

## President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
October 12, 2006

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Who would have imagined that we would wake up to snow this morning! When I left for the office it was snowing hard at home. As I finish this memo the sky has cleared and we are going to have one of those truly beautiful Michigan fall sunrises.

This weekend is Ferris State University's Homecoming, and I want to take the opportunity to invite you to Friday and Saturday's events. Groundbreaking for the IRC renovation is scheduled for Friday afternoon with a light reception at 1:30 and a brief ceremony at 2:00pm. Because of inclement weather the ceremonies will be in the lobby of the Timme Building. Following this will be a tour of renovated classrooms across campus. I encourage you to join us as we celebrate the new center for learning the IRC will become and then tour the campus. It is important to note that much of the work for the classroom project has been through the efforts of the members of our physical plant. I appreciate very much the difference their efforts make for these improved facilities for teaching and learning across the University.

Saturday includes all manner of tailgating (in parking lot #37 prior to kick-off) and gatherings for alumni. If you have not yet experienced the Chili Cook-off from the College of Technology, this is an experience not to be missed. Tailgating tents include Alumni Relations, Minority Affairs Alumni, International Students sponsored by the Vice President for Academic Affairs, and many others. This is followed by the downtown parade at noon. Grand Marshall for the parade will be James Chenier, a Vice President for Detroit Diesel, and 1994 graduate of the Automotive and Heavy Equipment Technology program. The football game follows at 2:00pm against Gannon. Hockey against Mercyhurst starts at 7:05pm. The Annual Homecoming Student/Alumni Reception and "Cruisin' Through the Decades" Dance, which includes the Queen and King coronation, is held at the Holiday Inn, starting at 8:00pm. Homecoming is an opportunity to visit and reconnect with our alumni. I encourage you to attend and participate in Homecoming activities.

At Homecoming there is much to celebrate about your efforts. I want to share with you some of your stories of success and recognition:

## Lily Conference

Last month twenty-five faculty presented at the Lily North Conference in Traverse City. They were a part of 330 participants from twenty-five states. The top poster award at this conference, the Lorrie Ryan Memorial Poster Award, went to Gregory Wellman from the College of Pharmacy for *Stop Fighting with Your Students over the Remote: Developing Engaging and Interactive Multimedia for Students*.

Two of the three Lorrie Ryan Memorial Poster Award honorable mentions also went to Ferris faculty - Bruce Dilg, Architectural Technology/Facilities Management, for *Big Rapids Bandshell* and Michelle Weemaes, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, for *Critical Thinking Techniques in Competency Based Education*. Congratulations to these three faculty for this special recognition and to all our faculty who participated in this conference. Faculty from six colleges shared their expertise at this conference, and I am impressed by the topics of their posters and presentations. This is truly remarkable -

- Kimberly Beistle, Dental Hygiene, Mark DeKoster, Automotive Service Technology, *Potentiating Powerful Learning Through Critical Thinking*
- Tracey Boncher, Pharmacy, *Teaching and Keeping Students Engaged in Chemistry by Giving Them Hands On Experience*
- Terry Doyle, Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, *The Changing Role of Teachers and Students in a Learner-Centered Classroom*
- Richard Griffin, Social Sciences, *AMERI-CAN: A Reverse Role Playing Simulation for Teaching American Government and Democracy*
- Kathleen Harlan, Susan Wancour, Dental Hygiene and Medical Imaging, *Impacting Student Learning Through the Use of Peer Accountability, Collaboration and Empowerment in the Classroom*
- Susan Hastings-Bishop, Recreation Leisure Studies and Wellness, *Community Based and Service-Learning Assessment*
- Judith Hooper, Gloria Lukusa-Barnett, Developmental Programs and Curriculum, Eunice Merwin, Educational and Career Counseling, *Engaging Freshmen Students by Using Online Tools via WebCT Prepares Them for the Online Environment*
- Susan Jones, Marketing, *Bringing Entrepreneurship Into the Classroom With Learner-Centered Teaching*
- William Jones, Marketing, *There is Only One "A" in the Real World: Competitive Student Designed & Evaluated Team Presentations*
- Amy Kavanaugh, Education, *Application of Integrated, Thematic Web Quest Projects across the Curriculum*
- Denise Mitten, Recreation Leisure Studies and Wellness, *Understanding Student Learning Styles*
- Lucy Ngoh, Pharmacy, *Service - Learning: Its Definition and Integration into a Course. A Case in Pharmacy*

- Donna Smith, George Nagel, Communications, *Maximizing Student Learning Through Critical Thinking*
- Elizabeth Stolarek, Languages and Literature, *Of Course I Teach Critical Thinking: Or Do I?*
- Spence Tower, Management, *Removing Barriers: Six Ways to Motivate Your Students, Peers, and Even Your Bosses*
- Helen Woodman, University College, Paul Kammerdiner, FLITE , *Playing the Game: Using Games to Teach College Students Critical Thinking Skills*

What an impressive listing this is. It is wonderful to see Ferris faculty recognized for their innovative efforts in the classroom.

