

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 10, 2017

This past week included marvelous examples of the many ways our University is engaged with students, faculty, staff and our communities. In just one week we recognized campus authors, opened a combined faculty art show, continued a series on understanding healthcare, celebrated national public health week, hosted a major conference on human trafficking awareness, recognized outstanding graduates in the College of Business, enjoyed the International Festival of Cultures, were a major sponsor for the DisArt Symposium in Grand Rapids, sponsored numerous athletic events, and welcomed prospective students and their families to campus for a Dawg Days event. This is not a comprehensive listing, but rather an affirmation of what an active, engaged University we have become. One of the wonderful advantages of a University career is the opportunity to continue to learn and be engaged in programs of purpose and substance. No one can attend everything, but I encourage you to support the efforts of our colleagues and community.

This week we welcome W. Thomas Smith, associate professor from the University of Florida's College of Pharmacy, who will be presenting "Words Matter: Musings and Perspectives from a Big Blue Wheelchair." He will share his personal story of living with a disability, provide education on how to use inclusive language, and share ideas on building a culture of sensitivity and inclusion. The presentation is Tuesday at 11 a.m. in UC 202. More information about Dr. Smith's compelling story can be found [here](#).

The Strategic Planning and Resource Council will meet on Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the University Center Room 202B. Provost Paul Blake will be presenting and explaining the Quality Initiative we will pursue in preparation for our accreditation visit by the Higher Learning Commission during the 2020-21 academic year. At the core of this Quality Initiative is the development of a Center for Academic Literacies, a holistic approach to address student retention, which Paul is leading for our University. You need not be a member of SPARC to attend, as everyone is welcome. I hope you will join us for this very important discussion.

Good News

The March Good News listing includes many accomplishments by faculty, staff and students throughout the University. Thank you for the extra effort you invest to achieve and demonstrate excellence, to make a difference, and to help our students have extraordinary experiences. What follows is only a sampling of the information shared with us. The entire Good News list is accessible [here](#). Please take a few moments to congratulate your colleagues and our students on their noteworthy achievements.

- Zac Wendler presented "Student Engagement from the Syllabus Up" at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Portland, Ore.
- David Russel serves as co-editor of *The Lion and the Unicorn* and is completing the manuscript for the 9th edition of his textbook, *Literature for Children*.
- Alex Cartwright and Mark Brandly accompanied four students who presented papers representing their economics research at the Austrian Students Scholars Conference at Grove City College.
- Mark Brandly chaired a Public Policy panel at the Austrian Economics Research Conference in Auburn, Ala., and presented a paper titled *Horizontal Drilling, Hydraulic*

Fracturing, and Our Ground Water. Student Justin Austin presented his paper, *The Cuban Health Care Paradox: A Case of Ignored Costs and Implications*.

- Paul Kwant is president-elect for the National Society for Experiential Education.
- CJ alumnus Joshua Sparling participated in the Ragnar del Sol, a 200-mile relay race where each member runs 33 miles. He ran the race despite being a single amputee who lost his leg while serving in Iraq. His team ran the race to raise money for the Pat Tillman Foundation, which provides academic scholarships for military veterans and their spouses. Joshua is a past recipient of a Tillman scholarship.
- Faculty/staff and K-12 educators participated in a Technology Engineering Aptitude Train-the-Trainer workshop facilitated by engineer, author and director of the Engineering Education Service Center, Celeste Baine.
- The Diagnostic Medical Sonography program received continued accreditation through 2022 from the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.
- The Respiratory Care program received approval to start a bachelor's degree program from their accrediting agency, the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care.
- Kendall welcomed 410 guests to campus for the college's annual All College Open House, including 82 students from Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Vietnam who competed in the annual Art Day Competition.
- KCAD's student fashion alliance Bodies of Art held their 13th annual fashion show titled "Remnant" at the Grand Rapids Art Museum. Fifteen students from various majors showcased over 70 original garment designs based on different fashion eras.
- KCAD collaborated with the Gerald R. Ford International Airport to create a mural depicting an artistic interpretation of the world map on a temporary wall inside the airport. This was designed and installed by Kendall students, faculty, staff and alumni.
- Kendall Graphic Design students won 53 out of 62 possible student awards in the 2017 American Advertising Federation of West Michigan ADDY Awards. Tammy Myers ('07, BFA Graphic Design) won a Judges' Choice Award in the Professional category and two Gold ADDYs for an ad campaign promoting breast cancer awareness via advanced screening for younger women.
- Nancy Hart and Matthew Schenk, along with 15 students, were featured in an exhibition of natural science illustrations at the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute for Environmental Education.
- Adam Schuitema released his short story collection, "The Things We Do That Make No Sense," through Switchgrass books.
- At the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts 2017 West Michigan Area Show Eana Agopian ('16, MFA) won the Ninth Wave Studio Award for "Meiosis," Deborah Mattson ('16, MFA) won the Southwest Michigan Printmakers Excellence Award for "Shingebiss: an Ojibwe Folktale," and Deborah Rockman won the Helen Sheridan Memorial Grand Prize for "Companions 8."
- Yvette Cummings ('00, BFA Painting) was the winner of the 701 CCA Prize by the 701 Center for Contemporary Art in Columbia, S.C., which recognizes emerging artists creating exemplary original work under the age of 40.
- The UICA collaborated with Partners for a Racism-Free Community for the panel talk "Abandoned Margins: Policing the Black Female Body."
- Dejah Rubel won a "First-Timer" Award from the North American Serials Interest Group to attend its annual conference in Indianapolis. Tammy Finch also won the Paraprofessional Specialist Award to attend this library conference.

