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Rockford Independent

September 20, 2006

Rockford students part of pharmacy science camp

Several Rockford area students were selected to participate in the 3rd annual CVS Pharmacy/America's Promise/Ferris State University summer pharmacy science camp.

These students spent four weeks working in area CVS Pharmacies and two weeks at Ferris State University (FSU) working with Dr. Boncher in her research laboratory studying cancer.

While working in the local CVS Pharmacies the students watched as a variety of drugs were being dispensed. While they were at FSU Tracey Boncher, Ph.D. gave them the opportunity to synthesize an actual anti-cancer agent that has never been made before.

The students were excited that their compound may be active in preventing tumor cell growth and survival. They learned about chemical synthesis, drug discovery and natural products throughout this experience.

While at FSU they also received the opportunity to attend various pharmacy course lectures, toured the medicinal garden learning about natural products chemistry, as well as touring the animal facility learning about clinical development.

Students were amazed that they were able to understand topics being discussed in the college medical biochemistry course thanks to wonderful science teachers at Rockford High School who are preparing them for college courses.

This experience gave these students a rare opportunity to walk in the shoes of pharmacists, chemists, researchers and academic's to see if any of these fields may be something they would like to pursue as a career. Students presented their poster presentations and PowerPoints summarizing their experience at FSU on Sept. 7, 2006.

Lake County Star (Baldwin, Mi)

September 21, 2006

Governor signs HB 5800

LANSING -Aids to Governor Jennifer Granholm have announced that the governor has signed HB 5800, the bill sponsored by Rep. Goeff "arisen, R-Hart, that will allow GEO Group to negotiate with any government body for prisoners at the former Michigan Youth Correctional Facility (MYCF), north of Baldwin. According to Deputy Press Secretary Heidi Watson, the governor signed the bill. Monday, Watson called HB 5800, "a good bill - this is good for economic development in the area and will hopefully provide some jobs."

GEO, the Boca Raton, Fla., corrections and security corporation that owns the Baldwin facility has been seeking to find a way to reopen the facility since it was closed in 2005 when the governor used her line-item veto to cut funding for what was then known as the "punk prison." The 480 bed prison was designed as a maximum security institution for holding youthful offenders until they were old enough to enter the general prison population.

Former MYCF warden, Frank Elo, who is now an instructor at Ferris State University, is in contact with GEO on a weekly basis. Elo called the signing, "a critical step:"

"I think I can speak for the company when I say that they are grateful to the governor for signing this bill," he said.

Elo said that the fact that the California legislature has not provided funding for moving some of the 9,000 extra prisoners being held in that state does not put an end to negotiations.

"It's not a dead issue," he said, "they still have 9,000 prisoners over their capacity that will have to be housed some- where," he continued. Elo said that GEO is also working with the Department of Homeland Security, which is looking for a place to house illegal immigrants until they can be deported. At this time the federal government has not made a decision on where to house them, he said.

The housing of overcrowded prisoners in another state is not at all unusual, Elo told the Star, noting that a number of years ago, Michigan was forced to house some 2,000 overcrowded inmates in a facility in the state of Virginia for nearly two years.

The Grand Rapids Press, Muskegon Chronicle

September 22, 2006

Grand Rapids cyclist battles past personal adversity

27-year-old has dealt with injury, family tragedy

Mackenzie Woodring wasn't used to this. She had encountered obstacles before and always bounced back.

There was the knee surgery her senior year at Holton, after which she astounded doctors by returning to running a few months later and landed a scholarship at Ferris State.

There was the cycling accident in Arkansas in May in which Woodring, a 27-year-old Grand Rapids resident, bailed out of the nationally sanctioned race in the middle of a crowd because she knew the bike's wheel was ready to snap. Woodring didn't want anyone else to get hurt, so she purposely hurtled over an embankment going 50 mph and landed in a rock ravine, crushing most of the bones in her hand and fracturing her spine.

But now something much worse was happening.

Her 23-year-old sister, Sunshine Williams, was lying in a hospital bed in Detroit fighting for her life. She had been in a coma, for nearly a week, with swelling on the brain after a fall down the stairs in her loft apartment.

And, for one of the first times in her life, Woodring felt helpless.

She couldn't will her sister to get better as she had done so many times with her own health.

All Woodring could do was sit at her sister's bedside with family and friends and wait.

In the wee hours before Sunshine's accident, back home in Grand Rapids, Woodring's dear friend and roommate, Debbie Descheneau, also was in a hospital bed, preparing to give birth to her first child.

There had been complications. But baby Chloe came into the world kicking and screaming. That was June 19.

