

September 24, 2005- October 5, 2005

Media Packet

- **Chicago, Detroit recruiting boosts GVSU's diversity**
- **Mobile office to visit Ferris campus**
- **Granholm says charter schools need to shape up, improve performance**
- **Tim Wise to speak at Ferris State**
- **Ferris raises more than \$5,000 for hurricane victims**
- **First annual FSU College of Business Celebration Fest**
- **Live! at Williams offers something for everyone**
- **Ferris State University's College of Arts and Sciences schedules 2005-06 Monthly Colloquium Series**
- **THOUGHTFUL DESIGNS**
- **Former Ferris student competes for chance at record label**
- **Thoughtful Design Keeps New Libraries Relevant**
- **More schools discuss post-Labor Day start**
- **Book fair set for Oct. 14 at Ferris State's FLITE**
- **Traffic safety team established at Ferris State University**
- **Comedian Dave Attell to perform at Ferris Homecoming**

The Grand Rapids Press

September 24, 2005

Chicago, Detroit recruiting boosts GVSU's diversity

ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP - Darryl Rhodman remembers how Grand Valley State University flooded his mailbox with brochures and letters when he was a high school student in Detroit.

The campus photos were beautiful. And the invitations to apply kept coming.

"I had to give them at least one visit," Rhodman said. "It seemed like they were really reaching out."

Today, Rhodman is a 20-year-old Grand Valley junior, one of a growing number of students who come from outside West Michigan.

Of the school's 22,565 students, 25 percent come from East Michigan, a result of several years of recruitment in the Detroit area.

The influx is making Grand Valley more 'diverse and vibrant, administrators say.

"We benefit as a campus community as we succeed in attracting individuals in a range of ethnic and racial backgrounds to our campus," President Mark Murray said.

On the flip side, this year marks the first time in Grand Valley's history the total number of students from Kent and Ottawa counties dropped from the year before, college statistics show. The campus has 5,918 Kent County students and 3,610 from Ottawa, down nearly 2 percent from last year.

And students from Muskegon County, at 1,131, now are outnumbered by those from Oakland County, 1,201.

Even so, Kent and Ottawa county students still make up 42 percent of the total student body. And taken with enrollment from 17 other West Michigan counties, the total jumps to 62 percent. But those West Michigan students get a better education when they go to classes with a variety of people beyond the home base, Murray said.

That is reflected in this year's record freshman class of 3,472, which is 15.5 percent minority, compared to 13 percent last year. There are 34 fewer white freshmen than a year ago. Overall, the school now is 11 percent minority.

"It is significant year-to-year change," said Oliver Wilson, dean for multicultural affairs. On Thursday, he was in Chicago recruiting students. Grand Valley opened a Detroit office five years ago:

"If you push to markets like Chicago and Detroit, obviously you're going to get a higher density of people of color," said Lynn Blue, vice provost and academic dean.

David Clark, a 24-year-old graduate student from Chicago, has been taking classes at Grand Valley for six years.

He said he suffered minor culture shock when he first arrived on campus after being part of a predominately black high school. But the university community made him feel welcome, he said.

"You get a sense they are working continuously to make it welcoming to all types of students," he said. "And although they do their best to do this, there's still work to be done."

At the same time, GVSU administrators have had a challenge in recruiting male students, a continuing problem at many schools in Michigan and beyond.

Women represent 62 percent of the student body, compared to 61 percent in 2003.

"Males are very welcome," Blue said. "We'd love to see a balance."

Pioneer

September 26, 2005

Mobile office to visit Ferris campus

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University students who need to access Secretary of State services can do so in their own back yard on Wednesday.

The Mobile Branch Office will be located at the Rankin Student Center on Campus Drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The primary goals of the office register students to will be to vote.

The facility is "a full-service branch office on wheels," said Kelly Chesney, spokeswoman for Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land.

"It helps serve our communities with hard-to-reach populations," she said, adding the handicap-accessible office has traveled to senior centers, alternative education environments, colleges and universities and other areas with a large amount of foot traffic. The office is hauled around the state on a 24-foot trailer.

Chesney noted the office is "quite popular" due to its-convenience for customers. While the main thrust of the office's visit to FSU is voter registration, students can transact their other business Wednesday as well. The mobile office can handle any transaction a bricks-and-mortar office would, such as renewing license plates, updating addresses, renewing or issuing driver's licenses and answering any questions regarding services.

