

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
September 15, 2017

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma

The devastation left in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma is difficult to comprehend. Hurricane Harvey brought torrential rains, wind and caused extensive flood damage in Houston, Texas, leaving thousands still displaced, homes and keepsakes damaged beyond repair. Millions of people in Florida and the Caribbean are without power, gas, water or food. Homes and businesses have been destroyed. Lives were lost.

The hardest part for everyone affected now begins – salvaging what may be left and rebuilding their lives. The Michigan Army National Guard has sent soldiers to the hardest hit areas to aid in providing security and humanitarian assistance. Several of our students and staff are deployed and assisting in the disaster recovery efforts. Thank you to these individuals who are putting their normal lives and studies on hold to help others in need.

Many members of our University community have inquired how they can give and provide assistance. Our students are leading multiple efforts on campus to encourage giving and assist with relief efforts. It is humbling to see the work of our students, faculty and staff, and the collaboration occurring to ensure those students studying here, who may be affected by Hurricane Harvey or Irma, have access to help and information. The Student Life office is coordinating information on local relief efforts and ways each of us can contribute to helping those in Texas and Florida. For more information, please contact Dean of Student Life Joy Pufhal at ext. 2612 or joypufhal@ferris.edu. As in all disaster relief, financial support is needed and appreciated. Thank you to everyone involved in leading these efforts.

Big Alleyway Cleanup

Last Saturday, more than 100 students volunteered their time to clean up 51 blocks of Big Rapids alleyways. In partnership with the Big Rapids Planning Commission, multiple Registered Student Organizations, fraternities, a sorority, members of the Army ROTC program, as well as approximately 40 other students, came together to perform this community service for Big Rapids area residents and businesses. It is wonderful to see our students come together and give back to the community. Thank you to everyone who participated in this event.

Athletics

Men's and women's cross country had a successful showing last weekend at the Ray Helsing Invitational. Both the men's and women's teams finished first in the collegiate team competition. In the men's race, four student-athletes finished among the top 10 overall, and eight women placed in the top 10 overall. It was my opportunity to get to know Ray Helsing, and it is wonderful to see his contributions to track and cross country honored and remembered in this way. Our teams are competing today in East Lansing at the Michigan State Spartan Invitational.

Tonight seven individuals will be inducted into the Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2017. This prestigious honor is awarded to student-athletes and coaches who have distinguished themselves in their sport or who made exceptional contributions to Ferris athletics. This year's inductees include Kathryn Bobbie (women's golf, 1999-03), Steve Fountain (men's track & cross country, 1974-79), Jody "Gifford" Markwart (softball, 1996-99), Kathy O'Connor (women's volleyball & basketball, 1990-93), Chris Pulliams (football, 1993-96), Scott Schultz (men's & women's tennis coach & administrator, 1982-89) and Monta Ware (women's basketball, 1979-83). In addition, the school's unbeaten football team from 1968, guided by Head Coach Bob Leach, will become the first-ever team inducted into the Hall of Fame. Congratulations go to each of these men and women on the standard of athletic excellence they established at Ferris.

Last weekend our football team had an impressive 48-27 road win over Findlay, making this Head Coach Tony Annese's 50th win for Ferris and his 275th career coaching victory. Congratulations to Coach Annese on this achievement. Tomorrow the team, ranked second in the nation, will host Northern Michigan for its home opener "Hall of Fame" game on Saturday at 7 p.m. At halftime, the Hall of Fame inductees will be recognized. This is the first of five home football games. Please come out and support our student-athletes.

David L. Eisler, president