

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 24, 2017

The Big Event

Saturday morning it was impressive to see our students in Top Taggart stadium preparing for the largest student-organized philanthropic event in Michigan, The Big Event. It is remarkable to see firsthand the organization of our students for this. In their preparation they divide Big Rapids into color-coded sections and evaluate each home for the work that will be done. Student teams know the homes where they will work and line up by color. They are then given the appropriate tools and materials for the work they will do.

Just seeing the stacks of rakes, shovels and other tools is an impressive sight. Then throughout the community you see teams of our students in their bright crimson T-shirts helping homeowners. Our students have described this aptly, "One Big Day, One Big Thanks, One Big Event." Thank you students for this extraordinary example of community engagement.

Employee Service Awards

Tuesday at 3 p.m. we will honor faculty and staff with special awards and for their years of service to the University. Please come to celebrate with your peers and enjoy an array of wonderful desserts. If you have any special dietary needs, please contact Terri Cook at x2504.

It is a pleasure to share with you this year's recipients of the Distinguished Staff and Distinguished Team awards. Through their actions they demonstrate extraordinary contributions and commitment to Ferris. This year's honorees include:

Distinguished Staff Awards

Jon Coles, Jody Gardei, Sandy Gholston, Elise Gramza and Lisa vonReichbauer

Distinguished Team Award

Parents Committee: Nicholas Campau, Jason Daday, Omar Gonzalez, Cindy Horn, Kathy Lake, Melanie Mulder, Trent Podskalen, Angela Roman and Katie Thomas

Congratulations to this year's award recipients for going above and beyond for the betterment of our students and University. Thank you also to the members of the Distinguished Staff and Team Committee – Jennifer Amlotte, Rhonda Atteberry, Brandi Behrenwald, Cindy Horn and Paula Rushford – for reviewing all of the nominations and the difficult work of selecting winners from all of the worthy recommendations.

This year we are proud to recognize 237 employees, representing 3,520 years of service to Ferris State University. We will honor the following employees for completing five-year increments of full-time, continuous service to the University.

5 Years

Olusola Adeyanju, Julie Alexander, Anthony Annese, Louis Arokiasamy, Katie Axford, Catherine Belkowski, Kyle Bourcier, Brian Bouwman, Ryan Brady, Tracy Busch, Jason Bush, Amy Byrnes, Daniel Campbell, David Cencer, Kathryn Clark, Nathan Clark, Nina Darnell, Heather Day, Sagar Deshpande, Kimberly Dickman, Florence Dood, David Durkee, Gregory Eichenberg, Timothy Eklin, Nicole Erickson, Mallory Ford, Carrie Franklund, Sandra Fredricks, James Furstenberg, Scott Garrison, Lindsey Gingrich, Deanna Goldthwait, Lisa Grams, Teresa Harley, Joan Hazelton, Peter Hector, Ryan Hodges, Franklin Hughes, Mark Hutchinson, Jean Inabinett, Alison Jenerou, Jimmie Joseph, Phillip Kohn, Scott Kosaski, Ghada Mahdi, Nicolas Mata, David McClendon, Brian McDowell, Paula McDowell, Andrew McKee, Kimberly Mcvicar, Brian Milligan, Terrie Newberry Morey, Kristin Oplinger, Anne Ottney, Andrew Peterson, Victor

Piercey, Maria Putt, Linda Randle, Peter Raphael, Ronald Repke, Sarah Rescoe, Lisa Roach, Julie Rowan, Jennifer Schad, Felix Smith, Dorothy Stakley, Kelley Stillwell, Wilfred Timothy, Roger Vajda, Michael Vasicek, Nathan Wallace, Tyler Wible, Kathleen Wiejaczka, Marie Yowitz, Piotr Zakrzewski and Ian Ziska

10 Years

Lawrence Bajor, Frederick Baker, Rosalie Baran, Donald Brecken, Kimberly Ducat, Jack Enos, Sheryl Erbes, Sandy Gholston, Michael Grandy, Nicholas Greenway, Carri Griffis, Carla Hatfield, Brian Holton, Sharon Hopper, Xiao Hu, John Johnson, Laurie Kilbourne, Dionne Klemish, Lisa Knudson, Merrie Lange, Thomas Larabel, Sally Maurer, Cameo McGowen, James McIntyre, Laura McKiness, Russell Mishler, Gregory Monfils, Katy Moore, Jing Nestle, Laurie Noell, James Nystrom, Andrew Rayburn, Scott Ruitter, Dawn Schavey, Linda St Clair, David Steenstra, Rob Wagner, Karen Weber, Christopher Westerkamp, Joan Williams, Jenice Winowiecki and Mary Zimmer

