

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
May 22, 2017

With summer semester underway, construction crews are very busy on the Big Rapids campus. North Hall construction is moving rapidly forward, and in doing so, creating a new visual dynamic to our campus. Significant amounts of brick and stone are already installed, along with windows and drywall. This new residence hall is designed to encourage living-learning experiences and will be open in August for incoming freshmen. As expected, this has become a very popular option for new students as they sign-up for housing.

It is now possible to see both the form and size of the Swan Annex expansion, which will house Centers for Welding Excellence and Advanced Manufacturing. Most of the structural steel is in place, and the walls and brick are going up quickly. This project is on schedule to be completed for fall 2018 classes.

The finishing touches are underway on the athletic fields east of The Rock. This has created a wonderful green space on the southeastern corner of campus. I am especially pleased that we have created first-class playing fields for our women's soccer team.

This construction activity at the north and south ends of campus, along with additional parking lot, street repairs and closures, does create temporary inconveniences. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to improve our campus and facilities. We greatly look forward to these improvements and the excitement they bring to our campus.

Summer Housing and Enrollment

The first summer semester 4th day enrollment count was completed last Thursday, and enrollment is slightly down. University-wide summer headcount is 5,622, a decrease of 70 students (1.2%), and Big Rapids is down four students (0.1%). University-wide student credit hours (SCH) are down 664 (2.0%), and Big Rapids is down 233 SCH (1.4%). Online SCH are down 476 (3.9%) and Kendall College of Art and Design is down 225 SCH (16.4%). On a positive note, regional campus SCH are up 270 (6.9%).

Last year University-wide summer enrollment declined by 4.8%, so there is optimism that we are making upward progress. Additional information is available from the 4th day report, which is posted [here](#). Because there are a number of summer terms and registration continues, summer enrollment is not finalized at this time.

Housing and Residence Life worked proactively to promote free summer housing in residence halls for students. Preliminary numbers report 326 students living in the residence halls, up 16 students (5.2%) from last summer. I want to thank everyone who has helped encourage students to study this summer. It is a cost-effective way to reduce time to degree and student debt.

Wege Prize 2017 Awards

On Friday five finalist teams presented their creative solutions and competed for \$30,000 in cash prizes at Kendall College of Art and Design's Wege Prize Awards. Student teams were asked to respond to the challenge of developing a circular economy - zero-waste businesses, products or services around the globe.

Congratulations to KCAD undergraduate students Enrique Andrade, Taylor Axdorf and Ian Culver, and Autonomous University of Nicaragua Faculty of Science and Engineering undergraduate students José Sanabria Vindel and Alex Santiago Ramírez Cárdenas, whose team earned 2nd place and a \$10,000 cash prize. The team's solution focused on helping small

coffee farmers operating in Nicaragua's Miraflor Natural Reserve. They proposed 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 team performed extensive localized research, and students from KCAD travelled to Nicaragua on several occasions to interview key stakeholders.

More information about the Wege Prize and the award winners can be found [here](#).

Mid-Michigan Honor Flight

The Mid-Michigan Honor Flight is part of a national network committed to thanking veterans for their service. The current focus is on World War II veterans, flying them to Washington, D.C., to visit war memorials and monuments built in their honor. Veterans taking part in Tuesday's Mid-Michigan Honor Flight will be arriving at the University's East Campus Apartments between 2 and 4 p.m. today. If your schedule allows, please take a few moments to greet our guests on their arrival and give them a warm Ferris welcome.

Our guests will be joining us for dinner this evening, staying on campus overnight and flying out of Gerald R. Ford International Airport early Tuesday morning. Should you live in the Grand Rapids area and would like to help give them a big sendoff, plan to arrive at the airport before 7:30 a.m. For more information on this event, contact Jacob Schrot via [email](#) or ext. 2022.

Global Events on Campus

There are two significant global events on the Big Rapids campus this week. Tuesday the Office of International Education is hosting the final program in this year's BEYOND: Globalization series. Minds Aflame, a TEDx inspired event, features eight guest speakers who will share insights on reframing challenges into global opportunities, enhancing the engagement of students, faculty and staff. If your schedule allows, please join us for this worthwhile event in the University Center 202 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Minds Aflame is open to all faculty, staff, students and local community members. Additional information is available [here](#).

Wednesday through Friday educators from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain will be on the Big Rapids campus or presenting virtually on business curricula across the globe. Participants will explore the formation of Banyan, an international consortium of business schools interested in globalizing business education through collaboration among partner universities. Thank you to the College of Business and the Center for Global Studies and Engagement, Rhein Waal University of Applied Sciences, Germany, and Saxion University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands, for bringing this symposium to campus. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore and develop international partnerships.

Our mission statement concludes with these words, "...Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society." It is a pleasure to see both of these events hosted on our campus, and I encourage you to participate in these opportunities.

Candice Dunn Memorial Scholarship Endowment

The University community was saddened to learn of the death of Criminal Justice alumna Candice Dunn (EHS' 03). Ms. Dunn was traveling home from an employee appreciation banquet after being honored as the Michigan Department of Corrections Parole/Probation Agent of the Year when she was killed in a tragic car accident. She worked for MDOC for the last 12 years, most recently with the Oakland County Probation Office in Pontiac.

To honor her life and memory, friends and family established the Candice Dunn Memorial Scholarship Endowment to aid Criminal Justice students attending our University. Donations to this endowment will be matched through the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge and can be made online [here](#).

Athletics

The men's golf team will be competing this week in the NCAA Division II National Championships at the Reunion Resort in Kissimmee, Fla. They advanced to the national championship by earning runner-up honors at the Midwest/Central Super Regional. The team did this through a record-breaking final round at the Awarii Dunes Golf Course in Axtell, Neb. The men shot an 18-under par 270 score in the regional tournament's final round, moving up six spots.

This final round broke the course record as all five Ferris State golfers shot under par over the final 18 holes. Senior Ben Cook had an eight-under round of 64, which included a hole-in-one on the par three, fifth hole. The men's 270 final round score broke the previous school record of 274 set at our Katke Golf Course in 2001. The team tournament total of 836 (-28) for 54 holes also broke the previous school record of 870 recorded in 2005 at the BYU Cougar Classic in Provo, Utah.

The men will be making their 15th all-time national championship appearance and first since 2010. With 20 teams competing in the national championships, our men represent the only qualifier from the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Congratulations and best wishes to all these student-athletes and Head Coach Kyle Wittenbach on an outstanding season as they compete in the national championships.

David L. Eisler, president