- Alison Jenerou and alumnae Addie Bauer and Kim Reich had their article “Stereopsis’ Play on Baseball” published in *Optometry and Visual Performance*.
- Tracy Dard presented an 8-hour ABO Review course at the Optician’s Association of Michigan’s Spring Conference. She was also elected to the OAM’s board of directors.
- The Review Committee for the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning’s Timme Travel Grants Program awarded \$59,850 to 53 faculty.
- The Political Engagement Project and the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning hosted a surprise event for Rick Griffin to celebrate his contributions to political engagement. The evening included the announcement of the Richard W. Griffin Political Engagement Award, a new Academic Affairs award.
- Peter Bradley was one of 12 participants accepted in the National Collegiate Honors Council’s Professional Development Workshop to develop a national strategy for professional development opportunities in Honors.
- Ferris students have saved \$1,000,000 this year by using Bookstore services such as Price Match, new, used, rental, digital books and flexible pricing on old editions.
- The men’s ice hockey team had 16 players with at least a 3.00 overall grade point average for the previous two semesters earn WCHA All-Academic Team recognition for the 2016-17 season, and 11 students recognized as WCHA Scholar-Athletes with a 3.50 cumulative GPA or better. Senior forward Chad McDonald was chosen as the WCHA Student-Athlete of the Year, the first Bulldog skater to be recognized with this award.
- Three hockey seniors have begun their professional careers: forward Gerald Mayhew with the Iowa Wild, captain Jared VanWormer with the Missouri Mavericks and defenseman Ryan Lowney with the Fort Wayne Komets.
- Six former standout student-athletes, a highly-successful coach and administrator, and one of the school’s most historic teams have been selected for the Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame. The group will be honored at an event this fall.
- Under the direction of Glen Okonoski, “Expect Diversity,” a campus television show hosted by David Pilgrim, received a Michigan Student Broadcast Award: First Place in the Talk Show/Scripted Show category.
- The University Center, University Recreation and Ferris Catering were honored at the Make-A-Wish Michigan 2017 appreciation event with a Shining Star award for their longstanding commitment to the Wish-A-Mile 300 Bike Tour and its participants.
- Admissions hosted the MOISD College Fair and bussed in over 500 juniors from Evart, Morley Stanwood, Chippewa Hills, Crossroads, Reed City and Big Rapids to visit with 37 college/military representatives.
- Admissions hosted an Admitted Student Open House with 495 people in attendance.
- Since July the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge has received 135 gifts and pledges to new and existing endowments, totaling more than \$2.53 million of new gift commitments. With the match, this creates more than \$5 million of new endowed scholarship funds for the support of Ferris students.
- Students with the Telephone Outreach program contacted more than 2,400 alumni between January 15 and March 27 and have raised a total of \$43,269.89 from 586 donors this fiscal year. This exceeds FY2016 to-date by 52% in dollars and 44% in donors.

Athletics

Our coaches and student-athletes had a very successful weekend. Saturday the men's and women's outdoor track and field teams hosted the Bulldog Invitational, their only home competition this season. Both teams performed well with 31 top-10 performances, along with four individual championships on the men's team. The men's tennis team currently has an eight-match winning streak and is undefeated in the GLIAC with a 14-2 overall record. At home the men defeated Northwood 9-0 on Friday and Wayne State 5-4 on Sunday. Women's softball celebrated at home Saturday with an exciting double-header victory over Tiffin (1-0 and 4-3) and a tough split against Findlay (5-0, 4-9) on Sunday.

Last week Christa Cooper, assistant women's volleyball coach, was selected as a 2017 American Volleyball Coaches Association Thirty Under 30 Award recipient. Christa has helped the Bulldogs win three-straight GLIAC championships and twice reach the NCAA Division II Sweet Sixteen. This honor recognizes promising talent early in their coaching careers. Congratulations to Christa and the volleyball program on this recognition.

David L. Eisler, president