



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Paramore, Watson receive Ferris Academic Excellence Awards**

BIG RAPIDS – Ferris State University faculty members James Paramore and Phillip Watson have received the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Academic Excellence Awards from the Division of Academic Affairs.

The awards honor faculty who have demonstrated excellence in areas such as development of innovative teaching and learning strategies, professional service or research and service to students, according to Michael Harris, vice president for academic affairs.

Dr. Paramore is currently the Interim Associate Dean and Professor in the Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) where his interests include contact lenses, vision ergonomics and ethics.

“Professor Paramore’s teaching has been innovative and creative,” said Dr. Harris. “Besides demonstrating expertise in the College’s core curriculum courses pertaining to contact lenses, including lecture, labs and clinical instruction, he has explored effective ways of facilitating student learning.”

He has also taught ethics, challenging students to look critically at their role as health professionals, and their responsibilities to patients and their communities.

In addition, Paramore has excelled in scholarship. He has published in a variety of journals such as: the *Journal of the American Optometric Association* and the *International Contact Lens Clinic Journal*. He has recently authored a series of articles in *The Michigan Optometrist*.

Paramore was the recipient of the Michigan Optometric Association’s Emil Arnold Award and his accomplishments have been acknowledged at the national level by his involvement as a manuscript referee for the *Journal of the American Optometric Association*, *Review of Optometry*, *International Contact Lens Clinic*, *Optometry and Vision Science*, and his membership on the Review Board for the *Journal of Optometric Education*.

He has been the point person for the development of the new optometry curriculum. According to MCO Dean Kevin Alexander, “Dr. Paramore has made very significant contributions to the program by leading the curricular change as well as his lifetime dedication to MCO.”

Paramore received his baccalaureate in Psychology from the University of Houston and his doctorate in Optometry from the University of Houston, College of Optometry. He served for two years in the Air Force before joining the faculty at the University of Houston, where he was Assistant to the Dean and taught courses in the area of contact lenses.

Dr. Watson, professor of biology in the College of Arts and Sciences, has designed the Forensic Biology track at Ferris and has developed popular instructive web pages for mock crime scene instruction. He has also been involved in the Ferris Study Abroad program.

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“Dr. Watson’s work is innovative, of high interest to his students and is in the best tradition of university curriculum meeting the ever-changing needs of our students,” said Harris.

Watson has received numerous grants from Ferris, US AID, the US Forest Service and was a Senior Fulbright Fellow, teaching in Africa in 1993 and 1994. He has published 10 source books or lab manuals and contributed or co-authored numerous research articles in his areas of specialty. He has also authored the “Forensic Biology Laboratory Manual” and “Environmental Science Quick Notes.”

A student of his best captured his dedication when he wrote: “Dr. Watson is an excellent instructor. He uses technology in his classes, mixes media and involves the class through discussion, assigned readings and in-class activities. He uses much humor and students talk about his sense of adventure and wonder.”

Watson received his bachelor’s in Biology and master’s in Zoology from Eastern Michigan University and his doctorate in Entomology from the University of Illinois.

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