

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
September 29, 2014

Homecoming and ArtPrize

This week we are in full swing with our schedule of events leading up to Homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 4. This is always an extraordinary time of year for both our campus and the Big Rapids community. It is very exciting to be in the middle of Homecoming festivities in Big Rapids, while our Grand Rapids campus is helping to support ArtPrize. This truly shows that Ferris plays a central role in the vitality of life throughout west Michigan.

This year's Homecoming is an especially busy one for sports. Our volleyball team is now 8-3 and has contests Friday evening at 7 p.m. against Ashland University and Saturday morning at 10 a.m. against Lake Erie College. Coach Tia Wilhelm-Brandel and her Bulldogs remain nationally ranked as they look to return to the NCAA national championships.

We are excited to have our football team heading undefeated into the Homecoming game against the University of Findlay at 2 p.m. on Saturday at Top Taggart Field. The team has started the season 4-0 for the first time since 1995, and last week was ranked #14 nationally. Coach Tony Annese and our Bulldogs are having a remarkable season, and we look forward to cheering them on to a victory as they return for Homecoming.

Our men's ice hockey season-opening game also takes place in conjunction with Homecoming. Saturday evening's contest against the University of Michigan has sold out the Ewingleben Ice Arena. Last year, Ferris won the Western Collegiate Hockey Association regular-season championship in the conference's inaugural season and advanced to the NCAA Regional finals, losing in double overtime. Best wishes to Coach Bob Daniels and our hockey team as they begin their second year in the WCHA.

For me, it is especially poignant to see the many returning alumni who attend the athletic events and the alumni reunion events that take place, including those for Arts and Sciences Alumni, Business Alumni, Pharmacy Alumni, Black Alumni and others.

It takes a great deal of effort to produce the many events that comprise our Homecoming week. I want to thank each and every one who helps to ensure that this oldest tradition of our university remains vibrant and relevant. Our students do remarkable work in this regard, and I want to especially thank the advisors who help our students with their efforts: [Carrie Adams \(United Way\)](#), [Mickie Albright \(Bedsheet Banner\)](#), [Brandi Behrenwald \(Lip Sync Advisor\)](#), [Christa Bull \(Graphic Designer\)](#), [Nick Campau \(Parade Advisor\)](#), [Teresa Fogel \(Comedian Advisor, King & Queen Advisor\)](#), [Fern Labra \(5K\)](#), [Jeremy Mishler \(Kickball\)](#), [MaryKay MacIver \(Website/Social Media\)](#), [Amy Packard \(Lip Sync Advisor\)](#), [Joe Rolnicki \(Bonfire Advisor\)](#) and [Angela Roman \(Overall\)](#).

The full list of activities and other information about Homecoming is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/Homecoming/homepage.htm>.

Ferris' Kendall College of Art and Design and Urban Institute of Contemporary Arts are actively engaged with ArtPrize. This past week KCAD hosted two evening programs – an introduction to contemporary art by professor Suzanne Eberle and a VIP exhibit opening. For the latter, Dean Ron Riksen interviewed Australian artist Denis Beaubois, whose work, "Currency - the Division of Labor," is part of their exhibit, "I AM: Money Matters." Jill Schneider did a wonderful job of creating an event that attracted many Kendall alumni and supporters. The UICA has hosted a series of opening events and its exhibit, "collaboration," is an especially popular venue, with more than 20,000 visitors through Saturday evening. There have been times when the entry line for the UICA stretched around the building.

ArtPrize is an extraordinary phenomenon with 1,536 works entered this year. Wonderful fall weather has attracted even more people than usual to view this wide-ranging exhibit, which stretches across downtown Grand Rapids to the Meijer Gardens. We are working to collect a listing of our faculty, staff,

alumni and students who are exhibiting this year. You can help by sending me an email of exhibitors to eislerd@ferris.edu . Thank you.

Good News

It is already the 6th week of our fall semester. Correspondingly, the list of Good News items from members of the Ferris community grows rapidly. As this sample of items shows, Ferris makes a positive difference locally, nationally and internationally.

