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Seidman Accounting Graduate Is Phi Kappa Phi Fellow

Seidman School of Business accounting student Marinus DeBruine was awarded a $6,000 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship last spring. The award was one of 40 granted annually across the country. The awards are presented to outstanding students who are about to complete their undergraduate work and enter a graduate program. Each of the 240 Phi Kappa Phi chapters nominates one candidate.

A Holland, Michigan, resident, Marinus emigrated from the Netherlands 11 years ago. He planned to be a hog farmer here and after completing a correspondence course on the subject, began managing a 200-pig farm in Holland. He became discouraged, however, by the financial troubles of the farmers for whom he worked, and began to think about other possibilities. He had done some business projections when he had considered buying his own farm, and realized he liked working with numbers.

photo by Grand Rapids Press

Phi Kappa Phi Fellow Marinus DeBruine with his wife Sandy and son Matthew.

He had heard about the reputation of Grand Valley's accounting program and decided to check it out for himself. He enrolled and last May, three years later, graduated with honors with nearly a 4.0 grade point average. During his last three semesters he averaged an 18-credit-hour load.

Marinus has been accepted into the doctoral accounting program at Ohio State University, where he will also teach. His eventual goal is to conduct research.

IFMA Honors Facilities Management Students

Four Seidman School of Business Facilities Management students have received Student Achievement Awards from the International Facility Management Association. According to David A. Magill, Awards Chairman for the Houston-based association, nominations for the awards are open to full-time facilities management students at accredited colleges and universities around the country. "Award recipients are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in facilities management as well as their attitudes toward their chosen field," Magill said. "We're very pleased to recognize the dedication of these students and look forward to welcoming them to the important and growing field of facilities management." Award recipients are:

Diane Stock, from Lansing, who is, according to Facilities Management Professor Stephen Margulis, "one of the best students in the history of our program." In Margulis's recommendation of Diane for the award, he said, "I oversaw her work as the chairperson of and project manager for a major one-day program to introduce the Facilities Management Program at the college to students and to the public at large. Her leadership skills were exemplary, and she clearly understood the technical, financial, and administrative issues."

Dan Rikkers, from Zeeland, who completed a project on wayfinding in a campus building that the university is using to assist visitors to campus. Dan and a fellow student have begun a business using their computer, writing, and investigative skills to address the facilities problems of local businesses.

Patrick Fowler, from Grand Blanc, worked many hours on completing the task of transferring the architectural drawings for the new nine-story Grand Rapids Center to a CAD system. "Pat worked on the project for months without pay or academic credit just to make a contribution," Margulis said. "It was an extraordinary project and one that we greatly appreciate."

Daniel Fenner, from Fountain, Michigan, also worked on a project related to the new Grand Rapids Center—an interior space plan. Robert Vrancken, director of the Facilities Management Program, recognizes his potential. "Dan is one of those students who had been searching for a career field, and when he discovered facilities study, availed himself of every opportunity to learn. Dan has worked full time to support himself while a student and has demonstrated his commitment to obtaining his education by taking lesser-paying jobs because they were facilities-related."

Each of the students received a $500 award from IFMA.