

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
November 12, 2012

Good News

One of the greatest pleasures of sharing these university-wide messages is the ability to draw attention to the many positive things and achievements that take place with such regularity at Ferris. A monthly list of these items is compiled from reports from our colleges and divisions. I want to mention a couple of news items too new to have been included in the current list.

Our renovation of the historic Grand Rapids Federal Building has garnered three notable awards for the university and our partner, the Christman Company:

- 2012 Award of Excellence for Historical Restoration presented to the Christman Company, awarded by the Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc., West Michigan Chapter
- 2012 Award of Excellence for Green Building, presented to the Christman Company, also by Associated Builders and Contractors.
- Michigan Urban Land Institute Real Estate Excellence Award 2012 - Development/Redevelopment of the Year, presented by *Crain's Detroit Business* and *Grand Rapids Business Journal*.

I also want to mention that Communications Officer Marc Sheehan won National Public Radio's Three-Minute Fiction contest with his story, "The Dauphin." His story was chosen from nearly 4,000 entries, and was broadcast along with an interview with Marc and final judge Brad Meltzer on NPR's Weekend All Things Considered. The story and a link to the broadcast is available at <http://www.npr.org/2012/11/04/164264711/three-minute-fiction-the-round-9-winner-is>.

The complete list of good news items is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/GN2012Nov.pdf>. In posting this listing I also encourage you to share your good news with your dean or director. Some highlights include -

- On Nov. 15, Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates, Jr. will visit the Jim Crow Museum to host a segment of the PBS show, *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*.
- The Printing and Graphics Scholarship Foundation recently awarded 11 Graphic Media Management students more than \$24,800 in scholarships. Ferris consistently ranks among the top five schools receiving scholarships from PGSF.
- The Ann Arbor Graphic Arts Memorial Foundation recently awarded 18 Ferris Graphic Media Management students more than \$45,000 in scholarship money with each student receiving a \$2,500 scholarship. Ferris is consistently the top school for receiving scholarships from A2GAMF.
- The Criminal Justice program will offer its first course at Northern Michigan College in January 2013, expanding the CJ program to 11 different satellite locations.
- The Art Education Program at Kendall worked closely with the Grand Rapids Art Museum and the Grand Rapids Public Schools on a third grade art and literacy program called Language Artists: Creature Connections. The program received a second \$10,000 award from

the National Endowment of the Arts and matching funds from local donors to continue and expand programming at the fourth grade level.

- Kendall College Furniture Design graduates were nominated in six categories at the American Society of Furniture Designers 17th annual Pinnacle Awards in High Point, NC. Taylor West ('05) captured the Youth Furniture category with his Abby Collection for Hooker Furniture. Denis Kissane ('00) was a member of Stanley Furniture's winning design teams in three categories. David Vanderbloemen won in the Leather Upholstery category. Four other Kendall alumni were nominated for Pinnacle Awards: Derek Taylor ('08), Troy Hollis ('02), Thomas McDaniel ('91), and D. Scott Coley ('92).
- Kendall senior Illustration major Kirbi Fagan landed the cover of *Creative Outlook* magazine with her painting, "Air Boss." Each year, the nationally circulated publication features the art of top high school and college students from across the country.
- Matt Rousch, from WWJ Newsradio 950, returned to Ferris for his annual Great Lakes Innovation and Technology Report Tour on Oct. 16. Matt's article can be found here: <http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2012/10/16/tech-tour-day-six-ferris-tech-fantastic/>
- *A Vision Realized*, a history of Ferris' Michigan College of Optometry written by Emeriti faculty, Dr. James Saladin and Dr. Robert Carter, has now been published and is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/colleges/michopt/mcobook/>
- Students in the Michigan College of Optometry celebrated World Sight Day on Oct. 18. This annual day of awareness focuses global attention on blindness, visual impairment and rehabilitation.
- Dr. Josh Lotoczky, Dr. Paula McDowell, and Dr. Vandana Rajaram received Fellowships of the American Academy of Optometry.
- The Ferris Hockey team hoisted three banners commemorating last year's historic season prior to the home opener on Oct. 19 at the Ewigleben Ice Arena. Players were awarded their championship rings in a special ceremony on the ice following the game.
- The Ferris women's soccer team qualified for the GLIAC Tournament for the third consecutive season, a first for the Bulldogs.
- The Office of Housing and Residence Life donated 54 beds with springs, 20 dressers, 48 mattresses and four wardrobes out of Masselink Hall to the Lakota Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Many of these beds will go to children who do not have a bed. Special thanks to Gary Wendlowsky, Coach Annese, Coach Corpe and his football players in assisting with loading the truck.
- As of the fall enrollment, there are 859 employees/spouses who participated in at least one of the requirements of the Wellness Program. 686 participants completed both the required Health Assessment and Biometric Screenings.
- Dr. Gary Rodabaugh made in-kind gifts to the Biology department that included a soil sampling kit and a high-flow vacuum pump for student laboratory use and field work.
- Stephanie Leonardos, president and CEO of Amerikam, Inc., Karl Linebaugh, north region president for Chemical Bank, and Michael Bigford, president and CEO of Utility Supply and Construction Company, have been appointed as directors of The Ferris Foundation Board.
- The Student Alumni Gold Club had more than 200 students participate in its 4th annual Rake 'n Run on Sunday, Oct. 21. The students raked 112 houses and one school within city limits.

