

# Media Packet

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## Kalamazoo Gazette

Feb 28, 2004

### Western board holds private meeting

Trustees meet in closed session night before open meeting

For the second time in three months, Western Michigan University Board of Trustees kept the public out of a board meeting, saying they were discussing "material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal law."

The board met Thursday night in closed session before its formal Friday-morning open meeting to allow trustees, who come in from all over the state, time enough to discuss all the issues they needed to, said Matt Kurz, associate vice president of university relations.

James Stewart, attorney for the Michigan Press Association, said he questioned the university's vague explanation for the closed session, though the reason cited for going behind closed doors is legally allowable.

"I would certainly say this is a violation of the spirit of the act if not the letter of the law," Stewart said.

Starting with the December meeting, this is the second time trustees held a closed session the night before Friday's formal gathering. Other times, executive sessions have been held immediately before or just after regular meetings.

The university was criticized when the board met privately to select Judith I. Bailey as its seventh president. WMU also declined then to say what other candidates applied for the position.

The action was not a violation of state law, but **Ferris State University** chose its president by naming the top three candidates for the position, saying public input was important.

Kurz defended Thursday's closed meeting.

"There was no time to do it today," he said Friday afternoon. "When they can come in the night before, they do" have time, he said.

But Stewart said, "In the spirit of the Open Meetings Act, which is to conduct public business in public, it permits certain limited reasons for closed sessions, but the public should have some sense of what that is other than parroting the exemption."

Asked by a reporter Friday, officials said the reason trustees went into a closed meeting was for the purpose of attorney client privilege.

But the university's attorney said officials had no legal cause to be more specific than the exact provision trustees cited Thursday night.

"We feel that indicating the purpose as closely as possible to how the Michigan legislature has worded it is appropriate," said Carol Hustoles, vice president for legal affairs and general counsel Western Michigan University.

"We certainly are open to hear about any authority that would indicate something different," she said.

## **Pioneer**

Thursday, March 04, 2004

### **Seuss, kick off Save Your Vision Month**

BIG RAPIDS - The Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University has begun raising eye-care awareness through celebration of Save Your Vision Month.

In recognition of the importance of good vision for reading and learning, MCO celebrated Read Across America and commemorated Dr. Seuss's 100th birthday by hosting a celebrity reading of *The Eye Book*, an early Dr. Seuss work written under the pen name Theodor LeSieg. Also, all children with appointments in the Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Service during the first week of March will receive a free Dr. Seuss book.

A program of the National Education Association now in its seventh year, Read Across America - celebrated annually on Tuesday, the birthday of Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss - has generated enthusiasm for reading nationwide and focused attention on the importance of encouraging children to read.

Activities began on Monday with Patsy Eisler, wife of Ferris State President David Eisler, reading *The Eye Book* to several children and staff members, from Tot's Place preschool. Dr. Seuss books were given as gifts to each child in attendance. Afterwards, MCO faculty Mark Swan and Robert Buckingham led the children on a tour of the clinic area.

MCO Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Service provides services year-round to patients of all ages, including

- Comprehensive eye exams, which check the need for glasses, expected visual development and eye health. Recommended for children at one, three and five years of age, and every year for school-aged children.
- Visual efficiency exams, which assess the ability to control eye focus at different distances and coordination of the two eyes as a team in activities such as reading. Recommended for children who complain of such symptoms as eyestrain, focusing difficulty and problems following text.
- Visual information processing assessments, which evaluate the ability to filter, category and organize the information. Recommended for children who are having difficulty succeeding in school, or have problems with learning to read.

The MCO Pediatrics and Binocular Vision Service provides treatment for these and many other conditions, including standard and custom prescriptions for glasses or contact lenses, vision therapy, and consultation reports to teachers and tutors.

**9&10 News Express: Morning Edition**  
Thursday, March 04, 2004

**HAZING BILL:** State lawmakers in Lansing are considering a bill that would make hazing illegal. Right now, Michigan is one of only seven states without such a law.

