

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President

April 17, 2017

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Campus activities and celebrations occur throughout this week as we approach the end of the spring semester. Tuesday evening is the second annual Women in the College of Engineering Technology recognition banquet, honoring women students, faculty and staff in the College. Among the evening's honorees and speakers will be Amerikam President and Ferris Foundation Board Member Stephanie Leonardos. Mrs. Leonardos received an honorary degree from our University in 2009 and has served on our Foundation Board since 2012. She will be sharing a few words on the opportunities and successes she has experienced throughout her career and as president and CEO of Amerikam. Thank you to Leigha Compson and the College of Engineering Technology for organizing this event. Other activities this week include:

- The men's and women's basketball teams will participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Heart-to-Heart, Hand-In-Hand Special Olympics basketball game. Our student-athletes will team up with Area 5 Special Olympics athletes in an event sponsored by the Sports Careers RSO – Tuesday, 7 p.m., Wink Arena
- Chris Mensing with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will share his research on the Kirtland's Warbler recovery program – Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., UC 202A
- Learn how faculty and staff are gaining professional development abroad through the Going Beyond series featuring Greg Zimmerman and his trip to Singapore – Thursday, 11 a.m., IRC 109
- The Torchbearer Awards Ceremony, hosted by the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services, recognizes the outstanding achievements of students, faculty and staff – Thursday, 6 p.m., UC 202
- Media professionals from across the region will share their knowledge of working in the media production industry during the Ferris Media Festival. More information and a schedule are available [here](#) – Thursday, 3-8 p.m., Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., IRC

This year we celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Big Event. Students will gather on Top Taggart Field Saturday morning to get their work instructions and directions to the homes where they will be performing yard work and other small projects. The Big Event, started by students in 2007 as a service project to thank the Big Rapids community for their hospitality, has become the largest one-day student-run service project in Michigan. While our students volunteer thousands of hours for various charities and projects each year, this event is truly remarkable. Thank you to all our students who volunteer to work this day helping our neighbors in Big Rapids. I am very proud of this tradition our students have established of giving back to the community.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, visit the campus [calendar](#).

## Academic Affairs Awards

On Tuesday Provost Paul Blake hosted Academic Affairs Award recipients at a celebratory dinner. I want to offer my congratulations to each person who received this very

special recognition. Please take a few moments and congratulate your colleagues on their achievements:

- Academic Scholar Award* - Christian P. Peterson, College of Arts and Sciences
- Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award* - Karyn Kiio, College of Business
- Distinguished Service Award* - Olukemi Fadayomi, College of Arts and Sciences
- Distinguished Teacher Award* - John Scott Gray, College of Arts and Sciences
- Diversity Enhancement Award* - Mary Murnik, College of Arts and Sciences
- Excellence in Course Assessment Award* - Donna Green, College of Business
- International Educator of the Year Award* - Ana I. Davila, College of Arts and Sciences
- Outstanding Academic Advisor Award* - Laura Dix, College of Business
- Outstanding First Year Advocate Award* - Brooke Moore, Retention and Student Success
- Helen Gillespie Ferris Distinguished Woman Leader Award (University-Wide Award Sponsored by Academic Affairs)* - Trinidy Williams, College of Arts and Sciences

### **Tenure/Promotion/Merit**

During this time of year when we celebrate the successes of people throughout our University, I want to congratulate our faculty who have earned promotion, merit recognition and/or tenure this year. When you see these individuals, I encourage you to congratulate them for this acknowledgement of their efforts and achievements at our University.

#### Tenure

Julie Alexander, Retention and Student Success; Katie Axford, Pharmacy; Gabor Barsai, Engineering Technology; Tracy Busch, Arts and Sciences; Sagar Deshpande, Engineering Technology; Kimberly Dickman, Retention and Student Success; Timothy Eklin, Education and Human Services; Dawn Fox, Arts and Sciences; Mark Hutchinson, Health Professions; Jean Inabinett, Business; Alison Jenerou, Optometry; Jimmie Joseph, Business; Phillip Kohn, Business; Nicolas Mata, Business; David McClendon, Arts and Sciences; Brian McDowell, Optometry; Paula McDowell, Optometry; Anne Ottney, Pharmacy; Victor Piercey, Arts and Sciences; Michael Vasicek, Education and Human Services; Janet Roubal, Arts and Sciences; Marie Yowitz, Retention and Student Success.

#### Promotion

*Assistant Professor:* Daniel Sleeper, Health Professions.

*Associate Professor:* Julie Alexander, Retention and Student Success; Katie Axford, Pharmacy; Erin Benander, Arts and Sciences; Rhonda Bishop, Health Professions; David Brown, Business; Linda Butler, Business; Christopher DeFraia, Arts and Sciences; Sagar Deshpande, Engineering Technology; Timothy Eklin, Education and Human Services; Emily Fransted, Business; Brian Holton, Engineering Technology; Steven Hundesmarck; Education and Human Services; Nicholas Kuiper, Education and Human Services; Matthew Moresi, Arts and Sciences; Donald Pole, Optometry; Aaron Waltz, Business; Marie Yowitz, Retention and Student Success.

*Professor:* Karen Barkel, Arts and Sciences; Daisy Daubert, Arts and Sciences; Jodie Elder, Pharmacy; Vandana Rajaram, Optometry; Grant Snider, Arts and Sciences; Spence Tower, Business.

## Merit

Michael Berghoef, Arts and Sciences; Mark Brandly, Business; Richard Cohen, Arts and Sciences; Beverly DeMarr, Business; Daniel Ding, Arts and Sciences; Kim Hancock, Pharmacy; Melinda Isler, FLITE; Connie Meinholdt, Arts and Sciences; Tracey Mersfelder, Pharmacy; James Miller, Optometry; Robert Most, Engineering Technology; George Nagel, Arts and Sciences; Joseph Pacella, Engineering Technology; Claire Saadeh, Pharmacy; Gareth Todd, Engineering Technology; Joseph Tripp, Arts and Sciences; Gregory Vanderkooi, Education and Human Services.

## **SPARC Presentation**

At last week's Strategic Planning and Resource Council meeting Kristy Motz, along with Michael Berghoef, Denise Cospers and Sarah Rescoe, presented information on the use of Open Education Resources (OER) – freely accessible, openly licensed documents and media that are useful as texts for teaching, learning and assessing as well as for research purposes. Utilization of OER has potential benefits inside the classroom and poses a significant cost savings for our students. Fourteen faculty members committed to using OER this spring in the classroom. I encourage you to attend their poster display inside the University Center, Room 116, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, April 24, to learn more about the process and explore the opportunities associated with OER. You can also view Kristy's OER presentation on the [SPARC website](#).

## **Athletics**

After defeating Walsh 9-0 on Friday, on Saturday the men's tennis team captured their third GLIAC regular season championship on the road with a 7-2 victory over Tiffin. Our team is unbeaten in the GLIAC and the top seed for the conference tournament, which takes place this Friday thru Sunday at the Midland Community Tennis Center. Congratulations to Head Coach Danny Hunt and his team on this well-earned success, and best wishes as they enter postseason play.

The FSU Disc Golf club team, coached by Leonard Johnson, won the National Collegiate Disc Golf Championship in North Augusta, S.C., this weekend. Competing against 43 other schools from across the U.S., they entered the final round of play five strokes ahead and won the championship by this margin. The Ferris First Flight team also won in their competition. This is the second national championship for the Ferris Disc Golf club team in the last three years. Congratulations to Leonard Johnson and his team on being the best in the nation.

David L. Eisler, president