

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
September 22, 2014

Weekends at Ferris

Ten years ago when one walked around our Big Rapids campus on the weekends, it was largely quiet. Parking lots and residence halls were mostly empty as students left town for home or to visit friends on other campuses. This is no longer the case. Much of the credit for weekends such as this past one should go to our athletic programs. Saturday evening's football game attracted a crowd of more than 5,800 people on what began as a very rainy evening. The night ended in our third consecutive gridiron victory over Grand Valley State University.

Congratulations to head coach Tony Annese and the football team for their dominant performance. It was great to see the stands filled to overflowing with people standing and cheering throughout the game. Our team is in action next weekend at Saginaw Valley.

The women's volleyball team, one of our other nationally ranked squads, continued its unbeaten string in the GLIAC conference, defeating Walsh University on Friday and Malone University on Saturday, both by scores of 3-0. The team plays Grand Valley this Tuesday in Allendale.

This change in campus culture provides an opportunity to present more weekend activities to promote our students' interest in remaining engaged with both extracurricular and academic experiences on campus in Big Rapids. I look forward to your thoughts and ideas as we cultivate the opportunities this creates.

Your Input Sought on the Big Rapids Campus Master Plan

An important part of our strategic planning efforts is to develop a re-envisioned campus master plan. To begin this process a series of meetings has been scheduled to receive input from a wide range of stakeholders regarding the Big Rapids campus Master Plan. In this effort, our university will be guided by the strong focus on *our students* articulated in our new Strategic Plan.

The intent is to invite all stakeholders, including faculty, staff, students and members of our community, to provide input. Many people will receive invitations to specially targeted meetings. When invited, I hope you will attend and provide your insight on this document, which will help to chart the course of our main campus for the next five years. There is an open forum on Friday, Oct. 17 that is open to all faculty and staff members, as well as Ferris students. The schedule of meetings is accessible here -

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/planning/facility-masterplans/docs/2014MasterPlanInputGatheringSchedule.pdf> . If you belong to a group that has not been included and should, or if additional times are needed for input, we want to arrange this for you. Please contact Vice President Jerry Scoby at scobyj@ferris.edu to do so.

A pdf file of the 2009 Master Plan and other information is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/planning/facility-masterplans> . Our campus master plans guide the continued development of our university facilities. I encourage you to make your voice heard. Thank you for helping to plan this future.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

This week begins the university's Hispanic Heritage Celebration with two events scheduled in Big Rapids. The Hispanic Celebration Mixer is on Tuesday, Sept. 23, from 11 a.m. to noon in IRC 131, home for the Center for Latin@ Studies. This is an opportunity to enjoy authentic food and music as well as meet Hispanic interest student groups, faculty and staff. On Thursday evening, Sept. 25, from 8:30-10 p.m., Sigma Gamma Sorority, the largest, historically Latina-based national sorority, will do a step presentation on the north Quad stage.

Events continue throughout October into November. A complete listing is available here - <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2014/september/hispanic.htm> . Co-sponsors for these events are the Office of Multicultural Services, Center for Latin@ Studies, Diversity and Inclusion Office, Office of International Education, Spanish Department and student groups including the Hispanic Student Organization, Spanish Club and Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority. I am delighted to see this cross-university cooperation and encourage you to attend.

Additionally, beginning on Monday evening, Sept. 29, and continuing weekly into December, the Center for Latin@ Studies is offering staff, faculty and community members the opportunity to learn Spanish. The program, "Hablemos, Speaking Spanish Together," is a noncredit course with instruction in a unique learning environment, taught by faculty member Eric Warner. More information is available here - <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2014/september/hablemos.htm> .

Homecoming

One of the great traditions at Ferris State University is Homecoming, which this year is themed "Bulldogs Get Down with Motown." Events get underway this Sunday, Sept. 28, with kick-off of the bedsheet banner contest and the Live United Color Obstacle Course and 5K Run at 6 p.m. Proceeds from the latter event will benefit the local United Way, which supports many Big Rapids community organizations, including WISE, Habitat for Humanity, Project Starburst and more. This event is sponsored by the University Recreation Center and the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services.

There is a significant series of events culminating in Homecoming itself on Saturday, Oct. 4, which features the annual parade and football contest, this year against the University of Findlay. Many colleges will have alumni welcome tents, and the College of Engineering Technology will sponsor its annual Chili Cook Off. Parade grand marshals will be alumnus and trustee emeritus Ron Snead and his wife, Dee. To register for Sunday's United Way event or learn more about all Homecoming activities, go to <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/Homecoming/homepage.htm> .

Homecoming is an opportunity for the entire Ferris community to come together and to welcome alumni back to their alma mater. I encourage you to join in the fun.

ArtPrize, Fortune through Failure, BAM Percussion, and Tuba Bach

By Tuesday, ArtPrize exhibits will be open at our two exhibition centers, Kendall College of Art and Design's Woodbridge N. Ferris Building and the Urban Institute for the Contemporary Arts. Kendall's exhibit is entitled "I AM: Money Matters." Gallery hours are 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. with additional exhibit information, including background on the artists, guided tours and educational programs, at <http://www.kcad.edu/artprize/>. The UICA exhibit is entitled

“collaboration.” Exhibit hours are noon to 8 p.m., 9 p.m. weekends. Additional information is accessible here - <http://uica.org/event/collaboration/> .

On Tuesday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. in Williams Auditorium, Alpha Sigma Tau and Delta Zeta are sponsoring “Fortune Through Failure,” a presentation by Kristen Hadeed, founder of Student Maid. Hadeed’s story includes examples of how she turned bad situations into opportunities for success. Her story of overcoming obstacles is a classic story of entrepreneurial spirit that has helped her expand her company that started with a few friends into one that employs more than 400 college students during peak season, and continues to grow. She will speak about the importance of self-confidence in the face of rejection and set-backs. This event is free and open to the public.

On Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m., the Arts & Lectures Series presents BAM Percussion in Williams Auditorium. The three-person group combines drumming, percussion and comedy in the eXplosion show, which they have performed in 28 countries on five continents. Tickets can be purchased in advance on-line at the Williams Auditorium website, <http://www.ferris.edu/arts> .

This weekend is also the third concert in the Tuba Bach Chamber Music Festival. Ferris is helping to sponsor several of the concerts in this unique series, including the upcoming concert, “Dance!” on Sunday, Sept. 28, 4 p.m. at Big Rapids High School Auditorium. This performance features Tuba Bach Founder Edward Mallet along with the Eisenhower Dance Ensemble and the Alvin Waddles Trio. Tuba Bach Chamber Music Festival concerts are provided free to the community and continue each Sunday through Oct. 19. More information about this remarkable series is available at <http://www.tubabach.org> .

David L. Eisler, president