

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
April 29, 2013

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## **Engaged Campus Award**

Last Wednesday, April 24, Ferris was awarded the Honorable Mention award from Michigan Campus Compact for Engaged Campus of the Year. This award recognizes the deep commitment our university has made to education that connects students to their community and to real-world issues that will impact them long after they leave Ferris. The award is based on indicators in a number of different areas, including Faculty Culture, Community-Campus Exchange and Institutional Culture.

In submitting our information for this award, we stressed the many projects and initiatives Ferris has developed in support of its core values of collaboration, diversity, ethical community, excellence, learning and opportunity. These include our new Center for Latin@ Studies and the expanded public presence of our Jim Crow Museum.

Among the civic engagement projects the university cited were “The Big Event,” which matches student volunteers to local home and community improvement projects, and the work of Architecture and Sustainability students, who re-designed bike pathways for the City of Big Rapids. There are so many different ways Ferris students, faculty and staff engage with the communities in which we operate. Last year more than 43,000 volunteer hours were documented by our Volunteer Center.

My congratulations extend to everyone who helps to make our university a place where engagement with real-world issues continues to be a hallmark of our educational philosophy.

## **Academic Senate Officers**

Congratulations to the following faculty members who were elected as officers and new members of the Academic Senate for the 2013-14 academic year:

- President: Khagendra Thapa
- Vice President: David Marion
- Secretary: Melinda Isler
- E-board Members: Adnan Dakkuri, Susan Wancour, Amy Dinardo
- Senators: Charles Bacon, Barbara Barnes, Mark Brandly, Randy Groves, Kathleen Harlan, Liza Ing, Alison Jenerou, Victor Piercey, Gregg Potter, Jim Rumpf and Spence Tower.

We also express our appreciation for continuing senators: Ali Abbasabadi, Sandra Alspach, Steve Amey, David Baker, Michael Berghoef, Tracey Boncher, Barbara Ciaramitaro, Teresa Cook, Daisy Daubert, Chuck Drake, Bernadette Fox, Richard Griffin, David Hanna, Hengli Jiao, Joe Joyce, Paul Klatt, George Nagel, Vivian Nazar, Christopher Richmond, John Schmidt, Gareth Todd, and Marie Yowitz.

Please join me in thanking out-going senators: Megan Dixon, Keith Jewett, Elsie Lovsted, Dean Luplow, Roy McLean, Gary Moore, Jim Nystrom, Piram Prakasam, Cami Sanderson and Mischelle Stone.

I appreciate very much the work of the Academic Senate and their commitment to developing and maintaining academic programs of the highest quality.

### **SkillsUSA**

Recently Ferris students competing at the state level in the SkillsUSA competition topped rankings in each contest in which they competed. Five of the seven medals our students won were gold medals, allowing them to compete at the national competition in Kansas City the week of June 24-29. Earning gold medals are:

- Matt Haan - Technical Drafting
- Andy Doane - Diesel Equipment Technology
- Yoginder Rana - HVACR
- Rachel Reber - Graphic Communications
- Brandon White, Thaddeus Wilcome and Shane Ferris - Automated Manufacturing Team

These students will next prepare for the national post-secondary competition from all 50 states. Ferris has a strong history in this competition, and this year's results show that we continue to excel in educating students in these career-oriented areas.

We thank Joe Compton, Pat Klarecki, Gary Lutz, Gary Maike, Ramon Robinson and Ben Upham for volunteering to judge, and assist and train the students for their specific competition, and also to SkillsUSA Advisor/Coordinator Dan Wanink.

