

February 17, 2007 – February 23, 2007

# **Media Packet**

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- **Ferris exhibitions showcase unique museum**
- **Offensive and educational exhibit at GVSU gallery**
- **Kendall College to offer MBA**
- **New Director of State Relations Named as State-Colleges Association**
- **Provost to take next step**
- **Military service panel shares views**
- **Students to learn, provide care in Guyana**
- **Students put on dental fair**
- **Panel discusses the importance of military**
- **Local students take classroom experiences to the next level**
- **Review: Bigotry exhibition may well stir visitors**
- **Dental Missionary Trip**

## **Michigan Chronicle**

January 10-16, 2007

### **Ferris exhibitions showcase unique museum**

This past April, Ferris State University hosted the premiere of "Them: Images of Separation," a traveling exhibition of items from popular culture used to stereotype various groups of people.

"Them" builds upon the success of an earlier exhibition entitled, "Hateful Things." Both shows are comprised of artifacts from Ferris' Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia. The museum is the outgrowth of a collection of items by university professor of sociology David Pilgrim, who is also museum curator.

The museum's mission is to provide leadership in the antiracism movement. The museum serves as a base for quality scholarships addressing the complexities of race relations. According to Pilgrim, "Them" responds to questions he received from people who saw the previous exhibition, which focused specifically on imagery demeaning to African Americans.

The negative imagery promoted stereotyping against such groups as Asian-Americans, Hispanics, Jews and poor Whites, as well as those who are categorized as "other" in terms of body type or sexual orientation.

"In the past we had people ask why did we have objects that dealt with groups other than African Americans," Pilgrim said. "For this show, we took our direction from Martin Luther King's famous quote, 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.' This is the next logical step for the Jim Crow Museum."

Through more than 30 separate framed pieces, "Them" tackles some of the most contentious cultural hot-button issues: anti-Arab sentiment, Holocaust denial, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and immigration. The exhibition also includes items demeaning to African Americans.

"I'm hoping 'Them' shows discrimination and stereotyping is not a Black/White issue - it's more pervasive than that," Pilgrim said.

The museum has become an important resource for international news media. The New York Times, BBC, Los Angeles Times and many other outlets have turned to Pilgrim and the museum for commentary on a range of breaking stories.

In addition to organizing traveling exhibitions, the Jim Crow Museum is planning to expand beyond the museum's single room in the Arts and Sciences building on campus.

To view the collection online, read and take a virtual tour, visit [www.fems.edu/jimcrow](http://www.fems.edu/jimcrow). John Thorp, social sciences division head, schedules all tours. He can be contacted at (231) 591-5873 or at [thorpj@ferris.edu](mailto:thorpj@ferris.edu).

## **Grand Rapids Press**

February 11, 2007

### **Offensive and educational exhibit at GVSU gallery**

You can't call any of the items in the new exhibit opening Monday at Grand Valley State University Art Gallery "art." Sure, most required some basic understanding of how to draw or design something, but the real creativity lies in the seemingly limitless ability of the makers to imagine ways to hate people.

"THEM: Images of Separation" features 35 examples of items from popular culture over the last 60 or so years used to stereotype different groups of people. The powerful show, which comes from the Jim Crow Museum at Ferris State University, includes negative imagery of Asian-Americans, Hispanics, Jews, African-Americans and poor white people found on postcards, license plates, photographs, games and costumes.

Hanging in harmony in the gallery you'll find a postcard of a naked fat lady on a beach, a "Trash Talkers" doll that looks like a beer-drinking white man with a hairy belly, a yellow laundry bag in the image of a Chinese man called "Washee Man," and a horrific photograph of a lynched black man.

Some of the creators of these intolerant items didn't even bother to aim their venom at a particular group. Rather, they spew it forth for all to dodge, as in this T-shirt slogan: "Some people are alive simply because it's illegal to kill them."

Given the depth and variety of the pieces in "THEM," it has the potential to offend just about anyone who comes into the gallery to see it. That should provide a foothold for visitors to begin to learn about intolerance - which they might not do as readily if it were a show about one specific group of people with which they didn't identify.

