

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
September 14, 2015

Pharmacy Forward

Last Thursday evening the university publically announced our Pharmacy Forward Initiative with an event in the University Center. The campaign's goal is to raise \$9.4 million in donor support for the College of Pharmacy, benefitting student scholarships, faculty and curriculum enrichment, and improvements to the Hagerman Pharmacy Building. Under the leadership of Dean Steve Durst, \$8 million has already been raised toward this goal, thanks in large part to a transformational gift of \$5 million from Phil and Joyce Hagerman and the Hagerman Foundation, and a second major gift of \$1.5 million from Jeff and Annette Rowe.

These major gifts helped raise total giving to the university to \$12 million for fiscal year 2015, a seven percent increase over FY14. This fundraising success is not just a result of significant major gifts, but also the support of a record number of donors. Last year 4,122 donors made gifts to Ferris State University, an increase of nine percent. Gifts for student scholarships were \$4.8 million, or 40 percent of all donations. We are very grateful to the many people who have made a gift of support to Ferris.

Pharmacy Forward is an example of the exciting opportunities that are possible to transform our university and provide much needed support for our students. Over the course of this year I look forward to engaging the entire university community in conversations about how we can work together to build support for students, faculty and staff, for academic and athletic programs, and for continued facility improvements. I would encourage you to watch an excellent video with Jeff Rowe talking about the Pharmacy Forward Initiative available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2015/september/pharmacy.htm> . When we engage alumni and donors in this positive way, extraordinary things are possible.

SPARC

The first meeting of the year for the Ferris Strategic Planning and Resource Council will be this Tuesday, Sept. 15, at 3 p.m. in the University Center, room 202C. Chaired by Associate Professor of Business Spence Tower, SPARC is a university-wide group focused on our Strategic Plan and its implementation. Much of this first meeting will be devoted to the continued development of the Strategic Plan for Diversity and Inclusion efforts at Ferris. The full meeting agenda includes

- Strategic planning alignment efforts
- Update: Strategic enrollment
- Discussion: Diversity and Inclusion at Ferris: Where Do We Go From Here?
- 2015-16 SPARC discussion topics

As always, SPARC meetings are open to all members of the Ferris community. I encourage you to attend, to provide your input and to become engaged with these important issues, which help guide the future of our university.

Good News

There is much good work and many achievements to report by faculty, staff, students and alumni across all areas of our university. We are too often unaware of the remarkable achievements, awards and accomplishments by colleagues across the university. In providing this small sample from September's listing, I offer sincere congratulations to all. At the same time I want to thank everyone who contributes to compiling this report. When you are aware of a noteworthy achievement I encourage you to share this news so we can include it in subsequent reports. There are many, many more impressive items on the complete list, which is accessible here - <http://www.ferris.edu/president/goodnews/homepage.htm> .

- Olukemi Fadayomi, Professor in Biological Sciences, has been invited to become a member of the Peer Corps as a reviewer for the Higher Learning Commission.
- Jeff Ek, Associate Professor in Marketing, and his digital signage team have deployed eight new digital signs in the Business Building to aid wayfinding and disseminate information.
- Roberta Teahen received the Excellence in Distinguished Leadership Award in Higher Education from the Grand Rapids Area Professionals for Excellence.
- Brian Heffner, and Greg Teter, regional campus Criminal Justice instructors were presented with the Instructor of the Year Award from Northwestern Michigan College and Delta College, respectively.
- CJ alumnus Joshua Sparling was recognized by the Pat Tillman Foundation as the 2015 Tillman Scholar at the University of Arizona, where he is pursuing law school. Sparling was critically injured in Ramadi, Iraq, where an explosion led to the loss of his leg. He has since excelled in martial arts and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with other veterans.
- Two 2015 graduates of the Law Enforcement Academy, Allison Koldan and Tyler Sheppard, earned a lifesaving award from the Grand Rapids Police Department. Both graduates were participating in their new recruit training for GRPD when during a meal break they observed a man not breathing in the restaurant. They administered first aid procedures, which were credited with saving the man's life.
- Digital Animation and Game Design student Mathew Woock was recognized as the 2015 Intern of the Year by 6Ft. Games, a game design company in Houston, Texas.
- Television and Digital Media Production faculty member Joshua Pardon was a presentation panelist at the Michigan Association of Archivists conference where he discussed his "State Hospital Project" film that is currently in production.
- The College of Engineering Technology is opening the "Ferris Maker Space" located in SWN 110. The goal is to give every Ferris student, regardless of program, an opportunity for hands-on experimentation and prototyping. The "Maker Space" consists of four desktop 3-D printers, a desktop wire bender, 3-D scanner and desktop CNC router.
- The National Summer Transportation Institute Camp attracted 21 participants. Lee Templin served as director with assistance from Bob Eastley and Suzanne Miller.
- Doug Zentz, HVACR Program Coordinator and Associate Professor, was awarded the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers Distinguished Service Award.
- The Automotive programs received donations from General Motors for four Indy-

style racing engines, Ford Motor Company for access to their repair information and diagnostic scan tool software subscriptions, and General Motors for ten EcoTec engines.