Ferris State University Hall Director Todd Price brought the issue to the attention of state lawmakers.

Now, Senator Michelle McManus is co-sponsoring a bill to outlaw the act of hazing.

Most universities have rules against hazing, but Price says more needs to be done. He will travel to Lansing on Tuesday where he and Senator McManus will testify before the judiciary committee.

**Pioneer**  
Friday March 5, 2004

**Ferris State football players visit Barryton Elementary**

Whitney Bell (#55), a junior at Ferris State University and a member of the football team, reads to a group of Barryton Elementary third graders on Monday. Bell was one of several other football players to visit the school and help kick off "March is Reading Month." Members of Central Michigan University's men's and women's track team also participated.

## **Pioneer**

Weekend March 6&7, 2004

### **Mock trial for Ferris nursing students on the docket**

BIG RAPIDS - Second-year associate degree students in Ferris State's Nursing program will be simulating a malpractice trial at the Reed City courthouse from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on March 18.

Local attorneys BreeAnn Moore, Kenneth Plas and David Poindexter will be guiding the students through a mock trial that will include jury selection, expert witness testimony and defendant and plaintiff testimonies.

"The trial will be an excellent experience for the Nursing students to improve their understanding of the importance of good communication skills, standards of practice and documentation for such a case," said Associate Nursing Professor Kathy Poindexter, who arranged the event.

Poindexter and other Nursing professors believe the trial will be a unique and memorable way to teach the importance of the everyday details involved in nursing.

"We believe this will impress upon the students the importance of strictly adhering to documentation and nursing standards," said Mary Roehrig, assistant professor of nursing.

The Ferris State Associate of Nursing program is a two-year registered nurse program that prepares nurses to assume roles in structured health settings such as Hospitals or nursing homes.

Hospital nurses usually are assigned to one area such as surgery, maternity, pediatrics, emergency room, intensive care, treatment of cancer patients, or may rotate among departments.

Office nurses assist physicians in private practice, clinics, surgi-centers, emergency medical centers, and health maintenance organizations.

Students in the Ferris Nursing Program learn nursing theory and skills in the classroom and state of the art nursing lab oratory while also having the opportunity to practice direct patient care in hospital and community settings under the guidance of clinically expert faculty.

# **The Grand Rapids Press**

**Sunday, March 07, 2004**

## **MEN'S COACH OF YEAR: BILL SALL, Ferris State**

**By Howie Beardsley**

In the past, deciding the players and coaches of the year in this small-college basketball hotbed was relatively easy.

Not so this season, which was highlighted by a special class of freshmen and sophomores.

The envelopes, please.

Don't let the Bulldogs 14-14 overall record deceive you. Sall will be the first to admit he made a mistake scheduling a formidable non-conference schedule as a second-year head coach with a squad that relied on one senior in Nathan Wruble. But once the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference season began, Sall - a two-time NCAA Division III All-American at Calvin College and a standout at Unity Christian -- had Ferris State playing as well as any small college in the state. The Bulldogs' 14-5 league mark (including their loss to Northwood University in the first round of the league tournament) and surprising first-place finish atop the GLIAC's North Division was a testament that Sall is a talented coach.



## **Pioneer**

Tuesday March 9, 2004

Opportunity of a lifetime:

### **Local graduate interviews First Lady Laura Bush**

**By Chris Miller Pioneer Staff Writer**

WASHINGTON D.C. - There are very few people living in the United States who can honestly say they were given the opportunity to interview a famous person.

Former 1992 Morley Stanwood High School graduate Jennifer (Shields) Gray can. Gray, also a 1998 Ferris State University graduate with a bachelor's degree in business, interviewed First Lady Laura Bush last Friday in Fort Hood, Texas.

U .S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Gray currently works for American Forces Radio and Television Service at the Pentagon in Washington D.C., producing, writing and anchoring interviews with various national defense officials.

