

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
February 1, 2016

Festival of the Arts

The Festival of the Arts begins its first full week with a truly eclectic schedule of events that are presented throughout the community. A few of this week's highlights include:

- Guitarist David Youngman, Monday, 7 p.m., St. Andrews's Episcopal Church.
- "Songs From Around the World," soprano Courtney Gilson-Piercey and pianist Marcelo Lian, Tuesday, 7 p.m., Big Rapids First Methodist Church.
- Introductory Welding for Artists Workshop with Dave Murray, Wednesday (also Feb. 10 and 17), 6-9 p.m. Swan 116 Welding Lab. Registration and proper safety gear are required.
- Music Industry Management Association Independent Showcase with performer Mark Rose, Thursday, UCB 202A, 7 p.m. performance, 8 p.m. Q&A.
- Flat River Big Band, Friday, 6:30 dinner, 7-10 p.m. music and dancing, Holiday Inn Ballroom. This is a ticketed event.
- Arts and Lectures Concert with Cello-Bella, Friday, 7 p.m., Williams Auditorium. This is a ticketed event.
- Bulldog Football Celebration and Super Bowl Tailgate Party, Sunday, Wheeler Pavilion at Top Taggart Field. This event combines a celebration of our 2015 football team with art.

There are many other events taking place both on the Ferris campus and in Big Rapids. For a full listing and further details including prices for ticketed events, go to brfota.org.

Black History Month

This week also begins our university's Black History Month celebration hosted by the Office of Multicultural Student Services. There are two events this week:

- Black Culture Expo, Thursday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in UC 202BC. This includes a performance by the West Michigan Jewels of Africa.
- Image Awards 2016, Friday, 7 p.m. in UC 202. These recognize the achievements and leadership of Ferris minority students, faculty and staff.

More information and a full listing of Black History Month events is available [here](#).

SPARC

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 3 p.m. in UCB 202A, we will have the next meeting of our Strategic Planning and Resource Council. Shelly Percy and Jeremy Mishler will be sharing the digital approach the university is using to market to potential students. SPARC meetings are always open to the entire Ferris community. If your schedule allows, I hope you will attend.

Good News

Now that we are more than half-way through the main portion of our academic year, there are many, many accomplishments by members of the Ferris community to report. This is only a sampling of the kinds of remarkable things taking place at our university.

- Dan Adsmond, Chemistry, with colleagues Abhijeet Sinha, U. B. Rao Khandavilli, Anita Maguire and Simon E Lawrence recently published an article, "Design and Synthesis of Ternary Cocrystals Using Carboxyphenols and Two Complementary Acceptor Compounds," in the journal *Crystal Growth & Design*.
- Fred Heck, Geology, and Jennifer Johnson, Geography, hosted a presentation on Climate Science by Dr. Susan Hoban from the NASA-University of Maryland Baltimore County Joint Center for Earth Systems Technology.
- Andy Kantar, English, has two of his books, *Black November* and *Deadly Voyage*, now available as audiobooks. University Press Audiobooks selected the works and commissioned a voice actor to read the unabridged editions.
- Denise Cospers, English, is part of the Artworks team that received the 2015 Community Involvement Award from the Big Rapids Downtown Business Association. Denise also presented a seminar titled "How to help your students become better writers," to the Big Rapids Middle School staff.
- Derek Drake, German, co-authored an article entitled "Northwestern Dane County German: A 'Speech Mixture Problem'?" in Volume 49 of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies*.
- The Social Work Department was awarded one of two Engaged Department grants from FCTL. It received a \$5,000 grant to develop Academic Service Learning across the curriculum.
- Three Arts and Sciences departments and Housing have collaborated to create a living-learning community for incoming psychology majors for the 2016-17 academic year. Participating students will reside in the same residence hall wing and share two courses each semester.
- Thirty-five Music Industry Management students attended the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Trade Show in Anaheim. Ferris students were awarded 13 of the 59 competitive NAMM scholarships.
- Students in the Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Academy completed nearly 600 hours of community service during the Fall 2015 semester. The same students have goals to double that number during the Spring 2016 semester.
- The Media Communications Association student organization, with support from faculty advisors Joshua Pardon and Nick Kuiper, received financial support from Student Government to host the 16th annual Ferris Media Festival, scheduled for April 15, 2016.
- Glen Okonoski was selected as a Faculty Fellow by the Education Foundation of the National Association of Television Programming Executives.
- Christopher L. Cospers, Architecture and Facility Management, delivered a keynote address to the Louisiana State University College of Art + Design faculty retreat.
- Airgas is donating over \$40,000 worth of personal protective equipment for Welding Engineering Technology students.
- Anuli Njoku, Fathima Wakeel and Margaret Wan were awarded the Ferris Engaged Department Initiative of \$5,000 to strengthen academic service-learning activities in Public Health Programs.
- Carrie Donovan, FLITE, presented at the Charleston Conference on the topic of *Assessment and Academic Library Value*.
- Adam Schuitema, KCAD General Education, recently had his debut novel *Haymaker* named to the Library of Michigan's 2016 list of Michigan Notable Books. This is Schuitema's second

inclusion on the Michigan Notable Books list, the first having been in 2011 with his short story collection *Freshwater Boys*.