15 Years

Jennifer Amlotte, Karen Barkel, Linda Butler, Richard Cohen, Sharon Colley, Teresa Cook, Robert Doering, Janice Duddles, Scotty Earle, Steven Eichenberg, Heather Girand, Pamela Harvey, Scott Herron, Melinda Isler, Kevin Jackson, Paul Kammerdiner, Amy Kavanaugh, Russell Leonard, Steven Lyman, Tim Maguire, Pamela Marvel, Cynthia Milligan, Jodi Nelson, Shelly Percy, Richard Piippo, Jana Pisani, Holly Price, John Quilitzsch, Robert Quist, Ronald Rizzo, William Ruppel, Daniel Sovinski, Roberta Teahen, Edward Thomas, Shelly VandePanne, Gregory Vanderkooi, Dale Versluis, Jeff Warner and James Woolen

20 Years

Jannifer Anderson, Philip Balliet, Trudy Borst, Mary Brayton, Dianne Britten, Renato Cerdona, Daniel Cronk, Laurie Daniels, Nina Davis, Craig Derby, Melissa Derosia, John Duman, Deborah Griffith, Nancy Hogan, Brent Kunding, Kathryn Lake, Lawrence Langell, Tara Lee, Pepper Lockhart, Mary Kay MacIver, Melanie Mulder, Louis Nemastil, Karen Ottobre, Angela Palmer, Gregg Potter, Craig Roach, Shirryl Sanger, John Schmidt, Kelly Seitter, Thomas Stoffer, Charlotte Tetsworth, Karl Verrill and Deborah Yost

25 Years

Michelle Balliet, William Bitzinger, Daniel deRegnier, David Hanna, Karen Kirk, Patrick Klarecki and Stephen Wolfer

30 Years

Mary Bacon, Sandra Burns, Jeffrey Christafferson, Steven Cox, Iyabode Fadayomi, Jill Gregory, Steven Johnson, William Killian, Warren Klope, M E McCullough, Wesley Morrison, George Nagel, Daniel Noren, Vicki Parsons, Gordon Patton, Gary Rodabaugh, Gary Schneider, Mark Schuelke, Robert Speirs, Jeffrey Tellkamp, Khagendra Thapa and Denise Wild-Sims

35 Years

Melinda Britton, Michael Cooper, Robert Eastley, Teresa Fogel, Richard Hower, John Jameson, Gregory Kehr, Annette LaRock, Elaine Mitchell and Andrew Suhy

40 Years

Sharon Bell, Roger Daugherty, Rosemary Kailing, Lyle Mourer, Michael Ryan and Marie Sichelsteel

45 Years

Paul Jackson

It is humbling to consider the years of commitment and dedication of our employees. Thank you so very much for all you do for our students and the entire campus community. Please join me in congratulating all of our award recipients for their outstanding service. Please take time to join us on Tuesday.

Special Recognition

Last Wednesday the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual awards ceremony and recognized the significant efforts of two Ferris employees. Carlos Sanchez received the Chamber's Businessperson of the Year Award and Tony Baker received the Building Bridges Award. Congratulations to Carlos and Tony on this recognition and many thanks for the success of their efforts in the Hispanic community. Honored with Hispanic Business of the Year were Mercedes Lopez-Duran, owner of El Granjero Mexican Grill, and her daughter Paola Mendivil. Paola is graduating this May from Ferris, works in the Latino Business and Economic Development Center and as catering manager for the restaurant.

Ferris State University has another Fulbright Scholar! Congratulations to graduating senior Ashley Quinn who will be headed to South Korea this July with the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Ashley is graduating with a double major in Secondary English and Secondary Math Education and will be recognized this week for being selected as this year's outstanding English Education major. She is the second Ferris student in the past four years to receive this prestigious honor.

