

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
December 7, 2015

Good News

With just two weeks left in the semester, members of the Ferris community continue to be very active with their participation in academic conferences, bringing new resources to campus and providing outreach. As we head toward the end of the semester, here is a sampling of the many ways members of our Ferris community are excelling. Please take time to read the full list of Good News items, along with an archive of past lists, at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

- Hikaru Murata presented a poster titled “Balance Ability Comparisons on Kindergarten through Second Grade Elementary Children after Two Weeks: Step Learning System,” at the Physical Education Teacher Education and Health Education Teacher Education National Conference in Atlanta, Ga.
- The Construction Technology and Management Program received a 55” iPlan table and 20 iPads to mimic a construction jobsite.
- Corporate and Professional Development continues to build successful partnerships and training programs.
 - In partnership with Manufacturing programs, students and faculty will begin research for the American Iron and Steel Institute by exploring the machining properties of different metals.
 - CPD will provide training through the “Skilled Trades Training Funds” for Beckman Production Services, Mitsuba America, Morbark, and Ventra Plastics.
 - Together with Heavy Equipment programs, New Holland training will be provided for several companies.
- Emmanuel Jadhav, Public Health, had two symposium presentations at the American Public Health Association Conference in Chicago: “Elder Abuse and the Role of Public Health Law and Health Services Administration” and “Change Leadership: Local Health Department Accreditation Status and Leader Openness to Change.” Also at the APHA conference Mike Reger, Public Health, presented a research poster titled “Association between urinary phytoestrogens and C-reactive protein in the continuous National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey”; Fathima Wakeel, Public Health, presented a research poster titled “Salient Components of Personal Capital among Low Socioeconomic Status Pregnant Women: Findings from a Qualitative Pilot Study”; Public Health faculty Fathima Wakeel, Anuli Njoko, Michael Reger, Margaret Wan and Emmanuel Jadhav presented a collaborative poster on the “Development of a Learner-Centered Curriculum for a Rural Public Health Program.”
- Gail Bullard, Health Care Systems Administration, is conducting an inter-professional project through the Junior Faculty Fellows Program at Ferris titled “Understanding Healthcare Reform: Beyond the Politics.”
- Graphic Design student HaNuel Jeon was featured on the American Institute of Graphic Arts online Member Portfolios gallery for a packaging design completed as a class project.

- Art History professor Anne Norcross recently served as a discipline peer reviewer for the Art History committee of the Fulbright Scholar Program and was appointed to the College Art Association's Education Committee. She was also awarded a Timme Travel Grant to attend the CAA's Annual Conference in Washington DC. She and Art History Program Chair Suzanne Eberle are co-chairing a session at the conference titled "Re-examining the Art History Survey: What do we Retain; What do we Transform?"
- Other Kendall faculty receiving Ferris Timme Travel Grants include Photography professor Leah Gose to attend the Society for Photographic Education's annual conference in Las Vegas; Drawing professor Deborah Rockman to attend the College Art Association Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. ; Printmaking Program Chair Mariel Versluis and Drawing professor Danielle Wyckoff to attend the Southern Graphics Council International Printmaking Conference in Portland; and Sculpture and Functional Art professor Natalie Wetzel to lecture on transdisciplinary culture at the Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Claudia Pimentel ('11, Digital Media/Illustration) has published a children's book titled "Congratulations, First-Time Flyer!"
- Joshua Risner ('14, MFA Painting) has been named master decorative painter of the Michigan State Capitol building and will be responsible for the restoration, maintenance, and preservation of over nine acres of decoratively painted surfaces in the building.
- Taylor Overbey's ('15, MFA Painting; '12, Digital Media) children's book "The I-Wants and the Gimmies," will be published by Crimson Dragon Publishing.
- Jamie Brady, MCO, authored and proctored the State Licensing Examinations for Opticians and Technicians in New Jersey.
- Adnan Dakkuri facilitated two trips to Grand Rapids involving over 80 students and faculty to visit two mosques. The groups observed Friday prayers and dialogued with Muslim professionals. The events were supported by a "Bridging Cultures and Faiths" grant from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.
- Student Employment reports that hours worked by students is up 352 hours from this same timeframe last year with 287,100 hours worked for Fall 2015.
- Ferris was named in the top 100 Best Performing National Test Centers for CLEP Testing.
- Admissions downloaded and processed 2,183 electronic transcripts in November.
- IT Services performed a test of the University-wide emergency alert system on Oct. 29. Within 3 minutes, over 5,000 texts and 13,000 emails were sent to students, faculty and staff on the Big Rapids and Grand Rapids campuses. In addition, over 300 classroom phones rang and nearly 7,000 computers were sent the broadcast. If you haven't signed up for emergency alerts yet, please do so on MyFSU.
- Finance has joined the West Michigan Public Purchasing Alliance, which concentrates on working with minority and small businesses in West Michigan.
- Pete (B '74) and Diann Pintacura are naming the West Practice Range Tee through their support of our PGA Golf Management Learning Center Campaign.
- The Bulldog football team led the nation this year with four Academic All-America honorees. The group includes senior quarterback Jason Vander Laan, who has been named the Division II Academic All-American of the Year. Senior defensive end Justin Zimmer claimed first team accolades for the second-straight year with senior guard Cody Dingeldej honored as a first-team pick and junior linebacker Nick Huckabay claiming second-team recognition.

