

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
May 1, 2017

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This week we celebrate the culmination of the academic year. As we reflect on the accomplishments of our graduating students, it becomes clear just how many lives have been touched and changed. Our graduates have experienced much personal growth and educational achievement that are made possible by your teaching and guidance, and the combined efforts of everyone who works at our University. When talking to our graduating seniors over the last few weeks, it is evident just how much of an impact our faculty and staff have on students. On behalf of our graduates, thank you for a great year and for helping to make Ferris State University a welcoming university for all students.

## Commencement

Commencement ceremonies will take place this Friday and Saturday in Big Rapids and Saturday in Grand Rapids. The full commencement schedule is as follows:

### Friday, May 5

3:30 p.m. – College of Health Professions

7 p.m. – College of Arts and Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Doctorate in Community College Leadership

### Saturday, May 6

9 a.m. – College of Engineering Technology

10:30 a.m. – Kendall College of Art and Design (at Fountain Street Church, Grand Rapids)

12:30 p.m. – College of Business

4 p.m. – Michigan College of Optometry, College of Education and Human Services

In addition to recognizing our graduates, we will also award honorary doctorates to three extraordinary individuals.

- Mary Garvelink (EHS '72) is a trailblazing female leader in the HVACR industry, and president and CEO of Commercial Design Engineering, which she began in 1975. She is an emeritus member of The Ferris Foundation Board of Directors.
- Jeff Rowe (P '79) helped build Diplomat Specialty Pharmacy into one of the leading firms in this industry. He chairs Pharmacy Forward, the most successful fundraising effort in our University's history. He also received the University's Distinguished Alumni Award in 2016.
- Mickey Shapiro is a highly successful financier and real estate developer. He began his college career at Ferris and today supports a number of students on our campus. Through his generosity the Shoah Visual History Archive will be available at Ferris for perpetuity.

For our graduates, their families and friends, commencement is a very special time, one that will be remembered forever. Thank you in advance for making this day special and unforgettable for them. If you know a graduating student, please congratulate him or her on this achievement.

## Ferris Foundation

The Ferris Foundation Board held their spring meeting on campus Saturday. Among many items, they recommended Professors Susan Jones and Ken Kuk, along with alumnus Luke Wyckoff (B '93), as new members of their Board. Saturday evening they hosted the annual Societies of Distinction dinner honoring donors to the University. Alumni Adel Makki (P '05) and

Kurt Hofman (ET '83) shared their personal story of supporting Ferris students with the audience.

During the evening we celebrated donors to the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge. Since July this campaign has received 139 gifts and pledges, and established 60 new scholarship endowments. With the match, \$5.1 million in scholarship endowments have been raised. The Society's "Pass the Torch" Award honors significant long-term contributions to Ferris philanthropy. Professor Emeritus Robert Friar, last year's recipient, presented this year's award to Jean Elder, who received an Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from the University in 1987. This was the largest Societies of Distinction dinner in memory, with nearly 200 in attendance.

### **Kendall Excellence Award Winners and Annual Student Exhibition**

Beginning May 2, Kendall College of Art and Design will transform its campus into one expansive gallery for the 2017 Annual Student Exhibition. Each program will have a unique section of the campus to display their best work from the 2016-2017 academic year. An exhibition in The Fed Galleries @ KCAD will feature work from the 2017 Excellence Award winners and the Masters Thesis Exhibition. Everyone is invited to view the remarkable work of Kendall students.

### **Good News**

April's Good News from across the University includes 13 pages of noteworthy accomplishments and achievements by our faculty, staff and students. There are many publications and conference presentations among this month's materials. It is wonderful to see your expertise represented across the country. Congratulations and many thanks for sharing this information. I am very proud of your efforts and celebrate them with you. Below is a small sampling of your good works. The full Good News listing can be viewed [here](#).

