

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
November 14, 2016

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## Good News

It is always a pleasure to share the accomplishments by people throughout our University. The list below is only a small portion of the good works of our students, faculty and staff that we received. When you have time, I encourage you to review the entire listing [here](#).

- Cindy Fitzwilliams-Heck was voted president-elect for the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education.
- Scott Herron was selected to attend an NSF funded workshop entitled “Next Generation Careers: Innovation in Environmental Biology” at the Maritime Institute in Baltimore.
- Kaylee Moreno and Michael Berghoef presented “Latin@ Focused High Impact Educational Practices in Social Work Education” at the Latino Social Work Organization Conference in Chicago.
- Janet Vizina-Roubal, Jessica Gladden and Michael Berghoef gave two presentations, “Eteaching Etherapy” and “Toward a Comprehensive Technology Assessment,” at the Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and Social Development in Seoul, South Korea.
- The Master of Social Work Program has achieved full accreditation, retroactive to the start of the program in fall 2014. Currently 78 students are enrolled in the program.
- Thomas Brennan has a book entitled “Understanding Sonoluminescence” that will be published by *The Institute of Physics/IOP Publishing*.
- Paul Kwant was selected as vice president for the National Society of Experiential Education Executive Board of Directors.
- Ryan Meddaugh, a Yale, Mich., police officer and Law Enforcement Academy graduate, was awarded a LifeSaver Award for performing CPR on a non-responsive 28-year-old male and saving his life.
- Criminal Justice alumnus Richard Cardenas helped rescue a man who jumped into the Detroit River, throwing him a lifeline and holding him above water until a rescue boat arrived.
- Kitty Manley was the keynote presenter for the Office of Transfer & Secondary School Partnerships’ first transfer event, PARTNERING FOR TRANSFER! “*Reflect, Transform and Lead—A New Vision for Educators.*”
- HVACR students installed the HVAC system and radiant floor heating in a Big Rapids Habitat for Humanity House.
- Israel Ledesma was nominated to receive the 2016 Community Spirit Award by LINC UP for his passion and advocacy for education in the Latino community and with underrepresented youth.
- Don Brecken was elected to another term on the national board of directors for the American Society for Quality.
- *Contact Lens Spectrum* featured an article by Chad Rosen and Josh Lotoczky, “Five Tips for Scleral Lens Success,” and “A Retrospective Look at Children Fit with Ortho-K Lenses” authored by Stephanie Ramdass, Chad Rosen, Craig Norman, and Bob Buckingham.

- Karen Royster-James presented “Trac Your Way to Success” at the Michigan Tutorial Association Annual Conference in Ann Arbor.
- Housing and Dining recognized over 500 residents and meal plan holders at their Annual Resident Appreciation Football Game.
- Athletics has teamed up with the Salvation Army of Big Rapids to hold a "Red Kettle Game" on Friday, Nov. 18, as Bulldog Hockey hosts Lake Superior State. Fans can bid on special Salvation Army themed jerseys that will be worn by the Bulldogs.
- Pamella Roland DeVos School of Fashion students connected with Dutch fashion designer Iris van Herpen for a private tour of the *Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion* exhibition at Grand Rapids Art Museum.
- Gayle DeBruyn was inducted into the West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum Hall of Fame.
- Brenda Sipe was featured in *Crossing Boundaries II: Parallel Lines*, an invitational exhibition at LeeSeoul Gallery in Seoul, South Korea.
- Danielle Wyckoff held a solo exhibition, *Wavelengths*, at Aquinas College.
- The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) coordinated its first “Conversations on Race” campus dialogue series. Close to 100 members of the campus community were in attendance for the discussion.
- OMSS’ MI GEAR UP Program is presenting “Remixing Your Resources: Positive Effects of Integrating College Positive Volunteers into a Teen Empowerment Summit” at the Michigan Pre-College Conference at Michigan State University.
- The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has awarded Ferris gold-level ranking as a Veteran Friendly institution committed to the needs of student veterans and dependents.
- The Financial Aid Office hosted GetReal!, an event designed to teach students about costs associated with life after college. The event attracted 282 freshmen.
- The Student Leadership and Activities Advisory Council approved the following new Registered Student Organizations: Diversity in Pharmacy, Snow Shredders, First Generation, Conscious Consumer Coalition and Black Student Union.
- Since July the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge has received 67 gifts and pledges to new and existing endowments, with more than \$1.8 million of new donor gift commitments. With the match, this creates \$3.6 million of new endowed funds for the support of Ferris students.
- The Ferris State University Alumni Association Board awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 27 Alumni Legacy Scholarship recipients.
- During the past calendar year, the Ferris State University website (ferris.edu) has had more than seven million user sessions and nearly 16 million page views. During that same period, the website attracted 2.8 million unique users, including 267,296 in the month of September.

## **Budget Forum**

Last Thursday I hosted an open forum on the University’s budget. Information shared included Federal and State economic trends; Ferris budget information, including a look back at 2016 fiscal results, the impact of GASB 68, and information on the 2017 budget, revenue, and higher education formula funding; the budget reduction approach; and a look forward to 2018. (The presentation is posted online [here](#) and annotated with the Adobe “sticky notes” feature. To view, simply download the presentation and open with an Adobe product.) Thank you to the many people who attended this forum. If you have questions about any of the materials in this presentation, please contact me.

## **Student Alumni Gold Club**

The Student Alumni Gold Club is a student leadership organization that serves as an official chapter of the FSU Alumni Association. This group assists guests at Ferris football and hockey games, and at special events like the Ferris Foundation for Excellence Benefit, as well as supporting the University mascot, Brutus. Additionally, they are engaged in a variety of community events like the annual "Rake and Run" and United Way "Cover the Seal." On Saturday, the Gold Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It was good to welcome these alumni back to campus and to learn about their many successes and achievements since graduation.

## **Athletics**

The women's volleyball team completed their regular season with victories over Hillsdale (3-1) on Friday and Northwood (3-0) on Saturday. With Friday evening's victory the team clinched their third consecutive Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) regular season championship with a conference record of 16-1. The team dominated Northwood on Saturday, winning in straight sets, 25-15, 25-13, and 25-12. The victory over Northwood was especially satisfying since their last loss was against Northwood back on September 16<sup>th</sup>. The women now have a string of 21 consecutive victories and will be in action at home on Wednesday at 7 p.m. against Grand Valley in the GLIAC tournament quarterfinals. With a win, they would then host the GLIAC tournament with the semifinals Saturday and finals Sunday. Congratulations to Coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm and the women's volleyball team for an extraordinary championship season.

On Saturday the football team punched their ticket to the NCAA Division II postseason tournament with a dominating 51-17 victory over Saginaw Valley. This was the men's fifth victory in a row. During this period the combined scores have been 221-90. Saturday was the final regular season game for 20 seniors on the team. During their four years at Ferris they have combined for a record of 38-7, won two GLIAC championships, and next Saturday they will be competing in their third consecutive NCAA postseason tournament. This victory moved our men's team to the second seed in the region. As a result, they will host Midwestern State this Saturday at Top Taggart field in the tournament's first round.

The men's basketball team is off to an excellent start to their season. After defeating the University of Detroit – Mercy, a Division I school last Monday, they defeated the University of Missouri – St. Louis 73-61 on Friday and the University of Quincy 97-81 on Saturday at the GLIAC/GLVC Crossover Tournament. The men will be at home this Saturday with a 3 p.m. game against Lewis University.

David L. Eisler, president