

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
May 4, 2015

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## Commencement

This Friday and Saturday our university joins with graduating students, their families and friends in celebrating Commencement, an important moment for our students and a tangible reminder of the important difference of the educational experience we provide. As you see them, please take a moment to congratulate our graduating students. They have worked years to reach this achievement and your efforts have made this possible for them. Thank you for making this an especially memorable time for them.

There are many details that enable our Commencement ceremonies to run smoothly for our graduates. On behalf of our students and university, I want to thank to everyone involved in the planning, coordination and staging of our ceremonies. If you have been handed your degree during a commencement ceremony, you understand the sense of this moment and how our graduates feel at this important milestone. I appreciate the effort each person makes to ensure that this final event of our students' academic careers is a success. The 2015 Commencement ceremony schedule is

- Fri., May 8, 3:30 p.m., College of Health Professions; 7 p.m., College of Arts and Sciences, College of Pharmacy, Doctorate in Community College Leadership.
- Sat., May 9, 9 a.m., Michigan College of Optometry and College of Education and Human Services; 10:30, Kendall College of Art and Design; 12:30 p.m., College of Engineering Technology; 4 p.m., College of Business;

If you want to attend commencement to support or congratulate a special graduate, please contact Elaine Kamptner at [kamptnee@ferris.edu](mailto:kamptnee@ferris.edu) or x2504.

## Nepal Earthquake Relief

The pictures and stories from Nepal show the destruction from the devastating earthquake there. While there are numerous ways you can provide support, our International Student Organization is working to collect funds to help with this great need. Students have placed collection boxes at many different departments and offices around campus to solicit contributions. Intensive English Program instructor Bijaya Acharya is assisting with this effort. Bijaya notes that more than 6,000 people have lost their lives, many thousands more are hospitalized, and nearly 2 million people are displaced – many of them with no homes to return to. Donations will help to provide such basic needs as food, water, blankets and temporary shelter. Donation boxes are available in the following locations, with other sites possible:

- President's Office, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Timme Center
- Office of Minority Student Services in FLITE
- Office of International Education; Center for Latin@ Study; and Room 212 all in the IRC
- BUS 212

- The Writing Center; Biology, Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences Departments; and the Dean's Office in the Arts and Sciences Building.

Please help and join with our International Student Organization and our faculty and staff members who are assisting with this effort. Thank you.

### **Distinguished Woman in Higher Education**

Dr. Roberta Teahen has been selected to receive the 2015 Michigan Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award, sponsored by the Michigan American Council on Education (ACE) Network for Women in Higher Education. She is one of just two 2015 recipients of this prestigious honor. She will be presented with this award at a luncheon on Tuesday, June 9 in East Lansing. The award recognizes the kind of work Dr. Teahen has done in mentoring and promoting women in higher education, conducting research, providing advocacy for women's issues, and having an impact beyond the Ferris campus, among other achievements.

Please join me in congratulating Robbie on this well-deserved recognition!

### **Good News**

As the semester draws to a close, there are many, many Good News items to share from across the university. It is clear that our students, faculty and staff have had a tremendously successful year. Here is a sampling of what members of the Ferris community have achieved recently. For the full list and an archive of previous Good News announcements, visit <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/goodnews/homepage.htm>.

- Daniel Ding was invited by Charles Stuart University in Australia to give a presentation on "Challenges of Professional Communication in a Multicultural Environment." The talk was given online through Adobe Connect.
- Phillip Middleton published a collection of his poetry entitled, *Confession from a Woman Sleeping Underneath a Ceiling (& Other Poems)*.
- Lillia Caserta was team leader/translator on a Diversity Grant to assist in bringing two faculty from Kazan National Chemical Technological Research University. They presented on the Russian educational system and professional women in science. Other team members were Dan Adsmoond, Tracy Busch, David Frank and Piram Prakasam.
- Janice Weaver and Christopher Redker accompanied a group of 25 students from the Student Psychology Association to the Midwestern Psychological Conference.
- Our American Marketing Association Student Chapter was very successful at the AMA national competitions. They were awarded a "Silver" chapter award as one of the top 10 chapters out of 350 in the association. The SABRE business simulation team took first place and the International Finalist Case Team took third.
- Nancy Hogan, Cecil Queen, Greg Vander Kooi, Timothy Eklin and Mischelle Stone presented research papers at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Annual Meeting.
- The Television and Digital Media Production Program hosted a banquet for alumni to celebrate 40 years since the first graduating class.
- The Media Communications Association supervised by Nick Kuiper completed a Public Service Announcement for the Big Rapids WISE organization. This features members

from our football team helping to raise awareness about sexual assault prevention - <https://vimeo.com/124044062>

