

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
May 3, 2007

This fall we will initiate the search for a Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Academic deans have worked with department chairs and department heads to recommend a faculty person from each college for this search committee. I am pleased to share with you the members of this very important search committee.

Maude Bigford
Jeffrey Carney
Cambria DeHoag
Richard Duffett
Oliver Evans
Susan Fogarty
Richard Griffin
Ellen Haneline
Kaci Kegler
Robert Loesch

Melinda McMartin
Thomas Mehl
Maureen Milzarski
David Pilgrim
James Rumpf
Roberta Teahen
Gregory Vanderkooi
Phillip Walling
Leroy Wright

I am pleased that each person contacted for this committee was willing to serve on the group. The committee will be led by Bob Loesch and Ellen Haneline who will serve as co-chairs for this committee. The first committee meeting will be on Monday afternoon when they will review and refine the job description for this position.

Academic Affairs

On Monday Dr. Thomas Oldfield will assume his duties as Vice President for Academic Affairs. To assist him, Dr. Oldfield is pleased to announce two new appointments. Roberta Teahen will be Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs. Robbie's firsthand knowledge and experience with the Higher Learning Commission will be very useful as Ferris prepares for our next University-wide accreditation visit in 2010-2011. Donald Flickinger, former Department Head in Humanities, will be Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. Building on his experience at Ferris, Don's focus will be on undergraduate education. When the new Provost is selected, both Don and Robbie have agreed to continue to serve, providing continuity for Academic Affairs.

Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Patrick Klarecki will be returning to the faculty in Printing and Imaging Technology Management in July. I want to extend my thanks to Pat for his efforts in Academic Affairs and appreciate his leadership for the University during this period.

Good News

Two Kendall College of Art and Design students recently received special recognition from the Windgate Foundation. Fifty-four schools nationwide were invited to submit applications from two students each for fellowships in the area of sculpture and functional art. Students were then invited to complete the online application, upload ten images of their work, and a proposal on how this award would advance their artistic goals and career. From these 81 entries, the Windgate Foundation awarded 10 fellowships, and two went to Kendall College of Art and Design students. Tim Maddox and Chul-Yeon Park were each awarded \$15,000 fellowships. Both Tim and Chul-Yeon are graduating this Saturday. Tim plans to pursue a studio career and then possibly attend graduate school. He is already represented by galleries and has a number of private commissions. Chul-Yeon will attend graduate school at San Diego State University where he will pursue an MFA in Furniture Design. Information on the Windgate Fellowship and our students is available at:

<http://www.craftcreativitydesign.org/pdf/WindgateWinnersandAlternates%202007.pdf>

Students from the College of Technology did extraordinarily well in the recent Skills USA state competition. Ferris State University students took first, second and third in each individual competition in which they participated. Additionally the Ferris team earned awards for the largest increase in participation and for the largest increase in gold medals. Congratulations to these Ferris gold medal winners -

Thomas Bryant - Diesel Equipment Technology
Jeremiah Gallup, Robert Tennant, and Shane Smith - Automated Manufacturing Team
Amela Mujkic - Graphic Communication
Andrew Snow - Technical Drafting
Martin Wolfe - Electronics Technology

These students will next participate in the Skills USA National Leadership and Skills Conference held in Kansas City in late June. Congratulations to all of our students, to faculty advisors Gary Maike and Dan Wanink for their leadership on this effort and to all faculty members who assisted in preparing these students and helped in the competition.

The Ferris State University Structural Teaching Sculpture is now featured prominently on the American Institute of Steel Construction's website - http://www.aisc.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Learning_Opportunities/University_Programs/Teaching_Aids1/Steel_Sculpture/Steel_Sculpture.htm Thanks go to Construction Management Technology professor John Schmidt for his leadership on this project.

At the recent annual meeting of the Michigan Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Ferris State University's Barbara Ross, Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program

Coordinator, received the Donna Duberg Mentorship Award for her “outstanding abilities to enlighten and guide others in the profession.” Student Rebecca Tootle received the Biological Exhibitors’ Association of Michigan award as the 2007 Outstanding Clinical Laboratory Student in Michigan. She was cited for her academic achievements as a full-time student who also works nearly full-time, as well as for her hard work in uniting the MLT students at Ferris. Student Alicia Estlack received the Martha Rouland Membership Award, which is given to CLS students who recognize their roles in health care and advocate for the profession. Congratulations to Professor Ross and these students.

Congratulations to Coach Brad Bedortha and the women’s golf team. Yesterday the Ferris women’s golf team won the NCAA East Regional Championship held at the Katke Golf Course. Becky Hoffman finished second and Meghan Hunter finished fourth in this tournament. Both were named to the all-region team. The team competes next week at the NCAA Division II Championship in Pensacola, Florida. In an earlier memo I incorrectly identified the winners at the GLIAC Women’s Golf Championships. The medalist was Alison Meyer and second place was Meghan Hunter.

The Katke course maintenance staff – Doug McLeod, Tony Pugh and staff – did a wonderful job in preparing the course and hosting the Women's Golf Regionals. I want to extend my thanks to Katke employees and to many from throughout the Athletic Department and University who worked to make this tournament such a success.

Congratulations go to women’s softball coach, Kari Becker, who recently earned her 300th career victory at Ferris State University. She now has more wins than any softball coach in Ferris history.

Commencement

Friday and Saturday mark the culmination of the academic year as we celebrate commencement. I look forward to seeing you at these events when we recognize this milestone for our students and your contributions to their education.

Thank you very much for your help and support throughout this year. I look forward to next year with high expectations for our combined efforts in creating a strategic plan for Ferris State University. Please accept my best wishes for a happy and restful summer.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President