

The Numbers Tell the Story

Did you know that it costs, on average, \$17,106 for an incoming freshman to attend Ferris State University? This figure includes tuition, room and board, and refundable fees.

Recent data from the U.S. Department of Education shows that the number of students applying for financial assistance has risen from around 11 million in 2001-2002 to nearly 14 million in 2004-2005.

"In 2001 we received \$6,094 for each student from the state," says Ferris State University President David L. Eisler in a memo to the campus community. "Today that figure is down to \$4,324. Had state funding for each student increased at the rate of inflation we would now be receiving \$7,247. This is a stunning reduction of \$2,923 per student."

In a recent FSU campus-wide survey, 88 percent of students said they couldn't afford a university education without financial aid. It is clear that Ferris undergraduate students are relying heavily on loans to finance their education.

The average student debt after graduating with a bachelor's degree from Ferris is \$21,206.

You can help students afford an education by contributing to or establishing an endowed scholarship. You can give a gift of opportunity to young men and women at Ferris. An endowed, need-based scholarship is a gift that lasts forever. To learn more about how to give to Ferris, contact The Ferris Foundation at (231) 591-2365.



Our Mission

The mission of The Ferris Foundation is to advance the mission and goals of Ferris State University by generating and managing private support for the University.

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THE FERRIS FOUNDATION

Leading By Example

Fall 2008

Let the Music Play

"It is my opinion that a person's actions must coincide with their beliefs; I believe that every person owes a debt to society for the freedoms they are allowed by it. I have searched for a way that I might give something back to the community that has been so kind to me."

So says Ferris Foundation for Excellence scholarship recipient Randy Holt, a young man who already understands the value and importance of giving.

Holt, a native of White Cloud, Mich., is a Ferris State University senior majoring in Music Industry Management with a double minor in Philosophy and French. While studying is a cornerstone of his commitment to success, so too is his passion for sharing his love of music.

"Through music, I believe I can stimulate youth to get involved with each other and the community in a fun, creative and positive way," writes Holt in a personal essay he sent to The Ferris Foundation. "It has been proven that music stimulates the mind, and there is no doubt that music can provide a creative outlet...a gateway to a positive and bright future."

Music has been a big part of Holt's life, ever since he was able to save up enough money in the eighth grade to buy his first guitar. He credits his cousin for introducing him to music and music appreciation and now thanks his adviser, assistant professor of Music Dan Cronk, for helping him define his goals and give him the inspiration to make positive changes in the community.

"When I first started at Ferris, I was somewhat ambitious with my goals, but nowhere near where I am now," says Holt. "He's pushed me a little harder to do more for the community...that's ultimately what I want to do," says Holt.

Holt wants to use his love for music as a way to reach out to young people. With Cronk's help, he's developed his own internship at Big Rapids Middle School giving guitar lessons to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students, all the while encouraging them to be creative, stay positive and hopefully give them something to do in their spare time that they'll enjoy.

"I've always been a big fan of the fact that music stimulates the mind," says Holt. "Middle school is just about the time when things get rough and confusing for kids...if you can inspire them to do something positive, especially if there are differences between the kids in the class, and get them to work and make music together, it gives them a sense of camaraderie. I'm hoping I can get in there at an impressionable time and help them feel positive about themselves."

Holt also gives guitar lessons at Quinn's music studio in downtown Big Rapids, and he is working with the owner of Quinn's to provide rental guitars to students who want to pursue their music dreams further.

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Become One of They Who Dreamed

The Ferris Foundation is hosting its 10th annual Foundation for Excellence Benefit on the eve of Friday, Nov. 7, at the historic Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.



After mingling over cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and experiencing an elegant dinner in the Ambassador Ballroom, The Ferris Foundation will present a short program and bestow its first-ever Humanitarian Award. Then it is time for the featured guest of the evening, best-selling author and journalist Mitch Albom.

Albom is an award-winning journalist, radio host and famed sports writer. He is the author of 10 books, including phenomenal best-sellers *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, and *Tuesdays with Morrie*. He has appeared on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," "Larry King Live," "Today Show," "Good Morning America" and "The Early Show." He has won more than 100 writing awards during his career and has been named the number one sports columnist in the nation by the Sports Editors of America. He also is a regular ESPN panelist on the television show "The Sports Reporters."

