

Media Packet

***Take Back the Night march, rally to be Tuesday**

***Ferris board names building**

***Student nurses visit Metron**

***Ferris offering detailing service**

***Tuition up 40% in past decade**

***Taking back the night**

***Ferris sponsors pet costume contest for United Way**

***Ferris State University Theatre presents 'The Laramie Project'**

***College costs skyrocket, but so does financial aid**

***Ferris' Benear knows it's now or never for seniors**

***FSU freshman spiker enjoys first season**

Pioneer

Weekend October 18 & 19, 2003

Take Back the Night march, rally to be Tuesday

BIG RAPIDS -It's time to "Take Back the Night" in Big Rapids on Tuesday. Gathering for the 15th annual march and rally begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Williams Auditorium (Starr Building) parking lot on Ferris State University's campus.

Participants will then march to the rally site, Cardinal Hall in Big Rapids Middle School, where there will be free pizza, cider, and donuts.

This community event serves as a non-violent protest against the violence that many people endure on a daily basis. "Many of us do not realize how prevalent intimate violence is." Brandi Shelton Wise.

"The march and rally bring men, women, and children together in a common goal - to make our homes, streets, and communities safer for all of us," said Brandi Shelton, Sexual Assault Program Director for Women's Information Service Inc. "It takes each of us as individuals, working together to create a community response to sexual assault, domestic violence, school violence, child abuse, and other types of violence.

"Many of us do not realize how prevalent intimate violence is. We are shocked to hear about our neighbor who was abused for years without our knowledge and we are devastated to hear about a trusted friend or loved one that has sexually or physically assaulted another human being. But you have a choice - you can choose to ignore the problem or do something about it," Shelton continued. "Take Back the Night is an opportunity for you to be part of the solution."

Pioneer

Weekend October 18 & 19, 2003

Ferris board names building

BIG RAIPDS - Ferris State University's Board of Trustees gave its approval Friday to name a new facility housing both the construction technology and management and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration programs the Granger Center for Construction and HVACR.

A \$1 million gift from Alton Granger and his wife; Janice, of Dimondale, in addition to funding from the state of Michigan, the construction and HVACR industries and the university, made the completion of the \$18 million renovation and expansion of the existing Construction Technology Center possible.

Granger is chairman of the Granger Construction Company. He and his wife have had a long-standing relationship with the university. "I have a granddaughter, Janie Alexa, who graduated from the construction management program at Ferris and a number of Granger employees who also graduated from Ferris," Granger said.

"We have an outstanding relationship with the university -- we have worked with Ferris on a number of projects and have never had a better relationship with a client. Ferris also provides great employees to the construction industry and we need to support those efforts."

The state-of-the art, 75,000square-foot building is located on the northeast corner of Ferris' campus and will be fully operational by January. Granger's son, Gary, is a member of Ferris' Board of Trustees, and his grandsons, Jason, a senior, and Ryan, a sophomore, attend Ferris, where Jason is the student body president.

The facility has been called a virtual learning laboratory allowing students enrolled in the programs to openly view building components such as structural and. wall construction along with mechanical and electrical systems including plumbing, electrical, telecommunications, heating and cooling.

It houses specialized laboratories for studying hydronic and forced-air heating, commercial refrigeration and air conditioning, metalworking, soldering, pipefitting, electrical systems, soils, hydraulics, materials testing, framing, steel structure and concrete-form pouring. It also is equipped with computer labs with the latest software.

Ferris offers two- and four year programs in HVACR, both with 100 percent job placement. The four-year program is the only one of its kind in Michigan.

In related action, the trustees also approved naming the materials laboratory in the building the Klett Family Materials Laboratory.

The materials laboratory is being funded by a \$100,000 donation from James A. Klett of Dowagiac, a leader in the asphalt industry and a longtime member and current chairman of the College of Technology's Construction Technology and Management, Advisory Committee.

His son, James "Chip" Klett, received an associate degree in civil engineering technology in 1999 and a bachelor's degree in construction management in 2001, both from Ferris.

