

President's Message to Campus

Office of the President
April 6, 2018

As we move quickly toward the end of the semester there are many activities on campus, farewells for retiring colleagues, and special honors for faculty, staff and students. One of the highest awards presented to a faculty member is the Distinguished Teacher Award. This year's recipient is Kendall College of Art and Design Professor Deborah Rockman. This is the first time the Distinguished Teacher Award has recognized a Kendall faculty member. Please join me in congratulating Professor Rockman on this significant honor and recognition.

Along with the Distinguished Teacher Award, Provost Paul Blake announced this year's recipients of Academic Affairs Awards. Nominated and reviewed by their peers, these faculty each exhibit a special dedication to their academic discipline, the teaching profession, the community around us and their students.

- Academic Scholar Award: Christopher M. Redker, College of Arts and Sciences
- Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award: Sarah Rescoe, College of Arts and Sciences
- Distinguished Service Award: Jennifer J. Johnson, College of Arts and Sciences
- Distinguished Teacher Award: Deborah A. Rockman, Kendall College of Art and Design
- Diversity Enhancement Award: Olukemi Fadayomi, College of Arts and Sciences
- Excellence in Course Assessment Award: Kali M. VanLangen, College of Pharmacy
- International Educator of the Year Award: Christine Vonder Haar, College of Arts and Sciences
- Outstanding Academic Advisor Award: Dawn Schavey, Extended & International Operations
- Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award: Anne Spain, College of Arts and Sciences
- Richard W. Griffin Political Engagement Award: Kristi L. Scholten, College of Arts and Sciences
- Helen Gillespie Ferris Distinguished Woman Leader Award: Olukemi Fadayomi, College of Arts and Sciences

The Distinguished Staff and Team Awards Committee has selected the following staff for special recognition. Recipients of the Distinguished Team Award are Kevin Jackson and Physical Plant Res-Life Custodial Team. The team members include Brian Bowling, Dianne Britten, Melanie Buffin, Mark Falsetta, Sue Hodell, Lauri Knoop, Brian Krum, Tim Maguire, Jason Mason, Gary Myers, Jodi Nelson and Stephanie Noud.

Recipients of the Distinguished Staff Award are:

- Kimberly Brandimore, Outreach Coordinator, Great Lakes Bay Region
- Donna Eaton, Secretary, Extended and International Operations
- Aleane Taylor, Secretary, Ferris Flint
- Emily Zoet, Disbursements Manager, Finance Office

Please join me in congratulating these staff members on this very special recognition. In doing so I want to thank the members of the Committee who did this review and selection – Jennifer Amlotte, Rhonda Atteberry, Jon Coles, Eliza Gramza and Paula Rushford.

These faculty and staff along with many others will be honored at the Annual Employee Service Awards on Wednesday, April 25, at 3 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom. Please join us in recognizing faculty and staff for their accomplishments and service to the University.

Upcoming Events

There are many special events on our Big Rapids campus next week. Sunday, April 8, the **30th annual International Festival of Cultures** is from 1 to 5 p.m. inside the University Center. Hosted by the Office of International Education, this signature spring event brings hundreds of students, faculty, staff and community members together to celebrate the vast array of cultures represented on campus and to enjoy performances, exhibits and cuisine from around the world. Please take time to attend and recognize our international community.

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 10-11, the second **Interprofessional Conference on Human Trafficking Awareness** will be held in the University Center. Hosted by the Coalition Against Slavery, this conference begins on Tuesday evening with a showing of the documentary "I am Jane Doe." The conference continues Wednesday with an 11 a.m. keynote address by Becky McDonald, founder of Women at Risk International. More information about this conference can be found on the [Coalition Against Slavery website](#).

Wednesday evening, April 11, is the **Latino Studies Program Fifth Anniversary Celebration** in the IRC Connector from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Food and entertainment follow a short program. The evening features Los Perros Cubanos and the music of Cuba's Golden Age of the 1940s and 1950s.

Thursday evening, April 12, Omicron Delta Kappa is hosting **Dawg Talks**, a short speaker seminar in SCI 120 at 5:30 p.m. Speakers include: Dr. David Pilgrim, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Tia Brandel-Wilhelm, Head Volleyball Coach, and Dave McCall, Assistant Professor in Retention and Student Success, specializing in career development. They will speak on their leadership experiences and success, and provide insight into improving leadership skills.

Saturday morning, April 14, is the **Eleventh Annual Big Event**, when students assist Big Rapids homeowners with yard work and basic maintenance. This is the largest student-organized and run community service event in Michigan. Students gather at 9 a.m. with opening ceremonies at 10 a.m.

Even as the semester is soon coming to a close, our students, faculty and staff continue to dedicate their time and talents to ensuring our campus and community have opportunities to learn about each other and make the world a better place. Thank you to everyone who will play a part in these important events.

Strategic Planning and Resource Council

The Strategic Planning and Resource Council will meet on Tuesday, April 10, from 3-5 p.m. This session will focus on four topics –

- Strategic Planning Update – David Pilgrim and Spence Tower
- Review of Mission, Vision and Values – Suzanne Miller and Lisa vonReichbauer
- Online Education Trends and Issues – Amy Green
- IT Trends and Issues – Jake Martin

SPARC is open to everyone; you need not be a member to attend. Please join the SPARC meeting and engage in these important discussions.

Ferris Men's Basketball

Last weekend men's basketball Head Coach Andy Bronkema and center Zach Hankins were honored at the 2018 National Association of Basketball Coaches Guardians of the Game Awards Show. This is hosted in conjunction with the NCAA Division I Final Four in San Antonio, Texas. Coach Bronkema was honored as the NABC Division II National Coach of the Year while Zach Hankins received the NABC Division II National Player of the Year honor. Congratulations to both on this national recognition for their remarkable accomplishments and season.

Saturday evening, April 14, everyone is invited to "Celebrate the Champions" as we honor the 2018 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship squad at Jim Wink Arena. Join us as we recognize this year's historic team, which captured the school's first national championship and also matched the all-time NCAA Division II record for victories in a season with a 38-1 campaign. This free event from 6 to 8 p.m. includes a replay of the CBS national championship game broadcast, introductions of the players and coaches with remarks from Coach Andy Bronkema, a variety of games and special events, a team autograph session, photos with the national championship trophy and more.

Along with the national championship trophy, the team's other awards earned this season including the GLIAC Championship, GLIAC Tournament title and the Midwest Regional crown will also be on display. Come out and honor this year's national championship squad.

Ferris Athletics

Golfer Joshua Jeffords was selected as the GLIAC Player of the Week as he tied for first place in the Wisconsin-Parkside Invitational. This was his first collegiate win and included rounds of 72 and a three under par, 69. The men's team competes in the Indianapolis Invitational this weekend.

Our men's tennis team is in first place in the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference standings as the team defeated Northwood and Grand Valley last week by identical 7-2 scores. Daniil Tarantinov was selected as the GLIAC Player of the Week for winning 4-0 in these two matches. He joins Pablo Munoz Baroja, Nur Adim Ramdani Iswan and Steward Sell as the fourth FSU player to earn conference weekly honors this spring. The men are now 14-2 overall, have won 11 matches in a row and are unbeaten at 4-0 in the GLIAC to date. The team will play today in Ohio against Edinboro, Pa., and will play again in a pair of league away matches at Tiffin and Wayne State on Saturday and Sunday.

David L. Eisler, president