

# President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President  
March 21, 2016

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## Admitted Student Open House

On Saturday we welcomed the largest group of admitted students ever to our campus for an open house. This is designed as an opportunity to help students with information about academic programs, opportunities and services the university offers, as well as to answer any questions students or their parents might have about enrolling at Ferris. 233 students attended. With parents and friends the number in attendance was over 400! Combined with a previous open house on Feb. 20, more than 400 students attended these events. Our experience has been that about 75 percent of this group of admitted students actually enroll at Ferris, so this a very important part of the student recruitment process.

It was gratifying to see the excitement and interest of these new students and their families. The University Center was a wonderful venue for the event, and the friendly openness of the Ferris community in welcoming them was both noticed and very much appreciated. Many Ferris faculty, staff, and students volunteered their time over the weekend to help make this the most successful event of this type on our campus. I want to thank everyone involved for making such a positive difference for our new students.

## Conference on Aging

It was a pleasure to read the materials about the upcoming Conference on Aging – Meeting the Challenges of an Aging Population. I encourage you to mark your calendars and attend this event focusing on the changing age-based demographics in our county. The conference will be Thursday, April 7, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the IRC, IRC Connector and Business Building, and on Friday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. in the University Center. Conference events are free and you need not register to attend.

This is a remarkable opportunity to hear from experts on a wide range of topics on this important issue. The conference includes faculty presenters from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Health Professions. I encourage you to review the program's [schedule of events](#), which details a comprehensive collection of topics. Sessions will touch on everything from the impact of Alzheimer's disease, to the biology of aging, to the poetry of aging, to the challenge of aging in minority communities.

It is a special pleasure to welcome back to campus alumna Kari Sederburg, director of the Michigan Office of Services to the Aging, who will give the opening presentation. The keynote speaker is Robyn I. Stone, executive director of @Leading Age Center for Applied Research in Washington, D.C.

More information is available at the conference [website](#). I want to thank everyone who has helped organize and prepare presentations for this conference, which highlights a topic of interest to us all.

## Diploma Replacement

When a Ferris State University student graduates, the most tangible symbol of that achievement is the diploma which a newly minted alumnus receives. Sometimes that very important document gets lost, damaged or destroyed. In a new service, our Registrar's Office has set up an internet link to make it easy for a graduate to request a replacement diploma. If you know of someone who needs another copy of their Ferris diploma, please direct them to this [link to a form](#) to request a replacement. There is a modest \$15 fee to cover expenses. This

represents excellent work by our Registrar's Office to provide this service to our thousands of alumni.

### **Chickenpox**

You may have recently seen the Birkam Health Center's reminder regarding what to know about chickenpox. As a university community we need to be aware that diseases such as chickenpox – a contagious infection caused by a virus – have the opportunity to spread if we do not take the proper precautions. While most students should be vaccinated, there is certainly the possibility of this disease breaking out on college campuses.

Anyone with chickenpox should avoid contact with others who have not had the disease and those who are not vaccinated. If you have any questions or are concerned about symptoms related to chickenpox, you are encouraged to contact the Birkam Health Center at (231) 591-2614.

### **Athletics**

Last Tuesday, our men's basketball team finished a successful season with a close 63-61 loss to Saginaw Valley State University in a very competitive NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Championship Game on the campus of Wisconsin-Parkside. Our team ended their 2016 campaign with a 24-10 overall record, which included winning the 2016 GLIAC tournament. Please join me in congratulating our student-athletes and head coach Andy Bronkema on a winning season and exciting post-season run.

This past weekend our men's hockey team headed into the WCHA tournament as the 4<sup>th</sup> seed. Friday evening they defeated the #1 seed, Michigan Tech, 1-0. The shut-out was the fourth of the year for freshman goaltender Darren Smith, which is a record number for a freshman Ferris goaltender. Senior forward Kenny Babinski scored the game's only goal for the Bulldogs in the third quarter, securing the win.

Saturday evening our team defeated the #2 seed, Minnesota State University – Mankato, coming from behind to win 2-1. With this victory they won the tournament and the Broadmoor Trophy. Freshman goalie Darren Smith was named the tournament's most valuable player for stopping 43 of 44 shots during the weekend.

Our team played excellent defense and carried the play both evenings. Saturday evening Minnesota State had only 14 shots for the game and only one shot in the third period. Our winning goal was on a penalty shot by Gerald Mayhew awarded to us in the second period. There is a very good highlight reel of the game as well as video of a post-game press conference available on the [Ferris Athletics website](#).

There was one very sad note to the WCHA tournament. Before the start of the game on Friday night, referee Oliver "Butch" Mousseaux fell to the ice during warm-ups and was transported to the hospital where he was listed in critical condition. Yesterday it was reported that he has been placed in a medically induced coma. There is more information about Mousseaux, along with a link to a GoFundMe account set up on his behalf, in this [MLive article](#). I believe that he has officiated many times on our campus. We send best wishes to both he and his family during this difficult time.

With this tournament victory our team has an automatic bid to the 16-team NCAA postseason tournament. They will next play St. Cloud State on Saturday, March 26 at 3 p.m. in St. Paul, Minn. Ticket and potential transportation information for the game is available at this [Bulldog Athletics link](#). The winner of this contest plays the winner of the Boston University/Denver contest for the NCAA Regional Championship on Sunday, March 27 at 5 p.m. in St. Paul.

**Mid-Semester Recess**

This Thursday and Friday is our university's mid-semester recess. Classes will not be held on March 24 and March 25. Additionally, all university offices will be closed on Friday, March 25. The university continues with its regular schedule of both classes and office hours on Monday, March 28.

David L. Eisler, president