

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
October 17, 2016

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This was a busy and memorable weekend in Big Rapids. It began with the first-ever Family and Friends weekend. Over 1,300 family members and friends were able to participate in a variety of fun activities and events. In our luncheon session with this group, one of the questions was whether or not there would be events like this in the future for family and friends. The answer to this is an enthusiastic “yes.” Thank you to everyone on the Big Rapids campus and in the community who welcomed our visitors to campus, some for the first time.

Saturday included a well-attended Dawg Days student recruitment event. It is good to see how many faculty and staff are willing to spend their Saturday morning connecting prospective students and their families with the academic programs and the many opportunities available here at Ferris. If you have interest and would like to see this engaging recruitment activity, the next Dawg Days is scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup> in the University Center. Guests begin arriving around 9 a.m. and the programs begin at 10 a.m.

It was also the fall meeting of the Ferris Alumni Board and the Legacy Luncheon they host, which honors recipients of the Alumni Association Scholarships and their parents. At Saturday's luncheon, it was uplifting to hear the stories of the many students assisted with support from our alumni. This was the largest group in memory with over 20 tables of honorees and guests.

Saturday evening was the annual Alumni Tailgate on Ice before our hockey game with Michigan. It was good to see so many alumni and friends back on campus. This event and the game were sold out - a strong indicator of alumni support for our University.

## **XQ Super School Project**

Kendall College of Art and Design was a major driver in the creation of the Grand Rapids Public Museum School. This is a Grand Rapids Public School founded on the ideas of design thinking that uses the Public Museum as its classroom. The school was one of 696 applications submitted to the XQ Super School Project, a nationwide contest that challenged teams of educators, students, parents and other community members to present their vision for evolving the American high school educational experience. From these many applications and after multiple rounds of review, the Museum School was selected to receive one of the ten \$10 million grants awarded. KCAD contributed broad expertise in design thinking to the development of the Museum School's curriculum in collaboration with Grand Rapids Public Schools, the Grand Rapids Public Museum and Grand Valley State University. The XQ Bus Tour will be in Grand Rapids on Wednesday to celebrate this extraordinary accomplishment. More information about the XQ Super School Project is accessible [here](#). Congratulations to the Kendall faculty and staff engaged in this project and to Sociology Professor Tony Baker, who chairs the GRPS School Board.

## **Adopt an Alleyway**

Over the weekend our students gave back to the Big Rapids community by cleaning up alleyways within the city. By clearing out litter and garbage, pulling weeds and raking, the students greatly improved these areas of the community that are often overlooked. Organized by the Student Government Association in tandem with the Bulldog Sustainability Alliance, this initiative speaks of the engagement of our students in the community and help build on our supportive town-gown relationship. I couldn't be more proud of our students for leading this effort. Thank you to everyone who participated in this community service initiative.

## Foundation for Excellence Gala

On Friday, Nov. 4, we will be celebrating and reflecting upon the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Ferris Foundation and the Foundation's positive impact on our University. The annual Foundation for Excellence Benefit provides friends and supporters the opportunity to see firsthand the difference their financial gifts make in scholarships for our students and support for our faculty. During the evening Phil and Jocelyn Hagerman will receive the Foundation's Humanitarian Award, the third time in history this recognition has been granted. Archie Manning is the keynote speaker of the evening. He has not only had a great impact on football, but has given inspiration to many. Please consider joining us. There is a special ticket price to assist faculty and staff in attending, and you can find more information about the benefit [here](#).

## Good News

Each month it is a pleasure to learn about some of the great works of our faculty, staff and students, and to share this information with the campus community. Thank you for your many accomplishments both on campus and in our communities. Your work is greatly appreciated. This is but a small selection; when time permits, please take a look at the entire list [here](#).