A week later, on June 26, Woodring and her family made the decision to take Sunshine off life support.

"Sunni wouldn't want to live like that," Woodring said. When Woodring rolled across the finish line last weekend at the 67-mile Tour of Leelanau cycling race, she hardly noticed the sweat dripping down her forehead.

Or the muscles contracting from the 3¹/₂-hour ride that had included 4,000 feet of climbing.

She barely realized that she and Kelli Emmett, a professional racer from Colorado Springs who had been brought in to compete for Team Priority Health/Ford, had left most of the 25-member field miles behind.

But it was Woodring who crossed the finish line first. It was Woodring, the defending race champion. It was Woodring, the racer who had to overcome so many emotional and physical obstacles just to be able to get on a bicycle again.

"It was all adrenaline at the end," Woodring said. "During the race, I had Sunni riding on one shoulder and my grandfather (Ray Puffer, who died last year) on the other. We've always been a close family and they were there with me on that race.

"It was just one of those times when the pieces all came together. It was fabulous."

And it was great relief. Physically and emotionally, Woodring, who had won Michigan's biggest cycling race for the second year in a row, was back on track.

Woodring always had been tight with her family. The oldest of three children, Woodring, brother, Dustin, and Sunshine spent much of their younger years playing instruments and singing with their mother, Bonnie Woodring, who was lead singer in a country band.

Later, Woodring gravitated toward physical challenges, immersing herself in volleyball, softball and running – sports in which she seemed to have -a natural gift.

She was the catcher on Holton's Greater Muskegon Athletic Association county championship softball team, the overall winner at the county cross country meet and the star setter on the volleyball squad.

At Ferris, she was the team MVP and an all-conference distance runner whose speed defied her size of 5-foot-10, 140 pounds.

Sunshine was more creative - writing songs, playing instruments and expressing herself through strong vocals that could be both folksy and haunting.

"I liked the music, but I didn't have time for it," said Woodring. "There were other things I wanted to do. I talked to Sunni the morning before she fell and I told her I loved her. She was so spiritual. It was like she knew something was going to happen.

"She was reading a book at that time about being in a coma. It was like she was preparing herself for it."

Still recovering from the cycling accident in May in which she had six screws placed in her hand, Woodring worked harder than ever to get back to racing.

And she thought often about how her sister had been at peace with her life.

It is her ability to push herself beyond the norm that sets Woodring apart, say those who knew her know her best.

"Mackenzie is so focused and so driven," said former Holton cross country coach Ray McLeod, "that she is one of those people who never would be satisfied with a 9 to 5 job, though she is a very good engineer for her company (A&K Finishing in Kentwood).

"She is someone who wants something more and is willing to do whatever work necessary to get it."

The Grand Rapids Press

September 24, 2006

Nursing schools, competition grow

Wait is five years to enter one local program

Competition to get into nursing school is fierce, but Lisa Northouse snagged an opening. She's attending a program at Aquinas College. It accepted 50 nursing students this year, up from 32 slots in other years.

"I was pretty excited, because in every other program it takes so long (to be accepted)," she said.

West Michigan schools are graduating more nursing students than ever and expanding programs to try to ease national and local nursing shortages.

But despite the expansions, competition for nursing school is increasing.

Last year, there were 523 nursing graduates in 12 schools in greater West Michigan, up from 485 in 2004 and 315 in 2002. But 1,210 applicants were turned away from those schools last year, up from 855 two years earlier.

A waiting list to get into programs at Grand Rapids Community College has grown to five years.

Plenty of jobs still await graduates. Local hospitals report 214 nursing jobs vacant, about 1 out of every 20 jobs.

The nursing shortage is expected to worsen.

A third of Michigan's registered nurses plan to retire in the next decade, and 20 percent more in the five years after that, according to a survey by the Michigan Center for Nurses. Nationally, half of nurses plan to retire within 13 years.

Demand also will increase as new health-care centers open and baby boomers age, local experts say.

School administrators say a lack of teachers limits their ability to expand training programs. To teach, nurses need a master's degree and plenty of practical experience, about 10 to 15 years.

"You can't train faculty overnight," said Denise Oleske, Davenport University's dean of health professions.

Spectrum Health officials are encouraged by the progress schools are making in expanding their programs, Human Resources Director Lori Gibson said. Local hospitals have partnered with universities to provide more clinical training sites for students.

"We're very optimistic" about the growth in area student programs, Gibson said. "We hire most of our nurses locally."

