

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
November 28, 2016

Last week the dangers of the world that some graduates face was brought into sharp focus as we learned of the tragic death of Officer Collin Rose. Mr. Rose was killed in the line of duty, serving as a member of the Wayne State University Police Department. He was a 2010 Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Academy graduate of Ferris State University.

Tuesday evening Wayne State University will sponsor a candlelight vigil with a moment of silence at 6:31 p.m., the time Officer Rose was shot one week ago. Visitation will be Wednesday at Ford Field and Thursday with a Memorial Mass in St. Clair Shores, followed by a Memorial Mass Friday in [Augusta](#).

Each spring our University sponsors a Police Memorial Service that thanks and honors the men and women who protect and keep each of us safe in our communities. It recognizes those who have paid the ultimate price in this service. Officer Rose is the fourth Criminal Justice graduate killed in the line of duty since 2000.

- Jessica Nagle-Wilson, a 2000 alumna, was shot and killed on July 26, 2002, while serving with the Hazel Park Police Department.
- James Ryan McCandless, a 2005 alumnus, was shot and killed on Aug. 2, 2011 while on patrol for the Rapid City, S.D., Police Department.
- Trevor Slot, a 1993 alumnus, was struck and killed by a suspect vehicle in a bank robbery on Oct. 13, 2011, while responding along a roadway as a member of the Walker Police Department.

In these saddest of circumstances please keep the family, friends and colleagues of Officer Collin Rose in your thoughts and prayers. I have reached out to Wayne State University president, M. Roy Wilson, expressing our condolences to their university community.

End of the Semester Activities

Just two weeks of classes remain in the semester with commencement ceremonies honoring our fall 2016 graduates on Saturday, December 17th. As in the past there are two ceremonies scheduled – the Colleges of Business and Health Professions at 10 a.m. and the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Education and Human Services, and Engineering Technology at 1:30 p.m.

On Tuesday, Dec. 6, and Thursday, Dec. 8, we will host our annual holiday receptions for faculty and staff, donors and friends. Tuesday's reception will be held at the Woodbridge N. Ferris building located at 17 Pearl St. NW. in Grand Rapids, while Thursday's reception will be held at the University Center on the Big Rapids campus. Please join us anytime between 4 and 7 p.m. at either location to relax, socialize, enjoy food and beverage, and celebrate the holiday season. Please contact Elaine Kamptner or Terri Cook in our office at ext. 2500 with any questions you might have. I encourage you to take a few moments to celebrate with friends and colleagues and look forward to seeing you there.

Monday, December 12th, beginning at 10 p.m., is our annual Pancakes with the President event at the Rock Café. This is a fun break from studying and examinations for our students. If you would like to assist, please contact our office.

Athletics

Saturday the men's football team hosted the Colorado School of Mines in the second round of the NCAA Division II playoffs. With an exciting victory over Colorado Mines (38-17), our men's football team advances to the quarterfinals next weekend with a 1 p.m. kick-off against Grand Valley in Allendale. It was wonderful to see so many fans and community members in the stands cheering on our football team. Our team has now won seven games in a row and advances to the third round of the playoffs for the first time since 1995. Congratulations to Head Coach Tony Annese, his coaching staff and student-athletes on this success.

This weekend our women's volleyball team is the #1 seed and will host the postseason NCAA II Midwest Regional Tournament. They open the tournament Thursday evening at 5 p.m. against Truman State University (Missouri). A victory on Thursday will place them in the semifinal Friday evening with the finals on Saturday. Our team has won 24 matches in a row, and we wish Head Coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, her coaching staff and student-athletes success as they continue postseason competition.

It is truly extraordinary to have this level of athletic success. I encourage you to support our football and volleyball teams as they represent Ferris State University in outstanding fashion.

David L. Eisler, president