

May 9, 2006-May 21, 2006

# Media Packet

---

- **PICTURE THIS**
- **Ferris State president to speak at NCMC commencement**
- **Community college honors former Ferris State VP**
- **FSU students visit Big Jackson School**
- **Law enforcement, community honor fallen officers**
- **Video games help kids learn fire safety**
- **Ferris State students build Formula car**
- **Living Water to host book signing with local authors**
- **Clark Construction executive receives FSU alumni award**
- **Longtime professor retires**
- **Ferris donates more than \$5,000 to WISE**
- **Recalling the events from helping Ferris State students**

# The Bay City Times

April 24, 2006

## PICTURE THIS

ROSCOMMON - For Kirtland Community College photography student Greg Hardy, the picture has never been as clear nor the future as tightly focused.

The soon-to-graduate 37-year-old father of two is realizing a dream after winning the \$40,000 President's Scholarship to Detroit's renowned Center for Creative Studies.

"It shocked my world," said Hardy. "I never expected this, but I feel great about it."

A former production laborer in a Grayling wood shop, Hardy's discovery of a newfound passion began with a single class in black and white photography four years ago.

"I just thought it would be interesting," Hardy said. "I knew right then and there it was something I wanted to do with my life. This is the best chance I've got and I'm going to run with it. I've got to."

If it's a head-long run from the Roscommon County campus straight to a future full of wonder and possibility, Hardy won't be alone.

At least eight Kirtland Art students will divvy up more than \$130,000 in scholarships, awards doled out by the Center for Creative Studies, Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids and the University of Tampa.

That Kirtland students make such a positive showing in their competitions comes as little surprise to Kendall officials.

"As their program goes, they really stress observational drawing and that is one thing we look for - strong skills in real life drawing," said Theresa Chiles, Kendall admissions councilor. "Their instructors stay in close contact with us. They know what we expect of our students."

Chiles said Kirtland students have met with great success and attributes their low attrition rate to the prior training from Kirtland. Three of its scholarship winners were high school students attending college courses in their spare hours.

"They have a great dual-enrollment program," Chiles said of Kirtland. Its three winners among 11 statewide awards offered during Kendall's Art Day Competition, a juried show based on the student's work.

And while the strong, competitive showing is no surprise to Kendall officials, it is nearly expected from Kirtland art instructor Scott Rice.

"Every student that has applied for a merit scholarship has earned it," Rice said. "Every student that has come out of here has placed in the top four and this is the second year we have won first. We won first place two years."

Maranda Shear, 18, a Grayling High School senior and a fourth-year Kirtland student, took home first-place honors and the \$18,000 Kendall scholarship that came with it.

Shear said competition - while friendly - is nothing new to Kirtland students.

"I've been taking classes at Kirtland since I was in middle school," Shear said. "It's tough out there. We have a lot of competition. But from the time I started there, Scott always said, 'When you win that competition ...' And I always said, 'Scott, we don't even know yet.'"

They know now. Which will only help to maintain the high expectations from Kirtland instructors and bolster students' belief in themselves, said Lesley Gilbert, 22, of Grayling, who earned a \$6,000 merit scholarship to Kendall.

"I think I've built up a lot of confidence working with Scott," said Gilbert, a student of illustration and graphic design.

Gilbert said that confidence will help when she transfers from a small, rural community college to a larger college half way across state.

"These schools are considered the best in the state. These colleges focus on art," said Joe Donna, Kirtland art department coordinator and instructor.

Frequent field trips to the larger campuses in Detroit and Grand Rapids help to give students a sense of what to look forward to, Donna said.

And even for a 20-year art instructor, the excitement is still there.

"There is so much they offer," Donna said.

For students like Hardy and the others, faced with determining what they want to do with their lives, that shared excitement builds when they look to their future.

"I'm thinking product photography," said Hardy. "It's done in a controlled environment.

But photojournalism is something I'd be interested in too. I like to be outside, taking photos on the spur of the moment."

And teaching is another alternative, said Hardy, noting that would give him a full time job plus time to practice the more artistic aspects of his work.

Hardy and the other award-winning scholars can afford to dream big - both colleges are noted for turning out top-notch artists.

Companies such as Ford Motor, General Motors, Nike and Rubbermaid are only a few of more than 60 that recruit freshly graduated designers, artist, illustrators and photographers directly from the Center for Creative Studies.

Reverently fingering the letter that informed him of his award, Hardy admits he'd still be strapped to a machine in a factory were it not for Kirtland.

