

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 8, 2013

Fulbright Events

This is a memorable semester for our faculty and students involved with the Fulbright Scholar program. As noted previously, we have two faculty members and a student who are recipients of Fulbright awards for the coming year. We have also enjoyed a number of events on campus to celebrate Fulbright Scholars at our University and to encourage engagement in this exceptional program.

These events continue this Thursday, April 11, when Kendall College of Art and Design Professor and Fulbright Scholar Jordan Fenton speaks on "Initiation, Secret Societies, and Masquerade in Nigeria," at 5 p.m. in IRC 120. This will be preceded by a re-dedication of the Fulbright Wall in the IRC Connector at 4 p.m. Also, on Friday, April 12, Kendall Fulbright Scholar Kristin Morrison will host two programs to assist application to the Fulbright program. These are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. in Room 209 on the Kendall campus and at 3 p.m. in IRC 121 on the Big Rapids campus. The Campus Calendar, accessible on the Ferris home page, has additional information about these upcoming events.

International Festival of Cultures

Ferris' International Festival of Cultures will take place Sunday, April 14, 1-5 p.m. in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center on the Big Rapids campus. This is the 25th anniversary of this annual event, which celebrates our university's cultural diversity and commitment to a global perspective. Scheduled events include musical and dance performances, cultural exhibits, children's activities and food samples from around the world. Admission is free, although there is a charge of 50 cents per ticket for food, with most samples costing 1-2 tickets.

I hope that you will plan to attend this truly vibrant event that showcases our international students and the global interests of our Ferris community. To see a video that gives a preview of this year's event and also captures the flavor of past festivals, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSZxcjhjthw> .

Changsha Visiting Faculty

It was my pleasure this past week to meet with a group of faculty members from Changsha Social Work College in China. This is the second group of Changsha faculty members who have visited our campus. The 11-member faculty delegation is visiting Ferris as participants in a Center for Global Studies and Engagement-sponsored 12-week faculty development and exchange program. If you have not done so already, I encourage you to interact with these visiting faculty members. Thank you for helping to make this group's stay a welcome one here at Ferris. This is yet another sign of the ways in which Ferris is living its commitment to expanding its global perspective.

National Poetry Month

Ferris' Literature in Person Reading Series, along with collaborating venues, is sponsoring three special events in celebration of National Poetry Month.

On Tuesday, April 9, a number of local poets from the Ferris and Big Rapids communities will be reading from their works starting at 7 p.m. in Rankin 238. This will be preceded by a reception, preview and book signing from 4-5 p.m. at Great Lakes Book and Supply, 840 Clark Street. Writers representing Ferris include Bernadette Fox, Pasquale DiRaddo, Marc Sheehan, Phillip Sterling, Jon Taylor, Jamie Thomas and others.

On Thursday, April 11, M.L. Liebler and the Coyote Monk Poetry Band will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Sawmill Saloon, 1003 Maple Ave., with a preview and signing from 4-5 p.m. at Great Lakes Books and Supply.

Next week on Wednesday, April 17, poets Jack Ridl and Chris Dombrowski will read from their work at 7:30 at ArtWorks, 106 N. Michigan, with a book talk and signing at Great Lakes Books and Supply from 4-5 p.m. Garrison Keillor has featured Ridl's poetry numerous times on the public radio program "Writer's Almanac."

All events are free and open to the public.

Governor's Award for Historic Preservation

Ferris' renovation of the Federal Building in Grand Rapids has earned the university a prestigious 2012 Governor's Award for Historic Preservation. This award recognizes institutions, organizations, governments and individuals who strive to preserve Michigan's important historic and cultural resources.

Ferris and its Kendall College of Art and Design share the award with their partners Christman Capital Development Company, the Christman Company, Tower Pinkster Architects, Hopkins Burns Design Studio and the City of Grand Rapids. Historic preservation was a top priority of the building's renovation from the beginning, and this award is a wonderful validation of our efforts. More information on this honor is available here -

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2013/04/projects_in_grand_rapids_detro.html

This project has now earned a number of awards, including the Redevelopment of the Year by the Urban Land Institute, the Adaptive Reuse Award from the Grand Rapids City Alliance, an Excellence Award for Historical Reconstruction and an Excellence for Green Building Award, both from the West Michigan Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors. The renovation achieved LEED Gold certification from The United States Green Building Council.