In other action, the board approved hiring Academic Search Consultation Service of Washington, D.C., to conduct the search for Ferris' vice president for academic affairs at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. This is the same executive; search firm the university employed for the presidential, search.

The VPAA search committee has prepared a job profile and: will begin seeking nominations or potential candidates. The candidate pool is expected to be consolidated in November with campus interviews to follow in January.

Other board action resulted in an agreement with the Michigan School Vocal Music Association, a non-profit professional organization of vocal music educators, to lease office space in Ferris' Corporate and Professional Development Center on Maple Street in Big Rapids.

Board members also approved an adjustment to the university's consolidated fiscal year 2004 general fund operating budget, which now stands at \$128.7 million compared to \$126.2 million, projected in July. The adjustment reflects additional tuition revenue generated from one of the largest-ever student head-count enrollment increase in the history of the university.

For the university's fiscal year 2005 operating budget request, officials will request a 3 percent inflationary increase, the continuation of the Tuition Incentive Program for economically disadvantaged students, relief for Michigan Public School Employees Retirement System cost increases and a capital budget request for a new \$40 million Michigan College of Optometry facility. The next board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 21 on the Big Rapids campus.

Pioneer

Weekend October 18 & 19, 2003

Student nurses visit Metron

By Jennifer Webster Pioneer Staff Writer

BIG RAPIDS - Members of the Ferris Student Nurses Association brought some autumn cheer to residents at Metron of Big Rapids Friday morning.

Both students and residents said they enjoyed the experience as they spent a few hours painting pumpkins and interacting with each other. "We do community-related events," said member Tracie Aris, who is the group's public relations person. "We try to donate our time."

A visit to Metron is beneficial for the organization because it is their profession, she explained. "It gives us good experience and hopefully (the patients) have a good time," said Aris.

The residents are benefited by the visit as well because it gives them chance to see new faces and to do new projects, according to Aris.

"It gives us a chance to interact with the patients ... (to see) how different activities stimulate them," she said "We see how the staff interacts with them as well." The Ferris student nurses will be visiting the residents again on Oct.30 for a Halloween party.

Pioneer

Tuesday October 21,2003

Ferris offering detailing service

BIG RAPIDS - The Ferris State University Automotive Department is offering a fall vehicle detailing service on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. at the FSU Automotive Center. The service, available for a \$95 donation, includes hand washing, drying and waxing, tire shine, under hood cleaning, interior vacuum, ArmorAll treatment, lube, oil, filter and 28-point safety inspection.

Without oil change and inspection, the service costs \$75. For reservations or more information, contact Andrew Perdok at (616) 893-8399.

The Detroit News
Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Tuition up 40% in past decade

The average cost of tuition and fees at the nation's four-year colleges and universities is more than 40 percent higher now than it was 10 years ago, according to a new study.

The College Board, which owns the SAT, released its annual Trends in College Pricing report Tuesday, documenting cost increases that have been particularly steep in recent years because of big cuts in state funding.

"Higher education is often the first area to be cut," said William Troutt, the chairman of the American Council on Education and president of Rhodes College in Memphis. He was unsurprised by the findings.

Using inflation-adjusted dollars, the average cost of tuition and fees at state-supported four-year schools is 47 percent higher than it was a decade ago, the study said. The average cost of tuition and fees at private colleges and universities, also adjusted for inflation, has grown 42 percent over the same period.

But the tuition increases are offset by increases in student financial aid, according to the report. Last year, aid increased 15 percent over the preceding year, to \$105 billion in loans and grants for graduate and undergraduate students.

College Board President Gaston Caperton called the growth in total aid "encouraging."

The College Board said tuition for in-state students at four-year public campuses jumped 14.1 percent to \$4,694 this fall. However, a dip in the price of room and board -- assessed separately from tuition and fees -- means that students living in residence halls are actually paying \$10,636, 9.8 percent more than they did in 2002-03.

The price increases weren't limited to four-year state schools. The average tuition and fees assessed by public two-year colleges went up 13.8 percent to \$1,905.

And it now costs \$26,854 to attend a four-year, private school, including tuition, fees, room and board: that's up 5.7 percent from this past year.

