

September 2, 2006- September 14, 2006

# Media Packet

---

- **FSU-SMC create new degree**
- **Local lampworking artist earns award for her art**
- **MRWA training session held**
- **Artist displays works**
- **'Last Comic Standing' Josh Blue to perform Wednesday at Ferris**
- **Alcohol laws in force**
- **Ferris reports record enrollment**
- **Why make it hard to help at-risk children?**
- **Teeter-totter toward a cure**
- **Ferris celebrates Constitution Week**
- **Ferris to offer voting opportunities**
- **Michigan Construction Hall of Fame gets five more professionals**
- **Brown carried his weight in NFL, now in wrestling**
- **Barnum's one-man show**
- **Teetering Toward a Cure**
- **FSU retiree to address MARSP**
- **FSU Bulldog Bonanza**
- **Mobile Secretary of State**
- **WSU working to help students graduate**

## **Daily News (Dowagiac, MI)**

August 16, 2006

### **FSU-SMC create new degree**

A bachelor of science in early Childhood education degree is now available in Dowagiac through a partnership between Ferris State University and Southwestern Michigan College.

Because preschool directors and lead teachers may soon be required to have a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, this program has been created with maximum flexibility for adult students.

SMC classes take place both day and evening, while Ferris classes are evening only. The first Ferris class is "Infant Toddler Environments Curriculum" (EDCD 210) and will be offered this fall on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 8:50.

Fall classes start Tuesday, Sept. 5, and there is still time for students to apply and register, according to Stephanie Timm, the Ferris State southwest Michigan regional coordinator.

The job market for graduates in early childhood education is good, reports Lisa Ing, interim director of the Ferris School of Education.

Salaries are competitive with beginning teachers and jobs are available in corporate day care settings as well as with national day care providers.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Timm at 269-782-1214 or by e-mail at [timml2@ferris.edu](mailto:timml2@ferris.edu).

**Grand Valley Advance, Ada/Forrest Hills Advertiser, Cadence  
(E. Grand Rapids)**

August 22 & 23, 2006

**Local lampworking artist earns award for her art**

Lampworking is an art that involves talent and skill as glass is melted over an open flame and then wrapped around a steel rod, forming a bead that is then placed in a kiln.

Depending on the artist's vision, the one-of-a-kind bead can take on a variety of shapes and sizes and span every color of the rainbow.

Local lampworking artist Brenda Austin has been transforming glass into beads for three years, turning her art into unique necklaces, bracelets, pendants, earrings, letter openers, bead pens, and bookmarks. She recently melted glass to create a turquoise bead with amber scrolling set on a sterling silver chain. And that necklace earned Austin national recognition for her lampworking skills.

Austin, a Georgetown Township resident, won second place for her jewelry in a competition held at the Amish Acres Arts & Crafts Festival in Nappanee, Ind. The festival is ranked as one of the top arts and crafts festivals in the United States.

"I've always been an artist," said Austin, who attended Kendall College of Art and Design with plans of going into the advertising art field.

But Austin said she found that field very competitive. Instead, she decided to follow her second calling as a nurse.

"I enjoy taking care of people," she said, adding the nursing field also provided more job security.

So she put her creative abilities on hold while she pursued her nursing degree, got married; and had children. Then, three years ago, Austin was introduced into the art of lampworking.

"I started making beaded bookmarks, and I got sick of trying to find the perfect beads for the bookmarks," she said.

So, when Austin's mother found a beginner's lampworking kit for creating heads, the medium seemed like a good fit.

"My mom said she'd buy the kit for me for Christmas if I took a lampworking class," Austin said, adding she loved the class so much she had a hard time waiting for Christmas to start working with the kit.

Since she began learning about the art, Austin has increased her knowledge by attending classes and an annual conference called the Gathering, held by the International Society of Glass Beadmakers, which Austin is a member.

Austin said the bead she created for the necklace in the Amish Acres festival's jewelry competition was one of the largest she's made so far. The turquoise and amber bead measures in at 2 inches long and a one-half inch wide.

The piece, judged by nationally-renowned artists, received second place and a \$100 cash prize. Austin said she wasn't expecting to win an award for her work, especially since she was originally placed on the waiting list for the prestigious festival. More than 1,500 artists apply for the show each year with only 380 receiving booths to display their art, ranging from jewelry to pottery to baskets to stained glass and more.

