

President's Message to Campus

*Office of the President
December 8, 2017*

End of the Semester

Thank you to everyone who attended our holiday receptions in Grand Rapids and Big Rapids this week. It is not often that faculty, staff, alumni, donors and community friends gather together and take time to relax and visit. It was wonderful to see everyone and share in some holiday cheer.

Next week will be extremely busy for our students as they take final exams and prepare to leave our campuses for the holiday break, or possibly the next phase of their lives as alumni of Ferris State University. Thank you for making an extra effort to help our students.

This Sunday evening the Symphony Band, West Central Concert Band, and West Central Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Scott Cohen and Dale Skornia, will be performing "A Symphonic Santa Sunday" at 4 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. This year's charity drive is in support of The Salvation Army of Big Rapids. Toys and monetary donations for needy families will be collected in the lobby of Williams Auditorium. This is a wonderful concert and a festive way to celebrate the holiday season. Admission is free.

Monday night is Pancakes with the President at the Rock Café from 10 p.m. to midnight. This is always a fun event and a great way to wish our students well on their exams. If you have a few moments, stop by and join in the fun.

Commencement

Next weekend more than 1,000 students will graduate from Ferris. Commencement ceremonies are Saturday, Dec. 16, at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. This important day celebrates the culmination of the hard work and determination of our students and is always a moving experience. We have extraordinary students who accomplish remarkable things. Others overcome challenges that are difficult to imagine and triumph over this adversity. It is my custom to visit with our students, and it is humbling, inspirational, and at times quite emotional to hear their stories.

Without exception every student talks about faculty and staff who have taken a personal interest, made a critical difference and inspired them to be better than they thought possible. Thank you for touching the lives of our students. In doing so you make a difference that lasts far beyond a student's time at Ferris.

When you have the opportunity, please take time to congratulate our graduates, wish them well on their future endeavors and encourage them to stay in touch with us as they move into their careers. As faculty and staff who have played such a large role in the success of these graduates, you are always welcome at commencement. If you would like to attend, please contact us, and we will save you a seat.

Good News

It is a pleasure to include another strong list of accomplishments by the Ferris community. Many good things take place at Ferris – from the scholarly, to the creative, to special acts of community service involving our faculty, staff and students. Thank you for your efforts in making our University a very special place. Please take a few moments to view the [Good News](#) list in its entirety.

- Nate Garrelts edited the collection "Responding to Call of Duty: Critical Essays on the Game Franchise" published by McFarland Publishing.

- In November the monthly Department of Humanities Colloquium Series presented “Student Research in Communication,” featuring Melissa Fairchild’s “Chasing Skirts and Feeling Safe: Aggressively Unpacking Gendered Narrative in the 2016 Trump Presidential Campaign,” mentored by Kristi Scholten; Clare Green’s “Working Through Workplace Differences,” mentored by Stephanie Thomson; and Alyssa Stickney’s “The Unhate Foundation: Teaching a World of Hate How to Love,” also mentored by Stephanie Thomson.
- Sean Williams, Sports Careers RSO president, represented Ferris at the Newman Civic Fellows conference in Boston, sharing his yearlong project to expand the RSO’s relationship with Area 5 Special Olympics by growing Unified intramural sports.
- The Institute of Management Accountants approved the Bachelor of Science Degree in Business-Accounting under IMA’s Higher Education Endorsement Program.
- Amy Buse presented “DegreeWorks Group Think” at the Banner Users Group of Michigan.
- The School of Education received \$959,000 from the King-Chavez Parks Michigan Department of Education program to increase student retention.
- TDMP students Mariah Iltis and Megan Soller, under the direction of Connie Morcom, completed a service learning video promoting partnerships with the Big Rapids Public Schools, the local community and Ferris.
- Amy Kavanaugh is participating in the Mecosta County Reads Program, a community-based literacy initiative raising awareness and making connections to bridge the literacy gap within Mecosta County.
- Students in Construction Technology and Management, and Architecture and Facility Management took first place in the Design-Build division at the Associated Schools of Construction Region 3 Student Competitions. The students were coached by Suzanne Miller, Chris Cospers, Joe Pacella and Mark Dyke. The Commercial division team, coached by Lee Templin, placed second in the competition.
- Kimberly Mcvicar won the 2017 American College of Healthcare Executives Regent’s Faculty Member Award.
- Dental Hygiene celebrates 50 years at Ferris this year.
- Michael Reger published “Association between Urinary Phytoestrogens and C-reactive Protein in the Continuous National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey” in the *Journal of the American College of Nutrition* and his “Dietary intake of isoflavones and coumestrol and the risk of prostate cancer in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial” has been accepted and is in press.
- Sharon Colley published “Equitable Education for Introverts: Providing Learning Opportunities that Prepare Nursing Students to be Leaders” in *Nurse Educator*.
- Fathima Wakeel received an American Cancer Society Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative Grant for \$19,382.
- Michael Bouthillier, along with colleagues from other institutions, partnered to implement an interprofessional collaborative practice education program to improve the health of adult patients with diabetes and to improve practice efficiency.
- Lisa Salvati, David Bright, Margaret de Voest, Lisa Meny, Kali VanLangen, Kari Vavra Janes and Mark Young co-published “Case Study Report: An Approach for the Development and Implementation of an Assessment Tool for Interprofessional Education Learning Activities.”
- Deeb Eid published “Exploring Non-traditional Experiences” in the *Journal of American Pharmacists Association*.