The daughter of Goydy and Linda Shields of Big Rapids, Gray works directly for U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld's office. The interviews are then broadcast across the world.

## **Pioneer**

Thursday March 11, 2004

### **Scuba class offered at Ferris**

By Michael Taylor  
Pioneer Senior Reporter

When someone tells Ingrid Franczek her class at Ferris State University is all wet, she's not likely to take offense. After all, two thirds of every session is spent under water. Beginning March 21, Franczek will give scuba diving instruction at the FSU pool.

The five classes, each of which last three hours, will go toward freshwater diving certification. "The students also each receive a home study kit and a dive planner," said Franczek.

Following the five indoor classes, students take part in four open water dives, "...once the weather warms up," said Franczek. "We're offering full open water certification."

According to Franczek, interest in the class has been better than anticipated. "The response so far has been tremendous," she said. "We've had police and firefighters call to ask about it."

Franczek adds that she expects a lot of people to show up on the day of the first class. "That's the way it's happened before," she said. Signing up early does have its advantages, however.

Those who sign up by Friday get in for \$285, a savings of \$75 off the regular \$360 price for the class. "It's a good deal," said Franczek. The classes, quizzes and final exam are especially difficult.

"The most technical thing is the dive tables," said Franczek. Credits earned in the class it's worth one physical education credit—can be used toward a degree, though Franczek stresses the class is open to both students and non-students.

"Some of our students are interested in using what they learn here to go into a career such as criminal justice or underwater welding," said Franczek. "There's a big demand for that.

It's also useful for those (going into) marine biology. There are a lot of fields you can get into." But the class also is intended for those seeking a new hobby. "It's a real self esteem builder," said Franczek. "Especially for the girls.

It's very equipment intensive." Though many non-divers don't realize it, there are literally hundreds of interesting places to dive around Michigan.

"There are a lot of shipwrecks," she said. Shipwrecks students are likely to see eventually. Once certified, students become part of the local "scuba family" and may take part in special trips to dive locations.

"Certification doesn't mean you're on your own," said Franczek. "We offer trips to Lake Michigan and other sites of shipwrecks."

Visibility at many of the sites is very good, according to Franczek. "You can see a lot down there. It's better than most people think."

For those considering a serious commitment to scuba diving, Franczek says a complete freshwater dive set-up can be purchased for between \$1,500 and \$2,000.

"It's not cheap, but it's pretty reasonable for something like this," she said. Franczek added that students who buy equipment from Peninsula Divers in Mount Pleasant, where she is employed, can deduct the cost of their classes from their purchases.

Students wishing to sign up for classes or those wanting more information may call (989) 772-7775. On the Web: <[www.peninsuladivers.com](http://www.peninsuladivers.com)>.

# The Grand Rapids Press

Thursday, March 11, 2004

## Johns off to Ferris State

**By Steve Ungrey**

If you are a fan of girl's basketball in this area, then the start of this week's Quick Hits is something you'll want to read.

I got some news late last week from Allendale coaches Brad and Susan VanTimmeren regarding Falcons standout Sam Johns.

Johns, who had Ferris State University, Hope and Albion looking at her for college basketball, verbally committed to Ferris last week. She cannot sign a letter of intent until the next signing period begins in April, but Johns is looking forward to putting pen to paper.

"This takes a lot of pressure and stress off of me," Johns said. "It's pretty exciting. Playing Division II basketball was always a goal of mine. I always wanted to play at that level and it's pretty cool to get the chance."

Johns' commitment to Ferris State is something you don't see often at Allendale, which has had several Division III players in the last few years but not a Division II women's basketball recruit. Mary Bond and Susan (Rhodea) VanTimmeren both played at Aquinas, while Andrea (McDonald) Estelle is at Calvin.

