

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
May 2, 2016

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As we begin exam week, there are many accomplishments by members of the Ferris community to celebrate. The end of the academic year and commencement are opportunities to note the many remarkable things that have happened this year, as well as the dedication of our students, faculty and staff. This is only a small sample of the awards and recognition earned by members of our university community. If one or more of the people noted here is your student, colleague or friend, please congratulate them in person for their commitment.

This Friday and Saturday we will celebrate commencement in Big Rapids and Grand Rapids. If you need tickets, please contact our office. I look forward to seeing you there.

## Torchbearer Awards

On Thursday, April 28, Student Leadership and Activities held its annual Torchbearer Awards ceremony to recognize students, faculty and staff for their contributions to the university and community. The following are a few of those who received recognition for the contributions to Ferris, Big Rapids and west-central Michigan:

The Rising Star Award recognized Jordan Dawkins, Abbie-Jo Johnson, Cassandra Kolka, Ben Letherer, and Megan Rodewald, students who have at least two years remaining in their careers at Ferris and have exhibited promise as emerging leaders through campus and community involvement.

The Torchbearer Awards honored Brittney Bantien, Danielle Beren, Logan Bixman, Breia Harris, Katherine Hart, Sara Kolc, Zac Kramer, Stephanie Mellinger, Tiffany Newman, and Tiffany Schack, students who exhibited outstanding leadership skills on campus, in the classroom and in the community.

The Presidential 250 Service Award was presented to those who have completed more than 250 hours of community service, Corey Fein, Zoe Horn, Angela Sutton, Linda Telfer and Kirsten Thornhauer.

Many, many more people were honored during this event honoring engagement and leadership. Congratulations to everyone who was recognized during this year's ceremony!

## Good News

The entire list of Good News items for this past month is lengthy. With so many accomplishments, it is only possible to give a sampling here. As always, I urge you to take a moment to review the entire list, which is [available at this link](#).

- The Ferris Spanish Club, with Gustavo Rodriguez- Moran and Lucero Flores-Paez, hosted students from Reed City and Rockford High Schools. Ana Davila-Howard also assisted.
- The Ferris English Society, Sigma Tau Delta students, and Melissa Smith and Heather Pavletic hosted Shakespeare Fest! Well over 100 people were in attendance, including local high school students from Ewart and Morley Stanwood.
- Dan Noren co-presented with Margaret Cottrill, Past President, Michigan World Language Association, at the annual MIWLA Conference in Lansing on Allons vers les Caraibes, focused on the culture and traditions of the French Antilles. Their presentation was ranked in the top 10 of "The Best of Michigan Sessions."
- Deirdre Fagan presented her short story, "Trespassing" as part of the Creative Writing: Fiction panel titled, "What If?" at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference in Seattle. She has also had three works published in 2016: "An American Christmas Story, 1991," creative nonfiction in *Words Apart*, "Doorbell Advised," poem, in *Melancholy Hyperbole*, and "Clothes," creative nonfiction, in *Mothers Always Write*.
- Heather Pavletic presented a paper titled "They do it all for the Nakama: Id Manipulation and the Bonds of Comradery in Hiro Mashima's Fairy Tale," at the PCA/ACA National Conference as part of a panel on Asian Popular Culture.

