

SPRING 2013

Points of Pride



Commitment, Sacrifice, Perseverance
of 2013 Graduates, Distinguished Honorees
Exemplify Clear Steps on

the Path to Success


PRESIDENT'S CORNER

At Ferris, our commencement ceremonies at the end of fall and spring semesters are high points of the academic year. Seeing the joy of graduates – especially those who are the first in their families to graduate from college – is even more gratifying. Awarding candidates their diplomas reminds each of us of the commitment, sacrifices, achievements and perseverance of our students.

The students profiled here provide a small glimpse into the many compelling stories that lie behind the degrees we award. On the path to graduation, our students overcome hardships, discover new interests and find in themselves previously untapped talents. To paraphrase a famous saying, it takes everyone on our campuses to educate our students. Whether physical or virtual, Ferris remains dedicated to providing an atmosphere of intellectual curiosity and inquiry that leads to the success of graduates such as these.

Increasingly, education is a life-long pursuit. The rapid pace of technological and scientific breakthroughs requires people to refresh their skills and knowledge base. So even as our graduates pursue the kind of accomplishments embodied by our honorary doctorate recipients, Ferris will be a resource for them in their careers.

On behalf of the class of 2013, I want to thank all of the faculty and staff who made their successful journeys possible. And to the class of 2013, from everyone at Ferris State University, congratulations! We are proud of you and your achievements, and wish you success and fulfillment as you enter your career!



David L. Eisler, president



SHE IS: The winner of one of Ferris' highest student honors, the 2013 MLK Legacy Award.

"Brittany is an excellent example of perseverance, dedication and student leadership at Ferris," said Michael Wade, assistant director of the Office of Multicultural Student Services.

AWARDS AND HONORS: MLK Legacy Award, Progressive Woman Award, SCHOLAR Peer Mentor Program M&M (Mentor and Mentee) Award, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.'s Outstanding Uplift Award, Virtuous Young Women of Creston Award for Activism

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: Black Greek Council, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., My Sister's Keeper Inc., Student Psychology Association, TOWERS Leadership Development Program, Student Government Diversity Committee, OMSS student manager

POINT OF PRIDE: "Being able to overcome adversities and still continue to have a smile on my face."

WHAT INSPIRED HER TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE: "I love working with the community and children. I was once a foster child, so I know what it feels like to be in the system. I feel like my purpose in life is to help guide them."

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT FERRIS: "Joining different organizations on campus, leading events, helping out with the Big Event. It's a lot, so I don't have a favorite."



Brittany Lofton

AGE: 24

HOMETOWN: Grand Rapids

DEGREE: Bachelor of Science in Psychology
(Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts, 2012)

HER PLAN: Brittany plans to pursue a master's degree in social work and a doctorate in psychology.

"I want to travel, but my ultimate goal is to open up my own practice specializing in marriage and family."

A PERSON AT FERRIS WHO INSPIRES HER: OMSS secretary Andrea Beck-Jones

"She has been there since my freshman year. She has been a mother, sister and friend to me. I consider her my guardian angel, because she's not only helped me become the woman I am today, but she continues to push, encourage, motivate and support me, and I love her for that."

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "Don't let anyone stop you from your goals. Your past does not determine your future, but your present does, so make sure your priorities are in order."

A PASSION: To make a better life for herself and the people she encounters

FACING ADVERSITY: Brittany is a member of the Ferris Youth Initiative, a program that provides support and learning opportunities for foster care youth and low-income orphans who attend the university. She is among the first FYI members to graduate. FYI coordinator Janette Ward said Brittany "truly wants to work on making the world a better place."

Brittany adds, "I've never been the smartest person, nor do I see myself as above anyone. But I've conditioned myself to not listen to negative people – people who thought I wouldn't get into college, people who thought I wouldn't graduate ... I am proving them all wrong, and I will continue to better my life so my children won't have to experience the things that I did while growing up."

SOMETHING FUN: "I joined one of the greatest sororities. I've traveled to two national conferences, three regional conferences, three state conferences and two undergraduate retreats."

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HER: Tenacious

FAVORITE SEASON: Spring

NO. 1 ON HER BUCKET LIST: To go snorkeling



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DAVID L. EISLER
EX-OFFICIO - BIG RAPIDS



Carlvin Dorvilier

AGE: 22

HOMETOWN: Miami, Fla.

DEGREE: Bachelor of Science in Advertising/
Integrated Marketing Communications



HE IS: “A highly motivated student who has aspirations to – forgive the cliché – conquer the world,” said David Pilgrim, vice president for Diversity and Inclusion and Ferris Youth Initiative adviser. “Despite some significant challenges in his upbringing, he has excelled in his studies. His interest in international marketing was aided by two study-away experiences, in South Korea and Italy. He is one of Ferris’ shining lights.”

AWARDS AND HONORS: 2012 American Association of Advertising Agencies MAIP finalist, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic Team, Ferris Cross Country Dean’s Academic Award, placed fourth in Men’s Health 2012 Urbanathlon in Chicago

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: Ferris International Conversational Speaker, Ferris track and field team member, Collegiate Entrepreneurs Organization vice president, Student Government representative, resident advisor

POINT OF PRIDE: “I am proud to be a Bulldog.”