Austin said the Amish Acres festival was the first time she displayed her work out-of-state. She sells her pieces at about eight to 10 shows a year, mostly in the Grand Rapids area. The next show to feature her art will be the Garfield Park Arts & Craft Fair, held Sept. 9 at Burton Street and Madison Avenue in downtown Grand Rapids.

For more information or to view a sample of Austin's lampworking pieces, visit [www.brendasbeads.com](http://www.brendasbeads.com).

## **Times Indicator (Fremont)**

August 23, 2006

### **MRWA training session held**

The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) held a training session on Aug. 12 in Howard City to train volunteers to conduct water monitoring and complete habitat assessments.

Ferris State University instructor Cynthia Fitzwilliams-Heck led the training session while Project Manager Terry Stilson gave background information about the MRWA and the program.

Last year, the MRWA received one of the first awards given by the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) to train volunteers to conduct water monitoring and habitat assessments in Michigan's streams and creeks. MiCorps was created through an executive order by Governor Jennifer Granholm to assist the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in collecting and sharing water quality data for use in water resources management and protection programs.

In the spring and fall of each year, volunteers collect macroinvertebrates, identify and record the information, and return their data sheets to the MRWA, who records the information in a database. The data is then forwarded to MiCorps to be used by the DEQ as a screening tool to identify sites requiring a more detailed assessment.

This data will also be available to local government offices and other organizations to assist them in developing better local ordinances and formulating protective and restorative projects. Some of the data can be viewed on the MRWA website at [www.mrwa.org](http://www.mrwa.org).

The MRWA is a nonprofit organization whose mission is "to preserve, protect and enhance the natural, historic and cultural resources of the Muskegon River Watershed through educational and scientific initiatives while supporting positive economic development, agricultural and quality of life initiatives of organizations working in the river watershed."

For more information about the program, contact Terry Stilson at 231-5912324 or e-mail her at [mrwa@ferris.edu](mailto:mrwa@ferris.edu).

## **Commercial Record (Saugatuck)**

August 24, 2006

### **Artist displays works**

Artist Ken Cadwallader will exhibit new works and be honored at a champagne reception Sunday, Sept. 3, at the Button Gallery, 161 Blue Star Hwy., Douglas, from noon to 5 p.m.

Cadwallader, who grew up in west Michigan, received a bachelor of fine arts degree from Kendall College of Art & Design in Grand Rapids, then studied at the Palette and Chisel Academy in Chicago. He also took classes at the Loveland Academy of Fine Art in Colorado and at the Royal College of Arts in London.

In England he discovered what he calls the pure and simple beauty of Representational Impressionism, a style he has worked in since.

Cadwallader's colorful, dynamic renderings range in subject matter from landscapes to florals to figurative work. He uses strong combinations of color, value, drawing and edges.

He has participated in Arts for the Parks, Oil Painters of America and the Portrait Society of America exhibitions, receiving awards in all. The public is invited to meet Cadwallader in person at the reception. For more information. call the gallery at (269) 857-2175.

## **Pioneer**

September 2 & 3, 2006

### **'Last Comic Standing' Josh Blue to perform Wednesday at Ferris**

BIG RAPIDS - Josh Blue, winner of the NBC television show "Last Comic Standing" will be featured in a free comedy show at 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Ewigleben Sports Complex's Wink Arena on the campus of Ferris State University.

Living with cerebral palsy, Blue has refused to bow to any of the challenges it brings him.

He not only is a successful stand-up comedian but an artist and U.S. Paralympic soccer player.

Blue's show is intended for mature audiences only, and even though tickets are free, organizers advise people to pick up tickets in advance of the Tickets maybe picked up at the Wink Arena Box Office, Timme Center Student Services Desk and the Rankin Student Center Information Desk.

Anyone needing special accommodations to attend this show should contact the Student Leadership and Activities Office at (231) 591-2606 at least 72 hours in advance. More information about Blue maybe found at [www.joshblue.com](http://www.joshblue.com).

## **Pioneer**

September 5, 2006

### **Alcohol laws in force**

Local law enforcement are teaming up to crack down on underage drinking.

BIG RAPIDS - Local law enforcement are on the lookout for minors who decide to drink or posses alcohol.

In a cooperative effort, the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety, the Mecosta County Sheriffs Department and the Ferris State University Department of Public Safety were out in force as a presence during Welcome Week. BRDPS issued nine citations, while numbers from the Mecosta County Sheriffs Department and FSU DPS were unavailable.

