

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
September 19, 2016

---

## Homecoming

This time of year brings about a sense of nostalgia as the days get shorter, the nights get cooler, and homecoming week arrives on campus. It is always good to welcome our alumni back as they reconnect with fellow classmates, faculty and staff. Activities begin on Friday evening with Fall Reunion. This honors Distinguished Alumni and Pacesetter Award recipients. We are proud to honor these extraordinary alumni for their professional growth, leadership and contributions to their communities:

### **Distinguished Alumni**

Kevin Cross, '86  
Mary Garvelink, '72  
Matt Nawrocki, '95  
Jeffrey Rowe, '79  
Jon Eric Sprague, '89

### **Pacesetters**

Jonathan Mikulich, '93  
Michael Noble, '08

This event, hosted in the University Center beginning at 5:30 p.m., also honors the class of 1966. Told through the remarks and stories of the honorees, this is an emotional reminder of the difference a Ferris education makes in the lives of our graduates. Tickets may be purchased online for the Fall Reunion [dinner](#) event. The traditional bonfire will be lit later that evening at 8 p.m. in the south parking lot #61.

Saturday is a full day of homecoming activities. In addition to the Alumni Welcome Tent, the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Pharmacy, the Office of Multicultural Student Services and others will be ready to greet alumni, their family and friends, in the Top Taggart Field parking lot as tailgating begins at 11:30 a.m. One of my favorite homecoming activities is the College of Engineering Technology Annual Chili Cook-off.

The homecoming parade starts at noon in downtown Big Rapids along Michigan Avenue and includes homecoming royalty, Registered Student Organizations and many other groups, including the Ferris Pride Committee, showing off their school spirit. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in making the homecoming parade a success. This year there will be a longer time to visit after the parade as the football game against Ashland does not kick off until 3:30 p.m. This is because our game will be televised live across the country as the Division II Game of the Week on the American Sports Network.

A complete list of homecoming activities is [here](#). Many people work together to help our homecoming activities be so successful. I want to thank everyone who takes time to welcome back our alumni and support our students and student-athletes.

## Latin@ Heritage Celebration

Sept. 15 – Oct. 15 marks the commemoration of national Hispanic Heritage Month. The Office of Multicultural Student Services, in collaboration with the Center for Latin@ Studies, Spanish Department, Hispanic Student Organization and the Spanish Club, will be hosting the 2016 Latin@ Heritage Celebration which features a number of special events that shine a light on the history and contributions of the Hispanic community:

- Sept. 19-30 (IRC Connector, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.): Trailblazers Exhibit – features banners highlighting Hispanic Americans who helped pave the way for other Hispanics and made an impact on society.
- Sept. 21 (IRC 131, 7 – 8:30 p.m.): Latin Film Night *Los Graduados* – a documentary exploring the issues of education through the eyes of Latino students in the U.S.
- Sept. 30 (UC 202, 5 – 11:45 p.m.): Quinceañera – take part in a traditional ceremony that recognizes Latin girls transitioning to womanhood.
- Oct. 6 (UC 202C, 5 – 8 p.m.) Testimonios *Diversity and Latin@ Cultures* – deepen your knowledge and celebrate the diversity in Latin@ culture. Includes dinner and networking session, performance by One World Diversity, and discussions that explore Latin@ cultures and identities.
- Oct. 12 (WCCC, 5 – 6:30 p.m. and 7 – 8:30 p.m.) Latin@ Art Night – paint a canvas from historic Latin@ artists such as Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo and Goya. RSVP encouraged.

And finally, on Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the West Campus Community Center, the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) will be celebrated with a ceremony that honors family and friends who have passed on. Many thanks to the organizations and people who plan these activities and provide our University the opportunity to learn more about the Hispanic/Latin@ community not only from an academic perspective, but a social/cultural perspective as well. Please add some of these events to your calendar and support our Latin@ students and faculty on campus. A complete listing of these events can be found [online](#).

## 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. Please consider joining me for this important conversation.

## Dial-A-Ride Shuttle Service and Big Rapids-Grand Rapids Shuttle

The University provides two transportation services and your assistance in helping students be aware of these is much appreciated. There is a free shuttle service on the Big Rapids campus via Big Rapids Dial-A-Ride. The shuttle is available to anyone with a FSU ID who needs a ride along the main campus shuttle route. For more information about Dial-A-Ride on campus you can download an updated shuttle [map](#). Or, if you have a smartphone, you can download the free app “Double Map” to find out where the shuttle is in real time. Currently we serve about 1,000 riders daily, and there is capacity for more.

We are in our fifth year of partnership with The Rapid of Grand Rapids to offer bus transportation to and from our Big Rapids campus for students residing in Kent County. From The Rapids’ central station in downtown Grand Rapids, the shuttle heads toward Big Rapids with stops at the Cedar Springs Meijer before its final destination at Bond Circle and the Science building in Big Rapids. There are four round trips daily. While the service is designed for

students, it is available to anyone. Here is the schedule and more information about the Ferris State [Express](#).

### **Athletics**

There is much good news about our athletic teams. In individual honors, senior Logan Hammer was named the GLIAC cross country athletic of the week; Kicker Wyatt Ford was named GLIAC football player of the week. Our athletic teams also had much success with a great weekend of competition. At home on Friday the women's Soccer squad had an exciting 1-0 triumph over Ohio Dominican by scoring a goal in double overtime. Saturday and Sunday were good days for Ferris golf, as the women's team celebrated its first tournament victory of the season, winning the Bulldog Invitational and the men their second consecutive victory winning the GLIAC tournament in South Haven.

On the road Saturday women's volleyball beat Hillsdale 3-0 and the Bulldog football team had another very thrilling last-minute victory. A five-yard touchdown pass on the final play of the game brought our team ahead 27-26 against Northwood. This finished an amazing comeback where the team scored 13 points in the final 2:04 of the game. With this win the team set a new school record of 28 straight regular-season wins. Congratulations to Head Coach Tony Annese, his coaching staff and all of the football athletes over this and the past three seasons who helped created this standard of excellence and competitive achievement.

David L. Eisler, president