WHAT INSPIRED HIM TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE:

“To be limited has been one of my greatest fears. Pursuing a degree in Advertising/Integrated Marketing Communications has eliminated that fear, because it incorporates all aspects of marketing communication, such as advertising, sales promotion, public relations, direct marketing, personal selling, online communications and social media.”

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT FERRIS: Establishing a close relationship with David Pilgrim as a member of the Ferris Youth Initiative, a program that provides support and learning opportunities for foster care youth and low-income orphans who attend the university.

“Dr. Pilgrim challenged me to explore the world. ... He taught me to lead by example, to treat others with respect and always to seek new challenges.”

HIS PLAN: “I will continue to learn by reading books and interacting with others. I have a job after graduation, and my goal is to earn a lot of money – not for the money, but for what I will have to become to earn the money.”

Carlvin eventually would like to work as an international marketing executive for a respected brand, and “I hope my degree takes me to a position where I can positively affect the lives of others.”

FAVORITE FERRIS TRADITION: Ferris Fest, “hands down!”

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: “We all have dealt with at least one painful moment in our life that ultimately changed who we are. But, right now, you should only suffer from discipline or regret. The difference is that discipline only weighs ounces, while regret weighs a ton. Take full advantage of your college career and be remembered as a leader and one who truly cares for others.”

AN ADVENTURE: Taught basic conversational English courses with eight Korean-speaking students at Dankook University in Jukjeon, South Korea during a study-abroad opportunity. He also directed a promotional lipdub video to build awareness about its international program.

A PASSION: Running.

“I do not jog. I run. I run to test my body’s limits and seek to break those limits. With every location, my run becomes more intriguing, not difficult. Running is to be healthy and a chance to be extraordinary – to have a connection with people around the world who are willing to go through the same pain to improve their own lives.”

FACING ADVERSITY: “Coming to Ferris was a challenge I had to overcome. But with every challenge, you can create new opportunities. I lost my mother when I was 16 and had a father who chose his own path. The only issue was his path wasn’t with us. Relocating to Michigan from North Carolina was a daunting transition.”

FAVORITE BIG RAPIDS RESTAURANT: Pizzeria Vivo

FAVORITE SEASON: Fall. “It’s not too hot, not too cold.”

NO. 1 ON HIS BUCKET LIST: To go Wing Suit flying. “If you don’t know what it is, I encourage you to look it up and join me in the future.”

FAVORITE TV CHARACTER: Barney Stinson from CBS’s “How I Met Your Mother.”

College of Education and Human Services

Lindsay Pepper

AGE: 21

HOMETOWN: Big Rapids

DEGREE: Bachelor of Science in Television and Digital Media Production, Film Studies minor



SHE IS: The proud owner of a Technicolor Sound Services employee badge that allows her to access to the Paramount Pictures lot.

"Lindsay applied herself and always did her best while also seeking out leadership roles with the Media Communications Association registered student organization," said Glen Okonoski, chair of the TDMP department. "She applied that same focus and determination to her pursuit of an internship, landing one of 40 Academy of Television Arts and Sciences internship positions awarded nationally. Her exemplary attitude and drive make her an excellent example of the best that Ferris has to offer."

AWARDS AND HONORS: College of Education and Human Services Dean's List, President's Academic Scholarship recipient, Steven Falcone Memorial Scholarship recipient

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: Media Communications Association president, Big Event volunteer

POINT OF PRIDE: "I am 21 years old, living in Los Angeles with a full-time job in the field that I want to be in. And most of all, I did it on my own."

WHAT INSPIRED HER TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE: "I've always been interested in what goes on behind the scenes of film and television productions, and I discovered that I could get the education that I needed at a place that I could afford by going to Ferris."

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT

FERRIS: "My final semester at Ferris was very fast-paced and intense, and it really got me mentally ready for what I would face as I entered my career."

HER PLAN: Lindsay moved to Los Angeles last summer after being awarded the internship with the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, working for Larry Levinson Productions until December. After completing the internship and fulfilling her degree requirements, she was offered a receptionist position with Technicolor, a post-production sound-mixing facility that works on such shows as HBO's "True Blood" and Fox's "Glee."

"I aspire to work in the development of episodic television or film and work my way toward producing."

A PERSON AT FERRIS WHO INSPIRED

HER: TDMP professor Clayton Rye

"Clayton always knew that I had big dreams and that I was not going to settle for anything less, and he inspired and motivated me to pursue those dreams. Clayton helped keep me focused and in the right mindset so that I could achieve whatever I put my mind to."

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "Take your education seriously, and stay focused. Find that special thing about you that makes you stand out and use it to your advantage. Push yourself to follow your true passions, and don't hold back. It will pay off in the long run."

A PASSION: "I love life, I love people and I love new experiences. I think that's why I fit well in the film and entertainment industry."

There are constantly new people to meet and new challenges to overcome, but I am so passionate about the art of film and television that, at the end of the day, I'm happy."

