

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 20, 2017

Career Week

This week we welcome more than 200 employers to campus as the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services (CLACS) hosts Career Week. Between now and February 28th this offers our students and alumni the opportunity to hone their interviewing skills, meet with employers and attend informational workshops.

In addition to three days of career and internship fairs, speakers will be discussing how to succeed in seeking a position and the importance of using social media in positive ways. On Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Science 102, Angela M. Buys and Jody Gardei will present "What Employers Wish You Were Taught in College: Transforming College Habits into Career Traits Employers Desire."

On Thursday, we are pleased to welcome back to campus Luke Wycoff, a 1993 graduate of the College of Business and founder of Social Media Energy, a Colorado-based strategic content management firm. He will be presenting, "How Social Media CAN Get You the Job," at 6 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. His talk is intended to challenge students to think about how social media platforms can be used as an opportunity to showcase themselves to employers in a positive light.

Friday the CLACS will sponsor a seminar entitled, "Nothing For Me Here?!", at 10 a.m. in BUS 111. This will explain how the Career and Internship Fair is for all students no matter their major and present recruitment trends within a variety of industries. Please encourage the students you meet with to attend these very worthwhile events.

Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, the Office of Multicultural Student Services will host "Student Tribute: From Struggle to Progress," at 7 p.m. on Wednesday in the University Center Rankin Lounge. Students will pay homage to trailblazers from the 1960s to the present day. This event is free and open to everyone on campus and in the community. More information is available [here](#).

Additionally, in honor of Black History Month, the Black Student Union will be accepting books of all genres and age groups to promote the importance of literacy. These books will be donated to various locations within the Big Rapids community.

Annual Fulbright Lecture

Ferris faculty have a wonderful tradition of participation in the Fulbright Scholar program. Since the early 1980s they have lectured and done research in Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Mongolia, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Russia, Romania, the Sudan, Syria and Tunisia. Ferris Fulbright Scholars are recognized in a display in the IRC and [online](#).

Additionally, they sponsor the Robert C. Ferguson Annual Fulbright Lecture. This year's guest is Adrian Ronda-Sampaya from Valencia, Spain. His presentation, "Old Meets New: Spain's Symphonic Tradition Embraces a New World of Video Game Music," is scheduled for Thursday at 4:30 p.m. in the University Center Founders Room, UCB 203. He will also conduct on Sunday's FSU Bands and Orchestra Concert.

Festival of the Arts

Sunday's Grand Rapids Symphony orchestra concert filled the Big Rapids High School Auditorium for an exceptional concert with conductor John Varineau and marimba soloist David Hall. This is the last full week of Festival of the Arts activities, bringing to a close an extraordinary month in Big Rapids celebrating the arts and our partnership with the Big Rapids community. Here are a few of the events happening this week:

- *Gourmet Cooking with Connie Freiberg* – Monday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m. at Blue Cow Café
- *Beginning Quilting Workshop* – Tuesday, Feb. 21, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Old Jail
- *FSU Media Communications Association Student Showcase* – Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m. at the IRC Building, Room 120
- *Creative Writing Tasting Event: A Sampling of Poetry and Prose* – Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m. at the IRC Building Atrium
- *Theatre Organ Concert presented by Joel Gary* – Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church
- *FSU Arts and Lectures presents The Boychoir of Ann Arbor* – Friday, Feb. 24, 7 p.m. at Williams Auditorium
- *Swing Dance Night with the Flat River Big Band* – Saturday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center
- *FSU Bands & Orchestra/Closing Reception* – Sunday, Feb. 26, 4 p.m. at Williams Auditorium

To view the entire schedule for the week visit www.brfota.org. Thank you to everyone who made this 10th annual Festival of the Arts such a success. We are very proud to be a part of this month long celebration that brings our community and University together.

Staff Listening Sessions

Thank you to the many people who have taken time to attend my listening sessions with staff. We have held nine sessions so far, and I have learned much from them. A total of 31 sessions are scheduled over the next few weeks. If you are undecided about attending, please do so – your thoughts on what you cherish about our University and what you see as the challenges that lie before us as an institution of higher learning are very valuable. If the day and time suggested does not work for you please call Terri Cook at x2504, and she will arrange a more convenient day and time for you. Thank you very much for sharing your perceptions and observations with me, it is very helpful.

Athletics

This was a big and well-attended weekend for Ferris sports. On Saturday afternoon over 1300 people watched the men's basketball team win 81-76 over Michigan Tech. Congratulations to Head Coach Andy Bronkema and our team as they clinched the GLIAC regular season championship and secured the number one seed for conference tournament play. After Saturday's win, the team cut down the Wink Arena nets following the program's first regular-season championship since 2012. The men will host Grand Valley in the regular-season finale this Thursday at 8 p.m.

The men's ice hockey team had a sellout crowd of nearly 2490 people Saturday evening for their 3-0 victory over Alaska Anchorage. Coupled with their 2-1 victory Friday, they moved into a tie for 4th place in the WCHA. The top four teams in the conference host first round tournament series, placing added emphasis on the team's final weekend games at Lake State.

Thank you to all the fans who wore red for Heart Health Awareness and supported our sports teams so strongly this weekend.

The WCHA announced on Friday that senior forward Chad McDonald is one of 10 national finalists in the running for the Senior CLASS Award® in collegiate hockey. An acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School®, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their athletic platforms to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. Voting is now taking place daily through March 28 at the Senior CLASS Award [website](#). Fan votes will be combined with those of the media and Division I head coaches to determine the winners. The Senior CLASS Award recipients will be announced during the 2017 NCAA Men's Frozen Four.

David L. Eisler, president