

## President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
January 25, 2016

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### Festival of the Arts

Although we have experienced the onset of winter weather, one consolation is that the end of January brings with it the opening of the annual Festival of the Arts, which runs throughout February. The Festival of the Arts is one of the most ambitious, eclectic and inclusive art ventures I'm aware of anywhere in a community the size of Big Rapids. This year, for example, there are

- 2 Architectural events
- 2 Floral and Horticultural events
- 2 Industrial Arts events
- 3 Culinary Arts events
- 3 Literary Arts events
- 3 Textile and Fashion Design events
- 4 Ceramic Arts events
- 6 Dance events
- 6 Theatrical Arts events
- 8 Visual Arts Events
- 10 Cultural Arts events (which include everything from "The Feminine Creative Process" to "Man in the Arena – Theodore Roosevelt")
- And 23 Musical events

A few of these overlap in terms of genre, but altogether there are one or more events taking place every day from the opening event to the closing celebration on Sunday, Feb. 28. Many of these feature the talents of the members of our University community.

The Festival of Arts begins with an opening reception this Friday, Jan. 29, at the University Center Ballroom and Art Gallery starting at 6 p.m. Laura Dion, sales and marketing specialist with the Smithsonian Institute, will give the keynote presentation, "The Preservation of Art and Heritage by Smithsonian Folkways Records," at 7 p.m. This coincides with the opening of the exhibition in the Ferris Art Gallery, "Indie Incubator: All About the Vinyl." Inspired by the Folkways label, this exhibition explores how music transcends barriers. Numerous Ferris/Kendall artists and student-artists independently created vinyl-inspired work.

Please join me in thanking the Festival of the Arts Board of Directors for the very hard work it takes to put on a month-long celebration of the arts in the middle of a Michigan winter: Chair Bruce Dilg, Roxanne Cullen, Mark Gifford, Jerena Keys, Ed Mallett and Courtney Piercey. The full listing of FOTA events is available at <http://www.brfota.org>

### Career Week/First Lady's Attic

Starting next week we will hold our annual Career Week for Ferris students. Events include a career preparation "Backpack to Briefcase" conference on Monday, Feb. 1, starting at 4:30 p.m. in UC 202, and a Career and Internship Fair on Thursday, Feb. 4, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in The Ewigleben Sports Complex. For a complete listing of Career Week events, and information on how to sign up for events, go to

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/studentaffairs/CLACS/CareerCenter/CareerWeek.htm> .

With students meeting potential employers, this is always a very busy time for Ferris' First Lady's Attic, which provides students with professional clothing free of charge. If you have gently used professional clothing and accessories, you can drop off your donation to Pete's Cleaners at 115 Hemlock Street in Big Rapids. Mention they are for the First Lady's attic and Pete's Cleaners will take care of the rest. Donations are considered charitable contributions and are tax deductible. For more information visit <http://www.ferris.edu/flattic> . Thank you for helping our students as they look to begin their professional lives.

### **Winter Weather**

We were very fortunate during fall semester as very mild weather lingered almost all the way through commencement. While our weather is nothing near what has hit the east coast this weekend, we are now experiencing what feels more like a typical Michigan winter.

Please stay safe and exercise caution on the roads and sidewalks, especially where those thoroughfares intersect. We have very busy campuses crowded with students hurrying to class. It is important to make sure that everyone reaches his or her destination safely by not taking risks to save a few seconds. Thank you for taking time to be safe.

Our physical plant employees work very hard to maintain our buildings. We can all assist them by taking a moment to wipe boots and shoes to keep our hallways and corridors as clean as possible.

In the case of severe weather, our emergency messaging encompasses weather events as well as other situations. If you have not signed up to receive text alerts, I would encourage you to do so by going to [www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/mytechsupport/servicecat/emailcalmessage/emergency\\_messaging](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/mytechsupport/servicecat/emailcalmessage/emergency_messaging) and following the directions.

### **Athletics**

Our men's basketball and hockey teams had exciting contests on the road late last week and weekend. Last Thursday the men's basketball team beat Northwood 83-76 and followed up by defeating Lake Superior State 86-82 on Saturday. The win improved their record to 15-3 overall and 9-3 in the GLIAC, where they are in second place in the north division. The team's next home game will take place on this coming Saturday, Jan. 30, at Wink Arena with a 3 p.m. tip-off against divisional conference leader Saginaw Valley State. The women's team also faces Saginaw Valley on the 30<sup>th</sup>, tipping off at 1 p.m.

Last Friday men's ice hockey pulled off a dramatic overtime victory over Bemidji State by pulling the goalie in the last minute and scoring the tying goal. They then won 3-2 by scoring in the first minute of overtime. On Saturday the team skated to a 1-1 tie with Bemidji. The weekend action improved the team's overall record to 11-9-6 overall and 9-7-4 in the WCHA. They are currently tied for third place in the conference with Michigan Tech. The Bulldogs next play at home on Feb. 12-13 for a series with Northern Michigan. Both games begin at 7:07 p.m. As always, I urge you to attend these exciting contests and support our student-athletes.

David L. Eisler, president