- Visits in Admissions have brought in 46 groups since July 1st with a total of 2,354 prospective students. 20 groups are scheduled until the end of December for an additional 1,100 prospective students visiting the University.
- Admissions has processed 3,746 electronic transcripts since July 1st compared to 2,257 last year in the same time frame.
- Financial Aid has added a link to its website entitled Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Students and current Ferris employees who have borrowed federal student loans may be eligible to have some of their loan debt forgiven. More information can be found at <http://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/PublicServiceLoanForgiveness.htm>

Board of Trustees

Congratulations to Ferris Board of Trustees member Gary Granger, who was elected as incoming chair of the board at its Nov. 2 meeting. Additionally, the board elected Sueann Walz as vice chair and Dr. Bill Lakin as secretary. The new officers' positions are effective beginning Jan. 1, and run for two-year terms.

Also, please join me in thanking Ron Snead and George Menoutes for their service as the board's current chair and secretary respectively. Ron and George have a long history of service to, and support of, Ferris State University. The incoming officers are well-positioned to continue to advance Ferris thanks to the good work the board has done under its current leadership. I look forward to working with this new team in the months to come in the vital work of continuing to strengthen our university.

SPARC

Tomorrow, Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 3-5 p.m. in the West Commons Community Center, the university's Strategic Planning and Resource Council will hold its monthly meeting, which will focus on the very important topic of student debt. Professor Leonard Johnson is heading up the Student Debt Task Force, which has been compiling and organizing the many suggestions that have been made concerning how Ferris can help students graduate with less debt. This SPARC meeting will feature the task force's distillation of these suggestions as areas for possible action. SPARC meetings are always open to the university community, and I particularly encourage participation in this week's deliberations because of the urgency of this issue. If your schedule allows, please attend and join in this discussion.

Athletics

Last week Ferris head cross country coach Steve Picucci was named the 2012 United States Track and Field/Cross Country Coaches Association Midwest Regional Men's Coach of the Year. A former Bulldog runner himself, Picucci has coached the men's cross country team to a national championships berth, its first since 1985, thanks to a third-place finish in the Midwest Regional Championships on Nov. 3 in Kenosha, Wis. Steve also coaches the women's cross country team, which also advanced, for the fifth consecutive time, to the Division II National Championships. Our women finished in eighth-place nationally last year. At the Midwest Championships, student athletes Ryan Chute, Brandon Cushman, David Silversmith, Andrew Harper, Samantha Johnson and Alyssa Osika were all named to the all-region team. Congratulations and good luck to Steve

and our student-athletes on both the men's and women's teams as they compete for national titles on Nov. 17 in Joplin, Mo.

Congratulations to the women's volleyball team and coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm for defeating Hillsdale College and Northwood University both by scores of 3-0 over the weekend. Before Saturday Northwood had been undefeated in GLIAC competition. Our team finished the regular season 17-1 in the GLIAC and 23-6 overall. The women's volleyball 2012 GLIAC Tournament will open on Wednesday, Nov. 14, with four teams hosting quarterfinal-round matches. Ferris State, the tournament's second seed, will play an opening round quarterfinal match at home against seventh-seeded Wayne State at 7 p.m. I hope you can attend this Wednesday to support our team in its post-season play.

The Bulldog football team completed its season with an exciting last-minute victory, giving them a winning record under first-year head coach Tony Annese. The team finished the season 7-4 after defeating Northern Michigan 32-31 by completing a two-point conversion with just nine seconds left in the game. Jason Vander Laan set a new GLIAC single-season record for rushing yardage by a quarterback, when he ran for 121 yards to give him a season conference total of 1,235. The team's total of 3,364 yards rushing shattered the previous school record of 2,538 yards set in 1995. Congratulations to both the coaching staff and our student-athletes for an exciting and successful season.

Veterans Day

Finally, please join me in thanking our students, faculty, staff and alumni who have served, or are serving, in our armed forces. Because the United States has an all-volunteer military, the burden of service falls to a disproportionately small number of our citizens. We have seen the effects of this over the past decade as our troops have served multiple deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. The hardships this has caused can be physical, emotional, financial, or all of these and more.

Earlier this month we participated in local, state and national elections to choose the leadership of our country. This freedom results from the commitment, dedication and sacrifice of generations of servicemen and women. I am especially proud of the long history Ferris has of welcoming and helping both current and former members of our military. My hope is that we recognize the sacrifices of our veterans throughout the year, and do everything we can as a university to meet their current needs.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president