"The first step in making your voice heard is registering to vote," Land said in a press release. "I encourage students to take advantage of this opportunity by visiting the mobile office while it is on campus. It's a convenient way to register or to conduct other business with the Secretary of State."

The office came to Ferris last year, resulting in a "terrific turnout," Chesney said. "We did a lot of business last year."

The Bay City Times

September 26, 2005

Granholtm says charter schools need to shape up, improve performance

LANSING - Saying there's a "troubling pattern of low performance" among a significant number of charter schools, Gov. Jennifer Granholtm wants authorizers of the nontraditional public schools to do more to raise student achievement.

In a letter sent last week to 11 university and community college presidents, Granholtm said she wants "to pick up the pace" of school improvement and suggested that the higher education leaders use their influence to get rid of some for-profit management companies.

"Just as we are urging school districts to install new principals in schools that have persistent low performance, authorizers should use their leverages over (charters schools) to make sure strong managers are in place," the governor's letter said.

Michigan has the largest number of for-profit charter management companies in the country, said Gary Miron, a Western Michigan University researcher who has studied charters nationwide. About three-quarters of the 220 charters are run by the for-profit groups, he said.

Schools must be established and overseen by universities, community colleges or public school districts. But their day-to-day management can be contracted out to private companies.

Miron called the Granholtm's letter a "important first step" in adding accountability, which he said has been lacking.

But charter advocates reacted with surprise over the letter. "I'm a little puzzled," said Jim Goenner, executive director of _Central Michigan University charter school office, which authorizes 58 charters. "I don't think the data represents a troubling trend. It represents an improving trend."

Goenner said 82 percent of charter schools achieved what's known as Adequate Yearly Progress under federal guidelines on recently released state reports, up from 61 percent last year.

He said 88 percent of all public schools made AYP. Of CMU authorized schools, 86 percent made AYR Chuck Wilbur, senior education adviser to Granholtm, said the governor is asking the Department of Education to work with districts to improve all of the state's most troubled schools. A letter last month urged "fundamental changes" immediately.

But when it comes to charter schools, there is no district to turn to, Wilbur said.

Granholm called it a missing link.

But Dan Quisenberry, executive director of the Michigan Association of Public School Academies, said universities already help the schools and provide oversight.

"It's an additional link, not a missing link," he said. Granholm pointed in her letter to two management companies that serve 11 of the 39 schools not making Adequate Yearly Progress.

"What drew the governor's attention," Wilbur said. "We have a couple of management companies that account for a high percentage of PSAs (public school academies) not making AYP."

One of those, the East Lansing-based Leona Group, with 19 charters in Michigan, had six schools failing to make AYP.

But Kelly Updike, communications director, said Leona schools are improving and already work with Ferris State and Saginaw Valley State universities to drive curriculum changes.

"From last year to this year, we doubled the number of schools that made AYP, from seven to 13. We do take it seriously," she said.

Saginaw Valley State University spokesman J.J. Boehm said his university, which authorizes 18 schools, is already involved in school improvement activities. Charters school principals, for example, must attend monthly meetings at SVSU where they learn about such topics as using test data to improve instruction. The university also matches retired teachers with new teachers to serve as mentors.

"Certainly this letter is asking us to do things that by and large we already have been doing," Boehm said. "Our faculty from our College of Education has been directly involved with schools we charter."

Pioneer

September 27, 2005

Tim Wise to speak at Ferris State

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University will welcome acclaimed anti-racism speaker Tim Wise on Wednesday. Wise will talk on the politics of prejudicial and racial scapegoat in post-9/11 America at 7 p.m. in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium. Admission is free.

This presentation will assess the rise of anti-Arab, anti-Muslim hostility in the wake of the New York City and Washington, D.C., terrorist attacks and the importance of resisting racial, ethnic or religious prejudice.

Wise has made appearances across the United States, having spoken to more than 80,000 people in 47 states, to educate the masses about the damage caused by racism and encourage people to break its cycle through the spoken word, literature, art, protest or any other means possible.

He holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Tulane University, where he received international attention from Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu for his anti-apartheid work.

"I guess I would consider myself one part social critic, one part anti-racist organizer," he said.

According to Wise, racism and the system of white supremacy have existed in the U.S. since the late 1600s when "whiteness as a concept of automatic advantage" was developed.

"White people hold on to negative stereotypes about people of color because to acknowledge their falsehood would be to admit that we had fallen prey to a negative, destructive mentality," he added. "Most people don't want to be racist."