"The biggest key is safety," said Big Rapids Department of Public Safety Deputy Director Frank West. "We want the kids to think about safety. We want them to use common sense to think before they drink.

"We try to get more education out to more people through school programs, a tip program and work with FSU."

Mecosta County Sheriff John Sonntag believes that it's important to be out there and show that enforcing the law is helping.

"One main reason to be out was several years back when the drinking law was at 18, the death rate of young people went sky high when alcohol was involved," he said.

"Tolerance and responsible drinking were thrown out the door. Unfortunately, we were losing a lot of our young people.

Since the laws have changed, police have returned to less tolerance towards minors with alcohol and the death rate has plummeted, Sonntag said.

Students at Ferris tend to be the ones blamed for all of the minors having alcohol, said West, but it isn't true.

"It's a big fallacy," he said. "There's a target-rich environment here. We have issues throughout the summer when students are not here."

The misconception that all college students are drinking and driving is wrong, West said. The majority of FSU students are mature and responsible, he added.

Complaints of drunk driving also point to enforcement producing results.

West said complaints numbered 264 in 2003 and were down to 255 in 2005.

"From a public safety perspective, our complaint load per capita has dropped," he said. While officers and deputies find minors who have alcohol, Sonntag says he knows that they won't catch them all.

"What are we going to do, quit; just throw up our hands and not try," he said. "It would be irresponsible for us. Most young people who are involved at the sixth or seventh grade levels, one of the main deterrents is to enforce the restrictions on them.

"It's amazing to me everyone knows someone effected by some tragic result of alcohol.

To think that it's OK to let it go and even encourage it in some respect is awful. If you look at all the lives destroyed by alcohol and say it's not big deal, they are turning their eyes the wrong way."

Sonntag added the MCSD has a zero tolerance policy when it comes to minors in possession.

## **Pioneer**

September 6, 2006

### **Ferris reports record enrollment**

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University enrolled 12,578 students system-wide for fall 2006 - a record number for the school.

Enrollment increased over last fall's count even as the university implemented higher admission standards in terms of grade point average and ACT scores.

"This enrollment increase is a direct result of the excellence of our faculty and our academic programs," said FSU President David Eisler. "We are very pleased with this continuing upward trend. This shows recognition on the part of students throughout the state that Ferris provides the type of education that leads to great careers."

The university saw an especially strong growth in the number of students transferring to Ferris, with 1,645 students coming to Ferris from other schools - an increase of 263 over last fall. Ferris has a new transfer office as a point of contact for students, and the university also has instituted new transfer scholarships that are attracting high-performing community college students.

"I think it's clear that students who have begun their college careers elsewhere are looking at Ferris very favorably," said Vice President for Student Affairs Dan Burcham.

"This success is the culmination of a lot of people working very hard."

"Since implementing our first Bachelor of Art degrees in 2001, students are seeing us as a school that offers a full spectrum of degree opportunities," said Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Harris. "Also, the fact that our Honors Program has increased significantly is a sign that we are attracting students who want to be challenged both in the classroom and in their service to the community."

Added Eisler, "In 1884 when Woodbridge Ferris founded the university, the economic challenge of the time was re-training loggers and small farmers - both men and women - who were looking for new opportunities. Today, we are also in a transitional economy. I believe our enrollment figures show that more than 120 years after our founding, we offer the degrees that our students and our state need."

## **The Detroit News**

September 6, 2006

### **Why make it hard to help at-risk children?**

Let Vista Maria set up expanded public school for troubled girls.

Since 1883, Vista Maria has served troubled, abused and neglected girls. Now, the program, located in Dearborn Heights, wants to expand its services and set up a single-sex high school program, but is being thwarted by complex and restrictive legislation. The program, which provides residential care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, foster care and other services, annually serves about 1,000 girls ages 11 through 17 and their families. Founded by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, the program is now largely funded by public agencies. Almost all of the girls come to the program through court orders.

The goal of the program is to instill self-confidence in the girls, treat their problems and allow them to move into adult life successfully. One of the ways it is seeking to do this is by setting up a single-sex school focusing on the needs of the girls.

Adolescent girls, like boys, have unique problems, especially the girls served by Vista Maria. And in the view of Vista Maria President Cameron Hosner, the girls served by his program would particularly benefit from a single-sex secondary school. While state law allows single-sex schools within districts, a school that is designed to meet the needs of girls would also have to provide a parallel program for boys -- or even a co-ed class.