Programs expand

The expansions have helped prevent nursing vacancies from mounting here, said Lody Zwarenstejn, president of Alliance for Health, a local health planning agency. The local vacancy rate actually has fallen slightly compared to two years ago, when 254 hospital jobs were open.

Nationally, the nursing shortage is greater, at 8.5 percent. The average starting salary for registered nurses nationally is \$38,775.

Grand Valley State University has one of the largest programs in the area with 215 graduates a year, double what it was in 2000, nursing college Dean Phillis Gendler said.

"We're all trying to do our share, and all of us are at capacity," Gendler said.

GVSU offers a course preparing registered nurses to serve as clinical nursing instructors and, this fall, Davenport University is opening a bachelor's completion program to allow registered nurses to further their education without leaving the work force.

Ferris State University will increase its program by 20 students next year. The university will provide an accelerated program that allows someone with a bachelor's degree to earn a nursing degree in two years - something GVSU has been doing since 2003.

Ferris and Hope College have expansion plans for next year, similar to the growth Aquinas College accomplished this year in its program run by University of Detroit Mercy.

Northouse, who graduated from Grand Rapids Christian School with a 3.2 grade point average, was accepted after a short wait. She was fortunate: About 200 candidates competed for the 50 spots.

Before she made the cut, she opted to get training as a nurse assistant and work at a nursing home.

"I wanted to see if it was worth waiting for," she said.

"I loved it."

Muskegon Chronicle

September 28, 2006

Park sculpture to be memorial for local woman

Lake Harbor Park has always been a place where people walk to appreciate nature. It also will soon be a place to admire manmade art.

After about a half-hour of consideration, the Norton Shores City Council decided this week to allow the first sculpture to be erected in the city park on Lake Harbor Drive, along the north shore of Mona Lake Channel.

Donated in memory of Daina Ziemelis, a former school counselor who died two weeks ago of lung cancer, the metal creation, entitled "The Mentor," will be placed on an island of dune grass next to the new, wooden channel overlook.

Ziemelis' husband, John Miko, recently bought the sculpture in honor of his wife, who contracted lung cancer although she never smoked. He and his friends, Daryl Fischer and Dan Gleason, obtained city council permission Tuesday to have the 9foot-tall sculpture erected as soon as possible at the park.

It was created from recycled materials by Steve Peters, a well-known West Michigan artist who teaches at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids.

Lake Harbor Park was the family's preferred location, partly because she "drew her inspiration from nature," Fischer told the city council.

"We spent many, many hours at the park," Miko said, explaining that his wife was an amateur photographer who enjoyed walking along Lake Michigan. The Spring Lake Township resident captured many sunsets there on film.

Miko said he thought "The Mentor" was an appropriate sculpture to be purchased in his wife's memory because she had taught at ReethsPuffer Alternative High School, was /more recently a counselor at Fruitport Middle School and also had worked with youth at Ottawa County's Careerline Tech Center.

Council members Dick Dolack, Vicki Broge and Kay Beecham expressed concerns that the gift may set a precedent for similar donations, which may not be anywhere near as attractive as what is now proposed.

The tide turned in favor of accepting the sculpture after Mayor Jerry Wiersma called it a "great looking sculpture" and said the donation is "a great idea."

While Wiersma thought the council needs to consider gifts on a case-by-case basis, others pushed for a policy.

City Administrator Mark Meyers said city staff may be able to suggest guidelines. A wish list of items the city would like to have may be developed in the event someone wishes to donate something in someone's memory.

Fischer said Ziemelis' family hopes to have the sculpture erected in time for her memorial service Oct. 14 at Maranatha Bible & Missionary Conference.

Daily News (Ludington, Mi)

September 29, 2006

A cop on the beat ... a force on the ice

Some people go south in the fall for the sun. Matt York does it for the ice.

Ludington Police Officer Matt York is leaving the Ludington Police Department in just a few days. But Ludington's loss is Gwinnett, Georgia's gain.

York plays forward and defense for the ECHL's Gwinnett Gladiators from October to April every year.

How does a professional hockey player wind up spending summers as a police officer in Ludington? That story starts with Ferris State, University. York got his bachelor's degree in criminal justice in three years and had athletic eligibility remaining, so he kept learning until he finished his master's degree.

But to become a police officer, people with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice have to work in that field.

York wanted to keep playing hockey, but he didn't want to lose his certification for police work while he played out his last year of hockey eligibility. One of his instructors suggested Ludington.

And that's how FSU's all-time leader in penalty minutes became a member of a quiet lakeside community's friendly neighborhood police force.