Exhibit organizer David Pilgrim previously organized "Hateful Things," a traveling show that focuses on anti-African-American pop culture items that also is available through the Jim Crow Museum. However, he broadened the scope of hatred on display in this exhibit based on requests from museum visitors.

"For this show, we took our direction from Martin Luther King's famous quote: 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere,'" said Pilgrim, a Ferris professor of social sciences and curator of the Jim Crow Museum.

Pilgrim purchased most of the items in "THEM" on the Internet, from personal collections and at shopping malls, flea markets and antique stores. At the Jim Crow Museum, this material only can be seen by appointment with a trained docent who facilitates discussions, he said.

GVSU Gallery Director Henry Matthews said his staff will give tours of the exhibit if requested, but it's set up to be a self-guided experience. Each item in the show will be accompanied by a descriptive panel, with the goal of inspiring thought and discussion about intolerance.

Matthews expects the show - the first of its kind to be presented at the gallery - to be used for sensitivity training of university housing personnel as well as an instructional tool for classes.

"It's not an art exhibition. It's really about social history and social movements," Matthews said. "But it fits into the mission of the gallery, which is to be a laboratory for learning and teaching."

## **Grand Rapids Press**

February 13, 2007

### **Kendall College to offer MBA**

As a computer animation and video game designer, Ward Makielski knows creativity and the business world don't always mix well.

"A businessperson wants to know how much a project will cost and how long it will take to complete," he said.

But the creative process "cannot be so easily pinned down."

To bridge the gap between business and the leeway an artist needs to be creative, Makielski last month enrolled in a new graduate program offered by Kendall College of Art & Design of Ferris State University.

One of 10 students enrolled in the two-year program, Makielski hopes the master's in business administration degree will equip him with the knowledge he needs to better understand and communicate with the people who fund his work.

Kendall is the first art and design college in the country to offer an MBA with a concentration in design and innovation management, Kendall President Oliver Evans said.

He was to announce the new master's program at a news conference this morning

"Design is not something that people (in the business world) think of automatically," said Evans, adding a product's design elements often get considered only at the end of development.

He points to successful coffee shop chains recognizing they "are selling a kind of experience."

Kendall's new MBA program was "designed from what we see going on in business today," Evans said.

"Whatever a person's field, a knowledge of design and innovation is going to be critical."

The new MBA program will be offered at Kendall's Grand Rapids campus, 17 Fountain St. NE, and online.

Students opting for the online program will be required to attend two "intense weekend sessions" on campus. Evans said.

Kendall's affiliation with Ferris State University will allow Kendall officials to attract business leaders familiar with the university's Big Rapids-based College of Business. Ferris State offers an MBA degree through the college.

In addition to bringing together the worlds of design and business, the new Kendall MBA program also will address issues of social responsibility, Evans said.

Students enrolled in the program must take an introductory seven-week class as part of the 33 credit hours of course work.

The first introductory class began in January, and a second is scheduled for May.

A student enrolled full time in the MBA program can complete course requirements in 12 months, he said.

# **The Chronicle of Higher Education**

February 15, 2007

## **New Director of State Relations Named at State-Colleges Association**

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities has named Daniel Hurley as its new director of state relations and policy analysis.

Mr. Hurley has been director of university relations and administrative services for the Presidents Council of the State Universities of Michigan, a nonprofit group that serves the state's 15 public universities. Before that, he was at Ferris State University, where he served as assistant to the president, co-director of the Career Institute for Education and Workforce Development, and acting director of the Office of Career Services.

Mr. Hurley replaces Travis Reindl, who left the association to work on college-affordability issues for Jobs for the Future, a Boston-based, nonprofit advocacy group.

## **Western Courier**

February 16, 2007

### **Provost to take next step**

#### **Rallo chosen as president of private Texas University**

Dr Joseph Rallo, provost and academic vice president at Western Illinois University, has been named the fourth president of Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

Pending the final approval by the Texas State University System, Rallo can begin his ASU duties June 1.

