

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
December 3, 2012

Latin@ Studies

Last Tuesday board members of the Center for Latin@ Studies – and the Ferris community – helped launch Room 131 of the Interdisciplinary Resource Center as an *Intercambio Cultural*, or place of cultural exchange. The space is now home to the Center for Latin@ Studies, an initiative our university launched to more deeply connect Ferris with Latino communities across West Michigan. In the short time the Center has been in existence, it has already shown a remarkable vitality. Special congratulations for this success go to Founding Director Tony Baker and Associate Director Jessica Cruz. Many members of our university community, including Provost Fritz Erickson, were important in bringing this idea to fruition.

Please join me in thanking the Center's advisory board, which has done a wonderful job with organizing the Center and attracting significant attention across the state for what we are trying to accomplish. Members include Michael Berghoef, professor of Social Work; Natalia Carvahlo-Pinto, advising assistant; Matthew Chaney, Office of Multicultural Student Services director; Ana Davilla-Howard, professor of Spanish; Donna Ewingleben, community outreach coordinator; Roberto Jara, Latin Americans United for Progress; Gustavo Rodriguez Moran, associate professor of Spanish; David Pilgrim, vice president for Diversity and Inclusion; Lupe Ramos-Montigny, Committee to Honor Cesar E. Chavez chairperson and Michigan State Board of Education member; Jose Reyna, City of Grand Rapids fiscal services manager; Carlos Sanchez, director, Latino Business and Economic Center; Stacy Stout, Burton Middle School dean of students; Luzia Tartari, International Student Recruitment; and Eric Warner, visiting assistant professor of Spanish.

More information about the Center for Latin@ Studies is available here - <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/latinostudies/homepage.htm>

SPARC

On Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 3-5 p.m. in the West Commons Community Center, the university's Strategic Planning and Resource Council will hold its monthly meeting. SPARC Chair Leonard Johnson and Provost Fritz Erickson will lead this discussion as we prepare to create the next strategic plan for Ferris State University. The goal is to develop a conceptual framework for strategic planning building upon university-wide efforts in the development of the self-study report for the Higher Learning Commission. The intent is to discuss this at SPARC and begin this effort with the entire university community during early spring semester 2013.

SPARC meetings are open to everyone and structured so all in attendance may participate. If your schedule allows, please attend and join in this discussion, which will help shape the future of strategic planning at Ferris and ultimately our University.

Academic Program Review Committee

On Nov. 20, the Academic Senate acted on the recommendations of the Academic Program Review Council. The Senate approved the APRC's recommendations for programs reviewed in this year's cycle. The major recommendations are

Continue the Program with Enhancement

- B.S. in Health Information Management/A.A.S. in Health Information Technology

Continue the Program

- B.A in English
- B.S. in Political Science
- B.S. in Business Administration
- B.S. in Information Security and Intelligence
- B.S. in Operations and Supply Management
- B.S. in Digital Media Software Engineering
- B.S. in HVACR Engineering Technology/A.A.S. in HVACR Technology
- B.S. in Surveying Engineering/A.A.S. in Surveying Technology
- A.A.S. in Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Continue the Program with Reporting

- B.S. in Automotive Engineering Technology/A.A.S. in Automotive Service

The regular review of academic programs is an essential part of maintaining the high level of Ferris' academic standards. The approach of our Academic Senate and the Academic Program Review Committee to reviewing academic programs is the finest I have seen. The success of the APRC, the Academic Senate and other groups at Ferris was recognized this past year in our very successful accreditation review by the Higher Learning Commission.

Program review requires significant investments of time and energy, for the faculty and staff of the programs that are reviewed and for members of the APRC. Please join me in thanking all who participated in this year's process and especially the members of the APRC for their hard work: Sandy Cook, assistant professor and clinical coordinator, Clinical Lab Sciences; Lisa Eshbach, assistant professor, Management; Brad Isler, associate professor, Biology; Gary Todd, assistant professor, Electrical & Computer Networks & Systems; Alison Konieczny, librarian and assistant professor; Matthew Wagenheim, associate professor (chair), Recreation Leisure Services and Wellness; Helen Woodman, professor and Developmental Curriculum Department chair; and Roberta Teahen, ex-officio member/Academic Affairs representative.

Athletics

Bulldog Athletics had a very successful fall season with football, soccer and volleyball all posting winning records, and both of our cross country teams competing in the national championships.

Our women's soccer team, coached by Matt Kellogg, finished the season with a 9-7-3 overall record, and reached the semi-finals of the GLIAC tournament with a quarterfinal victory over Findlay on Oct. 30.

Men's football finished their season with an overall 7-4 record under first-year head coach Tony Annese. Quarterback Jason Vander Laan was named the GLIAC's "Freshman of the Year."

Both our men's and women's cross country teams finished their fall seasons with appearances in the NCAA Division II National Championships that were held on Nov. 17 in Joplin, Mo. Coached by Steve Picucci, the men's squad finished 13th overall, while the women's team placed 22nd in its fifth consecutive trip to the national championships.

The women's volleyball team, coached by Tia Brandel, finished the season with a 24-8 overall record and reached the semi-finals of the NCAA regional tournament. The team had a record of 16-2 in the GLIAC, finishing just one win behind the league champion.

Congratulations to all these student athletes and their coaches for their commitment and dedication to represent our University so very well. I also want to thank the whole Ferris community for supporting and cheering on these efforts.

Pancakes with the President

We have a wonderful tradition of providing a free breakfast for students late in the evening of the first day of final examination week. If you remember studying for finals, you know how welcome this kind of informal, but timely support can be for students. This fall's "Pancakes with the President" will be on Monday, Dec. 10, starting at 11 p.m. in the Westview Dining facility. This unique event, co-sponsored by Student Government and Dining Services, brings together students and Ferris community members in a way that emphasizes the egalitarian tradition of our university. If you would like to be a part of this tradition by helping with food service, please contact Elaine Kamptner or Paige Clark at ext. 2500. This is a remarkable way to meet, support and congratulate the great students we have here at Ferris State University.

Employee Holiday Reception and Holiday Card

Don't forget that we will hold our Employee Holiday Reception this Wednesday, Dec. 5, 3-5 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room. Please stop by whenever your schedule permits. I hope you will not miss this opportunity to celebrate the spirit of the season with your Ferris colleagues.

To get in the mood for this annual event I am including a link to the online Ferris holiday card, which celebrates both the season and some of the many high points our University enjoyed during 2012. I want to thank Janelle DePew, Bill Bitizinger and everyone else in University Advancement and Marking who helped create this. I hope you enjoy the card, and look forward to seeing you at the Employee Holiday Reception. Here is the link for the holiday greetings: <http://www.ferris.edu/Happy-Holidays/>.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president