

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
October 15, 2012

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## Homecoming

Despite cold, windy, rainy weather, it was wonderful to see the turnout for Homecoming events this past weekend. Homecoming is the one time of year that brings the most alumni back to Big Rapids. I very much enjoy this opportunity to visit with them and listen to them reminisce about their experiences at Ferris. A common theme that runs through these conversations is the difference that a Ferris education made in their lives. The appreciation they express for their experience and their pride in what our University has become are heartwarming to hear.

If you attended the parade on Saturday you most likely saw the Ferris Pride Committee walking through the raindrops. The Pride Committee is a dedicated group of individuals who are committed to fostering increased school spirit. As part of Homecoming activities they sponsored an additional Ferris Pride Day last Friday. The next Ferris Pride Day will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 7 and the committee encourages you to participate by wearing a Ferris Pride button and/or Ferris clothing or insignia. A complete schedule of Pride Days and more information on the committee's work is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/president/fsupride/>. I want to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Pride Committee for their dedication.

There were many high points to Homecoming this weekend. It was especially good to see so many colleges participating in the pre-game tailgate activities, including a special tent celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the automotive department. One of the highlights of this was a marvelous photograph of students and faculty from 1962 taken on the shop floor. Congratulations to Homecoming King and Queen, Byron Williams and Avery Larson. This was the first year of a post-game alumni gathering in the Westview Dining Center and this proved a great success. The Office of Multicultural Student Services, fraternities, sororities and other groups had a number of reunions. I want to thank everyone who helped make this a special weekend at Ferris State University.

## Budget Forums

Each fall I take time to discuss the current state of the University budget in a series of forums. These are scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 23, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in the Rankin Centennial Room and Thursday, Oct. 25, 9-10:30 a.m. in IRC 120. We were fortunate this year to reverse the trend of reduced state funding as the state's budget for public universities was increased by 3 percent. One portion of these funds was based upon performance goals, and another was awarded based on tuition restraint. While we are grateful for this support, regrettably legislators decided to award these as one-time funds rather than base appropriations. Looking ahead, these trends - especially appropriations awarded as one-time funds - make budget planning increasingly more difficult and uncertain.

In addition to discussing these developments, the university's current financial situation and the outlook for the future, I'll also share a dashboard we have created to track our progress on selected measures. I look forward to answering questions you may have on these and other budget-

related matters. I'm hopeful you will join me for one of these sessions and bring a colleague with you.

### **The Rapid Bus Service**

This is the second year of our bus service between Ferris' Big Rapids campus and downtown Grand Rapids. The service is made possible by our partnership with The Rapid public transportation system.

The shuttle bus departs from The Rapid central station at 250 Grandville Ave. SW in Grand Rapids, and from our Kendall College of Art and Design. Scheduled arrivals to the Big Rapids campus are 7:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6:10 p.m. Drop-off locations are the Northwest entrance of the Science Building and at Bond Circle on West campus. The shuttle bus leaves campus for Grand Rapids five minutes after each arrival time.

We are seeing a steady increase in ridership so far this semester. With gas prices continuing to rise, the shuttle is an increasingly attractive option for commuters between the two cities. The service is also available on an occasional basis. I am hopeful you will encourage use of the shuttle when possible. It is a good way to conserve energy and contain expenses. More information is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/current/shuttlebus/>.

### **Hospitality Management Anniversary**

Congratulations to the Hospitality Management program, which is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a program. The 1961 Ferris Institute catalog introduced the AAS in Food Service Supervision. The degree included classes such as Catering, Food Sanitation, Food Service Calculations and Cost Estimating, as well as Psych. 251 - Personality Improvement, Elementary Typing, Health & Physical Education, and other general education classes. The first cohort of four students graduated on June 9, 1963 from the Collegiate Technical Division. That first graduating class included Neil R. Anderson of Iron Mountain, Roberta L. Grass of Grand Rapids, Carol K. Triick from Conklin and James R. Dean from Kalamazoo, who went on to become director of dining services at Western Michigan University.

The current Hospitality Management program boasts two associate degrees and two bachelors as well as numerous minors and certificates in such areas as Special Events and Meeting Planning, Club Management and Spa Management. Classes are taught on the main campus as well as Traverse City, Grand Rapids and the Kent County Technical Center. Students work in required internships across the country and overseas.

### **Good News**

The October 2013 edition of Good News items from our faculty, staff, students, alumni and departments is posted online at

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm>. Here are just a few of the many positive activities taking place thanks to the efforts of our faculty, staff and students:

- Garet Bloodworth, who interned with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department, has been nominated to receive an award for his heroism. Responding to a traffic crash, he and a fellow deputy pulled a man from a burning car.

- Television and Digital Media Production students are partnering with the Grand Rapids Symphony on the production of six informational and promotional videos.
- Dr. Shawn Andrus and Trisha Baker from the University Eye Center attended the Baldwin Public Schools open house to promote the eye center's SPEC program, a school-based vision initiative. Under the direction of Dr. Alison Jenerou and in conjunction with Baldwin Family Health Care, Dr. Andrus will provide comprehensive eye examinations this school year to students at Baldwin and White Cloud public schools.
- Ferris' Human Powered Vehicle team will host the National-East Competition on campus in April, 2013. More than 30 universities, including internationals, are expected for the three-day event. Associate Professor Brian Brady, advisor for the Ferris team, is coordinating the competition.
- Since Oct. 1, Ferris has been hosting twelve faculty members from the Changsha Social Work College in China for a 12-week professional development and exchange program. Changsha Social Work College prepares students for a variety of careers in government organizations and institutions. The program is an outgrowth of Extended and International Operations' efforts to expand collaboration and partnerships with foreign institutions.
- Fran Rosen and Kristy Motz will be co-presenters of a poster at the Michigan Library Association Annual Conference in November. The title of the poster is *Libraries, General Education and the Information Literacy Essential Learning Outcome: Sharing experiences and ideas*.
- All four Kendall student pieces submitted to the "Student Art in the Legislature" initiative were accepted into the show. Congratulations to Alyssa Parsons, Liu Liu Xu, Devon Daugherty and Josmarie Ojeda.
- Intramural sports participation for fall includes 102 teams and 957 total participants.
- Ferris has signed a reverse transfer agreement with Montcalm Community College.
- 89 percent of our voluntary housing residents that were not required to have a meal plan did select one.
- Since the beginning of the fall semester, Photographic Services has shot 193 gigabytes of pictures, representing more than 20,000 images at 82 events

I hope you will take a few moments to become familiar with all the achievements of members of the Ferris community. These are truly accomplishments that deserve to be recognized and celebrated. The Good News homepage also archives previous lists.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, president