AN ADVENTURE: "When I was a teenager, I was an aspiring actress and model. This led me to be accepted to an elite team of fellow actors and models that trained in Detroit for six months and then traveled to L.A. for a week of competitions in front of agents and managers from all over the world. It was the most amazing experience of my life, especially when I won one of my competitions over hundreds of fellow contestants. The love of the industry and the city of L.A. helped me decide what I wanted to study in college."

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HER: Ambitious

FAVORITE PLACE TO TRAVEL: Mackinac Island

NO. 1 ON HER BUCKET LIST: To travel, first to Europe

Benjamin Glerum

AGE: 26

HOMETOWN: Coopersville

DEGREE: Bachelor of Science in Facility Management (Associate in Applied Arts and Science in Architectural Technology, Grand Rapids Community College, 2011)



HE IS: The winner of the International Facility Management Association's ePoster Competition for a building information model on first-floor renovations of the Swan Building. He will represent Ferris at the European Facility Management Conference, May 22-24 in Prague.

"Ben is a very articulate and self-confident, and his accomplishments are way beyond what is normally seen of students their senior year of college," said J.K. Yates, dean of the College of Engineering Technology.

AWARDS AND HONORS: Phi Theta Kappa National Honor Society member and scholarship, IFMA Foundation scholarship, IFMA ePoster Competition winner

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: IFMA, College of Engineering Technology Dean's Advisory Board, software tutor, teaching assistant; helped create the web-based GIS system and database used by Ferris; created building information model for redesign of Manufacturing Engineering Lab

WHAT INSPIRED HIM TO PURSUE THIS

DEGREE: Interest in architecture and built environment, from design to facility management

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT FERRIS: "My entire Ferris experience has been extremely influential on my life. There is not one point in time that I can depict being less important than the other."

HIS PLAN: Ben was offered a job by the U.S. Department of State to install software at U.S. embassies worldwide and train employees how to use it.

"I will get to travel the world and get paid to do it."

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "Never say no to an opportunity, and accomplish things with the mindset of perseverance to exceed all expectations. With that, you will be able to go anywhere and do anything you set your mind to."

WHAT HE WILL MISS MOST ABOUT FERRIS: "I will miss the fact that it snows six months out of the year and is generally more cloudy than sunny."

A PASSION: "My family. I have a beautiful wife, Jacki, and a baby girl on the way, and there is nothing more important in this world to me."

FACING ADVERSITY: "I was in the tool and die industry for five years after high school, and, along with the recession, I lost my job and had to choose a different career path, which brings me to where I am today. I have been in college for the last four years, striving to be the best that I can be so that I will have a bright future."

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT: "I am colorblind, but I am still an interior design and conceptual design consultant."

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HIM:
Determined

FAVORITE PLACE TO TRAVEL: Charleston, S.C.
"They have the best low country crab cakes."

NO. 1 ON HIS BUCKET LIST: "I fully plan to develop a pill that extends my existence far beyond that of the average life span today – with absolutely zero knowledge in chemistry or pharmaceuticals."

POINT OF PRIDE: "I have had a complete paradigm shift on how life should be lived and what people should strive to be. I have spent countless hours exceeding all expectations put in front of me, and that, I can firmly say, is what will take me to places I never thought I could go in both my personal life and professional career. So that development in perseverance and determination that I have strived for in a day-to-day mindset is what I consider to be my point of pride."

SHE IS: "A very driven student," said Gregory Zimmerman, head of Ferris' Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Respiratory Care and Health Administration programs. "She apparently impressed more than her faculty, since she was made a full-time job offer while she was still on her internship. Heather's hard work has paid off, and she is well on her way to a promising career in health care."

AWARDS AND HONORS: College of Health Professions Dean's List

POINT OF PRIDE: "Ferris State University has provided me with the encouragement to continuously set new goals, the motivation to overcome all hurdles and the education to successfully carry out each of my objectives."

WHAT INSPIRED HER TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE: "I always knew that I wanted to have a career in the health care industry. After speaking with my aunt, who is a registered health information technician, I decided that health information would be a good match for me. After speaking with a coder at Spectrum Health, I decided health care systems administration would complement my other degree, so I decided to do that as well."

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT FERRIS: "My coursework required me to complete two internships. I did my first one at Butterworth and Blodgett hospitals in Grand Rapids, and my final one at Mecosta County Medical Center in Big Rapids. Both of the internships allowed me to apply knowledge from my classes and experience the material first-hand. For example, I am working on Mecosta County Medical Center's Community Health Needs Assessment. At first this task seemed like a challenge, but as time went on I realized that both of my degrees had provided me with the tools to successfully complete this assignment."

HER PLAN: Heather will begin her career as a medical records specialist with Mecosta Health Services Inc.

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "Determine what will make you happiest, and just go for it. Lay out the steps it will take for you to reach your goals, and take them one at a time. Always keep your options open, and take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way."

WHAT SHE LIKES MOST ABOUT BIG RAPIDS: Heather grew up in Big Rapids and went from being a Brookside Bear to a Big Rapids Cardinal to a Ferris State Bulldog, and now she will begin her career here.

"I have been able to successfully fulfill all of my goals while enjoying the comfort of my hometown."

HER PASSION: Learning. "If someone said they would pay me to go to school for a living, I would do it in a heartbeat."

