

FERRIS STATE RUBBER NEWS

April, 2003

WELCOME

By Kathy Frank, President, FSRG

Welcome to the first Ferris State Rubber Group (FSRG) Newsletter. It is our intention to distribute a newsletter once a semester to keep our corporate sponsors, our future employers and anyone else who might be interested informed about what is happening here at Ferris State University.

It is also our hope that the next newsletter will be distributed online. To that end we would ask that everyone interested in receiving our newsletter in the future email ferrisstaterubbergroup@yahoo.com to be included on our mailing list. Another option is to log on to our website at www.geocities.com/ferrisstaterubbergroup. At the website one can find a lot of information about our student organization.

We, the rubber students at Ferris State University, are interested in hearing from you, the members of the rubber industry, and learning from you. If anyone is interested in giving us a presentation about rubber industry topics please contact professors Auggie Gatt at (231) 591-5337 or Matthew Yang at (231) 591-5263.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our past and present corporate sponsors for their generous support of our organization. At this time we have only one current sponsor in AVON Automotive. Others may not have realized that their sponsorship had expired and we apologize for not keeping you informed. If your organization would like to help support our group by becoming a corporate sponsor please send \$100.00 annual dues to the address on this newsletter. By being a corporate sponsor you will be recognized as such on the official FSRG web site with a direct link to your own company web site, receive the first invitations to attend FSRG events and have priority when scheduling a time and date to come and talk about what your company has to offer and possible recruiting of rubber students.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter and would welcome any questions or comments.

FERRIS STATE RUBBER GROUP

By Todd Kamyszek, Vice President, FSRG

In 1998 Ferris State University began the first undergraduate associates and bachelors programs for rubber engineering technology in the U.S. Ferris State along with an advisory board of industry leaders developed a curriculum to produce graduates grounded in rubber compounding and processing.

With funding and donations from the rubber industry and the Rubber Manufacturers Association (RMA), the Rubber Engineering Technology (B.S.) and Rubber Technology (A.A.S.) programs were born.

The Ferris State Rubber Group was started during the winter semester of 2000. The focus of the group is to give students the opportunity to interact within the community of the rubber industry. FSRG was recognized as the first student chapter of the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society with the backing of the West Michigan Rubber Group (WMRG).

The current focus of the group is to continue to offer students the opportunity to interact with industry leaders, and to strengthen our ties between the ACS, WMRG, and RMA. The group also promotes education beyond the rubber curriculum at Ferris State by sponsoring guest speakers who offer expertise in their given area of the rubber industry.

AN INSTRUCTORS POINT OF VIEW

By Auggie Gatt, Professor

The Rubber Engineering Technology program at Ferris is just wrapping up its fifth year. Last year's eight B.S. graduates all found jobs in the industry and seem to be doing well. We expect to graduate 12 this year. There

summer and the feedback I get as to their technical skills is very positive.

Our program continues to suffer from low enrollment. Long term, this will cause the University to take a hard look at us in terms of funding, staffing, etc. I urge everyone to talk to young people and advise them of the potential for a great career in our industry.

We've made a few changes in our lab with the addition of an LCM extrusion line and a size 1 mixer. We will be refitting our 2 Desma presses with new PLC controls over the summer and, hopefully, adding a DSC and an FTIR.

I cannot say enough good things about our students. They have really embraced the industry and are always eager to learn more about it. My wife and I recently took two of our students to the RMA meeting in California where they made a presentation. We were so proud of the professional job they did. Please stop in any time to see our facility or, better yet, make a guest presentation in some of our classes!

SPRING TIRE DRIVE

By Ryan Cutler

As the winter semester of 2003 slowly ends, members of FSRG feverishly organized a spring tire drive in the midst of term projects and examinations. This annual event aims to raise money for undergraduate members of FSRG giving them the opportunity to attend technical conferences, trade expos, and field trips to manufacturing facilities. FSRG will hold the event on April 26 at the Wal-Mart parking lot in Big Rapids, Michigan.

The organizers of this event wanted to surpass the performance of the previous FSRG tire recycling drive by promoting tire safety and Ferris State University's Rubber Engineering Technology program while providing tire disposal services. The RMA donated tire safety brochures, stickers, and tire pressure gages to help FSRG members make the community aware of National Tire Safety Week that takes place April 27 through May 3.