- Danette Crozier, Chris Smith and Elizabeth Post presented "Innovative Teaching for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Boomers, Gen X's and Millennials, OH MY" and Rita Walters presented "Using the Ubuntu Philosophy to Create a Safe Environment for Teaching Diversity in the Classroom Setting" at the Michigan Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Educators Conference.
- Joanie Hazelton and Carrie Thompson presented "Youth at Risk: Creating an Open Dialogue" at the Human Trafficking Awareness Conference held in Big Rapids.
- Kemi Fadayomi was accepted to the PKAL STEM Summer Leadership Institute, designed for faculty engaged in projects aimed at undergraduate STEM education.
- The College of Business American Marketing Association received several accolades at the International AMA Conference, including recognition as one of the top 25 chapters.
- Greg Gogolin and Erin Gogolin's (B '14) research article, "The Use of Embedded Mobile, RFID, Location Based Services, and Augmented Reality in Mobile Applications," was accepted in the International Journal of Handheld Computing Research.
- Tim Eklin presented his paper "The Charismatic Leadership: An Instrumental Case Study of Captain Bobby Hughes," Cecil Queen presented his paper "Effectiveness of Problem-Based Learning Strategies Within Police Training Academies and Correlates with Licensing Exam Outcomes" and Nancy Hogan presented "It Is Worse Than We Thought: Looking at Correctional Officer Stress" at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences annual meeting.
- Nancy Hogan published "Exploring the Association between Different Types of Social Support with Role Stress, Work-family Conflict, and Turnover Intent among Private Prison Staff" in the Journal of Applied Security Research.

- Ferris Law Enforcement Academy recruits during the past 5 years have a 95% job placement rate into law enforcement.
- Connie Morcom received an award for her partnership with the Meijer Great Choices Student Film Festival.
- Three Television and Digital Media student-produced films in the PBS Online Film Festival advanced to the national semi-final round.
- Julia Tisdale received the Breaking Traditions Award from the Michigan Office of Career and Technical Education, which recognizes outstanding nontraditional students.
- Lee Templin received the Associated Schools of Construction Excellence in Teaching Award at the 53rd ASC National International Conference.
- Also at the ASC Conference, Sigma Lambda Chi (International Construction Honor Society) received the Outstanding Chapter Award and Gold Award. Dan Pratt and John Schmidt are chapter advisors.
- At the Skills USA State Leadership and Skills Competition, three students earned gold medals and will compete at the National Competition: Tyler Simonte – Technical Drafting, Michael Cain – HVACR, and William (Grady) Cebelak – Diesel Equipment Technology. In addition, students on the Automated Manufacturing team, Trevor Purdy, Andrew Ketchum and Elijah Buist, also advanced to the National Competition.
- Gary Maixner, Dave Scott and Mari Kermit-Canfield presented a poster "Throw your patrons a bone: Moving beyond therapy dogs with a menu of alternative relaxation programming" at the Association for College and Research Libraries conference in Baltimore.
- Kriss Tessin and Dejah Rubel presented "Create a List via Batch Searching in Sierra 2.3.0" at the Innovative Users Group 2017 in Maryland.
- The Fed Galleries collaborated with DisArt to host a gallery talk and class visits by artist and disability advocate Riva Lehrer, and the closing reception for the exhibitions The Shape of Self, Sentimental Ornamentation and Left Behind during Art.Downtown.2017.
- Interior Design students Kelsey Ballast Pasma and Ashley Newtown won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the International Interior Design Association, Michigan Chapter, Dr. Virginia North Student Competition.
- Furniture Design student Kate Hyman was awarded the Celia Moh Scholarship from the Celia Moh Scholarship Foundation.
- Drawing student Angela Two Stars was selected by the city of Minneapolis for a public art project celebrating the history and culture of the Dakota Native American people.
- Susanna Kelly Engbers and Angela Dow gave a presentation titled "Narrative Theory: A Bridge Between Two Departmental Islands" at the College English Association Annual Conference in South Carolina.
- The Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts annual fundraiser, Live Coverage, welcomed more than 300 guests and featured over 30 artists creating work live to be sold that evening.
- Jamie Brady began his second decade as author/proctor of the licensing examinations for Opticians, Technicians and Qualifying Technicians for New Jersey.
- Anthony Swanholm, Stephanie Ramdass and Craig Norman presented their poster "Clinical Impact of Day-One Removal of Orthokeratology Contact Lenses" at the Vision by Design Meeting in Texas and received the Best Poster award.
- Stephanie Ramdass's article "Color Customizations in Tinted Soft Contact Lenses" was published in the April issue of Contact Lens Spectrum.
- Craig Norman presented the lectures "What's New, What's Different in Contact Lenses" and "Techniques for the Management of Myopia" at the Ontario Association of Optometrists.