### **Vice President for Student Affairs Search**

Next fall we will be searching for a new Vice President for Student Affairs. I am very pleased that 2012 Distinguished Teacher Clifton Franklund and Director of Financial Aid Sara Dew have agreed to serve as co-chairs for this most important effort. Joining them on the search committee are:

Matthew Adeyanju, Dean, College of Health Professions  
Steven Balkema, Senior, History Major  
Laura Dix, Professor of Marketing  
Lori Helmer, Director of Dining Services  
Cindy Horn, Director, University Recreation  
Kathy Lake, Associate Dean of Enrollment Services  
David Pilgrim, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion  
Angela Roman, Director of Career Services and Student Leadership and Activities  
Linda Telfer, Executive Secretary, Student Affairs  
Jessica Trindle, Junior, Music Industry Management  
Dan Wanink, Associate Professor of CAD, Drafting and Tool Design

Please join me in thanking these faculty, staff, and students for serving on this committee. Your thoughts, ideas and suggestions on this search are solicited. Please send them to Clifton, Sara, or me.

## Service Awards

We had a wonderful group attend last Wednesday's Service Awards ceremony. Congratulations to everyone who received an award and/or were recognized for their years of service. You can view their photos on line by clicking on the hyperlinked text:

Academic Scholar Award - [Robert Quist, Humanities](#)

Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award - [Brooke Moore, Humanities](#)

Diversity Enhancement Award - [Michael Wade, Multicultural Student Services](#)

Distinguished Service Award - [Brad McCormick, Health Sciences](#)

Distinguished Staff -

[Jocelyn Goheen, Extended and International Operations](#)

[Mary Holmes, E-Learning Systems](#)

[Deb Thalner, Online Education](#)

[Sonya VanAlstine, Housing and Residence Life](#)

Distinguished Teacher - [Avesh Raghunandan, Optometry](#)

Distinguished Team -

[Dental Hygiene and Student American Dental Hygienists Association](#)

Outstanding Academic Advisor Award - [Lori Armstrong, Music Industry Management](#)

Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award - [Joanne Robertson, Residence Life](#)

Additionally we recognized faculty and staff for their dedicated service to the University - [Five Years of Service](#), [Ten Years of Service](#), [Fifteen Years of Service](#), [Twenty Years of Service](#), [Twenty-five Years of Service](#), [Thirty Years of Service](#), and [Thirty-five Years of Service](#).

It was wonderful to see faculty member Terry Nerbonne from Criminal Justice receive a standing ovation for [Forty Years of Service](#) to Ferris State University.

## Athletics

Men's tennis reached the region final of the NCAA Midwest Regional Tournament on Saturday with a 5-3 Victory over Rockhurst. The team fell in the championship round to top-seeded University of Southern Indiana. With an overall record of 16-6, we extend congratulations to the team and Head Coach Chad Berryhill.

Women's softball finished the regular season as the number two seed for the GLIAC tournament with a conference record of 20-6 and an overall record of 28-12. Currently, the team is on an eight-game winning streak, having swept the last four series Thursday through Sunday against Saginaw Valley, Findlay, Hillsdale and Northwood. Under the direction of Head Coach Marie Foster we wish the team continued success as they enter the GLIAC tournament.

In track and field, on Saturday Jessica Pilling established a new school record by winning the hammer throw at a meet at Aquinas College with a toss of 187' 8" (57.21m). This automatically qualifies her for the NCAA championship tournament.

The men's golf team will be making its 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive NCAA Tournament Regional appearance having earned a berth in the 2013 Central/Midwest Super Regional, which will take place May 6-8 at The Club at Strawberry Creek in Kenosha, Wis. The top five teams and the top two individuals from each regional will advance to the 2013 NCAA-II Men's Golf Championships. Our congratulations and best wishes for success go to all the players and to Head Coach Mike Mignano.

### **Pancakes with the President**

As exam week gets underway, we will again host “Pancakes with the President” on May 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 11 p.m. in the Westview Dining Center. This annual event puts the focus on Ferris students at a time when many of our students are preparing to head home for the summer. Those of you who have helped in the past understand what a unique opportunity this is to get to know our students and provide a welcoming atmosphere for them during what can be a stressful time. If you would like to assist with serving our students, please contact Elaine Kamptner at ext. 2500 or [kamptnee@ferris.edu](mailto:kamptnee@ferris.edu). I look forward to working with you to serve and interact with our students.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president