- The College of Business, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning sponsored "Conversations on Inclusion" that focused on equality in the workplace. Guest speakers included Matthew T. Chappelle (Christman Company), Carlos Estrada (AIGA), Kimberly Lindsey-Feagin (Bosch) and Trustee Ana L. Ramirez-Saenz (La Fuente Consulting LLC).
- Lisa Eshbach recently accepted a position with the editorial board for the *Case Research Journal*.
- Flint Police Officers Michael Henige ('15) and Cody Johnson ('15) were recognized by the Flint Police Dept. for their bravery and outstanding service. Both officers proceeded into shoulder deep water in the Flint River to rescue a man in psychological distress.
- Nancy Hogan, Eric Lambert, Shannon Barton, James Wells and Kevin Minor presented a paper on the "Organizational Trust and Fear of Victimization Among Prison Staff" at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association meeting.
- Every Thursday members of the Alpha Phi Sigma Honors Society volunteer at a local community meal site, setting up, serving and cleaning up dinner service for approximately 500 Mecosta County residents.
- The School of Criminal Justice is renovating space in Bishop Hall to be converted into a mentoring center. Members of Alpha Phi Sigma and Lambda Alpha Epsilon will be mentors under the direction of Amie Calhoun who will develop and implement the program.
- The College of Engineering Technology held its annual student welcome picnic with over 750 students, faculty and staff in attendance. Additionally, the College hosted its third annual and largest Welcome Event for incoming female freshmen and transfer students.
- John Schmidt has been elected to the Board of Trustees of the American Council for Construction Education.
- Sehi Computer Products donated 40 HP 8200 computers and flat screen monitors to the Heavy Equipment Center Computer Labs.
- Congratulations to Sara Bush for the article written about her in [The American Optometric Association](#) and for being chosen as the American Optometric Association's "Eyes on the Future" optometric educator for the month of September.
- Craig Norman was named one of the "30 Most Influential in Contact Lenses" in the Sept. issue of [Contact Lens Spectrum](#).
- Sarah Hinkley's article on how being a patient affected her attitudes as a doctor was featured in [New Grad Optometry](#).

- Retention and Student Success awarded 20 scholarships for the 2016-17 school year totaling \$94,852.
- The Robert and Ellen Thompson Working Families Scholarship is now available to 10 students and is designed to assist those from working families who may struggle with the cost of higher education. The minimum award is \$1,000 annually, renewable for eight semesters.
- Vel Pavlov, Information Technology Services, presented “Incident Response Safari: An expedition to build your own First Responder Toolkit” to the West Michigan branch of the International Information System Security Certification Consortium.
- Ferris State Athletics began a new "Female Athlete of the Week" promotion on FerrisStateBulldogs.com with additional promotion on social media thanks to a partnership with Silvernail Realty.
- The University refinanced approximately \$32 million of outstanding bonds to take advantage of lower interest rates. This refinancing will save the University operating budgets \$244,000 per year over the remaining life of those bonds through 2039.
- Steve Stratton presented “Understanding PERA and Obligations of the Parties” at the annual meeting of the Michigan Public Employer Labor Relations Association.
- Nicole DeKraker was named the recipient of the 2016 Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Art Education Association.
- Patricia Constantine exhibited her work in the Grand Rapids Festival of the Arts where she won the 2D award and is currently featured in the Muskegon Museum of Art’s Studio Brew Invitational exhibition.
- Deborah Rockman is featured in a solo exhibition, *Us and Them: Works by Deborah Rockman*, at the Muskegon Community College Overbrook Art Gallery.
- Diane Zeeuw was invited to the University of South Africa to present her paper, “The Haunted Archive: Picturing the Abandoned Psychiatric Hospital as a Place of Radical Otherness,” at the Third International Interdisciplinary Biennial Conference.
- James Arendt ('01, BFA Painting) is currently featured in a solo exhibition titled *Cut, Pierced, and Stitched* at the ACANSA Arts Festival in Little Rock, AR.
- Zac Lownds ('08, BFA Industrial Design), senior industrial designer at Whirlpool, and his colleagues on the company’s KitchenAid small appliance team, earned a Best of the Best award in the 2016 Red Dot Design Awards.
- Isaac Smith ('15, BFA Drawing) was named Best of Show at the 2016 Black Swamp Arts Festival in Bowling Green, Ohio.
- UICA was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation’s Fund for Community Good for Diversity and Inclusion Outreach for its 2017 exhibitions.
- UICA was awarded a \$27,000 Project grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Economic Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts in support of its upcoming *Coming Home, US IS THEM, Here + Now*, and Seitu Jones foodways exhibitions and programs.
- Kevin Carmody was selected to serve as a facilitator for the Association of Student Conduct Administrators Sexual Misconduct Institute in Kansas City November 6-9.
- Jacob Schrot, Charlotte Tetsworth and Deedee Stakely presented at the Consortium of Michigan Veteran Educators 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.
- Financial Aid FAST student Mary Kate McKeown was featured in the Media Production video series [“Invest in Success”](#) with top tips for filing the FAFSA to help make students aware of the new Oct. 1 filing date.