The law that was passed this year was designed more for public school districts, not independent public schools, or charter schools. Charter schools are already artificially and pointlessly capped to protect public schools that routinely fail the kinds of students who are sent to programs such as Vista Maria. While single-sex "strict discipline" academies or alternative schools for boys are allowed, Vista Maria would have to find such a school and pair it with its program for girls. Or it would have to provide both boys' and girls' programs on its campus.

Vista Maria is looking at both of these options. It is working with Ferris State University, a chartering authority, or the charter schools operated by the Bay Mills Indian tribe, which, as tribal schools, are not subject to the charter school cap.

Vista Maria would like to expand its program and serve the needs of as many as 500 girls in a same-sex school. Certainly the need is there for the girls. Perhaps it will succeed in meeting all of the requirements set up by state law for a same-sex school for its girls.

But should it be so hard? State lawmakers should adjust their same-sex school requirements and allow programs such as Vista Maria, and similar programs for boys, to extend their work and help the boys and girls move into a healthy and productive adulthood.

## **Pioneer**

September 9 & 10, 2006

### **Teeter-totter toward a cure**

BIG RAPIDS - Sigma Pi Fraternity brothers will return to the playground starting Tuesday when they begin their fifth annual teeter-tottera-thon.

Members of the local Theta-Theta chapter at Ferris State University will ride a teeter-totter set up in the Campus Quad in shifts beginning noon Tuesday and ending at noon Thursday. The 48-hour event is a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. This year's goal is \$10,000; last year, \$4,000 was raised for breast cancer research said Ryan Hardy, the teeter-totter chair.

"We welcome all donations, whether it's \$2 or \$200," Hardy said.

To donate, contact Hardy at (616) 540-8239 or email him at [hard27@fsuimail.ferris.edu](mailto:hard27@fsuimail.ferris.edu).

To kick off the seesaw marathon, FSU Vice President of Student Affairs Daniel Burcham will ride the first few minutes of the event.

## **Pioneer**

September 9 & 10, 2006

### **Ferris celebrates Constitution Week**

Strauss, co-founder and performer of Capitol Steps will highlight the week.

BIG RAPIDS - A keynote address by William Strauss, a co-founder and occasional performer with the Capitol Steps, a professional political satire troupe, will highlight Constitution Week Sept. 11 through 15 at Ferris State University.

Strauss will deliver his speech, "Millenials: The Great Civic Generation," on Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. The lecture is free and open to the public in addition to his theater work, Strauss is an author and historian who graduated from Harvard Law School in 1969 and the Kennedy School of Government in 1973.

When not satirizing politics, Strauss investigates how each generation fulfills its responsibilities as American citizens, as well as how each new generation is socialized to participate in democratic processes. He has written several books on these topics, including "Generations" (co-author Neil Howe), "13th Gen: Abort, Re-try, Ignore, Fail?" (about Generation X) and "Millenials Rising."

In addition to his speech, Strauss will meet with a variety of student groups, faculty and administrators during his visit to Ferris.

Other Constitution Week events will include an information table in the Rankin Center staffed by faculty and administrators from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. throughout the week. They will conduct a Constitution Knowledge Contest, register students to vote, hand out pocket guides to the Constitution and engage students in discussion about American democracy. The Constitution Knowledge Contest will be coordinated with FLITE library displays to help educate students about this document.

Daily gift certificates, t-shirts and copy cards will be awarded to contest winners. On Wednesday, the Michigan Secretary of State Mobile Branch Office will be on campus for electronic voter registration.

All campus activities are sponsored by the American Democracy Project (ADP), a nationwide program supported by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) and the New York Times. Ferris State University is a member of AASCU and one of 212 universities participating in the American Democracy Project.

The project is committed to educating citizens to effectively participate in democracy as a government system that is "... of the people, by the people and for the people ..." (Abraham Lincoln, 1863). There is no partisan agenda, nor affiliation with any political party.

However, student chapters of national political parties are also sponsoring campus events during Constitution Week.

Additional information about the Constitution Week events and the American Democracy Project is available at <http://Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.> or by contacting the project coordinator at [ADP@ferris.edu](mailto:ADP@ferris.edu) or calling (231) 541-2759. The ADP also is planning a voter education event to provide information on candidates and ballot initiative during the month of October.

