized, targeted marketing, the production of an interactive CD-ROM and an expanded Saturday visitation program.

Ferris' Office of Admissions earned recognition at the 2003 Enrollment Management Technology Conference in Boston for its excellence in creating personalized Web pages for prospective students.

Pioneer

Friday January 23, 2004

Ferris State University enrollment increase is good news to community

Congratulations are in order to Ferris State University where the winter semester recently got under way with the second highest winter-to-winter enrollment increase in 25 years. The system-wide enrollment of 10,972 represents a 531 student (5 percent) increase over last winter's enrollment of 10,441.

On campus figures, which represent both the campus here in Big Rapids and Ferris' Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, grew by 459 students to 9,527 while off campus enrollment jumped 72 students to 1,445.

The increase also reflects a nearly 6 percent increase in the number of continuing students. These figures amount to the highest totals since programming cuts in the early 1990s led to drastic enrollment declines from a high point of more than 12,000 students.

Ferris is rapidly approaching the enrollment figures of a decade ago because it has never lost sight of its mission as the only institution in this state to offer a blend of technical, professional and interdisciplinary programs that prepare students for careers and because the campus community and the community at large have continued to promote that mission here in Michigan, in other parts of our country and even in other parts of the world.

Recent recruitment and retention strategies have certainly played a major role in the university's continuing success, but willingness to change educational offerings to fit the needs of the times continues to be its greatest asset and greatest strength.

More than 50 years ago, the people of this community pitched in to help Ferris Institute survive when fire claimed the tiny college founded by WN. Ferris in 1884.

Big Rapids helped Ferris survive and grow into a major state educational institution.

And the people of Big Rapids continue to look with pride on their community as the home of Ferris State University.

Pioneer

Friday January 2, 2004

Ferris State to recognize basketball tradition

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State men's basketball program will celebrate its 76-year history by holding Heritage Day Saturday vs. Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference member Mercyhurst.

Tipoff is set for 3 p.m. at Jim Wink Arena in Big Rapids, following the 1 p.m. women's contest.

Selected representatives from the school's six NCAA Division II National Tournament qualifying teams (1983, 87-90, 98) and nine GLIAC Championship squads (1973-74, 82-83, 87-90, 95) have been invited to the game and will be recognized at halftime in addition to FSU's 1974-75 team, which advanced to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) postseason tourney. Fans attending the game will also receive an opportunity to win Heritage Day t-shirts throughout the contest.

"The Ferris State Athletics Department is extremely proud of the tradition our men's basketball program has achieved throughout its history," said FSU Assistant Athletics Director Brian Kegler. "Heritage Day provides us with an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of Ferris' conference champions and NCAA tournament teams from seasons past. We hope the community will embrace Heritage Day and come out to honor these former players in attendance."

The 2003-04 campaign marks the 76th season of Bulldog men's basketball, which began in 1925 although Ferris did not field a team from 1942-45 due to World War II. FSU has compiled a 882-832 (515) all-time mark to date.

Ferris, which has won more league titles and made more NCAA Championship appearances than any other GLIAC member, captured a GLIAC record four-straight championships from 1987-90. The Bulldogs made five national tournament appearances at the NAIA level, including a quarterfinal round berth in 1962. FSU also reached the NCAA-II Elite Eight in 1988. In addition, Ferris has made five GLIAC Tournament appearances, won the 1997-98 GLIAC Tournament championship and posted 36 winning campaigns.

The Bulldogs' current 5-2 league mark under second-year head coach Bill Sall presently ranks first in the GLIAC's North Division.

Individual game tickets to all FSU home basketball games can be obtained at the door or by calling the Bulldog Athletics Ticket Office at (231) 591-2888. Adult tickets are \$7 and student tickets are \$5. A family pass can be purchased for \$15. Ferris State faculty/staff ticket prices are \$5. FSU students are admitted free of charge by showing their student identification card.

Pioneer

Weekend, January 24&25, 2004

Student pleads guilty in rapes

GRAND RAPIDS (AP) -A 25-yearold student at Ferris State University's Kendall College of Art and Design faces up to five life terms in prison with the possibility of parole after pleading guilty to raping five women over five years.

Ryan Gervenak, a student at the downtown campus, entered his plea Thursday to five criminal sexual conduct charges before Kent County Circuit Judge Paul Sullivan.

He is to be sentenced April 6.

Other charges, including home invasion and attempted murder, were expected to be dismissed in a plea bargain. The Grand Rapids Press reported.

Gervenak broke down crying when Sullivan asked him to raise his handcuffed right hand and swear he would tell the truth. Gervenak kept his head down as he quietly answered the judge's questions.

Gervenak, who was arrested last month, broke into homes while the women were sleeping, choking them and sexually assaulting them, police said. The string of rapes started in 1998. Gervenak was linked recently to all five by DNA tests.

One assault was outside the city a 1999 attack in Kent County's Plainfield Township. Gervenak told police he would get drunk and lose control before finding a home with an open window and climbing inside. For months, he would control himself, he told police, before breaking into another woman's home.