"Sam thought the atmosphere was great, the players, and the mix were just a perfect fit," Brad VanTimmeren said. "She thought this would be the best thing for her. I think she's excited. She was concerned it wasn't going to happen, but in the end it did."

Johns, a 5-foot-10 senior who can play any of the five positions on the court, averaged 18 points, five rebounds, four steals and four assists as Allendale won the O-K Silver Conference championship. The Falcons lost to Belding in the Class B regional finals.

"Ferris' coach (Tracey Fisk) was really cool," Johns said. "She just said she could see me becoming a great player. I'm looking forward to this."

Fisk can't comment on Johns just yet because Johns hasn't signed her letter, but I'm sure if Johns plays great basketball over the years we'll hear a lot about her from Fisk.

**The Grand Rapids Press**  
Friday, March 12, 2004

**Ferris State duo honored by Gliac**

By Howie Beardsley

Ferris State's potent one-two punch of senior guard Lucy DeMartin and sophomore guard Erin Miller headline the women's All-Great Lakes Conference North Division first team.

The Bulldogs' Tracey Fisk was honored as the league's coach of the year, although FSU's six-year head mentor would rather credit her players for the achievement.

"As far as the coach of the year goes, that means my kids have a lot of heart and guts," Fisk said. "They earned the award, not me. They played together, stepped up their level of play and won a lot of ballgames.

"And as far as having two All North first-team players, which is rare in this league, Lucy and Erin have been very consistent all season while keeping our team at that high level to reach the league championship game and get into the national tournament."

The Bulldogs met GLIAC foe Ashland University today at 1 p.m. in the first round of the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Regional tournament.

Fisk is 106-60 at Ferris State, including a 21-9 mark this season.

DeMartin and Miller are joined on the North Division first team by Player of the Year Andrea Novak of Michigan Tech, Lake Superior State's Randi Johnson and Northern Michigan's Tiffany Grubaugh.

The North Division second team includes Grand Valley State senior center Julie Zeff (F'H Central) and senior guard Emily Samuelson (Reed City) of Northern.

Freshman forward Nikki Wustman (Calvin Christian) of Hillsdale College was selected to the South Division second team.

Samuelson, Zeff and Ferris State junior forward Sarah Duesing are found on the North Division all-defensive squad.

FSU also claimed two spots on the men's All-GLIAC North Division team, with junior guard Carl ton Epps and senior guard Willie Thomas being recognized.

Rounding out the North first team are Player of the Year Josh Buettner of Michigan Tech, teammate Jason Marcotte and Northwood University's Dallas Logan.

Junior center Eric Chess (GR Central, GRCC) of Grand Valley and sophomore point guard Dennis Springs from Ferris State earned berths on the North second team.

Epps, Springs and GVSU sophomore paint guard Courtney James (East Kentwood) were voted to the North all-defensive unit.

## **Pioneer**

Monday, March 15, 2004

### **FSU students benefit Mecosta County General Hospital**

BIG RAPIDS - The women of Phi Sigma Sigma Sorority and volunteer talent from the entire FSU campus community will present a Charity Talent Showcase to benefit Mecosta County General Hospital Tuesday, March 16, at 8 p.m. at Williams Auditorium.

Performers include members of FSU's Black Greek Council, Pan-Hellenic Council, IntraFraternity Council, other independent registered student organizations, individuals and Big Rapids community members.

Numerous acts have already been scheduled and additional volunteer talent is welcome. Acts include Lip Sync, Dancing, Live Bands and other talent. In addition to viewing a wide variety of student and community talent. prizes will add to the fun.

Originator of the project, Tamara Yarimian of Phi Sigma Sigma, notes that her organization welcomes the opportunity to help. "We were looking for something special, more interesting than a simple community service project," she says, "This turned out to be a huge effort, but everyone is supporting it and talking it up, and we feel it will be a great success on behalf of a great cause." MCGH spokesperson Tom Hogenson praises Phi Sigma Sigma for their enthusiastic community service: "The initiative and level of organization for this benefit, as well as the kindness of the Williams Auditorium staff and the Office of President Eisler have been most gratifying and sincerely appreciated. This community owes so much to its relationship with FSU, and this is another fine example of a great friendship.

