

March 18, 2006-March 28, 2006

# Media Packet

---

- **Clare-Gladwin center offering College Day on March 21**
- **Honors Program hosts variety show to raise funds for Big Rapids library**
- **Students construct bridges of spaghetti**
- **Lecture examines use of comic books as teaching tool**
- **Math Counts challenges students during Ferris competition**
- **MSTC staff works to improve funding**
- **Successful women to speak at annual Student Government WILL Conference**
- **FSU Rankin Art Gallery exhibit features work of local photographer Bill Bitzinger**
- **Ferris students organize basketball game to benefit local Special Olympians**
- **Ferris board approves various construction initiatives**
- **Winning spaghetti bridge holds close to 100 pounds**
- **MSTC 11th Annual Regional Science and Engineering Fair set for Tuesday**
- **Dental care available for patients**

## **Midland Daily News**

March 16, 2006

### **Clare-Gladwin center offering College Day on March 21**

The Clare-Gladwin Career Tech Center and Mid Michigan Community College are sponsoring a College Day from 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, on the Harrison Campus of MMCC.

This free event is an opportunity for area residents to learn more about various colleges, universities, and military agencies. The event is open to high school sophomores, juniors and seniors and their parents, as well as current college students considering a transfer, and those contemplating starting college.

The colleges and universities scheduled to attend include: Adrian College, Alma College, Baker College, Calvin College, Central Michigan University, Concordia University--Wisconsin, Davenport University, Delta College, Ferris State University, Finlandia University, Grand Valley State University, Hope College, ITT Technical Institute, Johnson & Wales University—Rhode Island, Kettering University, Kirtland Community College, Lake Superior State University, Lawrence Technological University, Madonna University, Michigan State University, Michigan Tech University, Mid Michigan Community College, Nashville Auto Diesel College, Northern Michigan University, Northwood University, Oakland University, Olivet College, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan,

University of Phoenix, U.S. Military-Army, Marines and Navy, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University.

A transition specialist will be available to talk with students and their parents about concerns they might have with making the adjustment from high school to college.

## **Pioneer**

March 18 & 19, 2006

### **Honors Program hosts variety show to raise funds for Big Rapids library**

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Honors Program will be hosting its second annual "Honors Variety Show" at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Rankin Student Center Dome Room featuring the talents of various students performing musical, theatrical and comedic acts, plus more. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Big Rapids Community Library.

There will be opportunities for audience participation and door prizes, including gift certificates to local businesses. Also in conjunction with the show, the Honors Program will be hosting a book drive. Books will be donated to the Big Rapids library. Books may be dropped off at the Office of Student Leadership and Activities or Helen Ferris Hall on the university's Big Rapids campus beginning Monday. Books also may be dropped off during the variety show.

Last year's event raised nearly \$100 for the library, with more than 200 people in attendance. The Variety Show Committee expects an even bigger turnout this year and expects to raise more money for the library, said Bret Muter of the Honors Program. In addition to the awards that will be given out by this year's judges, which include Homecoming King Frank Dye, associate professor Daniel Cronk, Vice President for Student Affairs Daniel Burcham and representatives from the Big Rapids Community Library, attendees will also have a say in who wins one of the awards.

Audience members will be able to support their favorite act by putting money in a jar with that performer's name on it. The performer that wins the most crowd support (raises the most money) will win the "Crowd Favorite Award."

This year's event is being chaired by Ashley Grutter, a sophomore in the Music Industry Management program; Sarah Lundgren, a Public Relations sophomore; and Muter, an Environmental Biology senior. All three are members of the Honors Program at Ferris.

For more information or for special accommodations for this event, contact Muter at [mute2@fsuimail.ferris.edu](mailto:mute2@fsuimail.ferris.edu) or (231) 591-6906.

## **Pioneer**

March 20, 2006

### **Students construct bridges of spaghetti**

Students from several area high schools gathered Saturday at Ferris State University with the intention of building bridges; bridges made of spaghetti.

The bridges, once built, were put to a load-bearing test to determine which could support the most weight.

The building teams came from Big Rapids, Cedar Springs, Chippewa Hills, Clinton, Kenowa Hills, Lapeer Ed/Tech Center, Morley Stanwood, Northwestern Preparatory Academy, Reed City, Regina, Sacred Heart Academy, St. Charles, Crossroads Charter Academy and Whitefish Township schools.