Wise is the author of two books to be released in 2005, "White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son" and "Affirmative Action, Racial Preference in Black and White."

Pioneer

September 27, 2005

Ferris raises more than \$5,000 for hurricane victims

BIG RAPIDS - Ferris State University students have raised more than \$5,500 for hurricane victims so far - and they're not stopping yet.

The Cover the Seal with Coins event Thursday raised \$1,716.26; other fund-raisers, such as wristband sales, continue through this week. All the money collected will be given to the American Red Cross for hurricane relief efforts.

Pioneer

September 27, 2005

First annual FSU College of Business Celebration Fest

BIG RAPIDS - More than 400 students attended the College of Business' first annual Celebration Fest 2005 on Sept. 15 for food, entertainment, fellowship with one another along with the College of Business faculty/staff and to learn about professional business organizations.

The College of Business wanted to find an entertaining way to welcome students to the opening of the academic year and encourage them to become involved in a professional business organization.

The event was a huge success. Students from every program in the College of Business were present. Dean David Nicol opened the evening's festivities with warm greetings. The students were encouraged to visit with one another and to visit the Professional Business Organization (PBO) tables.

Ferris students can choose from over 200 student organizations, while there are 17 specifically related to the College of Business and are run by students giving them the opportunity to learn leadership skills while developing an understanding of their major, careers within their major and networking opportunities, professional development and jobs after graduation.

The entertainment for the evening was provided by the Music Industry Management students. Their performances included several new songs they wrote themselves and several others. They motivated the crowd to stay and listen, not to mention they encouraged them to eat, talk and hang 'out until the prizes were raffled off. The musicians were: Meghan Wilcox, Angie Grubaugh, Jessie May-Grzybowski, Josh Wilson, and Ten Dollar Minimum's own Evan Mercier and Thomas Tripi.

The event would not have been possible without the support from several local businesses that donated prizes including several area restaurants, movies, hotel stays, FSU Hockey tickets, coupons for discounts at a business, tanning sessions, and free golf.

The College of Business gave away several polo shirts, gift cards to various local businesses, and College of Business Bags. The grand prize was a \$500 scholarship won by Heather Burleson, a junior in the Music Industry Management program.

Pioneer

September 28, 2005

Live! at Williams offers something for everyone

BIG RAPIDS - Live! at Williams is set to engage, enlighten and entertain local audiences in Ferris State University's G. Mennen Williams Auditorium and the Big Rapids and Ferris communities may preview the upcoming performing arts and entertainment events for the 2005-06 season.

Audiences will literally be lifted from their seats with the season opener Oct. 8. Fred Garbo's Inflatable Theater comes to Big Rapids with a performance called "helium light and hilarious" by the New York Times. Bursting with original, fantastic, pneumatic suits of all shapes and sizes, this show includes dexterous juggling, dance, hilarious visual comedy, mischief and even ART. Truly universal in its appeal, the show transcends age and language. It's a performance for the whole family. Tickets for this performance range from \$5 for children under twelve to \$12 for adults.

On Dec. 3, the enchanting sounds and quick steps of Cherish the Ladies will fill Williams Auditorium. With their unique spectacular blend of virtuosi instrumental talents, beautiful vocals, captivating arrangements and stunning step dancing, this powerhouse group combines all the facets of Irish traditional culture and puts it forth in an immensely humorous and entertaining package. Their most recent album, "On Christmas Night," was released to rave reviews and was chosen as one of the top Christmas Albums of the Year by The New York Times, Washington Post, The Village Voice and many other nationally syndicated Newspapers.

The prolific Scottish author Robert Louis Stephenson virtually invented the genre of modern horror fiction with his gripping classic work *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, to be presented at Williams Auditorium by the Aquila Theatre Company Feb. 4. The Aquila Theatre Company is known for bold and dramatic interpretations of classic literature; theater lovers will find this performance a very compelling evening.

Stevenson's story offers compelling views of the nature of human emotion and the bounds of scientific research, a fascinating detective story and a fictional parallel for the unsolved murders of 'Jack the Ripper.' And finally, Live! at Williams offers a youthful and artful look into the world of hip-hop with the Fly Dance Company. This amazing group of young dancers brings energy and high-risk street dance movements to a surprisingly diverse selection of music. Standing ovations have become the norm for this new and exciting approach to dance and street culture. Fly is expanding dance audiences wherever they go. They attract new attendees because their appeal cuts through age, sex, ethnic and cultural boundaries.