"A couple people mentioned Ludington, a couple mentioned Cadillac," York said. "I ended up hired into both. I think I liked the situation better in Ludington than in Cadillac."

So, for the last three years, York has summered in Ludington.

"It's a pretty nice place to live when you're not working," York said.

Ludington Police Chief Mark Barnett said York caught his eye because he was able to complete a four-year degree in three years.

"That says a lot about a person as far as time management and drive," Barnett said. "He came here his first year, worked the beach, and did an excellent job for us. Last year he was on a code enforcement job for us and did a nice job. This year we brought him back for a third year - it works out well with his hockey - he's been the downtown officer for us and has done an excellent job.

He's just a very good level-headed guy."

York, age 26, has had the opportunity to make Ludington his permanent home a couple times and has opted to keep chasing his dream of playing hockey at the highest level that his skills can take

him to. Bamett said he understands that, but he hopes York considers Ludington if he ever decides to pick a full-time home.

York's father is a Dearborn police officer and so is his brother. Police work might be in his blood, but hockey has his heart.

A graduate of Dearborn Edsel Ford High School, York has been on skates since he was three years old. He played junior hockey, high school hockey, college hockey at Ferris and now he's a pro.

But it wasn't all smooth skating. York, a defenseman in college, wasn't playing up to his ability when he first caught on with the Gladiators.

His coach, Jeff Pyle, said he almost had York on the trading block. York is the kind of player that no one likes to play against but he had to rein in his technique, Pyle said.

"He's hard-working, committed, very disciplined." Pyle said. "At first I had a little trouble with him being undisciplined at times but he settled down. In the end, he's been great for us. I'm glad we're getting the chance to have him back."

His coach switched him to forward, put him on a line with a veteran winger and York's production got back on track. He helped take the Gladiators to their conference title last year.

"He gets under everybody's hair, he's one of those type of guys - pretty gritty - just a good all-around player."

York said he's known for his hard work in both hockey and law enforcement and said his line is considered a hard-working, grinding line that wears the other team down.

"We were supposed to be the defensive Be, and turned out to be a scoring line that wears down the other team, just grinding on them," York said.

As he got comfortable on offense, York got back on the ice on defense as well. He believes in his work ethic that lets him play both ways.

"I enjoy either one - whatever keeps me on the ice," York said. "Two different positions, two different jobs. Whatever one, I like doing both."

But when pressed, York admitted that he'd rather make someone cough up the puck than put it in the net himself.

"It's always exciting to score a goal, but not everyone can hammer someone against the boards and tilt your whole team," York said. "I like to think I can do both and do whatever is needed when it's needed."

While he enjoys the life he lives near Atlanta each winter, he's also hoping to keep improving as a hockey player. That could mean a call up to the AHL - the league where the Grand Rapids Griffins play.

Pyle said the next level isn't out of the question for York, but he said a coach would have to know how to use him.

"If he picks his spots and he's valuable at what he does, he's really good," Pyle said. "If I had him at the next level I'd put him on a checking line up front and have him play against everybody's top line."

For now, York is just enjoying his life - both halves of it. He enjoys meetings with the Florida Everblades of Estero, Fla., but he's not looking forward to two-a-day practices. If he comes back to Ludington, he'll still enjoy cracking a case that he discovers himself, but he'll always dread those calls to stop kids from jumping off the breakwater.

His dream hockey job would be with the Detroit Red Wings.

And his dream police job?

"I've got it pretty good where I'm at right now," York said. "I work hours I like to work. I have to work weekends, but that's when all the good stuff happens, usually. You know how you can get sick of a job. Seems like when I get sick of one. I'm jumping over to the other one it's a nice change."

Grand Rapids Press

October 2006

Two words: Health care

HEALTH CARE: THE TWO WORDS are used and reused daily in news stories and conversations, and extend to a multitude of topics, from benefits to new industries to jobs.

Health care has defined the new union contracts for autoworkers, teachers, and most recently Ferris State University and GVSU faculty. College graduates now commonly negotiate with prospective employers for health care benefits as well as wages, one having a growing impact on the other.

We may all grow tired of hearing those two words, even before the "tsunami" of health care overwhelms "the system." That tsunami is 26 million more people advancing to retirement status during the next 30 years: the baby boomers. The deluge will impact the infinitely smaller Generation X (too few to care for too many), but right behind Gen X is Generation Y, a population group even larger than the boomers. That Gen X will feel sandwiched is an understatement.

The ramifications of these facts alone will ripple into every segment of the economy and society, and the Grand Rapids metro area has a front-row seat to many of the enormous changes. The number of housing developments for seniors in West Michigan gives this region the No. 3 rank in the country (just behind Phoenix).

