

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
April 23, 2012

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## **Distinguished Staff and Team Awards**

Please join me in congratulating the winners of the 2011-12 Distinguished Staff and Team Awards. This year, individual staff and team members who are being honored for their outstanding service to the University include

- Nicholas Campau, Coordinator of Student Life, Dean's Office
- Deborah Ducat, Secretary, School of Education and Human Services
- Bryan Marquardt, Assistant Director, Dining Services
- The Commencement Team, Sherry Hayes, Coordinator

More than 125 Ferris employees and students are involved in planning and running five different Commencement ceremonies each May, and two different Commencement ceremonies each December. These employees and students represent each college and division within the University. While each and every member of the Commencement Team is important, several deserve special thanks for their contributions. They include Tim Bowman, Physical Plant Commencement coordinator; Elaine Kamptner, Commencement scripts coordinator; Brandi Behrenwald, Student Alumni Gold Club coordinator; and Christa Bull, Commencement brochure designer.

We are truly fortunate to have many extraordinary staff and teams at Ferris State University and the selection process is a difficult one. In addition to recognizing those staff chosen for recognition, please join me in thanking the selection committee for these awards. The committee consists of co-chairs Mitzi Day, Geri Johnson and Julie Modene, along with members Bill Bitzinger and Shelly VandePanne.

## **Annual Employee Service Award Celebration**

Please join us for the Annual Employee Service Award Celebration, which will be held this Wednesday, April 25, 3-5 p.m. in the Rankin Center Dome Room. We will celebrate the service of University employees who have completed five-year increments of full-time, continuous service. Also, we will recognize important employee achievements and awards.

Dr. Clifton Franklund will be honored as the recipient of the 2012 Distinguished Teacher Award. Recipients of the Academic Scholar Award, Distinguished Service Award, Diversity Enhancement Award, Outstanding Academic Advisor Award, and Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award will be recognized at the Service Award Celebration. Faculty members who have earned promotion, merit and tenure will also be honored.

In addition to the Distinguished Staff, Distinguished Team Award recipients, and academic awards, we will be honoring the RSO Advisor of the year and Opportunity 125 Awardee. Highlights will include our traditional strawberry pie, and a slide-show of employees who have reached their landmark years of service. I look forward to seeing you Wednesday as we honor our people for their service and achievements.

## **Jim Crow Museum Grand Opening**

The grand opening for the expanded Jim Crow Museum is Thursday, April 26. This new, larger space is an opportunity to celebrate this unique and powerful resource. Events will begin with a reception at 10 a.m. in Williams Auditorium, where we will also hold the opening ceremony at 11 a.m. A poster with a full listing of events is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/news/jimcrow/grandopening.htm> . The online poster also has links to other opening day resources, including a video by museum founder and Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion, Dr. David Pilgrim.

An Associated Press story about the opening of the museum has received wide media distribution, appearing in the *Detroit News*, the *New York Daily News*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, on Yahoo, and in the *Telegraph* in the United Kingdom, among many others. You can access the story as it appeared online in the *Detroit Free Press* at <http://www.freep.com/article/20120419/NEWS06/120419017/racist-museum-Ferris-State> . Some media outlets also carried a video produced by the AP. That video can be viewed on YouTube at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcvtst\\_pl6Pw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcvtst_pl6Pw) .

Kendall faculty member and artist Jon McDonald has painted a special mural for the Museum, "The Cloud of Witnesses." Mr. McDonald will be in Big Rapids to discuss this work as part of the opening ceremonies. Activities and tours of the museum will take place throughout the day. The schedule for Thursday includes –

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| 10 a.m. | Jim Crow Museum Reception – Williams Auditorium Lobby                   |
| 11 a.m. | Jim Crow Museum Grand Opening – Williams Auditorium                     |
| 1 p.m.  | Conversation with David Pilgrim – University Art Gallery, Rankin Center |
| 2 p.m.  | Conversation with Jon McDonald – University Art Gallery, Rankin Center  |
| 4 p.m.  | “Act on Racism” troupe – Centennial Room, Rankin Center                 |

I encourage you to take time to experience the new museum. This is a resource that extends its influence far beyond the borders of our campus. I look forward to seeing many of you at one or more of the day’s events.

## **Tennis Team Wins Conference Tournament**

Sunday afternoon the men’s tennis team defeated Northwood University to win the GLIAC Conference Tournament Championship. Northwood had been ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in the nation and had won 12-straight GLIAC Tournament titles. Our last conference tournament champion was in 1999. Our team finished second in the regular season and with this win their record improves to 16-6. The NCAA Division II Championship field will be announced Tuesday evening. Congratulations to the men’s tennis team for this outstanding victory.

## **Hockey Team Congratulations**

Last week, United States Senator Carl Levin of Michigan read congratulatory remarks for our university’s men’s ice hockey team into the Congressional Record. Sen. Levin put it exactly right when he noted that the team had a “magical season.” If you missed those chances to read the senator’s kind words, you can read the full text of his remarks at: <http://www.levin.senate.gov/newsroom/speeches/speech/congratulating-the-ferris-state-bulldogs-mens-hockey-team> .

**Pancakes with the President**

As exam week begins, we will be hosting “Pancakes with the President” on Monday evening April 30<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11 p.m. in the Westview Dining Center. This is an annual event focused on Ferris students. If you have taken part in this event in the past, you have experienced this unique opportunity to share time with students as they work to finish their studies – and in some cases, their degrees. All members of the campus community are welcome to assist with serving our students. Please contact Elaine Kamptner at ext. 2500 if you would like to join us.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president