Season tickets for all four events range from \$32 for students to \$60 for adults and are on sale now. Tickets may be ordered online at <www.ferris.edu/arts> or by phone at (231) 591-5600. The Williams Auditorium ticket office, located in the auditorium lobby at 901 S. State St., is open Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and one hour before

the performance. Persons needing special accommodations to attend this performance may call the auditorium office at (231) 591-3676.

Pioneer

September 28, 2005

Ferris State University's College of Arts and Sciences schedules 2005-06 Monthly Colloquium Series

All events take place from 11 to 11:50 a.m. in the FSU Founders Room in Rankin Center 238. The events are free and open to everyone. For more information contact Scott Cohen, humanities colloquium coordinator, at (231) 591-2484 or e-mail rscohen@ferris.edu.

Sept. 29 - Engaging and Challenging the On-Line Learner: Proven Success Stories with WebCT

Jana Pisani, FSU Assistant Professor of History

Donna Smith, Professor of Communication

Kimn Carlton-Smith, Professor of History

Oct. 13 - Historic Painting Techniques: A Hands-On Demonstration

Lynette Vought, FSU Instructor of Art & Music

* To be held in the Rankin Center Dome Room

Nov. 10 - Gothic Western From "The Searchers" To "The Missing"

Susan Booker Morris, FSU Associate Professor of Humanities

Jan. 26 - The Politically Correct Pacification of Public Art The New Agenda:
Challenging the Viewer

Robert Barnum, FSU Professor of Art and resident artist

Feb. 9 - Open Debate (Topic and participants to be announced) Kristi Gerding, FSU
Debate Coach & Instructor of Communication

March 23 - The History of Comic Books and Their Use as a Teaching Tool in Science

Pasquale Di Raddo, FSU Professor of Chemistry Co-sponsored by the student affiliate
chapter of the American Chemical Society (SAACS)

April 20 - If it's Unnatural ... It's Hell: Carel van Mander's Explanation of Bosch's
Monstrosities and Its Modern Denial

Robert Quist, FSU Instructor of Philosophy

The Chronicle of Higher Education

September 30, 2005

THOUGHTFUL DESIGNS

As they renovate old libraries and plan new ones, colleges consider the purpose of the buildings -- and how to ' make them popular. Above, students study in a reading room in the new ' library at Ferris State U. Compared with Ferris State's old library, the new building attracts three times the number of visitors-- an average of 45,000 a month.

Pioneer

September 30, 2005

Former Ferris student competes for chance at record label

BIG RAPIDS - Adventurous and diplomatic, Ferris State University alumna

Makhosazana Ndlovu, better known as Makho, hopes to become one of 10 finalists in the running to win a recording label sponsored by "The Biz."

"The Biz," a new Web-based reality show, features contestants from around the world, competing for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to found and run their own recording label. The contest began with 50 competitors. Eight contestants have already been selected by judges, but through Friday, audience members have the chance to decide the fate of two other hopefuls - one female and one male - from a pool of six candidates (three females, three males).

Ndlovu is currently in second place with 34 percent of the votes. If chosen, she will go to New York to compete in the final head-to-head competition along with nine other contestants. The Ferris and Big Rapids communities may cast their votes for Makho Ndlovu at <www.thebiz.com>.

As a former intern to Damon Dash, co-founder/CEO of Roc-A-Fella Records and a former concert booker, the 23-year-old believes her whole being is defined by music.

Born in Zimbabwe, Africa, where her passion for music began, she credits former rap/hip hop artist Biggie Smalls (a.k.a The Notorious B.I.G.) for helping her fit in with the American way of life.

"My friends and I loved music so much that even as little kids we would sit indoors for hours upon hours writing down lyrics to songs and memorizing them," she said. "A lot of music was banned in Zimbabwe - acts like Salt-N-Pepa had lyrics that the government thought was profane. But that only fueled our interest in the songs..."

Before entering "The Biz" competition, Ndlovu attended Ferris State University for four years during which she participated in debate. In 2003, she was coordinator of special events for Entertainment Unlimited, and in 2004, co-chaired the Mecosta/Osceola United Way student campaign. She is one class away from receiving her bachelor's degree in business administration and plans to finish either in New York or Indianapolis, depending on the outcome of the competition.

Ndlovu currently resides in Indianapolis, Ind., where she works as an office manager for her mother's temp agency.

