

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 28, 2014

Interim Provost

Since the announcement of Fritz Erickson's selection as President of Northern Michigan University, I have been visiting with people and seeking their advice on whom should serve as interim Provost. In these conversations there was one name that was frequently recommended to me, our current associate provost, Paul Blake. It is my pleasure to announce that Dr. Blake has accepted my invitation to serve as Interim Provost of Academic Affairs. Paul will work with Fritz during these next two months of transition and assume full responsibilities on July 1.

Dr. Blake has been Associate Provost for Academic Affairs since 2012 and brings a strong background of experience to this new role, having previously served as Associate Dean of the College of Education and Human Services and Professor of English. Since his arrival at Ferris in 1989, Paul has served as an Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Program Coordinator of English Education, Professor, Interim Associate Dean, and Associate Dean. Many of you have worked with Dr. Blake through his active involvement in a wide array of committees and task forces, including the University Assessment Committee, University Student Life Committee, Curriculum Committee, Strategic Planning Task Force and many others. He has also worked to significantly improve communication and collaboration with Ferris' Big Rapids campus and our locations throughout the state.

Dr. Blake earned his Ph.D. in English from Michigan State University. He also holds a Bachelor of Arts in English from MSU, and an M.A. in English from Ball State University. Additionally, he is a graduate of the Management Development Program at Harvard University Graduate School of Education.

With his extraordinarily broad range of experience at Ferris, Dr. Blake has a remarkable first-hand grasp of our university's strengths as well as an understanding of the challenges facing faculty, staff, and students. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Blake and welcoming him to his new position.

University Events

These last two weeks feature a number of end-of-the-semester events focused on students as we move rapidly toward commencement.

Today, April 28, from Noon to 4 p.m., the Student Government Association and Entertainment Unlimited are hosting "Spring into Summer," a student appreciation event on the North Quad. This free event provides students with a welcome opportunity to pause and relax for a moment in the midst of studying for final exams. Also today, starting at 6:30 p.m., in FLITE 159, the Office of Multicultural Student Services Multicultural Exchange is concluding its Spring 2014 schedule of cultural potluck events encouraging students to learn about each other. Nigeria is the focus of this final MX event.

There are two Academic Service Learning events this week. The first is the 2014 Spring Celebration, which includes Faculty Poster Sessions on ASL Projects, a presentation of the Outstanding Student, Faculty and Community Partner Awards, and reception. It is scheduled for this evening in the atrium of the Optometry Building from 6-8 p.m. The second is a drop-in luncheon for faculty on Wednesday from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Rock Private Dining Room.

ASL steering committee members will be available to answer questions and provide additional information on how to become involved with Academic Service Learning.

On Wednesday, the Torchbearer Awards Ceremony will take place at 7 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. The event is hosted by the Student Leadership and Activities Office to recognize outstanding student leaders, student organizations, faculty and staff. The ceremony includes presentation of the Torchbearer Awards, Rising Star Awards, Outstanding Campus Advisor Award, Initiative 125 awards, and Five-Star Registered Student Organization awards.

On Friday, the College of Arts and Sciences will host a student poster session from 1-3 p.m. in the Williams Auditorium Lobby. This will be followed by their annual student awards presentations in Williams Auditorium beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Also on Friday the Office of Multicultural Student Services will host the Annual Multicultural Graduate Recognition program in the IRC beginning at 4 p.m.

This coming Saturday on the North Quad from Noon to 4 p.m., OMSS hosts its annual "Pignic," a free event that brings together students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends for food and music. This will be followed by the annual Black Greek Council Step Show, which begins in Williams Auditorium at 6 p.m.

From May 5-9, our university partners with Immanuel Lutheran Church for the 8th annual Dump and Run, which gives students and community members the opportunity to donate items to those in need. For students, especially, this is a chance to donate gently used or new items, including non-perishable food, they do not want to take with them as they move off campus. There will be receptacles on campus, as well as at Venlo Place. More information about Dump and Run is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2014/april/dump.htm>.

As always, to learn more about all campus events visit the Campus Calendar on the Ferris home page.

National Collegiate Disc Golf Champion

Ferris has a new national champion. Bryan Murphy took the individual title at the National Collegiate Disc Golf Champions held April 16-19 in North Augusta, S.C. He finished at six under par, two better than runner-up Dakota Mincey of North Carolina State.

In the team portion of the tournament, Ferris was represented by two four-man teams. Our first team consisted of Bryan Murphy, Nate DeFrain, Skyler Stoker and Curtis LaFond, who competed for the National Collegiate Disc Golf Team Championships, finishing runner-up to Georgia Regents-Augusta, with a cumulative score of 87 under par to GRA's 93 under par.

Ferris' second four-man team competed in the "First Flight Championships," which allows schools who want to bring more than one team, or who did not qualify to compete in the national championships, an opportunity to compete against other schools on the national stage. This team, which consisted of Ryan Brophy, Blake Budreau, Brandon Ellis and Alex Walters, finished third nationally, at 22 under par, just one behind second-place East Tennessee State and three behind winner Kansas.

Congratulations to the teams and to Professor Leonard Johnson, who is advisor to the Ferris Disc Sports Club of which the Disc Golf team is a part. The RSO also supports our students competing in the sport of Ultimate Frisbee.

Athletics

For the 12th consecutive year, our men's golf team has received an NCAA Tournament bid. The team will compete in the 2014 Midwest/Central Super Regional May 5-7 at the Fox Run Golf Club in Eureka, Mo. The tournament will consist of 10 teams from the Midwest Region along with

10 from the Central Region. The top three teams will advance to the 2014 NCAA-II Men's Golf Championships May 19-23 at the Meadows Golf Course in Allendale. Also, the team finished their regular season by winning the annual Bulldog Invitational at Katke Golf Course this past weekend. Please join me in congratulating our men's team and wishing them the best in post-season play.

The women's golf team also had a successful weekend, finishing second at the GLIAC Conference Championship tournament. Three different players finished in the top-ten individually - Kelsey McKinley who finished 5th, Ashley Swanon who finished one stroke back in 6th place, and Jacqueline Mulder who took 8th place. Bids for the NCAA Division II championships will be announced early this week.

Our Track and Field athletes will be taking part in the GLIAC Outdoor Track & Field Championships in Geneva, Ohio, this Wednesday through Friday. In preparation, our Bulldogs took part in the Ernie Mousseau Track and Field Classic, hosted by Aquinas College this past Saturday. Briana Raasio won the women's javelin competition, and Lucas Johnson placed second overall in the hammer throw, which makes him third-place on Ferris' all-time outdoor performance chart in that event. Please wish out students-athletes well as they compete in the conference championships.

Pancakes with the President

With exam week nearly upon us, we again look forward to "Pancakes with the President," which will be hosted by the Student Government Association on Monday, May 5, starting at 10 p.m. in the Rock Café. This annual event quite literally serves our students as they are busy studying, looking forward to graduating and preparing to head home for the summer.

If you have helped in the past you know this is a unique opportunity to interact with students and be part of a special evening during what for some of our students will be one of their last campus events. This year's event includes prize drawings, trivia challenges and an opportunity to get photographed with Brutus, the Ferris mascot.

If you would like to assist with serving our students, please contact Elaine Kamptner at ext.2504 or kamptnee@ferris.edu. I look forward to working with you to serve and interact with our students.

Thank you,

David L. Eisler, president