The event is held annually at the university to help encourage creative thinking in students interested in engineering. The bridges were tested for weight-bearing ability, beginning with two kilograms.

The winners were awarded one of four \$2,000, four \$1,000 or four \$500 Ferris scholarships.

Twenty teams competed with first, second and third place honors awarded to the competition's overall winners and first through fifth place awarded to teams in four categories, including Authentic Bridge Design, Oral Presentation, Written Presentation and Load Bearing Competition. Cash prizes for teams earning first through fifth place in each category ranged from \$500 to \$50 for school labs, classrooms or clubs.

According to event organizers, this "proactive" approach to learning encourages students to solve problems through both theory and application.

## **Pioneer**

March 21, 2006

### **Lecture examines use of comic books as teaching tool**

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University College of Arts and Sciences Department of Humanities has announced the next program in the 2005-06 Monthly Colloquium Series: "The History of Comic Books and Their Use as a Teaching Tool in Science."

The guest lecture/presentation will be conducted by Pasquale Di Raddo, a Ferris chemistry professor on March 23 from 11 to 11:50 a.m. in Room 233 of the Starr Building.

The event, which is free and open to the public, is co-sponsored by the student affiliate chapter of The American Chemical Society (SAACS).

The medium of comic books has been used as an effective (and profitable) entertainment as well as teaching vehicle. This presentation summarizes the history of comic books, with an emphasis on their use for discussing laboratory safety rules in the chemistry classroom.

Di Raddo received his undergraduate and graduate education at McGill University in Montreal, Canada, and subsequently conducted chemistry research at the University of Chicago for several years. After teaching in Wisconsin for six years he joined the Ferris faculty in the fall of 1994.

## **Pioneer**

March 21, 2006

### **Math Counts challenges students during Ferris competition**

BIG RAPIDS - The Woodbridge Ferris Math Counts competition was held Feb. 13 in the Ferris State University Rankin Student Center. Participating middle schools included Big Rapids, Chippewa Hills, St. Mary's Catholic, St. Peter's Lutheran and Vestaburg.

MathCounts is a nation-wide math competition held for sixth- through eighth-graders each year. Sponsored locally by the Big Rapids chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers, MathCounts has been challenging students locally for 18 years.

The top 10 individuals from the early written rounds compete, head-to-head, in the exciting countdown round. Two competitors are seated facing a projection screen where a problem is presented. The competitors have 45 seconds to solve the problem. A point is awarded for the first correct answer. The winner of each round progresses to the next round until all 10 finalists have competed. Sample problems for this round would be "The sum of two numbers is 22. Their difference is 4. What is the greater of the two numbers?" or "What is the probability that a randomly selected positive integer less than 100 is a perfect square?"

All first, second and third place winners were awarded trophies. All participants in the competition were presented certificates and all students, coaches and volunteers received a custom T-shirt, other prizes and a light dinner.

The next Woodbridge Ferris MathCounts competition will take place in February 2007.

The Woodbridge Ferris competition is funded by contributions from El Paso Energy/ANR Pipeline and Ferris' College of Technology. Information is available at <[www.mathcounts.org](http://www.mathcounts.org)> or by contacting the regional coordinator, Chuck Drake, at (231) 591-2788.

## **Pioneer**

March 22, 2006

### **MSTC staff works to improve funding**

BIG RAPIDS - The Math, Science and Technology Center (MSTC) staff are seeking funds to shore up a 75 percent cut in state funding.

"What has happened here is tragic," said MOISD Superintendent Curt Finch. "We have been operating an award-winning program for our local school districts and these cuts are killing the opportunities for area students.

The MSTC is designed to give local students a different approach than dual enrollment, an opportunity to look at math and science from another angle."

So far, the MSTC has received an \$10,870 gift from a past graduate, two community foundation grants and is close to wrapping up a \$30,000 donation from an automotive foundation concerned about the future supply of engineers.

Due to funding cuts the MSTC, which is operated by the Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District, has eliminated its science van program that provided hands-on activities and an inflatable planetarium experience for elementary students. Funding cuts also forced the closing of the Monday Night Technology program that brought seventh and eighth graders to school for hands-on experiences in labs at Ferris State University and Mecosta County Medical Center. Like the science van, this program also was awarded the National Excellence in Education Award by the National School Board Association.