- Governmental Relations and General Counsel hosted the 10th Annual Founders' Day Community Ice Cream Social. Celebrity servers from campus and throughout the community served ice cream to over 2,000 people.
- Football alumnus Jason Vander Laan was chosen as the nation's top scholar-athlete at the NCAA Division II level in all sports for the second consecutive year. It represents the fourth time in the past decade in which a Bulldog football player has attained the country's highest student-athlete distinction.
- Many alumni attended the Homecoming game to honor their former football coach, Nick Coso, who passed away last September. A memorial plaque at Top Taggart Field was dedicated for Nick's service to the University, and a replica presented to his wife, Angela.

### **ArtPrize Eight Awards**

Congratulations to all KCAD faculty, staff, students, alumni and UICA staff who participated or supported ArtPrize Eight, which concluded on Oct. 9. Winners in the eighth annual competition included:

- Ricardo Gonzalez ('16, MFA) and current students Piper Fields (Digital Media) and David Frison IV (Graphic Design), part of the artist collective 912 COLLABORATIVE that won the \$12,500 Installation juried award and split the \$12,500 Outstanding Venue Award in a tie with SiTE:LAB.
- Eric Souther's "Search Engine Vision 'ISIS,'" featured in the UICA's *FUTURE TALK* exhibition, won the \$12,500 juried award in the Time-Based category. Other pieces in the exhibition were named to the jurors' short list, as was "Untitled," the mural created by artist Louise Chen through UICA's Exit Space Project.
- Lina Puerta's "Traces," featured in the *RE•* exhibition in The Fed Galleries @ KCAD won the \$5,000 Sustainable Art Award created through a partnership between KCAD and Cascade Engineering.
- Juan Obando's "Museum Mixtape: Dirty South Edition," also featured in *RE•*, won the \$1,000 second place Paul Collins Art Award.
- Many other KCAD community members were named to the jurors' shortlist: Brianna Baurichter ('16, MFA), Elizabeth Hubler-Torrey ('14, MFA), and Madison May ('16, BFA Printmaking); alumna/current MFA student Chakila Hoskins ('12, BFA Painting); and faculty members Darlene Kaczmarczyk (Photography) and Danielle Wyckoff (Drawing).

### **Listening Sessions**

Since the beginning of the month I have had the opportunity to meet with faculty during small group listening sessions. I very much enjoy visiting and hearing from you. The input you offer and the perspectives you provide are very valuable for me. If you have already attended, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to meet and provide this feedback. More listening sessions with faculty will be held throughout the coming weeks. When you receive your invitation, I encourage you to participate. If you missed your scheduled time, please call our office so we can include you in a future session date. These meetings will continue with staff during spring semester.

### **Athletics**

On the road over the weekend, women's volleyball added to their winning streak with three victories during the nation's largest collegiate tournament at the Great Lakes Center in Aurora, Ill. They defeated Truman State 3-0 and Quincy 3-1. The highlight of their weekend was defeating the 12<sup>th</sup> ranked team in the nation, Lewis University, in a thrilling 5-set match, winning the first,

fourth and fifth sets, the final set in extra points. The volleyball team was ranked 24<sup>th</sup> in the nation last week and has now won 12 consecutive matches. The football team had an impressive victory at home over Northern Michigan University (45-23), leading by 38-6 in the third quarter. They are at home for the next two weeks, playing Lake Erie College on Saturday at 1 p.m. Women's tennis had an unbeaten weekend with wins over Ashland and Walsh. The team secured a berth in the GLIAC Tournament and has won six of its last seven outings this fall. Finally, the women's soccer team beat Findlay on Friday and Ohio Dominican on Sunday. The women play Saginaw Valley State Friday at Top Taggart Field at 12 p.m.

David L. Eisler, president