

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
September 21, 2015

Homecoming

This weekend we celebrate Homecoming, a long-standing tradition at Ferris State University. There is a full slate of activities for students this week with the theme, "Home is Where the Dawg Is," leading up to our traditional Homecoming parade and football game this coming Saturday.

On Friday, in conjunction with Homecoming, our Alumni Association is holding its 2015 Fall Reunion, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the University Center. The Class of 1965 will be inducted into the Society of Golden Eagles, and we will be honoring our Distinguished Alumni, Pacesetter, and Above and Beyond Award recipients. The 2015 Distinguished Alumni and Pacesetter honorees are

Distinguished Alumni

- Denise Beachy, '85
- Dr. David Friar, '88
- Dr. Kenneth Friar, '86
- Carolyn "Carrie" Germain, '80
- Amy Proos, '87

Pacesetters

- Dr. Emily Coles, '08
- Kristian Schroder, '02

Doctors David and Kenneth Friar are sons of Professor Emeritus Robert Friar, who served as a faculty member at Ferris for 47 years. If you would like to attend, tickets for this dinner event are \$25 and can be purchased online at www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/homepage.htm by clicking on "Fall Reunion."

Homecoming on Saturday features many alumni events, including a Helen Ferris Hall brick giveaway at the Alumni Welcome Tent, and welcome tents for Black Alumni, the College of Arts and Science, the College of Business, and certainly many others. The College of Engineering Technology will again sponsor its always popular chili cook-off.

The annual Homecoming parade starts at noon in downtown Big Rapids, and our Bulldogs kick off against Saginaw Valley State at 2 p.m. at Top Taggart Field. There are many more events and activities than listed here, and additional information is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/Homecoming>. Thank you for taking time to welcome back our alumni, their friends and families to campus. I look forward to seeing you at Homecoming as we highlight and support our students, student-athletes and alumni.

BEYOND: Globalization

This is the third year the International Office has sponsored the BEYOND initiative, which focuses on a topic of international scope and explores this through seminars, films, discussions and other events. This year's focus is BEYOND: Globalization, which presents two major events this week and next.

Today, Sept. 21, from 5-6:30 in the campus Quad, the Diversity and Inclusion Office is sponsoring "Ice Cream for Peace" in conjunction with international Peace One Day, established with the goal of creating peace one day at a time. Students will be encouraged to engage in dialogue with students from other cultures in addition to sharing social time together.

On Tuesday, Sept. 29, the university community is invited to take part in the MINDS Aflame symposium featuring a series of speakers addressing the topic of globalization from a variety of perspectives. The event runs from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Williams Auditorium, with audience members invited to attend part or all of the event, which includes members of the Ferris community and nationally recognized speakers.

- First hour: Olukemi Fadayomi, "What is Globalization"; Enefe Adaji and Wayne Bersano, "Ubuntu"; and Paul Blake, "Impact of Globalization at Ferris."
- Second hour: David Whitman, "LGBT Issues around the World"; Dr. Jacqueline Peacock, "Genetics and Globalization"; Asher Jay, "Conservation and Globalization."
- Third hour: Peter Bradley, "Transhumanization"; Olmeca, "Immigration and Anti-Globalization"; and David Murcko, "Accessibility of Experience."

More about the BEYOND: Globalization project is available at <https://www.facebook.com/beyondfsu?fref=ts> .

National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 through October 15 has been designated National Hispanic Heritage Month. An impressive line-up of Latin@ Heritage Celebration 2015 events are scheduled to recognize the history and cultural contributions of the Hispanic community.

- Tuesday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m., Founders Room, UC 203, Discussion: "Hispanic and Latino: History, Race and Identity," sponsored by Ferris' Center for Latin@ Studies and Office of Multicultural Student Services. Panelists include CLS Director Jessica Cruz; Eduardo Sanchez-Rojas from Grand Rapids Public Schools; Ferris alumna Kaylee Moreno of The Literacy Center of West Michigan; Karla Garza of the Hispanic Student Organization; and Natalia Carvalho-Pinto of the College of Health Professions.
- Thursday, Sept. 24, 11 a.m. in the Center for Latin@ Studies, IRC 131, Discussion, "The 43 Missing Students," sponsored by Sigma Lambda Gamma. An exploration of the events of Sept. 25, 2014, when 43 students at Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers College disappeared after a confrontation with police.
- Monday, Sept. 28, 4:30-6:30 p.m., UC 202C, "Testimonios – Culture, Identity and Success," sponsored by CLS, OMSS, and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion. A night of food, conversation and entertainment featuring Interim Executive Director of Adeleante U.S. Education Leadership Fund, Maximo Anguiano, and hip hop artist and community activist, Olmeca.