FAVORITE BIG RAPIDS RESTAURANT: Pepper's

FAVORITE SEASON: Fall

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HER: Determined



College of Health Professions

Heather Ensing

AGE: 22

HOMETOWN: Big Rapids

DEGREE: Bachelor of Science in Health Care Systems Administration and Health Information Management (Associate in Applied Science in Health Information Technology, 2011)





Kendall College of Art and Design

Katie Wright

AGE: 22

HOMETOWN: Traverse City

DEGREE: Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration,
Art History minor

SHE IS: The director behind the conceptual design of Kendall's annual Bodies of Art fashion show, "1,001 Sheets, Papercraft."

"Katie is a strong leader who understands how to collaborate with students of various disciplines," said Sandy Britton, director of Enrollment Management at Kendall. "Katie's desire to be a leader, along with her demonstrative drive and enthusiasm, will contribute to her success."

AWARDS AND HONORS: Dean's List, Portfolio Scholarship recipient, Northern West Michigan Art Competition winner

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: Bodies of Art (Fashion Alliance) president, designer, creative director, member; Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore volunteer; exhibiting artist, designer, co-creator of various art exhibits in the Grand Rapids area

POINT OF PRIDE: "My personal growth in multi-departments, connections I have made and the opportunities that have resulted because of those connections. Kendall's staff and resources make those student-professional connections happen."

WHAT INSPIRED HER TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE:

"The drive to make my passion a sustainable career."

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT KENDALL:

Collaborations with Kendall staff and fellow students.

"These experiences have prepared me to work among other creative professionals with a range of different ideas and concepts."

HER PLAN: To apply what she's learned to a career in design and concept illustration for fashion products.

"I would feel privileged to become part of an art department for an apparel or fashion product company where I could apply my specific skill set in trend and material forecasting, designing color and pattern arrangements, and my fashion illustration and product rendering skills."

She also hopes to earn a master's degree in Art/Creative Direction.

"I have ambitions to see myself one day as a leader of an art department for a major lifestyle or design corporation."

A PERSON AT KENDALL WHO INSPIRED HER: Nicole DeKraker, director of Student Activities

"Nicole works tirelessly to give Kendall students opportunities and extracurricular experiences to benefit their futures. Without her assistance, many student organizations and study-abroad opportunities would not have a presence on campus. I admire, above all, her ambitious spirit and optimism about the futures of Kendall students. Nicole is an example of a Kendall staff member who surpasses standards."

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "Do what you are most passionate about *now*. Don't wait until it's too late to realize it. Do it with disregard for what others might think or doubts you may have. The time and opportunities are now. Make sure you are on board."

A PASSION: Supporting young, creative art and design professionals working in Michigan, and promoting local growth, especially in the arts, design and craftsmanship fields.

LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS: "I have never owned a car, I am deathly afraid of birds and I have read the Harry Potter series (in full) seven times through, once backwards."

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HER: Devoted

FAVORITE RESTAURANT IN GRAND RAPIDS:

Marie Catrib's

FAVORITE SEASON: Summer in Northern Michigan

FAVORITE PLACE TO TRAVEL: Upper Peninsula

NO. 1 ON HER BUCKET LIST: To live in a foreign country

FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER: Emmett "Doc" Brown in "Back to the Future"

AWARDS AND HONORS: Michigan College of Optometry Dean's List, Allergan Essay Travel Grant, Indian Heritage Foundation of Calgary Scholarship, India Canada Association of Calgary Award

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: Optometric Services to Humanity student volunteer to raise money for mission trips, Michigan College of Optometry Student Ambassador, Ferris Health and Wellness glaucoma screenings provider

WHAT INSPIRED HER TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE:
"Growing up, I was always fascinated with the anatomy and physiology of the eyes. When deciding on a career path, I knew I was interested in the medical field and direct interaction with patients. I worked for a few different optometrists in my hometown, and I loved what they did and what differences they made in their patients' lives. At that point, I knew that I wanted to become an optometrist."

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT FERRIS: "The faculty and staff at the Michigan College of Optometry have given me excellent skills, knowledge and training to maximize patient care and be an outstanding optometrist."

HER PLAN: To work in the metro Detroit or Chicago area.
"I would like to be part of a team where I can practice the full scope of optometry."

In the future, she hopes to own her own practice "in a city, providing excellent primary and secondary eye care."

FAVORITE FERRIS TRADITION: The International Festival of Cultures hosted annually by the Office of International Education.
"I loved tasting food from around the world. I liked learning about different cultures and their traditions."

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "It's not easy to achieve goals in life, but it is true when they say hard work pays off."

WHAT SHE WILL MISS MOST ABOUT FERRIS: "I've built a close relationship with the staff and faculty at the Michigan College of Optometry. I will miss the MCO family."

WHAT SHE LIKES MOST ABOUT BIG RAPIDS: "I like the fact that Big Rapids is a small town, which helped me adjust to a new town quicker."

A PASSION: Helping those in need

AN ADVENTURE: Charmi traveled on a mission trip to Mexico to provide free eye care.

LITTLE-KNOWN FACT: "I love to dance. In my undergraduate years, I was involved in a non-profit Indian organization and choreographed Bollywood dances to raise money for the organization."