The Chronicle of Higher Education

September 30, 2005

Thoughtful Design Keeps New Libraries Relevant

Not everything students want and need is online

Harold B. Shill recalls an overcast day in November 1999 when he and a friend strolled across the campus of Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, passing the college's brand-new library. Mr. Shill, then the university's library director, had spent years planning and pushing for the \$15-million library building, and here it was, scheduled to open in a month.

His friend, an engineering professor, gestured toward the library and uttered something that would darken any librarian's day: "It's a shame that we spent all that money on this building now that everything is on the Internet."

Mr. Shill wrapped an arm around his colleague and patiently explained that, in fact, everything was not on the Internet, and that students still needed books, journals, librarians, and, most of all, library buildings. "Just wait and see," he said.

But Mr. Shill's confident manner masked the anxiety he felt. The old library had occupied part of a floor in the main academic building. Mr. Shill wondered whether students would bother trudging across the lawn to the new library. He worried that his friend was right, in a sense -- that students would see Google or Yahoo as "everything," or at least enough for convenience.

His worries evaporated when the building opened. Students rolled through the gates in numbers that shattered records at the old library. Those numbers have been climbing year after year since.

Even so, he's never stopped thinking about what makes a good library building. What role do its carrels and cafes, its huge collections and hidden corners, play in drawing students and creating an atmosphere for studying, socializing, or even solitude? And what role does the library building play in an age that seems increasingly dominated by electronic resources and remote access?

The Internet brought predictions of the demise of the library and, on some campuses, the marginalization of librarians themselves. But now librarians increasingly find that administrators, professors, and students see the library building as essential, a romanticized heart of the campus. At the same time, though, libraries have changed radically from the stodgy and stuffy repositories of years past. Some people wonder whether libraries have loosened up too much, and what libraries will look like in the future.

In library-planning meetings and journal articles, and on e-mail discussion lists, librarians and planners turn again and again to a buzz phrase: "the library as place." It was the title of a series of essays published by the Council on Library and Information

Resources, the theme of a panel discussion at the recent American Library Association conference and the title of a conference put on two years ago by the National Library of Medicine.

James G. Neal, the university librarian at Columbia University, spoke at the National Library of Medicine conference, where he said that universities are building "*trompe l'oeil* libraries." These buildings have all the traditional trappings of libraries, like reference desks, shelves, and carrels. "But in fact what we are creating is something far more progressive and far more dynamic inside, in terms of social space, academic space, and learning space," Mr. Neal says.

Indeed, libraries today feature not only the cafes and lounge areas that have become so popular, but also classrooms, conference centers, group-study areas, high-end multimedia equipment, computers outfitted with advanced software, and areas designated for lessons in information literacy, along with the stacks of books. And some new libraries dispense with the stacks altogether.

But even as libraries change, they retain an age-old aura. "The library is the one thing that stands for the kind of culture and learning for which universities are noted," says Michael Gorman, dean of library services at California State University at Fresno and president of the American Library Association. "When you look at the glossy brochures that universities put out, hoping to attract funds, they always feature people reading in the library, because there is something iconic about that."

Mr. Gorman calls the library the "great intellectual and cultural center" of the academic community. Librarians sometimes call the library a "third place," a reference to a theme in Ray Oldenburg's book *The Great Good Place*. Mr. Oldenburg, a professor emeritus of sociology at the University of West Florida, lamented in his book that good public places are disappearing in America. Society, he says, desperately needs third places -- places that are neither home (the first place) nor work (the second), but spaces that allow people from different parts of a community to come together and engage one another.

Mark Maves, a senior vice president at the Smith Group, an architecture and planning firm, says he is "fascinated" to see some librarians describe their buildings "not so much as a library but as the academic counterpart to the student center."

He has found that librarians are abandoning circulation statistics, which are falling at some institutions, as the measure of success they show administrators and trustees.

Instead, they cite library attendance -which means, he says, that librarians are competing more and more with the conveniences and comforts of the dormitory suite and the buzz of the student center.

"We're working on some studies with Baylor University's library, and we were stunned at how active it was at night," he says. "It's really become much more of a

social hangout. There is not enough density of activity in a student center to compete with the 'see and be seen' that occurs in the library now."

And some say that new, well-designed, and popular space can lead not only to increased use, but also to more support from administrations and legislatures. Richard M. Cochran, the library dean at Ferris State University, believes that the popularity of his new, \$45-million library building helped protect his library from state budget cuts in the past year. Other libraries in Michigan saw million-dollar cuts in acquisitions budgets, he says, "while we saw virtually no cut at all."