- The Heavy Equipment program has been sponsored by Grand Traverse Diesel in Daimler Trucks “Get Ahead” program, offering diesel schools access to industry level web-based training free of charge.
- The Heavy Equipment program received engines and equipment from Grand Traverse Diesel, ongoing donations of transmissions, lifting equipment, and storage racks from Weller Truck Parts, two semi-tractors from Meijer, a 4300 straight truck from Zaremba Equipment, Inc. and an international straight truck from Hydecker Wheatlake.
- Eric Nybo, Assistant Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, is the recipient of a 2015 NARSAD Young Investigator Grant from the Brain & Behavioral Research Foundation (<https://bbrfoundation.org/>). The 2-year, \$70,000 award will fund his research project “Synthesis of terpene-based sedatives utilizing a novel metabolically engineered host.” The project will incorporate Ferris student researchers and use of the Shimadzu Core Lab for Academic and Research Excellence facility.
- The Michigan College of Optometry’s chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Optometrists co-sponsored an Eye Care Mission trip with Trinity Fellowship Evangelical Free Church and Partners in Evangelism International: Guyana. An Optometry team of 15 people traveled May 10-18 and hosted a five-day vision clinic. Dr. Julie Hanson (MCO’03) led the mission, which treated more than 1,000 patients.
- Stephanie Ramdass published an article entitled “Myopia Epidemic: Should You Be Concerned?” in the May/June issue of *The Michigan Optometrist*.
- Craig Norman had a column published in the July issue of *Contact Lens Spectrum* entitled “Is it the Eye or the Lens? Dry Eye Symptoms in Presbyopic Contact Lens Wearers.”
- Sarah Gliniecki represented MCO at the Varilux Optometry Student Bowl. Gliniecki earned a second-place finish at the June 25 event.
- The National Collegiate Honors Council awarded the Honors Program a \$2,000 grant to aid in their program review. The program has also received a \$3,164 Venture Grant from the Michigan Campus Compact, which will be used for their Day of Service and Learning. This year’s event will have 16 community partners and support more than 200 volunteer opportunities.
- Ferris quarterback and 2014 Harlon Hill Trophy recipient Jason Vander Laan has been chosen as the country’s top male student-athlete, as he was named the 2015 Division II Conference Commissioners Association’s National Scholar-Athlete of the Year.
- The Ferris volleyball program recently received American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Award honors for the 2014-15 academic year.
- Athletic Camps hosted more than 50 camps this summer and welcomed a record 260 high school teams and a record 4,760 total campers to our Big Rapids campus.
- IT Services has rolled out a new electronic time request system, TimeOffManager, to those who had been previously using Lotus Notes for time off requests. Information and training on this new system will be offered to the remainder of campus soon.

- The new University Center has received LEED Gold certification. It joins the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building in Grand Rapids, the East Campus Suites, and the Michigan College of Optometry Building as gold certified buildings at Ferris.
- Miles Postema was selected to serve on the Building a 21st Century Practice Committee of the State Bar of Michigan, and also on the Annual Conference Planning Committee for the National Association of College and University Attorneys.
- As one of four ArtPrize 2015 venues participating in the competition's new Fellowship for Emerging Curators initiative, The Fed Galleries @ KCAD selected local artist and curator Elizabeth Hertl as its inaugural Curatorial Fellow. Alumni Ethan Ross ('14, MFA Photography) and Hunter Bridwell ('10, Photography) were selected to be Curatorial Fellows: Ross with UICA, and Bridwell with the Grand Rapids Art Museum. MFA Drawing student Brianna Baurichter has been named the curator of Grand Rapids' Blue Bridge through the City Parks Curator Program. She is working with fellow MFA Drawing student Nichole Riley to coordinate Riley's installation, a powerful statement on childhood sexual abuse.
- Open to any undergraduate student in America, Wege Prize 2015 drew participation from 80 students representing a total of 16 different colleges and universities as well as 56 different academic disciplines. The \$15,000 Grand Prize went to Western Sustainers, who designed the Local Loop Farm, a closed-loop agriculture system designed to act in symbiosis with its surrounding community.
- Art History student Courtney Jackson worked with UICA and Universal Mind to develop Access UICA, a new mobile app inspired by the DisArt Festival that presents valuable contextual information about art exhibitions.
- In Ken Krayer's User-Centered Design class, KCAD students Amanda Lumley, Hannah Snyder, Jordan Eastwood and Lingham Wang took first place in a competition held by Trendway Corporation and were featured in Trendway's Showroom during NeoCon.
- Digital Media students Alante Carpenter, Ed Kindsvater, Erica Syverson, Kate Flynn, and Nana Dong created a trailer for the Grand Rapids Film Festival with the help of Professor Brad Yarhouse that won an Eclipse Award.
- Industrial Design students won the top two prizes at the 2015 MWest Challenge. Amanda Hargraves, Ben Zuiderveen, Fernando Ramirez, and Kayla Ita won the \$6,500 Grand Prize with RE | Fresh, a food storage container that's both compostable and designed to keep different foods separate and sealed. Allison Charnley, Christina Cardenas, Karl Hoenshall, Mackenzie Smith and Pat Shields won the \$2,500 Runner-Up Grand Prize with FitFrames, a company devoted to helping people find the perfect pair of eyeglasses.
- Art History Professor Karen Carter co-edited and contributed to a new book, "Foreign Artists and Communities in Modern Paris, 1870-1914: Strangers in Paradise," a collection of scholarly essays. Carter was also accepted into "Teaching the History of Modern Design: The Cannon and Beyond," an institute organized by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
- David VanTuyle ('12, Digital Media) was nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Main Title and Graphic Design Emmy for the main title sequence for the Nickelodeon show Wallykazam!