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HER: Kind

FAVORITE BIG RAPIDS RESTAURANT: Pizzeria Vivo.
"I love their white shrimp pizza and garden vegetable pizza."

FAVORITE SEASON: Summer

NO. 1 ON HER BUCKET LIST: Backpacking through Europe



POINT OF PRIDE: "I'm proud of being a Michigan College of Optometry grad and achieving my long-term goal of being an optometrist."



Michigan College of Optometry

Charmi Shiyarwala

AGE: 25

HOMETOWN: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

DEGREE: Doctor of Optometry (Bachelor of Science in Biology, University of Calgary, 2009)



Amy Hunter

AGE: 33

HOMETOWN: Wabash, Ind.

DEGREE: Doctor of Pharmacy (Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Butler University, 2001)



SHE IS: A former elementary school teacher who left her job to pursue a career in pharmacy

AWARDS AND HONORS: Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Eta Sigma, Mortar Board, Phi Lambda Sigma (Pharmacy leadership society), Rho Chi, Russell G. Merithew Scholarship

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: College of Pharmacy Student Advisory Board, Academy of Student Pharmacists, Michigan Pharmacists Association, Rho Chi vice president, Pharmacy mentor, Hope Clinic volunteer, poison prevention instructor, Zumba instructor

POINT OF PRIDE: "I am proud to complete my Pharm.D. degree, because it required years of sacrifice and dedication. I will be striving to be a positive force in the field of pharmacy with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of my patients."

WHAT INSPIRED HER TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE:

"When I was looking to change careers, I needed to be introspective and truly gauge my strengths, weaknesses and interests. Pharmacy is exciting, versatile and provides opportunities on a daily basis to work with patients to improve their health."

Additionally, her family includes several generations of pharmacists.

A FORMATIVE EXPERIENCE AT FERRIS: "I value friendship and support, and attribute much success to those dear friends and classmates who endured a tough curriculum directly alongside me."

HER PLAN: Amy has been hired as a community pharmacist with CVS in West Michigan. Her interest in the elderly may result in future work as a consultant pharmacist.

A PERSON AT FERRIS WHO INSPIRED HER: Dr. Jeffery Bates, College of Pharmacy professor

"His concern for his students and patients is evident in the way he practices and relates to others. He is available and willing to help as his students stretch, learn and grow. I am inspired by how Dr. Bates balances the love for his family and passion for pharmacy so well."

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "Be willing to face challenges and take risks. Be willing to accept failures and setbacks; learn from them and try again. You might miss achieving your dream if you play life too safely."

A PASSION: Dance.

"I danced from the time I was 2 until I was 17. I love to dance even now. During a visit to New Orleans for a pharmacy convention, the opportunity arose to dance with a local gentleman who kindly offered me 'Cajun Dance Certification'. It would be fair to say I have been mulling around the idea of taking an adult dance class once I am established in my new profession."

FACING ADVERSITY: "The majority of my challenges involve grief and a deep sense of loss. Nearly 12 years ago, I lost my brother-in-law tragically, after I had been married for only two months. While in pharmacy school, my last grandparent passed away unexpectedly. Even loss of a true friendship during pharmacy school posed its own challenges. However, my faith in God and willingness to keep pressing ahead allows me to enjoy the many blessings I have and to appreciate the memories of those who have passed away."

AN ADVENTURE: Amy studied at the University of Glasgow in Scotland for a semester in 1999.

"I enjoyed participating in a Scottish Country Dance Club on campus as well as exploring parts of the United Kingdom. I visited the Forbes Castle in Aberdeen, toured the Isle of Mull and climbed the William Wallace Monument, among many other neat adventures. When I returned to the States, I craved Jack McPhee's fish and chips."

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HER: Dedicated

FAVORITE SEASON: "Michigan is a great place to live when your favorite season is winter. The snow-covered ground and sparkling, icy trees are breathtaking."

SHE IS: A member of the first cohort to graduate from the three-year doctoral program designed to help train the future leaders of community colleges. She is a senior advancement officer for annual giving in University Advancement and Marketing at Ferris, a wife and mother of two girls.

AWARDS AND HONORS: NAACP Life Member, Who's Who Among American College Graduate Students

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY: Ferris' Diversity and Inclusion Planning Committee

POINT OF PRIDE: "Ferris has a long and illustrious history, and a vibrant academic environment which includes the new Doctorate in Community College Leadership. FSU's greatest source of pride is its people — the faculty, staff, students and alumni who are working to advance society and improve lives both at home and abroad."

WHAT INSPIRED HER TO PURSUE THIS DEGREE:

Being surrounded by opportunities to learn new things.

Yolonda earned a master's degree while working full time, an achievement that has served her well. She began to wonder if a doctorate would be as helpful and discussed it with her husband, Kevin, who supported her while she worked on her master's.

"People ask me quite often how I do it – have a full-time-plus job, be a wife and a mom of two, and pursue a doctorate degree. The answer is simple and complex: Take it one day at a time, know your priorities and use a support system."

The DCCL program is designed to meet the needs of professionals who work full-time, an opportunity Yolonda called "perfect" for her.