Pressure on local school districts' budgets is exerting financial pressure on the MSTC high school program. The high school program splits the foundation allowance the state provides for each student. As local school districts cut programs this sharing becomes an issue.

The MSTC is trying to raise funding for the center to relieve pressure on the local districts. MSTC Director Paul Bigford has spoken to members of the state senate and House, Gov. Jennifer Granholm and Rep. Pete Hoekstra. He and several other Math/Science Center directors have formed an association and are approaching national foundations for additional resources.

"Our goal is to raise enough money to partially offset the cost to our local schools, thereby allowing them to continue to send students to our high school center," Bigford said.

Interest in the program is high - 98 eighth graders are testing for 29 seats in the fall. The students face four years of math (through university calculus) and four years of science (including several semesters of FSU courses) plus a rigorous research project and a month-long internship.

The most recent graduating class was accepted to colleges including the University of Chicago, EmbreyRiddle Aeronautical, Michigan Tech and University of Michigan. The average 2005 graduate was offered \$125,000 in scholarships, about double the annual average.



## **Pioneer**

March 22, 2006

### **Successful women to speak at annual Student Government WILL Conference**

BIG RAPIDS - Student Government's fourth annual Women Investing in Leadership and Learning (WILL) Conference will take place March 30 in the University Ballroom of Ferris State University's Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center from 6 to 8 p.m.

Speakers include Michigan Environmental Council President Lana Pollack; Continental Basketball Association's Michigan Mayhem owner Jannie Scott; and Michigan Supreme Court Justice Maura Corrigan. The three successful Michigan women will take the stage to share their stories and wisdom with students, faculty/staff and community members.

The two-hour program will feature a social reception beginning at 6 p.m. and a question and-answer session will follow the presentations later on in the evening. The event is free of charge to all participants thanks to the Student Activity Fee as allocated by the Student Government's Division of Finance. Donations will be accepted to benefit WISE, a local domestic violence information and support service.

Additionally, music will be provided by Ferris student and former Nashville Star candidate Ashley Grutter. Grutter will be on hand to sing and play as well as speak with the public during the socializing period before and after the conference.

Questions or comments regarding the fourth annual WILL Conference may be directed to Abby Lund by emailing [abbylund@hotmail.com](mailto:abbylund@hotmail.com), or by contacting Associate Vice President of Public Relations Zack East at [StudentGovernment@ferris.edu](mailto:StudentGovernment@ferris.edu).

## **Pioneer**

March 22, 2006

### **FSU Rankin Art Gallery exhibit features work of local photographer Bill Bitzinger**

BIG RAPIDS - "People, Places and Things: Photography by Bill Bitzinger" is on exhibit in the Ferris State University Rankin Art Gallery now through April 8. The exhibit of Bitzinger's work features traditional darkroom-based, silver gelatin prints exploring different camera formats.

"Black and white printing has always been a staple of the photographic experience," Bitzinger said. "Traditional silver gelatin prints like these were my first introduction to photography when my grandfather showed me the magic of a darkroom we had set up under the basement stairs.

"The red light, the sound of running water and the feel of fine quality paper will always hold a special place in my heart, even as photography has moved into the 21st century of digital images. Going back to the darkroom allows me to get back the roots of my love for photography," he added.

Bitzinger used a variety of cameras to make the images on exhibit, each with its own unique characteristics that help him interpret the scene in front of him, and the image in his mind, transferred to a simple piece of paper.

Each print represents hours of work, including crafting the composition, exposing film, processing, selecting the negative, printing the image, drying and framing.

"There is a smoothness of tonal quality and contrast inherent in these materials that I can't always achieve with more 'modern' techniques," Bitzinger said.

The Rankin Art Gallery is open Monday through Friday from m a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit <[www.ferris.edu/gallery](http://www.ferris.edu/gallery)> or call (231) 591-2536.

## **Pioneer**

March 22, 2006

### **Ferris students organize basketball game to benefit local Special Olympians**

BIG RAPIDS - Local Special Olympians and Ferris State University basketball players will hit the hard court tonight at Wink Arena for a game to help Area 5 Special Olympics, tipping off at 7 p.m.