"They really work with us, both Scott and Joe," he said. "They were always both right there, cheering us on.

"For me to be accepted at that school? That wouldn't have happened without them."

## **Harbor Springs Harbor Light**

April 26, 2006-May 2, 2006

### **Ferris State president to speak at NCMC commencement**

The president of Ferris State University, David Eisler, will be the commencement speaker at North Central Michigan College's graduation ceremonies on Friday, May 12.

The program will take place at 7:30 p.m. in the college's Student and Community Resource Center on the Petoskey campus. Eisler was named president of Ferris in July 2003. Previously, he was provost and vice president of academic affairs at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.

He began his academic career as a music instructor at Troy State University in Troy, Alabama, in the mid-1970s, rising to the position of assistant dean of the School of Fine Arts. Eisler served as dean of the College of Fine Art at Eastern New Mexico University from 1990 to 1996 before joining Weber State.

Eisler earned both his bachelor's degree and doctorate in clarinet performance at the University of Michigan. He earned his master's in clarinet performance from Yale, graduating summa cum laude.

Eisler has spoken widely and published papers on the topic of technology in higher education.

At Weber State, he created WSU Online, selected by the University Continuing Education Association as Outstanding Distance Education Program of the Year in 1998. In 2002, WSU Online offered courses involving more than 200 faculty members.

North Central Michigan College is an open-door community college based in Petoskey.

Through its University Center partnerships, students can take courses leading to certificates, bachelor's and master's degrees from participating universities. North Central's Institute for Business & Industry Training offers non-credit job skills training tailored to meet individual needs. In addition to its main campus in Petoskey, North Central offers classes, <sup>q</sup>academic advising, testing and other services in Cheboygan and Gaylord.

## **Pioneer**

May 9, 2006

### **Community college honors former Ferris State VP**

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. - Dutchess Community College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., dedicated the theatre in Dutchess Hall in honor of the college's first president, Dr. James F. Hall, and his wife Betty Hall.

A major gift to the DCC Foundation by Professor Emeritus June Roush Pierson made possible the naming of The James and Betty Hall Theatre to provide permanent, visible recognition of the Hall's unique contributions to the college.

It was in 1955 that the citizens of Dutchess County first began to conceive of a college for the community, seven years after the New York State Legislature passed a community college law permitting counties to sponsor community colleges for the provision of twoyear programs of higher learning. Dutchess Community College was founded in February 1957, and James F. Hall was appointed its first president on December 2, 1957. Hall was, at the time of his appointment, Dean at Ferris Institute in Michigan. Ferris Institute later became Ferris State University.

After leaving Dutchess Community College, Hall became president of Cape Cod Community College, and the Halls currently reside in Massachusetts. Hall has remained active with Dutchess Community College, most recently serving as Honorary Co-Chair of the DCC Foundation Maintaining Excellence Campaign launched in 2003. The campaign has exceeded the \$4 million mark, far surpassing its goal of \$3.4 million.

The James and Betty Hall Founding President's Scholarship, established and endowed by Professor Pierson to commemorate her retirement in 2003, is awarded each spring at the annual honors convocation. Professor Pierson also encouraged the Foundation to begin a The James F. Hall Legacy Society, a planned giving society that recognizes people who have indicated the intention to make a future legacy gift to Dutchess Community College.

## **Pioneer**

May 9, 2006

### **FSU students visit Big Jackson School**

In a courtesy photo: On March 30, Big Jackson Students were presented with a story and a skit by Ferris State University students Angie Robbins, Jessica Rogers and Kristin Moran. This was just one event presented to the students celebrating March Is Reading Month. The FSU students are future teachers and members of the Association of Future Educators. They gave the kids books and bookmarks to encourage reading.

## **Pioneer**

May 10, 2006

### **Law enforcement, community honor fallen officers**

The haunting tones of bagpipes echoed in the sunshine as the ceremony to remember fallen police officers got under way Tuesday morning on the campus of Ferris State University. The brief memorial paid tribute to police officers who lost their lives in service to their communities. Mecosta County Sheriff John Sonntag, in a brief address before reading the names of Michigan officers, pointed out several symbolic features of the event to the assembled schoolchildren.

"How do we remember?" he asked before listing the bagpipe music, riderless horse, Taps, 21-gun salute, wreath and United States Coast Guard helicopter fly-over. "We're all looking for our lost."

Nationally, 156 officers died last year; to date this year, 49 have given their lives.

