

## President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
December 12, 2005

---

In the midst of snowy weather and cold temperatures, and with a final flurry of events, the end of the semester has arrived. I want to take this opportunity to encourage you to attend commencement and celebrate one of the most special days of the academic year. This is a time when the work of the entire University community comes together as we recognize our students who have completed their degrees.

The December Commencement has two ceremonies – 10:00 a.m. for the colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Education and Human Services, and Technology; 1:30 p.m. for the colleges of Arts and Sciences, and Business. Dr. Robert N. McCullough, associate professor of Mathematics, will serve as the speaker for both the morning and afternoon ceremonies. Professor McCullough was chosen last spring as one of the University's Distinguished Teachers for 2004-05. His special interest lies in the mathematics needed for space exploration, and he regularly reviews publications for science books and films.

As a regional resource person for the National Air and Space Museum, he has given more than 130 presentations on space exploration. He has also written and presented several papers on the mathematics used by the Wright Brothers to prove that flight was possible, and in January was an invited participant for the Calculus Teaching Focus Group at the American Mathematical Society/Mathematical Association of America's annual meeting in Atlanta.

I am delighted that Vice President Michael Harris and Academic Affairs have scheduled both a breakfast and lunch for faculty who are attending the commencement ceremonies. We both want to make certain faculty have the opportunity to congratulate the graduates they have helped prepare. As a result we are encouraging faculty to greet graduates and shake their hands as they leave the commencement stage after our students receive their degree. Please join us in congratulating our graduates at this special time of the year.

## Helping Others

In last week's message I offered some examples of community service and contributions by our students, faculty, and staff. Since that time I have received a number of messages and notes from you about the amazing work you are doing with our students in helping to make a difference for others. While I cannot share all the messages I have received, I do want to share a few -

"You had asked for input regarding community volunteer activities and I'd like to share one that pharmacy students have been involved in for the past three years. Each fall, the off-campus P-3 students choose organizations to benefit from angel tree gifts. In the past, students and faculty have donated gifts to families served by the YWCA Domestic Assault Program, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and foster care children in Grand Rapids (D. A. Blodgett for Children) and Kalamazoo (Family and Children Services). These organizations are so grateful that busy students and faculty will take time to shop for specific gifts and wrap them for needy children - just weeks before exams! We have delivered car loads of gifts each year, as we will again this year."

"After reading your memorandum, I wanted to send you a quick note to let you know about a great group of students I have the pleasure of working with. I am currently the advisor for the Ferris Idols and this semester they have been working very closely with the local office for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Although the RSO has been around for several years, they have changed their focus this semester to helping the youth of the Big Rapids and Mecosta County area. This group of students has gone through the application and interview process to be official Big Brothers or Big Sisters, and I am proud to let you know that we have helped to make over 20 matches with young children in the area! In addition to the one-on-one time that these students have spent with their 'little', these students have also planned and coordinated several events for groups of these children and their families. They had a Halloween party at our U-REC, a Thanksgiving dinner at Cafe Ferris, and this coming Saturday they are planning a Holiday party to be held at the U-REC."

"It is great that there are so many students on campus getting involved in the community up in Big Rapids. I just want to let you know what my students are doing in the community of Kalamazoo. Because all of us clinical pharmacy folks have appointments at local health care institutions and our students work with us, we have unique opportunities to serve our communities. My site is especially suited for student participation in the community as I am at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Kalamazoo (The Family Health Center), where we serve the Medicaid and under/not insured members of our community. As well, we have a homeless clinic where we serve those without homes. My students spend 1/2 day a week providing clinical pharmacy services at the Healthcare for the Homeless clinic, as

well as 6 more 1/2 days a week providing services in their clinics. The clinic has just received a grant to provide health care in clinic in an elementary school, and I anticipate my students will also be participating in that venture (we had in the past before they lost the previous grant funding the clinic). Thanks for caring about the great work that our students are doing!! It is stretching some of their horizons, and they are growing as people and as professionals.”

“Many thanks to Gerri Gomber, Melanie, and the folks in student services. They contributed FSU items to two packages sent to servicemen. Two names were chosen from *anysoldier.com* and mailed in anticipation of delivery prior to Christmas. Some students in MGMT 301 also wrote nice notes to soldiers. Both soldiers and their divisions are in Iraq. The concern and generosity of the Ferris community is heartwarming.”

I continue to receive additional examples and would enjoy hearing from you. If you are aware of other efforts where our students are reaching out to help our communities, please drop me a note, [eislerd@ferris.edu](mailto:eislerd@ferris.edu).

### **United Way Volunteers**

Congratulations to the entire University community for reaching our goal for the United Way. Many people contributed their time, talents, and resources to achieve this goal. The Campus United Way effort was coordinated by a committee from across the University, including Dan Burcham, Roxanne Cullen, Will Gasper, Cindy Horn, Kim Kleeves, Jeremy Mishler, Linda Telfer, and students Barbie Kolar and Sarah Jennings.