The two teams will be comprised of men and women FSU basketball players and Special Olympians. The combined teams will battle on the court to help raise funds to assist in the purchase of an equipment trailer for Area 5 Special Olympics.

Tonight's game is the group effort of FSU students Trevor Cooke, Megan Gilders, Angie Knoertzer, Masha Sohn and Terrance Shaw. The special game is part of a community service project for one of their classes.

The game is free to anyone with a student ID and \$1 for community residents.

"All proceeds from the game, concessions and raffles will go to the Area 5 Special Olympics," Knoertzer said.

It has been a long road with countless hours for the five students.

"We've been working since January organizing the special game," Gilders said. "The group has worked very hard on getting local businesses to donate items for the raffles.

"We've worked with Mike Haggerty (FSU Assistant Athletic Director), and both Bill Sall and Tracy Bloodworth-Fisk to get the players involved," she added. Having five different people involved meant trying to schedule meetings around everyone's schedule.

"The biggest challenge has been meeting up with each other because of our different schedules and we're constantly picking up donations for the game," Gilders added.

Raffle prizes include:

- One night stay at the Holiday Inn;
- certificates for local restaurants;
- a DVD player; and
- many others

Free t-shirts will be thrown into the crowd at halftime and cookies and, candies, all donated by local businesses will be on hand for purchase. FSU basketball players also will sign autographs. Gilders added.

Knoertzer said the game is designed for the Special Olympians to take part in. "It's going to be a lot of fun for both the basketball players and the Olympians," she said.

"It's going to be a great experience for the kids and will give them a chance to be involved in something.

"The smile on their faces will be worth it."

Knoertzer add the community turnout will also show support for Area 5 Special Olympics.

"We also want to get the community involved and have them more aware of the local Special Olympics," she noted.

## **Pioneer**

March 25 & 26, 2006

### **Ferris board approves various construction initiatives**

BIG RAPIDS - Hammers will soon be flying following approvals by the Ferris State University Board of Trustees Friday afternoon.

Several capital projects gained the board's nod, including \$1.11 million worth of work on residence halls and dining centers.

The money will be spent on several facility and equipment enhancements for those portions of the Big Rapids campus, including roof repairs, rewiring Taggart and Helen Ferris halls, painting and general upgrades.

Also on the Big Rapids campus, the board approved increasing the budget for the Instructional Resource Center renovation project to \$8.5 million, up from \$7.5 million.

Other capital projects approved included the creation of student housing for students at the Grand Rapids campus.

The university has amended an agreement with developer 5 Lyon Sheet, LL.C, in which the developer renovates the Commerce Building to create student apartments, while the university guarantees a certain amount of revenue to 5 Lyon.

Previously, 5 Lyon had renovated the 8th and 9th floors of the building and those apartments are filled to capacity, generating a revenue of greater than the university's obligation.

Under the amendment, the 4th and 5th floors will also be developed into not less than 48 student apartments, to be rented at \$500 per month per bed. Ibis development will be completed by July 31. In turn, the FSU guarantees 5 Lyon an annual rental income of not less than \$500,000; if the annual revenue is less than that number, the university will remit the difference. This revenue guarantee agreement will be in effect from Aug. 1 through July 31, 2011.

The last capital project approved Friday is still in the early stages. The board approved \$98,500 for the preliminary planning work to renovate and/or relocate the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia.

Currently, the museum is housed in Room 328 of the Starr Building and houses 4,000 objects in 500 square feet; only 18 people can be in the museum at any one time. A larger facility would better accommodate the museum's educational purpose.

In other business, the board also approved:

- appointments and reappointments to FSU's charter school board of directors;

- an exchange agreement with Fundacao Armando Alvares Penteado in Sao Paulo, Brazil;
- sabbatical leave requests;
- extending a listing agreement for rental space at Kendall College in Grand Rapids;
- revisions to a professional services contract with Pace & Partners to have a marketing study done;
- joint capital outlay subcommittee policies and procedures;
- a re-conveyance request for the Elastomer Institute; and
- revisions to board personnel policies regarding tuition.

