

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 16, 2012

This past weekend our students sponsored the Big Event. Over 1500 students gathered at Top Taggart Field before heading out to do minor repairs, painting, and yard work on 300 homes in our community. It was thrilling to see the home stands completely full of our students early on a Saturday morning to give back to the people of Big Rapids. Their slogan says it all for me, "One Big Day, One Big Thanks, One Big Event." Congratulations and thanks to our students and our Student Government for demonstrating the true nature of service. We are very, very proud of you.

Employee Service Awards

As we approach the end of the semester this is a time when we recognize faculty and staff for their service, contributions and commitment to the University. Please join me on Wednesday, April 25th, when we will host our annual Employee Service Awards Dessert Celebration from 3-5 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room. There will be a photo slide show of service award recipients and our traditional strawberry pie. It is not necessary to make a reservation, but please do plan on attending. If you have special dietary needs, please contact Elaine Kamptner at ext. 2504.

We will honor employees who have completed five-year increments of full-time continuous service to our University. This year, we will be recognizing the following faculty and staff members:

5 years

Lawrence Bajor, Deborah Butterfield, Jung Choi, Deanne DAmico, Kimberly Ducat, Jack Enos, Sheryl Erbes, Donald Flickinger, Jerome Forbes, Sandy Gholston, Anne Gillespie, Michael Grandy, Nicholas Greenway, Carri Griffis, Denise Grinnell, Carla Hatfield, Denise Hoisington, Brian Holton, Sharon Hopper, Xiao Hu, Todd Jacobs, Julie Jerome, Sandra Kerridge, Laurie Kilbourne, Jesse Klocke, Lisa Knudson, Merrie Lange, Thomas Larabel, Karen Lerew, Sally Maurer, Cameo McGowen, James McIntyre, Laura McKiness, Russell Mishler, Gregory Monfils, Katy Moore, Jacqueline Morse, Jing Nestle, Laurie Noell, James Nystrom, Alexander Palladino, Michelle Perkins, Nancy Potter, Andrew Rayburn, Joseph Riddering, Scott Ruitter, Julie Saum, Dawn Schavey, Dionne Serges, Lisa Singleterry, Linda St Clair, David Steenstra, Steven Stellard, Michelle Teschendorf, Rob Wagner, Christopher Westerkamp, Kim Wilber, Joan Williams, Jenice Winowiecki, Karen Youngs, Mary Zimmer

10 Years

Jennifer Amlotte, Shelly Armstrong, Kevin Barnes, Yolonda Barnes, Chester Bolling, Christa Bull, Scott Cass, Meredith Clark, Richard Cohen, Julie Cole, Sharon Colley, Teresa Cook, Robert Doering, Janice Duddles, Scotty Earle, Fredrick Edgerton, Steven Eichenberg, Lora Ellison, Gary Gage, Pamela Harvey, Scott Herron, Melinda Isler, Kevin Jackson, Geri Johnson, Paul Kammerdiner, Amy Kavanaugh, Russell Leonard, Steven Lyman, Tim Maguire, Phillip Martell,

Pamela Marvel, Jodi Nelson, Richard Piippo, Jana Pisani, John Quiltsch, Robert Quist, Ronald Rizzo, William Ruppel, William Sall, Holly Schalk, Daniel Sovinski, Karen Strasser, Roberta Teahen, Cheryl Thomas, Caroline Thompson, Nathaniel Tymes, Heather Vandenbussche, Shelly VandePanne, Gregory Vanderkooi, Dale Versluis, Jeff Warner, Teresa Wiese, James Woolen, Leroy Wright, Heather Youngs

15 years

David Aiken, Jannifer Anderson, Philip Balliet, Pepper Bonnett, Earlane Brantman, Mary Brayton, Renato Cerdana, Daniel Cronk, Laurie Daniels, Nina Davis, Craig Derby, John Duman, Diane Fleming, Deborah Griffith, Nancy Hogan, Brent Kundinger, Kathryn Lake, Lawrence Langell, Tara Lee, Mary Kay MacIver, Gerald Matthews, Melanie Mulder, Louis Nemastil, Karen Norman, Karen Ottobre, Angela Palmer, Pamela Panek, Gregg Potter, Craig Roach, Shirryl Sanger, John Schmidt, Kelly Seitter, Thomas Stoffer, Charlotte Tetsworth, Karl Verrill, Dianne Vogley, Deborah Yost

20 years

Michelle Balliet, William Bitzinger, Daniel deRegnier, David Hanna, Karen Kirk, Patrick Klarecki, Ken McMullen, Lucy Ngoh, Mark Rozier, Joseph Ward, Stephen Wolfer