"People talk all the time about work-life balance, as if your life is either balanced or not. But that's not the way it works for me. First, I have more than two things that I'm juggling. Sometimes my job requires a bigger share of my focus and attention. Sometimes it's my family. And at times, it's been my studies. When that happens, the other parts of my life get less. But I always try to keep in mind that it's my family that really matters, and it's my job that pays the bills.

"I've been really fortunate so far. When I really need to focus on one, another one doesn't also need my utmost attention right then. The hardest part is having to give up family time to get my studies done. But that's where it is helpful to have a supportive husband or spouse."

HER PLAN: To enjoy the fruits of her labor and catch up on much-needed family time.

"My family has sacrificed a lot for the last three years while I have been in school. My husband makes a great wife."

THE FUTURE: "I hope that my degree enables me to make a contribution to the body of knowledge in my specific field of expertise."

ADVICE FOR STUDENTS: "Set attainable goals and achieve them."

WHAT SHE LIKES MOST ABOUT BIG RAPIDS:

"The small-town atmosphere and how community-orientated people are."

A PASSION: Knowledge

ONE WORD THAT BEST DESCRIBES HER: Fun

FAVORITE BIG RAPIDS RESTAURANT: Schuberg's Bar & Grill

FAVORITE SEASON: Summer

FAVORITE PLACE TO TRAVEL: Key West, Fla.

FAVORITE MOVIE ACTRESS: Bette Davis

NO. 1 ON HER BUCKET LIST: To skydive



Extended and International Operations

Yolonda Barnes

HOMETOWN: Big Rapids

DEGREE: Doctorate in Community College Leadership (Master of Science in Higher Education Administration, Ferris, 2004; Bachelor of Science in Religion, Central Michigan University, 2001)

Honorary Doctorate Recipient

Richard L. Antonini

HOMETOWN: Grand Rapids



POINT OF PRIDE: "First and most importantly, my family is my point of pride. I also am proud of being able to participate and give back to my community."

HE IS: A Ferris alumnus, retired CEO and chairman of Foremost Corporation of America, community advocate, philanthropist

ON FERRIS: "Ferris is providing students with marketable core skills, whether in pharmacy, optometry or business, as well as many others. When a student graduates, he or she is prepared to get a job."

Dick Antonini is retired now, but the exemplary service to his industry and to his community continues to earn accolades.

The Ferris State University graduate, who earned an Accounting degree in 1964, received an Honorary Doctorate of Business and Industry from the university during commencement ceremonies in May.

"I feel honored, humbled and surprised," said Antonini, who retired as CEO and chairman of Foremost Corporation of America in 2000 after a distinguished career with the Grand Rapids-based insurance company.

His retirement came following completion that year of an \$812 million merger with Farmers Insurance Group of Companies, an insurance and financial services company headquartered in Los Angeles.

Antonini, the son of Italian immigrants, joined Foremost in 1969 as assistant to the president. His responsibilities grew along with the company, and he held several roles, including executive vice president, chief financial officer and senior vice president. He was named Foremost's CEO, president and chairman of the board in 1986, the same year he was honored as a Distinguished Alumnus of Ferris State University.

In 1987, Antonini returned to Ferris as a guest speaker at commencement ceremonies.

He credits the university with putting him on the road to success.

"Ferris was key to my employment at BDO Seidman," said Antonini, who worked five years at the Grand Rapids-based accounting firm after graduating from Ferris. "My education provided me with the skills necessary to pass the state CPA test."

During his time at Ferris, Antonini enjoyed being involved in the Delta Sigma Pi professional business fraternity, but his fondest memories are of living in married housing his senior year. He met his wife, Linda, in their senior year of high school and was married the summer before their senior year of college at Ferris.

"We will be celebrating our 50th wedding anniversary in August," Antonini said. He and Linda have four children and 15 grandchildren.

The couple's oldest sons, Robert and Richard, also graduated from Ferris.

Antonini also has been honored for his involvement in the West Michigan community, most recently in 2012 with induction into the Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame, which honors prominent business leaders who have made extraordinary contributions.

He remains active as a chairman of the board for the Spectrum Health Foundation and co-chaired the "For Our Kids" capital campaign for Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, a \$286-million, state-of-the-art facility in downtown Grand Rapids that opened in 2011.

Antonini also serves on the advisory council for Wedgwood Christian Services and served as a cabinet member for its \$12-million "Building Hope for Our Children" campaign. He also has chaired campaigns for the Heart of West Michigan United Way, YMCA and the Walk to Cure Juvenile Diabetes.

His service also has included board positions with Old Kent Financial Corporation, Cornerstone University and the Mackinac Center for Public Policy.

"I enjoy seeing the positive impact of people in my community," Antonini said of why he enjoys community service. "I find the gift is greater for the giver than for the recipient. I call it 'the gift of giving.'"

Antonini, a member of Ferris' Phoenix Society, also served on the executive committee of the Ferris Development Council.

Honorary Doctorate Recipient

Lupe Ramos-Montigny

HOMETOWN: Weslaco, Texas



SHE IS: A retired educator, community advocate and political activist who serves on the State Board of Education and on the advisory board for Ferris' Center for Latino Studies

ON FERRIS: "I feel very connected to the visionary steps being taken by Ferris as it positions itself to meet the needs of the Latino population."

