

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
September 12, 2016

Yesterday was the anniversary of 9-11. Each of us can remember where we were on that day when we watched the twin towers in New York collapse, followed by the news of Flight 77 being flown into the Pentagon, and of Flight 93 crashing into a field in Pennsylvania. It seems difficult to believe that 15 years have passed since that fateful day.

Last December I visited the National September 11 Memorial and Museum in New York City. Seeing this firsthand emphasizes the size and enormity of the tragedy. The Memorial is a beautiful tribute to the people who died and a special reminder of the first responders who lost their lives trying to save others, rushing into danger as others fled. We are fortunate to live in the freedom of our country and indebted to the many people who work every day to keep us safe.

Good News

Each month we feature some of your many accomplishments, honors and the good work occurring across the University. It is always wonderful to hear about your achievements and those of your colleagues, students and programs. Your extraordinary efforts are a source of pride for all of us at the University. Thank you for taking time to share them. When you have the opportunity, I encourage you to review this month's entire [Good News](#) listing.

- Cheolwoo Lee, Finance, published a paper titled "Do Marketing Activities Enhance Firm Value? Evidence from M&A Transactions" in the *European Management Journal*.
- Nick Kuiper, Television and Digital Media Production (TDMP), served as a reviewer for the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences regional Emmy Awards for the New York and Florida area chapters.
- Joshua Pardon, TDMP, produced the student documentary "The Factory," which was accepted by the National Educational Telecommunications Association Program Service for national distribution.
- Glen Okonoski, School of Digital Media, will serve on the Board of Governors for The Eclipse Awards held annually in Grand Rapids.
- Lansing regional campus Education students Sam Morrison and Chelsea Hemenway were appointed to the Board for Michigan Reading Association Board.
- Liza Ing presented "Faculty Attitudes of Working with Students with Special Needs" at the Athens Institute for Education and Research in Greece.
- The School of Education's Early Childhood bachelor's degree program will be offered at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City in Fall 2017.
- Debbie Dawson was elected practice division chair of Professional Engineers in Higher Education for the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers.
- Engineering and Technology students competed in the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Ky. Ryan Gallagher took gold in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration, and also received a Rees Scholarship. The Automated Manufacturing Technology team of Eli Buist, Tyler Cook, and Andrew Ketchum earned a silver medal.
- Forty-four community college Heating, Ventilating, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration instructors attended the 3rd Annual Regional Instructor Workshop sponsored by the HVACR program.

- Marie Sickelsteel, Health Information Management, received the 2016 Michigan Health Information Management Association's Mentor Award.
- Public Health faculty Anuli Njoku, Fathima Wakeel, Michael Reger and Emmanuel Jadhav, along with Julie Rowan, Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, co-authored a manuscript, "Developing a Learner-Centered Curriculum for a Rural Public Health Program," to be published in the *International Journal for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*.
- Fashion students collaborated with the Grand Rapids Public Museum on the Inspired Style exhibition featuring their original fashion designs inspired by historical pieces from the Museum's collection.
- Interior Design student Caitlyn Carr was awarded first prize in the International Interior Design Association Dr. Virginia North competition.
- Eana Agopian ('16, MFA) was selected by Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts as the Fresh Pick Award winner for 2016, which includes a solo exhibition at the UICA.
- Dustin Farnsworth ('10, BFA Sculpture and Functional Art) was awarded a \$10,000 Wingate Project Grant from the Center for Craft, Creativity, and Design. He recently opened a solo exhibition "Encounters," at the Huntsville, Ala., Museum of Art.
- Kirbi Fagan ('13, BFA Illustration) is contributing to a new adult coloring book from *New York Times*' bestselling author Chuck Palahniuk.
- Ricardo Gonzales ('15, MFA) partnered with the Cook Arts Center and the Hispanic Center of West Michigan to lead a group of local high school students in creating a large mural reflecting the neighborhood's cultural heritage.
- Aaron Rossell ('07, BFA Illustration) illustrated the label for a special beer Founders Brewing Co. will release to benefit ArtPrize.
- Sharon Stratton ('07, BFA Art Education) was named the Michigan Art Education Association's Art Educator of the Year and Secondary Art Educator of the Year.
- Lambda Kappa Sigma named Ferris' Alpha Iota Chapter, advised by Kim Hancock, their 2016 Student Chapter of the Year.
- Dejah Rubel and Kriss Tessin presented "Create a List via Batch Catalog Searching with Sierra 2.1.0." at the Michigan Innovative Users Group Annual Conference.
- Vel Pavlov and Ralph Williams, Information Technology Services, presented "Lessons Learned from the Trenches: Vulnerability Metrics and Prioritization" at the Michigan Cyber Range Conference.
- Seven classrooms in Starr, West Commons and Business received technology upgrades as part of the Smart Classroom Project.
- Information Technology Services implemented Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) and adopted the SANS Securing the Human as a Security Awareness and Training service.
- Athletics unveiled the new FerrisStateBulldogs.com website in addition to a new mobile website and its first-ever mobile app.
- Student athletes helped move students into campus residence halls on opening day as part of the Bulldogs in Action.
- Physical plant staff installed exterior lighting for the 125th sculpture at Perry Avenue and 215th Avenue.
- Mike Hughes was elected president of Michigan Association of Physical Plant Administrators.
- Dining Services expanded the offerings in the Quad Café Food Court by adding sushi
- Miles Postema was selected to serve on the 2017 Annual Program Committee of the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

