

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
May 6, 2013

Commencement

These past few weeks have been a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our students. As we begin the final days of spring semester, we look forward to celebrating Commencement on May 10 and 11. This culminating event of the academic year is an opportunity to experience the life-changing impact of a Ferris education. It is an honor to share this moment with our graduates as they reach this significant achievement. Their accomplishments represent the hopes and aspirations of many people who cross the stage with them in spirit. On their behalf, I thank you for your role in helping each of these students reach a goal which will propel them toward further successes.

On Friday and Saturday we also celebrate the extraordinary achievements of three individuals upon whom we will bestow honorary degrees -

- Dr. Joel Robertson, a leader in the field of brain chemistry, who earned his Ferris Pharmacy degree in 1974.
- Richard Antonini, retired CEO and chairman of the Foremost Insurance company, who earned his Ferris Accounting degree in 1964.
- Murray Tinkelman, a legendary illustrator and educator, who will be honored at the Kendall ceremonies.
- Lupe Ramos-Montigny, a distinguished teacher, administrator, and community leader, who first came to Michigan as a migrant laborer and now serves on the State Board of Education.

In addition, I will be highlighting some special student stories in each ceremony in Big Rapids.

Many people work very hard to make our Commencement ceremonies memorable for our students and their families. There are many, many details involved in making these ceremonies a success. Our graduates very much appreciate the efforts that go into making the awarding of degrees an extraordinary event. As in the past we have six commencement ceremonies -

Fri. 3:30 p.m. - Health Professions

7 p.m. - Arts and Sciences, Pharmacy, Doctorate in Community College Leadership

Sat. 9 a.m. - Business

10:30 a.m. - Kendall (at Fountain Street Church)

12:30 p.m. - Education and Human Services, Optometry

4 p.m. - Engineering Technology

I encourage you to attend graduation. It is a moving experience. Please contact our office if you would like a ticket to do so.

Ferris Pharmacy Care Clinic

Earlier this semester, the College of Pharmacy opened the "Ferris Pharmacy Care Clinic" in the existing Model Pharmacy on the Big Rapids Campus. Repurposing this space will provide greater opportunities to train students and serve the community. The Pharmacy Care Clinic will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays staffed with pharmacists from the College faculty. The Care Clinic will augment services offered by the Hope House Free Medical Clinic, which has served local patients with no health insurance for more than six years. The services provided will not compete with existing services in the community, but rather complement them

by directly serving a segment of the population that did not have access to existing pharmacy services.

Kendall Student Excellence Awards and Student Exhibition

Annually, the Kendall College of Art and Design presents the Excellence Awards, honoring outstanding seniors in each program it offers. The students will exhibit their best work in the Historic Federal Building from May 7 through late July. The 2012- 2013 Excellence Award Winners are: Metals Jewelry Design, Stephanie R. McCarthy; Art Education, Katelynn S. Funk; Illustration, Alyssa A. Parsons; Furniture Design, Jacob B. Blok; Art History, Anna C. VanderJagt; Interior Design, Sharon Schlueter; Painting, Sandra R. Hansen; Drawing, Jennifer Jones; Photography, Robert A. Coombs; Digital Media, Alyn Tran; Graphic Design, Katherine L. Folkert; Industrial Design, Sarah Darnell; and Printmaking, Leah E. Robbins.

Their works are part of the Annual Kendall Student and MFA Thesis Exhibition, which have their opening reception Tuesday from 4 - 7 p.m. and then continue through Saturday. Both the Federal Building and the Kendall Building on Fountain Street are filled with student art throughout. These exhibitions that must be viewed to be truly appreciated.

Good News

It is a pleasure to update you on some of the many positive developments that are taking place at Ferris. As always, there are far too many great Good News items to list here. In addition to this sampling, I urge you to review the full list at

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm>

- Dr. Randy Vance was on the program of the 7th Annual Tegrity User Conference in Boston. His presentation, "Performance-based Practical Examination Evaluation and Scoring via Tegrity Student Recording," described his use of the Tegrity capture system to record and score proficiency examinations in Optometric Procedures courses.
- Under the direction of communication professor Sandy Alspach and the university's sports communications class, the first "Month of the Bulldog Fan" social media initiative continues through May 20. This rewards fans for their support and dedication, and includes postings highlighting Ferris Athletics history, facts and more through Facebook (www.facebook.com/ferrisathletics) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/ferrisathletics).
- Dr. Barbara Horn donated an infant examination cart, complete with the equipment necessary to perform infant eye examinations. Students and faculty have been conducting InfantSEE examinations as part of the national public health program that provides babies with their first eye examination at no cost.
- ArtServe Michigan, the statewide nonprofit arts and cultural advocacy organization, elected Kendall President David M. Rosen to its Board of Directors.
- American Welding Science Student Chapter began volunteering for the newly established "Our Brothers Keeper" shelter.
- The College of Engineering Technology hosted Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School students. The "Young Women of the World" explored non-traditional career opportunities, including HVAC, construction, mechanics, automotive, plastics, welding, machine tooling, energy, electronics, surveying, and architecture.
- The Financial Aid Office has made awards to more than 2,400 students for summer semester. The office has released a new Financial Awareness logo, created info graphics for use online and in print across the campus, and collaborated with Television and Video Media Production students in creating awareness videos.

- Orientation is ahead of last year's pace with 1,412 students registered to attend an on-campus session and more than 100 students completing the transfer student on-line orientation.
- The Alumni Association honored former Student Government President Claire Gould (AS, HP'11) for her leadership and vision in founding The Big Event at Ferris in 2008.
- Ferris Athletics, in cooperation with the university's sports communication class, celebrated the 40th anniversary of Title IX with a special event in April. Monica Folske, who coached basketball, softball, tennis and volleyball teams at Ferris State from 1974-83, threw out a ceremonial first pitch during a Bulldog home game.
- Through energy efficiency improvements in Big Rapids, electricity consumption has decreased 1,465,416 kWh over a ten-year period. Natural gas consumption has decreased 1,434,000 CCF over this same timeframe. Net campus energy costs have increased only 0.1 percent on average per year over the past ten years.

Artworks Gala

On Friday, May 19, from 6-11 p.m., Artworks in Big Rapids will be hosting "Art Exposed," its annual fund raiser. The evening will include a strolling feast with offerings by Pere Marquette Catering and the Blue Cow Café. Silent and live auctions will feature art, trips, food and other items, along with artists in action.

Our strong working relationship with Artworks will be even closer in the coming months during our University Center renovation, as they will host exhibitions normally hosted on campus. The Artworks fund raiser is an opportunity to support this important community resource. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://artworksinbigrapids.org/wp/artworks-gala> .

Sports Update

Congratulations to the women's golf team and head coach Mike Mignano who have been invited to their 12th consecutive NCAA Super Regional Tournament. This began yesterday in Joliet, Ill. The men's golf team begins regional competition today.

Senior softball pitcher Dana Bowler threw a school record 48 consecutive scoreless innings and collected 12 consecutive wins. She was selected as the national player of the week and the GLIAC pitcher of the year. The women's softball team won their first game in the GLIAC tournament before falling in double elimination. They expect to learn today if they will receive an invitation to the NCAA Regional Tournament.

Closing Thoughts

I want to thank each member of our university community for what has been a remarkable academic year, one filled with significant accomplishments, achievements and recognition for our educational efforts. I hope your summer is productive and includes time to relax, travel, and pursue those activities which help you find balance and fulfillment in your life.

Thank you so very much the difference your hard work and dedication make for our students. I look forward to next year with excitement and enthusiasm for what together we can accomplish. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president