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Grand Rapids Business Journal

October 3, 2005

Shortage Prompts Accelerated Training

GRAND RAPIDS - Ferris State University wants hospital patients to breathe easier, so the school has implemented an accelerated associate's degree program in respiratory care in Grand Rapids, in hopes of getting more students out in the workplace faster.

Jacqueline Hooper, dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences, said the university met with area hospitals to find the greatest areas of need.

"One of the areas of workforce shortage that was noted was respiratory therapist," Hooper said.

The shortage has been caused in part by new licensure regulations that took place in July 2004, Hooper said. In order for the therapists to be licensed, they have to be credentialed, and in order to be credentialed; they have to graduate from an accredited program.

Hooper said it also became apparent that the program needed to be more convenient to students.

"We needed to deliver the program in the communities in which the students lived," she said. "When you deliver in the community where they live, they tend then to work in that community. And then the employers have employees - and that was the whole idea."

For the revised respiratory degree, the lecture courses are available online. General education classes can be taken at community colleges, and Ferris attempts to situate the clinical portion of the class near the student's home.

Saint Mary's Health Care is one of 14 hospitals that have teamed with Ferris to train students. Ferris and Saint Mary's recently received one of Gov. Jennifer Granholm's MI Opportunity Partnership grants to fund the program at the Ferris' Grand Rapids campus.

"The grant allowed us to purchase instruction and technical equipment so that we can literally equip a laboratory on that campus," she said. "It also provides funding to hire a program coordinator."

The first cohort of 24 students will graduate in December 2006. The length of the course has dropped from 24 months to 18 months.

Hooper said the acute need for respiratory therapists makes the program unique.

Laurie Tamminga, supervisor of the respiratory care department at Saint Mary's Health Care, said one of the benefits of the program is the flexibility it gives the students. It

also gives the hospital a chance to see if the students will work well in their organization, and vice versa.

"It's kind of a win-win situation," she said. "They can check us out and we can check them out"

Pioneer

October 27, 2005

Ferris State Theatre to perform Lysistrata tonight:

Performances to be held Oct. 27 through 30

BIG RAPIDS - Lysistrata will be performed the rest of this week by the Ferris State University theatrical department in Williams Auditorium.

The story, which was adapted by director Katherine LaPietra, takes place in the Greek times. Various towns are at war, and have been at war for some time. While the men fight, the women get tired of war so the women come up with the idea to stop the war which is abstinence. As long as the war goes on, the women will be abstinent in hopes to get the men to stop the war. Parents are advised, there will be adult themes and gestures in this play, as well as swordfights.

The play is directed by Katherine LaPietra and the set design was done by Trinity Williams, both are theatrical professors at the university. The play contains a large cast and a male and female chorus. Sarah Erlewine will play Lysistrata, Myrrhine will be played by Lia Otto and Julie Vance will play Stratyllis. Other Ferris State University students play various roles in the play.

This play - as well as the entire theatrical season - has been dedicated to William Sakalauskas, who was a Ferris State Theatre professor from 1979 - 1998.

Showtimes are: Tonight, Friday, and Saturday will be at 8 p.m. while a matinee will be shown on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets, which are on sale now, can be picked up at Williams Auditoriums. Prices are \$8 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens and \$4 for Ferris students. Williams Auditorium is located on 901 S. State Street in Big Rapids.

The Grand Rapids Press

October 27, 2005

Colleges' costs pricing out the public

Nation seeing tuition rates far above inflation; Michigan needs study of universities' organization, spending

The nation's four-year colleges have a long record of outrunning their students' ability to pay. The numbers this year add to it. Tuition and fees for public four-year institutions this fall are up 7.1 percent above last year's, according to the annual report of the College Board. For Michigan's 15 state universities, the average hike was 11.07 percent.

Most of those rates - all of Michigan's - were set by the end of August, when the inflation increase over the previous 12 months was 2.5 percent.

That's the number that governs most families' home incomes and Ability to pay college bills.