"Part of that," Mr. Cochran says, "is that they see a new building out there, they see it doing its job. That's part of the deal of selling a library in this day and age." Ferris State's library, which was designed by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates and features spacious, well-lit rooms and study areas, attracts an average of 45,000 patrons a month. The old library, which was converted into a student-services building, brought in only about 14,000 visitors a month.

After his library opened at Penn State Harrisburg, Hal Shill was interested in finding and ranking the features that brought people in. He and Shawn C. Tonner, director of the library at Reinhardt College, in Waleska, Ga., sent survey forms to fellow library directors, asking them about various aspects of their buildings and to rate how those aspects affected library use.

The responses from about 180 institutions revealed surprising patterns. For example, Mr. Shill found that the location of a library on a campus made little difference in its popularity among students. Library size did not matter, nor did the number of study rooms in a building or the availability of wireless access. "The presence of a cybercafe -- that was a wash," he says. "It was not a statistically significant feature, but I would recommend it as a creature comfort."

More basic comforts rated highly: the quality of natural lighting, the quality of work spaces, the quality of the heating and air-conditioning system, and the overall ambiance of the building. Computer and Internet access -- such as the number of data ports, the quality of the telecommunication system, and the quality of the public-access workstations -- were also vital to the success of a building.

Eighty percent of the libraries located in new or significantly renovated buildings saw their traffic increase when construction fences came down. Mr. Shill says that the next phase of his research will be to look at the 20 percent that did not see increases -- the majority of which were at public institutions -and find out what went wrong.

His report had a salient point: If a library is deserted, it's not necessarily because the Internet has taken over. It's more likely, he says, that the building itself is outdated, poorly lit, underfinanced, and depressing -- say, a 1960s retic that is less attractive than another place to study, like a friend's house or a local coffee shop. It could be that the

library has not added amenities like data ports, group-study areas, and casual learning spaces to accommodate the way students work today.

His report has been a boon to librarians faced with the difficult task of selling a library-building project to a board of trustees or a president -- especially at a time when boards and administrations can be reluctant to spend money on libraries. When Sarah Thomas, the library director at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, in Arizona, went to ask for a new library, the president asked her skeptically: "What guarantees are we going to have that it's going to make any difference?"

She cited the report, the factors that led to increased use, and the reasons why replacing the tiny, 1960s library on her campus would not only help library services, but would also elevate the profile of the whole campus. The president, she says, was sold.

"That's what he needed to hear when he went to talk to donors," she says.

Walking around his own library, designed in part by the Boston firm Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott, Mr. Shill points out elements intended to please the patrons.

Even the smallest things get a mention: There are big windows on every floor that suck in light, but patrons can control sunshades in reading areas if the glare is overwhelming.

Thermostats pepper the building, allowing patrons to control the temperature in many reading areas and lounges. Computers are set up with enough room around them to allow patrons to work independently or in groups. Wires are hidden beneath tables and under floors to avoid unattractive visual clutter. A student walking in will find an information desk on the right; the circulation desk sits on the other side of the entrance, on the right on the way out.

"We live in a car culture, and we drive on the right side of the road," Mr. Shill says.

"Some libraries miss these things in their design."

Mr. Shill, who recently retired from his job as library director, often visits other libraries when he is on the road. In St. Paul, a reporter accompanies him on a Sunday-morning tour of a modest library at Metropolitan State University, designed by the firm Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle. The library, which is a public-academic hybrid, seems run-of-the-mill at first, he says. But soon he is charmed. The cherry-colored bookshelves are elegant. The St. Paul skyline is framed in big windows on the building's west side.

Lounge chairs surround a fireplace. A Hmong tapestry hangs on a wall, in honor of that prominent ethnic community in St. Paul.

Mr. Shill notices the little things, as usual: Patrons can operate the solar shades. Pendant lights mean less glare for students while they study. The furniture in the study rooms is modular, allowing people to split up desks and huddle into groups. The

dean's office, darkened on a Sunday morning, sits in the midst of the action on the first floor, close to the main reference area and the computer bank.

"This is a service-oriented choice of placement," he says of the dean's office. "They have their finger on the pulse here, and they know what's going on."

And on a beautiful spring morning -- a Sunday, no less -- students are actually filing in, cracking open books, and logging onto computer workstations.

