

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
October 6, 2008

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## Lilly Teaching and Learning Conference

Recently more than 60 Ferris State University faculty members attended the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lilly Teaching and Learning Conference, which was held in Traverse City. This year's event focused on "Millennial Learning: Teaching in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The large number of faculty attending this conference underscores the recognition Ferris faculty deserve for the innovative approaches they bring to classroom pedagogy, their commitment to teaching and learning, and, most importantly, their concern for students.

This conference focused on four main areas of discussion - Active Learning, Teaching Well with Technology, Developing Cultural Competency, and Sustainability. Those presenting sessions or posters at the conference included Nancy Baar, Sharon Bell, Tracey Boncher, Teresa Cook, Christine Conley-Sowels, Hugh Culik, Terry Doyle, Clifton Franklund, Tracy Glentz, Greg Gogolin, Richard Griffin, Kathleen Harlan, Hengli Jiao, Susan Jones, Bill Knapp, Sonya Knoll, Meegan Lillis, Gloria Lukusa-Barnett, Denise Mitten, Daniel Noren, Marcy Parry, Dan Sleeper, Donna Smith, Elizabeth Stolarek, Meral Topcu, Spence Tower, J. Randall Vance, Greg VanderKooi, Margaret de Voest, Lisa Wall, Michelle Weemaes and Helen Woodman

Congratulations to our faculty whose work was shared during this conference.

## American Democracy Project

This is a very busy semester for the American Democracy Project and the Political Engagement Project. These are joint efforts of the American Association of State College and Universities and the *New York Times* to raise awareness about civic responsibility among college and university students. Ferris is one of eight U.S. campuses participating in PEP, whose charge is to create a politically engaged population through curriculum as well as through extracurricular events.

PEP has already hosted a number of events this fall, including an address by Libertarian David Boaz speaking on "The Politics of Freedom"; a visit by the Secretary of State's mobile branch to register voters; a lecture by David Pilgrim on "Hateful Images" in the 2008 presidential election; and The Great Debate, between Michigan Democratic Chairman Mark Brewer, and Michigan Republican Chairman Saul Anuzis. Upcoming events include a Debate Watch for the second presidential debate on Oct. 7, and a presentation by Saul Hansell of the *New York Times* speaking on "The Media and Technology" on Oct. 15.

Speaking of engagement, today is the last day to register to vote for the upcoming election. If you have not done so, I urge you to register and then vote on Nov. 4.

## University Advancement and Marketing Vice President Interviews

Four finalists have been invited to campus for interviews to become the University's Vice President for University Advancement and Marketing –

- David Hoard is president of D.W. Hoard & Associates. Previously he has served as Vice Chancellor of Development and University Relations at North Carolina A&T State University, Vice Chancellor of Development at North Carolina Central University, and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Advancement at Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.
- John Willey served most recently as Special Counsel and Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Drake University. Previously, he was Vice President for Development and University Relations at Ohio Northern University, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Lyon College and Vice President for College Relations at Alverno College.
- Kathleen Guy is Northwestern Michigan College's Vice President for Institutional Advancement. She has worked at Northwestern since 1977, serving in a variety of positions as Executive Director for College Relations and Foundation, Coordinator for Resource Development, Coordinator of Grants/Institutional Marketing, and Coordinator of Public Relations during this period.
- Sherrie Graham is the founding partner for Insight Development Group, Inc. She served as Vice President of University Advancement at Northwood University, as Development Director at Central Michigan University, and Vice President for Resource Development and the Campaign at the Capital Area United Way in Lansing.

Candidates will make presentations and answer questions at a university-wide open forum to be held from 11 a.m. to noon in the Rankin Student Center Founders' Room on the first day of each candidate's visit.

- David Hoard – Thursday, Oct. 9
- John Willey – Wednesday, Oct. 15
- Kathleen Guy – Monday, Oct. 20
- Sherrie Graham – Thursday, Oct. 23

Special thanks go to the members of this search committee for their excellent work in identifying and screening candidates. The committee is co-chaired by Susan Starkey and Jeremy Mishler. Complete resumes and interview schedules are available from the committee's Web site <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/administration/advance/search/>. Please take the time to visit with these candidates and learn about their ideas for leading the University's advancement and marketing efforts.

### **Disability Awareness Day Activities**

On Thursday we will be welcoming to campus Duncan Wyeth, Chairman of the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns. He will be speaking with the University community at 11 a.m. on "Addressing University Diversity from a Disability Perspective." This will be in IRC 120.

Tuesday evening the Disability Awareness Day Committee is sponsoring a Wheelchair Basketball event in Wink Auditorium at 7 p.m. I want to thank Karen Greenbay and the Disability Awareness Day Committee for their efforts in focusing our attention on disability issues and bringing these events to our campus.

### **United Way**

There is no denying that these are challenging economic times in our state and country. In the current economic climate, the help provided by the United Way is more important than ever. We live and work in a wonderful community, one which the United Way has served extraordinarily for many years. Ferris faculty, staff and students have helped make that service possible.

The University kicked off its United Way campaign on Wed. Oct. 1, with a breakfast hosted by Ferris United Way co-chairs Dan Burcham and Linda Telfer. Volunteers received campaign materials to begin soliciting Ferris faculty, staff and students with the goal of reaching \$60,000, which is part of the overall Mecosta-Osceola United Way goal of \$460,000. Ferris student Kevin Walsh and recent graduate Nichole Wheelock have been featured on two of the United Way campaign posters. You can see electronic versions of these posters at <http://www.ferris.edu/news/week/stories/unitedway/>.

At each United Way meeting I attend there are continual reminders of how many faculty, staff and students volunteer in the efforts of the member agencies. I hope you will join in this effort. Thank you for contribution to this worthy cause.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler  
President