

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
October 27, 2014

Ferris Foundation Benefit

The Ferris Foundation Gala last Friday was truly a remarkable evening. This was the 16th annual benefit sponsored by the Ferris Foundation Board of Directors, a group which has collectively pledged almost \$7 million to our University to support our students, faculty and staff in their pursuit of excellence. We were fortunate to again this year have Wolverine Power Marketing Cooperative as our title sponsor. Members of our University Advancement and Marketing team did an outstanding job of coordinating all the details that must be attended to make such an evening a success.

The theme for this year's benefit was "Imagination in Action." This was best embodied by the students who received Ferris Foundation Opportunity Scholarships. Since 2001 the Ferris Foundation Gala has produced support for 85 scholarships, including the ten current recipients who were featured on stage Friday evening. One of this year's recipients, Ja'waun Kenney, spoke about what it has meant for him to be given a second chance at earning a degree. He said, "I will not allow any more of my chances to slip through my fingers; I am determined to succeed."

Ferris students were involved in all aspects of the evening. One unique part of the benefit was the presence of Professional Golf Management students who demonstrated some of the technology and resources that Ferris' new PGM Center for Learning and Performance will make possible. Also, Student Alumni Gold Club members did a superb job of assisting guests throughout the evening. We had additional student volunteers from the American Marketing Association, Circle K, Colleges Against Cancer, Music Industry Management Association and the Social Work Association.

Through this Gala the Ferris Foundation has supported 100 faculty and staff with merit grants totaling \$470,000. One of this year's recipients, Dr. Sarah Hinkley from the Michigan College of Optometry, introduced a video of the work she does providing opportunities for students to work with area elementary students in need, as well as patients with low-vision challenges. That combination of community outreach with academic excellence exemplifies the kind of commitment to the Ferris mission that the Foundation seeks to foster. Our other outstanding faculty members who we recognized as recipients of Exceptional Merit Grants were Patrick English, College of Engineering Technology; Jennifer Johnson, College of Arts and Sciences; Lisa Salvati, College of Pharmacy; Susan Wancour, College of Health Professions; and Mary Beth Zimmer, College of Arts and Sciences.

Friday evening we also presented Ferris' second Humanitarian Award in memory of the late businessman and philanthropist, Peter Wege. Kendall College of Art and Design has a strong connection with his commitment to environmental awareness and sustainability through the Wege Center for Sustainable Design and the Wege Prize, which encourages problem-solving through the application of collaborative design and design thinking. Mr. Wege's own words describe well his life's work and passion for making a difference, "Do all that you can, for as many people as you can, for as long as you can."

We were fortunate to have legendary sportscaster and Michigan native Dick Enberg as our featured speaker. His unique perspective on six decades of involvement with sports highlighted the evening's theme of putting "Imagination In Action" on the playing field, in the classroom, and in life. Reflecting on his lifelong engagement with sports, he entertained, informed, and challenged us to continue to support and make a difference for the students we serve.

In addition to being a wonderful celebration of Ferris and the achievements of our students and faculty, preliminary estimates are that the Foundation raised more than \$125,000 last Friday to support the Opportunity Scholarship Program and Exceptional Merit Grant awards. I want to thank the members of the Ferris Foundation Board for the tremendous difference they make for our students and our people through their efforts to raise funds for the University. This evening was a triumph for John Hare, who heads the Foundation's Development Committee, and Howard Stross, chair of the Foundation Board.

To learn more about, or to support the work of the Ferris Foundation, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/foundation/>.

Ebola Information

The Ebola virus and the small handful of people in the United States who have been exposed to the virus or actually contracted the disease has been much in the news. While our campus and surrounding community is at extremely low risk of exposure to Ebola, the Birkam Health Center with support from the Communicable Disease Committee, is monitoring any potential health threats to the campus community. The Committee will be meeting weekly as a work team to address campus communicable disease protocols and make recommendations.