- Wayne Bersano, junior in Hospitality Management, was selected as one of six college students to be recognized with the Outstanding Community Impact Award from the Michigan Campus Compact.
- Criminal Justice faculty with the Law Enforcement Academy hosted students from the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District Career Center.
- Television and Digital Media Production students in Connie Morcom's Instructional Design course produced video stories for Academic Service Learning projects and a number of live events including the Big Rapids Festival of the Arts.
- The Media Communications Association RSO and School of Digital Media hosted the 16th annual Ferris Media Festival.
- Elementary Teacher Education senior Makenzie Hall has been selected as a Japan Exchange and Teaching program participant, the first JET participant from Ferris.
- Kaylie Bohn, an Electrical/Electronics Engineering Technology student, received the Michigan Dept. of Education Breaking Traditions Award of Merit for her accomplishments in a nontraditional career and technical education program.
- The HVACR program hosted the national SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Competition at the Granger Center. Ferris' Ryan Gallagher won Gold in HVACR.
- The CAD Drafting and Tool Design program held two open house events to offer students the opportunity to learn more about the program. Over 60 students attended each event.
- The Lakeview Arena in Marquette, managed by Facility Management alum Andrew MacIver won the \$150,000 grand prize in the Kraft Hockeyville USA competition
- The College of Health Professions announces the following awards: Teacher of the Year – Dr. Fathima Wakeel; Faculty Scholarship Award – Dr. Emmanuel Jadhav; Faculty Advising & Mentor Award – Kathleen Harlan; Staff Excellence Award – Linda Morris; Staff Advising & Mentoring Award – Lori Kelsey.
- Dr. Jeffrey Bates and graduates Dr. Heather Christensen and Dr. Heather Schalk were recognized as Fellows of the Michigan Pharmacists Association.
- Extended and International Operations (EIO) purchased HoloLens, which merges Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality via a portable headset, for the Digital Media.
- EIO is now able to alert all students, faculty and staff in regional locations through the RAVE Emergency Alert system.
- Monica Frees and FLITE Librarians Gary Maixner and Kristy Motz will present *Technology + Gaming + Course Material = Knowledgeable Students* about their collaborative work in College Critical Reading at the School of Teaching and Learning in Findlay, Ohio.
- Stacy Anderson, Mari Kermit-Canfield, Gary Maixner, and Kristy Motz will present *Hands-On Learning for the iGeneration Student* at the Michigan Academic Librarians Conference.
- The Vision Rehabilitation Grand Rounds Workshop was held in March at the University Eye Center. Third year MCO students performed examinations under the guidance of faculty mentors from across Michigan.
- Dr. Bruce Morgan and Dr. Stephanie Ramdass are featured in [Contact Lens Spectrum](#).
- Karen Royster James was selected as President of the National Tutoring Association.
- Kimberly Smith, presented at the Redrock Software Conference on the topic of Structured Learning Assistance & TutorTrac.
- The T2 Public Safety system which helps manage parking permits has been upgraded by IT Services to comply with data security requirements and to add additional guest permits.
- The men's and women's basketball squads competed in the 11th annual Charity Heart-To-Heart, Hand-In-Hand Special Olympics Benefit game.
- The University recently locked in electricity rates for calendar years 2018 through 2025. The estimated annual savings is \$533,000 per year for eight years.
- The Faculty Center of Teaching and Learning awarded \$5,000 Engaged Department grants to the Social Work and Public Health programs.
- 2016 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of OMSS. Student leaders facilitated a discussion: "OMSS: Our Students, Their Stories of Success."

