

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
October 3, 2016

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We often write and talk about how a Ferris education helps prepare students for careers. It is also frequently the nature of the educational experience and the efforts of our faculty that encourage significant interaction and collaboration with the communities where we live, work and learn. Here are three such examples from this past weekend.

## **Celebration Pavilion**

On Friday, the City of Big Rapids and community leaders, along with Welding faculty Dave Murray and our Welding Engineering Technology students, participated in a ribbon-cutting to honor the completion of the Celebration Pavilion located in Mitchell Creek Park. This is the latest in many artistic contributions our Welding students have built for the Big Rapids community, including sculptures in front of City Hall, next to the Riverwalk, as you enter the community from US 131 and next to the hospital. All are wonderful examples of collaboration and cooperation between our University, the City of Big Rapids, local artists, and private business and industry.

Under Dave Murray's direction, our Welding students invested thousands of hours of effort in creating and installing the 25-foot diameter, 23-foot high steel structure. Marlies Manning, local landscape architect, designed the artwork for the laser cut aluminum dome which beautifully tells the story of the Big Rapids community enjoying the four seasons and all our area has to offer. Inscribed on the inside is a quote from Mother Teresa, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

This project exemplifies how the University is a place where theory meets practice for our students and also demonstrates the increasing international nature of our educational programs. The students who constructed this are not only from Michigan and throughout the Midwest, but also from Botswana and Saudi Arabia. Imagine the sense of pride for our students, from both near and afar, on having created such a beautiful and lasting contribution to the Big Rapids community. If you have not seen this, I encourage you to take a moment to view the amazing work of our students and Dave Murray.

## **Music on the Muskegon**

On Saturday, the Big Rapids community had the opportunity to enjoy free music on the Muskegon River as Music Industry Management Association students put together an all-day event at Hemlock Park. As a student-run event, MIMA students simulated working for a production company and planned every aspect of the event, from advertising, renting equipment, working with artists, and collaborating with the Big Rapid Jaycees to make this event a success. Events like this give our students the real-world experience they need to succeed upon graduation. I want to thank faculty member Dan Cronk and all the students who had a hand in creating, planning and executing this event for the community.

## **ArtPrize**

Kendall College of Art and Design faculty, staff, students, and alumni, together with staff from the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, are actively engaged in ArtPrize. If you have not had the chance to visit ArtPrize in Grand Rapids, there is still time this week to take in this amazing artistic event encompassing close to 1,500 entries throughout 170 venues downtown,

including the Kendall Fed Galleries and the UICA. This competition includes both juror selections and a popular vote.

Juror selections were announced on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Their outstanding venue [shortlist](#) contains many Kendall connections. Jurors also selected their [top picks](#) in the categories of 2D, 3D, Installation and Time-based, which feature several KCAD and UICA connections.

Round one of the public voting ended this weekend and the top 20 entries were announced on Sunday afternoon. You can view the list of the top 20 entries [here](#). "One Thousand Shacks," a 3D work by Tracey Snelling and displayed in the UICA is included in this listing.

### **Debate Team**

This week we are hosting the iDebate team from Rwanda on Monday evening at 7 p.m. in University Center 202. The event is part of a collaboration between several campus groups and Artworks of Big Rapids to bring light to the genocide of a million Tutsis in Rwanda in 1994. Tuesday evening at Artworks visiting Rwandan students will be displaying elements of their culture as well as reading excerpts from the book, "Voices from a Post-Genocide Generation."

### **Athletics**

Over the weekend the women's volleyball team earned their sixth straight win with a victory over Ohio's Lake Erie Storm. They host Ashland this Friday at 5:00 p.m. and Tiffin Saturday at 3:00 p.m. Women's tennis defeated Wayne State and Hillsdale by similar scores, 5-4. Women's soccer tied Ashland 0-0 on Friday and defeated Tiffin 1-0 on Sunday. The men's golf team won its third straight tournament, the Kyle Ryman Memorial, hosted by Tiffin University. They won over 17 teams with a six stroke margin.

The football team defeated Findlay 20-17, their 16<sup>th</sup> straight victory on the road. Football will be on the road again on Saturday against Grand Valley State University in the Anchor-Bone Classic with a kick-off time of 7 p.m. After two losses to Alabama Huntsville on Saturday (2-1) and Sunday (4-3), our hockey team will face-off Thursday at 7:07 p.m. at home against Western Michigan and Friday evening at Lawson Ice Arena in Kalamazoo.

David L. Eisler, president