

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 2, 2015

Provost Candidate Visits

This week, the Provost Search Committee is sending out university-wide notes about visits to campus from the two final candidates for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Jacqueline El-Sayed will have open sessions today, Monday, Feb. 2 – one at 10-11:30 a.m., and the second from 3-4:30 p.m., both in the University Center (UC), Room 203. To review Dr. El-Sayed's resume, please go to <http://www.ferris.edu/fsuintranet/jacqueline-el-sayed.pdf>.

On Thursday, Feb. 5, Dr. Elizabeth Throop will have open sessions at 10-11:30 a.m. in the UC Room 203, and from 3-4:30 p.m. in UC Room 217. To review Dr. Throop's resume, please go to <http://www.ferris.edu/fsuintranet/elizabeth-a-throop.pdf>. These are Ferris Intranet addresses, so you must be connected to the university's network to access the information. As with our earlier candidates, I hope you are able to attend these open sessions and offer your feedback.

Good News

This month's compilation of achievements from students, faculty and staff is nine pages in length and impressive reading. I am particularly impressed by the number of collaborative efforts noted here. Ferris is a resource on the local to national levels, and these Good News items reinforce how true this is. Also very evident are our efforts to raise financial support for students as part of plans to reduce student indebtedness.

- Catherine Archer, Elaine McCullough, and Spence Tower received a Student Success grant from the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning for selecting and facilitating faculty teams to address online retention.
- Dave Hebert won the Vernon Smith prize in economics, awarded each year by the European Center of Austrian Economics for economists under the age of 30.
- Steven Hundersmarck has been awarded funding from the Michigan Justice Training Fund for the Central West Michigan Law Enforcement Training Consortium.
- Digital Animation and Game Design students, spearheaded by faculty members Jake Pollak and Nick Pattison, are producing content for the Grand Rapids Public Museum's new planetarium and partnering in this with urban after-school students from the West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology.
- Today, senior Television and Digital Media Production students under the direction of Glen Okonoski will produce the 100th episode of *Ferris Sports Update*.
- Kimberly Beistle is the primary author on an article, "Exploration of Critical Thinking in Dental Hygiene Education" published in the *Journal of Dental Hygiene*.
- Salvador Jiménez had three of his pieces acquired by the Grand Rapids Art Museum for its permanent collection.

- KCAD Digital Media students are developing an original mobile game, Kaiju Beat, for Underbite Games. Working with Kenowa Hills Middle School students, they have also created a mobile application, Battling Extinction, about the potential extinction of animals.
- Natalie Wetzel helped create a music video for “Hold On,” a new single from Los Angeles rock band [Black English](#), featured on the website of Entertainment Weekly.
- Fan Wu is one of only four students nationwide to win a Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators Student Scholarship.
- The College of Pharmacy was awarded a \$440,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health to reduce health disparities and the risk for obesity-related chronic diseases, in collaboration with the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids, Cherry Health, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities, Priority Health and the Heart of West Michigan United Way’s 2-1-1.
- Ferris-Grand Rapids hosted 150 seventh and eighth grade girls for Beautiful U; working with Using True Colors, the event explained how what makes us unique leads to fulfilling careers. This was co-hosted by Maranda of WoodTV and Amway.
- The local Fellowship of Christian Optometrists co-sponsored an Eye Care Mission trip to the Casa de Esperanza (House of Hope), and a local church in San Carlos, Mexico with the Village Evangelical Free Church in Dyer, Ind.
- David Damari was honored as the 2014 Alumnus of the Year award at his alma mater, SUNY College of Optometry.
- 73 student-athletes from fall athletic competition are on the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic teams. During fall semester, 16 Ferris varsity programs achieved a cumulative team grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
- Auxiliary Enterprises launched the new Campus Shuttle service on Jan. 12 at no cost to students, or other Ferris riders.
- IT Services has introduced Tapingo, a mobile app that allows users to place an order at on-campus dining venues, pay for it with the app, bypass ordering and the cashier, and pick up their order.
- Students and parents from the Grand Rapids Griffins Youth Foundation enjoyed a Big Rapids campus tour, admissions presentation, dinner and hockey game, hosted by the Governmental Relations and General Counsel office.
- The Financial Aid Office downloaded over 2,000 Federal financial aid applications on Jan. 23 for the 2015-2016 year, the earliest date ever since migrating to Banner.
- The Ferris Relief Scholarship was created a year ago to help students within 1-2 semesters of graduating with financial difficulties to complete their degrees. Funded by Ferris administrators, this has helped 38 students and provided assistance in excess of \$100,000.
- 21 Ferris students in the Telephone Outreach Program raised \$80,178 through their phonathon efforts for Fall 2014, an increase of 26 percent. They solicited 1,494 pledges, an 81 percent increase, with 989 of the pledges, or 66 percent, from new first-time donors.
- This fall’s 2014 faculty and staff fundraising appeal exceeded the previous fall’s efforts by nine percent. Overall giving by faculty and staff for the past year totals \$64,566 from 119 donors.