- OMSS celebrated Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in April. Phil Yu, founder and editor of the “Angry Asian Man” blog, shared his story of citizenship, identity, and voice.
- The 2016 Equity Within the Classroom Conference at Oakland University included a number of Ferris presentations: “Our Identities, Ourselves: Modeling De-privileged Teaching and Learning Practices in Faculty Development,” Anuli Njoku, Vanessa Marr, and Fathima Wakeel; “LGBTQQ Students and Inclusion on Campus,” Teah Waterman and Jessica Gladden, Social Work; “Black Faculty-Student Mentorship Program at a Predominately White University,” Rita Walters, Angela Guy-Lee, and London Johnson and Kira Aiken, undergraduate Social Work students.
- The Michigan College Access Network recognized Ferris with the Beacon Award for strengthening success through partnerships.
- In April Ferris State University launched the StepUp program, a bystander intervention program that educates students to be proactive in helping others. Posters and other materials are on display all over the Big Rapids campus. The program will run through the 2016-17 academic year. Students can sign the StepUp pledge wall in the University Center.
- The Economic Inequality Initiative presented “Economic Inequality and Education Access,” a community forum, with Grand Rapids Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal and Big Rapids Superintendent Tim Haist. Tony Baker moderated the discussion.
- A Recognition Banquet, the first annual celebration of the women in the College of Engineering Technology, was held at the University Center.
- The Wege Center for Sustainable Design’s Wege Prize Competition was awarded a \$444,000 grant from the Wege Foundation to continue this competition through 2020.
- Students in the Pamella Roland DeVos School of Fashion presented their work to the public at the program’s annual fashion show and senior capstone presentation.
- KCAD students won the \$6,500 Early Stage Grand Prize in the MWest Challenge business plan competition for the second year in a row. Winners were the Lüp team, Rebecca Derbyshire, Ryan Parrish, Grace Rodgers, Amy Tewkesbury-Johnson, Julia Todd and Victoria Williams.
- Medical Illustration student Adrianna Allen won the grand prize in the National Space Society Space Settlement Student Art Contest. Her piece will be published on the cover of the NSS magazine *Ad Astra*. She has also been invited to attend the International Space Development Conference in Puerto Rico later this year.
- MFA Drawing student Brianna Baurichter has been chosen as one of four recipients of the 2016 ArtPrize Fellowship for Emerging Curators.
- Graphic Design student Samantha Boudiab was named the Grand Prize winner in the Design-A-Throw Contest organized by Denali Home Collection. She received \$1,000 and her throw design will be produced for sale in the Denali Home Collection’s catalog.
- Industrial Design student Patrick Shields won the Industrial Design Society of America Central District’s Student Merit Award. He will present a body of his recent work at the IDSA international conference in Detroit this August.
- Maureen Nollette, Sculpture and Functional Art, was granted a solo exhibition at the Grand Rapids Art Museum as part of its Michigan artist series, “Honorable Ordinaries.”
- Adam Schuitema, General Education, gave a presentation at the Grand Rapids Public Library on his debut novel *Haymaker*.
- Monty Simpson, Furniture Design, has been installed to the American Society of Furniture Designers Board of Directors.
- Enrollment Services finished the 2015-16 Dawg Day season with 1653 total guests, of which 666 were students, which is 224 total guests and 81 students higher than last year.
- Telemarketing Campaigns have reached out to over 900 students to register them for Orientation and have made over 3,300 calls since March.
- Ferris is up 3.1% in FTIACs (First Time in Any College) compared to our peer institutions, which places us third overall of the 16 public universities.
- Kem-Tec Companies established an annual scholarship for students in the Surveying Engineering Technology program.
- The Ferris Foundation Board approved the recommendation of its Gifts and Grants Committee, chaired by Dr. Robert Friar, to award 13 students each a \$2,000 scholarship.

- The Alumni Association assisted the Ferris Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity to host its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary weekend.
- The Alumni Association assisted Music Department faculty to welcome back alumni for the annual Jazz Band and Alumni Jazz Band Concert.

### **Athletics**

Ferris football led all GLIAC members and in-state NCAA Division I and II schools with six student-athletes chosen for the National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society. To be eligible a player must have a minimum cumulative 3.2 GPA. The Bulldog honorees include two-time Harlon Hill Trophy-winning quarterback Jason Vander Laan, Justin Zimmer, Cody Dingledey, Adam Bennett, Damonta Madden and Jordan Boxas, All six were previously named to the GLIAC All-Academic Team with Vander Laan, Zimmer and Dingledey earning Academic All-America honors. Only nine NCAA Division II players from the state were honored. Ferris had more honorees than all the NCAA Division I schools in the state and the GLIAC. Please join me in congratulating our scholar-athletes!

Over the weekend our men's tennis team defeated Northwood University on Saturday and Grand Valley State on Sunday by identical scores of 5-2 to claim the GLIAC Tournament Championship. With these wins the team claimed both the conference regular-season and tournament championships. Sophomore Vasil Surduk was honored as the GLIAC Men's Tennis Athlete of the Year. Freshman Till von Winning earned Freshman of the Year honors. Head coach Chad Berryhill was selected as the GLIAC Coach of the Year. Both Surduk and von Winning were named to the All-GLIAC First Team in voting conducted by the league's member head coaches. Freshmen Nur Adim Ramdani Iswan and Steward Sell received all-conference second team recognition. Sophomore Daniil Tarantinov was named to the Honorable Mention squad. The entire six-member singles lineup consisted of freshmen and sophomores. Please join me in congratulating our men's team and coach Berryhill, and in wishing them continued success at the NCAA Midwest Regional that begins this Friday, May 6.

David L. Eisler, president