

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
March 1, 2018

Festival of the Arts

The Festival of the Arts concluded in Big Rapids this week with performances by the FSU Instrumental Concert Ensembles, led by Scott Cohen and Dale Skornia, the musical trio Havusback, gourmet cooking and floral arranging workshops, and the unveiling of a new mural by Canadian artist John Kuna. If you have not seen this addition to our community on the north side of the Fairman building (corner of Maple Street and Michigan Avenue) that was erected last week, it is truly marvelous. Celebrating Big Rapids' past in the logging industry, the work captures this spirit and heritage in magnificent fashion, and will be a lasting, enduring addition to the downtown streetscape.

Special thanks go to the Big Rapids Festival of the Arts Committee – Miriam Andrus, Roxanne Cullen, Mark Gifford, Courtney Gilson-Piercey, Melanie Henry, Jerena Keys and Ed Mallett – to our faculty, staff and students, who shared their talents, and the many businesses and individuals who made the Festival of the Arts possible. If you had opportunity to do so, thank you for attending these events. The Festival of the Arts has become a wonderful February tradition in Big Rapids.

Women's History Month

In recognition of Women's History Month, the Office of Multicultural Student Services has organized a series of events throughout the month to honor the role women have played throughout history and to examine the influences of media and pop culture. A sampling of events include:

- March 13: Film "Killing Us Softly 4," 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., FLITE 135
- March 14: The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap, 12-2 p.m., IRC Connector
- March 21: The Women's Advocacy, Education and Resource Fair, 2-5 p.m., IRC Connector
- March 26: A Tribute to Women, 6-8 p.m., UC 202A

A complete [list of events](#) can be found online. Thank you to the Office of Multicultural Student Services and the members of the planning committee for organizing this month's events: Tracy Busch, Janina Clinton, Carrie Franklund, Danyelle Gregory, Destinee Hennings, Indra Phillips, Meral Topcu, Lisa vonReichbauer and Michael Wade.

Athletics

Congratulations to Coach Kendra Faustin and the women's basketball team. In their first postseason game in five seasons they defeated the #20 team in the nation and the tournament's second seed, Michigan Tech, 67-57 on the road. They next play Grand Valley at Ashland University on Saturday at 4 p.m.

On Saturday the men's basketball team closed their regular season by defeating Grand Valley 75-64, finishing with a 19-1 conference record, the best for any team in conference history. Last evening they opened their defense of the GLIAC postseason championship with a 113-84 win over Saginaw Valley. In doing so they will now host the GLIAC tournament and move on to the semifinal game at home Saturday at 3 p.m. against Ashland. With a victory they will play for the win on Sunday also at 3 p.m. at Jim Wink Arena.

Under Coach Andy Bronkema, the men are ranked #2 in the nation and are currently 30-1, winning the last 18 games in a row – both of which are records for Ferris.

Last weekend the ice hockey team swept Lake Superior State 4-1 and 4-2, to move from 8th to 6th place in the WCHA on the final weekend of the season. Mitch Maloney was selected as conference Offensive Player of the Week based on his two-goal, two-assist weekend. Coale Norris was selected as Rookie of the Week as a result of the three goals he scored against Lake Superior State. The squad opens postseason play this weekend as they visit Bowling Green for the second-straight year in the WCHA First-Round Playoff. The sixth-seeded Bulldogs and the third-seeded Falcons faceoff Friday at 8:07 p.m. and Saturday at 7:07 p.m., with a deciding game three on Sunday at 7:07 p.m., if necessary. We wish Coach Bob Daniels and his squad the best as they seek to continue this late season success.

With Spring Break next week, we have reached the mid-point of the semester. When students return only seven weeks of classes remain. We look forward to celebrating our graduates at Commencement on May 4 and 5. At those ceremonies it has become a tradition to highlight one or two stories about graduating students who have demonstrated exceptional achievement, overcome significant hurdles to achieve success, or have made an extraordinary difference for others during their time at Ferris. If you know of such a student taking part in commencement this year, please contact Terri Cook at ext. 2500 or terricook@ferris.edu.

If you are traveling during Spring Break, please do so safely. Thank you for the good work you do for our students and for Ferris every day.

David L. Eisler, president