

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
August 21, 2015

Welcome Back

There is great anticipation and activity on all of our campuses as we move toward the beginning of the academic year. With increased summer camp participation and summer enrollment there has been more activity in Big Rapids this summer, but nothing approaches the start of fall classes for its level of energy and expectation. As we look forward to the coming academic year, I hope that you had time this past summer to spend with friends and family, travel, relax, and to enjoy those pursuits that bring you fulfillment.

The 2015-16 academic year – our 131st year of serving students – promises to be both busy and exciting. If you are new to Ferris I urge you to find the time to walk around our campuses to experience the vitality our students bring with them. The beginning of fall classes and spring commencement are two events that most embody the hopes and dreams our students have for their futures.

Faculty Welcome

It is a particular pleasure to welcome all faculty members back for the start of fall semester. I regularly share Good News items with the Ferris community. Many of these are the achievements of our faculty – from publishing scholarly and creative work, to presenting at conferences, receiving grants, accepting awards, mentoring students and leading both student and professional organizations. Among many efforts we are fortunate to have a very active Fulbright organization, which supports the large number of Fulbright scholars at Ferris. We are also fortunate to have faculty members who collaborate with community organizations to provide health care options, educational opportunities and cultural events. I very much look forward to sharing your accomplishments during the 2015-16 academic year.

Please join me in offering a special welcome to our new full-time faculty members. If you are a colleague, I hope you will help make our new faculty members feel at home at Ferris by reaching out to them and helping them to settle in to their new positions. Please let me know if there are omissions or late additions to this list of our new full-time faculty members starting this semester:

Billie Anderson, College of Business
Melinda Arnson, College of Business
Nicole Ball, College of Arts and Sciences
Julia Boyd, College of Arts and Sciences
Danielle Brennan, College of Education and Human Services
Catherine Browsers, College of Business
Lauren Cavern Williams, College of Arts and Sciences
Kristin Conley, RSS
Danette Crozier, College of Arts and Sciences

Melvin Danes, College of Education and Human Services
Christiaan Desmond, College of Engineering Technology
Scott Dickson, Kendall College of Art and Design
Derek Drake, College of Arts and Sciences
Deidre Fagan, College of Arts and Sciences
James Furstenberg, College of Business
Levi Gardner, College of Business
Michele Glazewski, College of Education and Human Services
David Griffith, College of Arts and Sciences
Christine Haskill, Kendall College of Art and Design
Hira Herrington, College of Business
Dana Holcomb, College of Arts and Sciences
Matthew Honaman, College of Business
Jina Jackson Rockwell, College of Business
Steve Johnson, College of Engineering Technology
Lillian Kalaczinski, Michigan College of Optometry
Marsely Kehoe, Kendall College of Art and Design
Kuemseok Koh, College of Arts and Sciences
Jason Kruse, College of Engineering Technology
Aaron Madziar, College of Business
Alexander Manga, College of Business
David Marquard, College of Arts and Sciences
David McCall, RSS
Sean McCormick, College of Arts and Sciences
Michael Mendenhall, College of Education and Human Services
Jason Otting, College of Business
Heather Pavletic, College of Arts and Sciences
Jacqueline Peacock, College of Health Professions
David Petillo, College of Health Professions
Liz Post, College of Arts and Sciences
Matthew Reid, College of Arts and Sciences
Chad Rosen, Michigan College of Optometry
Dejah Rubel, FLITE
Kelley Samuels-Good, College of Arts and Sciences
Mark Schultz, College of Education and Human Services
Amanda Sikarskie, Kendall College of Art and Design
Jessica Smith, College of Arts and Sciences
Carrie Thompson, College of Arts and Sciences
Anil Venkatesh, College of Arts and Sciences
Rob Voss, College of Engineering Technology
Joseph Watters, College of Arts and Sciences
Zachary Wendler, College of Arts and Sciences
Andrew Wiltshire, College of Engineering Technology

An important resource for our faculty in Big Rapids is Faculty Welcome Back Week. This begins on Monday, Aug. 24 with the Provost's Office hosting brunch for both new faculty at 9 a.m., and then for all faculty at 9:30 a.m. A wide range of sessions continue through Thursday, Aug. 27. More information including a full list of sessions is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/>.