## **Pioneer**

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

### **FSU honors students**

Big Rapids – Several local Ferris State students were among the students recently honored for academic excellence at the 46th annual Ferris State Academic Honors Convocation.

Honorees included full time and part time students who had achieved a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above and completed at least 12 credit hours.

The event featured an address by Dr. Abdollah Ferdowsi, Professor of Economics at Ferris State. Dr. Ferdowsi shared his thoughts on the qualities needed for success in today's world. Dr. Ferdowsi has taught at Ferris since 1984 and has served on many committees including the Academic Senate. He holds three degrees in Economics, including a doctorate from Michigan State. Dr. Ferdowsi was honored with FSU's Award for Academic Excellence in 2002.

All students received an Academic Honors lapel pin and a personalized certificate presented by the dean of their college. A social hour for honorees and their families and friends followed the ceremony.

The students honored included: Kara A. Schultz, of Morley; Eric J. Spaugh Jr. of Paris; Audrey Waldron, of Big Rapids; Jacob Hewitt, of Big Rapids; and Sharon L. Maxwell-Noggle, of Mecosta.



## **Detroit Free Press**

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

### **Granholtm wants more to graduate from college**

She creates panel to figure out ways to raise numbers

By Mark Hornbeck / News Lansing Bureau

**LANSING** — Michigan needs to become a much smarter state to compete for jobs in the world economy, Gov. Jennifer Granholtm said Monday.

Toward that goal, she announced creation of a state panel, headed by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, to figure out how the state can double the number of college graduates over the next 10 years and how to channel students into majors where there will be jobs.

“We must create an expectation that every child in the state will go to college, whether or not an adult in the household had the opportunity to go,” Granholtm said. “In the 21st century, this is no longer an option. This is a necessity in a global economy.”

The Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth will issue a report by year’s end. Its plan is likely to include incentives to coax students to go to college, enter high-demand professions, finish their degrees and remain in the state after graduation, Granholtm said.

The panel also may lay out a capital improvement proposal to help colleges handle the beefed-up enrollment, she said.

About 22 percent of Michigianians have a college degree, ranking it in the bottom third among states. Only 45 percent of those who enter college complete their degrees, the governor said.

The commission’s recommendations may include increased spending on higher education, Granholtm acknowledged. The state has cut overall spending by \$225 million over the past three years. Under the governor’s budget proposal for next year, universities that limit tuition hikes to the rate of inflation will see some of the cuts restored.

Michael Boulus, executive director of the Presidents’ Council, State Universities of Michigan, applauded the governor’s intentions.

“We know that the average college graduate makes \$1 million more than his or her counterpart with a high school degree,” Boulus said. “Investing in higher education is one of the smartest things the state — and any family — can do.”

Sen. Mike Goschka, R-Brant, who chairs the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on higher education, said he was expecting more. “What we have is a blue ribbon commission, but there are no plans here, nothing of substance,” he said.

# Grand Rapids Press

March 7, 2004

## Three design pros concoct cooking areas with spice

By Jaye Beeler

What makes a great kitchen?

Other than the obvious three pieces of major equipment -- range, refrigerator and sink-- a kitchen is very personal, and you must decide what's right for you.

Stainless steel, professional-style appliances? A peninsula that doubles as a prep, serving and eating area or homework station? Lots of lovely cabinets providing a home for tools, ingredients and all manner of clutter?

When it came to creating their dream kitchens, three design pros tackled very different spaces with totally different results. In the process, they provided plenty of ideas for those of us planning, or at least fantasizing, about our dream kitchens.

Here's how they did it:

### **Designing from scratch**

Tom Edwards considered the design and decoration carefully when he sketched the layout of his kitchen.