- Steve Stratton facilitated a Supervisor Development Program session entitled “What Can Labor Relations Do for You?”
- Ferris State University received gold-level status from the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency for services provided to our student veterans.
- Student and staff representatives from the Admissions Office and Veterans Services participated in the Peer Advisors for Veteran Education training at the University of Michigan
- Ferris State has a second Folds of Honor Scholarship (\$5,000) recipient whose father is retired from the Army.
- Big Rapids Beginnings, a collaboration with the Downtown Business Association and the city of Big Rapids, re-invented a welcome event hosted downtown after a 47-year hiatus. This attracted more than 100 students into the downtown community.
- Thirty-three students attended a weeklong LeaderShape institute focused on leadership development.
- The first month of the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge saw 20 gifts and pledges to new and existing endowments, with more than \$1 million of new gift commitments.
- The News Services and Social Media Team collaborated with the Office of Multicultural Student Services to develop a promotional [video](#) that highlights the OMSS staff and its services for students.

ArtPrize Eight

ArtPrize will officially open on September 21st and will run through October 9th. If you have attended ArtPrize in the past, you understand how this transforms the city of Grand Rapids, making much of downtown an exhibit space. It is amazing to consider that this is the eighth year of this competition. This year over 1,400 artists in 170 venues will compete for \$500,000 in prizes. Both Kendall College of Art and Design and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts are exhibition venues for ArtPrize and house two significant exhibits for this event.

KCAD’s exhibit RE• in the Fed Galleries results from a partnership with Grand Rapids’ Goodwill Industries. From the KCAD website, “RE•...features both local and global artists who consider the timely and critical issues of environmental and social responsibility within their work. Many of the included artists use reclaimed materials to create work that confronts the ways in which humanity produces and consumes. Other artists in RE• grapple with sustainability in more conceptual ways, exploring themes of connection, rebirth, preservation, cultural equity or social justice in their work.” More information and pictures from this exhibit are [here](#).

The UICA’s exhibit entitled “*FUTURE TALK*” is a survey of recent digital and new media works. “*FUTURE TALK* presents 15 works by 16 emerging, mid-career and established American artists whose media, materials and content are reflective of and responsive to their time.” Additionally, the UICA has included a work from its ongoing public art initiative, “The Exit Space Project.” This large-scale mural by Louis Chen on the exterior walls of the Grand Rapids Ballet Building is also entered in ArtPrize. More Information on the UICA exhibit is [here](#).

Additional information about ArtPrize is accessible from their [website](#). Last year ArtPrize welcomed over 438,000 visitors. I encourage you to experience this remarkable art event that has attracted national and international attention to our area. If you have both time and interest, Kendall and the UICA are always looking for volunteers to assist with the thousands of people who view their exhibits.

Enrollment Forum

On Thursday, Sept. 22, from 11 a.m. to noon in IRC 115, I will be hosting an enrollment forum to share information on fall enrollment, current student recruitment and retention efforts, and the enrollment impact on our annual budget. Additionally, I want to solicit your thoughts and ideas on student recruitment and retention. Please consider joining me for this important conversation.

Athletics

Ferris athletes had success in many locations this past weekend. The men's cross country team finished first in our Ray Helsing Invitational taking the top four places, led by senior Logan Hammer who placed first. The women's cross country team placed second. The meet honors the late Ray Helsing who guided Bulldog cross country along with track and field programs from 1968-82. He helped produce more than 20 All-Americans in cross country and track, and founded the Ferris cross country team, leading them to a 77-17 dual meet mark and four Great Lakes Conference titles. I had the opportunity to meet and visit with Ray on a number of occasions, and it is meaningful to see him honored in this way.

The women's volleyball team won three of four matches at the Palm Beach, Fla., Invitational, defeating Washburn, McKendree and Florida Tech, bringing their record to 4-4. The men's tennis team continued their winning ways from last season winning the 2,3,6, and 7 singles together with the 1 and 3 doubles at the seven-team Warhawk Invitational in Whitewater, Wis. At home women's tennis defeated Lake Superior 9-0. The men's golf team won the Northern Michigan Wildcat Invitational in Marquette in a sudden death playoff victory. Congratulations to new head coach and Ferris alumnus Kyle Wittenbach on this first victory.

Finally, the men's football team tied a school record in earning their 27th straight regular season victory on the road at Michigan Tech. They won the game in exciting fashion, kicking a 36-yard field goal in the final seven seconds of the game to come from behind and win 30-28. Congratulations to head coach Tony Annese, his coaching staff and football athletes on reaching this milestone.

While many of our teams remain on the road this week, women's soccer will be hosting Ohio Dominican at Top Taggart Field at noon on Friday, and on Saturday, our women's golf team will be hosting the Bulldog Invitational. The full schedule of Bulldog Athletics is available [online](#). As always, thank you for supporting our student-athletes inside and outside of the classroom.

David L. Eisler, president