

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
August 22, 2008

Activity on campus is increasing in pace as we prepare for our returning and first-time students to arrive. Soon the relative quiet of the past two weeks will be replaced by the vibrancy and excitement of the beginning of our school year. Whether you have been here all summer, returning from time away or have just arrived, I want to welcome you and express my hope that the coming academic year will be a time of rewarding challenges and fresh achievements.

In whatever capacity you serve the University, I hope you will take time to help make students – especially those new to our campus – feel welcome here. When I talk with our students I emphasize how important is for them to get involved and to build connections with new friends, advisors, and teachers.

Welcoming New Students and Faculty

We have many good programs and initiatives designed to help our students adjust to college life. If you are on the Big Rapids campus and can spare some time during the next two weeks I want to encourage you to become involved with the First Impressions program. Perhaps in the past you have seen the banners and First Impressions tents around campus. First Impressions will be in action on August 27th and 28th and on September 2nd and 3rd. I find this to be a rewarding and enjoyable experience - greeting our students, meeting their families, and helping answer their questions. I want to offer a special thank you to the many volunteers who make this possible, and who I am sure welcome your involvement. If you'd like to join First Impressions, please contact Deb Sweet at extension 5916.

Another wonderful program is Bulldogs in Action – a community service sponsored by the Office of Housing & Residence Life, the Honors Program and other campus organizations. Through this, students help students move into their residence halls, certainly one of the most appreciated ways we can welcome students and their families to campus. As a parent I can remember carrying our daughters' belongings up many flights of steps, and want to thank our students for this assistance.

This past week we have welcomed forty-two new faculty to our campus. I enjoy visiting with these members of our academic community and hearing about the backgrounds and experiences they will bring to our classrooms. I love their enthusiasm and am reminded of memories from when I stepped into the classroom for the first-time as a full-time faculty member. Thousands of hours of collective effort have gone into the selection of our new faculty. I encourage you to help them feel at home and accepted on our campus and community. We very much want to help them begin successful careers here at Ferris.

This week I've been walking through our Big Rapids campus, visiting residence halls and seeing the results of many renovation projects. Wednesday I had the opportunity to meet our residence advisors, desk services managers and assistants, and First-Year Experience peer mentors. I am very impressed by the dedication, professionalism, and enthusiasm of these student workers. They help make our campus a home for our residence life students. We have a full complement of

people living in residence halls this year, a success made possible by excellent freshman recruiting and the living environment these talented and committed student workers and our dedicated staff make possible.

Changes, Good News and a Celebration

There are many new upgrades on campus, with improvements to classrooms, laboratories and lecture halls. The Pharmacy Auditorium and Ewigleben Ice Arena have undergone major and much needed renovations, and on September 2nd a new Starbucks will be opening in the Interdisciplinary Resource Center. Our grounds, skilled trades, and custodial staffs have done an outstanding job of making campus a beautiful and inviting place for our students and their families and friends.

There are many, many things to celebrate from the summer months. Some of those can be found on our good news page - <http://ferris.edu/president/goodnews.htm> and from our Ferris in the News page - <http://ferris.edu/news/FSU-IN-News.cfm> One of the more recent stories is about student Alison Meyer of the women's golf team. I want to congratulate her for winning the Minnesota State Amateur Championship. Alison fired two final under-par rounds to capture the title.

Finally, don't forget to attend Founders' Day activities on Thursday, September 4th. As a part of this event that honors our founders, Woodbridge N. and Helen Gillespie Ferris, I will deliver remarks on our strategic plan in the Rankin Center Dome Room starting at 11 a.m., followed by a picnic on the Quad and a Strategic Planning Q&A session in Rankin Centennial Dining Room at 1 p.m. with Robert von der Osten. From 4-7 p.m. there will be an ice cream social and picnic with entertainment sponsored by Student Activities on the Quad, followed by "Rockin' in the Rec. Center" at 8 p.m. Check the Campus Calendar for more details.

Again, my best wishes for the coming year. We will have record enrollments for Ferris State University this fall with our programs in Big Rapids, Grand Rapids and across Michigan. The strides we have made across departments and colleges to work together as an institution has made this an institution that is attracting and retaining more students than ever before. Thank you for making this possible.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler
President