

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
April 18, 2016

Tenure, Promotion and Merit

Each year as we approach the end of spring semester I visit with some of our graduating seniors in order to learn about their accomplishments and tell their stories during commencement ceremonies. One theme I frequently hear from our students is their gratitude for the dedication of the Ferris faculty. While everyone contributes to the experience our students have at Ferris, faculty members provide the education students receive and have primary responsibility for our students' academic careers.

It is always a pleasure at this time to recognize faculty members who have achieved tenure, received a promotion or earned a merit award. Please join me in congratulating the following faculty members on their career accomplishments:

Tenure: Rhonda Bishop, Health Professions; Amy Dinardo, Optometry; Gerald Emerick, Business; Rachel Foulk, Arts and Sciences; Paul Long, Engineering Technology; and Anne Spain, Arts and Sciences.

Promotion:

Professor: Patrick Bishop, Business; Lynn Chrenka, Arts and Sciences; Teresa Cook, Business; Frederick Ennis, Education and Human Services; Nathan Garrelts, Arts and Sciences; Dane Johnson, Engineering Technology; Amy Kavanaugh, Education and Human Services; Suzanne Miller, Engineering Technology; Kristen Motz, FLITE Library; Cecil Queen, Education and Human Services; Connie Randle-Morcom, Education and Human Services; Christopher Richmond, Admissions/Personal Counselors; David Scott, FLITE Library; and Mark Thomson, Arts and Sciences.

Associate Professor: Steven Amey, Education and Human Services; Gabor Barsai, Engineering Technology; Tracy Busch, Arts and Sciences; Tracy Glentz, Health Professions; Jean Inabinett, Business; Alison Jenerou, Optometry; Paul Long, Engineering Technology; Brian McDowell, Optometry; Paula McDowell, Optometry; Susan Owens, Health Professions; Christopher Redker, Arts and Sciences; Felix Smith, Arts and Sciences; and Matthew Wagenheim, Education and Human Services.

Merit: Dan Adsmund, Arts and Sciences; Mary Brayton, Engineering Technology; Kimn Carlton-Smith, Arts and Sciences; Laura Dix, Business; Julie Doyle, Business; Heather Girand, Pharmacy; Pat Klarecki, Business; Michael Klepser, Pharmacy; Elies Kouider, Business; Gayle Lopez, Business; Bruce Morgan, Optometry; Daniel Noren, Arts and Sciences; Holly Price, Arts and Sciences; James Rumph, Engineering Technology; Joseph Samson, Engineering Technology; Donna Smith, Arts and Sciences; and Jim Van Treese, Arts and Sciences.

Academic Affairs Award Winners

Please join me in congratulating this year's Academic Affairs Award winners who were celebrated at a dinner hosted by Provost and Mrs. Paul Blake and Academic Senate President Khagendra Thapa on April 13. We will also recognize these faculty members during our annual Employee Service Awards Dessert Celebration on Thursday, April 21, 3 p.m. in UCB 202:

Academic Scholar Award

Nancy Hogan, College of Education and Human Services

Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award

Christian Peterson, College of Arts and Sciences

Distinguished Service Award

Khagendra Thapa, College of Engineering Technology

Distinguished Teacher Award

Sharon Colley, College of Health Professions

Diversity Enhancement Award

Adnan Dakkuri, College of Pharmacy

Excellence in Course Assessment Award

Team Award: Kathleen Bearden, Gary Maixner and Kristen Motz, FLITE

Individual Award: Clifton Franklund, College of Arts and Sciences

International Educator of the Year Award

Michael Berghoef, College of Arts and Sciences

Outstanding Academic Advisor Award

Nick Kuiper, College of Education and Human Services

SPARC Presentation

Last Tuesday I gave an update on the success of our efforts on student debt at the Strategic Planning and Resource Council meeting. If you were unable to attend, a copy of the slides from my presentation with sticky notes are [posted online](#). Information provided includes financial literacy efforts, comparative data with other Michigan public universities, and progress on our four-prong strategy that is reducing student debt for our students: contain costs, raise institutional financial aid support, double the scholarship base, and reduce time to degree.

Reducing student debt is one of our highest priorities. There is progress in the areas we have identified as mostly likely to help our students, and we have reduced the average debt of FTIACS who graduate with debt by \$1,700. This is an ongoing effort that requires long-term commitment, and more remains to be done. Each of us can put the face of a student we know on this problem. We need only think about those specific students to understand that debt should not be a handicap for future success by our graduates. If you have a moment, I hope you will take look at these slides, which outline some of the critical trends related to this issue.

Money Smart Week

Again this year we are presenting a series of “Money Smart” events to help students increase their financial literacy with the goal of reducing student debt. Money Smart Week 2016 takes place April 25-30 in the University Center. However, Money Smart Week events are not limited to students. Events including workshops on car-buying and avoiding identity theft are open to the entire Ferris community. Students can take part in “Geo-cache for College Cash,” an event that has seven \$250 scholarships as prizes, plus one \$1,000 state-wide scholarship.

A special “Get Real!” event takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday April 27. During this, students can learn about managing money through the use of real-world situations. If you know students who would be interested in taking part, they can [register at this link](#).

This has been a very popular series in the past. I would urge students and other members of our campus community to take advantage of these very informative events. A full list of Money Smart Week activities is available [at this this link](#).

Big Event

This past Saturday Ferris students had beautiful weather for their annual Big Event, which helps homeowners in Big Rapids with yard projects they might not otherwise be able to complete. This year 1,739 students helped at 285 houses. Our students donate thousands of volunteer hours every year, but the Big Event is the most visible of the community betterment projects they take part in.

Congratulations to all of the student volunteers and organizers who were a part of the largest student-organized civic engagement event in the state. I want to thank everyone who made this wonderful event possible. Photos from the Big Event 2016 can be accessed at the [Big Event Facebook page](#), and also at the [Ferris State University Facebook page](#).

Athletics

On Saturday and Sunday, respectively, the Bulldog men's tennis defeated Northwood 7-2 and Wayne State by the same score in away matches to improve their conference record to 7-0. The team finishes out its conference regular season with home matches at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday against Walsh and Tiffin. Our team leads the GLIAC conference, is ranked 36th nationally, and second in the Midwest Regional rankings. Please join me in congratulating coach Chad Berryhill and the men's tennis team on their outstanding success this spring, and in sending them best wishes for their continued success.

David L. Eisler, president