

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
March 12, 2007

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Welcome back for the second half of spring semester. There are a number of announcements, activities, and good news about our University that I want to share with you.

## **New Trustee Appointments**

On Thursday Governor Granholm made two appointments to the Ferris State University Board of Trustees, Patrick LaPine and Sueann Walz. Mr. LaPine, who resides in Farmington, is the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Michigan Credit Union League, where he has been employed since 1999. In this position he oversees the legislative, regulatory, grassroots advocacy, political action and compliance support activities of the League. Prior to joining the League, Mr. La Pine was legislative assistant to State Representative Agnes Dobronski, and community liaison for U.S. Senator Donald Riegler, Jr.

Mrs. Walz, a resident of Big Rapids, is the Assistant Vice President and Manager for Independent Bank of Big Rapids, where she has been employed for 30 years. She is a member of the Ferris Foundation Board of Directors, a member of the University's Founder's Club, served as co-chair of the Fundraiser for Ferris' Bulldog Hockey Locker Room and has received recognition from the hockey Blueline Club and the Pete Peterson Award from the Athletic Department. For 10 years, Sueann was co-chair of the Mecosta County Chamber of Commerce Holiday Gala and in 1996 served as Chamber President. She has served as President and Vice President for the Friends of Ferris, our political action group, and has served on its executive board for 17 years.

We are pleased to welcome Patrick LaPine and Sueann Walz to our Board of Trustees. Both are appointed to eight-year terms, which began immediately upon appointment. Appointments to University Boards of Trustees are normally reviewed by the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Sub-committee, a process that occurs within 60 days.

## **Strategic Planning**

Dr. David McFarland will be on campus this Tuesday and Wednesday to conduct an environmental scan, the first step in a university-wide strategic planning effort. During those two days Dr. McFarland will meet with fifteen different groups of individuals, many chosen at random. In addition to these sessions we have scheduled two open forum

meetings, when any member of the campus community can attend to offer their observations and insights. These are scheduled for -

Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am - Rankin Center Dome Room

Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 pm - Rankin Center 125-127 (W. Young Room)

I encourage you to provide your input to Dr. McFarland as we begin this process and thank you in advance for your participation. Through this effort we can help shape the future of our University.

### Good News

You might want take a look at the Ferris homepage. In the right hand corner are four interesting stories -

- Assistant Athletic Trainer Tim Glover intends to ride 3800 miles across America, from San Francisco, CA to Portsmouth, NH to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.
- The FSU Rube Goldberg team is featured in a video segment including an interview with Mechanical Engineering Technology professor Tom Hollen. This year's device uses 245 steps to squeeze orange juice. The machine is themed around the concept of a toy factory. I have seen this in person and it is truly unique.
- The Advertising program and AdGroup are the current featured program video. This includes an interview with Marketing Professor Tom Mehl.
- The Week in Pictures shows the snowy beauty of our campus during spring break. These materials represent the excellent work of webmaster Ted Halm, videographer Rich Piippo, and photographers Bill Bitzinger and Matt Yeoman.

Here are two other current stories that may be of interest. The first describes some alternate spring break efforts by our students. Ten members of our Habitat for Humanity chapter spent spring break constructing a home in New York. Seven Ferris students who are part of the Wesley House Campus Ministry worked in a children's home in New Orleans at - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/news/news/homepage2.cfm> The second story highlights the academic efforts of Ferris student athletes, whose overall athletic grade point average last year was 3.10, the highest ever. This article also chronicles individual and team academic achievements at -

<http://www.ferris.edu/sports/general/0506academicachievement.htm>

The current issue of PGA Magazine has two excellent articles on the Ferris Professional Golf Management program. "Career Compass" includes interviews with the following program alumni -

John Lynberger, Director of Golf at Congressional Country Club in Maryland

Tim Marks, Head Professional at Ravisloe Country Club in Illinois  
Russ Miller, Director of Golf at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs  
Craig Ramsbottom, President, Bag Boy Company and AMF Golf  
Karen Smith Tucker, Teaching Professional at Tustin Ranch Golf Club in  
California

The second article, "Program Debuted in Michigan in 1975," tells the story of the development of the PGM program at Ferris State University. Featured in this article are the efforts of President Bob Ewigleben, Professional Don Perne, Faculty Emeriti Lowell LeClair, the first PGM director at Ferris, and Master Professional Gary Wiren, who holds an honorary degree from Ferris. Both articles feature the efforts of current PGM director Matt Pinter.

The Search piece for new student recruitment developed by University Advancement and Marketing and the Admissions Office won the gold medal in the *Admissions Marketing Report* national competition. This award was in the category for schools with more than 10,000 students and is the second consecutive year we have received this recognition. This reflects the good work of Susan Starkey, Al Williams, Michelle Herron, Bill Bitzinger, and Penny Bouman. The Search piece is accessible online at - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/advance/pdf/search.pdf>

Our women's basketball team plays this evening for the NCAA Great Lakes Regional Championship in Romeoville, Illinois. Friday evening they defeated Northern Kentucky University on a basket as time expired. This marked their first-ever victory in NCAA Tournament history. The team followed this with a nineteen-point victory over Gannon University Saturday evening. The Gannon team was the champions from our GLIAC conference. Tonight's game is against Drury University and will be broadcast live on WBRN-1460 AM. The audio is also accessible from the athletic website at - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/sports/bulldogwebcasts/homepage.htm> Live statistics and other information are available from the Great Lake Regional website at - <http://lewisflyers.cstv.com/sports/w-baskbl/2007NCAA-Regional.html> Good luck to our women's basketball team and coach Tracey Bloodworth-Fisk.

These are but a few of the many good things happening everyday at our University. I want to extend special thanks to the members of our physical plant who have worked especially hard over these past weeks to have keep our campus accessible through all the snow and ice. I appreciate each of you and your continued efforts for our students and our programs.

Best wishes,

Dave