Every year the Foundation hosts the gala to raise funds for the Foundation for Excellence Scholarship Endowment (merit and need-based scholarships), as well as merit grants for faculty and staff.

Sponsorship information and tickets for the event are available by contacting The Ferris Foundation at (231) 591-2365. For your convenience you can also order tickets online at www.ferris.edu/foundation.



Kim Hancock

Faculty Receive Merit Grants

Five Ferris State University faculty members received Exceptional Merit Grant Awards from the Foundation this spring. They include

- **Kim Hancock, College of Pharmacy**
Merit grant will provide students with an opportunity to interact with indigent patients at the House of Hope Free Clinic in Traverse City, Mich.
- **Karen Norman, College of Education and Human Services**
Merit grant will provide her the opportunity to observe, collect, record and disseminate best practices in the middle-level classrooms in the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District.
- **Gary Rodabaugh, College of Arts and Sciences**
Merit grant will help him secure additional field equipment for maximizing the hands-on field experiences of students.
- **Daniel Wrubel, Michigan College of Optometry**
Merit grant will help him obtain stock and uncut lenses, which will be cut and assembled by Student Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity on a mission trip.
- **Mary Zimmer, College of Arts and Sciences**
Merit grant will allow her to obtain support for undergraduate students to perform "real science" in a research laboratory.

The Exceptional Merit Grants Program was established by The Ferris Foundation to promote excellence in faculty and staff at Ferris State University. The Foundation requested the submission of proposals from those who were interested in pursuing projects, which demonstrate exceptional merit in advancing the mission of Ferris State University. Approximately \$27,991 was set aside to fund projects which may involve programming costs, matching grant expenses, travel, seed money, equipment dedicated to specific programmatic objectives, etc.



Meet Karen Lerew, Major Gift Officer

With more than 15 years of sales and marketing experience behind her, Karen Lerew was a natural fit for the College of Technology major gift officer position. She started working at Ferris in an administrative capacity in 2005 and was very excited when the opportunity to move to a more challenging position presented itself in 2007.

"When I saw the job posting for the position, I knew I could do it," says Lerew. "I had been working in the College of Technology already and had established working relationships with many of the staff and faculty...I am honored to have been chosen to help the College fulfill its fund-raising goals."

As the College of Technology is the largest technology college in the nation, she has a lot to be accountable for. In addition to keeping College of Technology alumni connected to their alma mater and assisting them with their philanthropic endeavors to the University, she recently has been given the responsibil-

ity of developing partnerships with corporations and foundations, which she anticipates will be integral in the success of the fundraising efforts of the College of Technology.

She is a member of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, a 2008 graduate of Ferris' Leadership Development program, and she is involved in several University initiatives including the University-wide Scholarship Work Group, the College of Technology Scholarship Committee, Michigan Energy Conference Steering Committee, and FSU United: Relay for Life Team. She enjoys spending time with her family and sharing her Bulldog pride!

Board Selects Committee Chairs

The Ferris Foundation Board of Directors has elected a new slate of standing committee chairs to serve a two-year term beginning this fall and running through the end of October 2009.

- Richard Shaw of Hesperia - elected chair of the Development Committee
- David Drake of Grand Rapids - elected chair of the Gifts and Grants Committee
- Thomas Scholler of Clarkston - elected chair of the Audit Committee
- Dennis Lerner of Big Rapids - elected chair of the Investment Committee
- President David Eisler of Big Rapids - elected chair of the Committee on Directors

Each year at its annual meeting, the board chairperson appoints standing committee chairs from a slate of proposed candidates that are recommended by the Committee on Directors.

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After graduating, Holt hopes to establish non-profit organizations, in various communities, that help underprivileged youth experience music and what it can do for the mind, body and soul.

"As the Beatles once said, 'Love is all you need,' which to me means love for my family and love for my community," Holt continues in his essay. "No matter what decision is made regarding the scholarship, I will continue to give back to this community and any other that needs my help."

Viewed philosophically, the combination of music and service go together well, or "tres bien ensemble," as the Beatles once sang. The Ferris Foundation agrees.



Last year's Foundation Benefit.