- Lisa Meny, among other faculty from Colleges of Pharmacy across the country, collaborated on a commentary published ahead of print in the American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education titled “Intentional Interprofessional Experiential Education.”
- Renee Koski published “Treatment with Omalizumab or Cyclosporine for Resistant Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria” in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology*.
- Dejah Rubel presented “Picture Perfect: Using Photographic Previews to Enhance Realia Collections for Library Patrons and Staff” at Amigos Library Services’ Innovating with Metadata Conference.
- Amy Dinardo and Chad Rosen published “A Bright View of Soft Multifocal Lens Optics” in the *Contact Lens Spectrum*.
- Jim Miller presented “An Overview of Ethics” and Sarah Hinkley presented “Driving and Vision; Assessment, Education and Action in the Exam Room” to the Consortium in Osteopathic Residencies in Ophthalmology Program at Michigan State University.
- Twenty-four MCO students earned the distinction of “Student Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry” at the annual AAO meeting in Chicago.
- The University Eye Center hosted Students In Need of Eyecare providing eye exams and glasses for 65 children in the Fremont and Hesperia school districts.
- Kristin Conley, Heather Pavletic, Kirk Weller and Lauren Cagner Williams presented “Changing Pedagogical Teaching Approaches to Increase Student Success in English, Reading, and Mathematics” and Monica Frees facilitated a workshop titled “Go to the Library to do Research – WHY? We use Google” at the MDEC Conference.
- FCTL staff are assisting Barry Mehler in the launch of a faculty learning community titled “Shoah Genocide Education.”
- Deedee Stakley, Leah Melichar and Angie Buys presented “Creating a Pipeline for Students from Dual Enrollment to College” at the NACEP Conference.
- Sandy Stoddard was elected treasurer for MiCEP.
- Elizabeth Burbatt and Jason Bentley presented “Beyond Access: Supporting Low-Income Students” as a part of the NODA Extended Orientation Institute.
- Housing and Residence Life hosted “The Haunting of Merrill/Travis” with over 1,000 students and community members in attendance. The program collected over 1,000 non-perishable foods for the Wesley House food pantry.
- Athletics welcomed “The Huge Show,” one of Michigan’s most popular sports talk shows, to the University Center on December 1.
- Kylie Piette joined Marie Yowitz in co-presenting “Optimizing the Learning Environment for Students” through the Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning.
- KCAD hosted the 2017 Michigan National Portfolio Day, offering emerging artists and designers the chance to have their work reviewed and connect with representatives from 29 accredited art and design colleges from around the U.S. and Canada.
- Diane Zeeuw spoke at the American Studies Conference in Seoul, South Korea, and presented her paper “Performing Masculinity: Working Class White Men and the Iconic Photographs of Lewis Hine.”
- Nearly 100 students attended the “You are not your circumstances” workshop hosted by OMSS’ MI GEAR UP.
- OMSS has trained 36 additional Ferris students as College Positive Volunteers, bringing the current total to 266 Ferris students trained as CPVs to assist with campus visits, various recruitment and retention initiatives, and panel discussions.
- The Office of Admissions has hosted 56 Group Visits this semester.

- The Student Leadership and Activities Advisory Council approved the reactivation of the Human Powered Vehicle Team and Table Tennis Club.
- The Northern Rural Expansion Clinic, stemming from the VA hospital in Battle Creek, began offering health and wellness services on campus to Ferris veterans and active duty military students.
- More than \$3.98 million in new gift commitments have been made through the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge, creating more than \$7.9 million in new endowed funds supporting Ferris students.
- The Student Foundation hosted their first Donors and Donuts panel discussion as an educational follow-up to the Now & Always campaign announcement. Bob Friar, Jackie Hughes, Dale Hobart, Mary Kay MacIver, Andrew Kalinowski, Leah Melichar and Larry Bajor spoke on their love for Ferris and why they support students.
- The Student Alumni Gold Club conducted the 17th annual Rake and Run community service event, utilizing the coordinated efforts of nearly 300 volunteers to remove leaves and yard debris from more than 180 homes.
- The Web Content team has installed “OU Insights,” an add-on module to the OmniUpdate content management system for the ferris.edu website. OU Insights scans the Ferris website continuously and provides information about where and how to fix errors related to the electronic communication requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Athletics

Our football and volleyball seasons ended last weekend. The football team finished the season with an 11-2 overall record and made their fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Division II Playoffs, reaching the national quarterfinal round for the second-straight year. Our volleyball team finished the season with a 24-8 overall record, are the first team in conference history to win both the GLIAC Regular Season Championship and Post Season Tournament for four years in a row, and reached the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Semifinals. Congratulations to our student-athletes, Coach Annese, Coach Brandel-Wilhelm and their staff for a wonderful fall season. After the holidays, we look forward to watching the continued success of the men’s and women’s basketball team, and the hockey team.

Holiday Wishes

The University will close for the holidays at the end of the workday on Thursday, Dec. 21, and will reopen on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2018. During this time, it is my sincere hope you are able to spend time with family and friends, rest and relax, and do things in which you find meaning, joy and happiness. I am truly grateful for you, and thank you for all of your hard work throughout 2017. I look forward to seeing and working with you as we begin a new year in 2018.

David L. Eisler, president