Every police officer has a personal story of a fallen comrade, Sonntag said. For him, that officer is Mecosta County Sheriff Deputy Ernie Underhill, who died in 1983.

"Whenever I hear an officer has fallen, I reflect on Ernie and I have to believe (the fallen officer) is just like him - loving, caring..."



## **Pioneer**

May 10, 2006

### **Video games help kids learn fire safety**

GRAND RAPIDS - Rescue 1 and students in the Digital Animation and Game Design program at Ferris State University-Grand Rapids have teamed up to promote fire prevention and safety.

The partnership resulted in the development of an interactive DVD showcasing Rescue 1's characters who help children understand fire dangers and how to prevent fire hazards, said Rescue 1 President Jeff Steere. The DVD provides children an alternate outlet outside of the more traditional literature and school visit by local firefighters.

"This has been a win-win for everyone involved," Steere said. "Rescue 1 has been able to expand its product offerings to a wider audience and students were able to gain real-world work experience dealing with a client and following deadlines."

Rescue 1 enlisted the DAGD students to bring the characters from the organization's Web site to life through the DVD and video-game type activities that are aimed at helping kids practice fire prevention skills, he said. The DVD brings real-life experiences together in a comprehensive teaching program that benefits children of all skill levels.

"My students have greatly benefited from this experience," Ferris instructor Marty Lier said. "This was a semester-long, large group project that had many facets covering storyboarding, art work, 3D design, character rigging, team work, audio, rendering and video editing. They learned many things and grew as animators, designers."

## **Pioneer**

May 12, 2006

### **Ferris State students build Formula car**

BIG RAPIDS - It can hug the curves of a grand prix track and go from zero to 60 in about four seconds. No, this is not James Bond's legendary Aston Martin db5 or some concept car fresh from the drawing boards of Detroit.

This is Ferris State University's first entry in the Formula SAE competition. From its fiberglass body to its chromoly chassis, this powerful, compact vehicle was designed and constructed entirely by students from Ferris' College of Technology.

Senior Ryan Boysen, last year's president of the student chapter of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, is Ferris Formula SAE team captain. Faculty advisor Chuck Drake calls Boysen the "spark plug" behind the project. Boysen got interested in the competition after going to the 2005 Society of Automotive Engineers World Congress at Cobo Hall.

"We ran into a lot of teams there," Boysen said. "We started off as a group of about four people and ended up with about 28, including our engineering managers Kyle Kapa and Chetan Joshi.

"The best thing about our Formula team is that we get to work with a whole range of students. If you lack a certain skill you can get it from somebody else on the team. Since we all work in different programs, it all comes together just perfect," he added.

Ferris' Formula SAE team draws upon students majoring in mechanical engineering technology, automotive engineering technology, manufacturing engineering technology and welding engineering technology. The Ferris-designed vehicle weighs about 600 pounds and is powered by a 600cc, 100-horsepower engine.

Top speed for the vehicle under controlled circumstances is estimated at 100 miles per hour. Performance criteria such as maneuvering, braking, acceleration and endurance are all part of the competition. In the competition, the car will be judged not only on the track but the entire project's engineering, design presentation, safety features, manufacturing plans and costs.

"In our first year, we don't expect to take first place in the competition. We want to pass technical inspection and compete fully in the competition," Boysen said.

## **Pioneer**

May 17, 2006

### **Living Water to host book signing with local authors**

BIG RAPIDS - Local residents Don and Joan Totten will introduce their new book at a book signing Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be hosted by Living Water Christian Resource Center at 112 S. Michigan Ave. in downtown Big Rapids.

Joan has many years of experience working with people, especially at Ferris State University as a part time teacher and educational counselor, before her present position as a Department Head. As a well respected and retired public school math teacher, Don has been known for his ability to explain and provide a means to remember things. He now has a private practice as a Christian psychologist in Big Rapids. It is not surprising that the title of the book is The C.H.E.S.E. Factor.

C.H.E.S.E is an acronym for conditions that influence lives that explain why you are the way you are. Beyond this, the book contains Treasure Chests of illustrations and resources at the end of each chapter that help the reader better understand and assimilate the principles leading to effective life changes.

George Nagel, Ph.D. Communications, Co-Founder: Critical Thinking Institute, Ferris State University has said, "The C.H.E.S.E. Factor is an excellent resource for anyone who is struggling with the past or seeking a bright future full of hope and promise in Jesus Christ. Don and Joan have integrated modern psychological theory and technique with scriptural truth in a clear and practical manner."

