

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
December 5, 2011

Kendall College of Art and Design Accreditation

The National Association of Schools of Art and Design recently concluded its review of our Kendall College of Art and Design and voted for full ten-year accreditation of Kendall's status of good standing. The next review for KCAD is not scheduled until the 2020-21 academic year. Included in this vote of confidence from NASAD is acceptance of new degrees being offered by Kendall in Collaborative Design and Medical Illustration.

We will share with NASAD the need for increased academic space for Kendall, which will be available once the renovation of the former Grand Rapids Federal Building is completed. This is much needed to support the continued expansion of enrollment and programming at Kendall.

Program accreditation is an important external measure of quality. It requires significant effort in preparation for the visit. Please join me in congratulating the faculty and staff at Kendall College together with President Oliver Evans, Vice President Sandy Davidson-Wilson, and Dean Max Shangle.

Pharmacy Dean

On Friday Provost Fritz Erickson announced the appointment of Steve Durst as Dean of the College of Pharmacy. Steve is an alumnus of the College of Pharmacy and joined the faculty in 1996. He has served as department chair, assistant dean, associate dean, and most recently as interim dean. Please join me in congratulating Steve on this appointment and thanking him for his willingness to serve the University in this important leadership role.

Student Government Holiday Food Drive

Today, Dec. 5, is the last day to give to our Student Government Association's fourth annual holiday food drive. SGA sponsors the placing of food bins in Ferris residence halls and other university buildings to accept donations. Your donation will help support Project Starburst's work in the local community. Non-perishable food items can be left at designated locations, including college dean's offices, residence halls, West Campus Community Center and East Campus Suites. For more information, contact Food Drive Chair Carli Denholm at ex. 2611 on campus.

I want to thank our students for this very special effort to help those in our community who are less fortunate and in need. Our students embody the spirit of the holiday by living the maxim that it is far better to give than receive.

Holiday Reception

Although it does not seem possible, this week's activities include our annual Employee Holiday Reception. As in the past few years we will hold this in the Rankin Center. I am hopeful that you will take a few moments from your schedule on Thursday, Dec. 8th between 3-5 p.m. to celebrate the holidays. I look forward to this opportunity to visit with you, celebrate the season and thank you for your work throughout the year. I also want to thank in advance everyone who helps in preparing and presenting this celebration. Please come and bring your co-workers.

Construction Management Success

Three student teams excelled at the recent Region 3 competition of the Associated Schools of Construction Region 3 competition. Two teams won their respective divisions while the third placed fourth. Construction Technology Management students Charlie Alm, Jake Aranki, Mike Kozakiewicz, Brett Lesiewicz, Greg Lowe and Brandon Rhodes and faculty coach Lee Templin took first place in the Commercial Division. In just 16 hours the team had to estimate cost, do scheduling, develop safety and logistic plans, and evaluate the overall design for a Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic.

In the Design-Build division, Construction Management students Michael Baldwin, Dave Bourgeois, Kevin Clark and Jake Herron, along with Architecture students Will Hinkley and Courtney Parks, assisted by HVACR faculty member Joseph Pacella also took first place. The team had to design, estimate and schedule a LEED Silver-quality dormitory for 300-plus students, again within just 16 hours.

Ferris' Heavy-Civil Team of Construction Management students Devin Dowling, Adam Gohs, Max Hilton, Doug Miller, Mike Reilly, and Andy Schilling, coached by faculty member Dan Pratt just missed a third-place finish. They were tasked with the "outside-the-box" challenge of planning how to build a half-mile-long portion of Texas/Mexico border fence.

Congratulations to all of our students and faculty members who made such a strong showing at this competition.

Athletics

In the past weeks four Ferris athletes earned All-America honors in cross country and volleyball. Following the NCAA Division II National Championships held in Spokane, Wash., on Nov. 19, cross country senior Tina Muir earned her fourth consecutive All-American honor, while junior Anna Rudd was named to the honor for the first time. The two helped the cross country team to a national eighth-place finish. Last week, seniors Ashley Huntley and Lisa Tobiczuk earned positions on the All-America teams announced by the American Volleyball Coaches Association. The volleyball team ended in first place in regular season conference play with a record of 18-1. Overall, the squad was 27-4 on the season. Congratulations to these student-athletes on this national recognition of their success!

Pancakes with the President

To give our students the opportunity to socialize with each other and meet informally with members of the Ferris community, each semester we provide a free breakfast for students late in the evening of the first day of final examinations. This fall's "Pancakes with the President" will be on Monday, Dec. 12, starting at 11 p.m. in the Westview Dining facility. This is an enjoyable occasion, co-sponsored by Student Government, which brings students and Ferris community members together in a truly unique way. You are invited to join us in serving students that evening. Please contact Elaine Kamptner or Paige Clark at ext. 2500 if you would like to help out. This is a fun evening focused on our students as they begin to close out the semester – and in some cases prepare to begin the next stage of their lives.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president