The push to educate health care professionals is a growing piece of the academic offerings at each of the regional colleges and universities, most noticeably the GVSU Cook DeVos (enter for Health Professions on Michigan Street hill. Developments on that hill include a wide array of associated services, from living centers to the SmartZone established for life science industries.

The SmartZone, housed in the GVSU building, also is headquarters to the West Michigan Science & Technology Initiative. That group this summer created a partnership with six West Michigan life sciences institutions to create a business called ClinXtm, an alliance to market the institutional expertise and cutting-edge clinical research capabilities to pharmaceutical companies, biotech firms and institutions like the National Institutes of Health. ClinXus was conceived after the U.S. Food & Drug Administration established new clinical research guidelines to accelerate approval of drugs, diagnostics and therapeutics. Grand Rapids hospitals have already created partnerships to deliver trials and tests to local patients.

The establishment of the Michigan State University Medical School in West Michigan focuses on physicians as researchers, in addition to their traditional care-taking expertise.

Saint Mary's Health Care's Haucnstein Neurosciences Center is planned to open in spring 2008; Spectrum Health is planning a new Helen DeVos Women's and Children's Hospital

and already is constructing the Lemmen-Holton Cancer Pavillion; Metropolitan Health next year will open a completely new, environmentally "green" hospital.

Expansion is under way at Van Andel institute, doubling the number of research labs at the world-class facility. Each of the developments not only assists the regional economy, but helps metro area residents through the pending health care storm.

Pioneer

October 3, 2006

Hip Hop poets coming to FSU

BIG RAPIDS - Universes' performers are a new strain of Jonathan Larson's bohemian youth. A cast of characters who represent the urban discontent but for whom the issues of drugs, poverty, politics, racism, religion and violence remain similar. The group will perform in Williams Auditorium at 8 p.m. Thursday.

Tickets for "Universes" maybe purchased by calling the Williams Auditorium Ticket Office at (231) 591-5600 or online at www.ferris.edu/arts/ticketoffice.htm The ticket office is open Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Student tickets are \$8, general admission \$15, all seats reserved.

The poems themselves are delivered in spoken harmony, ranging in style from Hip Hop, alliterative jazz, to spoken songs, with occasional riffs of Top-40 songs (like "Rockin' Robin"), Doo-Wop, Mambo tunes and Haitian styles.

The performance style suggests both originality and a knack for sophisticated and intelligent adaptation of modern art: Robert Frost and Langston Hughes meet Muhammad Ali and the Black Eyed Peas. "Slanguage" is a "verbal gumbo" particular to this talented underground sect of performers. Their provocative word-songs expose the heartbeat of anyone for whom life itself is not to be taken for granted, and enlighten the rest of us.

The content offers varying perspectives on urban ghetto life and a bracing dose of introspective statements on poetry. Some are concept pieces, like a poem done in Dr. Seuss style about a slang duel between street gangs. Although the performers claim, in the text of the show, that there are "nursery rhymes filled with curse lines," there is actually "darn little cussin'" in the work, hardly enough - establish the flavor.

The ensemble cites as its influences Jack Kerouac, Richard Pryor and Muhammad Ali.

Interestingly, its performance style lends itself to reaching young people through poetry and poetic language. Members met in the New York poetry scene but all have had 10 years experience in workshops for Bronx youth.

Said leader Steven Sapp, "We write for adults as professional artists, but since slang and Hip Hop is what they can tune into, they tune in quick."

Prior to the performance, students from the group First Expressions will be performing/demonstrating different forms of poetry in performance in the Williams Auditorium lobby. Light refreshments will be served, this pre-event is free and open to the public.

This appearance of "Universes" was made possible through funding from 2006-2007 Performing Arts Fund, a program of Arts Midwest funded by the National Endowment for the Arts with additional contributions from General Mills Foundation, Land O'Lakes Foundation, and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

Pioneer

October 4, 2006

Still open for debate?

Local voters hoping for better discourse in future gubernatorial debates

BIG RAPIDS - The first gubernatorial debate isn't a question of winners or losers for area residents - it's more of a tie.

Several people declined to say there was a clear winner in Monday evening's battle of words, instead noting they hope for more from the second and third debates.

"I don't think either of them won," said Don Roy, a political science professor at Ferris State University. "Governor (Jennifer) Granholm didn't win, but she didn't lose and Dick DeVos came out better than I expected. ... I sort of see it as a draw."