There are many, many volunteers who assisted in the United Way effort. They include Sandy Balkema, Celeste Belcher-Girard, Jean Bennett, Sue Brown, Deb Buck, Cathy Campbell, Laurie Daniels, Greg Denny, Chuck Drake, Billie Jo Duddles, Theresa Foust, Roy Gifford, Dick Hansen, Rick Harmsen, Fred Heck, Kristi Heeter, Kathy Holz, Cindy Horn, Robin Hoisington, Chris Jacobs, Lori Johnson, Elaine Kamptner, Brian Kegler, Kim Kleeves, Karen Lobdell, Pat McNabb, Diane Maguire, Mary Main, Jeremy Mishler, Denise Moulter, Mary Murnik, Karen Ottobre, Katherine Palazzola-Miller, Angie Palmer, Jane Pedelty, Jody Proefrock, Jim Rumpf, Linda Sims, Paul Sullivan, June Swanson, Linda Telfer, Phil Tetsworth, Kevin Tucci, Rhonda Turner, Chris Voldry, Joe Ward, Jackie Warner, Lee Ann Westman, Debi Whitman, Shannon Yost.

Here are some of the special events associated with this year's United Way effort and the people who made them happen -

- American Welding Association donated \$250 for Hurricane Relief
- Clark Hall Penny Push for raising over \$190

- Chris Jacobs and Deb Buck - FLITE Silent Auction and Chili Cook-Off
- Kim Kleeves and Will Gasper - Physical Plant Luncheons
- Barbie Kolar and Sarah Jennings for organizing the **many** student events which took in over \$6700 total
- Men's Lacrosse team donated \$150
- Karen Lobdell - Soup Day in University College
- Kathy Palazzola-Miller - Social Science Sub Sandwich Day
- Kipp Saathoff - Prakken Bingo Bash
- Professional Tennis Management Students for raising over \$1700 in their tennis tag-team doubles for Hurricane Relief
- Student Alumni Gold Club - Cover the Seal in money - raised over \$1700

Thank you for making a difference for those less fortunate in our community through the United Way.

### **Energy Conservation**

I have also received many suggestions about energy conservation, both short-term and long-term. A significant number of these are simple things that each of us can do, like turning off lights and computers and shutting doors. Some revolve around maintenance needs where a window or a door might not close entirely or too slowly. If you have additional ideas about how our campus can conserve energy, please send them to me via email [eislerd@ferris.edu](mailto:eislerd@ferris.edu). I will forward your suggestions to the physical plant and others who can assist.

Each member of our campus community can help us conserve. Thanks for your assistance.

### **Upcoming Events**

Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> is the annual Holiday Reception. I hope you will join Patsy and me at the Holiday Inn between 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. We enjoy this opportunity to visit and to express our thanks to you. We look forward to seeing you at this holiday celebration.

Later that day, between 11:00 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., we will be serving a pancake breakfast to students in the Westview Dining area. Come be a part of what I hope will be something will become an ongoing tradition at our University.

On Thursday and Friday the University-Wide Task Forces will be sharing their reports. These sessions are in the Rankin Center Room 155. The schedule is as follows -

Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Technical Support
	10:30 a.m.	Grants and External Funding
	1:00 p.m.	Transfer Students
	2:30 p.m.	Student Engagement
Friday	9:00 a.m.	Accreditation

I am very impressed with how hard our task force members have worked and look forward to hearing from them. If your schedule permits, please come join us for any of the sessions of special interest to you.

### **Thank You**

As many of you know there was a fire in the equipment area on the roof of the Timme Building early Friday morning. Fortunately alarm systems detected this before significant damage was done. I appreciate the quick response of our public safety officers and firefighters from Big Rapids in quickly extinguishing this before it created serious problems. Beyond dealing with the initial incident, Campus Police officers were in the building when employees arrived Friday morning, explaining what had happened. I appreciate both the leadership and thoughtfulness of the Director of Public Safety, Marty Bledsoe, in handling this situation.

At Commencement I am reminded of the difference an education at Ferris State University makes for our students. It is your work that helps motivate, inspire, and transform our students. I appreciate the way you reach out personally to our students, helping and supporting them so they can succeed both at our University and in life. The power of this caring approach to people and education is truly incredible.

The rush toward the end of the fall semester can be exhausting. I hope that the holiday break provides an opportunity for you to rest and recharge your energies for the second half of our year. More than that, I hope this season provides you the opportunity to visit with family and friends, celebrating this most special of seasons.

Thank you for everything you do for our students and our University. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holiday Season.

Best wishes,

Dave Eisler, President