### **Athletics**

Jenny Irwin Every, a 2006 graduate of the Plastics Engineering Technology and Rubber Engineering Technology programs, and an All American at Ferris in both track and cross country, has been selected by the NCAA as one of nine finalists for their Woman of the Year. This award honors outstanding senior student-athletes for their cumulative collegiate achievements in service, leadership, athletics and academics. Jenny was first nominated by Ferris State University, and then chosen to represent the GLIAC conference. A national selection committee named the top 10 winners in each NCAA division (I, III and III). From among those 30 conference honorees, the selection committee then determined the top three in each division. Ms. Irwin Every will be honored at a NCAA banquet on October 28<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis. Congratulations to Jenny on this honor.

Recently the U.S. Sports Academy Director's Cup announced the top-50 athletic programs in Division II of the NCAA. From 290 programs across the nation, Ferris State University ranked 35<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to athletic director Tom Kirinovic, the athletes, coaches, and supporters who helped earn this recognition for the University.

### **HEAT'S ON Project**

Recently students from the Ferris HVACR program participated in the Greater Michigan Mechanical Service Contractors HEAT'S ON Project (Handicapped and Elderly Assistance to Service Our Neighbors). Working together with contractors, these students visited homes of people at or near the poverty level in Mecosta and Osceola County. They checked for safety problems with furnaces and installed carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. Where furnaces were found to be defective, through the contractor's support, they were repaired or replaced without charge.

As a result of these combined efforts, needy people throughout our area will have heat throughout the winter. Additionally, unhealthy and potentially unsafe situations have been corrected. This is a remarkable example of service to the community. The HEAT'S ON project was one of the contributing factors in the HVACR program receiving the 2006 Jeff Forker Award for Excellence in Training from the National Air Conditioning Contractors of America.

Also in the College of Technology, the Ferris Surveying program is featured prominently in the September 2006 e-newsletter from Leica Geosystems. The article, entitled, "At the Head of the Class," highlights the strong relationship between the Surveying program and Leica Geosystems. A number of surveying faculty are interviewed in this story. It concludes with the following statement -

*...there is no question that the surveying engineering program at Ferris State University is continuously respected and recognized as one of the country's standard-setting surveying engineering institutions.*

### **On-line Education Recognition**

This month UCEL Dean Roberta Teahen received news that Ferris State University had been selected for a University Continuing Education Association Mid-America Region Award for Excellence. The project, "Partnerships Leading From Union Apprenticeships to Associate and Bachelor Degrees," is a partnered effort with the United Association, Washtenaw Community College and the Ferris HVACR department. This on-line program ladders the associate's degree that students can earn at Washtenaw Community College into a FSU bachelor's degree.

This past spring Ferris State University was visited by two reviewers from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) to allow Ferris State University to offer existing degree programs online without additional Commission review. This positive review and recommendation was forwarded to a panel of readers who have also reviewed the report. They have forwarded this to the Institutional Acting Commission of the HLC. Finally this will move to the HLC Board of Trustees for final review. The very favorable comments received during this process reflect the strength of our educational efforts on-line.

### **Closing Thoughts**

November 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Foundation for Excellence Gala of the Ferris Foundation. The evening begins at 6:00pm at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids. The proceeds from this event benefit student scholarships and grants for faculty and staff. Special guest for the evening is the noted actor, James Earl Jones. This is always a wonderful evening and I want to personally invite you to attend.

As I visit with you on campus I hear about many of the outstanding efforts by you - our faculty and staff at Ferris State University. I am very proud of you, the extraordinary accomplishments you achieve, and the national recognition your work receives. If you are aware of other outstanding work or recognition for efforts both on and off campus, I would very much appreciate hearing about it. Sharing these achievements helps foster a climate that celebrates the work of our people.

Thank you for the difference you make for our students and University. I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming.

Best wishes,  
*Dave*

### **Web links**

Homecoming - <http://www.ferris.edu/alumni/Homecoming/>

Lily Conference Information - <http://www.facit.cmich.edu/lilly/>

Jenny Irwin Every - <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/sports/general/ncaawomanofyear-irwin.htm>

HVACR Recognition - <http://www.ferris.edu/news/pridepoints/hvac/>

Surveying Engineering -  
[http://portal.leicaus.com/eNewsLetters/enews4/pob0606\\_FSU.pdf](http://portal.leicaus.com/eNewsLetters/enews4/pob0606_FSU.pdf)

Ferris Foundation for Excellence Gala -  
<http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/foundation/Benefit/benefit2006.htm>