On a visit to Milwaukee, Mr. Shill arranges for a tour of the new John P. Raynor, S.J., Library at Marquette University, also designed by Shepley Bulfinch. The library was built to be a multi-use facility, with an emphasis on information technology and collaborative learning. But it was also designed to attract students with comfortable spaces. It does not house many books; most of them remain in the old Memorial Library. The two libraries are connected through a skyway that also houses a cafe, where some of the two-year-old lounge chairs are already worn down to the threads.

"In the first 14 months of operation, including a quiet summer, we had a million turnstile counts," says Nicholas C. Burckel, Marquette's dean of libraries. That doubles the old library's attendance on a campus with 10,000 students. Like other academic libraries, Raynor has areas that are open all night to respond to students' study patterns. In the first semester, staff members counted 35,000 students who entered the building between midnight and 8 a.m.

After Raynor Library opened, the student union saw a significant decline in use. "Students jokingly refer to it as 'Club Ray,'" Mr. Burckel says of the library.

Mr. Shill walks around the building and notes the creature comforts, as well as the features that most eyes would miss. "It's unusual to have a whole building on raised flooring," he says, tapping a foot on the hollow floor. The raised floor, under which conduits run, allows technicians to change wiring in the building with little trouble. "Things are going to change," Mr. Burckel replies, "and we want to be prepared."

Since the advent of the Internet, and certainly since the announcement of the Google Print project, many people have wondered what role print items will have in library buildings. Many libraries are filled to capacity, and on mature campuses the buildings are crowded, making expansion difficult. Competition for space inside the library building can be intense.

This has led to different kinds of library places. The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities has built a bunker-like facility, called the Elmer L. Andersen Library that stores millions of books in gigantic limestone caves far underground. The aboveground portion of the building consists of rooms where scholars can examine special collections.

Meanwhile, across the Mississippi River on the campus's main quad, the stately old Walter Library went through a renovation to make the building more attractive to students, and it seems to have worked. It included ripping out the book stacks at the center of the building -- the volumes were sent to various libraries and storage areas, including the Andersen Library -- so that the space could be given over to offices for the university's Institute of Technology. Elsewhere, gold was added to the ornate ceilings throughout the building, oak library tables were refinished to a caramel brown, and marble columns once thought black were scrubbed to reveal green with white veins. The building hasn't looked so good since it opened in 1924.

But few people would notice one subtle change to the building, outside and around to the back: The university's official signage no longer calls the building Walter Library. It is now simply, in big letters, "Walter," with a mention of library functions in smaller print below.

Traditional forces reign at the University of Chicago, which is planning a renovation and expansion of the Joseph Regenstein Library, the main library. Faculty members there abhorred the idea of setting up a remote storage facility and instead insisted that the university find a way to keep all of the books on-site, easily browsable, for the convenience of scholars.

"The experience of most of these other libraries is that the off-site stuff doesn't get used," says Andrew Abbott, a sociology professor who served on a library-planning board. "People go to work where books are easily available."

The library resolved to put a high-density storage facility on-site, which would house serials. "On one hand, we get the space savings. On the other, we don't disorder the collection. The monograph collection will still be entirely browsable," Mr. Abbott says.

Officials at the university claim that when the library expansion is finished, it will be the largest library under one roof in North America.

Mr. Abbott, with the help of colleagues, is also putting together a report on the future of the libraries at Chicago. Surveys have been conducted among students. "We already know an enormous amount about student behavior in the library, which has been of concern to a lot of faculty," he says. "In the last two years, especially since the university built a dormitory next to the library, it's become more of a student union than it used to be."

Luring students into the library to learn, and not just socialize or sleep, involves more than just giving them an Internet account and a cup of coffee. By keeping seven million books on-site, not only do researchers benefit, but students also have a mass of information that rivals the Internet -- something they can run through with their fingers.

"There is a real issue there," Mr. Abbott says. "The faculty is united in thinking that this building is supposed to be the research center of one entire wing of intellectual life at the campus, and we can't afford to let it turn into an Internet cafe."

Pioneer

October 1 & 2, 2005

More schools discuss post-Labor Day start

BIG RAPIDS - Students in Michigan schools will see school starting later under legislation signed Thursday by Gov. Jennifer Granholm.

The new law requires schools to begin their school year after the Labor Day holiday.

The Pioneer contacted area schools yesterday to determine local impact. That coverage continues today.

Big Rapids Public Schools the new law will have "numerous affects" felt by all schools, said Big Rapids Public School Superintendent Tom Langdon.

"Academically with the MEAP test now in the fall, this will give our students less time to prepare," Langdon said.