- Three Ferris State University fall coaches have been chosen as GLIAC Coaches of the Year. Football head coach Tony Annese earned Co-Coach of The Year honors and it marks the second-straight year in which he has received league accolades. Volleyball head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm and women's soccer coach Andy McCaslin also earned distinction in this voting by their peers.
- Senior defensive end Justin Zimmer of the Bulldog football team is among the national nominees again this year for the Cliff Harris National Small College Defensive Player of the Year honor together with the Gene Upshaw Division II Lineman of the Year Award. Zimmer was a finalist for both honors a year ago.
- Senior quarterback Jason Vander Laan of the Ferris football squad is among the nominees for the 2015 Harlon Hill Trophy presented to the Division II Player of the Year.
- Freshman forward Corey Mackin of the Bulldog men's ice hockey team has been chosen as the Western Collegiate Hockey Association Rookie of the Month for November. Mackin had three goals and four assists in eight November outings.

Pancakes with the President

This year we continue with our tradition of providing a free breakfast for students busy with studying for final examination week. This is a unique opportunity for members of the Ferris community to support our students. This fall's event will be on Monday, Dec. 14, starting at 10 p.m. in The Rock dining facility. Co-sponsored by Student Government and Dining Services, this brings together students and Ferris community members in a way that shows our university's support of, and appreciation for, our students. If you would like to assist, please contact Elaine Kamptner or Terri Cook at ext. 2500. This is a truly memorable way to meet, support and congratulate our students, and provide some welcome "down time" during a very hectic time of the semester. I look forward to seeing you there.

Athletics

A successful, historic season came to an end for our women's volleyball team this past Saturday. In the finals of the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Championship, our Bulldogs fell to Rockhurst 3-2 at Wink Arena in a very exciting and hard-fought contest. They progressed to the finals by defeating Trevecca Nazarene 3-0 on Thursday, and Findlay 3-1 on Friday. The team completed this memorable season with an overall record of 33-3, which included winning the GLIAC regular season and conference tournament.

Senior Megan Vander Meer was the 2015 NCAA Division II Conference Commissioners Association Midwest Region Player of the Year. Junior Stephanie Sikorski was named a member of the D2CCA second team member. Alexis Huntey, Caroline Heitzman, Danielle Dows and Ayanna Buckley joined Vander Meer and Sikorski in being named to the All-GLIAC team. Vander Meer, Sikorski and Huntey were named to the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional All-Tournament Team.

It was a remarkable 20th season for Head Coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm. In the past five years alone, Brandel-Wilhelm has coached her teams to a 133-30 overall record, and an 83-8 regular season conference record. This is the third year in the last five the team has won the GLIAC North Division, and our Bulldogs have made it to at least the NCAA Regional Semifinals for the last four years, including an NCAA-II regional tournament victory in 2013.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking our team on another amazing year on the court.

David L. Eisler, president