- Alison Jenerou's article on her work with the FSU Hockey Team was April's AOA Focus magazine's cover story "The Competitive Edge."
- David Damari received the President's Award at the College of Optometrists in Vision Development annual meeting.
- The MCO's local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists co-sponsored an eye care mission trip to Haiti and included 8 volunteers led by Ann Hemmeke. Students Ben Lawless, Rami El-Bkaily and Ann Hemmeke provided the majority of the eye care services and performed approximately 350 eye exams.
- Phil Walling and Joe Pole's article "Condensing Lenses: Sharpen Your Skills in Choosing and Using" was featured in the March edition of Review of Optometry.
- Angie Buys and Leah Melichar presented a workshop, "College Credit Opportunities for All Students," and Deedee Stakley co-presented a workshop, "Considering Student Transfer – A Look at How Public Policy and Institutional Practices Prioritize Transfer Student Attainment," at the Michigan College Access Network annual conference.
- Kristin Conley, Monica Frees, Dave McCall and Deedee Stakley presented at the Teaching Academic Survival Skills Annual Conference on "Written Reflection: A Tool to Help Students Take Control of Their Learning."
- Kimberly Smith presented "Customize Your TutorTrac" at the Redrock TutorTrac Conference in Arizona.
- The Academic Support Center and Structured Learning Assistance received the 2017 Idahlynn Karre Exemplary Leadership Award.
- Vel Pavlov presented on the topic of building a cyber-incident response program at the Information Systems Audit and Control Association.
- The HR staff has implemented a new virtual benefit tool, ALEX, to assist employees in understanding benefit choices and their May 2017 open enrollment decisions.
- Track and field student-athlete Jon Cok was chosen as a GLIAC Commissioner's Award honoree for his athletic and academic accomplishments.
- Football student-athletes Torrey Appel, Corey Arnouts, Bryan Bell, Chad Burnside and Hunter Thompson were chosen to the National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society for their success on the field and in the classroom.
- Freshman goaltender Justin Kapelmaster has been named the nation's top rookie goaltender by College Hockey News. This is the second-straight year a Bulldog earned the top freshman goaltender award as Darren Smith earned the same honor a year ago.
- Dining Services is collaborating with Katke Golf Course and will be operating the Founders Grille in the Pro Shop this season.
- Housing room sign-ups are at 100 more than this time last year.
- Governmental Relations & General Counsel hosted the annual Lansing Legislative Luncheon and spotlighted Ferris' concurrent enrollment opportunities with Rockford Public Schools, the Woodbridge Promise program with Charlotte Public Schools and the importance of TIP funding.
- A Soft Skills eTraining program was piloted University wide this year. 363 students participated with 106 completing all 14 sections, surveys and a behavioral based interview. Topics include the following workplace competencies: humility, communication, conflict, ethical character, personal judgement, problem solving, time management, diversity and inclusion, self-confidence, teamwork, positive attitude, initiative, flexibility and work ethics.
- This year during Greek Week the Greek community partnered with the Red Cross student chapter to host a blood drive where a total of 171 individuals gave blood.

