

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
September 16, 2013

ArtPrize

ArtPrize begins this Wednesday in Grand Rapids. Earlier this year *Time* magazine named this international art competition one of “Five Festival Events You Won’t Want to Miss in 2013.” In all, this monumental exhibition encompasses 1,524 entries in 169 locations. With the exception of some entries displayed at Meijer Gardens, the exhibits are situated within a three-mile area in downtown Grand Rapids.

Kendall College of Art and Design is a major sponsor of this event and the Woodbridge N. Ferris building serves as one of the ArtPrize exhibition centers. I have seen the exhibit in the Ferris Building, entitled “Designed to Win,” and it is stunning. ArtPrize offers a great breadth of exhibits and many surprises for visitors.

Ferris and Kendall are engaged with ArtPrize in many ways. When I was in Grand Rapids last week a collaborative design experiment in Pearl Street between the Kendall and Ferris buildings was being installed. This is described as “...a dynamic green space that facilitates an organic exchange of ideas about sustainability, design thinking, and the relationship between educational institutions and their surrounding communities.” More information including comments from Gayle DeBruyn, who chairs the Collaborative Design program, is accessible here - <http://www.kcad.edu/news/KCAD-to-host-revision-project-during-ArtPrize-2013/>.

Ferris is sponsoring a family drawing lesson on Friday, September 27th at 7 p.m. at Rosa Parks Circle. Artist Mark Kistler of PBS’ “Mark Kistler’s Imagination Station,” will lead the drawing lesson. The event will be aired live on Maranda’s *Where You Live* on WOTV. Families are invited to experience this free event and learn to draw together.

A number of Kendall faculty, staff and students are exhibiting at ArtPrize. A webpage has been developed that lists them - <http://www.kcad.edu/artprize/participants/>. Additionally, there are a number of Kendall alumni who are exhibiting - Robert Coombs, Cody Erickson, Mark Schentzel and others. Glen Okonowski, from the Ferris Television and Digital Media Program, in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Symphony, is exhibiting a video and still photo piece titled “I Never Saw Another Butterfly.” This listing of Ferris and Kendall ArtPrize exhibitors is admittedly incomplete. If you are exhibiting or know of someone from our Ferris/Kendall community who is, please let me know so we can highlight all Ferris participation.

If you have attended ArtPrize in the past, you understand that this is a unique and compelling experience. For me this is much more about the art than the competition. Many members of our university community volunteer for ArtPrize and have already put in much preparatory work. If you would like to volunteer with the Kendall exhibition, you can sign up online at - <http://www.kcad.edu/artprize/volunteers/>.

Good News

In visiting with and listening to people at our University, I am often struck by how much good work in such a wide range of disciplines take place. Frequently we are unaware of what our faculty, staff, and students are engaged in and the accomplishments and honors they are compiling. Over the years I have asked that we collect items of Good News so we can assemble and share our achievements more broadly. The start of the academic year is a time when there is much positive news taking place and when we can also share some of the successes from the summer months. Our first collection of Good News is the biggest I believe we have ever assembled - twelve pages long!

In reading through this material, I was struck by the amazing work you are doing. Examples are all around us every day. For example, on Saturday morning our Pharmacy Club students sponsored a 5K fun run. This benefitted the Community Pharmacy established in the College of Pharmacy Building, which helps provide prescription drug support for indigent care. Over 150 people participated in this event.

A number of colleges sponsor welcome-to-campus events. I was fortunate to attend the College of Engineering Technology student welcome-back picnic. These are wonderful examples of how we can build strong relationships with our students and help them feel engaged and appreciated. My thanks to everyone who helps make these such vibrant and welcoming events. I believe they make a significant difference for our students.

Selecting these examples from the whole list of Good News was very difficult because there are so many great items. Not only is there much to celebrate here, but there are also opportunities here for participation and collaboration. There are many, many more extraordinary accomplishments. Please take a few moments to read the full list, available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

- The *Promesa* summer bridge program partners Ferris and its Center for Latino Studies with the Hispanic Center, Grand Rapids Public Schools and others to promote college readiness for student success. With the additional partnership of Kendall College of Art and Design, the Woodbridge Promise Summer Bridge Program for incoming first-year students now is serving high school seniors in the Grand Rapids Public Schools.
- Clifton Franklund and Avesh Raghunandan were recognized as members of the Top 25 STEM professors in Michigan by StateStats.org . The entire list is accessible here - <http://onlineschoolsmichigan.com/top-college-professors-in-michigan/science-technology-engineering-math/> .
- Ferris is the recipient of this year's Training for Intervention ProcedureS (TIPS) Award of Excellence from Health Communications, Inc. Ferris works to prevent the misuse of alcohol by training students in the TIPS program.
- Law Enforcement Academy students competed in the Kalamazoo Area Foot Chase, an annual fundraising event for families of fallen police officers. They won the team trophy and had the fastest female runner.
- TDMP students in Connie Morcom's Instructional Design course shared community-based stories they produced last semester with Academic Service Learning partners.
- Christine Conley-Sowels hosted the first College Awareness & Transition Supports for students with Asperger's Syndrome or High-Function Autism.

