

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 23, 2015

Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman and Hagerman Foundation Gift

This morning our university welcomed Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman to campus to announce a \$5 million gift from them and their Hagerman Foundation. This is the largest outright gift in the history of Ferris State University. The Hagerman gift to the College of Pharmacy will support four initiatives:

- Renovation of the College of Pharmacy Building
- The Hagerman Family Pharmacy Scholarship Fund, which will support annual scholarships and fund a new program, the Hagerman Scholars, intended to attract the best and most gifted students to our program
- The Hagerman Family Endowed Scholarship in Pharmacy
- The Hagerman Endowed Chair for Medical Informatics.

Mr. Hagerman, a 1975 graduate of Ferris' College of Pharmacy, is chairman and chief executive officer of Flint-based Diplomat Pharmacy, one of the country's largest specialty pharmacies. He began Diplomat Pharmacy with his father, Dale Hagerman, who also graduated from the College of Pharmacy. The College of Pharmacy is a wonderful tradition in this family. Their Ferris Pharmacy graduates include Phil's sister, Debbie, a partner in Diplomat Pharmacy until her retirement, and his daughter, Jennifer, senior director of education at Diplomat and incoming president of the Michigan Pharmacists Association. Jennifer and her husband, Dan Farrell, were also on hand for the announcement.

In his remarks, Mr. Hagerman talked about the importance of Ferris to his personal success, his family's success and the success of Diplomat Pharmacy. He reinforced his feeling toward Ferris and the College of Pharmacy by speaking to Pharmacy students before the announcement. Phil also spoke about his hope that this support of Ferris and the College of Pharmacy will inspire others to give back.

In addition to the new scholarship opportunities the Hagerman's gift makes possible, it will also expand curriculum options and assure that students are learning in a state-of-the-art facility. This commitment to Ferris will make a profound difference for students and our program for many, many years to come. The renovated Pharmacy building will be renamed the Hagerman College of Pharmacy Building, honoring the entire family, their connection to Ferris State University and their achievements in the pharmacy profession.

This is an institution-changing gift. Over the years many people have contributed to building this relationship with Mr. Hagerman and his family. I especially want to recognize the work of Steve Durst, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Dave Lepper, associate vice president for Development.

I echo the hope of Mr. Hagerman, that this extraordinary gift will encourage others to give back to our programs, colleges and university. Donor support can help our pursuit of excellence and provide opportunity for faculty, staff, and most importantly our students. My hope is that working together we can create a tradition of donor support, exemplified so remarkably by Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman and the Hagerman Foundation.

University Center Dedication

Last Thursday was a wonderful occasion when our university community came together and celebrated the completion of the University Center in Big Rapids. Our celebration, held in the magnificent Rankin Atrium, was filled with students, alumni, members of the university community, and guests. It was a fitting capstone to the efforts of many people over the past four years. I want to thank our speakers, Board of Trustees Chair Paul Boyer, Academic Senate President Khagendra Thapa, Student Government President Andrew Kalinowski, and faculty member Bob Eastley. Bob is the great-grandson of the second president of the Ferris Institute, Gerrit Masselink, and spoke poignantly of his family's association with Ferris. I also want to thank Vice President for Student Affairs Jeanine Ward-Roof and those who have assisted her in the celebrations and dedication of this facility. My remarks for this occasion looked back at the history of the student center and the development of this facility. They are accessible here - http://www.ferris.edu/president/presentations/2014-2015/University_Center_Dedication021915.pdf.

Friday also marked the debut of a new electronic kiosk opposite the information desk on the University Center's second floor. It tells the story of our founders and other important individuals in our university's history. This is the result of extraordinary work by the History Task Force, chaired by Mary Kay MacIver. Graphic designer Nate Clark was instrumental in this effort's success.

BEYOND: Diversity

There is a special event this week on the Big Rapids campus, Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Center room 202. Our offices of International Education, and Diversity and Inclusion are sponsoring "MINDS Aflame," a BEYOND: Diversity event. A variety of presenters will explore the concept of diversity from a number of different perspectives between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. In a manner reflecting the TedX format, each person has a 12-minute time slot.

Beginning at 10 a.m., the speakers are Dan Cronk, Music Industry Management program director; Patrick Randolph, Western Michigan University; and Andy Phelps, filmmaker and author. At 11 a.m. the speakers are Mike Mueller, Ferris hall director; Enefe Adaji, international student; and Sacramento Knoxx, music producer. Finally at 12 p.m., there will be presentations from Pierce Hollingsworth, vice president, Custom Marketing; speaker Mark NeCamp; performance group Act on Racism, and closing remarks by David Pilgrim, vice president for Diversity and Inclusion.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information and a link to a video about "MINDS Aflame," go to <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2015/february/aflame.htm>.

Festival of the Arts

This is the final week of the Festival of the Arts, which finishes with a closing reception at Artworks on Saturday, Feb. 28, at 7 p.m. This final week offers several wonderful opportunities to escape our wintry weather through the arts:

- Monday through Wednesday, 7 p.m., Michigan College of Optometry lobby, the Big Rapids Shakespeare Festival presents, "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)"

- Tuesday, 7 p.m., Blue Cow Café, panel discussion “One Woman’s Story – The Feminine Creative Process”
- Wednesday, 7 p.m., Granger Center, “Fallingwater: The Story of an American Architectural Icon,” with Linda Waggoner
- Thursday, 6 p.m., University Center Art Gallery, “Steampunk Fashion”
- Thursday, 7 p.m., University Center, three-piece folk-rock group Bennett, presented by the Music Industry Management Association
- Friday, 7 p.m., Big Rapids Community Library, the French film, “The Well Digger’s Daughter.”

Once again this year, the Festival of the Arts has provided an extraordinary month of events in Big Rapids. I want to thank Bruce Dilg for his extraordinary leadership of the Festival. He has been ably assisted by board members Roxanne Cullen, Jerena Keys, Ed Mallett, Courtney Piercey, Barbara Ross and Steve Sobers.

Athletics

After an excellent weekend of competition the winter sports season is drawing toward a close with some important contests. The ice hockey team won both games on the road against the University of Alabama-Huntsville. This makes three victories in a row for the team as they head into the final home regular-season matches this Friday and Saturday against Bemidji. We are just two points behind Northern Michigan and Bemidji for fourth place in the conference, which would make us the host of our quarterfinal games in the WCHA tournament.

The men’s basketball team defeated Saginaw Valley, previously ranked #24 in the nation, on Saturday afternoon. Both men’s and women’s basketball teams conclude their regular season Thursday evening in Wink Arena against Grand Valley. Our men have clinched a home quarterfinal game in the GLIAC postseason tournament for Wednesday evening, March 4.

On Thursday evening for our basketball teams, and Saturday evening for the hockey team, it will be Senior Night. I encourage you to attend.

David L. Eisler, president