- The UAM Web Content team recently produced and published four websites featuring the new habitat exhibits at the refurbished Card Wildlife Education Center.
- The UAM News Services and Social Media Team, in collaboration with the Pride Committee, hosted the fourth annual Ferris Pride Spring Break Photo Contest. Students, while on spring break, submitted a variety of entries from across the U.S., as well as international locations such as Canada, Cuba, Guyana and Mexico. Many students shared images from important mission work to help people in need. Contest photos, posted to Facebook, had a total reach of more than 367,000 unique visitors.

### **Blackboard Outage**

Faculty are reminded that Blackboard services will be migrated to the Cloud using Amazon Web Services hosted by Blackboard for summer semester. In order for data to be migrated to this new environment, a Blackboard outage will occur from Monday, May 8 at 10 p.m. until May 15. More information is available [here](#).

### **Fraud Watch Presentation**

The Emeriti Association is sponsoring the AARP Fraud Watch Network for a presentation entitled "Identifying and Preventing Scams and Identity Theft in Your Life and Community" on Wednesday, May 10, at 1:30 p.m. in the University Center Room 202B. A representative from AARP will provide an in-depth discussion on how to spot scams and fraudulent activity before you or a loved one become a victim of this growing problem. This presentation is free and everyone is welcome.

### **Athletics**

A number of our spring athletic teams are actively engaged in post-season competition. Our women's softball team has secured a place in the post-season GLIAC Tournament that will take place this weekend in Findlay, Ohio. Congratulations to Head Coach Adam Kirkpatrick and the entire team for their hard work and determination. Best wishes to the team as they enter into tournament play.

For the 15th consecutive year, the men's golf team received a NCAA Tournament bid and will take part in the Midwest/Central Super Regional May 8-10 at the Awarii Dunes Golf Course in Axtell, Neb. This 15-year NCAA Championship appearance streak in men's golf ranks as one of the longest active stretches in the country. Congratulations and best wishes to the team and Coach Kyle Wittenbach as they enter into championship play. Congratulations also to senior Ben Cook who was chosen as the GLIAC Player of the Year. This is the second time in his collegiate career that he has received this award.

The men's tennis team claimed the NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Championship for the second consecutive year and moved forward to the Division II Sweet Sixteen by beating Grand Valley 5-1 on Sunday. The team advances to the round of 16 in the NCAA Tournament for the 11th time in school history, including the second year in a row. Along with capturing the regional title, they also won the GLIAC Regular-Season Championship for the third-straight campaign this year and won the league's postseason tournament for the second year in a row. The team has won its last 13 outings in a row to date this year. The team will next face Chowan University on May 9 at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Fla. Congratulations to Coach Danny Hunt and our tennis student-athletes along with best wishes for success at the national tournament.

It was also a big weekend for the men's and women's outdoor track and field teams. The Hillsdale "Gina" Relays attracts top competition from all levels from across the country. Racheal McDonald and Kathryn Etelamaki surpassed the NCAA Division II national provisional qualification time in the women's 5,000 meter open run. Trevor Holowaty set a new school record and reached a national provisional qualifying time in the men's 5,000 meters. Gunnar

Meyer earned runner-up honors in the javelin and Logan Hammer ran a personal-best in the men's 1,500 meters at Hillsdale.

Additionally, Ferris track and field athletes competed at the Calvin College Tune-Up. Sarah Utchel won the women's 100 meters while setting a new personal best. Hannah Price ran a personal-best in the 100-meter hurdles. For the men, Casey Neal won the 1,500 meters. Cody Stillwell placed second in the hammer throw as did Hayden Francisco in the javelin. Next for these athletes is the GLIAC Outdoor Championships May 5-7 in Allendale.

Head men's basketball coach Andy Bronkema has been named the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, State College Coach of the Year. The honor is given annually to the most deserving four-year coach among Michigan collegiate institutions. He had previously been selected GLIAC and NCAA Division II Midwest Region Coach of the Year. Congratulations to Coach Bronkema on these special and significant honors.

David L. Eisler, president