- The Princeton Review ranked the Digital Media, Digital Animation and Game Design program #16 on their 2015 “Top Undergraduate Schools to Study Game Design” list.
- Governor Snyder visited the Digital Animation and Game Design labs in Grand Rapids to observe Skills USA, a competition that Ferris collaborates with GRCC on hosting.
- The Heavy Equipment program completed an onsite review and attained accreditation by the National Automotive Technicians Educational Foundation.
- Erica Morawski and Karen Carter were accepted into “Teaching the History of Modern Design: The Canon and Beyond,” a four-week summer academic teaching institute organized by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- Laura Whatley presented her paper “Crusading for (Heavenly) Jerusalem: Noble Women and the Illuminated Apocalypse,” at the 41st annual Sewanee Medieval Colloquium.
- Adam Schuitema announced the release of his first novel, *Haymaker*.
- Suzanne Eberle was invited to be the opening speaker at an exhibition highlighting work produced by the first class of the Georgia Tech Design Collaborative.
- A number of Digital Media students, faculty, and alumni worked on a trailer for this year’s Grand Rapids Film Festival and a short animated film entitled *Super!* that has been nominated for the Eclipse Awards, which honor the best in West Michigan film and television.
- Dan Wrubel and the Michigan College of Optometry hosted the Michigan Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity annual spring meeting on April 18. There was a review of the 2015 volunteer mission trips to Dominica, Mexico, and Peru.
- MCO resident Cynthia Brown and Sarah Hinkley presented on persistent primitive reflexes and their relationship to visual perception at the College of Optometrists in Vision Development conference.
- Stephanie Ramdass presented the partial results of a large-scale retrospective clinical study regarding corneal reshaping and myopia control at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthokeratology & Myopia Control.
- The West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce awarded Carlos Sanchez their Non-Profit Champion Award.
- As of mid-March 100% of skilled trades employees are using mobile devices for work orders, access to parts manuals and some parts ordering.
- The University exceeded 500 International students in Spring 2015. This represents a 300 percent increase from Fall 2012.
- The Governmental Relations and General Counsel Office hosted Vice Chancellor John Pierre from Southern University Law Center on campus. He spoke with Honors Program and pre-law students at a lunch and toured the campus.
- Admissions Recruiter Jessica Simon received the Michigan Association for College Admission Counseling Rising Star Award.
- Nearly 70 Ferris staff, community and student volunteers joined forces to facilitate the Get Real! event. This gave students a “real life” financial experience to help them realize the need to budget and think long-term about the choices they make with money.

- Ferris Foundation Board Director Dick Shaw received the inaugural “Pass the Torch” award at Saturday evening’s Donor Society Dinner.
- Ferris’ official YouTube channel, “Ferris State Video,” has netted 223 new subscribers in the last year to boost total subscribers to more than 700.  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/FerrisStateVideo>
- Ferris’ main Twitter account, @FerrisState, has reached a milestone with more than 10,000 followers. In the last 14 months, the Ferris Twitter account has grown by nearly 4,000 followers. <https://twitter.com/FerrisState>
- The Ferris Lowdown video series, which highlights Ferris events taking place during the upcoming week, has been viewed nearly 10,000 times since the start of Fall 2014 semester. More than 30 Ferris Lowdown videos have been produced, weekly, by News Services and Social Media Videographer Hannah Crouch:  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCaLIQypYZblaZORXSPRzKkQAKoRuz8aN>
- The Web Content Management and Marketing teams have collaborated with Admissions to present the newly developed materials for this summer’s student orientation in a mobile responsive format on [ferris.edu/orientation](http://ferris.edu/orientation).

### **Pancakes with the President**

To support our students in the midst of studying for final exams, our annual Pancakes with the President event is this evening at The Rock Café. Preparations begin at 9:30 p.m. and we begin serving food to our students at 10 p.m. and finish at midnight. In addition to providing food and good company, students can consult with math, chemistry and biology tutors in The Rock’s private dining area. This is a popular event with our students. If you would like to help, please contact Elaine at x2500 or [kamptnee@ferris.edu](mailto:kamptnee@ferris.edu). It is energizing to interact with our students in this informal way, and there is much good feeling all around. I hope you will join us.

David L. Eisler, president