

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 12, 2010

Curriculum Development

Ferris State University is at the forefront of educational change to meet the needs of our region and our students. This year faculty have worked to create a significant number of new and exciting degree programs: associate degrees in Dietary & Food Service Management and Plastics & Polymer Engineering Technology; a minor in Surveying and Mapping; an emphasis in Sports Marketing; bachelor degrees in Architecture and Sustainability, Molecular Diagnostics, Energy Systems Engineering, Fashion Studies, and Allied Health; and an Ed.D. in Community College Leadership. Beyond this, progress continues in a comprehensive analysis of general education, and a significant number of programs have been updated, refocused or eliminated.

If you have not done so recently I encourage you to look at the body of proposals reviewed this year by the University Curriculum Committee, chaired by Professor Leonard Johnson - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/academicaffairs/vpoffice/senate/univcurcomm/proposals0910.htm> I believe you will be impressed with the amount of curricular review accomplished at Ferris. This is part of the effective work of the Academic Senate, which has had a very effective year, chaired by Professor Richard Griffin. I want to extend my appreciation to the members of the University Curriculum Committee and the Academic Senate for their efforts.

Promotion and Merit

On Friday the Board of Trustees approved the following faculty for promotion and merit. Congratulations to all for this recognition of their continued professional growth, development, and contributions to the University -

Promotions

Kimberly Beistle, Associate Professor, Allied Health Sciences

Amy Buse, Professor, Business

Jeffrey Christafferson, Professor, Arts and Sciences

Christine Conley-Sowels, Associate Professor, Education and Human Services

Laura Dix, Professor, Business

Patrick English, Associate Professor, Engineering Technology

Anita Fagerman, Professor, Business

Maureen Heaphy, Associate Professor, Business

Hengli Jiao, Professor, Arts and Sciences

James H. Jones, Associate Professor, Business

John Kantorowski, Associate Professor, Engineering Technology

Ho Cheong Lee, Associate Professor, Pharmacy

Josh Lotoczky, Associate Professor, Optometry

Sheila MacEachron, Associate Professor, Allied Health Sciences

Gary Maike, Associate Professor, Engineering Technology

Hikaru Murata, Associate Professor, Education and Human Services

James Nystrom, Associate Professor, Arts and Sciences

Glen Okonoski, Associate Professor, Education and Human Services
Sarah Raguckas, Associate Professor, Pharmacy
Frances Rosen, Associate Professor, FLITE
Wendy Samuels, Professor, Arts and Sciences
William Smith, Professor, Business
Gary Todd, Associate Professor, Engineering Technology
Jim VanTreese, Professor, Arts and Sciences
Janice Weaver, Professor, Arts and Sciences
Christopher Westerkamp, Associate Professor, Arts and Sciences
Bonnie Wright, Associate Professor, Arts and Sciences
Mary Elizabeth Zimmer, Associate Professor, Arts and Sciences

Merit Recipients

David Aiken, Professor, Arts and Sciences
Kinn Carlton-Smith, Professor, Arts and Sciences
John Conati, Professor, Engineering Technology
Pasquale DiRaddo, Professor, Arts and Sciences
Julie Doyle, Associate Professor, Business
Kim Hancock, Professor, Pharmacy
Sayed Hashimi, Professor, Engineering Technology
Susan Hastings-Bishop, Professor, Education and Human Services
Nancy Hogan, Professor, Education and Human Services
Gary Huey, Professor, Arts and Sciences
John Jameson, Professor, Pharmacy
Andrew Kantar, Professor, Arts and Sciences
Marcia Parry, Associate Professor, Allied Health Sciences
David Russell, Professor, Arts and Sciences, Merit
Elizabeth Stolarek, Professor, Arts and Sciences

Sabbatical Leaves

On Friday our Board of Trustees also approved 14 faculty sabbatical leaves. I am very pleased the Board has continued its support for faculty growth and development even in these challenging financial times. The breadth and depth of the pedagogical, writing and research interests of our faculty are impressive. Included below is a brief summary of the project each faculty member will pursue. Congratulations to these faculty.

Siddikov Bakhodirzhon proposes to develop interactive teaching software for Math 220, Analytical Geometry and Calculus 1 courses.

Marietta Bell-Scribner will be a Fulbright Scholar in Cyprus teaching a range of health care issues.

Terry Doyle plans to work on his book, *Maximizing Learning in a Learner Centered Classroom*.

Rick Griffin will be a Fulbright Scholar to Hungary, lecturing on border relations between the United States and Mexico, and initiating a comparative study with borders in Hungary.

Randy Groves is co-authoring a book with John Gray and Robert Quist, *Introduction to Popular Culture: Theories and Application in a Global Context*.

Susan Hastings-Bishop will visit leading academic institutions with youth development programs and incorporate her research into the curriculum.

Susan Jones will be conducting research for and completing a comprehensive, fourth-edition re-write of her book, *Creative Direct and Interactive Marketing*.

Alison Larabel will study the technology, design and deliverables necessary for creating a Web site and work in-house at a graphic design studio to systematize customer experience plans.

Larry Langell will become certified on Autodesk Moldflow, and develop an elective mold filling analysis course.

Phillip Middleton plans to teach at the University of Maynooth in Ireland and, at mid-year, travel to Mauritania to study the extent to which the Abolition of Slavery Laws of 1981 have been kept.

Matthew Nikkari's goal is to complete a set of articles-in-process on subjects pertaining to American Literature and Pedagogy.

Tom Stoffer will create a semester-long project for his English 1 class linking essay assignments, readings, and some homework assignments to a single content or theme.

John Tomczyk will co-author the 7th edition of *Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology* and accompanying manuals.

