

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
January 30, 2017

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## Festival of the Arts

The Festival of the Arts kicked off the start of its month-long arts celebration over the weekend. There are multiple events and activities happening in Big Rapids and on our campus throughout the entire month of February. Here are a few events scheduled for this week:

- *The Subarctic Environment and Photography of Michigan's Isle Royale presented by Marilyn Kiegley* – Monday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. at the Granger Center Room 120
- *Winter Wonderland Floral Arrangement Workshop* – Tuesday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m. at Forget Me Not Floral & Design
- *FSU Honors Program Art Show* – Thursday, Feb. 2, 5-7 p.m. at Pickell Hall
- *Brown Bag Lunch Series Featuring Dr. Richard Scott Cohen: Community Bands in Valencia, Spain* – Friday, Feb. 3, 12 p.m., Artworks
- *Big Rapids High School Theatrical Arts Winter One Acts* – Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m. at BRHS Auditorium
- *Bunyan and Banjos with Kitty Donohoe* – Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m. at Artworks
- *Beginning Basket Weaving* – Saturday, Feb. 4, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Artworks
- *Capital City Ringers* – Sunday, Feb. 5, 4 p.m. at United Church of Big Rapids

The Festival of the Arts presents a wonderful opportunity to experience arts that are both familiar and unfamiliar. The complete schedule of events is available [here](#).

## Good News

Our University's success results from the good works of many people throughout the organization. These are but a small sampling of many great things happening at our University. Please take a moment and congratulate a colleague or student on the work he or she is doing. The entire Good News list can be viewed [here](#).

- Scott Herron collaborated on Heritage Seeds for Sustainable Lifeways, a grant proposal funded by the University of Michigan Graham Sustainability Institute to enable the sharing of heritage seeds and associated archival information.
- Deirdre Fagan had a poem, "And then you can't breathe," accepted for publication in the winter issue of *Corvus Review*.
- Kristi Haik co-authored an article, "A Team-based Approach to Development," published in *The Department Chair*.
- A team of Information Security and Intelligence students organized by Gerald Emerick placed in the top 10% of the Fall National Cyberleague competition. Approximately 150 teams competed in the event. The competition focused on objectives from the Security+ and Certified Ethical Hacker exams.
- Patrick Klarecki presented two courses to 60 Chinese students at the Shanghai Publishing and Printing College.
- Jim Furstenberg became a Certified Network Defender and Gerald Emerick is the first educator in the nation to earn recognition as a Certified Security Analyst.

- Racheal McDonald, Hospitality Management senior, was one of two students from across the country to receive the Professional Convention Management Association's Chairmen's Scholarship.
- Steven Hundersmarck, Mike Vasicek and Greg Vanderkooi published an article, "Police Use of Force: Transitioning Policy into Practice," in *Police Forum*.
- Brooke-Lynn Ferris, a School of Education student, was awarded a Disney College Scholarship for this semester at Walt Disney World in Orlando.
- The College of Engineering Technology facilitated numerous Technology Engineering Aptitude events geared toward middle school students and their parents. Nearly 200 participants engaged in the events to learn more about careers in engineering.
- Gail Bullard passed the Six Sigma Lean Black Belt in Healthcare certification exam.
- Anuli Njoku co-presented a workshop, "Context vs. Content: Understanding the Root Causes of Social Justice Issues," at the Intersect Diversity & Leadership Conference.
- Stephen Halko's charcoal drawing, "Impact," was featured in Dream or Nightmare, a national juried exhibition at Michigan State University's Metrospace gallery.
- Ken Krayer gave a lecture at the Grand Rapids Art Museum titled, "Dutch Design: Culture in Context," as part of the Iris van Herpen lecture series, held in conjunction with the *Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion* exhibition.
- Mariel Versluis was invited to participate in the University of Wyoming's Inky Paper Residency Program, where she completed three new pieces of work, gave an artist talk and held a solo exhibition titled *If*.
- Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts was awarded gifts and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Dick and Betsy DeVos Family Foundation, and ITC to support its 2017 slate of exhibitions and programs focused on artist and audience equity, including *US IS THEM: Art from the Pizzuti Collection* and *Here + Now*.
- UICA welcomed over 6,400 visitors to the season's *Coming Home* exhibitions, which featured five solo exhibitions including the work of Diane Zeeuw and Bob Marsh.
- Jennifer Lamberts' proposal to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, "Neuronal Injury and Parkinson's Disease: Role of Purinergic Signaling," for the 2016-2017 AACP New Investigator Award was peer-reviewed and approved for funding.
- Susan Devuyst-Miller, along with fourth-year students Farah Jalloul and Ryan Stankey, authored a book entitled, "Prescription Opioid Overdose and Naloxone Education."
- Ferris' online bachelor's degree programs rank among the nation's top 100 and fourth best in the state, according to U.S. News and World Report's Top Online Education ranking. Nationally, Ferris ranked 76<sup>th</sup> of more than 300 schools considered.
- Gheretta Harris received the National Auxiliary Association Central Regional Mentor Award.
- Jerry Scoby received the 2016 Volunteer of the Year Award from the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Derek Ameel was named Professional Tennis Registry's "Member of the Year for the State of Michigan."
- Two-time Harlon Hill Trophy winner Jason VanderLaan was honored with the 2017 NCAA Today's Top 10 Award. Jason is the first-ever Ferris student to receive this award.
- Athletics concluded the fall season with an overall GPA of 3.17 for the Bulldogs' 17 varsity athletic programs. This includes more than 400 student-athletes.
- The women's soccer team earned a "Silver" designation for the second year in a row for the National Soccer Coaches Association of American Team Ethics and Sportsmanship Award. The Bulldogs were one of only three GLIAC programs to receive the award.

