

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
May 7, 2012

Commencement

This last Friday and Saturday we celebrated our graduating class of 2012. More than 1,300 of the 1,700 candidates for graduation took part in the ceremonies. For me, commencement is a high point of the academic year. It brings into sharp focus the difference a Ferris education makes in the lives and futures of our students.

At commencement I share stories of our students and their determination to succeed, in some cases overcoming major challenges. Included among our graduates this year are immigrants to our country, students who have overcome significant physical and medical challenges, graduates who have earned their degree as adult learners, and students who made a life-changing difference for others. While all of the stories are compelling, let me share one example.

Cory Smith is remarkable in that the small high school he attended did not have a tradition of graduates attending college. From a class of 48 only 2 continued to college. But his determination to pursue a college education is only one of the things that make him stand out. During the summer of 2008 he drove his girlfriend to Ann Arbor every Friday to get treatment for her leukemia. They married in 2011 and she is now completing her second year in Pharmacy at Ferris. Then last year his best friend, a fellow Ferris student, developed a medical condition that required a kidney transplant. Cory was tested and, after finding that he was a 99 percent match, donated a kidney to his friend. Graduating in Surveying Engineering, this fall he continues his education in the Master of Engineering program at Purdue.

One of the common characteristics in these extraordinary stories is that Ferris takes a personal interest, reaches out and helps these students. Thank you for making a difference. Our University attracts promising students and produces outstanding graduates. I would encourage you to read more about their stories, which are available here –

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/presentations/2011-2012/> .

Many people contribute to commencement at Ferris both in preparation and attendance. These efforts result in a ceremony that is memorable for our graduates and their families. Thank you for supporting and attending commencement.

Congratulations to Cory Smith, and the entire graduating class of 2012!

Good News

Continuing with the theme of achievement, we have posted a new list of Good News items on the Ferris website. These items span the range of the Ferris community from alumni to faculty and staff to students. Here are some examples:

- Earlier this month, Director of Academic Research and Grants, Karen Strasser, announced the 12 Student Research Fellows for 2012. The Student Research Fellowship program supports collaborative research projects between faculty and students at Ferris. It is intended to increase on-campus research, contribute to the professional development of

faculty, and provide Ferris students with another mechanism to gain research experience. Student fellows will work full time on a research project with a faculty mentor for a 10-week period over the summer. Research Fellows are:

- Caleb Archambault (Chemistry /ICT). Project: Development and Improvement of Protocols and Methodologies for Chemical Analysis in the Fermentation Industry. Faculty Mentor: Mark Thomson (Physical Sciences- CAS).
 - David Birdsall. Project: An Investigation of the Cocrystallization Behavior of Saccharin. Faculty Mentor: Dan Adsmond (Physical Sciences- CAS).
 - Katie M. Boolman (Social Work). Project: Teaching Racial Tolerance. Faculty Mentor: Michael Berghoef (Social Work - CAS).
 - Blake Bonkowski (Pharmacy). Project: The synthesis of Novel PPAR delta agonists to better improve upon the clinically used gamma agonists; such as Avandia. Faculty Mentor: Tracey Boncher (Pharmacy).
 - Donald Bucholz (Architecture and Facility Management). Project: A comparative, case study analysis of industry standard sustainability assessment methods and their application to sustainable architecture and urban development in West Michigan. Faculty Mentor: Paul Long (Architecture - CET).
 - Amber Carr (Biology Education). Project: Enrichment and Isolation of Novel Bacteria from Zodletone Anaerobic Spring. Faculty Mentor: Anne Spain (Biology -CAS).
 - Lauren Clements (Biotechnology). Project: Determine if UVA or UVA induces DNA damage in melanocyte stem cells, and whether that damage persists and results in mutations in regenerated pigment cells. Faculty Mentor: James Hoerter (Biology- CAS).
 - Sarah Gilbert (Pre-Molecular Diagnostics). Project: Preparation of histological sections and histopathologic identification of microscopic structures that may result from exposure to selected UV wavelengths (UVA and/or UVB) in the dermal layers of the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*). Faculty Mentor: James Hoerter (Biology- CAS).
 - Jerry Kinsey (Biology-Pre Med). Project: From Brown-Green: Wastewater Electricity. Faculty Mentor: Anne Spain (Biology -CAS).
 - Daniel Langenburg (Pharmacy). Project: Stability of Extemporaneously Compounded Amlodipine Suspension Made from Commercially Available Dosage Forms vs. the Pure USP Drug Compound. Faculty Mentor: Kim Hancock (Pharmacy).
 - Kaylee Moreno (Social Work). Project: Motivation and Communicative Action in Bullying. Faculty Mentor: Stephanie Thomson (Communication - CAS).
 - Evan Weaver (Architecture and Facility Management). Project: A comparative investigation of digital and physical architectural daylighting analysis methods: A proposed Ferris State University, Timme Center case study. Faculty Mentor: Paul Long (Architecture - CET).
- Dr. Scott Herron was honored as a King/Chavez/Parks Visiting Professor for Northern Michigan University's Center for Native American Studies April 11, 12 and 13. He delivered a guest lecture on Endangered Foods, Lost Diets, and Honoring the Earth Mother's Gifts to a campus-wide audience. The lecture was recorded and is available to view at:
<http://mediasite.nmu.edu/NMUMediasite/SilverlightPlayer/Default.aspx?peid=6dfa9dcd7d1a4e5f8acda61c7b92cbf61d>