"As we have stated throughout this process, we have been searching for an individual to build upon the considerable strengths of this fine university," TSUS Chancellor Charles R. Matthews stated in a university press release. "We are confident that Dr. Rallo is that person, and we look forward to working with him in achieving his goals for Angelo State University."

According to the ASU Web site, the recommendation to choose Rallo for the position came after a nationwide search for potential candidates.

"I believe the search committee indicated that about 80 persons had applied for the position," Rallo said.

The ASU Presidential Search Committee named four finalists, and Rallo was selected after two days of interviews with ASU faculty, staff, students and community members. Collective feedback was given to Chancellor Matthews for his consideration in making the final recommendation to the TSUS Board.

The full effect of being chosen for the position has yet to hit Rallo.

"I'm excited about the opportunity, but until one actually assumes the position, reality still has not completely settled in," he said.

Rallo had some presidential practice last fall, fulfilling Western's presidential duties while Western President Al Goldfarb was on medical leave after undergoing prostate surgery.

"Dr. Rallo did an outstanding job while I was on medical leave," Goldfarb said. "I will miss his assistance and support. Provost Rallo has done an outstanding job in developing and implementing academic initiatives."

"Western, its people and the surrounding community represent the best in higher education and is a model for 'town/gown' relations," Rallo said. "I'm honored to have been a part of this great institution for nearly four years."

Rallo, who has spent 27 years as an administrator in higher education, has been provost and academic vice president at Western since 2003. He was also director of the Colorado Institute for Technology Transfer and Implementation from 2001 to 2003; dean of the College and Graduate School of Business Administration at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs



from 1999 to 2003; and dean of business at Ferris State University in Michigan from 1995 to 1999.

"Macomb has been a warm and welcoming community," Rallo said. "I look forward to a similar welcome in San Angelo."

## **Pioneer**

February 17 &18, 2007

### **Military service panel shares views**

Ever wonder why people serve in the military?

That's a question people at Ferris State University want to answer.

On Monday, in honor of President's Day, the university will hold a discussion panel titled "Why I serve." The panel will feature Ferris students and faculty, discussing why they joined the military, said Connie Meinholdt, event coordinator.

A preliminary list of those expected to speak are: Ken Camling, U.S. Marine Reserves, Robert James, Army ROTC, Keith Jewett, U.S. Navy - retired, Mandy Perez, U.S. Air Force - retired, William Smith, U.S. Navy - retired; and Nathaniel Tymes, U.S. Air Force - retired.

Everyone is welcome at the free discussion, starting at 7 p.m. Monday in the business building auditorium, Bus 111. There will be a question and answer session following the presentation.

The discussion panel is part of the American Democracy Project, which is a program to increase students' awareness of rights and responsibilities as American citizens, Meinholdt said. Last fall the group sponsored a voter registration drive and registered 400 first-time voters. This is the second year the university has hosted a President's Day discussion involving members of the military.

"The presentation was well attended and some audience members suggested that we make this an annual event," Meinholdt said.

Meinholdt said the university decided to hold the event because of the increasing number of people - both on and off campus- who are serving in the military.

For more information call Meinholdt at (231) 591-5863 or e-mail her at [ConnieMeinholdt@ferris.edu](mailto:ConnieMeinholdt@ferris.edu).

## **Pioneer**

February 17 & 18, 2007

### **Students to learn, provide care in Guyana**

A group of Ferris State University professors and students from the school of dental hygiene will be traveling to Guyana, a republic in South America, to provide a free dental clinic to people who have never had dental care from March 3 through 10.

A total of 23 people, including students and faculty from FSU, the University of Michigan, area dentists and the First Baptist Church of Hastings will provide service for the people in Overwinning, Guyana, including teeth cleanings, fillings and root canals.

"We're going to be providing dental care for people without access or the money to pay for it," FSU professor of dental hygiene Dr. Margaret Gingrich said. "The students will also benefit from the trip greatly. They'll get more experience during this trip than they have during the course of their entire education."