The report found that 60 percent of undergraduates are using financial aid packages to help pay for college.

Some lawmakers, however, say colleges aren't doing enough to keep costs in check. "We do expect higher increases" given the economy, said Rep. Buck McKeon, R-Calif., chairman of a subcommittee on higher education. But "every time we put more money in

at the federal level, it seems like that drives tuition and fees higher."

Pioneer

Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Taking back the night:

By David Cencer Pioneer Staff Writer

BIG RAPIDS - One by one, they stood and spoke.

Their stories were haunting. But their presence was inspirational. "After more than 200 people marched through a cool, misty rain in protest of domestic and sexual violence Tuesday, most of the crowd remained at Big Rapids Middle School's Cardinal Hall for an emotional and uplifting tribute to survivors and volunteers.

"It's very inspiring," said Brandi Shelton, sexual assault program director for Women's Information Service, Inc. (WISE).

"It kind of gets us re-inspired to continue the work we're doing."

That work was the purpose of Tuesday's march, which began at Ferris State's Williams Auditorium parking lot at 5:30 p.m., proceeded to the campus quad and then down Michigan Avenue, where the group convened at the middle school for the remainder of the evening.

"It's a peaceful march to raise awareness," Shelton explained. "It's a way we can do a non-violent protest for peace."

Peace within a home is something Shelton and her coworkers fight for everyday.

"It's good to see people come out in support ..." she said. "We all have to do our part. That's what this is all about."

In recognition of those who go above and beyond to help others in need, WISE presented four awards recognizing two individuals from the law enforcement community, another from the human service sector and one local volunteer.

Each surpassed the call of duty to help bring peace to area families, Shelton said.

Earning law enforcement recognition were Joy Beno and Jim Wing from the Ferris State Department of Public safety. Tom Hogenson from Mecosta County General Hospital earned the honor for the human service profession. Earning recognition for her volunteer work was Stephanie Swoffer of WISE.

"Winners of these awards are individuals who are not just good at their jobs, but go above and beyond by showing sensitivity, instilling hope and restoring dignity," Shelton said.

"They demonstrate courage by standing up for what they believe in, even if it isn't always popular amongst their peers."

That courage to help, combined with the courage to stand, made both Tuesday's walk and following ceremony special.

While at the middle school, participants joined in a memorial service and heard songs performed by Jerilyn Scheid and Erin Eveland, before a poetry presentation and the survivors' stories.

Pioneer

Wednesday, October 22, 2003

Ferris sponsors pet costume contest for United Way

BIG RAPIDS – Devilish dogs, chilling cats, spooky snakes and petrifying pets of all kinds are invited to enter the Ferris State Halloween Pet Costume Contest to support United Way.

Pet owners are invited to submit photos of their pets in costume. A first-place prize of \$50 will be awarded to the most, original photo. There is a \$10 entry fee per photo and all proceeds benefit United Way.

Entries must be received by noon Oct. 29. Winners will be, announced in the Oct. 31 issue of the Pioneer.

To submit an entry, mail photos to: Vice President for Student Affairs Office, Ferris State University, 805 Campus Drive, RAN-255, Big Rapids, 49307. Include the entry fee (make checks payable to the Mecosta-Osceola Area United Way), your name, your pet's name, address, day and evening phone numbers and e-mail address. Please enclose a self addressed stamped envelope if you would like your photo back.

Pioneer
Wednesday, October 22, 2003
Ferris State University Theatre presents 'The Laramie Project'

BIG RAPIDS -Hate, human suffering, and the strength of one community weave themselves through the touching story of the death of Matthew Shepard. Ever the eye-opener, the play takes a close look at a small town torn apart by the brutal murder of a young gay member of the community. Moises Kaufman's "The Laramie Project" is an excellent, as well as educational, opening to Ferris State University's 2003-2004 theatre season.

The Laramie Project opens on Thursday and runs through Sunday. The show starts at 8 p.m. for the Thursday through Saturday performances and at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday in Williams Auditorium. Please be aware that this show contains adult language and situations; audience discretion is advised. Tickets cost \$4 for students and \$8 for the general public. To purchase tickets stop by the Williams Auditorium Box Office or call at 591-5600.