## **Pioneer**

March 25 & 26, 2006

### **Winning spaghetti bridge holds close to 100 pounds**

BIG RAPIDS - Two Reed City High School spaghetti bridge teams experienced victory this weekend in the Ferris State University tournament.

Out of 22 teams from all over the state, the Pastanauts team, made up of Josh Emington, Kyle Thering, Justin Schneidt, and Andrew Keinitz, placed first in the research paper, second in the authentic bridge, fourth in the oral presentation and sixth in the weight-bearing bridge. They placed second overall and each team member earned a \$1,000 FSU scholarship.

The 107th Pasta Brigade team, made up of Josh Neubecker, Trevor Seaman, Chelsey Wells and Ashley Bedker, placed first for the weight bearing bridge, first for the authentic bridge and third for the research paper. They placed first overall earning each a \$2,000 FSU scholarship. Their weight bearing bridge set a new contest record by holding 99.69 pounds.

## **Pioneer**

March 27, 2006

### **MSTC 11th Annual Regional Science and Engineering Fair set for Tuesday**

BIG RAPIDS - More than 700 students and teachers are expected to attend the 11th Annual Regional Science and Engineering Fair on Tuesday conducted by the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District's Math, Science and Technology Center.

The event takes place 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Ferris State University's Ewigleben Sports Complex. Students will view other students' science projects, participate in hands-on demonstrations and enjoy other forensic-related breakout sessions. This year's theme is based on the television show "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

There will be speakers from the FBI, Michigan State Police, Michigan State University, FSU and local law enforcement agencies. The event is a combination of three fairs: the High School International Science and Engineering Fair, the Middle School Discovery Channel Young Scientist Program and the MOISD Wide Elementary Science Share program. High school winners advance to the International 'Science and Engineering Fair.

For more information, contact Sharrie Parke at [sparke@moisd.org](mailto:sparke@moisd.org), (231) 796-3543 ext. 220, or fax (231) 796-3300.



## **Pioneer**

March 28, 2006

### **Dental care available for patients**

To the Editor:

This is in regards to an editorial that was published March 15 in the Pioneer.

The letter was very informative regarding access to dental care in the Port Huron area. It addresses the fact that there are 20,000 +/- people receiving government assistance for dental care through the Medicaid program and they are unable to find providers.

Mecosta County is the third poorest county in the state of Michigan. We, too, have an extremely high number of Medicaid recipients who are unable to find dental offices that will accept them as patients. Looking at the issue from both sides will help one to understand this problem to a certain degree.

There are several clinics in the area that do accept Medicaid. Baldwin Family Health Care has three sites - in Baldwin, Grant and White Cloud. The Cadillac area recently built a clinic that accepts Medicaid. There are a handful of local dentists who accept Medicaid, but not many. Why don't more dentists accept the Medicaid coverage?

There are several reasons. Probably the two biggest reasons are: Medicaid reimburses the dentist less than one-half what the fee is. Ouch!

Compare the prices of dentistry in the Big Rapids area to those in Grand Rapids, Muskegon or other cities. The providers in this area charge much less than their peers in nearby towns.

Now, add to that the fact that there is an extremely high rate of "patient-no-shows," with clientele who have Medicaid coverage and you have a risky business venture. How can the providers keep their doors open and pay their high overhead when patients don't keep their appointments?

It's a problem. Perhaps if all dental practices would offer to see one - two Medicaid recipients, daily it would help.

One plus the residents of Mecosta County have going for them is they can access preventative care at Ferris State University. There is an accredited dental hygiene program right here in our own town. They even accept the Medicaid coverage for a mere \$3 co-pay. The patient can have a thorough dental prophylaxis, fluoride treatment, dental x-rays and sealants complete with a smile.

That's right... for \$3 the Medicaid recipient can have a complete dental cleaning done by first and second year dental hygiene students, under the watchful eye of seasoned registered dental hygienists and staff dentists. The university otherwise will charge \$25 for an adult prophylaxis and \$20 for a youth/ child cleaning. Sealants are only \$5 per

tooth. The x-rays are also very reasonable. Every spring the second year hygiene students are scrambling, looking for potential "board" patients.

A "board" patient is someone who has a certain amount of calculus on their teeth and they are willing to "sit" for their hygiene student to pass a tedious clinical exam. Let's support our local economy. Utilize the services the university has to offer.