- Athletics concluded the fall season as one of the top 30 schools in the country in the Learfield Sports Directors Cup standings for all-around excellence.
- Governmental Relations and General Counsel hosted 92 students and parents from the Grand Rapids Griffins Youth Foundation on campus.
- The early FAFSA was implemented with the 2017-2018 award year (filing began in Oct. 2016) and financial aid has already been awarded to more than 2,900 new freshmen.
- During the 2015-16 academic year, the Office of Multicultural Student Services' Michigan GEAR UP provided intense SAT boot camp sessions for Baldwin High School juniors and seniors.
- Ferris was selected by The JED Foundation to participate in JED Campus, a multi-year partnership that promotes the emotional wellbeing and mental health of our students.
- Climbers at the Student Recreation Center climbing wall have climbed 77,584' or 14.69 miles, equivalent to climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro (19,341') to the peak and back twice.
- Since July, the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge received 111 gifts and pledges to new and existing endowments, with more than \$2.2 million of new gift commitments from Ferris State University benefactors.
- The Ferris Foundation is pleased to announce that Aly Raisman will be the featured speaker at the 2017 Foundation for Excellence Benefit. Aly was a member and captain of both the 2012 "Fierce Five" and 2016 "Final Five" U.S. Women's Olympic gymnastics teams and the most decorated American gymnast at the 2012 games.

### **United Way**

Our University community raised \$60,282 for the Mecosta-Osceola United Way. From the chili cook-off, silent auctions, soup and potato bars, and bake sales, in addition to the fundraising drives put forth by our students, these efforts pushed us over the top for our goal of \$60,000. This was truly a campus-wide effort and will make an important difference in the lives of many in our community. Thank you to the co-chairs of this year's campaign, Linda Telfer and Jeanine Ward-Roof, for their hard work and dedication to the United Way campaign. And thank you to everyone who donated their time, talents and resources to help us surpass our goal.

### **Athletics**

On Saturday our men's basketball team claimed their 12<sup>th</sup> straight victory while on the road with a very exciting 77-76 win against Michigan Tech. Saturday's win gave the team its third road sweep of all three Upper Peninsula universities in the past decade as the Bulldogs previously beat both Lake Superior State and Northern Michigan this year. The men are currently 17-3 overall and lead the GLIAC with a record of 11-2. Tonight they face Grand Valley State in Allendale. Thursday evening they will be playing at home against Northwood. Congratulations to Head Coach Andy Bronkema and his student-athletes on their success both on and off the court.

David L. Eisler, president