- Friday, Oct. 2, 8 p.m., Campus Quad, “Yard Show,” sponsored by Sigma Lambda Gamma. The 2nd annual presentation by SLG will showcase their values through song and step.
- Saturday, Oct. 3, 4-9 p.m., Hemlock Park, “Music on the Muskegon,” sponsored by the Music Industry Management Association. This collective art venue will feature two music stages, cultural workshops, Around the World 5K run/walk, and more. The music collective/band Cabildo will be the featured performers.
- Wednesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m., IRC 120, “You Can Live Without Gold, You Can’t Live Without Water: Voices from El Salvador,” presented by Social Work and Phi Alpha.
- Monday, Oct. 12, 7-9, IRC 131, “Piñata Night” workshop. At this interactive workshop attendees will create their own Piñata.
- Thursday Oct. 15, 7-9 p.m., UC 211, “Two Cultures, One Struggle,” discussion sponsored by the Hispanic Student Organization, and Black Leaders Aspiring Critical Knowledge.

Beyond the formal end of National Hispanic Heritage Month events continue with “Latin Dance Night,” on Thursday, Oct. 29, 7-9 p.m. in UC 213, sponsored by Sigma Lambda Gamma; and the workshop, “Dia de los Muertos,” on Monday Nov. 2, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the West Campus Community Center, sponsored by CLS, OMSS and the Spanish Department. An article about National Hispanic Heritage Month with a link to the events calendar is available at <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2015/september/heritage.htm> .

I encourage you to put these events on your calendar and attend. This is a truly remarkable opportunity to consider and celebrate Hispanic/Latino culture from a range of academic and cultural perspectives.

Campus Forum Strategic Plan Update and Assessment

At Founders Day I presented a report on the first year of progress on our strategic plan, “Living Our Values.” The plan is conceptualized in three parts – strategic thinking, implementation and tracking. On Tuesday, Sept. 29 at 2 p.m. in the University Center Room 202C and again on Thursday, Oct. 1 at 9:30 in UC 203, I want to share with you our continued efforts to implement the strategic plan, and proposed assessments to track our success in realizing the aspirations of this plan. These draft assessment measures, which represent the cumulative contributions of many individuals across the university, have been designed to build upon existing data sources at the university using an innovative graphical representation through the iDashboard software. I am hopeful you can join me next week for one of these sessions. Thank you in advance for taking time to consider these proposed measures.

Athletics

Both of our nationally ranked teams – men’s football and women’s volleyball – continued to enjoy remarkable success in competition this past weekend.

Men’s football trounced Grand Valley State by a score of 61-24 at Allendale on Saturday. Senior quarterback Jason Vander Laan passed for more than 400 yards and

three touchdowns, also scoring three rushing touchdowns. Our team had a total of 633 yards of offense and put the game away in the second half after trailing briefly in the first. This is a record fourth consecutive year they have defeated Grand Valley. The 61 points they scored is also a series record. We look forward to supporting our team on their home turf this Saturday when they play Saginaw Valley State at 2 p.m.

Women's volleyball defeated previously unbeaten Saginaw Valley 3-0 before a standing-room-only crowd Friday evening, and continued with a 3-0 victory over Wayne State Saturday to improve to 10-0 overall for the season and 2-0 in conference play. The team is on the road this week, returning home for a game on Tuesday, Sept. 29, when they host Grand Valley at the Ewigleben Sports Arena starting at 7 p.m. Special congratulations go to senior outside hitter Megan Vander Meer who last week was selected as the Division II National Volleyball Player of the Week. This is the second time in university history one of our volleyball students has earned this honor.

Finally, women's soccer defeated Walsh University on Sunday to extend the team's winning streak to five games. They are currently undefeated at 2-0 in conference play.

David L. Eisler, president