25 years

Maude Bigford, Connie Boogaard, Sandra Burns, Jeffrey Christafferson, Dorothy Cline, Steven Cox, Alvin Eastlund, Kevin Elliott, Iyabode Fadayomi, Susan Fogarty, Jill Gregory, Steven Johnson, William Killian, Warren Klope, M E McCullough, Wesley Morrison, Benjamin Mumah, George Nagel, Daniel Noren, Vicki Parsons, Gordon Patton, Gary Rodabaugh, Kevin Rose, Gary Schneider, Mark Schuelke, Robert Speirs, Phillip Sterling, Jeffrey Tellkamp, Khagendra Thapa, Denise Wild-Sims

30 years

Melinda Britton, Roger Bula, Michael Cairns, Michael Cooper, Robert Eastley, Annette Erler, Teresa Fogel, Richard Hewer, John Jameson, Gregory Kehr, Elaine Mitchell, Nancy Sage, Andrew Suhy

35 years

Sharon Bell, William Benedict, Roger Daugherty, Harry Dempsey, Terrence Doyle, Rosemary Kailing, Lyle Mourer, Michael Ryan, Ronald Shepler, Marie Sickelsteel

40 years

Nancy Alles, Michael Hachman, Paul Jackson

45 years

Robert Friar

If you have any questions regarding service awards, please contact Human Resources at ext. 2150.

Jim Crow Museum Opening

On Thursday, April 26, we will officially open the new Jim Crow Museum. The JCM has for several years been a powerful teaching and learning resource at Ferris, but we believe experiencing these artifacts in the museum's new home in the FLITE library even more of a truly emotional experience.

Opening day events include a 10 a.m. reception in the G. Mennon Williams Auditorium lobby, followed by an 11 a.m. ceremony in the auditorium. At 1 p.m. there will be a conversation with Dr. David Pilgrim in the Rankin Art Gallery, and at 2 p.m. conversation with artist Jon McDonald who painted the "Cloud of Witnesses" mural in the new JCM. At 4 p.m. there will be a performance by the Grand Valley State University Act on Racism performance group. All afternoon there will be tours of the new museum.

If you are unable to make it to any of the dedication activities, I hope that you will make it a point to visit the museum soon. I can think of no other exhibition that so clearly and directly confronts the reality of this African-American experience. It is very exciting to open this resource to the public.

Events Throughout The Week

This is a time of year when there are many cultural, educational and celebratory events taking place at our University. I want to briefly highlight a few of these. More events and further detail about those mentioned here are available on the Campus Calendar accessible on the Ferris home page.

Shakespeare Festival - On Tuesday, April 17, from 11 a.m. to noon on the campus Quad, the Department of Languages and Literature will host the annual Shakespeare Festival. There will be scenes from the Bard's plays, period costumes and more. This event is free and open to the Ferris and Big Rapids communities.

Annual Spring Band and Orchestra Concert - On Wednesday, April 18, from 8-9 p.m. in Williams Auditorium, the 2011-12 concert season will come to a close with the Annual Spring Band and Orchestra Concert, featuring the FSU Symphony Band, the FSU West Central Concert Band and the FSU West Central Chamber Orchestra. This event is free and open to the public.

Take Back the Night - This event to raise awareness of violence against women will take place on Thursday, April 19. The march will start in the IRC Connector at 6:30 p.m. and will continue along State Street to Williams Auditorium. Steve Thompson's keynote presentation, "No Zebras: No Excuses," which addresses the impact of intervention on situations of sexual aggression, will be at 7 p.m. in Williams Auditorium.

ALSAME Conference - On Friday, April 20, Ferris will host the 12th annual Advocates for Latino Student Advancement in Michigan Education youth conference. ALSAME is a non-profit educational group that provides services to Latino students and the Hispanic community. About 650 students from 16 different west Michigan high schools are scheduled to attend this year's conference. Roy Juarez will give the opening address at 9 a.m. and Michael Reyes will give the

keynote address at 2 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. More information about ALSAME and the 2012 conference is available at www.alsame.org.

Dawg Days - This coming Saturday, Enrollment Services will host the final Dawg Day of the semester. These Dawg Day events are a very important part of our enrollment efforts to reach out to prospective students and their parents. It has become a very effective approach to helping students decide to attend Ferris State University to further their educational and career goals. Last year at the Employee Service Awards celebration, the Dawg Days team won the university's Distinguished Team Award. They have continued their very high level of service to Ferris and many of our incoming students. I want to thank the Dawg Days team and the members of our faculty and staff who regularly attend these Saturday events. Their commitment to our University and its future students is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president