

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
April 21, 2014

---

Although it may not seem possible, the final two weeks of classes for the academic year are here. Beyond the rush of the end of the semester, these are times of much activity with award ceremonies, graduation recognitions and retirement celebrations. As we bring this year to a close I look forward to seeing you as we honor our students, our people and their achievements.

## **Employee Service Award Celebration**

This Wednesday, April 23, from 3-5 p.m. in the Big Rapids Holiday Inn Ballroom is our Annual Employee Service Award Celebration. During these ceremonies we will present the Academic Scholar Award, Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award, Distinguished Staff Awards, Distinguished Teacher Awards, Diversity Enhancement Award, Outstanding Academic Advisor Award and Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award.

There will also be a slideshow of service award recipients, wonderful desserts and, most importantly, the opportunity to visit and celebrate with colleagues. With construction of the new University Center, this year's event has been moved off-campus to the Holiday Inn.

As part of the Employee Service Awards we will honor employees who have completed five-year increments of full-time, continuous service.

### 5 Years

Derek Ameel, Stacy Anderson, Shana Beisiegel, Marilyn Bejma, Jacob Bouvrette, Christina Bregg, Nancy Buys, Kathy Carroll, Daisy Daubert, Kasey DePew, Erin Diehm, Steven Dockham, Donna Eaton, Jodie Elder, Fritz Erickson, Lisa Eschbach, Justin Faris, Shelli Garland, Jocelyn Goheen, Diane Hohenberger, Suzanne Iverson, Tamar Kermit, Karyn Kiio, Travis Lakin, Larry Levine, Marsha Longbrake, Richard Marble, Carole McKenna, Amy Misoni, Susan Owens, J. M. Pethick, Stephen Picucci, Kristin Poleski, Kristina Rak, Richelle Ranshaw, Angela Roman, Jerry Scoby, Dharmalaxmi Shetty, Mischelle Stone, Lisa Topping, Jerome Trouba, Sonya VanAlstine, Josephine VanAvery, Cinthia Vander Sloot, Eric Warner, Stacey Weaver, Lori Whipple-Ryno, James White, Scott Wilcox, Lurena Williams, Changqi Zhu, Gregory Zimmerman.

### 10 Years

Brian Anderson, Catherine Archer, Jeffrey Bates, Kimberly Beistle, Denise Byrnes, Timothy Cassady, Julia Courtney, Mark Dekoster, Michael DePew Mary Dilley, Larry Dooley, Mark Falsetta, Tracy Glentz, Linda Golden, Jeff Hardesty, Linda Hayes, Aaron Humphreys, Michael Johnson, John Kantorowski, Terry Langan, Sandra Larie, Lynn Lewis, Joshua Lotoczky, Gary Maike, Michael McKay, Matthew McNulty, Ronald Mehringer, Thomas Morris, Robert Most, Candace Price, Diana Routley, Richard Saliors, Laura Snyder, David Steffens, Jill Trinklein, Marianne Vanhorn, Nancy Walcutt, Lisa Wall, Kimberly Walters, Chase Watts, Melissa Wilkinson, Trinidy Williams.

### 15 Years

Michelle Aldrich, Cynthia Bauman, Michael Berghoef, Douglas Blakemore, Melanie Buffin, Sheryl Cass, Sara Dew, Curtis Earl, Greg Gogolin, Shawnee Griffin, Kathleen Harlan, Jennifer Hegenauer, Marlene Jehnsen, Tina Jensen, Floyd Johansen, Renee Koski, Dean Krager, Ken Lorincz, Gayle Martin, Angela Mishler, Jeremy Mishler, Brad Moulter, Stephanie Noud, Coleen Partigianoni,

William Potter, Lori Rendel, Beth Reynolds, Gordon Reynolds, Vicky Rockey, Joseph Strohkirch, Allen Sutherby, Mark Swan, June Swanson, Christi Swank, Joanne Telfor, Joseph Tripp, Lynette Vought, Daniel Wanink, Matthew Yang.

#### 20 Years

Pasquale Di Raddo, Drew Famulak, Lori Johnson, Kimberly Kleeves, Sheila MacEachron, Wendy Samuels, Larry Schult, Ella Shaw, Cheryl Verburg, Phillip Walling, Richard Weaver.

#### 25 Years

Therese Aldrich, Robert Barnum, Paul Blake, Craig Bowman, Peter Daniels, Linda Ferguson, Wilbur Gasper, Paula Hadley-Kennedy, Kristine Heeter, Michael Langan, John McLeod, Phillip Middleton, David Page, Thomas Rizzo, Jane Pole, Paul Quick, David Robison, Mary Frances Ross, Leona Royer, Phyllis Sherman, Scott Thede, Daniel Vanhorn.