The record over the two previous years shows the same pattern. Nationally, tuition rose by 103 percent in 2004-05 and by 1-F.1 percent in 2003-04. Michigan's average increases were 2.8 percent in 2004-OS - in exchange for a no-cut state budget - and 10 percent in 2003-04. 'Chose are years in which inflation stayed below 3.5 percent. Indeed, inflation since 1997 has averaged 2.4 percent.

Universities reliably argue that their costs shouldn't be compared to the general inflation rate. There is some truth to that. Expenses for technical equipment, most notably, rise faster than inflation. But the bulk of what universities pay are the same sorts of costs that other employers bear and are more controllable than the universities suggest. The schools are under less pressure to contain spending than other employers because they can pass along costs in tuition and fee increases.

In Michigan, the schools argue that steep tuition hikes are due to weak state support.

But between 1995 and '02, state funding for the schools rose by 35 percent, 15 points above inflation, even as Michigan slipped into a recession. Universities thereafter took cuts totaling some 10 percent before returning this year to a strong boost of 4.8 percent. The record hardly shows state neglect or explains the price increases - from 7.5 to 18.5 percent - seen this year.

The situation goes to the very purpose of public colleges, to be accessible to the people for their education and that of their children. When college prices rise by double or triple the rate of increase in worker paychecks, the schools become more remote from the people they exist to serve. The point is doubly important in Michigan, which needs to move more citizens into the ranks of the skill trained and college-educated.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm should turn to this issue. Her higher education commission last year centered on the need to move more students into college. It didn't address the more difficult subject of the 15 state universities themselves: their organization, spending, lack of market discipline and how they can be better organized to improve results and more effectively use the \$1.7 billion that they annually receive from the state.

One thing is certain. Colleges' escalating charges are putting them out of reach of ever larger numbers of families. The nation can't afford that. Michigan certainly cannot.

The Grand Rapids Press

October 27, 2005

An education in the student body

Part of a college education comes not in the books and labs but from contact with other students, including those different from ourselves.

Grand Valley State University continues to make steady progress on creating that sort of campus life. While most students come from West Michigan, as befits this regional school, the college is drawing almost 40 percent from other parts of the state and from other states and nations. And a GVSU outreach to racial minority groups has resulted in an increase of black, Latino, Asian and American Indian students, now 11 percent of the student body - up from 10 percent in 2003 - and 15.5 percent of the freshman class.

But while GVSU has gained on those fronts, it is losing ground in another: male enrollment. The share of men students at Grand Valley is in a slow decline, presently at just 38 percent. The situation mirrors male-female ratios at many colleges nationwide, pointing to a social problem that goes well beyond GVSU. The college nonetheless should be inquiring into what it can do differently to attract and hold male students. Coeducation is important to the student body's character as well as to a public university's duty to do its part in preparing the youth of the state for work and for citizenship.

Pioneer

October 28, 2005

Students trying to provide' Thanksgiving dinner to less fortunate

BIG RAPIDS - Students in the Social Work 320 class at Ferris State University are using a class project to help feed area families this Thanksgiving.

They organized a food donation drive, collecting non-perishable food items Thursday on campus. They will be at Wal-Mart on Perry Street on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. for another collection.

Suggested items include canned vegetables, canned yams, boxed stuffing, cranberry sauce, boxed potatoes, pie filling and pie crust.

The food will be made into baskets for area families on Nov. 20 and distributed to those in need. Suzanne Harrison, a professor at Ferris, is helping the students find families in need of the food, said student Norma Keech. Harrison also is donating a location for the classmates to assemble the baskets.

"The holidays are coming up and we wanted to provide a basket to families who might not otherwise have a Thanksgiving Day dinner," Keech said. "We would like to thank everybody in advance for all their donations."

Added fellow student Shannon Moneybrake, "We would like to see this be a continual thing."

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October 28, 2005

Our View: FSU game raises awareness of breast cancer

Few if any will tell you they have not been affected by "the big C" - CANCER.

Most friends, neighbors, colleagues, and families can relate personal stories about how that disease has changed their lives. They have either experienced cancer themselves or know someone who has.