## **Pioneer**

September 9 & 10, 2006

### **Ferris to offer voting opportunities**

BIG RAPIDS - Students at Ferris State University will have no shortage of opportunities to register to vote this fall.

As the semester begins, faculty, staff and administrators working with the campus American Democracy Project (ADP) are offering multiple opportunities to register to vote. The Ferris State project is part of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) multi-state, non-partisan project to register 40,000 young voters this election year. The 2006 election cycle is shaping up to be a banner year for youth voter mobilization, with registration campaigns active on more than 150 college campuses and in scores of communities reaching all 50 states.

"There are approximately 9,600 to 10,000 students at the Big Rapids campus alone - by registering now and voting on Nov. 7 young adults can have a big impact on the elections," said Connie Meinholdt, faculty coordinator for the Young Voter Initiative and the American Democracy Project.

Many instructors in the first-year orientation courses will provide voter registration forms to students in classes, as well as professors for many upper level courses. There also will be an outreach table with voter registration forms in the Rankin Center during Constitution Week (Sept. 11 to 15) and the Secretary of State Mobile Branch Office on campus for electronic registration on Wednesday.

The mobile branch office, a 24-foot trailer, offers all the services found at any Secretary of State branch office and is accessible to the disabled. It will be located in front of the Rankin Student Center on Campus Drive and be open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The first step in making your voice heard is registering to vote," said Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land in a press release. "I encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity by visiting the mobile office while it is on campus. It's a convenient way to register or to conduct other business with the Secretary of State."

Land also reminds residents to visit the online Michigan Voter Information Center at [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote). The site contains information on polling locations, voting systems, registration and candidates. Many Secretary of State Services also can be handled online at the department's Web site, [www.michigan.gov/sos](http://www.michigan.gov/sos).

There is an unprecedented amount of youth-targeted voter registration happening in 2006, a midterm election year, in part spurred by recent turnout increases, Meinholdt said.

"Young adults are huge in number and becoming more and more politically active," she said.

"In 2004, we saw that if you ask young people to register and vote, they will, and this year students and young people are leading voter registration campaigns at more than 150 colleges, including dozens of AASCU campuses, to build on that momentum."

Additional information about the Young Voter Initiative and upcoming events of the American Democracy Project is available at [www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/ADP/](http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/ADP/) or contacting the project coordinator at [ADP@ferris.edu](mailto:ADP@ferris.edu) or calling (231) 591-2759.

## **Pioneer**

September 11, 2006

### **Michigan Construction Hall of Fame gets five more professionals**

Five professors will be inducted to the Construction Hall of Fame Oct. 19.

BIG RAPIDS - Five construction industry professionals will be inducted into the Michigan Construction Hall of Fame during an Oct. 19 banquet and ceremony in Ferris State University's Granger Center for Construction and HVACR.

This year's hall of fame inductees receiving a Distinguished Constructor Award are Benjamin C. Maibach III of Southfield, the late Leon P. Clark of Lansing, the late Ralph J. Stephenson, P.E., of Mount Pleasant; the late Sheldon G. Hayes of Southfield and the late Sheldon W. Hayes formerly of Bloomfield Hills and later of DeLand, Fla.

Respected for his technical acumen and integrity, Maibach, known as Ben III, has risen through the ranks at the Barton Malow Co. Beginning as a laborer 42 years ago, he became president of the company in 1981 and chief executive officer in 2002. He has grown the company from a single office in Southfield to a \$1.1 billion a year enterprise with nine regional offices. He also is devoted to his community, giving more than 500 hours of service a year to various charitable, civic, educational and professional organizations.

Leon P. Clark founded Clark Construction Co. in 1946. The construction company spent its early years partnering with General Motors to convert the automaker's wartime production factories back into automotive plants. Through the years, Clark established a solid reputation for his business and himself, being known as an honest businessman. It was the relationships he built with customers and subcontractors that allowed Clark Construction to become one of the leading construction firms it is today.

Known to many as "Mr. Construction," Ralph d. Stephenson, P.E., amassed a long list of achievements during his 50plus years in the construction and engineering industries. Working at several companies before opening his own consulting practice in 1962, Stephenson worked on many projects, including Burdick Street Mall in Kalamazoo, one of the first downtown malls in North America, and Northland and Eastland shopping centers, among the first regional shopping centers in the world.

