

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
December 9, 2013

---

## Thank You

During the past few weeks I have visited with a number of our students and listened to their stories of success and achievement. Some are graduating seniors, finishing their studies and excited to begin new careers. Others are students returning from internships who talked about the powerful experiences applying their Ferris education in the workplace. Some are midway in their education, excited about delving more deeply into their major field of study. Others are students completing their first semester of studies, comfortably adjusted in their new home and studies, and looking forward to their future.

As I listened and reflected on these conversations, I was reminded of the importance of our educational mission. A continual thread throughout these conversations with our students was the difference that Ferris had made for them and their lives. I hope that you also have time to visit with our students and see the many successes your efforts have made possible.

December is the time of year when perhaps more than any other we reflect on the importance of giving to others. The reality is that at Ferris, this spirit of giving is something we practice throughout the year. By sharing what we have learned to educate our students, we continually give of ourselves, helping to create for them a bright and promising future. Thank you for contributing to what for many of our students is a truly life-changing experience.

I want to express a special thanks to Don Flickinger, who has admirably served as Vice President for Student Affairs this past year. In this he has done a superb job, helping prepare this division for new leadership. Don is retiring for the third time at the end of December, having served as a music professor and humanities department head, associate provost and now vice president. When you see Don, either on campus or in our community, please take a moment to thank him for his wonderful service to our University, its programs, and our students. Ferris is a better institution and a better place because of his efforts.

## Reminders: Pancakes with the President, Holiday Reception, Commencement

Please remember that we will hold our annual Pancakes with the President event at The Rock this evening, Dec. 9, with preparations beginning at 9:30 p.m., and running until 11:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to – quite literally – serve our students and help them through their end-of-the-semester labors. If you would like to help, please contact either Elaine Kamptner or Paige Clark at extension 2500.

Also, tomorrow, Tuesday, Dec. 10, from 3-5 p.m. in the IRC Connector is our annual Employee Holiday Reception. While many of you have busy schedules at this time of the year, I hope you will attend. There is no need to RSVP, so if you can stop by even briefly, please do so. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Kamptner at extension 2504.

Our Commencement ceremonies for students graduating this fall semester will take place at Wink Arena on Saturday, Dec. 14, at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Commencement is always an immensely moving experience, celebrating not only the achievements of our students, but the

sacrifices of family members, friends and loved ones who helped make those achievements possible. Please know that you are always welcome at Commencement, which embodies the success of our collective efforts. If you need tickets, please contact our office.

As in the past I will be highlighting some individual student stories of achievement. I only wish time allowed for us to recognize the story of each and every one of our graduates, because each has an important story to tell. Earning a college degree is one of life's landmarks - especially for those students who are the first in their families to reach this distinction.

If you know of a student who will be receiving their diploma at Commencement or have a student-worker who is graduating, I hope you will take a moment to congratulate them. Let them know that we look forward to hearing of the successes they will achieve beyond our classrooms.

### **United Way Goal and More Good News**

Congratulations to everyone who helped organize Ferris' United Way effort, as well as to everyone who contributed. Thanks to you we raised \$60,818.52, surpassing our goal of \$60,000. This is especially impressive in the greater context of the broader giving of the Ferris community. Collectively, we support the Ferris Foundation, Match Day for the Mecosta County Foundation, cancer fundraisers and much more, even when these drives overlap. Your generosity is one of the things that make Ferris State University such a special place to work, teach and learn.

At the beginning of this campaign I recognized those who volunteered to make it possible. With this successful conclusion to the effort, please join me again in thanking Andrea Blue, Linda Bomar, Sue Cherry, Terri Cook, Laurie Daniels, Nina Davis, Shari Edstrom, Annette Erler, Theresa Foust, Shelli Garland, Will Gasper, Jill Gregory, Robert Griffith, Fred Heck, Cindy Horn, Kathy Hotz, Geri Johnson, Lori Johnson, Elaine Kamptner, Sandy Kerridge, Susan Lewis, Andresa Maciejewski, Diane Maguire, Marsha McDaniels, Angie Mishler, Jeremy Mishler, Julie Modene, Denise Moulter, Mary Murnick, Amy Nestle, Karen Ottobre, Angie Palmer, Jane Pedelty, Bill Potter, Wendy Samuels, Melissa Saunders, Ella Shaw, June Swanson, Karen Thompson, Ben Upham, Chris Vodry, Shari Wessels, Debi Whitman, Melissa Wilkinson, Lurena Williams, Josie VanAvery, Mark Van Lent, Jim Woolen, Deb Yost and Ian Zista. And a special thank-you is due to Don Flickinger and Linda Telfer, co-chairs of the Ferris campaign.

While I always enjoy sharing examples of the many positive developments at Ferris, at this time of year it is a particular pleasure to do so. In addition to the upcoming holiday season, which can be a time for reflection, we are also close to the mid-point of the 2013-14 academic year. Our faculty, staff and students are involved in a wide variety of projects and initiatives that impact Big Rapids, Grand Rapids, our state and our world. For the full list of Good News items for December and previous months, visit

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

### **Volleyball in NCAA Finals, Ice Hockey Unbeaten in Conference**

Saturday evening the women's volleyball team came from behind to defeat Grand Valley on their home court. After dropping the first two games by scores of 25-13 and 25-22, the women won the next three games, 25-12, 28-26, and 15-13. Earlier in the tournament the team defeated Lewis University 3-1 and the University of Indianapolis 3-2. The team now advances to the NCAA Division II Finals at Cedar Rapids, Iowa for the Elite Eight national tournament. They next play

on Thursday, Dec. 12, at 3:30 p.m., facing BYU-Hawaii. Congratulations and best wishes to head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm and the volleyball team on this extraordinary success.

The men's ice hockey squad continues to have a remarkable start to their season. This weekend they defeated Lake Superior State University twice on the road, by a score of 5-3 Friday and 3-1 Saturday. The team now has an unbeaten streak of thirteen games, the longest in the nation, and remains undefeated in their new conference, the WCHA. Last week the team was ranked sixth in the nation. Their final action of the year is on the road, Wednesday, against the University of Michigan, and Saturday against Michigan State. Wednesday evening's game against the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor will be televised nationally by Fox Sports Detroit. Look for our Bulldogs in action against the Wolverines starting with the 7 p.m. faceoff. Congratulations and best wishes to Coach Bob Daniels and the hockey team on their success.

### **Holiday Wishes**

I look forward to seeing you at the events of this coming week. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year.

Thank you,

David L. Eisler, president