As committee chairman of this event, I believe this tire recycling drive will give FSRG a chance to not only raise some money, but also to educate the public on such topics as proper tire care and maintenance, and make them aware of the great educational opportunity that can be obtained through the Rubber Program here at FSU.

FSRG would like to thank Alternative Fuels LLC of Barryton, Michigan for donating recycling services.

NEW DISPLAYS FOR THE RUBBER PROGRAM

By Abraham Z. Levy

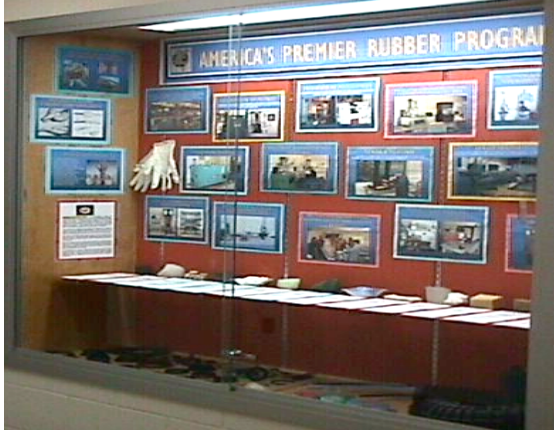
We have two new displays on the bottom floor of the National Elastomer Center, and one at the FLITE Library. The displays serve two purposes: to create awareness of our program and to educate the community about the rubber industry and its products.

In the displays we have included pictures of our labs, machinery, and students at work. The displays also include over 15 samples of rubbers we use in our program. These range from Natural Rubber to FKM to Silicone.

The displays also include a brief history of rubber, course descriptions, benefits of joining the program, and samples of rubber products we have received from the industry. These products range from oil seals to clean air ducts to medical products.

We hope you will have the opportunity to visit us at Ferris, tour our world-class facilities, and learn more

aboutour program. We look forward to welcoming you.



A SENIORS PERSPECTIVE

By Wes Laney

Whoever has found the time to read this will hopefully find that this commentary sends the message that Ferris State University is a quality institution that is a worthwhile investment, and Ferris Graduates are individuals that are highly capable of excelling at a variety of roles in many situations.

Briefly looking back at personal experiences in the last four years of my life as a Rubber Engineering Technology undergraduate at Ferris State University brings back memories of accomplishments, fun, and achievements.

Some things in life are just not meant to be. For me, college football was one such thing. After diligently keeping the balance of being a college athlete and staying at an above B average student for two seasons, my football career abruptly ended about half way through my sophomore year when my shoulder was deemed too damaged to continue playing. Although this moment was tremendously devastating to my ambitions of playing college football and made reaching many personal goals impossible, it did open up many other opportunities for me to continue my ambitions of having a successful professional life and an opportunity for a better-rounded college education.

Up to this point football meeting conflicts had restricted my ability to attend many campus events. My extent of activities to this point included sporadic involvement with FSRG. To bolster my professional abilities and to stave off the sheer boredom of not being involved with football, I sought out and became involved in many extracurricular activities to fill my newly found time.

The activities that are available to Ferris students are boundless. The groups that I became involved in ranged from The Ferris State University Student Government, to being the Rubber Group's designated board member for the West Michigan Rubber Group. Life after college athletics also allowed for time to pursue a supervisor certificate to compliment the Rubber Engineering Technology Degree. Besides academics and personal on-campus development, there were plenty of activities outside of campus that included tubing down the Muskegon River, golfing and many hunting and fishing opportunities.

As I am writing this, I have about five weeks before I leave full-time academia and enter the work force. Rubber industry opportunities are boundless for Ferris students. My work experiences include internships at Laur Silicone in Beaverton, Michigan and Trostel Limited in Whitewater, Wisconsin. With much hard work and networking I have had several job offers.

Besides being a reputable college with academic programs that prepare individuals for the work force along with having a high placement rate in every program, Ferris is a great institution for allowing individuals to grow as a person and into professionals. If there is an interest in becoming or referring a Ferris student, or recruiting a Ferris graduate, don't hesitate to find out more at www.ferris.edu/rubber.