He pioneered most of the techniques used in the Critical Path Method, co-authoring the book "Critical Path Method." He also wrote more than 100 papers on construction management, and his last book, "Project Partnering for the Design and Construction Industry," is still on bookstore shelves today.

Sheldon G. Hayes was on a first name basis with presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman, working on agreements with FDR arranging for employment of road builders across the nation following the Great Depression. A major force in the asphalt paving industry, Hayes founded the National Asphalt Paving Association with his

peers. He was fully devoted to the construction industry and later in life also developed a reputation for philanthropy that almost outshined his business acumen.

Hayes' son, Sheldon W. Hayes, also was a major figure in the National Asphalt and Michigan Asphalt Paving associations. Sheldon W. became owner and president of the company his father founded, Cadillac Asphalt Co. With his father, Sheldon W. was very involved in road development, eventually getting involved in race track development. Both men served as consultants for the layering of asphalt on the 45 degree incline of the Daytona Beach Speedway. Sheldon W. also followed in his father's philanthropic endeavors, making major donations to both the Detroit and West Volusia, Fla.'s, YMCAs.

The hall's previous inductees include first-year honorees the late Thomas E. Dailey of Southfield, John Marshall Harlan of Southfield and the late Albert A. White of Lansing; second-year honorees Alton L. Granger of Lansing, the late Herman Gundlach of Houghton, Robert R. Jones of Bloomfield Hills and O.L. "Ozzie" Pfaffmann of Rochester; and third-year honorees Harry L. "Bud" Conrad .Jr., formerly of Lansing; and William A. Hendrick of Saginaw.

Michigan Construction Hall of Fame Distinguished Constructor Award recipients are selected by a committee of professionals representing the Associated Builders and Contractors, Associated General Contractors of America, Construction Association of Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association, Michigan Association of Home Builders and Ferris State University Construction Technology and Management department.

Selection criteria include achievement in technical, managerial and leadership areas, state or national prominence as a result of industry or community activities and service to the profession and community.

The Michigan Construction Hall of Fame will serve as a permanent place for members of the construction industry to recognize and appreciate the endeavors of leaders of the Michigan construction industry. Off-campus visitors can access the Michigan Construction Hall of Fame through its Web site [www.ferris.edu/MCHOF](http://www.ferris.edu/MCHOF). Recipients of the Distinguished Constructor Award and their stories are featured on this Web site.

Tickets to the event are open to the public at \$45 per seat. Further ticket and sponsorship information is available by calling Kaci Kegler, assistant director for College Advancement for FSU's College of Technology, at (231) 591-3983.

## **The Saginaw News**

September 12, 2006

### **Brown carried his weight in NFL, now in wrestling**

Sure, Monty Brown played for two National Football League teams.

Sure, he played in two Super Bowls.

But it wasn't until he retired from the NFL that he achieved his boyhood dream.

Monty Brown, Alpha Male.

Brown starred for Bridgeport High School and Ferris State University before playing for the Buffalo Bills and New England Patriots. The 1988 Bridgeport High grad is a member of the 2006 class of the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame.

But Brown finished his NFL career after the 1996 season and went into professional wrestling, where he currently works as "The Alpha Male" on the Total Nonstop Action circuit.

"It's funny, but I remember when Monty was around 10 or 11 and hanging around with all the neighborhood kids," former Bridgeport football coach Michael Snarey said. "He was always talking about how he wanted to be a professional wrestler when he grew up. I guess he made it."

The path wasn't an easy one. Brown played football, basketball and baseball for the Bearcats, starring as a quarterback and linebacker on the football team and leading the Bearcats to the White Pine Conference title.

"He was such a leader," Snarey said. "That was before mandatory weightlifting, but Monty would have his teammates in the weight room. Then he put together the Dawn Patrol, where he would have all the guys out running at 6 a.m. each day. He took over as a leader."

But before games, nobody talked to him.

"He was one of the most intense players I've ever seen," Snare said. "Before games, he'd be sitting down with his headphones on and nobody dared go near him."

Still, Brown, who was unavailable for comment, had few football scholarship offers.

"Bridgeport wasn't well known for football, so there weren't a lot of people looking at him ...

Ferris, Central Michigan and Eastern Michigan were about the only ones," Snarey said. "The only real offer came from Ferris, plus Monty wanted to play quarterback, so he went there."

Brown, however, switched to safety when he saw that he was listed sixth on the depth chart at quarterback. After he switched, he was listed at No. 2 at free safety. By the end of the year, he was easily No. 1.

