

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 14, 2016

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. At Ferris during the next few weeks there will be a series of events that celebrate women's contributions to American history. The Women in Leadership and Learning Conference welcomes back alumnus Denise Beachy, president of Hemlock Semiconductor as keynote speaker. The evening also includes guest speaker Ashley Hixson, founder of "The Collegiate Voice." The WILL Conference is on Monday, March 21, starting at 6 p.m. in the University Center.

Other Women's History Month events include a Student Tribute, March 22nd, a presentation by history professor Tracy Busch, March 23rd, a panel discussion on leadership, women's health, and professionalism, March 29th, screening and discussion of the film, "It's a Girl," with professors Teresa Bailey, Sharon Colley, and Tracy Busch, March 31st, and concludes with the 2016 Women's Expo later that day. A poster detailing these events is available at the Ferris State Office of Multicultural Student Services' Facebook page.

Sponsors of these events include the Office of Multicultural Student Services, NAACP, AdGroup, Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council, Sigma Lambda Gamma, You Beautiful Black Woman, the Diversity and Inclusion Office and Alpha Kappa Alpha. I encourage you to participate and want to thank the many people who have helped plan, present, and support these events.

Sustainability Survey

The Ferris State University Sustainability Task Force has created a short survey to gather the opinions of faculty and staff regarding sustainability efforts at Ferris. If you have already responded, thank you for taking the time to do so. If you have not yet done so, Amy Ottenson will be sending out reminders to you this week. This is an important issue for our university, so please take a moment to follow the link for the survey and complete the questionnaire. Thank you.

Good News

It is wonderful to see our campuses come alive with a full complement of students, faculty and staff after spring recess. The warmer weather we have been experiencing reminds us that we are now in the final half of the semester and will soon be celebrating the graduation of the Class of 2016 at spring commencement.

To welcome everyone back I want to highlight some of the most recent Good News items. This month's list has many items about academic and creative excellence, as well as members of the Ferris community helping others. This is only a small sampling of the achievements by members of our university and there are many more outstanding efforts not included here. You can access the full list, and an archive of past listings, [through this link](#).

- Lisa Singleterry and Beth Kalkman, Nursing, with Lynn Chrenka and Debra Courtright-Nash, Languages and Literature, had "Nursing Faculty Development: Building a Common Grading Rubric to Evaluate Writing," accepted for publication in the *Nurse Educator*.
- Dan Noren, Languages and Literature and vice president of the Michigan World Languages Association, oversaw, facilitated, and coordinated its Winter Workshop.