Lupe Ramos-Montigny calls herself "a servant of the people." Ferris State University officials say her passion and exemplary service in education and her selfless leadership in community service reflect dedication and commitment worthy of an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service.

Ramos-Montigny, who was recognized with the honor during commencement ceremonies in May, learned the value of hard work and the importance of education at a young age. She is one of nine children, seven of whom traveled with her parents from Texas to Michigan for seasonal farm work.

After earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Spanish from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, Ramos-Montigny was recruited by the Michigan Migrant Educational Program to teach children of migrant farm workers.

"Literally, I started from the ground, and my mission has continued taking me up," she said.

She later earned a master's degree in Bilingual Education from Grand Valley State University in Allendale. She worked in public education for 36 years, the majority of which was dedicated to Grand Rapids Public Schools as a teacher and principal, before she retired in 2008.

"My mission has been to serve students together with their families," she said. "To be honored by Ferris with an Honorary Doctorate degree is very humbling and, at the same time, very significant. This honor is a jewel on my crown of public service."

POINT OF PRIDE: "In order to change the world, one must give of oneself unselfishly. I feel like a millionaire because my work has helped transform lives."

She also has served the past 12 years as chairperson of the Committee to Honor Cesar E. Chavez, which works to advance the educational aspirations of Hispanic students pursuing a college education. The group also organizes an annual social justice march in Grand Rapids, in which Ferris students, faculty and staff participate.

"The end of all education should surely be service to others," is a famous quote by Chavez that speaks volumes," Ramos-Montigny said. "Public service changes the world."

Her appointment to the advisory board of Ferris' Center for Latino Studies is the result of her friendship and work with Tony Baker, the center's interim director who also serves on GRPS's board of education. The center is a Ferris initiative designed to enhance the university's connections with West Michigan Latino communities and to provide a home for Latino students and those interested in Latin American culture.

"Such a center is necessary and important to the institutional and educational progress of Ferris," she said.

Ramos-Montigny is a member of the Student Advancement Foundation Board to support GRPS students, and a child advocate and vice-chair for the Kent County Citizens Friend of the Court Advisory Board.

She was the organizing force behind the Michigan Democratic Hispanic/Latino Caucus and served as chairperson for seven years. In 2002, she was the first Latina to be elected chair of the Kent County Democratic Party, and in 2003 she became the first to become second vice-chair for the Michigan Democratic Party. She currently serves on both organizations' executive committees.

In November, she was elected for an eight-year term to the State Board of Education.

Ramos-Montigny's service to education has been recognized with awards from the National Education Association and the Michigan Education Association. Her service to the Hispanic community also has resulted in numerous awards, including the Mayor George Heartwell Champion of Diversity Award.

She has two children and one granddaughter.

Honorary Doctorate Recipient

Dr. Joel Robertson

HOMETOWN: Gladwin



POINT OF PRIDE: "That my three daughters all went on to receive a solid education and were offered or were hired in much-esteemed positions. Now they have all decided to return to work within our companies, as they enjoy the passion and direction in which we serve."

HE IS: Chairman and CEO of Robertson Health, a network of companies that promotes health and wellness

ON FERRIS: "Having been involved in research and in my association with many of the top executives in health care around the world has made me appreciate the foundation and practical aspect of my education at Ferris."

Dr. Joel Robertson, an internationally known expert on brain chemistry, widely recognized clinician, bestselling author and in-demand lecturer, has been honored by his alma mater with an Honorary Doctorate of Health Services.

His fondest memories of Ferris include "many of my classmates, some of the food fights in the cafeteria and having my suitemate have to go to the clinic for indigestion for laughing too much while eating."

Robertson, who graduated in 1974 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, thoroughly enjoyed the social life at Ferris and called his education here "invaluable."

"Outside of the social aspects, I absolutely found the field of pharmacology to be fascinating," said Robertson, who received his honorary degree during commencement ceremonies in May. "The education I received from Ferris prepared me to interact, develop, discuss and perform at the level that was asked of me through the years."

Robertson, who went on to earn a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Michigan and completed postgraduate studies in chemical dependency and family system therapies at Harvard University, specializes in neuropharmacology with concentrations in psychiatric and cardiovascular pharmacology.

Robertson has created brain chemistry optimization programs used by consumers, professional athletic programs and corporations worldwide, including General Motors, Fuji Photo Films, Dow Corning Corporation, New South Wales University, Glaxo-Smith Kline and the U.S. Department of Defense. Government projects included development of national treatment protocols for behavioral emergencies and consultation on development of protocols for cardiovascular emergencies for emergency medical services.

He is a featured speaker at numerous American Medical Association and other professionally sponsored conferences. More than 500,000 people have attended Robertson's presentations in 80 countries.

He is the author of eight books and multiple self-help audio series and television shows. His research assumptions have been published in such journals as the New England Journal of Medicine and the Journal of the American Medical Association.

He is the founder of Robertson Health, a network of for-profit and non-profit health and wellness companies.

Robertson Wellness offers behavioral medicine programs that utilize the science of brain chemistry to improve individual health and wellness. Robertson Research Institute is a non-profit that focuses on research and development.