This huge ensemble cast consists of more than 30 students and also showcases the talents of four Ferris faculty members. There are no leads or supporting characters, as all 40 members of the production assume an equal role in the performance. Due to the sheer magnitude of the necessary cast, some players will be portraying as many as four different characters throughout the show.

The story opens after the death of Matthew Shepard. Members of a theater organization known as the Tectonic Theater Project, lead by Moises Kaufman, travel to Laramie to interview members of the community. The words of various citizens of Laramie; students at the local university; outsiders such as the press, leader's rights groups and hate organizations; family members of the victim and of the guilty combine to make a powerful night of theatre.

Ferris students performing in "The Laramie Project" are Bethany Wagner, Todd Emeott, Emily Crowley, Bill Ehle, Meagan McLain, Megan Ryan, Spencer Benson, David Pierce, Nick Kuiper, Scott Dreyer, Erika Simpson, Anthony McPherson Jr., Kaiya Hamilton, David Mirfin Jr., Tiffani Brown, Dana Corning, Jessica Birch, Mike McCarthy, Tyson Acosta, Kevin Kowalkoski, Jennie Sternemann, Keith Bogucki and Megan Welborn, Bernt Rygs, Chris- Ward, John Gallinat, David Bisson, Ashley Rodgers, Michelle McCamman, Jessica Beyerlein, Carla Rennick, Cal Rerucha, Lindsey McAinsh, Jamie Samuels, Courtney Benjamin and Michelle McCamman.

Four faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences are also performing. Neil Patten and Chryl Irvine, who both teach communications, from the Humanities Department make their Ferris Theatre debut. Also performing is Languages and

Literature faculty Rose Anne Shansky, a well-known actress in the Big Rapids and surrounding community. Biochemistry faculty Sunil Malapati participates in his fourth Ferris Theatre production with "The Laramie Project."

Ferris professor Katherine LaPietra directs the production and fellow faculty Gretchen Potter designed the scenery. Digital media production major Kris Rowe designed the lights and televised sequences. Print media student Eric Heyn is the stage manager for the production.

The Grand Rapids Press

Wednesday, October 22, 2003

College costs skyrocket, but so does financial aid

Jessica Wehrman Scripps Howard News Service

While college sticker prices skyrocket thanks to state legislative cuts, a rough economy and shrinking endowments, a report released Tuesday by the College Board said students will not be saddled with dramatic increased costs.

Grant and loan money has risen more rapidly than the tuition hikes. While tuition bills may at first appear staggering, education analysts say many parents are footing a far lower bill.

"Despite the increases, many college students pay much less than you would expect," said Gaston Caperton, president of the College Board, nonprofit group that owns the SAT, a standardized test that many colleges require for admission

"It is something colleges and universities need to emphasize to parents who may be thrown off by the high prices," said David Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities." Some schools have been proactive, informing parents of middle school students on what they will have to save and what courses they will have to take."

At private colleges and universities, Warren said, aid has increased 197 percent over the past decade, while tuition has increased 86 percent.

The report found roughly half of all college students receive grant aid from at least one source, so the checks parents write vary widely. Average grants for public four-year college students totaled \$2,400 in 2002-03. At four-year private institutions, students received an average of \$7,300 in grant aid. Most grants were offered on the basis of financial need.

Overall, the report found college tuition and fees alone increased an average of \$579 during the 2003-04 academic year at public institutions; \$1,114 at four-year private institutions and \$231 at two-year public institutions. Meanwhile, students received \$105 billion in student financial aid in 2002-03 - a record amount and \$13 billion more than was distributed the previous year.

While some colleges and universities have reported double digit increases into the 20 percent range and higher, the overall price increase once aid is taken into account is far more modest, argued Sandy Baum, a Skidmore College economics professor and the lead author of "Trends in College Pricing 2003," the College Board report.

In 1992-93; she said, the net price including tuition, fees, room and board for the average public four-year college and university was \$5,811. In 2002-03, she said, it was \$7,256. Without the aid, average cost of tuition, fees, room and board in 2002-03 was \$9,689.

