

President's Message to Campus

*Office of the President
October 6, 2017*

Monday morning we woke to the horrific news of the mass shooting that took place in Las Vegas Sunday evening. Hundreds of lives are now forever changed, and the city will never be the same. As we followed news throughout the week, a few things really affected me – the unimaginable horror of suddenly being under attack, the reports of concertgoers, total strangers, who became helpers and heroes, shielding others and protecting them from harm, ultimately saving lives – and then watching local law enforcement knowingly and willingly putting themselves in harm's way to protect and serve. This display of bravery, and of human spirit, was something so incredibly moving, it is truly difficult to put into words. Please keep the city of Las Vegas and all of the men, women and children affected by this senseless tragedy in your thoughts and prayers.

While much attention is on Las Vegas, the people of Puerto Rico are still trying to piece their lives back together after Hurricanes Irma and most recently, Maria, which left a wake of destruction across the entire island. Hurricane Maria has left millions of people without power and without access to basic human necessities. A number of efforts are underway on campus to support these people and others in islands throughout the Caribbean. If you or your students are working on a project of this nature, please share that information with us. We have created a listing of campus efforts underway and of the multiple organizations that are accepting donations for rescue and humanitarian work throughout the region. If you are looking for ways to assist, please contact us.

Homecoming Recap

Last weekend we had a terrific homecoming. Hundreds of alumni came back to Big Rapids for a variety of homecoming activities and reunions. A record 55 alumni from the class of 1967 celebrated their Golden Eagle induction. Thirty-five of those alumni were Pharmacy graduates, and they did something very special to commemorate the occasion – together, they donated \$101,000 to the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge. Other celebratory events included the Criminal Justice program celebrating its 20th anniversary of its master's degree, many people enjoying the most tailgate gatherings in memory, along with a resounding 59-17 Bulldog football victory against Wayne State in front of nearly 6,500 fans. Thank you to everyone who participated in welcoming our alumni back and making this year's homecoming festivities one to remember.

Disability Awareness Events

This month the Liaison Committee for Students With Disabilities has organized a wonderful series of events to highlight Disability Awareness Month. Poet Neil Hilborn, College National Poetry Slam champion and author of "Our Numbered Days," will be on campus Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 5:30 p.m. in BUS 111. Events continue through October:

- Tuesday, Oct. 17, 6 p.m., IRC 115 – Film: Best and Most Beautiful
- Thursday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m., UCB 217 – PAWS With a Cause

- Saturday, Oct. 28, 6 p.m., Wink Arena – Mary Free Bed Pacers vs. the Rolling Drive
- Tuesday, Oct. 31, 11 a.m., UCB 202C – disABILITY: DEBUNKED! Forum for Inclusion & Understanding

Diversity and Inclusion Events

Beginning tonight there is a series of special diversity and inclusion evening events presented by a variety of organizations:

- **Friday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m., UC 202, Nell Irvin Painter** – Arts and Lectures Series presents Dr. Painter, emerita Edwards Professor of American History at Princeton University and author of “Sojourner Truth, A Life, A Symbol” and “The History of White People.”
- **Monday, October 9, 5:30 p.m., IRC 120, U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities Tour** – Strength in Unity: Community Organizing as the People’s Most Effective Strategy to Confront Injustice, community organizing in response to the water issues and metallic mining they face in El Salvador.
- **Tuesday, Oct. 10, Williams Auditorium, 7 p.m.** – Entertainment Unlimited presents a 5-star event, Shane Bitney Crone, speaker and advocate for the LGBT community, shares his story and documentary “BRIDEGROOM, An American Lovestory.”

Also on Thursday, Oct. 12, starting at 6 p.m. outside the Rock Café, students will be participating in Habitat for Humanity’s “Box City.” This raises awareness about the conditions faced by the homeless. Students will be providing passersby information and statistics about the homeless population in the U.S., and sleeping overnight in cardboard boxes. If you have the opportunity, please stop by and support these students Thursday evening or Friday morning.

Budget Forum and SPARC

On Tuesday, Oct. 10, I will be hosting a budget forum to share information with the University community on federal and state economic trends, results from last year’s budget, revenue and enrollment, our current budget and factors that could affect next year’s budget. The forum will be at 11 a.m. in University Center 203. Please plan to attend. I look forward to sharing this information with you and answering your questions.

The Strategic Planning and Resource Council will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. in UCB 202. Topics of discussion will include information on the 2018 International Summer School programs and locations, understanding students’ perceptions of their Ferris experience, and the upcoming Now & Always campaign kick-off and opportunities for the University community to engage. SPARC is open to all, and you are invited to attend. Please come and share your thoughts and ideas on these timely topics.

Athletics

This will be a very busy weekend on campus for athletics. Saturday is “Be A Bulldog Day,” as hockey, football, volleyball and women’s tennis are all competing for wins at home. Our Division I hockey team enters its 40th season and plays their first home game Saturday at 7:07 p.m. against Western Michigan at Ewingleben Ice Arena. The team has reached the NCAA Final Eight three times since 2012 and faces perhaps one of the country’s toughest schedules as they seek their fourth trip to the NCAA Tournament in the last seven years.

Our nationally ranked football team is currently 2-1 in the GLIAC and will kick-off at home against Tiffin (3-0) on Saturday at 1 p.m. A large crowd is expected again this weekend, and fans are encouraged to come early, cheer for our team and wear red.

Volleyball is off to an outstanding start to their season. They currently have a 13-2 overall record and are 7-0 in the GLIAC. Last weekend the women beat Lake Superior and Saginaw Valley by identical 3-0 scores. They host Grand Valley for a Friday night matchup beginning at 7 p.m. and Wayne State on Saturday at 5 p.m.

Women's tennis welcomes Michigan Tech on Saturday and Lake Superior State on Sunday. Matches both days begin at 10 a.m. at the FSU Racquet and Fitness Center.

Thank you for supporting our students in their many activities on campus. I look forward to seeing you.

RAVE ALERT - Emergency Notifications System

Events of this week are a reminder that one never knows when he or she might be confronted by an emergency situation. If you have not done so already, please sign up for emergency notifications. This system is important not only for life-and-death emergency situations, but also for significant weather alerts and other major disruptions to normal University operations. [Employee sign-up instructions can be found by clicking this link.](#)

For more information and frequently asked questions, visit www.ferris.edu/publicsafety, or contact the Department of Public Safety. Help us be prepared should an emergency occur. Thank you.

David L. Eisler, president