

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 19, 2010

Pedestrian Safety Task Force Report

As part of the University's Strategic Plan, last November a Pedestrian Safety Task Force was charged with looking at current conditions regarding pedestrian safety on campus, and also identifying ways to improve safety through engineering, education and enforcement.

The Task Force, which brought together a wide range of stakeholders, has just released its comprehensive report. The report contains a number of specific recommendations, which will be considered within the University's Master Plan. This is a very important topic of interest to every person on our Big Rapids campus. Please take the time to review the excellent work done by the task force. The report is available at

<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/adminandfinance/docs/Pesdestrian-Safety.pdf>

This task force was ably chaired by Vice President Jerry Scoby. My thanks to task force members-

- Shelly Armstrong, Advancement and Marketing
- Pam Augustine, Michigan Department of Transportation
- Marty Bledsoe, Public Safety
- Travis Cervantez, Student Government
- Deb Cox, Education Counseling and Disabilities
- Bob Eastley, Construction Technology and Management
- Claire Gould, Student Government
- Nick Greenway, Public Safety
- Mike Hughes, Physical Plant
- Andy Karafa, Social Sciences
- John Linnen, Mathematics
- Mike Mignano, Athletics
- Mark Van Lent, Counseling
- Frank West, Big Rapids Public Safety

Considerable contributions in photographs and analysis of existing crosswalks were made to this final report by Morgan Toms through her work with the Student Government Pedestrian Safety Report.

Faculty Awards

Last Thursday Provost Fritz Erickson honored faculty who were promoted or tenured this year and announced special academic recognitions at a reception in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center. Award winners include -

- Lori Armstrong, Music Industry Management, Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award
- Mary Alkire, Nursing, Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award
- Sandra Burns, Dental Hygiene, Distinguished Teacher Finalist
- Megan Dixon, Respiratory Care, Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award:
- Terry Doyle, University College, Distinguished Teacher Finalist
- Richard Goosen, Product Design, Distinguished Teacher Award
- Maryanne Heidemann, Languages and Literature, International Educator Award

- Linda Kuk, Allied Health Sciences, Outstanding Academic Advising Award

Service Awards

It is a pleasure to announce the annual Distinguished Staff and Team Awards. Please join me in congratulating these staff who help make Ferris a great place to learn and work. Recognized for their outstanding contributions to our University are-

- Rhonda Atteberry, Michigan College of Optometry
- Tim Bowman, Physical Plant
- Jason DaDay, Admissions and Records
- Sherry Hayes, Student Affairs
- Tracy Powers, College of Professional & Technological Studies

The University Eye Center has been selected to receive the Distinguished Team Award. The members of this team include Pamela Borstler, Robin Cooter, Tracy Dard, Christine Kamen, Linda Little, Lisa Roach and Nancy Wiseman.

The selections for these awards were made by a committee of staff co-chaired by Ruth Ridderman and Debra Vance. I want to thank them and the members of their committee, Mitzi Day, Geri Johnson and Julie Modene.

Ferris Foundation Exceptional Merit Awards

The Ferris Foundation Board of Directors recently extended more than \$48,000 in Exceptional Merit Grant Awards to nine faculty members. These funds are raised through the Foundation's Annual Gala and recommended by the Gifts and Grants Committee. The following proposals received funding -

- Terry Doyle, University College, Integration of Movement/Exercise into READ 106 courses
- Patrick English, Automotive Engineering Technology, Fuel Cells in Transportation
- Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck, Biological Sciences, FSU Storm Water Protection Project
- Greg Gogolin, Information Systems, Enhance Digital Forensic Capabilities for ISI and ISM courses
- Scott Herron, Biological Sciences, Lower Michigan Wild Rice Camp
- Sarah Hinkley, Optometry, Low Vision Rehabilitation Device Workshop and Grand Rounds
- Paul Klatt, Biological Sciences, FSU Osprey Web Cam Project
- Russell Leonard, Automotive Service Technology, Biodiesel Lab
- Grant Snider, Humanities, College of Arts & Sciences, Humanities Partnership with Camp Idlewild of Michigan

The Exceptional Merit Grants Program was established by the Ferris Foundation to promote excellence in faculty and staff at Ferris State University. The program helps with funding programming operating costs, matching grant expenses, travel, seed money, equipment and other expenses. As in other years, there were more worthy projects than there was money to fund them. Please join me in congratulating this year's grant recipients.

125th Anniversary Events

This week several events are scheduled to help celebrate the University's 125 years of providing opportunity to students. This evening I will be giving a community briefing on the 125th Anniversary at the Big Rapids Middle School Cardinal Room at 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, April 21, a Reader's Theatre production of "Vignettes into the Life of Woodbridge N. Ferris," written by emeritus professor William Keller, will be presented at 1:30 p.m.

in the Dome Room. This will be followed by a Victorian Tea. That evening at 8 p.m. in the Williams Auditorium, Ferris' West Central Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra and the Symphony Band will perform a combined concert featuring a special composition by associate professor Harry Dempsey honoring the life of Woodbridge Ferris. This event is free and open to the public.

On Thursday, April 22, former Ferris presidents will return to campus for a Presidential Symposium from 2-4 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. A special 125th Birthday Celebration begins that evening at 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn with food and entertainment. Tickets are \$35 for this event. You may purchase tickets at -

<http://ferrisalumni.org/s/812/index.aspx?sid=812&gid=1&pgid=252&cid=1239&ecid=1239&crid=0&calpgid=310&calcid=1113> or by calling Gretchen Spedowske at ext. 5983.

Please join me for these events as we continue to celebrate the wonderful legacy of our University. I want to thank the many members of the Ferris community who are contributing their time and talents to plan and organize these events.

Service Award Celebration

Next Wednesday we will host the Annual Service Celebration on Wednesday, April 28, 3-5 p.m. in the Dome Room. The contributions of employees who have completed five-year increments of service to the University will be recognized. We will also honor other achievements and awards, including Distinguished Staff, Distinguished Teams, Distinguished Teacher, and others.

This year we will reprise our popular photo slideshow of service award recipients, and of course will be serving strawberry pie (for special dietary needs, contact Elaine Kamptner at ext. 2504). I am hopeful you will join us as we celebrate the contributions you and your colleagues make to our University. Please RSVP your attendance by going to <http://www.ferris.edu/president/forms/homepage.htm> or call Human Resources at ext. 2150.

Closing Thoughts

On Saturday morning in cold and windy conditions, well over 1,000 students gathered on the Quad for The Big Event. They then spent the morning performing yard work and basic repairs for the elderly and the needy in our community. This is an event conceived and developed by our students. I want to offer my congratulations to Student Government Association President Clare Gould and her leadership team on this extraordinary accomplishment. As we celebrate our 125th Anniversary I am reminded of Woodbridge Ferris' goal, "To make the world a better place." Our students have given us a wonderful example of how this can be done, by helping others.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President