- Don Brecken, an American Society for Quality Fellow was elected to the Board of Directors for ASQ.
- John Conati and Patrick Klarecki provided an instructional program this summer to 14 students and five faculty members from the Shanghai Publishing and Printing College in Shanghai, China. Jinghuan Ge from the Shanghai faculty has remained on campus as a guest lecturer for the Graphic Media Management program this year.
- *Digital Forensics Explained*, a book by Dr. Greg Gogolin, with contributions by professors Gerald Emerick, Vel Pavlov, and Jason Otting, was cited several times in the landmark United States Supreme Court case Riley v. California. The Supreme Court justices unanimously held that the search of the contents of a cell phone during an arrest without a warrant is unconstitutional. <http://www.justice.gov/osg/briefs/2013/3mer/1ami/2013-0132.mer.ami.pdf>
- Julie Doyle and Karyn Kiiio, faculty from the Hospitality Management Program, and Luke VanDop and George Dennis, Hospitality Instructors with Kent Career Technical Center, were awarded the 2014 Trends Outstanding Educator Team of the Year Award.
- Paul Kwant has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the National Society of Experiential Education for a four-year term.
- Diversity resources, including a recently produced DVD that shares the story of students, faculty and advocacy of the LGBT community at Ferris, are available through Connie Morcom's Instructional Design course and the Television and Digital Media Production program. An informational DVD titled "The New Normal," which promotes inclusivity and awareness of LGBT issues, is also available as a diversity resource for FSUS 100 courses this semester.
- More than 850 students, faculty, and staff attended the College of Engineering Technology's annual student welcome back picnic.
- The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers announced winners of the 2014 Student Design Competition. The team of Eryk Mancini, Josh George, Josh Snider and Micah Ringelberg along with faculty advisor, Michael Korcal, took second place in the HVAC system selection category and will receive recognition at ASHRAE's 2015 Winter Meeting.
- Fran Rosen participated in a panel discussion on the subject, "Should Librarians or Users Select Electronic Resources?" at the Great Lakes E-Summit meeting.
- The Michigan College of Optometry hosted the "Students in Need of Eye Care" program for the Mesick Public Schools on Tuesday, Sept. 16. The following are links to news stories that featured the program: <http://www.9and10news.com/story/26548533/ferris-state-gives-free-eye-care-to-mesick-students> , <http://www.upnorthlive.com/news/story.aspx?id=1097506#.VCWsyE0tDIU> .
- Dr. Jim Miller presented a two-hour lecture entitled "An Overview of Ethics," to the Consortium in Osteopathic Residencies in Ophthalmology Program.
- MCO and the Contact Lens Team hosted the GP Lens Institute and Contact Lens Manufacturers Association annual Contact Lens Resident Symposium.
- Cindy Todd has been selected as the Michigan Art Education Association Educator of the Year and Higher Education Art Educator of the Year.
- Katie Moore appeared on FOX TV-17 to talk about KCAD's involvement with Wimage, a new application for mobile devices that translates words into images.
- Michigan Governor Rick Snyder recently announced the appointment of Miranda Krajniak, Executive Director of the UICA, to the Michigan Humanities Council.

- Deborah Rockman has won a \$1,000 award from the American Civil Liberties Union and Fountain Street Church for her ArtPrize 2014 entry, entitled *The Space Between Us (15)*.
- Israel Davis was featured in *Ceramics: Art and Perception*, a publication that discusses art history and theory while exploring the contemporary context of ceramics with regard to current art trends.
- Salvador Jiménez was one of twelve artists featured in “Border Crossings,” an exhibition held at the National Museum of Mexican Art during Expo Chicago. His installation, “I Am Not Who You Think I Am,” is displayed in the Grand Rapids Art Museum’s ArtPrize exhibition.
- Kendall alumnus Kenneth Cadwallader has been named President of the Oil Painters of America.
- Kendall alumnus Jason Rogers has won a \$1,000 award from Fountain Street Church for his ArtPrize 2014 entry, entitled “Last Supper in D.P.R.K.”
- The Athletics Department and the men’s ice hockey program will host a Veteran’s Appreciation Game on Thursday, Nov. 13. Ferris will don special Bulldog camouflage jerseys for this WCHA home contest versus Alaska-Anchorage with proceeds benefiting the Veterans and Homefront Heroes Memorial Park, a Big Rapids city park that will recognize modern-day war heroes.
- The Staff Center for Training & Development has more than 40 events scheduled for fall semester - <http://www.supersaas.com/schedule/Fsutraining/Workshops> .
- Over the summer, Telecomm staff completed wireless upgrades in all resident halls and campus apartments, with the exception of Helen Ferris and South Campus Apartments. Staff also upgraded data infrastructure in Grand Rapids. Wireless access points were replaced at Kendall. Fiber optic cabling was installed between Kendall and the UICA.
- A new three-year Adobe agreement was signed for faculty/staff site licenses of Acrobat and Creative Cloud, allowing faculty and staff access and yielding approximately \$20,000 in savings.
- David Pilgrim was the keynote speaker at the State History Conference Awards Banquet on Sept. 26, 2014, at the Holiday Inn, Big Rapids.
- The Financial Aid Office has hired three additional Financial Awareness Student Team mentors to help educate our students on budgeting, minimizing loan debt and other financial aid issues.
- The Birkam Health Center is supporting efforts to control the spread of Ebola in Liberia by donating several boxes of protective clothing.
- The Career and Internship Fair being held on Oct. 23 is now at maximum employer capacity of 220.
- The Student Alumni Gold Club raised \$1,744 on Sept. 17 for Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital during their annual Cover the Seal event, which took place in the campus quad.

The full list of these achievements can be accessed at

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

Upcoming Events

On Friday, Oct. 10, at 7 p.m. in Wink Arena, the Grand Rapids Pacers Wheelchair Basketball team will visit campus to compete against members of our men’s and women’s basketball teams, as well as other students. There will also be a raffle to raise money for the “Invest in Knowledge Scholarship” for students with disabilities. The grand prize is tickets to see a Ferris home football game from the President’s box at Top Taggart Field. This is a wonderful event that helps raise money for a very worthy cause.

Also on Oct. 10, there is an opening reception with the artist Paul Collins at Artworks in downtown Big Rapids. This exhibition features Collins’ painting series “America at Work” in conjunction with the Smithsonian exhibit, “The Way We Worked,” and the Charlie and Ruth Carpenter Collection of Collins Art. For more information visit <http://www.ferris.edu/gallery> . The exhibition runs Oct. 7 through Nov. 20.

As always, the campus calendar on the Ferris home page is a great resource for finding out about upcoming educational, cultural and athletic events.

David L. Eisler, president