



## 2007 FHS graduate blazes success trail

(Submitted by Lisa Spinner)

The definition of inspiration is, "The process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something especially creative." Megan Michele Grace Miller is truly an inspiration with her kind heart and focused personality; she has a lot of accomplishments in her 23 years.

Megan grew up in the Fruitport area and is the daughter of Keith Miller and Lisa Start-Spinner and the late Mark Spinner. Megan is the granddaughter of Jim and Billie Klenk and the late Jim (and Gina) Start. She is a 2007 graduate of Fruitport High School.

Some of Megan's accomplishments while attending high school included student office and member of the National Honor Society, and "Most Outstanding Student" award for AP math, chemistry and physics (junior year). She was a math tutor, the treasurer for Future Business Leaders of America, and was voted "most likely to succeed" by her classmates in her senior year. She graduated Summa Cum Laude. She also participated in cross-country and cheerleading throughout high school.

In May of 2012, Megan graduated from Ferris State University and obtained her bachelor's degree in science: surveying and engineering. While attending Ferris, she received the 2010 award for "Most Outstanding Student in Surveying Technology," and was the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards. Some of these awards include the four-year stem scholarship, the Fruitport Eagles Lioness Scholarship, The John and Lynda Fenn Surveying Scholarship, the Saginaw Community Foundation Scholarship, and various others from the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping. This has allowed her to pay for her years at Ferris where she has been on the Dean's list throughout her college tenure. She graduated Cum Laude with a 3.94 GPA in core classes.

While at Ferris, Megan was vice president of the Surveying Student Organization, "Burt and Mullet," and the Lambda Sigma honor society. She was also a contributing author to the *Baseline News*, a surveying newsletter. She has been a member of the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors since 2009, and attended the 2010 and 2011 conference as a scholarship recipient. While attending Ferris, she also participated in several sports over the years, including cheerleading, lacrosse, equestrian team, and intramural broomball and softball. She was also assistant cheerleading coach for Big Rapids High School and volunteered for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Megan has interned for three summers, and in 2009 she worked as a Forest Engineering Technician at the U.S. Forest Service in Cadillac. In 2010, she worked at Trimble Navigation in Westminster, Colorado as a Quality Assurance Application Engineer, and in 2011 she interned at Integrity Applications in Chantilly, Virginia as an analytical services intern in the Photogrammetry Department in the Geospatial Intelligence Sector. She was offered an internship this summer at Integrity again and also at NASA in California, but declined their offers at the suggestion of her college professor to take a break before beginning her graduate studies.

Instead, she is working at Cran Hill Ranch in Evart, Michigan as a horse wrangler. This is a Christian based camp that serves children and the disabled. Megan has always been interested in humanitarian work, and has been on a mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico in high school and to North Carolina in college where they helped victims rebuild after disasters. She attends Resurrection Life Church in Big Rapids, where she volunteers with youth group activities and blood drives, etc. She is also an avid runner and recently completed the 25K River Bank Run in Grand Rapids, and this past month participated in a 5K run in Big Rapids where she took second place in her age group.

In April of 2012, Megan was awarded the Ross Fellowship Award from Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana. This award will fund her Doctorate of Science in Geomatics Engineering. This is a four-year fully funded fellowship award that includes books, tuition, health insurance, and a living stipend. This highly competitive and prestigious award is given to the most outstanding applicants. She will begin her studies in August of this year.

Megan and her family would like to thank her teachers at Fruitport High School who encouraged her and started her on a path to higher learning. She would also like to make special mention of her stepfather, Mark E. Spinner, who passed away in 2008 from pancreatic cancer. He was a huge supporter and inspiration to her to follow her dreams.



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