

Release September 30, 2004

Ferris HVACR program receives donation from St. Cloud Refrigeration

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University's Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Department recently received a state-of-the-art, custom built, microprocessor-based, parallel refrigeration system donated by St. Cloud (MN) Refrigeration, Inc.

St. Cloud Refrigeration is owned and operated by Mike Fitch and Pat Welty, who worked with Ferris Professor John Tomczyk in developing the refrigeration system. Tomczyk teaches the commercial refrigeration class where the new parallel refrigeration system is now housed.

The system will be an actual working piece of equipment for students to utilize in the HVACR Technology associates degree program, said Tomczyk. It contains a diverse array of electronic and pressure operated valves, an Einstein electronic controller, three parallel compressors, a sophisticated oil management system, a split suction header, pressure transducers, and many pressure temperature sensing instruments that perform energy efficient refrigeration as is needed in a modern day supermarket.

Other companies contributing to the project were: Alco Controls Division, Computer Process Controls, Copeland Compressor Corporation, Gustave Larson, Inc., Henry Valve Company, Refrigeration Research, Inc., Sporlan Valve Company and Zero Zone Refrigeration, Inc.

St. Cloud Refrigeration, founded in 1957 by Fitch's father, now employs 120 persons, works in seven states and has branches in Brainerd and Rochester, MN. Mike Fitch is a graduate of North Dakota State School of Science in Wahpeton, ND, where he received an associate degree in HVACR Technology. His two sons, Scott and Mark, both graduated with associate degrees in HVACR Technology from Ferris.

Welty was the first salesman for St. Cloud Refrigeration in the late 1970's and today handles sales throughout the company. He is a graduate of Moorehead Technical College where he received a degree in HVACR Technology. Welty also received a bachelor's degree in University Studies from North Dakota State University and an associate arts degree from Brainerd Community College.

Scott Fitch, presently a service technician in commercial refrigeration for St. Cloud Refrigeration, also graduated with a bachelor's degree in HVACR Engineering Technology from Ferris in 2001. Mark Fitch, a senior at Ferris in the baccalaureate HVACR Engineering Technology program, has an expected graduation date of 2005 and plans to work in the service field before laddering into a design position.



Photo Caption:

FERRIS RECEIVES EQUIPMENT DONATION – The Ferris State University HVACR program recently received the donation of a custom built parallel refrigeration system from St. Cloud (MN) Refrigeration, Inc. The system will be used by students in the commercial refrigeration class of Professor John Tomczyk. Pictured are (from left): Tomczyk, Ferris student Mark Fitch and brother, Scott Fitch, of St. Cloud Refrigeration. Both Mark and Scott are Ferris graduates and grandchildren of the firm's founder.

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Ferris State HVACR students don't "monkey around" when it comes to student design competitions!

- Award winning students from Ferris State University attend M.C.A.A. Chapter Summit in La Crosse, WI

-On September 27th, 2004, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration students Tia Manyen of Big Rapids, MI, Gary Schrader of Cameron, MO, Teresa Bakke of Traverse City, MI, Construction Management students Dawn Marie VanderZiel of Lowell, Eric Harris of Tecumseh, MI, Eric Balkon of Grand Rapids, MI, Electronics student Peter Dezelski of Traverse City, and MSCA Chapter Advisor, Mike Feutz represented Ferris State University by attending the Mechanical Contractors Association of America Student Summit in La Crosse, WI.

Student Chapters from across the nation are cooperatively challenged to network and explore ways to build exciting, rewarding careers in HVACR. In addition, teams are formed to solve a mechanical systems problem in a competitive sales presentation.

M.C.A .A. presented the Student Mini- Competition Awards. This honor recognizes student teams for outstanding achievement who successfully problem solve and sell innovative strategies to a panel of judges.

Said, first place winner Gary Schrader, "This summit is a unique opportunity for students to network with peers from different schools and programs, all relating to mechanical contracting. For example, HVACR and Constructions students can tie their two fields together to broaden perspectives, thus, making better sales/project decisions."

The recipients of the mini-competition were as follows:

First Place: Gary Schrader, Anne Barry, Erik Kandler, Jim Koob, Jeff Miller, Warren Rose, Clifford Hentz,.

Second Place: Teresa Bakke, Ben Benoy, Mike Affeldt, Bill Jansen, Chris Avildsen, Justin Estperance, David Cerecerez.

Pictures:



Top row; Eric Balkon, Gary Shrader, Peter Dezelski, and Mike Feutz

Bottom row; Teresa Bakke, Dawn Marie VanderZiel, Tia Manyen, and Eric Harris.



Second Place Winners: Teresa Bakke, Ben Benoy, Mike Affeldt, Bill Jansen, Chris Avildsen, Justin Estperance, David Cerecerez and Director of Career Development, Ann Mattheis.

(More...)

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Ferris HVACR Students Prepare Audit Report for Master Tag

Bruce Armstrong, Facility Manager, along with Rick Hughes, both representatives of Master Tag, visited The Granger Center for Construction and HVACR on December 16, 2005. They invited HVACR students to complete an energy audit on one of their more technically advanced buildings. Students from two sections of HVACR 451, taught by Assistant Professor John Eric Quilitsch, presented proposals on their building. Senior Ryan McCourt commented, "We not only provide energy audits, we also encourage implementation of improvements using technology. This is real life - this class allows us to get job experience and network, preparing us for the real world of work."

Professor Eric Quilitsch comments, "We are always on the lookout for business owners who could benefit from a thorough energy audit. Where else could you get 30 HVACR Engineers to spend fifteen weeks examining your energy consumption? "

Year after year Ferris HVACR students present real world opportunities for energy savings to business owners. There isn't any obligation on the part of the owner to execute the plan that the students present; however, some of the opportunities might seem too great to pass up.

MSCA Student Chapter Sponsors Fourth Annual "HEATS ON" Project.

Greater Michigan MSCA Ferris State University Student Chapter held their fourth HEATS ON Project in October. The chapter has participated

in the program with Greater Michigan MSCA and UA Local 190 for the past six years. They enjoyed their participation, but felt they wanted to do more for Mecosta County.

The Chapter took on the task of scheduling a project for their hometown working with the Mecosta County Family Independence Agency. Calls were made to have volunteers participate with MSCA contractors and chapters across the state.

Trucks came from Flint, Goyette Mechanical Company and Grand Rapids, Hurst Industries. Chapter Advisor Sandra Miller along with her assistant, Lily Calmeyn from Greater Michigan MSCA attended; also, Chapter Advisor Mike Feutz, attended. The appointments to local homes had been pre-set, reviewed and confirmed by MSCA. Chapter sponsor, Sandy Miller, reviewed the procedures for the service calls and discussed the forms and paperwork that needed to be prepared during the visit. Each truck took carbon monoxide and smoke detectors for each home; the truck also had a supply of fresh batteries for homes which had existing detectors. They were installed where necessary. A number of volunteers stayed behind to serve as "runners" taking parts out to the various service calls when necessary. Everyone, service technicians and students alike, enjoyed the opportunity to help those in need.