Planning for her third trip to Guyana, Gingrich said the trip is an extremely rewarding experience as well as a great teaching tool for students.

"Besides being a completely rewarding experience, it's an opportunity for our students to work in some extreme cases they haven't seen before," Gingrich said. "The people in Guyana expect to lose their teeth, because there is no dental care."

Student Rhonda March said she is looking forward to the opportunity to serve and teach while in Guyana.

"It's a very exciting opportunity for us," March said. "Not only will we be providing a service to those in need, but also we'll be putting our knowledge to use, and educating the people there."

Gingrich said students will receive an enormous amount of experience while their clinic serves the public from March 5 through 8.

"During the time that they serve, there will typically be about 500 patients," Gingrich said. "People will sometimes wait in line for two or three days to get their teeth cleaned. It provides students with experience they simply can't get anywhere else."

Gingrich said that the state of dental care in Guyana is so dire, it would typically cost a year's wages for someone to get their teeth cleaned in Guyana.

"There are 16 dentists in the entire country to serve 750,000 people," Gingrich said. "It's almost like going back to the 1940s in terms of the lack of care for their teeth."

One issue the group is facing concerning the mission trip is a shortage of funds. They are currently low on donations, and are looking to raise money for dental equipment and supplies.

"We're currently a little low on donations," March said. "We need money to pay for basic necessities like gloves. If we run out of gloves, we won't be able to help our patients."

During last year's trip, the 22 members worked 1,342 hours, and served 504 patients over their four days in Guyana. They did 385 teeth cleanings, 45 sealants, 23 root canals, 252 teeth extractors (pullings) and 450 fillings; which would have cost approximately \$137,000.

Donations for the mission can be sent to the First Baptist Church of Hastings at 309 E. Woodlawn Ave., Hastings, MI 49058. Envelopes should be marked: Dental hygiene trip.

## **Pioneer**

February 19, 2007

### **Students put on dental fair**

Going to the dentist can be a scary experience for kids. The Ferris State University Dental Hygiene Department did their best to give kids a positive dental experience at their annual dental fair on Saturday in the Allied Health building.

The dental fair is a student sponsored event in conjunction with National Children's Dental Month. Students get experience working on kids 14 and under, doing everything from teeth cleanings to fluoride treatments, as well as provide them and their parents with important dental information.

Advisor Kathleen Harlan said the event is a positive experience for everyone involved.

"The kids get a positive dental experience," she said. "The parents get important information, and the students get experience working with patients, so it really benefits everyone involved."

Student organization Chairperson Nichole Murray said the student involvement at this year's dental fair has been impressive.

"There's a lot more students here this year helping out," Murray said. "It gives us a lot of experience working with kids, which is really beneficial."

Last year the dental fair took in 100 patients, but only had 13 student volunteers working on them. This year there were 70 volunteers, which gives them more experience, while providing more dental care.

Parents of the kids getting dental work said that the dental fair is a good experience, and important in educating kids about their health at a young age.

"My daughter actually wanted to go and get some sealants," parent Kim Dowell said. "Some kids really take interest in this sort of thing. I think it's neat that they can understand the long-term benefits of taking care of their teeth at a young age."

Dowell said the experience that students get in working with kids is priceless in terms of their education.

"Kids are always a challenge," Dowell said. "I think it's good to get students exposed to real-life situations like these, especially with kids."

Parent Laura Alvey said the dental fair is a way to get kids interested in the dentists by showing kids that the dentist office can be a fun place.

"My daughter was a little afraid to go, but when she's around all these young girls who can relate to her I think it helps," Alvey said. "It's really neat, and it provides the students with a good experience as well."

Student and co-chair Candice DeLorenzi said the environment the dental fair creates is designed to show kids that going to the dentist can be a good experience.

## **Pioneer**

February 20, 2007

### **Panel discusses the importance of military**

The American Democracy Project (ADP) at Ferris State University had the chance to spend Presidents' Day speaking with current staff and students who have served in the military about their experiences and insight on defending their country.

