

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Good News Items

December 17, 2008

Academic Affairs

- A team from math and education is developing a target population project to apply for a NSF Math Science Program grant in August 2009. This will be an interdisciplinary project with math and reading, which are both sorely needed in the Baldwin rural school district.
- FerrisConnect training is available through the original block training, online options and many specialized sessions.
- An Ed.D. Planning Task Force has been convened to strategize the potential offering of an educational doctorate in Community and Technical College Leadership. An external advisory committee of national community college leaders was convened to gather perspectives on the viability. Tentative plans call for the development of the degree throughout the spring semester.
- Dr. Rick VanSant will be developing new areas for faculty development programming as a half-time Faculty-in-Residence beginning in Spring 2009 in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Rick VanSant has been significantly involved in the dialogue led by the U.S. Africa Higher Education Initiative leading to the issuing of a partnership between U.S. and Africa Institutions of Higher Education. He will be writing for a \$50,000 Development Grant as part of the \$1,000,000 initiative to be funded by USAID.
- The Nuclear Medicine Technology program in the College of Allied Health Sciences was awarded continuing accreditation for a period of 5 years - the maximum allowed for continuing programs.
- Gloria Lukasa-Bamett encouraged and transported five Ferris Students for their Michigan Test of Teacher Competency using King-Chavez-Parks funds.
- The Ferris State University Student Chapter of the American Welding Society has been involved with a variety of activities that have allowed interaction between students and Big Rapids community members by donating time and funds to many local organizations including WISE, Salvation Army Angel Tree & Bell Ringing, Project Starburst and the United Way. They are also active in the River Walk project and the Michigan Department of Transportation "Adopt-A-Highway" program.
- College of Engineering Technology Explorer Post Sigma Lambda Chi - Omicron II, (SLC) Ferris State's chapter of the international construction honors society, has been working toward the establishment of the "first-of-its-kind" Explorer Post. Working with the local Council of the Boy Scouts of America®, SLC is leading an effort to develop ETEP, the Engineering Technology Explorer Post that will focus on all of the career possibilities available through the 12 departments of the College of Engineering Technology. Exploring® is an activity within a subsidiary of the Boys Scouts of America called Learning for Life®.
- The Michigan Optometric Student Association organized new activities, including donating 600 food items to our local food pantry, Project Starburst, with a rigorous competition.

- Maureen Watson presented a poster "Missing Links: Eroding Citations in Two Medical Library Journals" at the 2008 Medical Library Association Annual Meeting; she will have an article titled "Accuracy of References in the Ophthalmic Literature" published in the April 2009 issue of the Journal of the Medical Library Association; and will be taking a sabbatical to work on her project with the Association of Vision Science Librarians titled "Mapping the Vision Science Literature."
- Sarah Hinkley made a presentation to the Ferris State University Select Sixty group of women on "The Eyes as a Reflection of Overall Health".
- Avesh Raghunandan has three publications of original research appearing in the following journals: "Spatial scaling of the binocular capture effect" in the next issue of *Optometry and Vision Science*; "Psychophysical measurements of referenced and unreferenced motion processing using high resolution retinal imaging" in the next issue of *Journal of Vision*. "The utility of clinical electrophysiology in a case of non-organic vision loss" appeared in the August 2008 edition of the journal *Optometry*.
- During fall semester 46 faculty taught 76 course sections to nearly 1,800 students as part of the Political Engagement Project, including involvement from 26 degree programs in 7 colleges. The PEP theme for next semester is "The Politics of Green."
- Honors program new enrollments are up by 11 % compared to the same date for Fall 2009.

Administration and Finance

- Senior Defensive Tackle, Jake Visser, is receiving many accolades for his gridiron prowess. Awards include: *ESPN The Magazine* Academic All-American (College Division First Team), *Daktronics* Regional Defensive Player of the Year, GLIAC Jack McAvoy Award (outstanding character & leadership on & off the field), and he was further honored as his team's MVP. Jake is also a finalist for the prestigious Gene Upshaw Division II Lineman of the Year Award. Jake has also received an official invitation to compete in the annual NCAA Division II All-Star Game. Visser was among the roster selections for the 2009 Valero Cactus Bowl, which features the top NCAA-II football seniors in the nation.
- Three Lady Bulldogs were named to ALL-GLIAC Volleyball Teams including senior Andrea Rich, junior Kristy Gilchrist & sophomore Arielle Goodson. Senior Candice Marut and redshirt freshman Lisa Tobiczkyk were selected by their team as the 2008 MVPs.
- Women's Soccer sophomore goalkeeper Becci Houdek was selected by her teammates as the 2008 MVP. Becci also plays for the Women's Basketball team.
- Sophomore Tina Muir was named to the United States Track & Field/Cross Country Coaches Association All-America Team following her 12th place finish at the NCAA II National Championships.
- Two pilot groups have been established to test departmental soft encumbering and on-line journal vouchers; both will be going live in early 2009.
- Lori Helmer and Jon Shaffer hosted four townhall meetings with residence hall students (Pickell, Masselink, Vandercook, and Brophy/McNerney) to discuss the upcoming renovation of The Rock Cafe. Students' reactions to the upcoming changes have been very positive.
- At the November annual conference of the Great Lakes Association of College and University Housing Officers (GLACUHO) Ferris State Housing received the President's Institutional Award.

Diversity Office

- The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) has a new coordinator, Felice Kelley-Nelson. She is working to create a broad-based steering committee.
- Denise Mitten's Recreation and Leisure students conducted several successful teaching sessions with Baldwin Community School students.

Student Affairs

- The University now has 29 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) installed in Big Rapids and two more ordered for Kendall. Ten new training mannequins have been purchased.
- Six hundred doses of flu vaccine were administered to employees and students this fall. Other common immunizations have been administered.
- The Counseling Center has conducted 60 programs and trainings this fall just for the President's Emergency Task Force Initiative.
- The updated, revised, and thoroughly modern Ferris Financial Aid website will be up and running by February 1. The Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid will be processing summer financial aid without a separate summer application this year, making the process easier for our students and allow us to process aid quicker.
- Rob Wirt, Director of Scholarships and Financial aid, has been elected President of the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association.
- The Safe Ride program has had 705 students use the bus during Fall Semester 2008.
- The Ferris Idols (service based RSO) held a holiday party for Big Brothers/Big Sisters at the Student Recreation Center with a craft room, drop in recreation activities, swimming, lunch, and holiday presents for all children in attendance.

University Advancement and Marketing

- Our spring marketing campaign is being expanded to include additional billboard placements in Grand Rapids and Lansing for May, June and July. This will help ensure consistency of image, branding and marketing over a 12-month period.
- We are partnering with the *Pioneer* and Festival of Arts organizers to prepare promotional materials for this year's month-long program.
- A gift has been received from the Jessica Nagle Wilson Charitable Foundation for the Jessica Nagle Wilson Memorial Scholarship Endowment for the Criminal Justice program in the College of Education and Human Services.
- Well-known actress Jane Seymour will be the featured speaker at the Ferris Foundation for Excellence Benefit in 2009.