- The *Torch*, lead by former Editor-in-Chief Harrison James, Editor-in-Chief Keith Salowich and advisor Steve Fox, Languages and Literature, won 15 statewide awards in the Michigan Collegiate Press Association annual contest. For more details, click on this [link](#).
- Sports Communication students and the Sports Careers RSO raised over \$600 for the Spectrum Health Big Rapids Cardiac Rehabilitation Unit. Cierra Buckner, secretary of Sports Careers RSO, chaired the project. Sandy Alspach is the faculty advisor.
- Chelsey Trumble and Tyler Ryan, senior Psychology majors, were the only students to present at the National Association of School Psychologists. Their poster, "Childhood Ocular Convergence Insufficiency and Pseudo-ADHD Symptoms," displayed research developed in collaboration with Dr. Jim Van Treese, Psychology, Dr. Chris Richmond, Birkham Center, and Dr. Paula McDowell, Optometry.
- This year is the third time College of Business students are participating in the West Michigan Project Management Institute "The Project" competition. Out of thirteen teams, Ferris is currently #1 after Round 1 with a total of 102.33 points.
- Two School of Criminal Justice alumni, Troopers Benjamin Stadler and Daniel Richter were honored with the Corporal Samuel A. Mapes Criminal Patrol and Investigation Award by the Michigan State Police for their outstanding patrol efforts.
- The Ferris SAE Baja team entered two vehicles in the Michigan Tech Blizzard Baja and took 2nd and 17th place out of a 41-car field.
- Over 30 students attended the most recent "Opportunities for Women in the College of Engineering Technology" networking event. For this, CET female alums return to share their experiences and answer questions from attendees.
- The Ferris Maker Space now has a fifth 3-D printer as well as a small desktop CNC mill and has collaborated with 3DXTECH, a supplier that offers regular and high-end engineering compounds, to obtain filament at a substantial cost savings.
- Fran Rosen, FLITE, was honored at the 15th Annual Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Faculty Appreciation night held at a recent home basketball game.
- MFA Drawing student Brianna Baurichter had her work featured in a solo exhibition titled "Hybrid Explorations" at the (106) Gallery and Studio in Grand Rapids.
- Students in the Fashion Studies program are collaborating with Opera Grand Rapids to create costumes for the upcoming June production of "The Student Prince."
- Amanda Sikarskie, Art History, will be publishing a new book titled *Textile Collections: Preservation, Access, Curation and Interpretation in a Digital Age* in April.
- Sculpture and Functional Art Assistant Professor Israel Davis travelled to the University of Alabama and Gonzaga University to lecture and conduct individual student critiques.
- Aneka Ingold ('14, MFA Drawing) recently took first place at the Valdosta National Juried Exhibition with her piece "Aberration."
- James Suhr ('99, Illustration) works as a storyboard revisionist on the Disney Television Animation series *Wander Over Yonder*, which recently received an Annie Award for Best Animated Television/Broadcast Production for Children.
- Rob Jackson ('89, Illustration), Principal and Creative Director of Extra Credit Projects received the Silver Medal from the American Advertising Federation of West Michigan.
- Zhengyi "Lily" Hou ('15, Furniture Design) designed her first full collection of furniture for Steve Silver Company, a large occasional furniture company based in Texas.
- Third-year MCO student Clay Connelly won the Dr. Seymour Galina Scholarship from Optometry Cares, awarded to a student who excels in practice management concepts.
- At the Michigan Optometric Association Winter Seminar Dr. Phil Walling was recognized as the MOA Educator of the Year. Dr. David Damari received the MOA Keyperson Award. Student Michael DeWi, was recognized as the MOA Student of the Year.

- The Fellowship of Christian Optometrists co-sponsored a return Eye Care Mission trip to Guaymas, Mexico. Dr. Dave Storer (MCO'99) led the mission and MCO students Brittany Hoolsema, Emily Krueger and Katie Cargill assisted in providing care for over 700 patients.
- Dr. Michael Bouthillier, Pharmacy, is part of a group of students and professionals working with Cherry Street Health Center providers to improve diabetes health outcomes.
- Ferris was ranked by U.S. News in the top 50 in the nation for best online bachelor degree programs and best online bachelor's programs for veterans.
- Karen Royster-James, Retention and Student Success, presented "Structured Learning Assistance – SLA Works!" at the 18th Annual Chicago Symposium on Excellence in Teaching Mathematics and Science: Research and Practice.
- Retention and Student Success co-sponsored 14 employees at the Michigan Student Success Conference. Holly Price and William Potter presented "Drilling Down! Assessing Developmental Mathematics Course Outcomes"; Deedee Stakley and Christine Conley-Sowels presented "Collaborating to Provide Equal Access to U3 Students" and with David McCall presented "Providing Greater Access to Career and Education Planning."
- Two members of the women's volleyball program, middle hitter Ayanna Buckley and setter Stephanie Sikorski, were chosen to attend the USA Volleyball Women's National Team Tryouts at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs.
- Fall 2016 room sign-ups are running 100 ahead of a year ago at this time.
- Classroom readiness efforts by the Technology Assistance Center resulted in 99 percent readiness for the start of the semester. Out of the 266 rooms that were checked, 263 rooms were problem-free for the first session of each class using these facilities.
- The Jim Crow Museum's two traveling exhibits are on loan. *Them: Images of Separation* is on display at the University of Iowa's Old Capitol Museum. *Hateful Things* is on display at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.
- David Pilgrim was interviewed on two radio shows, "[Q](#)" on CBC, and the [Mark Steiner Show](#).
- The University Center was featured in the Association of College Unions International Bulletin Magazine, Renovation and Construction Showcase.
- Admissions collaborated with the Card Wildlife Center and the Ferris Art Gallery to host 120 sixth graders from Big Rapids Middle School to visit the fossil exhibit at the Card, the "All about the Vinyl" exhibit at the Gallery and have lunch at The Quad Café.
- Jessica Simon, Admissions Recruiter, was recognized nationally as a volunteer who worked with the Collegiate Information and Visor Services Association.
- The Student Leadership & Activities Advisory Council committee approved the following new RSO's: The Society for Collegiate Leadership and Achievement, Design and Development Association, and Photo Focus.
- The OMSS GEAR UP Program hosted Reality Remixed, a teen empowerment summit, that attracted 67 students from five Michigan high schools.
- Scott Ward (B '94) made a major gift pledge to create a football scholarship endowment to honor a teammate who fell in the Sept. 11, 2001 World Trade Center attack.
- John Ramar (B '80) made a major gift pledge for the Center for Athletics Performance.
- Brad and Carole Spence established the Brad and Carole Spence Scholarship Endowment through a planned gift for the College of Engineering Technology.
- The Davich Optical Chain established the Davich Optical Chain Annual Scholarship for the Michigan College of Optometry.
- Doug Dommert (P '66) has established The Douglas H. Dommert Scholarship Endowment to support students in the College of Pharmacy.