The ADP is an organization of 212 colleges and universities nationwide that aims to increase college students' awareness of their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

"One of the missions of the ADP is to have an engaged campus," said Ferris Professor and Event Organizer Connie Meinholdt.

The panel, which consisted of three FSU faculty members who served in various branches of the military and three current FSU students, spoke about their experiences in the military. They fielded questions from audience members on a variety of subjects including patriotism, media perception of the military and their personal military experiences.

"The best part about serving was the education you received," said FSU Professor Keith Jewett, a retired Naval Officer. "You also got to move around a lot, and you didn't get bored."

FSU Professor Nate Tynes agreed, saying the training he received prepared him for the rest of his life and gave him the opportunity to develop life skills and relationships.

"The education that I've received is what made it so worthwhile," Tynes said. "I've gotten five college degrees, and I've never had to pay for more than 25 percent of any of them."

Current students who have served in the military said the experience gave them a great sense of responsibility and provided them with the experience necessary to be successful after they left the service.

"It teaches you a great deal of leadership and responsibility," said Ferris student Robert James, who served in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps. "It also teaches decisiveness. Basically, you learn that it's better to make a bad decision than no decision at all."

FSU student Tom Corey said the military experience was effective in giving him another option after high school besides college.

"It gave me the opportunity to see different things and places," Corey said. "I wasn't ready for college. To get to help people during the course of my service was definitely a great feeling."

Tynes agreed, saying that the relationships he made were a product of the environment he was in.

"I grew up in a place where I didn't always fit in," Tynes said. "When you're thrown into this group, you just instantly become friends because of the situation you're in. We could just relate to each other."

The panel also got a chance to give some of their opinions about the perceptions of people outside the military.

"There's a stereotype out there of what the military is, and it isn't very accurate," said Ferris Professor Bill Smith. "People think that when you're in the military, it's like having your freedom taken away; but I don't think I've ever felt so free."

Jewett agreed, saying that the stereotype of members of the military being barbaric is completely inaccurate.

"We're not a bunch of hawks," Jewett said. "We're not going out there looking for a fight, we're just doing the job that is required of us."

Another issue the panel discussed was the country's support of the military during war time.

"I think the general feeling toward the military from the public is a positive one," Jewett said. "You might get people who support the soldiers, but don't support the war, but overall it's positive."



## **Pioneer**

February 20, 2007

### **Local students take classroom experience to the next level**

Cameron Sherwood and Chad Gydesen of Big Rapids and 22 of their classmates recently completed an energy audit at Grand Rapids Public Museum for an energy analysis and audit class at Ferris State University. An energy audit is a creative, yet practical approach to energy conservation that can help an organization save thousands of dollars in energy costs. Previously, Ferris students performed an energy audit for the Big Rapids Charter Academy.

As a part of the curriculum for HVAC 451, Sherwood, Gydesen and their classmates were required to investigate the Van Andel Museum Center. They conducted research that allowed them to analyze the design, operation and performance of the structure's heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration components and systems. Next, the students conferred with the building's maintenance personnel to discuss current operating and maintenance procedures, review known system malfunctions and gather appropriate technical information.

Under the direction of professors Mike Korcal, John Quilitzsch and Douglas Ford Zentz, students analyzed their findings at the museum through many procedures. They investigated equipment issues and made recommendations for repairs or upgrades. They researched utility data, customer design proposals and reviewed technical drawings.

Research and evaluations of the design, installation, operation and maintenance of the equipment, and systems and processes were also conducted. Finally, they conducted research to test and analyze the design, operation and performance of proposed equipment, and component and system modifications.

After the analysis, students provided the museum with options for energy conservation and system efficiency.

Korcal noted that the class and exercise serve three important functions. "First, students have the opportunity to utilize everything they have learned in technical and non-technical areas such as math, science, physics and technical writing. Second, this class requires the students to learn how to work as a team performing an energy audit. In addition, students must provide information by effectively communicating with clients, teachers and peers by using verbal or advanced technical writing abilities. And third, this class affords the students the right to gain work experience they can capitalize on and add to their resume."