And, although much has been done to advance treatment and research, the best deterrent is education.

Awareness.... the key word.

Friday, the Ferris State University football team will be hosting a Breast Cancer Awareness Day.

Survivors of breast cancer and their guests have been invited to attend the game free of charge and will be treated to a pre-game meal.

The football players of both FSU and Northwood will be wearing pink ribbon/stickers on their helmets.

Mecosta County Medical Center and the Dining /Catering Services are sponsoring the meal and FSU Athletics is providing the free tickets.

Also, literature on early detection will be available for distribution to those attending the game.

It's all about awareness. Early detection is critical.

Being informed is the best way to make that detection.

We commend Ferris and MCMC for their efforts in getting the word out.

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October 29 & 30, 2005

MCCOA presents information to Ferris state students

Cil Emerick, Program Coordinator for the Mecosta County Commission on Aging, spoke Wednesday night to a Ferris State University sociology class on the positive affects actives at senior centers have on the physical and mental health of senior adults. The class, Field of Aging is a PBS-based series program the students watch each Monday. Instructor, Elisha Mar invited Emerick to present to her students how the Mecosta County Senior Center plays a role with local seniors. Emerick began by having the students imagine they were elderly, alone and with no place to go. Then she had students switch the image to show a more positive atmosphere the senior center has to offer. Local musician, TK Kelly played banjo while the students sang along to demonstrate the effect. "The longer senior centers and commission on aging programs can keep the elderly living independently in their homes, the less tax dollar, our tax dollar, is being spent on nursing home expense," Emerick told students.

The Grand Rapids Press

November 1, 2005

Affirmative action proposal maybe on 2006 ballot

Candidates blast Appeals Court ruling

LANSING - A proposal that would ban some affirmative action programs in Michigan took a major step toward making it onto the ballot Monday, but two prominent Michigan Republican candidates have come out against it.

The Michigan Court of Appeals ruled a state elections board should allow the proposal to appear on the November 2006 ballot. The ruling is a victory for the Michigan Civil Rights Initiative, which backs the proposed constitutional amendment to ban racial and gender preferences in government hiring and university admissions.

On Monday, Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos and GOP U.S. Senate hopeful Keith Butler issued statements saying they oppose the MCRI proposal, while GOP Senate candidate Jerry Zandstra said he supports it.

Butler, who is black, repeatedly declined to answer earlier questions on whether he supported or opposed the ballot proposal. Monday was the first time he announced his position. He strongly denounced the proposal in a news release.

"This proposal is wrong for Michigan. We still live in a society where some among us still need assistance," Butler said.

DeVos, expected to be the lone Republican to challenge Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, also released a statement saying he opposed the proposal.

"I am particularly concerned that this initiative may have the unintended consequence of negatively impacting programs aimed at helping women in education," DeVos said. "It may also restrict girls-only and boys-only schools that have proven to be successful."

Zandstra, of Cutlerville, said he was ready to debate Butler and the other GOP Senate candidate, Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, over the merits of the ballot proposal.

"Congratulations to MCRI for their hard work in getting on the ballot," Zandstra said. "I am a strong believer in racial equality and meritocracy."

A spokeswoman for the Bouchard campaign didn't have a comment.

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November 2, 2005

Ferris History Commemoration Task Force re-dedicates Williams

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University President David L. Eisler and the Ferris History Commemoration Task Force will re-dedicate G. Mennen Williams Auditorium during a ceremony Nov. 8 at m a.m.

The Big Rapids and Ferris communities are invited to join university officials in the auditorium lobby for refreshments, a portrait unveiling, reflection and speakers.

It was G. Mennen Williams' leadership and support that set the foundation for favorable legislative action in securing state-college status for Ferris Institute. At the time this all transpired Judge Raymond Starr was serving on the Board of Control - a man with whom Williams had a warm personal and professional relationship.

Initially holding the namesake of Judge Raymond Starr, the auditorium opened in 1961. It was originally dedicated and named after Williams in 1986 - 25 years after Ferris State College bestowed upon the former Michigan governor an honorary doctoral degree.

