

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
August 22, 2016

---

## Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year. There is a strong sense of excitement and anticipation as we welcome our students and new members of the Ferris State University community. This is Ferris State University's 133<sup>rd</sup> year, a time of fresh beginnings, and a reminder of why we are all here – to help provide an education of the highest quality and value for our students.

If you have been away for the summer I am hopeful this has provided time to rest and refresh for the year ahead. Should you have been on campus through the summer, you can feel the difference in pace and activity as we prepare for the arrival of students, with general residence hall check-in beginning this Friday.

Whatever your role at Ferris, I encourage you to take a few moments to assist our new students on our campuses. For many students, this may be their first time away from home – and as in any new environment, this can come with a sense of uncertainty and anxiety. Your kind word, answer to an uncertain question, directions to an office or classroom, or perhaps just a smile or a helping hand can make all the difference in making our students feel welcome both on campus and in the community. Each of us may never know when the smallest of courtesies might make a world of difference.

## New Faculty and Administrators

It is my sincere pleasure to welcome these new members of our full-time faculty.

David Alban, Education  
Felix Amisah, Pharmaceutical Sciences  
Tina Arduini, Languages and Literature  
Emily Aslakson, Optometry  
David Baker, Digital Animation & Game Design  
Mary Beaudry, Nursing  
Bethany Brown, Nursing  
Alexander Cartwright, Management  
Jennifer Coburn-Enquist, Humanities  
Danette Crozier, Social Work  
Patricia Edwards, Education  
Scott Fischer, Criminal Justice  
David Greydanus, Criminal Justice  
Mary Ellen Fritz, Interior Design  
Michele Harvey, Automotive Management  
Diane Jackson, Social Sciences  
Rhonda Kessling, Art History  
John Kinuthia, Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems  
Amber Lee, Social Work  
Michael McCulloch, Master of Architecture  
Colleen Myers, Education  
Penney Nichols-Whitehead, Social Sciences  
Jason Otting, Accounting, Finance, and Information Systems  
Sarah Pelton, Clinical Lab Sciences

Jennifer Schad, Optometry  
Matthew Schenk, Medical Illustration  
Sujatha Shanmugasundaram, School of Nursing  
Dane Shiltz, Pharmacy Practice  
Christopher Smith, Social Work  
Cynthia Smith, Educational Counseling and Disabilities Services  
Stefanie Snider, Art History  
Eric Wagenfeld, Educational Counseling and Disabilities Services  
Kathryn S. Woods, Social Work  
Paul Zube, Humanities

As with any listing, please contact me if any new full-time faculty member's name has been omitted so I can include them. I also would like to welcome to campus several new administrators:

Lindsay Barber, Director of Health Services, Birkam Health Center  
Kristi Haik, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Arrick Jackson, Dean, College of Education and Human Services  
Jake Martin, Chief Technology Officer  
Joy Pufhal, Dean of Student Life

We are delighted each of these professionals have chosen to join us at Ferris State University and look forward to their contributions to our University. Please take a moment to welcome them and help them succeed in their new academic home. These new colleagues are the result of investment of considerable time and energy by members of multiple search committees. Thank you for helping recruit these talented individuals to our campuses.

### **First Impressions**

In Big Rapids on Friday, Aug. 26, and Monday, Aug. 29, you will see strategically placed tables/tents on campus – these are “First Impressions” information booths to assist students and their families as they arrive on campus. If your schedule allows, I encourage you to volunteer to assist our students with their transition to campus. The First Impressions schedule is below:

#### **Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Lot 13 (Behind UC off Ives St.)  
Old DPS site (Ferris Drive off of Perry Ave.)  
South Quad (Outside the Rock Café)  
FLITE (West side)

#### **Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Ferris Drive (Near Bond Hall entrance)  
Science Building (On the corner at the stop sign)  
South Quad (Outside the Rock Café)  
North Quad Area  
Table inside the IRC connector

First Impressions can be great fun. To volunteer, please phone Loura Monahan at x3905. Thank you for everything you do in shaping our students' experience and encouraging their success here at Ferris State University.

## **Campus Construction**

Construction crews have been busy at the University this summer razing both the remaining East and South Campus apartment buildings, developing new intramural fields and a natural-turf soccer field. Additionally they have constructed two new buildings in the West Campus Apartments and upgraded existing units. The Student Recreation Center is having new air conditioning installed, and many other areas on campus have had improvements made, including new roofs, sidewalks, and pavement. At Kendall there has been considerable work done to the exterior of the building.

Here in Big Rapids, initial site work has begun on the construction of a new north campus residence hall, with 402 beds in addition to study/classroom spaces. With its modern construction and close proximity to the University Center and “hub” of campus, this will certainly be a welcome addition to our freshmen housing options. You can follow the progress of this facility at <http://www.fsunorthhall.com>. Early this fall construction will begin on the expansion of the Swan Annex.

All of this construction can create challenges that interfere with our daily routines. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to improve our campuses. We all look forward to these improvements and the excitement that can accompany their completion.

## **Founders' Day**

Our annual Founders' Day celebration honoring the legacy of our founders, Woodbridge and Helen Ferris, is a celebratory event for students, faculty, staff and community members. This is a time to honor our past and celebrate the opportunity that our University has embraced over these many years. Founders' Day also provides an opportunity to socialize and connect with colleagues, our students, and local community members – and a chance to commemorate the legacy and vision our founders created for this University that we still embrace today.

There are numerous activities scheduled throughout the day and evening of Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>. I encourage you to join us for the events that fit your schedule and interest. As in the past we will have the traditional lunch for faculty and staff in the large tent on the Quad and the Ice Cream Social in the late afternoon. This year we will also celebrate the season openers for our women's soccer team (1 p.m.) and men's football team (7:30 p.m.) More information will be shared as the day gets closer, but please save the date on your calendar for food, festivities, and fun for you and your families.

Again, welcome (and for many of you, welcome back!) to Ferris State University.

David L. Eisler, president