In 1990, Edwards and his graphic designer wife, Annie Wassman, bought a Spring Lake condominium. Built without room-dividing walls, the space provided the creative couple the opportunity to layout the entire floor plan.

"The perimeter shape of the building suggested certain rooms be located here or there," said Edwards, chair of the Industrial Design program at Ferris State University's Kendall College of Art and Design. After a seven-year career with Herman Miller, Edwards established Design Allegro.

"This kitchen could have bigger or smaller, could have been a bathroom. I frustrated the contractor by changing the room dimensions in the process. (Saying) 'Hmm, move that wall out 6 inches.' They had to tear it down and move it. But I wanted to get it right."

When designing the kitchen, Edwards had four "musts."

□ Maximizing functionality using the triangle concept. "It's a classical kitchen rule that you locate work areas in triangles to establish efficient work flow, so one triangle would be the refrigerator, stove and pantry and another would be the stove, sink and dishwasher."

- Taking into consideration the demands made upon the space for cooking, prepping and entertaining. "It's important to think about the activity that happens in the kitchen," Edwards said. "Don't just concentrate on the hardware. Think of the life cycle of the kitchen and how long you want it to last."
- Staying true to the space's architecture. "I tried to maintain the openness that the architecture creates," Edwards said.
- Integrating Mid-Century modern collections into the kitchen decor.

"In addition to Mid-Century modern furniture, we like to collect any designs from the 1940s, '50s and '60s at garage sales," Edwards said.

Edwards designed the bleached oak cabinets with glass panel in-sets so as to display their bright and cheerful Fiesta dinnerware and Holt Howard kitchen collectibles, including salt and pepper shakers, sugar bowls and jars with lids.

A pair of sleek, Harry Bertoia chrome, high-backed stools rest under the range island's breakfast bar. A Norman Cherner vintage chair sits under a sculptural wall clock by George Nelson for Howard Miller.

"I was at a demolition auction for four hours waiting for that clock," Edward said. "Most of the people were there to buy the old plumbing fixtures and aluminum siding, which they had taken off house, but I wanted that clock.

No one else bid on the clock, and I got it for the opening bid of \$3. It's worth quite a bit more than that. George Nelson was one of the Howard Miller designers who did his work in the 1950s. Like a number of designers in the 1950s, his work exuded so much fun. I had the chance to meet him and go out to dinner."

## **Detroit Free Press**

March 16, 2004

### **Grad plan could strain for liftoff**

BY CHRIS CHRISTOFF AND MARYANNE GEORGE

LANSING -- In 1961, President John F. Kennedy urged Congress to send a man to the moon and back by the end of the decade.

On Monday, Gov. Jennifer Granholm vowed to double the number of college graduates in Michigan in 10 years. Given Michigan's budget problems, struggling urban schools and a brutally competitive global economy, Kennedy's mission may have been easier.

Granholm said it's unacceptable that only 22 percent of Michigan adults -- compared with 26 percent nationally -- have college degrees. She said while a 4-year college education doesn't always guarantee a good-paying job, some schooling beyond high schools has become necessary in an economy that relies increasingly on knowledge and technology.

"More than any strategy to turn this state's economy around, this will bear the greatest fruit," Granholm said. "We want Michigan to be the smartest state in the country." She added, "Every kid should have it drummed into their head that they are going to college."

About 280,000 students attend the state's 15 public universities. Granholm said her charge to double graduation rates includes more 2-year degree-holders from community colleges.

Granholm named Lt. Gov. John Cherry to head a commission to expand the role of universities and community colleges in boosting Michigan's economy. The commission will include about 25 representatives of business, education, labor and students, and is to complete its 10-year plan by the end of this year.

But Granholm offered no details -- that's the commission's job, she said -- and while most would call her goal laudable, it faces many daunting obstacles. College costs keep rising and state funding has been dropping even while the need for college graduates in technology areas such as engineering is outstripping the supply.