Now, nearly 20 years later, the auditorium is being re-dedicated to spotlight why Williams was important to Ferris.

"The community is strongly encouraged to join us as we highlight another important figure in Ferris' history," Mary Kay MacIver, History Commemoration Task Force chair, said.

"Part of the rededication process is to permanently display artifacts that describe who G. Mennen Williams was and his historical significance to the university."

Williams was born in Detroit on Feb. 23, 1911, to Henry Phillips and Elma (Mennen) Williams. His father's family owned a prosperous Detroit pickle factory and was active in Michigan real estate, while his mother's father founded the Mennen Company, a well-known soap and pharmaceutical company. The Mennen Company is where Williams' nickname "Soapy" was derived.

He served not only six consecutive terms as governor, but also was United States assistant secretary of state for African affairs (1961-66), ambassador to the Philippines (1968-69), elected to the state of Michigan Supreme Court (1970), became chief justice (1983) and taught at the University of Detroit School of Law. Williams died on Feb. 2, 1988.

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November 2, 2005

MIMA to host Panic with a K Tour

BIG RAPIDS - The Music Industry Management Association is sponsoring the Panic with a K Tour from 7 to 11 p.m. on Nov. 3 at Wink Arena featuring music from "Relient K," "MXPX," "Rufio" and "Over It."

Admission is \$5 for students with valid identification and \$10 for the general public.

Tickets may be purchased at Wink Arena, the Timme Center or online at starticketsplus.com.

"I'm really excited about the show," said MIMA Promotions Chair Jessie May, who anticipates the Panic with a K Tour will be a success.

According to May, membership has increased within the association this year. This has resulted in improved teamwork, organization and production efforts when it comes to sponsoring campus events, such as the tour.

May, a fifth-year senior and two-year MIMA member, also noted the increase in the number of responses she has received about the show, even before tickets went on sale in October. Although she says the tour is primarily geared toward college students, youth groups, along with parents who have younger children (ages 10 to 14), have also expressed an interest in the show.

MIMA has been a registered student organization since 1997. Membership within MIMA is not exclusive to Music Industry Management majors; other students who are interested in the music industry or campus entertainment are invited to join. Main activities include booking, setting up campus concerts such as Women Rock and Autumn aLive and participating in career development opportunities such as the International Music Products Association show, sponsored by the National Association of Music Merchants.

The collective goal of MIMA and MIM is to prepare students for careers in the music industry by giving them experience in sales, promotion and advertising.

For more information about the association, contact MIMA President Heidi Grubb at heidi.grubb@gmail.com.

Pioneer

November 3, 2005

Local residents named to Ferris Foundation

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris Foundation of Ferris State University has elected local residents Gary Trimarco, Sueann Walz and Dennis Lerner to leadership positions.

Trimarco will serve as chair, Walz as chair-elect and Lerner was reelected to service as secretary.

Trimarco is president of Gary Trimarco Automotive in Big Rapids. He has almost three decades of experience in the retail automobile industry and has been a General Motors franchisee since June 2000. Trimarco and his wife, Lynn, recently established the Gary Trimarco Automotive Scholarship at Ferris, with General Motors providing a matching scholarship for students accepted in a Ferris Automotive program. They also are members of the university's Old Main donor society.

Walz is assistant vice president and manager for Independent Bank of Big Rapids, where she has been employed for more than 30 years. She is a past recipient of the Mecosta County Chamber Business Person of the Year Award. Last year she and her husband, Kenneth, established the Sueann and Kenneth Walz Hockey Scholarship Endowment Fund at Ferris. The Walzes also are members of Ferris' Founder's Club donor society.

Lerner is president of Lerner, Csernai and Fath Financial Group, Inc., of Big Rapids. In addition to his long-standing work with the Ferris Foundation, Lerner has been active with the Mecosta County Area Community Foundation and the Big Rapids Industrial Development Corporation. He is a past recipient of Ferris' Distinguished Alumnus Award and is a member of the university's Presidents Club donor society.

