

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
October 13, 2014

Ferris Foundation Benefit Gala

This year's Ferris Foundation for Excellence Benefit Gala will take place on Friday, Oct. 24 at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids. The Ferris Foundation does a remarkable job of helping to raise donor support for our university. For me, the high point of the evening is the celebration of our student Opportunity Scholarship recipients, and our faculty Merit Grant recipients. This year, the faculty members receiving grants are

- Patrick English, College of Engineering Technology, for providing students with experiences testing batteries of different chemistries for electric cars.
- Sarah Hinckley, Michigan College of Optometry, for the Students In Need Of Eyecare program, and strengthening a partnership program with the Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.
- Jennifer Johnson, College of Arts and Sciences, for studying and characterizing the urban heat network of Big Rapids.
- Lisa Salvati, College of Pharmacy, for piloting a medication therapy management sub-contracting service.
- Susan Wancour, College of Health Professions, for technology to keep students up to date with current dental practices.
- Mary Beth Zimmer, College of Arts and Sciences, to support student access to professional conferences.

Fourteen-time Emmy Award-winning sports broadcaster and Michigan native Dick Enberg will be the keynote speaker for this year's event.

I hope you will consider attending this gala, which seeks to raise \$100,000 in support of our students and faculty. Tickets are available for purchase until Friday, Oct. 17. For more information, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/foundation/benefit.htm> . I appreciate very much the leadership of our Foundation Board members for this event, the work of many people across our university in helping to plan and host the event, and the support of Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative, our major sponsor in this endeavor. This is an enjoyable evening and one that celebrates our university and its people. I hope to see you there.

ArtPrize

The important role Kendall College of Art and Design plays in ArtPrize was certainly present during Friday evening's awards. Exhibits at Kendall's Woodbridge N. Ferris Building did extraordinarily well in Juried Prize categories. "The Hair Craft Project," by Sonya Clark shared the Juried Grand Prize. "Tengo Hambre," by Maximo Gonzalez won the Juried Three-Dimensional Prize. I'm told that people lined up outside the building to see these two works over the weekend.

SiTE:LAB @ The Morton, curated by Kendall faculty member Paul Amenta, hosted works that won juried awards for Best Installation and Time-Based works, and SiTE:LAB was named the Outstanding Venue. At the Ferris Board of Trustees meeting last Friday, Urban Institute for

Contemporary Arts Executive Director Miranda Krajniak reported that as of Friday 74,000 people had visited the UICA to experience the ArtPrize entries it hosted.

Together these show just how important KCAD is to what has become Grand Rapids' signature event. As a university, we are excited to play this kind of role in the vitality of Grand Rapids, and west Michigan generally. While ArtPrize is the most visible way in which Kendall's expertise in art and design supports the region, that influence is felt just as importantly in ways that are less public.

Congratulations to Paul Amenta, Miranda Krajniak, Kendall President Oliver Evans, and everyone else at KCAD and the UICA – as well as those who volunteered. Thank you for working so very hard to make ArtPrize and Kendall's role in it such a success!

Events This Week

Among several wonderful events taking place this week, I want to draw particular attention to two that should both be thought-provoking and engaging.

On Thursday, Oct 16, from 7-8 p.m. in BUS 111, the Political Engagement project will host political reporter Tim Skubick, speaking about this year's upcoming election. Mr. Skubick is well known as a political commentator in newspapers across the state, and for hosting the long-running public television show, *Off the Record*. In past appearances on our campus, Tim has been uniquely insightful about Michigan and its politics. This is an excellent opportunity to hear from this long-serving political journalist in the state. You can read more about his appearance at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2014/october/skubick.htm> .

On Sunday, Oct. 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the IRC Connector is BEYOND: Diversity, an interactive event with a global perspective. This 5-star event is the unveiling of more than fifty banners on the many dimensions of diversity. Faculty, staff and students will come together to learn about diverse ideas, perspectives, and cultures. There is a video about the upcoming event at <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=QeRN2S4UGg> . I hope you will consider attending one or both of these outstanding opportunities to learn more about our world.

Career Fair

Next week the Center for Career Leadership Activities and Career Services will host what is believed to be the largest Career Fair in Ferris history. This has now become an entire week of events. Fall 2014 Career Week includes

- Etiquette Dinner - October 20, 6pm, Granger Atrium, pre-registration required
- Graduate School Fair - October 21, 5pm-8pm, Williams Auditorium Lobby
- Career Fair - Take 1 - October 21, 6pm-8pm, STARR 223, a simulated career fair to help students prepare
- Employer Information Sessions - October 22 and 23, STARR 2nd Floor, select employers will conduct 50 minute info sessions on their company and opportunities
- Career & Internship Fair - October 23, 11am-3pm, Sports Complex, over 200 employers have registered
- On Campus Interviews October 23-24

The Career Fair is an important activity to connect our students with employers and help them find that first position. I want to congratulate Angela Roman and her colleagues for their

success in building this event. I also want to thank each person who helps encourage employers to attend or volunteers their efforts for the career fair's success.

Athletics

Student-athletes continue to be outstanding ambassadors for our university both in competition and off the field. This past weekend, all three of our nationally-ranked teams enjoyed successful matches against their opponents.

The men's football team remained unbeaten with a win over Tiffin University by a score of 68-20 at Top Taggart Field on Saturday, rushing for 556 yards and gaining 667 yards in total offense. These are both school records. The team is now 6-0 overall, 5-0 in the GLIAC, and plays an important game next week on the road against Ohio Dominican, which is also undefeated and ranked 8th in the nation. Women's volleyball won its fifth and sixth-straight matches against Findlay on Friday, and Hillsdale on Saturday. The team is now 12-3 overall and 10-1 in the GLIAC. Also, men's hockey won an exhibition contest against Wilfrid Laurier at Ewingleben Ice Arena last Friday by a score of 4-1.

This year, men's football, women's volleyball and men's ice hockey are getting the majority of media attention, but other Bulldog teams are also enjoying success this fall. On Saturday, women's tennis swept Ashland University to improve to 8-4 overall. Yesterday, our women's soccer team played to an impressive 5-2 win over Northland, powered by a trio of goal from junior forward Casey Shauman. On Saturday, Oct. 4, the men's cross country team took first-place honors, and the women's team finished second at the Northwood Invitational in Midland. In September, our men's golf team won the Watrous Intercollegiate Team Championship in an eight-team competition at Bay City. As NCAA Division II Academic National Champions last year, our men's golf team - as well as the four women golfers who were named All-American Scholars - epitomize the kind of well-rounded student-athletes Ferris strives to produce.

The full schedule of upcoming athletic events is available online at <http://www.ferrisstatebulldogs.com/composite>. I hope you will come out to support our student-athletes. All of our Bulldogs compete at a very high level. Seeing them in person, whatever the sport, is enjoyable, and is a sign of support that they deeply appreciate.

David L. Eisler, president