

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
October 3, 2011

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## International Education Week

In 2007 when as a university we revised our mission statement, it ended with these important words, "...Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society." Since that time there has been significant growth in our University's international efforts, including the faculty-developed Globalization Initiative, a review of general education and, now, increased numbers of international students. One of the points of pride for Ferris State University throughout has been the substantial number of faculty who have been chosen, travelled and worked as Fulbright scholars. Very few universities have enjoyed such recognition and success in the Fulbright program.

The list of current and former faculty so honored is a distinguished group - Olukemi Adewusi, Richard Ball, Jim Bandstra, Marietta Bell-Scriber, Scott Cohen, Bob Ferguson, Bob Friar, Rick Griffin, Ron Haladyna, Maryanne Heidemann, Reinhold Hill, Paul Hoeksema, Jim Hoerter, John Jablonski, Andy Kantar, Elaine McCullough, Phil Middleton, Gordon Reynolds, Phillip Sterling, Tom Stoffer, Chris Vonder Haar, Phil Watson and Penny Wheeler. Their Fulbright study and experience includes scholarship in Belgium, Belize, Botswana, Cyprus, England, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Namibia, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Romania, Russia, Spain, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia.

Today at 3 p.m. a plaque honoring Ferris Fulbrighters will be dedicated in the IRC. This evening at 7 p.m. in BUS 111 there will be a panel discussion, "Ferris Fulbright Scholars: Promoting the International Ties that Bind Us." The panel includes faculty Marietta Bell-Scriber, John Jablonski, Phillip Middleton, Philip Sterling and special guest Jane L. Anderson, executive director of the Fulbright Association. I encourage you to attend and learn about the Fulbright program and its success at Ferris.

These events are a part of International Education Week in Big Rapids, which includes an Open House for the Office of International Education in the IRC today from 3-6 p.m. Tuesday is the Study Abroad Fair, and the Eve of Nations dinner takes place Friday evening. A complete schedule of events is accessible here -

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/international/events/index.htm>

## Emergency Notification

Friday's power outage was a reminder of how dependent our University has become on electricity to power and light the campus, and on technology to facilitate our work. Over the weekend I heard numerous stories about people and offices that remained open on Friday to help students despite the lack of power. I also appreciate the extra efforts by the men and women in our Physical Plant to manage this situation and communicate with campus. Thank you all very much for this extra dedication and effort. I also want to thank Consumers Energy, who pulled work crews from other projects to repair the power feeds to our Big Rapids campus.

Consumers Energy was also willing to delay repairs until 2 p.m., so that the majority of Friday classes could be held.

Friday's events were a reminder of the many emergency notification systems in place to help communicate during unexpected situations. If you have not done so, I encourage you to sign up for Emergency Text Alerts. The instructions on this are here -

<http://www.ferris.edu/news/week/stories/textalerts.htm>

### **Athletics**

Ferris student-athletes continue to experience extraordinary success, including the women's and men's cross country teams which travelled to compete in the Greater Louisville Classic this weekend. The women, ranked third nationally, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Gold Division behind the University of Michigan. Mississippi, Purdue, South Florida, Alabama, and Illinois State University are Division I schools which finished behind Ferris. Senior All-American Tina Muir finished 2<sup>nd</sup> among 262 competitors. The men placed 2<sup>nd</sup> among 33 teams in the Blue Division behind Division I school Lipscomb University.

The volleyball team defeated Saginaw Valley at home on Saturday and then Grand Valley on the road on Sunday, taking both matches 3-0. The women are ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation, have an overall record of 13-1, are undefeated at home and have won eight matches in a row.

Saturday evening the football team defeated Lake Erie 38-14. The men are 4-1 and have won three in a row. Congratulations to head coach Jeff Pierce who earned his 100<sup>th</sup> victory at Ferris State University. Although it does not seem possible, hockey season has begun. In Sunday's exhibition we defeated the University of Toronto 5-0.

### **Helping Others**

All weekend Ferris athletes helped support Breast Cancer Awareness Month. As part of the pregame before Saturday evening's football game, spectators threw more than 1,500 pink flying discs on the field. While this fell short of a world record for the number of disks in the air at one time, it was a wonderful example of how our University reaches out to help others.

There are many other examples. Each year a group of Ferris employees raises funds through the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event. This year they had an innovative race theme and raised more than \$14,000 to help fight cancer.

The annual United Way fund campaign began last week, with a goal to raise \$67,000 in Big Rapids this year. The United Way supports many crucial efforts, working with youth, the elderly and those in need throughout west Michigan. One gift can support many important organizations helping people in our local community. When a United Way volunteer calls on you, I hope you will support this very important cause.

Thank you for the many ways that you reach out to help others.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President