Joseph Tripp proposes to review literature pertaining to students' mathematics learning experiences and to develop tools to help instructors.

Share Your Success

This past week I had the opportunity to visit with faculty and staff at Kendall College, Administration and Finance, the General Counsel's Office and Student Affairs. Highlights from those sessions include

Kendall College of Art Design

- Cindy Todd is proud of the national recognition for art education students, their engagement on the state and national level. She is the president of the Michigan Art Educators Association.
- John McDonald talks of the respect for the illustration program, the desire of other artists to work in the program at Kendall, and along with David Gianfredi and others commented on the continued development of a partnership in medical illustration.
- Elizabeth Hawkins from Admissions at KCAD took a group of students to New Orleans for an alternative spring break where they participated in Camp Hope, rebuilding houses, planting trees and helping to build sports facilities.
- Alison Hurley, a graduate student, is president of the MFA Club, which has been involved in a number of fundraisers including the Bodies of Art Fashion Show, which included the Cabinetry Arts Student Exhibit using cabinets created by alumnus Joe Jeup.
- Phil Renato reported on the success of the Alexander Calder Jewelry Exhibit held recently at the Grand Rapids Art Museum.
- Max Shangle talked about Furniture Design student Joe Sardone who will receive the Celia Moh Scholarship.
- Gayle DeBruyn in Design studies is working in the former Grand Rapids Public Museum with her Collaborative Design class, culminating in a Land of Riches exhibition opening this Friday.
- Counselor Darcy Bugbee spoke of the activities and resources center that opened in October for student assistance.
- Peter Jacob, president of the Kendall Alumni Association, shared that there are now more than 500 members in Design West Michigan.

- David Du in Design Studies talked about partnerships established with China.
- Sandy Britton, director of Enrollment Management, noted that there are students from China, Turkey, Columbia, Taiwan, South Korea attending in the fall. Additionally, dual enrollment continues to grow with more than 200 students expected this fall.
- Lee Cobb, director of the Physical Plant, talked about new personnel and facility improvements.
- Nicole DeKraker, coordinator of Student Activities, shared that there are 22 active student organizations at Kendall.

General Counsel and Government Relations

- A common theme was the excellent work of the support staff in this office, and their willingness to accept additional responsibilities and challenges with two open positions.
- Steve Stratton has had an arbitration case from his work in the Flint area published in the Global Engine. Working with Human Resources they have created training and education resources for supervisors at Ferris.
- Miles Postema is a member of the Executive Board of the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

Administration and Finance

- The plumbers have headed off some major water issues by repairing/replacing systems before they fail. They have addressed 3,500 work orders so far this year.
- Dean VanOstenberg from the Boiler Plant shared that their goal is reliability for 365 days a year. There has been only one unscheduled down time this year.
- Deb Whitman, manager, Student Services/Business Operations, shared that the Timme Center holds a 50/50 drawing each Friday to support area food banks. \$6,875 was donated last year. Deb also reported on the success of helping a student stay at the University by drawing on resources through Financial Aid made possible by Ferris Cares funds.
- Rich VanHorn, Carpentry, talked about the installation of card readers on the Arts and Science buildings and other residence hall improvements.
- Walt Smith, Brian Estes and Al Tetsworth reported on a new, more effective spray technology; and other painting best practices.
- Will Gasper, manager, Grounds, discussed cost savings related to Emerald Ash Borer prevention, as well as winter salt application.
- John Pasquantonio, HVACR supervisor, shared how the HVAC program works with their department on an internship helping students with financial need to learn real life HVAC work.
- Janice Duddles, Auxiliary Services, was part of the training of business continuity plans, working with professors, emergency management, and others.
- Trisha Walding-Smith, Emergency Management, was pleased with the collaboration on the H1N1 response to put prevention models and triage plans in place. EM is providing building tours for local firemen so that they are familiar with our facilities prior to any emergency.

Student Affairs

- Angie Roman, Career Services, notes that recruiting is up and there is an increase of employers on campus. A “Certification of Participation” is a document being provided to the students who complete customer service training.

- Cindy Horn, SRC, talked about outreach with the university and community. There is a swimming club for 6-14 year olds and a High Angle club for 11-16 year olds using problem solving skills, such as the rock climbing wall and rope course.
- Matt Chaney, Multicultural Student Services, reports there are many students in the TOWER Leadership program. They are excited about the increased traffic flow in the new office in FLITE.
- Rob Wirt, Financial Aid, said their department is busy expanding scholarship programs and adding programs. \$850,000 in additional financial support has been distributed to students affected adversely by the economy.
- Tom Liszewski and Christopher Richmond relayed the success of the Counseling Center in assisting many students and that an effective Behavioral Review Team has been created.
- Kristin Norton, Student Conduct, says that they are more intentional in how to help students be successful, to understand their role in being a positive part of the campus community, and other goals.
- Alli Witucki, Student Leadership and Activities, reports installing new software for RSO management and recording volunteer hours. They can assess activities as well as send surveys and messages to RSOs.
- Mark Schuelke, Rankin Center director, notes the new Military Resource Room for veterans is open and being used daily. Rankin is very busy with 4,100 reservations for the year.

Additional “Share Your Success” sessions today included University Advancement and Marketing and Administration and Finance. Also scheduled this week are -

Tuesday, 11 a.m. - College of Arts and Sciences

Wednesday, 11 a.m. - College of Professional and Technological Studies

The BIG Event

This Saturday is The BIG Event sponsored by Student Government. Each year this wonderful event grows in size and scope with more than 200 homes and 1,100 students involved this year. It is remarkable to consider this is a student-developed, student-managed event. I’m proud of our students that they take this time to say thank you to our community.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President