Roy also was disappointed that the debate "degenerated into taking jabs at each other." He has advised lower-level candidates in the past and would have coached Granholm to "take the high road," leaving DeVos's business dealings out of the debate.

Initially, he had hoped for more substance to the debate.

"I was hoping to see some clarity about the economy," he said. "Before you start to have ways to improve Michigan's economy, you have to analyze what the problem is - I don't see either doing much along those goals. ... I don't know if it was enlightening except to reveal who they are personally. Many people vote the person, not the issues."

Gregg Shewan also found the match to be without a clear winner.

"For a first debate, I think it's kind of a draw," he said. "Like so many politicians, they were more interested in getting in their own points and were not responding very well to the other's points or to questions the moderators were asking them." Shewan and Roy agree both sides had good points and bad points.

"I think if you were looking for things about either (candidate), you would find them," Roy said. "DeVos was a bit evasive. ... Granholm was too verbose, too wordy. It was almost as if she said a lot of words, it would answer the question."

Although Linda Maliszewski didn't select a winner of the debate, she said Granholm did a better job. "I think DeVos was unprepared," she said. "He should never have gotten up and faced a professional speaker because Granholm is an attorney and has had a lot of practical experience. ... He did a lot of hesitating, like someone who hasn't had public speaking training.

Her answers came easy to her, while he was stumbling for what he should say."

Skip Fletcher also said Granholm did a better job speaking than DeVos and didn't believe he was ready for the debate.

"I'm surprised they shook hands at the end," Fletcher said.

Area residents also are hopeful that the second and third debates will bring more information before the voters.

"I'm looking forward to the next two debates and hoping they get past their talking points," Shewan said.

The second debate between DeVos and Granholm will take place Tuesday at 8 p.m. at WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids.

The third will be held at 8 p.m. Oct. 16 at WXYZ-TV in Southfield and made available to ABC and CBS stations statewide.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Pioneer

October 5, 2006

Take Back the Night

In a Pioneer photo:

Marching for a cause: An estimated 235 Ferris students and faculty took part in the 16th annual Take Back the Night walk at 6 p.m. Wednesday that started in the campus quad. The event brings people together to raise awareness of the fight against domestic abuse and sexual assault. The campus quad is scattered with "Purple People" that feature the names, ages and stories of people who have died, or have had their life seriously altered in Michigan within the past year due to domestic violence or sexual assault

Pioneer

October 6, 2006

Ferris students experience homelessness in Box City

BIG RAPIDS - Unshaven, unshowered, a young man crawls out of a corrugated cardboard box and stretches in the 40-degree October sunshine.

He joins another man at a portable fireplace and they shiver together and discuss the long, cold night they spent in a box on the sidewalk.

No, they're not homeless, but they're trying to make a point at Ferris State University. Meet Stephen Rivas and Nick Harris, both freshmen.

Both pre-pharmacy majors, they spent the entire night on the Campus Quad as volunteers for Box City, part of the student chapter of Habitat for Humanity's awareness and fund-raising project.

With temperatures dipping into the 30s Wednesday night and projected to fall to the 20s tonight, the awareness hits home, at least for the volunteers.

"It's cold. Everything's cold ... everything's freezing," said Kelly Toren, a junior nursing major from Cedar Springs.

"This is my first October in Michigan," said Rivas, from Texas. "I had a blanket and a pillow last night. ... It was pretty cold. ... Once you developed enough heat in the box, it was not as bad."

Worse than the cold was the feeling of vulnerability, the knowledge that a quarter-inch of cardboard with a plastic tarp over the top doesn't come close to the security of solid walls and locked doors.

"It was pretty hard staying asleep with the other people talking," Rivas said of the other volunteers chatting around the steel fireplace.

At least two students are required to stay awake if someone is sleeping for security. Still, those measures didn't help Harris' concerns much.

"It was hard enough to sleep knowing people were watching what was going on," he said. "It would be really hard to go to sleep, not knowing what was going on outside, alone in a box and cold. ... The sense of not being protected (was the worst). You're at the mercy of everybody outside and the weather."

Although neither believes there was any real danger from passersby, they both noticed people outside the volunteer group in the area.

"There were several people still walking around in the early a.m.," Rivas said. "I can see how it could be a problem."

Tonight, another set of volunteers will try to get some rest in sub-freezing temperatures with minimal protection. They'll crawl into the boxes and try to find a comfortable spot on the rock-hard floor. They'll tuck their blanket around them more and more tightly in an attempt to keep ears, noses, hands and toes warm.

And they'll be thankful it's only for one night.

