

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
April 27, 2018

Spring 2018 Commencement

Next weekend we will celebrate nearly 2,000 graduates participating in six commencement ceremonies in Big Rapids and Grand Rapids. Many, many people work very hard to make these ceremonies meaningful for our graduates. Thank you for everything you do to make this day special for our graduates and their families.

The full commencement schedule is as follows:

Friday, May 4

3:30 p.m. – College of Health Professions, Michigan College of Optometry

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

Saturday, May 5

9 a.m. – College of Education and Human Services

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

12:30 p.m. – College of Engineering Technology

4 p.m. – College of Business

This spring, we will award honorary doctorates to four deserving and distinguished individuals:

Alex Gorsky is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Johnson & Johnson, the world's largest healthcare company. He was the inaugural speaker for our Victor Spathelf Lecture and has active involvement with the College of Health Professions, College of Pharmacy, Michigan College of Optometry, and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Robert and Ellen Thompson created The Thompson Educational Foundation, providing ongoing scholarships at four public universities, including Ferris State University. Their support will help Ferris students obtain their degree with reduced personal and family debt by providing financial assistance for nearly 150 students annually through gifts of up to \$5,000 each, renewable for three years.

Teresa McKay ('82 COB) successfully manages more than 12,000 employees as director of the Department of Defense Finance and Accounting Service and leads the day-to-day accounting and finance disbursements totaling more than \$579 billion annually. She has served as a member of the College of Business Accountancy Advisory Board for the last 13 years and counsels, supports and hires our graduates.

Graduation is a very special time of year. Please take a few moments to congratulate our graduates on their success and wish them well as they embark on their next chapter. If you want to attend one or more of our commencements and would like tickets to attend, please e-mail Terri Cook at terrcook@ferris.edu.

Academic Senate Officers

Please join me in congratulating the following faculty who were elected as officers of the Academic Senate for the 2018-19 academic year:

- President: Sandy Alspach
- Vice President: Charles Bacon
- Secretary: Melinda Isler
- At-Large: Rose Baran, Michael Berghoef, Jean Inabinett

I very much appreciate the work of our Academic Senate and look forward to working with them and their elected officers during the 2018-19 academic year.

Torchbearer Awards

Last evening the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services hosted its 18th annual Torchbearer Awards Ceremony in the University Center. It was my pleasure to present the *Torchbearer Award* to 12 deserving students who are leaders on campus, in the classroom and in the community, and will be graduating next year. Congratulations to Lottee Halm, Adam Jandura, Paige Kramer, Benjamin Leatherer, Megan Leide, Patrick Maloney, Katie Nimtz, Sarah Pirrami, Cindy Tran, Marley Tucker, Courtney Wernette and Sean Williams.

Among many awards presented last evening, *Five Star RSO Awards* went to the American Marketing Association, Bulldog Sustainability Alliance, Public Relations Student Society of America and the Social Work Association; the *RSO Advisor of the Year* was presented to Clay Dedeaux for Pi Lambda Phi; and the *Initiative 125 Service Challenge Award* recognized 25 students who completed 125 hours of service or more this past year.

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated for or received an award last evening. I appreciate very much your work to help, advise and encourage the growth of our students.

Pancakes with the President

The end of the academic year can be a very stressful time for our students. On Monday, April 30, all students are invited to The Rock Café from 10 p.m. to midnight to enjoy the annual Pancakes with the President event. For those of you who have helped with this event in the past, you know what a wonderful opportunity this is to interact with our students. If you would like to help serve, please contact Terri Cook at x2504 or terrcook@ferris.edu.

Athletics

Our men's and women's track and field teams participated in the Al Owens Classic at Grand Valley last weekend. Junior Cody Stilwell won the hammer throw and set a school record with a performance of 62.58 meters. Congratulations to Cody on this extraordinary achievement.

This week the men's tennis team received an official bid to compete in the 2018 NCAA Division II Tournament. The team drew the number three seed in the Midwest Region and will travel next week to Springfield, Mo., to face sixth-seeded Northwood on Monday at 11 a.m. at Drury University. This is the 22nd time our men's tennis team has made an NCAA Tournament appearance. Best of luck to Head Coach Daniel Hangstefer and his student-athletes.

David L. Eisler, president