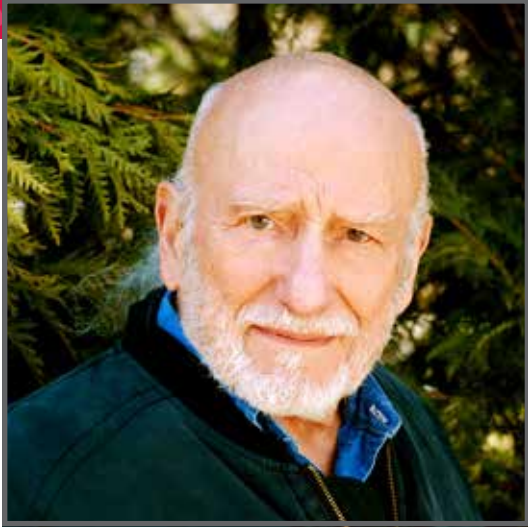
Robertson Global Health Solutions provides RHealthAdvisor, medical knowledge software that can be used on mobile devices and customized for consumers and healthcare providers worldwide. The software was nominated by Steve Ballmer, CEO of Microsoft, for a ComputerWorld Honor in medicine and chosen as one of five finalists in the program, which recognizes technology that benefits society.

"My vision is of a truly global medical solution – one that would save lives worldwide through faster, more accurate diagnosis," he said.

Ferris officials chose to recognize Robertson for his effort to enhance lives and advance the knowledge of health care professionals, and for his passion for the university and higher education.

"I find what I do is something that I love and tend to do because I enjoy it and hope to someday make a difference," said Robertson, who is active with Ferris' Pharmacy Forward philanthropic initiative.

Robertson lives in Saginaw with his wife, Vickie. They have three daughters.



Honorary Doctorate Recipient

Murray Tinkelman

HOMETOWN: Brooklyn, N.Y.

HE IS: Award-winning artist, educator, lecturer, illustration historian and director of the Limited Residency Master of Fine Arts program at Hartford Art School

ON FERRIS' KENDALL COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN: "A great work ethic is the strongest impression I have of Kendall students."

POINT OF PRIDE: "That I have successfully combined my professional career as an illustrator with my other career as an educator."

Renowned illustrator, celebrated art educator and respected illustration historian **Murray Tinkelman** has earned numerous accolades for his work, but the Honorary Doctorate of Arts he received from Ferris' Kendall College of Art and Design during commencement ceremonies in May "is beyond words."

"I have such enormous respect for Kendall – I really can't describe the feeling of receiving this honor," Tinkelman said. "This is the best thing that has happened to me in academia."

And that's saying something.

Tinkelman, whose work has appeared in The New York Times, Saturday Evening Post and The Washington Post, is considered an icon in the art world. He will be inducted into the Society of Illustrators Hall of Fame this summer, more than 60 years after his first illustration was published in Seventeen Magazine.

"It was awful," said Tinkelman, who has illustrated numerous advertisements, op-ed pieces, children's books and book covers, including covers for Zane Grey Westerns. "I was paid \$10. You're right if you assume I was grossly overpaid."

But the artist admits the evolution of his work is a lesson for fledgling artists, one he's shared in lectures at museums, universities and colleges from coast to coast, including at Kendall.

"I love the caliber of students there," Tinkelman said. "They had so many questions I nearly missed my plane."

Tinkelman became familiar with Kendall more than 30 years ago, when students participated in the Society of Illustrators' Student Scholarship Competition. He was impressed by the "superior level of work" submitted by students in the highly competitive show and in subsequent competitions, and developed a friendship with artist Jon McDonald, chair of the Illustration program at Kendall. He visited the Grand Rapids campus for guest lectures in 2008 and 2011.

"We recognize that such a high honor is reserved for only the most talented and accomplished professionals," said Kendall President David Rosen. "Judging by this criteria, Murray Tinkelman is long overdue since his accomplishments as an illustrator and art educator are unparalleled."

Tinkelman's illustration prowess has earned numerous awards. He was commissioned by The National Park Service to draw and paint national parks and monuments, and his baseball illustrations have been displayed at the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum and the United States Sports Academy.

His work can be found in many permanent collections of the Brooklyn Museum, the Delaware Art Museum, the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum, the New Britain Museum of American Art and the Norman Rockwell Museum.

Tinkelman's well-earned success and acclaim as an illustrator mirrors his love for teaching.

He is the founding chair of the illustration program at Parsons School of Design, has taught illustration and is professor emeritus at Syracuse University, and founded the Low Residency Master of Fine Arts in Illustration Program at Hartford University's Art School.

Tinkelman enjoys traveling around the country and presenting slide presentations on his work, the history of illustration and related topics.

He prides himself on combining his career as an artist with his career as an educator.

"There's a libelous cliché – "Those who can, do; those who can't, teach – I am so offended by that statement," Tinkelman said. "I think those who can, do and teach."

Tinkelman, who celebrated his 80th birthday on April 2, lives in Cortlandt Manor, N.Y. with his wife, Carol, who coordinates the MFA program at Hartford. On April 7, they celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary.

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F E R R I S . E D U / N E W S