The Ferris Foundation supports the mission and goals of Ferris. In that effort, the Foundation works to manage and increase the privately funded resources of the university, the endowment funds of which have grown to more than \$26 million. This growth helps make the goal of higher education possible for some of Ferris' current and future students.

"All three of our newly appointed Ferris Foundation officials have long and distinguished histories of service to both the university and the Big Rapids communities," said Richard Duffett, Foundation interim executive director. "Their dedication provides opportunities for many young people to realize their dreams."

The appointment of the new officers coincides with the Foundation for Excellence Benefit - the Foundation's annual fundraiser, which takes place Friday at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids. This year's event features interviewer, journalist, commentator and stage performer Roy Firestone. Tickets for the black tie optional event are \$200 and may be ordered by calling (231) 591-3815.

Pioneer

November 3, 2005

Dachoffs establish musician endowment

BIG RAPIDS - Dacho and Ruth Dachoff, of Sarasota, Fla., have established the Dacho and Ruth Dachoff Outstanding Musician Award Endowment Fund through the Ferris Foundation. Dachoff was a devoted conductor, educator and leader of arts and cultural activities at Ferris State University for nearly 29 years, with his wife playing a vital role in his success through her tireless support and encouragement of his efforts.

Music courses at Ferris State University originated with the university's founder Woodbridge N. Ferris and formal music activities were established in 1907 when Ferris hired the first director of music. Selection of an outstanding musician was initiated in the 1950s and the Dachoff Endowment re-establishes this award with the additional recognition of a scholarship.

The endowment also broadens the focus of recognition to include students from the jazz and orchestra ensembles, as well as major instrumental ensembles created in the future.

The Dachoff Endowment recognizes outstanding student musicians and also emphasizes the enrichment music activities bring to students' lives.

"It is wonderful to see the Dachoffs providing endowment scholarship support for Ferris music activities students," Ferris Humanities Academic Department Head Donald Flickinger said. "Dacho's tireless efforts as Ferris' director of music activities created the music ensemble opportunities and program structure we use today for our musicians to continue their interest in music as a lifelong recreation. I am sure future music students will be grateful."

Students eligible for the award should be full-time students who have participated for a minimum of three semesters in one of the following Ferris music organizations: West Central Concert Band, university orchestra or jazz ensemble. Award recipients also should have a desire to continue participation with Ferris: music activities and will be nominated by conductors of their respective music activities organization.

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November 5 & 6, 2005

Ferris State Recreation to host "Swim for United Way"

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University Recreation Center faculty will be hosting a "Swim for the United Way" Dec. 4 from 6 to 9ao p.m. to raise money for the student United Way campaign.

The event will consist of three one-hour swims at the URC: one for children 17 and under from 6 to 7 p.m., one for University Recreation lifeguards from 7:05 to 8:05 p.m. and one for community members and Ferris students from 8: 10 to 9: 10 p.m.

Each swimmer will be given a pledge sheet, and swimmers may collect money through a lump sum pledge or a per lap pledge. All money is due Dec. 9.

All participants may register until the day of the event at the University Recreation office, or by contacting Assistant Director of University Recreation Wendy Dodd at 591-5309. People who are interested in sponsoring a specific lifeguard should drop off their donations at the University Recreation office.

For more information about the event or center, contact Dodd at 591-5309.

Pioneer

November 7, 2005

Chamber sets T.I.P.S. training date

BIG RAPIDS - The Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce and Ferris State University is providing another opportunity for local liquor sales establishments to provide their employees with T.I.P.S. training (Training for Intervention Procedures by Servers of Alcohol).

This four hour training session is FREE and is scheduled for Dec. 4 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the FSU West Commons building in room log located on the west side of campus directly north of Bishop and Cramer Halls. Training booklets will be furnished for all those attending courtesy of FSU's student affairs.

With only 30 seats available, make your reservations immediately by calling the Chamber today at (231) 796-7649 or email mcacc@mecostacounty.com.