Pioneer

Friday, October 24, 2003

Ferris' Benear knows it's now or never for seniors

'By Sandy Gholston

Having earned three basketball letters at Ferris State, it's sort of difficult to believe Stephanie Benear could experience many things with the game she has not already.

But as the Howell native took a break from practice late last week and thought about it, Benear realized she enters this 2003-04 season with a different mindset. Unlike past seasons, when Benear and her fellow seniors knew there was a next season - she realizes this time that will not be the case.

"It's a lot different this year knowing it's going to be my last," Benear said wide-eyed as she pondered the finality of it all. "Knowing it is your last year you have to go out on the court and make everything count. Because there really is no next year for (the Ferris senior class).

"It's a lot more responsibility on the seniors knowing that we don't have anymore chances left after this season."

The Bulldog seniors are Benear, Lucy DeMartin, Bridget Horwitz and Molly Potvin, all of, whom are serving as team captains. Numbers-wise, the 5-foot-9-inch forward averaged 4.6 points and three rebounds last season, but has been a leader more valuable to the team than her statistics might otherwise indicate. All in all, the last three years have been a pretty special ride for a player who joined the Bulldog basketball program and did not expect a whole heck of a lot and had little idea what the future held for her on the court.

"I honestly did not expect much," Benear said when asked about her freshman season expectations. "When I came here, I really was just happy to be a part of the team and didn't really have a whole lot of expectations of myself.

"Now, as a senior, I feel a lot more comfortable and confident with my situation and I know (the team) has to put everything together for this season."

Pioneer

Friday, October 24, 2003

FSU freshman spiker enjoys first season

BIG RAPIDS --The Ferris State's volleyball schedule, front-loaded with great team after great team made for an interesting welcome to the world of Division II college volleyball for freshman Danielle Baucher.

Baucher knew the team would be challenged from the start - even more so considering she was one of five freshmen joining a Bulldog program that saw a large senior class graduate at the end of the 2002 season. Ferris began this fall with an uncharacteristic 2-7 start - a beginning that Danielle Baucher proved quite the eye-opener for Baucher and her teammates, as they battled the likes of North Florida, Barry and Tampa down in the Sunshine State to kick off its 2003 campaign.

"It was hard for us in the beginning of the season coming in and playing so many of those tough, nationally-ranked teams," said Baucher, who is gearing up for the team's latest tough match, this evening against rival Grand Valley State at 7 p.m. in the Ewigleben Sports Arena. "The college game is just so much faster and so much more competitive than what you see when you're in high school.

"But, the great thing is we're always learning new things and we've been getting more experience and playing better from where we were when we started the season."

Ferris has bounced back from the 2-7 start to even its record at 11-11 overall and 8-4 in Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play. Baucher says one of the reasons Ferris has rebounded from its slow start and now reaps the benefits of a matured talent is the squad's close-knit nature.

"One of the things I liked so much about this team when I came to visit during the (recruiting process) was the fact it is such a close team, everyone gets along so well, said Baucher, who earned third-team 2002-03 Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association Class A All State recognition as a senior at Mattawan High School. "I really liked the players and the atmosphere. I liked Tia (Brandel-Wilhelm, Ferris State's head coach) a lot too."

The Bulldogs take aim at a Grand Valley team that defeated them earlier this fall in Allendale during a five-game marathon.

"It's exciting for us any time we get a chance to play in front of our home fans and it's always a big match whenever we play in our conference because our league is so balanced and so tough," she said. "Grand Valley is a good team and they're being led by its seniors." Conversely, not only is Ferris a senior-less squad, but it has just two juniors in Karla Fairbanks and Ashley Green on its roster.

"I've been really happy with the progress of our team over the course of this season," Brandel-Wilhelm said of a freshmen group led by Baucher, who has started all 22 team matches this season and compiled 192 kills (third on the team), 33 aces, 223 digs and 25 total blocks. "This team has been a joy to work with this season."

After hosting Grand Valley, Ferris concludes its home regular-season schedule with matches next Friday against Saginaw Valley State and Saturday vs. Northwood.