He eventually moved to linebacker, where he earned all-Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference honors for three years. He graduated from Ferris in 1993 with 584 tackles and 16 interceptions, both school records. He was the only defensive player among the nine finalists for the Harlon Hill Trophy, which is NCAA Division II's equivalent of the Heisman Trophy. Brown finished fifth.

Again, however, he was overlooked, this time by the National Football League.

He signed as a free agent with the Buffalo Bills, making the team as a linebacker and special teams standout.

"My favorite memory of Monty was the first time I saw him in a pro uniform," said Mike Brown, Monty's brother. "It was in Detroit for a preseason game, and he was in the Buffalo uniform. It was proof that he had taken the next step, that he was an free agent and beat out six guys for that spot.

"It didn't surprise me. He set all kinds of records at Ferris. The only thing he needed was a true opportunity. That's not easy to get in the NFL. He just needed an honest chance. He got it and made the most of it."

He played three years for the Buffalo Bills, including Super Bowl 28 in Atlanta, a 30-13 loss to the Dallas Cowboys. Monty Brown again played in the Super Bowl in his final season as a member of the New England Patriots in Super Bowl 31 in New Orleans, this time losing to the Green Bay Packers, 35-21.

It was his final NFL game before he moved on to professional wrestling, where he has his own action figure and his own signature moves, "The Pounce" and the "Alpha Bomb."

"What people don't realize is that he had a 3.8 grade point average at Ferris in pre-law," Snarey said. "He could have gotten into law, if he wanted."

Instead, he became a professional wrestler.

"He's doing what he enjoys," Mike Brown said. "He's having fun, living a life he loves." Hugh Bernreuter is assistant sports editor for The Saginaw News. You may reach him at 776-9771.

## **Pioneer**

September 13, 2006

### **Barnum's one-man show**

FSU's Robert Barnum will open his one-man show in Midland on Sept. 30.

BIG RAPIDS - Robert Barnum, resident artist and professor at Ferris State University, will have a one-man show opening Sept. 30 at the Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art in Midland.

Entitled "And So It Begins: The Paintings of Robert Barnum," the exhibit will run until Nov. 26. The museum is located inside the Midland Center for the Arts, 1801 W. St. Andrew. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 4 to 14 and free for children 3 and younger.

"A one person exhibit in a in a major museum is always an honor but this show will be unique in that it will feature two mural panels from the current mural I am working on," Barnum said.

The exhibit will feature Barnum's watercolors, oils and two 10-inch by 30-foot oil on canvas panels of his latest mural.

The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. Barnum has taught at Ferris since 1989. He earned a Master of Fine Arts from Idaho State University as well as degrees from Oregon College of Art and Southern Oregon State College. He was presented with the Michigan Artist of the Year Award as part of the Governor's Awards for Arts and Culture in 2003. He has received more than 30 awards in national and international juried competitions and is a member of the American Watercolor Society, the Watercolor USA Honor Society and the National Watercolor Society.

Locally, several of his works are on display at Ferris, including "The Visionary," a mural in the Arts and Sciences Building; "Of Thought and Reason," a mural in FLITE; "Journey," a sculpture in the Timme Center for Student Services; and other pieces in the Student Rec Center, Wink Arena and in the hallway between Wink Arena and Ewigleben Ice Arena.

## **Pioneer**

September 13, 2006

### **Teetering Toward a Cure**

(A Pioneer Photo) Up and down effort: The Theta Theta Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Ferris State University will conduct its fifth annual Teeter-Totter-athon until noon Thursday to benefit the American Cancer Society. Joining Sigma Pi Teeter Totter Chair Ryan Hardy on the seesaw for the initial ride Tuesday afternoon was FSU Vice President of Student Affairs Daniel Burcham. The fraternity had raised about \$500 of its \$10,000 goal as of early Tuesday afternoon.

## **Pioneer**

September 13, 2006

### **FSU retiree to address MARSP**

BIG RAPIDS - Ray Dickinson, a recent retiree from Ferris State University, will be the guest speaker for the first fall meeting of the Michigan Association of Retired School Personnel.

The meeting will take place Sept. 13 at noon at Falcon Head Golf Course south of Big Rapids. There will be a soup/sandwich/salad buffet. Dickinson worked for 38 years at Ferris, 30 of which he was government documents librarian and for 13 years, his job included managing the patent collection and training inventors to do their own patent search online.

