

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 5, 2010

Fulbright Scholars

Ferris faculty members continue to excel when it comes to being named Fulbright Scholars. For the 2010-11 academic year, faculty members Marietta Bell-Scriber and Rick Griffin have further increased the ranks of Ferris Fulbrighters.

Professor Bell-Scriber has been selected as a Fulbright scholar grantee to Cyprus, making her the first faculty member in the School of Nursing and the College of Allied Health Sciences to receive a Fulbright Scholar award. She will partner with universities in both the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to teach courses in Transcultural Nursing and other topics.

Social Sciences Professor Griffin has been selected as a Fulbright scholar to Debrecen, Hungary, where Ferris has a strong relationship growing from the efforts of Professor John Jablonski and others with the University of Debrecen. Professor Griffin's lectureship will focus on issues of culture politics and globalization relating to the United States-Mexico border to help initiate an international comparative study of similarities and differences between the border of the United States and the border of Hungary.

Congratulations to Marietta and Rick on their prestigious international appointments.

Share Your Success

This past week Provost Erickson and I visited with the colleges of Business, Engineering Technology, Pharmacy and University College. There was very much to be learned from the number of high points and success stories shared at each session. Here are some examples of the outstanding work that is taking place in these colleges. There are many, many more wonderful stories of successful efforts in these colleges than are listed here.

College of Business

- Faculty members in the college have been reaching out to prospective new students by using the call center to make contact with them.
- Dan Cronk reported the Music Industry Management program has grown to more than 200 students, and their RSO now has 109 members.
- Lori Armstrong has been selected as an "Outstanding First-Year Student Advocate."
- Linda Powell shared the collaborative work of Graphic Design students with the Counseling Center on the Social Norming/Good Choices campaign. The students are also working with external clients including the Grand Rapids Public Schools Mindshare event and the 5/3 Bank Riverbank Run.
- Nate Tymes, Elies Kouider and the Statistics Team have been providing learning sessions on data mining, business data analytics, and other approaches to data analysis.
- Matt Pinter shared the reaccreditation of the Professional Golf Management program, 100 percent placement of 227 interns during the past year, and their work with the Michigan Amputee Golf Association Tournament.

- Jim Woolen discussed the expansion of the Information Security and Intelligence degree to Big Rapids and Delta College.
- Patrick Bishop talked about the advantages of Ferris' Public Relations program being housed in COB – one of just 25 such relationships in the nation.
- Tom Mehl pointed out the value of Academic Program Review to the marketing program, including the opportunity to rebuild the alumni database on employment and internships.
- Faculty members in the college have developed a new accelerated three-year Business Administration degree for Honors students.
- Shirish Grover discussed the development of an Energy and Environmental Management certificate in collaboration with CAS and CET.
- Julie Doyle talked about student work with the 2nd Annual International Wine and Food Festival, and discussed the dual enrollment partnership with Kent ISD, which allows for a 13th year at the ISD and can allow completion of a bachelors degree in three years following high school.
- Derek Ameel shared that the Professional Tennis Management program continues to place 100 percent of graduates and interns.
- Gayle Lopez noted that the Legal Assisting program has been reaccredited by the American Bar Association.
- Chris Vodry pointed to the success of staff in migrating to a shared Novell system – a difficult challenge where perseverance paid off.

College of Engineering Technology

- Doug Zentz reported on the student American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers chapter, which is the largest in the country with 65 members.
- Tom Crandell highlighted the continuing success of the annual Energy Conference during which five different colleges will be making presentations and 90 students will display posters.
- Surveying alumnus Nate Ovans is the first to be named a Provisional Certified Photogrammetrist by the American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing.
- Ron McKean and John Schmidt noted the stature Ferris has received at various national conferences.
- Ed Muccio noted how the student population is changing and there are an increased number of veterans who are attending Ferris to prepare for the next phase of their lives.
- During this academic year the Construction Technology and Management program created three new \$25,000 endowed scholarships – the Gerace Construction Scholarship, Western Michigan Builders Exchange, and the CM Industry Scholarship.
- New donations to the School of Automotive and Heavy Equipment include four diesel engines, 15 new Toyota transmissions, a Hino diesel truck, and cars from GM, Ford, Nissan, Toyota, and a Lexus hybrid. A new Fleet Management certificate and a new Alternative Fuels certificate have been developed.
- The Welding Engineering Technology program will celebrate 25 years in May. The Product Design Engineering Technology program will celebrate 20 years.