"It's such a good cause," said Jennifer Adams, president of the student chapter of Habitat at Ferris. "It's one of our biggest fund-raisers."

All donations brought in by Box City are sent directly to Habitat International. Last year, students raised about \$300 to \$400, Adams said. This year they are working toward a similar total. Money is collected periodically to prevent too much cash accumulating in the donation cans on the quad.

"The volunteers are always so gung-ho to do this, so we're keeping the tradition going," she said.

"This is our fourth annual Box City. ... Students get a taste of what it's like to live out in the cold - hopefully, it will get them thinking about people who are homeless and people who don't have adequate facilities."

Pioneer

October 7 & 8, 2006

Sanz, Kings of Comedy at Ferris Oct. 13

BIG RAPIDS - Saturday Night Live's own Horatio Sanz and the Kings of Comedy will perform a comedy show at 8 p.m. Oct. 13 in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium.

A SNL favorite since 1998, Sanz is famous for his impersonations of Jerry Garcia, Meatloaf and other celebrities. The audience can look forward to his college-gear'd humor and a night full of laughs.

"We are very excited to have Horatio and his improved troop perform here because students know him from SNL and can really relate to his comedy;" said Jodi Harper, a member of the Student Homecoming Committee.

Opening for Sanz will be comedian AJ Madrigal. Madrigal has starred in the FOX comedy "The Ortegas" and has appeared on "The Late Show" on CBS and "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on ABC.

Ferris students may purchase a ticket to see Sanz and the Kings of Comedy, and Madrigal for \$8.

Tickets are \$15 for the general public.

Also during homecoming week, themed "Cruising Through the Decades," is the bed sheet banner competition, which begins tomorrow. Banners will be displayed on the FSL' campus until Thursday and at the football game on Oct. 14.

A lip sync competition will take place at 8 p.m. Monday in Williams Auditorium. Come watch students sing and dance their way to first place and find out how to support the United Way Campaign.

A kickball tournament will be Tuesday at Top Taggart Field. Play begins, at 6:30 p.m. and is single elimination. Pep games will take place at 6 p.m. Wednesday at Top Taggart Field, with co-ed teams racing against the clock and competing in a variety of activities for the pride of winning the most events.

The annual bonfire and spirit rally will be Thursday. The Big Rapids Fire Department will light the bonfire at 8:30 p.m.

Start out on Oct. 14 by watching the parade through downtown Big Rapids at noon. Then, cheer on the football team as they take on Gannon at 2 p.m. At half time, watch the 2006 Homecoming king and queen be crowned.

After the game, join Ferris students, faculty and staff from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Homecoming Dance at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center. This is a free event with food and entertainment.

Pioneer

October 7 & 8, 2006

Criminal Justice Night held Tuesday

BIG RAPIDS—Ferris State University's School of Criminal Justice will host its third annual Criminal Justice Night at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in Pharmacy Auditorium 101. The program is free and open to the public.

Highlighting the evening will be a presentation on "Families and Crime," by Dr. Joseph H. Rankin, Wayne State University Criminal Justice program director. A national expert on families and crime, some of Rankin's publications on the subject include, "Social Control, Family Structure and Delinquency," "Use Diffusion: An Extension and Critique," "The Family Context of Delinquency" and "The Effects of Parental Attachments and Direct Controls."

We are extremely excited to have Dr. Rankin visit our campus," said Frank Crowe, director of the School of Criminal Justice. "Joe is a national expert on the subject and his presentations are given in a context that can actually be applied. I believe the entire community will greatly benefit from his perspective and research on this most important subject.

"When one reviews the data, 75 percent of incarcerated felons are products of a dysfunctional family," Crowe added. "We are expecting a large turnout for this event."

Narrator for the evening will be Lambda Epsilon Criminal Justice Fraternity President Dan Campbell, a senior from Baraga, with other members of the professional criminal justice fraternity helping to promote the event and working the event in different capacities.

Pioneer

October 9, 2006

Box City raises more than \$100 for Habitat

BIG RAPIDS - Two days of self-imposed outdoor living helped 44 Ferris State University students raise \$169.85 for Habitat for Humanity International.

The volunteers gave 227 hours toward this year's Box City. Box City is an event of the student chapter of Habitat for Humanity in which students take shifts staying in cardboard boxes located on the Campus Quad.

Pioneer
October 10, 2006

Ferris State University Rankin Gallery features work by Nelson Reinhardt

BIG RAPIDS - Nelson Reinhardt - Urban Landscapes exhibit in the Rankin Art Gallery today through Oct. 27. Constantly searching for eye-catching subjects, Reinhardt's paintings ref scenes and landscapes of both small towns and large cities.