Specifically for this meeting, he plans to give a brief history of the patent system in the United States, including the rules and regulations in securing a patent. He then will describe some unusual patents he has discovered.

Reservations should be made to Ray Dickinson, 20861 Emerald Lane, Big Rapids, MI 49307, or by phone, (231) 796-8783. If there are any questions about membership in the organization, call Mary Jane Cook, president, at (231) 796-7115.

## **Pioneer**

September 14, 2006

### **FSU Bulldog Bonanza**

(Pioneer Photo) Freebies: The Bulldog Bonanza took place Wednesday at Ferris State University. There were plenty of local businesses there to provide students with information and free stuff.

## **Pioneer**

September 14, 2006

### **Mobile Secretary of State**

(Pioneer Photo) Stephanie Rutkoske of Macomb and Ashley Renee Jenks of Niles register to vote Wednesday at a mobile secretary of State office at Ferris State University. Workers said most of the business was students registering to vote.

## **The Detroit News**

September 14, 2006

### **WSU working to help students graduate**

With lowest grad rate of state's public schools, university increases effort to ensure success.

DETROIT -- Responding to staggering drop-out rates, Wayne State University leaders are beefing up their outreach efforts to keep students in school.

Just 10 percent of WSU's students will graduate in four years and just 32 percent will graduate in six years, a figure university leaders call "unacceptable."

The statistics place WSU at the bottom of Michigan's public universities and well below urban universities across the nation and universities with similar admissions requirements, according to data presented Wednesday to the university Board of Governors.

"We have decided who we admit to our institution," said Howard Shapiro, WSU's associate vice president for undergraduate programs and general education. "When we admit them, we need to do what it takes to see they are successful."

Among the immediate changes: Advisers at the university will be more intrusive early in students' academic careers, according to the university's plan. Learning communities will be expanded and more peer mentors will help struggling students. And special bridge programs for African-American and Chicano students will have better follow through, Shapiro said.

Student Marcus Lee said bridge programs such as Project 350, targeted to first-generation college students from disadvantaged backgrounds, are very good at orientating students.

But the programs need to continue to help them "successfully navigate college." Keeping tabs on these students after their first year will help with retention, he said.

The university has many services in place to help students, Shapiro said. The problem is often "getting the people connected to the services."

This is the second year that WSU has been keeping comprehensive statistics on graduation and retention rates. Graduation rates have become especially important in recent years as Michigan lawmakers have been basing state aid each university receives, in part, on how many degrees are granted. For the past two years, lawmakers have used a formula to give out some appropriations to make universities more accountable.

Wayne State has suffered more than other universities under the formula approach and their state aid has been affected, especially in the last academic year.

WSU caters to a very different population than most Michigan universities with more part-time, minority and commuter students, Shapiro said.

More than 40 percent of freshmen are minority; 16 percent are part-time and 86 percent are nonresidential, putting WSU about 10 percentage points above other urban universities in the country in each of the categories, according to national statistics.

About 73 percent of its freshmen return after the first year, compared to about 85 percent on average at other Michigan public universities.

But just under 60 percent will come back after their second year, compared to about 77 percent at other schools in Michigan.

Students from Macomb and Oakland counties are most likely to return for a second year.

Less than 47 percent of students from Detroit stayed after their second year, according to WSU stats examining the freshman class of 2003. There is no excuse for the poor performance, Shapiro said. "I expect to come back to you next semester and show that we are making a difference," Shapiro told the Board of Governors on Wednesday.

WSU keeps track of 7- and 8-year graduation rates, as well, but there is little change from the 6-year rate, officials said.

Wayne State University Governor Richard Bernstein said retaining students needs to be the university's top priority.

### **Graduation Rates**

The percentage of students who graduate within six years of entering state public universities:

**University of Mich.-Ann Arbor: 86.6%**

**Michigan State: 71.3%**

**Michigan Tech: 62.5%**

**Central Mich.: 55.4%**

**Western Mich.: 54.7%**

**Grand Valley: 49.8%**

**U-M Dearborn: 49.7%**

**Oakland: 46.7%**

**Northern Mich.: 45.1%**

**Eastern Mich.: 41%**

**U-M Flint: 37.4%**

**Lake Superior: 37%**

**Saginaw Valley: 35.1%**

**Ferris State: 34.7%**

**Wayne State: 31.7%**