- Jay Constantine, Painting, is featured in the invitational exhibition “ArtPrize: A Second Glance,” on display in the LowellArts! King Gallery through February 20.
- Lori Faulkner, Fashion Studies, won first place in the adult category at the state level of the Make It With Wool competition.
- Matthew Schenk, Illustration, and alumni Aj Cooke (MFA Painting), Eric German (MFA Drawing), Jacob Wiseheart (Painting), Lydia Boda (Sculpture and Functional Art), and Xiaolong “Paul” Fang (MFA Printmaking) are featured in solo exhibitions at Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts “Coming Home” series.
- Natalie Wetzel, Sculpture and Functional Art, will present her lecture “Performing Transdisciplinary Culture,” at Central Michigan University, Feb. 18; Ferris State University, April 2; the Manchester Academy of Art in the United Kingdom in July; and The Niels Bohr Institute in Copenhagen, Denmark in August.
- Alumnus Nicolas Sanchez’ (Painting) work was featured in the magazines *American Art Collector*, *Juxtapoz*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, and *New York Magazine*, as well as in a new book, *The Art of Ballpoint*, which was listed as one of Amazon’s best books of the month in December. Sanchez was also featured in a short film, produced for the web and titled “RESOLVE,” that profiled his artistic practice in New York City.
- Members of the Michigan College of Optometry contributed poster and lecture presentations at the 10th Global Specialty Lens Symposium in Las Vegas, including Ben Coldrick, Amy Dinardo, Nicholas Gidosh, Angela Kargenian, Kimberly Kindt, Josh Lotoczky, Bruce Morgan, Craig Norman, Stephanie Ramdass, Colin Richards, Chad Rosen and Austin Schipper.
- Information Technology Services is partnering with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning on a pilot of a new synchronous learning web conferencing tool, Blackboard “Collaborate.”
- West Campus Apartment construction is on schedule with completion in July 2016 for the two new buildings.
- The Cramer Suites room renovation continues with 100 new entrance doors installed over the holiday break 2015.
- Finance sent out over 5,800 W-2s.
- Student Financial Services worked with its software provider to make the application of payments process more efficient for the student refund process.
- A total of 78 Ferris student-athletes from the fall campaign earned GLIAC All-Academic or GLIAC All-Academic Excellence Team honors. To be eligible student-athletes must have posted a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 through the fall semester.
- Ferris State University senior men's basketball center Jared Stolicker has been chosen to the 2016 Bevo Francis Award Watch List as one of the top players in the country.
- Freshman goaltender Darren Smith became the third different Bulldog Hockey freshman to receive WCHA Rookie of the Week honors.
- Governmental Relations and General Counsel hosted 65 students and parents from the Grand Rapids Griffins Youth Foundation to campus for a tour, admissions presentation, dinner and a hockey game.
- Jeanine Ward-Roof co-authored a NASPA book entitled *AVP: Leading from the Unique Role of Associate/Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs*.
- Kevin Carmody, Student Life, was awarded a \$10,000 grant from the State of Michigan’s Campus Sexual Assault Grant Program. This funding is being used to hire a student for the

#BulldogPrevent program to create an ongoing platform within social media to generate new avenues of prevention, as well as to amplify and synergize with existing prevention initiatives.

- The University Center scheduled 3,988 reservations for its first year of operation.
- In comparison with other Michigan public universities, Ferris' FTIAC offers of admission numbers are up 28.8% compared to the total average increase of 9.9%, and transfer numbers are up 25.5% while the total average increase is flat.
- Mary Kate McKeown, Financial Awareness Student Team mentor, was awarded 3rd place in the MI State Financial Aid Administrators scholarship competition, receiving a \$500 scholarship for spring term.
- Krissy Workman was recently awarded the Martin Luther King Social Justice Award.
- 484 students participated in the two December 2015 Commencement ceremonies, an increase of 43 students over December 2014.
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon collaborated with the Big Rapids Rotary Club by picking up and packaging meals for those in need.
- The Professional Fraternity Council collected and donated 1,000 cans of food to the Manna food pantry.
- The Panhellenic, Interfraternity Council, and Black Greek Council held an afternoon of service, made 18 tie-blankets for the homeless shelter and wrote holiday and thank you cards to veterans and active duty soldiers.
- Hundreds of students attended the University Center – Year Anniversary Celebration event to perform karaoke, make their own street signs, play laser tag, ride the mechanical bulldog, sample some great food, learn about recycling and LEED certification, and more.
- The Telephone Outreach Program continues to be the greatest source of donor acquisition for The Ferris Foundation. More than 6,000 conversations with Ferris alumni have resulted in 1,423 pledges for a total of \$97,650 to support programs and scholarships.
- An anonymous donor has made a significant gift to fund an annual scholarship for students in the Accountancy program.
- The Web Content Team has built a new OmniUpdate content management system training website with expanded training resources to assist web editors in updating their sections of the Ferris website. New responsive templates are available that create webpages that are mobile and tablet friendly, and accessible to users with disabilities.
- The Marketing Team has created publication templates in Adobe InDesign formats for university publishers, with some simplified templates available in Microsoft Word at this [link](#).

Thank you for the very good work you do. The full listing of current Good News items has much more material and is accessible at this [link](#).

David L. Eisler, president