This committee was formed several years ago when H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) posed a health threat. Current members include Matthew Adeyanju, Dean, College of Health Professions; Paul Blake, Provost; Bruce Borkovich, Director of Public Safety; Dr. Susan Davis, Staff Physician, Birkam Health Center; Bret Haner, State of Michigan Health Department District #10; Anne Hawkins, Lab Safety Coordinator; Mike McKay, Manager of Employee Safety/Training; Cande Price, Clinic Coordinator, Birkam Health Center; Mike Ryan, Professor of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences; Renee Vander Myde, Director, Birkam Health and Counseling Center; Jeanine Ward-Roof, Vice President for Student Affairs; and Chris Weber, Manager of Risk Management and Insurance.

The Birkam Health Center is following Ebola recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Working closely with local first responders, Spectrum Health Hospital - Big Rapids, our local health department and campus public safety, we are prepared in the unlikely case a member of the Ferris community should face exposure. It is important to remember that -

- Those at greatest risk of exposure are healthcare workers caring for infected patients.
- Exposure risk in the U.S. is extremely low.
- If you or someone you are in close contact with has recently traveled to West Africa **AND** have a fever with or without other symptoms, stay home and call the Birkam Health Center or your primary care provider for further information and direction.

While news reports can provide us with valuable information, the most accurate and up-to-the minute information regarding Ebola is available at these links:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

<http://www.michigan.gov/emergingdiseases/0,4579,7-186-69879--,00.html>

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/HCenter/homepage.htm>

More information regarding Campus Emergency Preparedness generally is available at http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/othersrv/campussafety/emergency_preparedness.html .

Upcoming Events

In the spirit of Halloween, Ferris State Theatre presents “The Addams Family – the Musical,” this Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2:30 p.m. in Williams Auditorium. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$7 for seniors and \$10 for adults.

On Nov. 2, from 7-8 p.m. in Williams Auditorium, Ferris alumnus Luke Wyckoff will give a presentation on “Evolving Social Media,” sponsored by the American Marketing Association. Luke is president of Social Media Energy, and in that position stays up-to-date with evolving technology and social media trends. He will discuss what students should do, what businesses are doing to reach their customers and future trends in social media technology.

On Nov. 11 we are sponsoring a Veterans Day Breakfast event for students, faculty, staff and community members who have served in our armed forces. If you are a veteran or know a veteran in our community, please invite them to join us so we can thank them for their service to our country. We will begin serving breakfast at 7:30 a.m. in the atrium of the Granger Center for Construction and HVACR. Ferris Board of Trustees member Art Tebo will offer comments at 8 a.m.

There are many other notable events taking place this week and next. As always, please check the Campus Calendar on the Ferris homepage for information on these and other events of interest.

Athletics

Our football team continues to have a historic season with a road win over 16th ranked Michigan Tech in Houghton this past Saturday, 37-3. This is the second consecutive week the team has dominated an undefeated and nationally ranked conference opponent. The win improves the team’s record to 8-0 overall and 7-0 in the GLIAC. Their winning streak of twelve consecutive games ties a school record and is the fourth longest of any college football team in the nation. They are now the only undefeated college football team in Michigan.

The team’s two remaining regular season home games are against Lake Erie this Saturday, Nov. 1, at Noon, and on Saturday, Nov. 8, against Northern Michigan, also at Noon; both are at Top Taggart Field. I encourage you to support Coach Tony Annese and our football student-athletes this Saturday and to be a part of this remarkable season.

Our women’s Volleyball team also continues their success this season, defeating Michigan Tech Friday evening and Northern Michigan Saturday afternoon, both by 3-0 scores. The squad has an important match against Grand Valley Tuesday evening at home. Grand Valley is the only conference school to defeat our volleyball team this year and the match will be for first place in the GLIAC. In attending our athletic events across a wide range of sports I am very impressed with our student body and their strong, enthusiastic support for our teams. Please join all of us Tuesday evening at 7 p.m. to support our volleyball team in this important contest.

David L. Eisler, president