

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 17, 2014

Good News – February 2014

The success of our University results from the good efforts of people throughout our many divisions, colleges, and departments. It is always a pleasure to share the many achievements of Ferris faculty, staff and students. Too often the remarkable things taking place in the Ferris community go by unnoted. My hope is that you will take a moment and congratulate a colleague on the work he or she is doing to make our University a special place.

- Eight students in the *Promesa* Scholars program successfully completed their first semester of college. Through the Center for Latin@ Studies, this program provides financial and academic support to students who are connected to partnering community-based organizations.
- The Printing Industries of Michigan, along with five Detroit area graphic related clubs, named faculty member John Conati their 2013-14 Educator of the Year.
- This past fall senior Architecture and Sustainability students in the Small Town Studio, taught by Paul Long, engaged in two service-learning projects, one with the village of Mecosta, the other with Big Rapids' St. Peter's Lutheran Church and School Leadership Council to develop conceptual plans to expand school facilities.
- Spence Tower, Deb Thalner, and Melissa Nuckles presented their paper, "Lessons Learned: A Mandatory Tutorial for Online Learning Prepares Students to Hit the Ground Running," at the Sloan Consortium International Conference on Online Learning conference.
- Dr. Sarah Hinkley is the recipient of a Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service Learning Award for the "Students in Need of Eyecare" program with the Mesick Consolidated Schools. Dr. Hinkley was also featured in a *USA Today* article on "Computer Vision Syndrome."
<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2014/01/25/digital-eye-strain/4491611/>
- Dr. John Pole received the Michigan Optometric Association's Educator of the Year award. Thomas Hubbard was named Student of the Year.
- Karen GreenBay reports that the Keys to Degrees - Single Parent Initiative grant from the Kellogg Foundation has been renewed through 2015. This provides programming support for students who are the single parents of school-aged and pre-school aged children.
- Professor Terry Doyle's book, *The New Science of Learning: How to Learn in Harmony With Your Brain*, has been honored as a finalist for the USA Best Book Awards.
- Kendall College of Art and Design students, led by faculty member Jon Moroney, won second place at the annual Startup Weekend design competition for their product, "The Body Buffer," a bath and body product.
- Ferris ice hockey standout Chris Kunitz of the Pittsburgh Penguins is skating for defending gold medal champion Canada in the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

- The Ferris and Northwood Student-Athlete Advisory Committees teamed up for a “Two Teams, One Dream” initiative and presented the Make-A-Wish Foundation with a \$5,000 donation at the home basketball contest against Northwood.
- Head golf coach Mike Mignano will lead a Team Michigan contingent of Special Olympics athletes at the 2014 Special Olympics North America Games.
- The women’s soccer program had the nation's third-highest grade point average for the 2012-13 school year. The Bulldogs posted a 3.66 cumulative GPA.
- On Jan. 22, The Rock Cafe and Dining Services were featured on Grand Rapids WZZM 13 TV - <http://www.wzzm13.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=278793>
- Governmental Relations and General Counsel presented two days of training to 179 employees/volunteers regarding the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.
- Nearly 200 companies registered for last week’s Spring Career Fair, making it the largest in Ferris history.
- A new Ferris Relief Scholarship helps graduating students who are experiencing financial difficulties which threaten their degree completion. This scholarship was made available by support from members of the President’s Council.
- 59 students attended Ferris’ second virtual recruitment event, a video chat for students/parents/counselors including staff from Housing, Financial Aid, Student Life and Admissions. Families from Texas, Illinois and California have participated in these events.
- The men’s basketball program has seen a 210% increase in funds raised since July, while the women's basketball program has seen a 43% increase.
- The Marketing and Communications office has completed the Spring 2014 edition of *Pharmacy Magazine*. This highlights the humanitarian work of the college through such projects as the Pharmacy Care Clinic and international missions.

This is only a small portion of the Good News items submitted from across the university; there are many more extraordinary efforts to share. I encourage you to look at the full list at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

New Vice President for Student Affairs

Today, Feb. 17th, is Dr. Jeanine Ward-Roof’s first official day at Ferris as our new Vice President of Student Affairs. She comes to us from Florida State University where she was Dean of Students and we are very excited to have her as a member of our leadership team. Please join me in welcoming Jeanine to Ferris and her family to Big Rapids.

During this semester, Kristen Salomonson has done excellent work in leading Student Affairs on an interim basis. When you see Kristen, please thank her for this service.

With our new University Center under construction and record spring semester enrollment, this is a very exciting time for our students and for Ferris. It is a pleasure to have Dr. Ward-Roof leading our efforts as we work to provide the best possible Ferris experience for our students.

Conversion to Office 365

Over the past year a cross-University group has worked to evaluate our email, calendaring and online collaborative systems. As a result of their efforts we are migrating from Lotus Notes to the Office 365 system. This coming weekend, Feb. 21-24, Information Technology Services will

migrate all areas except Academic Affairs and Kendall College to the new system. Academic Affairs along with Kendall faculty and staff will move to the new system March 7-11.

This is a significant undertaking for everyone at the University. If you have not yet had opportunity to review what you need to do *before* the migration, it is important you take time to read the information at

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/mytechsupport/servicecat/emailcalmessage/office365/Pre-Lotus-Notes-To-Office-365-Migration.htm>

To assist in preparing you for the new email and calendaring system there are a number of educational opportunities available. These are detailed at

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/mytechsupport/servicecat/emailcalmessage/office365/Live-training-sessions.htm>

Each of us understands the limitations in our current email platform and the need to move to a more modern system. This is a major undertaking for our ITS staff and I want to thank them for the extraordinary efforts they are making to migrate our entire university to this new system.

An effort of this magnitude will require the patience of everyone as technical issues are solved and as each of us learns to use these new tools. I encourage you to assist in this effort by taking advantage of the educational support provided, working through the pre-migration checklists, and following the advice provided.

Festival of the Arts

Last Friday evening's Festival of the Arts presentation of the Silk Road Acrobats attracted a large, enthusiastic crowd to Williams Auditorium. A full slate of events is scheduled for this, the festival's third week. The Youth and Adult FestLabs continue on Monday and Tuesday evenings including sessions on digital storytelling with Nick Kuiper and clay with Margo Berke. Among the offerings this week are

- Floral Arranging Workshop: A Night in the Tropics, Tues., 7 p.m. Patterson's Flowers
- Five-Minute Fiction Performance, Wed., 7 p.m. St. Andrews Church
- Ed Mallett and the Alvin Waddles Trio, Thurs., 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church
- Swing Dance with the Flat River Big Band, Fri., 7 p.m., Fraternal Order of Eagles Club
- Ecumenical Choir Concert, Sat., 4 p.m., First United Methodist Church
- Crank It Up: The Trace in Concert, Sat., 7 p.m., Cranker's Brewery
- Foreign film, "A Separation," Sat., 7 p.m., IRC 120
- "Peter vs. the Wolf," with the Ferris Bands and Orchestra, and Justin Locke, Sun., 4 p.m., Williams Auditorium

This is only a sampling of what the festival is presenting this week. For a full listing of events, go to <http://www.brfota.org/>. Come out, escape the winter doldrums and enjoy the Festival of the Arts.

Thank you,

David L. Eisler, president