

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
April 21, 2008

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Last Thursday evening's Renaissance themed faculty recognition event was a wonderful celebration. The event was a perfect opportunity to recognize our faculty selected for promotion, tenure, merit, or special award. Amy Smitter, president of Michigan Campus Compact, presented Tony Baker with the Community Service Learning Award. The Inaugural Carnegie medal for Political Engagement was presented by Academic Senate President Rick Griffin to Michael Berghoef. Rick also presented a special citation to Bruce Dilg for his leadership in the Festival of the Arts. John Jablonski received the International Education Award from Bob Friar, and Paul Jackson was recognized for his commitment to the First Year Experience in a presentation by Shelly VandePanne. Finalists for the Distinguished Teacher Award were Susan Jones, Wendy Samuels and Nate Tymes. Khagendra Thapa was this year's Distinguished Teacher Award recipient. Lisa Wall and Dan Sleeper were recognized for Exemplary Assessment, and Randy Vance presented on-line instructor certification to Mark DeKoster, Anita Fagerman, Bakhodirzhon Siddikov, Matthew Wagerheim and Maureen Heaphy.

After thirty-four years of service to Ferris State University, Vice President Richard Duffett has announced his retirement, effective June 30th of this year. Rick believes this is the right decision for him and that it comes at a good time for the University with both the institution and the divisions of Administration and Finance and University Advancement and Marketing that he has headed in very good shape. We will all miss the high standards and extraordinary commitment Rick brought to his efforts at Ferris. I will especially miss the strong support he has provided me during these past five years at Ferris.

## **Summer University**

Summer University is scheduled for June 2, 3 and 4. Although it might seem a little early to be thinking about it, the topics covered during these two and a half days are especially timely. The first day of Summer University will be devoted to Strategic Planning, including a keynote presentation, "Improving a Sense of Mission," by the Grand Rapids-based group Fishladder. There will be concurrent sessions for planning goals developed through stakeholder sessions and refined by the Strategic Planning and Resource Council.

The second day focuses on campus safety and begins with a keynote address by former FBI officers Eugene Rugala and Steve Romano, "Preventing and Coping with the Unthinkable." They will present and discuss information from their DVD, "Shots Fired," which is a guide to surviving an active shooter situation in the workplace. There will also be breakout sessions on threat assessment, personal preparedness, the Clery Act and emergency communications.

There has been significant media attention regarding violent incidents on college campuses during the past year. Knowing the causes of such incidents, and how to react should such an event ever occur, can help minimize their impact. These sessions are designed to help us make sure that these educational and work settings remain safe environments.

The final half-day of Summer University will be activities developed by the Campus Wellness Committee and, of course, our annual picnic on the Quad. Please mark your calendars for these special sessions, and I encourage all members of the University community to attend.

### **Retiree Ceremony**

This year we have created a University-wide retirement reception for all retirees. This celebration is not intended to replace individual retirement events sponsored by departments and offices, but is an additional opportunity for people to say thank you to retiring colleagues. Please join us to honor faculty and staff members who have recently retired, or are about to retire, on Tuesday, April 29, from 2-4 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room. Retirees who have already confirmed they will attend this event include Tony Albachten, Mary Kilgallen, Ken Reinink, Art Sherwood, Vickie Streeter and John Thorp. I look forward to seeing you at this celebration of these dedicated individuals.

### **Academic Senate Members**

Congratulations to newly elected members of the Academic Senate. New members include Mark Brandly, Mark DeKoster, Nanacy Lashaway-Bokina, Elsie Lovsted, James Nash, John Schmidt, Bill Smith, Meral Topcu and Greg Wellman. Continuing members re-elected include Ali Abbasabadi, Mary Cline, Charles Drake, David Hanna, Paul Klatt, Tom Liszewski, Roy McLean, Andrew Purvis, Cami Sanderson and Kent Sun.

On behalf of the entire University community, I want to thank our Academic Senate members for their hard work.

### **Service Awards and House Higher Education Appropriations Committee**

Previously I mentioned this week's Employee Service Awards ceremony on April 23, which begins at 3 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room. In addition to hosting this celebration on campus, we are also returning to the tradition of serving strawberry pie. During this time we will present the outstanding staff and team awards as well as recognize employees from across our campuses for their service to the University.

On Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> Ferris will host the House Higher Educational Appropriations Committee in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center, Room 109 at 10 a.m. I will be testifying on a number of topics of interest to our University and the committee. Also presenting will be presidents from Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Northern Michigan University and Western Michigan University. This meeting is open to the public and you are encouraged to attend.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler  
President