"Athletically, practices and even some games may have to take place before school starts." Langdon said he foresees a possible decline in the number of students participating in fall sports.

Crossroads Charter Academy

Crossroads Charter Academy will "adapt" under the new legislation, said counselor Lynne Gerould.

"I think we can probably adapt -we might make the school day a little bit longer," Gerould said. "I don't think anybody's real excited about going longer in June."

Keeping the same ending date for the school year but lengthening the school day would allow Crossroads to still get the required numbers of instruction hours mandated by the state for students, he explained.

There are a few problems with a later start.

"Ferris (State University) starts before Labor Day," Gerould pointed out, noting the challenge for dual-enrolled students to get all of the necessary instruction if FSU was in session but CCA was not.

He believes Crossroads will try to keep a similar calendar to other schools within the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District because of shared instructional venues such as the Mecosta-Osceola Career Center and the Math/Science/Technology Center.

Pioneer

October 4, 2005

Book fair set for Oct. 14 at Ferris State's FLITE

BIG RAPIDS - Kappa Delta Pi will sponsor a Scholastic Book Fair on Oct. 14 in Room 135 of the FLITE Library on the campus of Ferris State University in Big Rapids.

The purpose of the book sale is to raise money to donate to the FLITE children's book section.

Pioneer

October 5, 2005

Traffic safety team established at Ferris State University

BIG RAPIDS - A pedestrian safety group at Ferris State University is broadening its role.

James A. Santilli, Jr. of the Michigan Highway Traffic Safety Alliance (MHTSA), and member of the FSU Pedestrian Safety Task Force was successful with his request to convert the university's Pedestrian Safety Task Force into the FSU Traffic Safety Team (FSLITST).

"This modification will place a focus on all essential areas of traffic safety, many of which can impact pedestrian safety," said Santilli. "Nationally, motor vehicle traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for people ages 3 through 33."

The FSUTST will focus strongly on engineering, education, and enforcement initiatives, and target aggressive driving behaviors (i.e. speeding, running stop signs, and failing to signal), pedestrian and bicycle safety, impaired driving, and occupant protection.

"This is the next step in a sensible approach to traffic safety," said Martin J. Bledsoe, director of the Ferris Department of Public Safety, and head of the FSUTST. "The task force was developed for a targeted response to an important issue. The FSUTST will include all aspects of safe travel."

Other members of the FSUTST include: James Cook, assistant director of the Ferris Department of Public Safety; Kevin Courtney, director of the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety; Terry Harris, post commander of the Michigan State Police Reed City Post; Maria Knirk, president of the Ferris Student Government; Karl Koivisto, Michigan, Department of Transportation; Clare Kwant, superintendent of the Ferris Roads and Grounds division; Maxine McClelland, supervisor of Big Rapids Township; John W. Sonntag, sheriff of Mecosta County; and Timothy Vogel, director of the Big Rapids Department of Public Works.

According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, four out of five accidental deaths for teenagers and young adults (ages 15 - 24) are due to motor vehicle crashes.

"Teens and young adults are killed at far higher rates in crashes because they are caught in a lethal intersection of inexperience, risk taking and low seat belt use," said U. S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta. "All of us - individuals as well as government - must work together to change the nation so that highway safety is every American's priority."

Pioneer

October 5, 2005

Comedian Dave Attell to perform at Ferris Homecoming

BIG RAPIDS - Comedian Dave Attell will be performing at Ferris Oct. 14 at 8 p.m. in G. Mennen Williams Auditorium. This event is not recommended for children.

Attell is the host and writer of Comedy Central's "Insomniac with Dave Attell." A stand-up comic for the past 18 years, he is highly respected in the entertainment industry.

According to The New York Times, "Insomniac is a doubly rare beast, a comedy without rancor and a travel show about the virtues of the American under-dog."

Tickets for the event are \$8 for students (limit one with student ID) and \$15 for the general public.

Tickets may be purchased at the Williams Auditorium Box Office by calling 591-5600, logging onto the Web at <www.ferris.edu/arts/tickets> (student price not available online) or at the Timme Student Center. Anyone with a disability who needs special accommodations to attend this event should contact 591-5600 at least 10 business days in advance of the event.

This program is being brought to campus by the Student Homecoming Committee, the Finance Committee of Student Government, Alumni Affairs and the Office of Student Leadership and Activities.

More information about Attell may be found on the Web by visiting <www.daveattell.com>.