Student Resources

Thinking back to your first experience of college, you probably remember that there were both questions and uncertainties about that new phase of your life. At Ferris, incoming students can get information along with a warm welcome to campus from our First Impressions sites. Volunteers help provide new students and their families with information about campus and the Big Rapids community. A student's first experience of campus can and does make a lasting and positive difference for their entire time at Ferris. First Impressions booths are staffed on

- Friday, Aug, 28, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Pharmacy Building (Ferris Drive near stop sign)
 - Science Building (On the corner at the stop sign)
 - South Quad (Outside the Rock Café)
 - Flite (West side)
- Monday, Aug. 31, from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Pharmacy Building, Science Building and South Quad areas, as well as
 - North Quad Area
 - Inside the IRC connector

If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Laura Monahan at ext. 3905. First Impressions is our chance to make sure that students feel that they have made the best decision in choosing to attend Ferris State University. I very much enjoy greeting our new students and hope you will also consider volunteering.

Also designed to welcome students to our campus is Bulldog Beginnings. This year's series of events begins with our Bulldog Welcome, Friday evening, Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m. at Top Taggart Field, the Backyard Bash Saturday, Aug. 29, at 3 p.m. on South Quad near the Rock, and Meijer Mania that evening at 7 p.m. A full listing of events is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/bulldogbeginnings/>.

An important part of the move-in process is the great work done by Bulldogs in Action, returning Big Rapids Ferris students who help new students with carrying furniture and belongings into their on-campus residences. For most of our freshman students this will be the first year they have lived independently. In addition to the challenges of physically moving furniture and other possessions, this is a new emotional experience for them and their parents. For our incoming students, the reassurance of someone who has been through the experience can be as important as help with hauling boxes up stairs.

With the beginning of classes I encourage you to help our students as they become familiar and comfortable with our campuses. While the organized help Ferris provides is very important, often it is the small act of pointing out a building or letting a student know of a resource that can make the greatest difference. It really is true that we do not get a second chance to make a first impression. Helping our students feel at home can be an important first step in retaining them as

they start this important time in their lives. We often will never know when five or ten minutes of kindness changes a person's life.

Founders Day

Founders Day is a week from Thursday on Sept. 3. It is a special pleasure to integrate our new University Center in these events. With the UC completed, the Quad area has even more resources, including a permanent outdoor stage, to serve the Ferris community. Our schedule is as follows:

11 a.m., Room 202C UC - I will provide some remarks about the future of our university.

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Quad - our annual employee picnic

3-7 p.m, Quad - games, information booths and more

4-7 p.m, Quad - 9th annual community ice cream social with celebrity servers

7 p.m. UC Ballroom - free performance by magician Joel Ward

As the only public university in Michigan to be named after its founders, Woodbridge and Helen Ferris, Founders Day is a unique event that allows us to commemorate the Ferris' vision, service and heritage. It is also a good time connect with each other, our students, and the local community. I look forward to seeing you, as we honor our founders and re-connect with each other.

Each new academic year holds opportunities and challenges we cannot see in advance. The coming year will be no exception. As a university we are exceptionally well positioned to seize those new opportunities and face those new challenges. Thanks to the strategic planning we have done, we have identified the ways in which we will continue to live our values and serve our students. As a career-centered university we are providing our students and Michigan citizens the type of education both they and our state needs as we move forward together.

Our combined efforts create for our students the educational opportunities that will prepare them for rewarding careers and fulfilling lives. On behalf of the class of 2019 which begins college this fall, thank you for everything you do for our students, their success and their futures.

David L. Eisler, president