Whether one works in the field of counseling or psychology or is seeking on an individual level to come to terms with his past, a wealth of information and thought provoking truths are contained within the pages. To interact with Don and Joan Totten and benefit from their forty years of experience as counselors and teachers, including Don's ten year's work as a psychologist, come to Living Water Saturday, May 20 where The C.H.E.S.E. Factor is available for purchase.

## **Pioneer**

May 17, 2006

### **Clark Construction executive receives FSU alumni award**

BIG RAPIDS- Kenneth G. Lawless, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Clark Construction, is the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award at Ferris State University (FSU). The award was presented May 4 at the FSU Alumni Association Spring Reunion Banquet.

"It is an honor and a privilege to have been selected to receive the Distinguished Alumni Award," said Lawless. "Ferris State has played an important role in my family through the years, and the education I received at Ferris has been instrumental in my personal and professional growth."

The FSU Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to individuals who have demonstrated leadership and service within their profession, community, service organizations and alma mater.

After completing an associate's degree in architectural drafting at Ferris State, Lawless received a bachelor's degree in business administration from FSU in 1978. Upon graduation, he worked for Clark Construction as an on-site project manager.

Throughout his 28-year career with Clark Construction, Lawless has completed hundreds of millions of dollars in construction projects, including:

- Ionia Maximum Security Prison;
- Somerset Collection in Troy, which won the 1993 Associated General Contractors Build America Award;
- Oldsmobile Park Minor League Baseball Stadium in Lansing, which won the 1996 AGC Build America Award;
- The Holy Childhood of Jesus Church in Harbor Springs, which won the 1998 Build Michigan Award;
- Bay Harbor Marina in Petoskey, which won the 1999 Build Michigan Award;
- St. Louis Correctional Facility in St. Louis which won the 1999 AGC Marvin Black Partnering Award; and
- Mountain Grand Lodge and Spa & Avalanche Bay Indoor Waterpark in Boyne Falls, which won the 2005 Build Michigan Award and Build America Merit Award.

Lawless has received several state appointments during his career, and was recently being named by Gov. Jennifer Granholm to serve on the State of Michigan's Construction Code Commission. He has also served on numerous community boards,

and currently serves as Board Secretary of the Portland Federal Credit Union in Portland.

Lawless continues to help FSU students who are pursuing careers in construction management. Clark Construction is involved with the summer work/intern program offered through the Michigan Chapter AGC, and Clark Construction currently employs 12 FSU graduates, many of who came through the internship program.

## **Pioneer**

May 20 & 21, 2006

### **Longtime professor retires**

BIG RAPIDS - Longtime Ferris State University Professor Thomas Brownell has retired after working for 23 years in the languages and literature department.

Originally from Lake Ontario, N.Y., Brownell is relocating to a condominium on White Lake in Whitehall with his wife of 37 years, Joyce. The couple recently sold their home at 404 Maple St. in Big Rapids and rented an apartment until the end of the semester.

"Whitehall reminds me a lot of Lake Ontario, where I grew up," Brownell said. "This was not my plan. I would've kept teaching, but sometimes our plan is not His plan."

After linking his symptoms with those of the late Pope John Paul, Brownell diagnosed himself with Parkinson's Disease and last summer his suspicions were confirmed when his doctor diagnosed him with the disease.

"Parkinson's and teaching just don't mix," Brownell said. "My body is very rigid and it's difficult to write."

After turning in his letter of resignation at Ferris, Brownell said that same day he received an e-mail message from one of his first students.

"It's very rewarding," Brownell said. "That's what this business is all about ... touching people's lives. It's tough with Parkinson's. I'll miss seeing people succeed, especially those who don't think they can and then the light bulb comes on."

Brownell's longtime colleague and friend, FSU Professor Sandy Balkema, will cherish the many fond memories she has of working with him.

"For the past 20 years, Tom has been the backbone of the technical communication program. Working with him over the years has been a pleasure. He's always learning new things and seeing connections between our profession and the larger business world. He's the true 'techy' of the program," Balkema said.

"Tom has a true journalist's focus when he writes; he looks for the story behind the story. His favorite kind of technical writing is the writing that has a voice, a personality and a message. He's been a good friend and colleague to me - and he's inspired a lot of students over the years."

Some activities that Brownell plans to continue after retirement include writing his weekly feature article called, "Nice Ride" that appears in the Michigan Auto and RV publication, writing a weekly question and answer column for "Old Cars Weekly" and writing a bimonthly column for "Vintage Truck" magazine.

