

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
August 17, 2012

It is a pleasure to welcome you back for the 2012-2013 academic year. The beginning of fall semester is always an exciting time at Ferris State University as faculty and staff who have been away for the summer return. One can feel the quickening of pace at the University as summer draws to a close and we prepare our campuses for both new and returning students. If you were away for the summer I hope that you had a chance to travel, relax, meet with friends and family, or do whatever else fosters a sense of renewal in you.

This week new faculty members have been on campus in Big Rapids in a week-long orientation program. We are fortunate to have an excellent group of new colleagues and I encourage you to greet them and help them feel at home at Ferris State University. Our new faculty include –

Bijaya Acharya, Intensive English
Aubrey Adrianson, Intensive English
Louis Arokiasamy, Intensive English
Katie Axford, Pharmacy
Barbara Barnes, Nursing
Angela Brown, Intensive English
Sagar Deshpande, Surveying
Kimberly Dickman, Educational Counselor
Timothy Eklin, Criminal Justice
Dawn Fox, Social Work
Daniel Goldner, Intensive English
Joan Hazelton, Social Work
March Hutchinson, Health Care Systems
Jean Inabinette, Accounting
Alison Jenerou, Optometry
Jimmie Joseph, Computer Info Systems
Hwee-Joo Kam, Information Systems
Jonathan Karnes, Molecular Diagnostics
Phillip Kohn, Accounting
Kristin Lennon, Intensive English
Ghada Mahdi, Intensive English
Nicolas Mata, Visual Communication
David McClendon, Math
Brian McDowell, Optometry
Paula McDowell, Optometry
Maria McNeel, Intensive English
Kimberly McVickar, Clinical Lab Sciences
Anne Ottney, Pharmacy

Victor Piercey, Math
Lisa vonReichbauer, Intensive English
Jieqiong Wang, Intensive English
Peter Zakrzewski, Visual Communication

At the same time we greet new members of our staff –

Matthew Adeyanju, Dean, College of Health Professions
Niccole Benedict, Assistant Teacher, Tot's Place
Chad Berryhill, Tennis Coach
David Durkee, Asst. Dean, Optometry
Rebecca Burgenmeyer, Camps, Extended and International Operations
Kathy Carroll, Secretary, College of Engineering Technology
Marie Foster, Softball Coach
Scott Garrison, Dean, FLITE
Deanna Goldthwait, Operations Analyst, Student Affairs
Tamie Grunow, Associate VP for Human Resources
Rick Kurtz, Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Andy McKee, Public Safety
Colleen Lamoreaux-Tate, Women's Basketball Coach
David Miller, Hall Director
Brian Milligan, HVACR Supervisor, Physical Plant
Charlette Muller, Asst. Women's Basketball Coach
Ron Repke, Account Clerk, Extended and International Operations
David Roberts, Hall Director
Julie Rowan, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning
Jerry Strunk, Network Engineer/Telecommunications
Nathan Wallace, Technology Services Coordinator
J.K. Yates, Dean, College of Engineering Technology

It is a sign of our University's success in challenging financial times that we are filling these open positions. In my conversations with you I know that you are pleased with the quality and strength of the applicants we are attracting and the new people we are hiring. At the same time I want to thank many of you for the time invested in the search, screening, and hiring process. It is through these efforts that we further strengthen and renew our University.

Welcome Back Week

Making Conne^xtions is the theme of the 2012-2013 Faculty Welcome Back Week hosted by the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning. I found this introduction from the FCTL website insightful -

Making Conne^xtions reflects what is a core essence of academe. Our and our students' experiences at Ferris State depend upon making connections – connections with each other, our communities, and the world. We connect theory with practice, hypotheses with evidence, and teaching with learning. As members of the academy, we make connections

within and among our academic disciplines. And finally, our understanding of ourselves and the world in which we live relies on making connections – connections with beliefs, experiences, and more.

The program begins Monday morning at 8:30 a.m. in Williams Auditorium with a keynote address by Provost Fritz Erickson, “Making Connections: Turning Major Initiatives into Accomplished Goals.” This will be followed with faculty presentations by Brooke Moore, Communications; Dan Tuuri, Computer Information Technology; Piram Prakasam, Chemistry; Kierstan Hanson, Pharmacy; Paul Zube, Communications; and Olukemi Fadayomi, Biology.

Tuesday evening the Academic Senate and Academic Affairs will host a Faculty Celebration in the Granger building. Wednesday afternoon Student Research Fellows will be presenting the results of their research in the Optometry building. There are events throughout the week and a complete listing is available at -

http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/center/events/documents/2012_Faculty_Week_Schedule.pdf I want to thank everyone who has worked in developing this week’s events and encourage you to attend, both to learn from and support your colleagues.

We are beginning to see some of the first groups of students on the Big Rapids campus with New International Student Orientation beginning on Monday. Residence halls open for students on Friday. If your schedule permits I would encourage you to volunteer some time for First Impressions. This is an effective way we can help students and their parents feel welcome. In doing so, we help their move-in experience be a positive one. To become a part of First Impressions, please e-mail Loura Monahan at Loura_Monahan@ferris.edu or call her at x3905.

Founders’ Day

As we look ahead, on Thursday, Aug. 30, we will hold our annual Founders’ Day Celebration on the Campus Quad. This has become a very important event for the University to begin to come together during the first week of classes. Events this year will include

- 11 a.m. – Presidential speech in Dome Room
- Noon – Employee picnic on the Quad (under the tent)
- 3-7 p.m. – Activities on the Quad
- 4-7 p.m. – Ice cream social on the Quad

For more information visit the campus calendar on the Ferris homepage. I look forward to seeing you there.

I look forward to the year ahead as our combined efforts help change students’ lives. Together we prepare them for a successful future with the unique and special education we provide at Ferris State University. Thank you for taking a few moments over the next days to welcome our new colleagues and students to campus.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president