- Nearly 6,000 career and technical education students and state contest winners from throughout the country participated in the National SkillsUSA Competition held in Kansas City. Earning gold medals were College of Engineering Technology (CET) students Brandon White, Thaddeus Wilcome, and Shane Ferris in the Automated Manufacturing Technology competition.
- Three CET students took part in the biennial WorldSkills Competition July 2-7 in Leipzig, Germany. Brooke Robinson, Ronald Olkowski, and Kieron Kohlmann were part of the 20-member SkillsUSA WorldTeam. Kieron received a Medallion of Excellence in the Automobile Technology competition. It is unprecedented to have three students from the same college in this competition.
- Gabor Barsai, Carl Shangraw, and their team received the Trends in Occupational Studies Outstanding Educator Team Award for 2013 for their work in establishing a certificate in hydrographic surveying.
- Kendall's Fashion Studies and Printmaking programs have both received accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.
- Craig Norman and Bruce Morgan together with Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) student Elyse Kleifgen's experiments with Google Glass were highlighted in Friday's USA Today - <http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/personal/2013/09/13/college-students-wearing-google-glass/2812069/>.
- Alison Jenerou of the MCO has begun a sports vision training program with the Ferris Hockey team designed to test and enhance athletes' vision systems to improve performance.
- Adnan Dakkuri has written a chapter for the Encyclopedia of Pharmaceutical Science and Technology entitled, "Dosage Form Design: A Physicochemical Approach."
- Ferris welcomed 404 international students this semester, a record number and a 25% increase from last fall. 40 different countries are represented on campus.
- FLITE has rolled out its new SmartSearch service. Using a single search-box, library users can find books and e-books, journal and magazine articles, encyclopedia entries, images, FLITE-produced research guides and materials from the Ferris Institutional Repository.
- Ferris and the Michigan Army National Guard recently signed a contract making the local National Guard unit the largest-ever cash sponsor for Bulldog Athletics. The sponsorship package includes signage, public address announcements, social media recognition, on-field and on-ice promotions and more.
- Housing and Residence Life hosted more than 200 Bulldogs in Action volunteers to help move students in to the residence halls. HRL's opening weekend programs, including a movie on the Quad, attracted than 1,000 students.
- Student Technology Services assisted 872 students through iConnect, a program at the beginning of the year for students to get their computers connected to the network.
- The physical plant signed a contract with Wolverine Power to lock in some utility rates for 2016. This is estimated to save \$770,000.
- Overall cash donations to Ferris State University and The Ferris Foundation increased by 61% to a total of \$6,631,438 for FY2013 as compared to a total of \$4,118,352 for FY2012. This total is highlighted by:
 - 23% increase in total cash donations from alumni totaling more than \$919,000

- 15% increase in total donations from Ferris faculty/staff totaling more than \$160,000
- 45% increase in total donations from foundations totaling more than \$806,000
- Four extraordinary donations (defined as individual gifts of \$200,000 or greater) totaling more than \$2,163,000
- News Services and Social Media launched a new video series entitled, “The Ferris Lowdown.” The series can be viewed on the Ferris State Video YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/FerrisStateVideo> .
- The Birkam Health Center is partnering with Victor Piercy to provide a service learning project for MATH 117. Students will use data to analyze the most frequently used services and their cost/benefit.
- Bulldog Beginnings hosted a number of events to welcome to students. The largest event was the Backyard Bash, which increased from 100 to 500 attendees this year.

Athletics

Congratulations to coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm and the women’s volleyball team who last week were ranked 23rd in the nation. This past weekend they competed at the Peggy Martin challenge in Missouri. Saturday evening was an exciting night for the football team who came from behind to defeat Lake Erie College in an exciting 56-49 contest. Over 3,500 people attended this home opener.

Upcoming Events

Please remember to check the Ferris Campus Calendar for upcoming events. During this next week, for example, among the many events taking place are those relating to Hispanic Heritage Month and Constitution Day. You can find a complete listing of events on the Campus Calendar link on the Ferris home page. Additionally, you can find out more about Hispanic Heritage Month events at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/Minority/HHM2013Flyer.pdf> . Also, more about not just Constitution Day, but future Political Engagement Project events is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/pep/events.pdf> .

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president