HVACR department Chair Mike Feutz agreed, "Capitalizing on this experience is what students do. When students finish HVAC 451, not only can they do the job, they can complete an energy analysis and audit successfully, making them a highly sought after commodity within the manufacturing sector. This type of training takes students to the next level. It also allows HVACR bachelor's degree graduates to be placed before graduation and negotiate an above-average starting salary."

## **Booth Arts Writer**

February 20, 2007

### **Review: Bigotry exhibition may well stir visitors**

Its appearance coincides with February as Black History Month. But the exhibit "Them: Images of Separation" addresses discrimination against African Americans in the context of bias leveled at many groups.

Poles, Mexicans, Irish, Asians, Jews and Native Americans are targeted by the hateful, mostly commercial, items assembled in the show. So are women, gays, Middle Easterners and even low-income whites.

On view at Grand Valley State University's Art Gallery through March 21, the traveling exhibit was organized by Ferris State University's Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, a courageous, regional defender of tolerance. Items at the museum, as in the exhibit, are postcards, souvenirs, toys, games, T-shirts, bumper stickers and other everyday objects whose familiarity may fog their heinousness.

The exhibit's title "Them" references defensive, us-versus-them mentality, text explains. Suspicion and demonization are easy, protective responses to threats posed by others' differences, be they in looks, dress, language, customs or beliefs. Ultimately, although the exhibit never questions root causes, the displayed objects may be seen as manifesting supreme personal insecurity. Worse, many items have obviously and cynically been created to turn quick profits; manufacturers, whatever their true beliefs, court and provoke potential buyers' basest impulses.

Items date from the turn of the 20th century to today. Among the oldest is a piece of sheet music for "Stay in Your Own Backyard," a popular vaudeville song -- doubtless performed by a white singer in blackface -- espousing racial discrimination. Later items include a "Chinese Honeymoon" hand towel and, from the 1940s, five toy sets of "Professional Character Makeup"; the mini pots of face paint in the sets are labeled "Minstrel," "Zulu," "Indian," "Chinese" and "Mexican."

Viewers of a certain age may find that childhood nostalgia soothes the outrageousness of the makeup kits. But to other, contemporary items, many for sale on the Internet, visitors can register no such tranquilized response.

One contemporary item is a faux movie poster for the epic "Die! Raghead Die!" Another is a CD, "Ethnic Cleansing: The Game." A set of novelty "Trash Talker Dolls" caricatures a variety of minorities. A Halloween costume, "Frank the Tank," includes a padded, flesh-colored torso, hat, wig and "bubba teeth."

That these and other items find buyers seems unconscionable. But decency survives in America, the exhibit shows. One display documents the lynching of a 19-year-old African American, Michael Donald, and the subsequent apprehension of his killers. The display also documents a successful suit brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center against the killers, the United Klans

of America. As a result of the suit, the Klan had to pay \$7 million to the Donald family, and was bankrupted.

That the chain of hatred can be broken is the message "Them" delivers. Visitors will leave the exhibit shaken but inspired.

IF YOU GO: The Grand Valley State University Art Gallery is in the Performing Arts Center at 1 Campus Dr. Hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday (to 7 p.m. Thursday). For more information, call (616) 331-2564 or access [www.gsvu.edu/artgallery](http://www.gsvu.edu/artgallery).

**9 & 10 News**  
February 21, 2007

**Dental Missionary Trip**

Some local college students are raising money for their spring break trip. A very unique trip.

It's a missionary trip to brighten the smiles of people thousands of miles away. The students are in the dental hygiene program at Ferris State University in Big Rapids.

They're leaving March 2nd for Guyana, South America.

They still need to raise \$13,000 for their travel expenses and supplies. If you would like to help, please call, write or email the people listed here.

First Baptist Church of Hastings  
C/O Dental Hygiene Mission  
309 E. Woodlawn Ave.  
Hastings, MI 49058

or Margaret Gingrich, D.D.S (231) 796-8715  
or Sandy Burns [bumns@ferris.edu](mailto:bumns@ferris.edu)