

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
January 5, 2009

I hope the recent holidays were a time of joy, companionship and relaxation for you. As eventful as 2008 was, 2009 promises to be even more so. This year we celebrate the 125th anniversary of our founding and break ground on our new Michigan College of Optometry Building. There will undoubtedly be other milestone events we cannot yet foresee. Also, there will certainly be many challenges for us, especially as the Michigan economy struggles to find its footing. Both in celebrating our success and confronting our challenges, it is a great help to belong to a community, such as ours, that has a rich history to look back upon and a clear vision to guide us going forward.

New Year's Resolutions

Even if you did not make personal New Year's resolutions, please consider resolving to help Ferris keep progressing in 2009. Resolutions often founder because they take on too much. However, if each of us did just one thing, together we would make a great difference.

In terms of making a difference through a single positive action, why not

- Do one thing to help the University prepare to celebrate the 125th anniversary of our founding this year. For more information about what you can do to help, contact Mary Kay MacIver at ext. 3739.
- Tell one prospective student about what Ferris has to offer.
- Increase your contribution to the campus United Way drive by \$1 per paycheck or make a similar contribution to a deserving charity of your choice.
- Attend one additional campus event - check the campus calendar on the Ferris home page to see what's taking place.
- Take one action to make the campus a safer place, such as signing up for text alerts (to sign up, visit MyFSU and click on the link in the "Emergency Text Alerts" channel), or schedule a viewing of the Shots Fired video (contact the Department of Public Safety at ext. 5000).

If you have other ideas about what actions we as individual members of the Ferris community can take, let me know by e-mailing me at eislerd@ferris.edu and I will try to share as many of your suggestions as I can.

Vice President for Administration and Finance

In December we brought three finalists to campus for the position of Vice President for Administration and Finance. After the search concluded I spent significant time reviewing each candidate, checking references, and soliciting feedback from our campus on each of the candidates. While each of the candidates had strong backgrounds of experience and excellent skills, there was one candidate that was favored over the others, Jerry Scoby, the Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer for Alma College.

I am pleased to share with you that Jerry Scoby has accepted my invitation to serve as Vice President for Administration and Finance. He will spend three months concluding his responsibilities at Alma College and will join our leadership group on April 6th.

Jerry Scoby brings 32 years of experience in higher education administration and finance to Ferris State University. In addition to his ten years of experience as Vice President at Alma College, Jerry worked for 17 years at Central Michigan University, serving in a series of positions of increasing responsibility including Director of Business Services and Assistant Vice President for Business Affairs. Before that he served for five years in the business office of Mid Michigan Community College. I invite you to join me in welcoming Jerry to Ferris State University.

Good News

December's graduation ceremonies were one of the best attended winter commencements in memory as we recognized over 450 graduates. The success of commencement is a result of the combined efforts of many at our University. Thank you for helping to make this a very special day for our graduates and their families. I want to offer special thanks to Distinguished Professor Dr. Khagendra Thapa for his address at both commencement ceremonies. His remarks are accessible on-line at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/presentations.htm>.

Senior Defensive Tackle, Jake Visser, continues to receive many accolades for his hard work both on and off the football field. His awards include *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American, *Daktronics* Regional Defensive Player of the Year and GLIAC Jack McAvoy Award for outstanding character and leadership. Jake is also a finalist for the prestigious Gene Upshaw Division II Lineman of the Year Award. Additionally, Jake has been invited to compete in this year's Cactus Bowl, which features the nation's top NCAA-II seniors. The game takes place this Friday, Jan. 9, with kick off at 7:35 p.m.

You can always see lists of good news items that are updated monthly at <http://www.ferris.edu/president> by clicking on the "Good News" link.

Thank you for all of your hard work during 2008, and best wishes for 2009!

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President