The university and its partners will receive the Governor's Award during a ceremony in the Michigan State Capitol Rotunda on May 1.

Good News

It is a pleasure to share some of the many items of good news from across our university. These stories are an opportunity for all of us to be aware of the extraordinary achievements of our students, faculty and staff.

- Graphic Media Management Professor Patrick Klarecki has been invited by the People's Republic of China Minister of Education and the Printing Technology Association of China to assist in establishing a national selection process for a WorldSkills Print Media

Technology Competitor. Pat is currently in China visiting schools and universities in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

- Bruce Gregory of the College of Engineering Technology received an Outstanding Chapter Advisor Award from the Society of Automotive Engineers. He will be recognized at the SAE 2013 World Congress in Detroit on April 16.
- Leah Monger will facilitate a roundtable discussion on “The Accidental Library Dean: Assuming Unexpected and Temporary Leadership and Life Afterwards” at the Association of College and Research Libraries conference in Indianapolis on April 12.
- Jon McDonald, a working artist and Kendall professor of Illustration, spoke to an audience of more than 140 people at the opening night of his exhibition “Slavery’s Chill” at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. The exhibition features a series of 12 paintings, and shows at the GRAM through April 14.
- Former Kendall College of Art and Design President Oliver Evans has established an endowment to provide funding for Kendall students, enrolled domestically or internationally, in the Study Away Program.
- A Ferris team made up of seven students from programs in the College of Business and College of Engineering Technology placed second in the College Cyber Defense Competition held in Grand Rapids. The team was advised by Vel Pavlov of Kendall College.
- At the recent West Michigan American Advertising Awards (ADDY) Ferris and Kendall students earned seven Gold, fifteen Silver, two Judge’s Choice Awards and Student Best of Show. Kendall Graphic Design graduate Erin Waimeo was honored with the West Michigan ADDY Award’s highest honor – 2013 Best of Show. Erin was also awarded two Gold ADDYs. The Judge’s Choice Awards went to Andrew Kukawka and Harrison Miracle. The Student Best of Show Award went to Isaac Daniels. A 2011 Graphic Design graduate Tracy Keck took home both a Silver ADDY and a Judge’s Choice Award.
- Cornea and Contact Lens Resident Dr. Andrea Sewell was awarded a Sheldon Wechsler and George Mertz Contact Lens Residency Award from the American Optometric Foundation.
- The Ferris Residence Hall Association chapter won the following awards at the 2013 Michigan Organization of Residence Hall Association conference:
 - Commitment to Diversity written by Brooke Summers
 - Commitment to Philanthropy written by Ashley Summers
 - RA of the Year (Bridgette Buse) written by Cierra Kemppainen
 - First Year Experience Award (Nicole Janeczek) written by Courtney Logghe
 - RHA of the Year written by Derek Austin
 - NRHH Chapter of the Year written by Niecey Wooten
- Amar Dzomba, a Kendall freshman, won a scholarship from Whole Foods. The grocery retailer recently held a national design contest to promote awareness about global issues and raise funds for micro-financing loans. Dzomba’s design will be placed on t-shirts to be sold in all Whole Foods locations in the greater New York City area.

- Ferris received an Honorable Mention from The Princeton Review as one of the Top Undergraduate Schools to Study Game Design for 2013. This was based on a survey The Princeton Review conducted in of 150 programs at institutions in the U.S. and Canada. The full report on this project is accessible at www.princetonreview.com/game-design .
- Enrollment Services have surpassed the 11,000 mark for admissions applications. Also, they had more than 300 guests attend the March 23 Dawg Day event.
- As of the end March, the Financial Aid Office has offered financial support to 600 more freshmen and transfer students for 2013-14 when compared to 2012-13. Reflecting our focus on student debt, this includes more offers of grant and work study funds and less emphasis on student loan funds.

There are many, many other successes and good news in this month's list. In addition to this selection, you can access the full list of good news items at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/GN2013Apr.pdf> Please join me in congratulating these faculty, staff and students for their outstanding accomplishments.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president