#### 30 Years

Julie Coon, John Cullen, Ronald Dukavas, Larrey Eberts, Abdollah Ferdowski, Clyde Hardman, Lori Helmer, Mark Hill, Brian Krum, Elsie Lovsted, James Miller, Gary Myers, Warner Myntti, Dale Schoner, Randy Snavley.

#### 35 Years

John Bishop, Tyrone Collins, Dorothy Hart, Marc Nienhuis, Terry Pitts, J. R. Vance, Laura Wernette.

#### 45 Years

Ann Breitenwischer.

Please join me in thanking these employees for their dedicated service to our University.

#### **The Big Event**

A week ago Saturday, Ferris students fanned out across Big Rapids to help local homeowners with repair and upkeep projects that might otherwise go undone. This was the fifth year of The Big Event, which is, I am told, the largest student-organized community service event in Michigan. It surely is a remarkable show of support for the community, and requires real commitment on the part of our students who are busy at this time of year with end-of-the-semester projects and studies.

In addition to the work performed on the day of The Big Event itself, many hundreds of hours of preparation go into making the day a success. It was good to have Clare Gould, who founded this event while a Ferris student, back on campus for this day. If you have not experienced The Big Event firsthand, I would encourage you to click on the link below to view a short video about this year's effort. To see some of the remarkable activities that took place this past April 12, visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t46lxaJDX5U&list=UUAxQZuw6gILT4ciCK949gQg> .

The Big Event is an extraordinary example by our students of the difference we can make in the lives of others. Congratulations to this year's Big Event chair, Amanda Jewell, and to all our students for a job very well done.

## **New SPARC Leadership**

At the Strategic Planning and Leadership Council meeting on March 18, the membership elected Associate Professor of Business Spence Tower the new SPARC chair, succeeding Leonard Johnson.

As his first order of business, Professor Tower opened discussion on ways to update and widen membership in SPARC. If you have the opportunity to serve on SPARC, I hope you will do so. The committee is critical to the university's ability to make its vision for the future a reality.

SPARC has dealt with many important issues these past several months, including the university's Strategic Plan. They will be holding a daylong retreat during the first full-week of July. If you would like to be a part of this retreat, please contact Spence or our office.

Please join me in thanking Leonard Johnson for the strong, collaborative leadership he has provided during his term as chair, and to Spence Tower for his willingness to help move our planning process forward.

## **Events**

With just two weeks of regular classes remaining, there is much activity taking place as we head toward Commencement. These include a wide range of educational, cultural, entertainment and athletic events.

Tomorrow, April 22, the student group FSUbuntu hosts Dr. Richard Griffin at 11 a.m. in IRC 104. Professor Griffin will share his experience of being a Fulbright Scholar lecturing in Hungary in 2011.

Thursday, April 24, Sandy Alspach, Paul Zube, Steve Balkema and Carl Mauer will discuss their research in Sports Communication 11 a.m. in IRC 121.

Saturday is the annual Ferris Fest, Noon to 8 p.m. on the Campus Quad.

Also on Saturday, in Williams Auditorium, is the Jazz Band and Alumni Concert at 8 p.m. It is always nice to welcome our jazz band alumni back to campus and to hear them in action.

Sunday the auditorium is also the site of "Around the World in 80 Minutes," the FSU Spring Band and Orchestra Concert.

Throughout this period and running until May 30 at Artworks in downtown Big Rapids is the art installation "Secret Mantra" by Vietnamese artist Le Quoc Viet.

Athletic events continue with our women's softball team hosting double-headers against Lake Superior State at 3 and 5 p.m. today, and against Wayne State tomorrow at 2 and 4 p.m. On Wednesday the team plays a single game against Saginaw Valley at 5 p.m. On Saturday, April 26, our men's golf team hosts the Ferris State Bulldog Invitational at Katke Golf Course.

One of my favorite events of the year is the Kendall College of Art and Design Annual Student Exhibition Week, on May 6-10. This consists of three concurrent exhibitions encompassing all floors of both the 17 Fountain Street Building and the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building. This is always a remarkable event, one which showcases the achievements and talents of KCAD students, both undergraduate and graduate. It is not something to be missed. For more information, visit <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2014/april/students.htm>.

As always, more information about these and other events is available on the Campus Calendar on the Ferris home page.

Thank you,

David L. Eisler, president