- Emeritus Professor Robert Friar has established The Friar Family Scholarship Endowment for students in the Biology program.
- Dennis (P '69) and Randi Nickels (EHS'70) have established The Edward W. and Barbara J. Nickels Memorial Annual Scholarship in the College of Pharmacy.
- The Student Alumni Gold Club, in collaboration with The Ferris Foundation and the News Services and Social Media Team, hosted "Tanks for Thanks," part of CASE's fourth annual Student Engagement and Philanthropy Month.
- Alumni and friends gathered for dinner at Joe Louis Arena and a Detroit Red Wings hockey game. Ferris alumnus and Red Wings Head Coach, Jeff Blashill (B '98), met and addressed the crowd.
- The Student Alumni Gold Club hosted the "State Days" conference themed "Tradition Never Graduates." Jason Daday (B '88) gave a networking session entitled "Make Promotion Your Tradition." Ferris alumni contributing to panel discussions included Jeremy Mishler (EHS '98), Luke Edington (CET '14), and Ryan Roberts (EHS '05).
- The News Services and Social Media Team collaborated with Title IX Coordinator Kevin Carmody to develop a video to promote participation in the university climate survey. This was shot by videographer Hannah Crouch. To view the video, click [this link](#).

Athletics

The past two weeks have been memorable for Ferris athletics. The women's softball team played 22 games in a thirteen-day stretch in Florida. Under first year head coach Wally King their season is off to a successful start as they compiled a 15-7 record. The men's and women's tennis teams are also off to successful spring portions of their schedules. The men are currently 9-3, and the women are 4-3.

The week before spring break our men's basketball team had a truly remarkable GLIAC Tournament. They repeated as conference tournament champions by defeating Findlay in the first round, 62-61, on a basket with .7 seconds remaining. This was the first time in history Findlay had lost at home in the postseason, breaking a string of 22 consecutive victories. Next the Bulldogs defeated the top remaining team, Ashland, on their home court in the semifinals, 67-52. The team then won the tournament finals by overcoming Walsh on the road, 76-59.

This past weekend, at the NCAA Midwest regionals at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, the men's team dominated Bellarmine University 100-84 on Saturday. The team made 63 percent of their three-point attempts, shot 54 percent overall and made 90 percent of their free throws. This was their first victory over Bellarmine, who were the defending regional champions, and was the Bulldog's first NCAA tournament victory in the past five years. They followed up this victory with a very exciting 89-87 win over Indianapolis Sunday evening. There were 11 lead changes during the game. Our team again shot very well, making 62 percent of their field goal attempts. The men will now play for the NCAA regional championship in a game against Saginaw Valley State tomorrow, March 15, with tip-off at 8 p.m. eastern time. A news release about the game, including information about a bus to the contest, is available [here](#).

Finally, congratulations to the men's ice hockey team and head coach Bob Daniels. They defeated Northern Michigan University this past weekend in the quarterfinals of the WCHA Tournament by scoring the winning goal in the third period both evenings to win 3-2 on Friday and 5-2 Saturday, when the team scored four goals in the final four minutes. With these wins they advance to the WCHA Championship Tournament in Grand Rapids' Van Andel Arena. In Friday evening's semifinal game they will play Michigan Tech at 7:37 p.m. Ticket information is available [here](#). I encourage you to attend and support our student-athletes.

David L. Eisler, president