

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
September 22, 2017

Legacy Scholarship Luncheon

Last Saturday, the Alumni Association board held its annual Legacy Scholarship Luncheon. Twenty-seven students were awarded scholarships – the largest number of students ever to benefit from this fund enabled by alumni giving. Listening to each student's unique story and the influence our faculty and staff have on these students made an indelible impression on everyone. The recipient's testimonies described the encouragement of their family members to attend Ferris, along with their experiences here, highlighting the way your efforts have positively impacted their lives. I would like to thank the faculty and staff in attendance, along with the Alumni Association board for honoring these students and their families in this special way.

Homecoming

Beginning Wednesday, Sept. 27, we are hosting a variety of engaging activities in celebration of the University's 91st annual homecoming, themed "Unleash Your Inner Dawg!" Events include comedian Nick Offerman, the traditional bonfire, homecoming parade, along with tailgating and alumni welcome tents before the football game. You can learn more about all the homecoming festivities on the [Alumni Association website](#).

Friday evening, Sept. 29, we will honor Distinguished Alumni and Pacesetter Award recipients at the Fall Reunion dinner. These extraordinary graduates are leaders in their workplace and communities, and serve as powerful reminders of the difference a Ferris education can make:

Distinguished Alumni

Billy Hawkins ('76), *president, Talladega College, Alabama*

Dave Kendall ('80), *owner, Kendall Golf Academy, Ypsilanti*

Kim Ridings ('93), *VP of Property Management, Eagle Management Co., Grand Rapids*

Jerome Schwind ('90), *president and COO, Isabella Bank, Mt. Pleasant*

Pacesetters

Carlvin Dorvilier ('13), *account manager for Tumblr, Yahoo!, Inc., New York City*

Scotty Kehoe ('03), *regional manager, DTE, Grand Rapids*

Javier Olvera ('03), *president and owner, Supermercado Mexico, Grand Rapids*

In addition, the Class of 1967 will be inducted into the Golden Eagles Society. There is an especially large group of Pharmacy alumni in this class, and they have made a special gift as part of the Ferris Futures Challenge Scholarship program. We are proud to honor all our alumni at this event and look forward to welcoming everyone back for homecoming celebrations. The Fall Reunion begins at 5:30 p.m. at the University Center. Later that evening, the traditional bonfire will be lit at 8 p.m. in the south campus parking lot #61.

Saturday's homecoming parade is led by grand marshals Tom and Janice Cook. Tom is a 1967 Pharmacy graduate and chair emeritus of our Board of Trustees. The parade begins at noon on Michigan Avenue in downtown Big Rapids and concludes back on campus in time for

tailgating and re-connecting with old friends, faculty and staff at the various college alumni welcome back tents. The football team will kick-off against Wayne State at 3 p.m.

Homecoming is a wonderful opportunity for the Ferris community to come together and to welcome alumni back to their alma mater. There are many people to thank for their hard work in planning this year's activities for alumni, students, faculty and staff. Please make plans to attend the events that interest you and your family.

ArtPrize Nine

ArtPrize Nine officially opened Wednesday evening and runs through Oct. 8. More than 1,500 artists are featured at 175 venues throughout downtown Grand Rapids for public viewing and voting, competing for \$500,000 in prizes. Both Kendall College of Art and Design, and the Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts, are venues for ArtPrize exhibits.

The Fed Galleries @ KCAD is home to *Society of Spectacle*, a collection of work by six nationally and internationally recognized artists whose work explores the gap between our authentic experiences of reality and the artificial experiences we encounter daily through constant media exposure. *Cultivate*, located at UICA, features seven artists in a show that uses food as a lens to examine cultural history, social equity and the effects of globalization on communities.

ArtPrize brings more than 500,000 visitors to Grand Rapids to experience art and fall in West Michigan. I encourage you to experience this remarkable art event yourself. Visit www.artprize.org for more information.

Spathelf Lecture

On Friday, Sept. 29, the University will welcome the CEO of Johnson & Johnson, Alex Gorsky, as keynote speaker for the 2017 Spathelf Lecture. His keynote begins at 10 a.m. in Williams Auditorium. Following his presentation, students from the College of Health Professions, Michigan College of Optometry, College of Arts and Sciences, and College of Pharmacy will conduct a panel discussion where Mr. Gorsky will share his global perspectives on healthcare and the workforce. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to hear from an influential and accomplished professional in the healthcare field. We encourage you and your students to attend.

Athletics

On Saturday, more than 6,000 fans witnessed Saturday's 42-10 football victory against Northern Michigan. The evening before, seven athletic standouts and the University's first-ever undefeated football team from 1968 were inducted into the Bulldog Athletics Hall of Fame. These former student-athletes all shared a common sentiment – that the recognition they received was not about them, but their teams and what they were able to accomplish by working together and capitalizing on each other's strengths. It was a pleasure to have these alumni back on campus and to show them the changes that have occurred since their time as a student-athlete. Our undefeated and nationally ranked #2 team heads to Ashland for a 7 p.m. kickoff this Saturday. The game will be streamed online live on ESPN3 along with being available on the "Watch ESPN" app.

This past weekend our volleyball team defeated Purdue University Northwest and Davenport on the road by identical 3-1 scores. They followed this up with a 3-0 victory over Northwood Tuesday evening at home. Our team is undefeated in the conference and ranked #7 in the nation. They have two weekend home contests, Friday evening at 7 p.m. against

Michigan Tech and Saturday afternoon at 3 p.m. against Northern Michigan. Ferris State University is the only Division II School with both football and volleyball ranked in the top 10 in the nation.

David L. Eisler, president