"Affordability, accessibility and high school preparedness -- those will be the focus of the commission," said Mike Boulus, executive director of the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan.

Former Gov. John Engler said on Monday that the key to getting more students into colleges is to shore up a K-12 school system that he said performs poorly in too many

parts of the state, especially urban cities, despite a school funding system that is the envy among states.

Engler said Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick betrayed his city's children when he opposed philanthropist Bob Thompson's offer of \$200 million for up to 15 new charter high schools in Detroit. Engler was speaking to an education forum in Lansing -- his first public appearance in Michigan since he left office in December 2002.

Engler said universities spend too much money on remedial classes for high school graduates who lack proper reading and math skills -- money that could be better used elsewhere.

Michigan State University President Peter McPherson praised Granholm for giving college education a higher public profile. He said, "I hope she continues to pound away at this."

McPherson said too many children from low-income and minority families either do not pursue college or fail to graduate once they get there.

"This is a problem in society at large," McPherson said. "I think that both the universities and state need to work on this. Everybody has a role."

He said universities would need more money to educate more students, but perhaps less than some would think. He said since he took over at MSU in 1993, enrollment has increased by 5,000, while the university has absorbed significant cuts in state funding and minimized tuition increases.

Granholm said making college more affordable includes making student loans more available. She has proposed zero interest loans for students in engineering and other technical studies who agree to live and work in Michigan after graduation.

C.K. Prahalad, a University of Michigan professor of corporate strategy and international business, said Michigan students are competing with those in India, China and Eastern Europe who are overall better educated in science.

"Every business today is software-enabled. So even car mechanics need good backgrounds in science and physics," he said.

A better-educated workforce will attract more employers, said Dave Adams, executive director of marketing for Oakland Community College, the state's largest community college.

"The days of graduating from high school, going to work on the assembly line and having job security are over," Adams said.

"Even the auto companies are looking for people with bachelor's degrees to work on the line," Adams said.

## **Pioneer**

Wednesday March 17, 2004

### **Free rooms offered at Ferris State**

BIG RAPIDS - After experiencing record fall and winter enrollments, Ferris State University officials hope to keep up the momentum by offering students a free private room this summer on the main campus in Big Rapids.

"We believe it is important to keep costs down for our students, and that's why we did not raise tuition for the winter semester and have now decided to invite area students to be our guests for the summer on us," said Ferris President David Eisler.

To take advantage of Ferris offer for a free private room, students must be enrolled in six or more credit hours at the Big Rapids campus during the summer term at regular tuition rates. Summer initiative participants also must have a residence hall contract and a meal plan contract for a minimum of 10 meals per week for the duration of their summer occupancy in a residence hall. Other meal plan options are available.

Savings on housing range from \$640 to \$1,920. The per-credit-hour tuition rates are \$250 for undergraduates and \$309 for graduates. Costs for the required meal plans are \$380 for the four week session, \$785 for the eight week session and \$1,165 for the 12-week session.

Four-week sessions are offered May 18-June 15, June 16-July 14 and July 15-Aug. 11; six-week sessions are offered May 18-June 29 and June 30-Aug. 11 and are intended for year-long, two-course sequences; eight-week, June 16-Aug. 11; and 12-week, May 18-Aug. 11.

Offered May 18-June 15, June 16 July 14 and July 15-Aug. 11; six-week sessions are offered May 18-June 29 and June 30-Aug. 11 and are intended for year-long, two-course sequences; eight week, June 16-Aug. 11; and 12week, May 18-Aug. 11.

Students will be permitted to live in the residence halls between and/or after early sessions are completed provided they will ultimately meet the summer initiative criteria.

"Summer's area great time to be enrolled at Ferris," Eisler noted "We offer classes that have a very low student to-teacher ratio and in the summer, student classes are even smaller than usual. The significant savings on housing costs will help students looking to progress toward graduation more quickly."