## **Pioneer**

May 20 & 21, 2006

### **Ferris donates more than \$5,000 to WISE**

In a courtesy photo: Ferris State University donated \$5,737.90 to Women's Information Service, Inc., Friday morning. The money was raised through the February performance of "The Vagina Monologues," organized by student Jillian Kersh, who has since graduated. Pam Forbes, executive director of WISE, said the money would be used for operating costs at the shelter. "That's our big thing," she said, specifically utility bills. Mecosta County Commissioner Wayne O'Neil, a member of the WISE board of directors; Cindy Horn, director of student leadership and activities at Ferris; Forbes; and Mecosta Under-Sheriff Roger Harrison, also a WISE board member were all present in the photo.

## **Pioneer**

May 20 & 21, 2006

### **Recalling the events from helping Ferris State students**

In 1987, we fell into a long lasting relationship with nine beautiful young people from Central America that was sustained for the years that it took for them to complete the curriculum at Ferris and has lasted through to today.

The Ferris State had a rule that put all the students out of the dormitories for the duration of some of its breaks. The students that stayed in Big Rapids had to fend for until school resumed.

We heard about the problems that the foreign students had and volunteered to help out if we could. It was only for a couple of weeks, right?

Carlos showed up on a designated day with all his belongings and became the first of a wonderful group of ultra-bright kids that we got to know over the years. Early in his visit, we invited him to prepare a meal of those things that he liked best. He was amenable to the offer but, alas, couldn't cook. But he had a friend that could perform magic in the kitchen and along came Sandra. Sandra prepared a wonderful meal for us.

We found that the Latinos had no access to recreational opportunities and no idea of how to learn some of our culture. We tried to help them see life in mid-America.

All these folks were part of an American program that sponsored them to complete their undergraduate degrees at various universities in the U.S. These were the cream of the crop in that they were the "winners" in competitive exams for being selected for the program. Costa Rica has an extremely high literacy level- around 93 percent which is higher than in the U.S. These kids were smart with a capital IQ.

For the most part they were not from wealthy families. None of them had known the others before arriving in Big Rapids and none of them spoke English before coming to Big Rapids.

Each week we had these wonderful folks in our home and we all became family.

Birthdays, graduations and national holidays were cause for a party. We had kids from Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama coming to the house regularly to eat, stay a while or just visit. We helped them get their driver's licenses and cut them loose in one of our cars to explore Michigan. We went together to Chicago and to Macinaw Island to see the sights and watch the racing boats come in from Chicago.

Then, one by one, they began leaving. It seemed to be the end of our extended family.

We were happy for them to have graduated (All with extremely high grade point averages; 3.6 - 3.9) and to have had the years with them. We missed them all.



Two years after they had left, we journeyed to Costa Rica to visit our friends and to meet their families who, with a few exceptions, did not come to Michigan to visit during the school years. We were warmly received and happy to see that all of our former students had good jobs and were able to use the tools that Ferris had given them. They were into computers, finance, marketing and surveying and doing well.

Only Carlos (our "first-born") had married. The rest of them were enjoying their newfound independence and quality of life that they worked hard to achieve. We were treated like royalty and honestly enjoyed every minute of it. We were charmed with Costa Rica and the warm people we met everywhere. We toured volcanoes and rain forests, carnivals and beaches. Paradise!

We have returned to see our friends three more times in the past 15 years. We have watched Costa Rica move from a relatively simple, agrarian-based society to ever-increasing alternatives including tourism and light industry as an important part of its annual GNP.

The air quality in downtown San Jose, the capitol city, has improved as clunkers with faulty exhausts have been replaced with a modern - mostly Japanese - fleet of private vehicles and its much easier to breath in town now. The rest of the mountainous country is mostly pure clean air although the jungles can be a bit murky.

Most of our friends are married now with kids ranging in age from six months to 13 years. Many German, Canadian and American retirees and snowbirds are there now.

Expensive subdivisions are being developed for the ex-patriates as well as the locals who are achieving undreamed of positions with their own companies and large multi-nationals. There is even a move to improve some of the roads in the country although road building has never been a particularly strong suit for them.

Our good fortune in becoming involved with our dear Latinos has enriched our lives ten-fold from what we may have given them. The Costa Ricans have a salutation similar to Ciao or our Hawaiian Aloha; PURA VIDA (pure life). The love, honesty and pureness of spirit that they exhibit have given us immense comfort.

We hope it will never end.