- Ferris State University has achieved Gold Level status as a Veteran Friendly School with the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency.
- The Strategic Planning for Diverse Enrollment Committee participated in Grand Rapids Public School's annual Back to School Celebration at John Ball Zoo with more than 5,000 families in attendance.
- The Office of Multicultural Student Services is launching the Culture 365 Signature Event Series to garner a campus-wide level of participation at events that will focus on topics relative to the intersectionality of race, culture and identity.
- *StepUp Ferris*, a bystander intervention program, will be implemented across campus this fall. This initiative will help students better understand how to assist others, as well as make resources available to them.
- Frank Crowe, faculty emeritus, created an annual scholarship in memory of Dr. W. Marlene O'Hara, former faculty in the Criminal Justice program in Grand Rapids. The scholarship will help students enrolled in the CJ program on the Grand Rapids campus.
- Jim Bock, Pharmacy '66, has established an estate gift to fund the Whitney Health Care Services Entrepreneurial Pharmacy Practice Endowment for the College of Pharmacy.
- Professor of Education Leonard Johnson has established a Disc Sports Scholarship for students participating in Disc Golf or Ultimate Frisbee within Ferris' Disc Sports Club registered student organization. Leonard is a professional disc golfer and also designs disc golf courses.
- Ferris Marketing graduate John D. Leckenby, Everett D. Collier Centennial Chair in Communication at The University of Texas at Austin, has made a planned gift to support scholarships for Ferris students majoring in Advertising/Integrated Marketing Communications. He established the scholarship in honor of his Ferris Marketing Professor Roland Hicks and former student and Ferris Marketing graduate Leonard Zimmerman.
- The News Services and Social Media team collaborated with Bulldog Beginnings on a series of communications, including multiple press releases and videos, designed to promote Welcome Week activities.
- The Ferris Foundation Benefit on Nov. 6 will feature Diana Nyad, the long-distance swimmer who, after five attempts, completed her monumental swim between Florida and Cuba at the age of 63.

Athletics

Ferris athletic teams had a memorable weekend representing the university in competition. Our women's volleyball team won the 2015 Colorado Premier Challenge Championship this weekend in Denver, Colo., by first defeating West Florida and next nationally second-ranked Southwest Minnesota State. In the finals our women bested fourth-ranked Concordia-St. Paul, which earlier had defeated last year's national champions, the number-one ranked University of Tampa in the semi-finals. Thanks to their weekend success, our team, previously ranked 13th in the nation, remains unbeaten with a record of 8-0. Our Bulldogs will be competing at home this Friday, Sept. 18, as they host Saginaw Valley State in their GLIAC opener.

Our men's football team, ranked as high as number two in national pre-season polling, opened their season with an impressive 40-3 victory over visiting Northwood University this past

Saturday. Senior quarterback Jason Vander Laan passed for 320 yards and ran for 158 more as the team tallied almost 600 total yards of offense. Nearly 6,000 fans, the largest home crowd since 2004, cheered them on to victory on a chilly September evening. The team next faces Grand Valley in an away game on Saturday, Sept. 19 in the annual Anchor-Bone Classic. Kick-off is scheduled for 7 p.m.

While our nationally ranked women's volleyball and men's football received much of the attention, Ferris was well-represented by a range of student-athletes. Members of the men's tennis team won four singles champions at the Warhawk Invitational hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater this past weekend. Six of nine players reached the finals. The team next competes in the ITA Midwest Regions in Grand Rapids this coming Sept. 19-21. Our women's soccer team defeated California State San Bernadino, Sunday afternoon 1-0 for their second win in a row. Also on Sunday the women's tennis team defeated Saginaw Valley 5-4 to remain undefeated this fall with a 3-0 record.

The full schedule of upcoming competition for our athletics teams is available at <http://www.ferrisstatebulldogs.com/composite> . Thank you for supporting our student-athletes.

David L. Eisler, president