"He tries to seize and express a moment in time, how subjects come together in an image that expresses an idea and feeling of anger, the best and the worst," said Carrie Weis, gallery coordinator straightforward paint application is reminiscent of Edward Hopper of Reinhardt's biggest influences."

Added Reinhardt, "From Edward Hopper I learned that sir, the key to painting. He took many non-descriptive subjects and turned them into unforgettable works of art. I strive to achieve that s. of painting."

Urban Landscapes is the second of eight exhibits Rankin Gallery will host during the 2006-07 season. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. Monday through Friday. Further information is available by contacting Weis at (231) 591-2536 or weisc@ferris.edu.

Pioneer

October 11, 2006

James Earl Jones to attend FSU annual benefit

BIG RAPIDS - From the farm to the Ramsdell Theatre in Manistee to the University of Michigan to Hollywood, celebrated actor James Earl Jones has been many places and done many things throughout - years.

Growing up on a small family farm near Dublin in Manistee County Jones is once again returning to Michigan, this time as a featured special guest at the Ferris Foundation's eighth annual benefit Nov. 11, at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids, along with WZZM's Juliet Dragos.

Jones' distinctive voice is probably most famous for portraying Darth Vader in the Star Wars trilogy, but Jones has a varied career. And his recent roles, Jones can be seen in "Cry the Beloved Country" a story of Apartheid in South Africa. Other roles include TNT's "Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief," as well as the title role in "The Vernon Jones Story," the true story of the late civil rights leader. He also appeared with Dana Carvey, the comedy "Clean Slate" and starred with Harrison Ford in "Clear and Present Danger," based on the best-selling book by Tom Clancy. He is the "voice" behind CNN.

Dragos will take patrons of the benefit dinner on a journey of the accomplishments of Jones, his life in Michigan and his love of the arts with a special interview during the evening.

Also during the evening, a feature video will give supporters the university who have provided significant contributions to enhance campus facilities and establish student scholarships an opportunity to discuss the benefits of a Ferris education.

Tickets for the event are available through Oct. 20 by contacting Kim Erickson at (231) 591-2365. Individual tickets may be purchased, or guests may choose from a range of sponsorship levels.

Funds raised support the Foundation for Excellence Scholarship Endowment for Ferris students, the Exceptional Merit Grant Award program for faculty and staff projects that advance the university's mission, and other university endowments.

Pioneer

October 11, 2006

FSU sets groundbreaking ceremony for Friday

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University officials, together with representatives of Rockford Construction Company, Inc. and Neumann Smith and Associates, will celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for the Interdisciplinary Resource Center Friday afternoon.

After a 1:30 p.m. reception, the official kick-off to the renovation and addition project will begin at 2 p.m. Formerly known as the Instructional Resource Center, the renovated facility will feature 54,700 square-feet of educational space, with an additional 6,000 square feet of space included in a connector between the IRC and College of Business. The \$8.5 million project is expected to be complete for the start of the fall 2007 academic semester.

"The overarching mission is for the IRC to become an exceptional facility that will foster innovation in teaching and learning, scholarship and engagement, with the ultimate goal of advancing student success and our academic environment," Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Harris said.

"This building will serve to define in a corporeal way, our mission of becoming a learning-centered university through the presence of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning on the first floor and through the design elements that foster collaboration, innovation and association."

Once completed, the updated facility will feature state-of-the-art teaching spaces, seminar rooms for individual or group study, along with formal and informal gathering spaces to enhance learning both inside and outside the classroom.

"With state-of-the-art classrooms and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, the IRC will be a wonderful example of the support we provide for our vision of being a learning centered university," Ferris President David L. Eisler said.

"It also facilitates continued learning outside of class, something we believe is very important. For Big Rapids, this project is a visible example of our continued growth and our vision for the future."

Pioneer

October 12, 2006

FSU Board of Trustees committees meet Friday

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Board of Trustees Finance and Academic Affairs/Student Affairs committees will hold meetings on Friday in the Timme Center for Student Services, Room 302.

The finance committee will meet at 10 a.m. Items for consideration include the final fiscal year 2007 general fund operating budget and operating and capital outlay requests to the state of Michigan. The academic affairs/student affairs committee will meet at 11 a.m. Items for consideration include renewal of international articulation agreements and a progress report of the WebCT Vista learning management software replacement project.

Further information regarding meetings of the Board of Trustees' committees may be directed to Karen Paine, secretary to the board, at (231) 591-2505.