College of Pharmacy

- Bob Krueger has had three book reviews published and has lectured at Meijer Gardens. He runs the grant program for the Wildflower Association of Michigan and will soon take on the role of WAM's president.
- Jennifer Hagerman is looking at the role of community pharmacists in influenza diagnosis and treatment.
- John Jameson continues efforts growing from his sabbatical project looking at people in medical practice with poor diabetes control. As an offshoot he is more involved in diabetes management and teaching diabetes to students.
- Tracy Boncher shared the success of the summer program with high school students. She is also involving undergraduates in a research program regarding type II diabetes and has published on this research in a biochemistry textbook.
- Jeffrey Bates discussed Hope House, a free, stand-alone medical clinic for patients with no pharmacy or health care access where 8 - 12 pharmacy students volunteer each month. He also talked about the health fairs held in collaboration with the College of Allied Health Sciences, Birkam Health Center and the Michigan College of Optometry, where students provide free screenings.
- Lucy Ngoh is working on health literacy activities and programs for disadvantaged students in the Baldwin/Woodland Park area.

University College

- Julie Rudolph noted that the Students with Disabilities RSO is starting again. Also launching is a support group for students with Asperger's Syndrome who have trouble with social skills.
- Maude Bigford shared a number of areas of successes for Honor students including a medical mission to Panama, and the volunteer efforts of Crafters Anonymous, Ferris Stars, and Ferris Idols.
- Helen Woodman talked about her efforts working with faculty across campus to encourage students to embrace reading and to read critically.
- Rosemarie Van Ham is working with the Counseling Center on ADHD awareness, has created a presentation and Webinar on this. She also shared the Strategies for Educational Success program which is making a significant difference for probation and other at-risk students.
- Shelly VandePanne shared the continued evolution of the first-year seminar program with increased emphasis on diversity, opportunity and money management.
- Karen Greenbay shared about the development of the Students with Children program and some of the events associated with this.
- Arlene Krellwitz discussed the work of the Structured Learning Assistance program in improving student success in Math 110 and Chemistry 114.

This week Share Your Success meetings will expand beyond Academic Affairs. Jerry Scoby and I will be visiting with Administration and Finance employees on Tuesday, Thursday and next Monday. Also on Tuesday, Miles Postema and I will be visiting with employees in his area. Wednesday Sandy Davison-Wilson, Oliver Evans and I will be visiting with Kendall faculty and staff. Next Monday, John Willey and I will be visiting with employees in University Advancement and Marketing.

Early Retirement Incentive

The University's Early Retirement Incentive for administrators and staff has far exceeded expectations. During the enrollment period Human Resources received 71 early retirement applications, exceeding the 23 applications received from staff and administrators during the last ERI in 2003. Vice Presidents are now reviewing the applications and meeting individually with each applicant to determine which early retirement applications will be approved. This is important to our University since the aggregate experience of this group of veteran employees amounts to more than 1,700 combined years of institutional knowledge.

While this represents a difficult loss of talent, the long-term savings of this program will help reduce the number of University employees without additional layoffs at this time. It can help keep us on a sustainable financial track during these times of economic crisis in Michigan when state support of higher education continues to decline.

Windgate Fellowship Recipient

Kendall College of Art and Design senior Dustin Farnsworth has received a \$15,000 Windgate Fellowship. This is one of the most prestigious awards available to people pursuing work in the general area of American crafts and the decorative arts. To be eligible to receive a fellowship, a student must attend an institution that the Windgate Foundation invites to apply. This year, the Foundation invited 60 institutions to submit two applications each. Of the 120 applicants, the Windgate Foundation selected just 10 winners from across the nation. The award allows the recipient to engage in significant studio work, which Dustin will pursue in Asheville, N.C. Two other Kendall students have in the past received this award, which attests to the academic and creative excellence the college fosters.

125th Anniversary Dinner

Finally, I want to end with a reminder that our anniversary commemorations continue with a 125th Birthday Celebration Community Dinner on Thursday, April 22 at the Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. with a buffet dinner at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and available through April 12 at www.ferrisalumni.org or by calling Gretchen Spedowske at 231.591.5983. I am hopeful you are able to attend as we celebrate this historic milestone for our University.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President