Torchbearer Awards

Last week the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services held its annual Torchbearer Awards ceremony. There were many students, faculty and staff honored that evening. Some of those who received recognition for their contributions to the University and engagement with the greater Big Rapids community include:

- Students Tea Caragao, Samantha Gerken, Andrew Kapanowski, Arianna Lozano and Kathryn Pilczuk for the *Rising Star Award*, recognizing students who have at least two years remaining in their careers at Ferris and have exhibited promise as emerging leaders through campus and community involvement;
- Laura Dix for *Registered Student Organization Advisor of the Year*;
- Students Amanda Gilliam, Melissa Henderson, Zoe Horn, Paige Kramer, Megan Liede, Tiyler Rush, Jacob Russell and Sharell Williams for the *Presidential 250 Service Award*, recognizing those students who have completed more than 250 hours of community service;
- Students Shelby Alda, Levi Cipicic, Erin Crummel, Leesa Deadwyler, Andrew Klarecki, Katelyn Michalski, Justin O'Donoghue, Joshua Olszewski, Alexandra Reeds, Tori VanOeffelen and Justin Wolber for the *Torchbearer Award*, recognizing students who exhibit outstanding leadership skills on campus, in the classroom and in the community.

We are fortunate to have such engaged students, faculty and staff. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and recognized.

Wege Prize 2017

The Wege Prize was created by Kendall College of Art and Design's Wege Center for Sustainable Design in partnership with the Wege Foundation. In its fourth year, 25 teams representing 38 different academic institutions from 17 countries participated. The teams collaboratively design and propose a product, service, business, non-profit organization or other solution that helps create a circular economy.

Five finalist teams have been selected and include a team of Kendall College of Art and Design students who have collaborated with the National Autonomous University of Nicaragua. Their solution focuses on helping small coffee farmers operating in Nicaragua's Miraflores Natural Reserve. They propose halting the negative environmental impact of the coffee production

process by converting waste byproducts into other raw materials that can be exported for additional revenue. The other finalist teams are from Beijing Normal University, Delft University of Technology and the University of Naples; Brown University and the University of Michigan; Lund University, the University of British Columbia and Yale University; and the University of Michigan.

The five finalist teams will present their proposal to the public and a panel of international experts at Kendall's Woodbridge N. Ferris Building on May 19 beginning at 10 a.m. The students are competing for a top award of \$15,000, with awards of \$10,000 and \$5,000 going to the second-place and third-place teams. More information about Wege Prize 2017 and the five finalist teams can be found [here](#).

OER Poster Presentation

Today in UC 116 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. you can learn from 14 faculty members who have committed to using 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 – this fall in the classroom. Utilization of OER has potential benefits inside the classroom and can create a significant cost savings for our students. These faculty used OER in the classroom this spring, and their poster presentations will highlight their experiences and explore the opportunities associated with OER. For more information, please contact Kristy Motz at kristymotz@ferris.edu or x3625.

Pancakes with the President

The Student Government is organizing the annual "Pancakes with the President" event at The Rock Café on Monday, May 1, beginning at 10 p.m. This event gives students the opportunity to take a break from studying for exams, mingle with faculty and staff, enjoy a snack and celebrate the end of the semester with their peers. This is an enjoyable time to visit with students as they conclude the academic year. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Terri Cook at x2504 or terricook@ferris.edu.

Athletics

Over the weekend in Midland, our men's tennis defeated Hillsdale 5-1 in the GLIAC semifinal match and Northwood 5-1 in the championship match, which makes for 12 consecutive wins. The team will be heading to the NCAA Midwest Regionals next weekend. This is another extraordinary season for the men's tennis team as they captured both the regular season and conference championships in an undefeated conference season. Congratulations to the student-athletes and Head Coach Danny Hunt on their success.

Women's softball had an exciting weekend with home double-header wins against Walsh and Lake Erie. These victories put the team in 7th place, with the top eight teams heading to the GLIAC tournament at the end of the season. The women conclude the regular season with a doubleheader at Grand Valley on Friday.

In Nashport, Ohio, the men's golf team competed in the GLIAC Championship finishing a strong second behind Grand Valley State. The team now awaits the NCAA Division II Men's Golf selection announcement, which will take place on Friday. Best wishes to the team as they move into the next round of competition.

The men's and women's track and field teams competed in Allendale on Friday and Saturday, posting a pair of NCAA National Qualifying performances and recording two all-time top-five outdoor marks in school history, including setting a new school record in the high jump with a leap of 6-11' 1/2" by Jon Cok. His jump topped the previous school mark set in 2006 by a quarter of an inch. Congratulations to our track and field athletes on this very successful weekend.

David L. Eisler, president