- Jim Bock, a 1966 Pharmacy alumnus, established the Whitney Health Care Services Entrepreneurial Pharmacy Competition Annual Award, and the Whitney Health Care Services Entrepreneurial Pharmacy Practice Endowed Scholarship.
- Phillip and Sylvia Frederickson established an endowed scholarship for veterans enrolled in Construction Management or Television and Digital Media Production.
- Rita Miller, a 1949 Business alumnus, created the Sidney E. Miller Endowed Scholarship to support pharmacy students interested in independent community pharmacy practices.
- The News Services and Social Media Team, together with the Web Content Team, developed a new website for the Ferris First social media pride campaign, <http://www.ferris.edu/ferris/>.

There are many, many notable achievements not included in this note. I urge you to go to <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> to review the full listing.

Festival of the Arts

The Festival of Arts is off to a tremendous start. The Festival offers a wonderful variety of artistic and cultural events for attendees to experience or participate in through workshops and other hands-on activities. Here is a partial listing of this week's events. For a complete listing and more detail, visit www.brfota.org.

- "Classics of Opera, Stage & Silver Screen," by the Michigan Opera Theater, 7 p.m., Big Rapids High School Auditorium, Mon., Feb. 2
- "Introductory Welding for Artists," with Dave Murray, 6-9 p.m., Tues. evenings, Swan 116, beginning Feb. 3
- "The Little Big Horn Battle and the Warrior Art of the White Swan," with David Cowles, 7 p.m., Big Rapids Library, Tues., Feb. 3
- "Creating a Splash of Spring Bouquet," floral arranging workshop with Bob Patterson, 7 p.m., Patterson's Flowers, Wed., Feb. 4
- Fabulous Foreign Film Festival "Once," 7 p.m., Big Rapids Library, Thurs., Feb. 5
- "Advice from Published Authors," with Tim Bazzett and Donald Lystra, 7 p.m., Nisbett Building Community Room. Friday, Feb. 6
- Stage-M presents A Night of One Acts, "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon" and "Shut & Bar the Door," Artworks - Lower Level, 7:30 p.m. Fri. and Sat., Feb. 6 and 7, also 2:30 p.m. Sat. and Sun., Feb. 7 and 8
- FSU Arts & Lectures presents Thirza DeFoe - Native American dancer, 7 p.m., Williams Auditorium, Sat., Feb. 7
- Photography Seminar with Bill Bitzinger and Brian Dilg, 3 p.m., Granger Center, 3 p.m., Sun., Feb. 8.

Festival of the Arts organizers have done a remarkable job of bringing together an amazingly wide range of activities, lectures, concerts, films and more. If you have the opportunity to do so, I hope you will take a moment to personally thank the FOTA board members for their

dedication: Chair Bruce Dilg, Vice Chair Courtney Piercey, Roxanne Cullen, Jerena Keys, Ed Mallett, Barbara Ross, and Steve Sobers.

Athletics

The men's basketball team continues its winning ways, defeating Hillsdale Thursday evening in overtime, and coming from nine points down with a little more than five minutes to play to defeat Saginaw Valley on the road Saturday. With this, the men took sole possession of first place in the GLIAC North Division. Previously they had been tied with Saginaw Valley. The women's basketball team also won convincingly at Saginaw on Saturday. Both teams play at Grand Valley on Monday evening. They return home for games Thursday evening against Michigan Tech and Saturday afternoon against Northern Michigan.

David L. Eisler, president