- Derek Ameel, PTM director and manager of the Racquet and Fitness Center, was selected by the United States Professional Tennis Association Midwest Division as the Facility Manager of the Year for 2011.
- More than 1,100 career and technical students from nearly 78 trade, technical and leadership fields participated in the 2012 SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Competition April 21-22 in Lansing. Fourteen students from the College of Engineering Technology competed, earning top rankings in all but one of the competitions they entered. A total of 11 medals were earned with Marcus Vanpoppelen (Technical Drafting), Brad Edlund (Architectural Drafting), William Burtt (Diesel Equipment Technology) and John Bohnett (Graphic Communications) bringing home gold medals. The four gold medal recipients will move on to compete at the national level in Kansas City the week of June 23-28. Professors Joe Compton, Gary Gerber, Pat Klarecki, Paul Long, Gary Maike, Ramon Robinson and Dan Wanink provided volunteer assistance to their students in preparing for this event
- Robert Coombs, a quadriplegic and photography student at Kendall College of Art and Design, is featured in this month's issue of "New Mobility Magazine." He broke his neck in 2009 doing a double back flip on a trampoline. He was studying photography at Kendall at the time of his injury. After his injury, Coombs realized he could still fully take part in his passions so he went to work on his Master of Fine Arts degree using a computer to control his camera.

The full list of Good New items for May and previous months is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

Oliver Evans Tribute

Last Saturday, Kendall College of Art and Design held an event celebrating the career of Kendall President Oliver Evans, who is retiring this July after 18 years with the college. It was a fitting recognition of the service that Oliver has given to Kendall, and especially his role in facilitating the merger between Kendall and Ferris.

The fall 2011 issue of *Ferris Magazine* featured an interview with Oliver in which he reflected upon his career with Kendall. When asked what people will think about when they think about the Oliver Evans presidency, he was typically modest. He said that he just hoped people think he "was the right person at this particular moment in the college's history." As someone who has a unique perspective on Kendall and the opportunities it provides its students, I can say that Oliver was absolutely the right person to take his college to the next level of its history.

Obviously, a major event during Oliver's presidency was the merger with Ferris. Oliver saw the complementary missions of Kendall College of Art and Design and Ferris State University. Historically, both institutions have valued the practical, real-world application of learning. By joining forces Kendall and Ferris created a partnership that draws upon that tradition and updated it for the 21st century. Our joint educational mission has been greatly strengthened by the merger, and for that Oliver deserves credit both for his vision and for the hard nuts and bolts work that went into making the merger into a successful partnership.

It has been my privilege to work with Oliver for the last nine years and to witness a real transformation of Kendall into a resource not only for Kendall students, but for the city of Grand

Rapids. Oliver will be missed, but the legacy of his leadership is a college with a strong vision for what it is and what it wants to be in the future.

Former Federal Building Opening

Last Tuesday we held a “soft” opening for the former Grand Rapids Federal Building, which is now a part of Kendall College of Art and Design. Kendall’s fast-growing enrollment has made extra space for the college a priority, and the renovated historic Federal Building is an amazing addition to our Grand Rapids campus.

Kendall President Oliver Evans, incoming Kendall President David Rosen, Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell and others offered remarks. The opening coincided with the annual Kendall student art exhibition, and the renovated building gallery space provided the perfect venue for the students’ remarkable work.

If you were unable to make it to the opening, there is an article by reporter Matt Gade on the MLive website that has some very good photos of the event. You can access the article at http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/05/kendall_college_offers_public.html

Thank you for the difference you make for our students. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president