

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
August 30, 2005

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There is a wonderful excitement to the beginning of the academic year. You can see and sense this as students return to campus, move into the residence halls, and attend the first days of class. Each week, University photographer Bill Bitzinger and his staff put together the week in pictures. His photographs from last week capture many of the feelings associated with this time of year and bring back many memories from when we took our children to college. You can find them at the University homepage or access them directly here - <http://www.ferris.edu/news/week/aug2605/index.htm>. As the semester begins I want to share with you some upcoming activities and important dates.

## **New Responsibilities**

The beginning of a new year brings changes and new opportunities for our people. I am delighted to welcome Miles Postema as the General Counsel for the University. With his experience and knowledge of our University he is a strong addition to our leadership team. In the College of Technology, Tom Oldfield has accepted our invitation to serve as Dean while a search is conducted to fill this position. Tom's understanding of academics at Ferris State University makes him a wonderful choice for this position. In the College of Technology he is joined by Ron McKean, who has accepted the college's Assistant Dean position. In Academic Affairs, Roxanne Cullen has become Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. She and Vice President Michael Harris are joined by Pat Klarecki, who has accepted a position as Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. In Student Affairs Associate Vice President Mike Cairns also now serves as Dean of Students. In University Advancement and Marketing we are pleased to welcome Amber MacKenzie, who joins us as Assistant Vice President for Development. Amber is a native of Big Rapids and most recently worked in fund raising efforts at Western Michigan University.

There are a number of new leaders in academic affairs, assistant and associate deans, department chairs and heads. In the College of Allied Health we welcome to campus Theresa Raglin who is the department head for Dental Hygiene and Medical Imaging. In the College of Arts and Sciences Kevin Miller serves as Assistant Dean and Reinhold Hill as Department Head for Languages and Literature. In the College of Education and Human Services, Liza Ing is the Director of the School of Education. Nancy Peterson-Klein has assumed her new role as Associate Dean of the Michigan College of Optometry. There are a number of new department chairs in the College of Technology, including Ed Brayton, Construction Management; Rich Goosen, Mechanical Design; Bill Papo, Printing & Imaging Technology Management; and Murry Stocking, Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technology. In the University Center for Extended Learning, Cheryl Cluchey is now an Assistant Dean with responsibility for the Southwest

Region and Online Learning, Nancy Reddy is Executive Director of the Northern Region, and Deb Thalner is Executive Director of the Southeast Region. I appreciate the willingness of these people to provide leadership for our University's academic efforts.

### **Founders' Day**

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1884 Woodbridge Ferris opened the doors of the Big Rapids Industrial School for its first day of classes. To celebrate this heritage and to provide an opportunity for the University community to come together, we have created Founders' Day. I hope you will join us this Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, for the inaugural Founders' Day. As a part of these ceremonies we will set the large tent up on the University Quadrangle and invite all members of the University Community to join us for lunch.

The day's celebrations begin with a Founders' Room Open House in the Rankin Center at 10:00 am hosted by the History Commemoration Task Force. At 11:00 I'll be presenting some thoughts on our founders, our heritage, and our future in the Rankin Center Dome Room. This will be followed by lunch on the Quad. At 2:00 pm I'll continue my session from the morning with a question and answer session in the Founders' Room. As part of the celebration, Student Activities has planned an entire evening of activities for our students later that day.

My hope is that Founders' Day will become a meaningful occasion where we can gather as a University community to celebrate our past and consider our future. I encourage you to join us on Thursday and look forward to visiting with you.

### **Useful Information**

September is Sexual Aggression & Assault Awareness Month at FSU. Most sexual assaults among students occur during September or during Spring Break. Jeanne Bolle from the counseling center heads a multidisciplinary task force to address these issues. The initial program for this effort is entitled "No Zebras," and will be presented on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm in the Rankin Center. A series of displays, discussions, and programs are scheduled throughout the month.

Quiznos is now open in the Rankin Center. This is a food operation that serves salads and toasted subs. In addition there are soups, smoothies, and pretzels available. I appreciate the efforts of everyone in the physical plant and dining services that helped this food operation open on-time for the beginning of the semester. The Centennial Dining Room, located right next door is also open again this fall.

Although it is a semester away, each year we receive a number of questions about what the December holiday schedule will be. The University will close at the end of the workday on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and return to work at the beginning of the workday on Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. To aid with future planning, we have published the holiday

schedule through January 2011. This information is available on the web at - <http://www.ferris.edu/president/holidayclosing.htm>.

This Labor Day weekend includes a large number of Big Rapids Sesquicentennial Celebration Activities. On Saturday at 3:00 there will be the Big Rapids Birthday Bash at Riverfront Park including the dedication of the new band shell. This was designed by University students lead by Bruce Dilg and will be used by our Summer Band in future years.

Saturday evening is the first home football game against Ashland University. The afternoon and evening events will focus on traditions in "Turn Back the Clock Night." These begin at 4:00 pm with a traditional Pigskin Cookout, Beatlemania Live Concert at 5:00, the game at 7:00 and concluding with fireworks after the game.

### **Closing Thoughts**

Over the past week I've had the opportunity to visit with many of our new students. The hopes, expectations, and dreams they share about their future remind me of the difference our education can make for these students. Each of us has an important role in creating the learning environment that can help and inspire them to reach toward these goals. I appreciate you, your hard work and commitment to excellence for our students and our University. As we begin this semester I want to offer each of you best wishes for a successful, meaningful, and enjoyable year.

Best wishes,

Dave Eisler