

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
March 29, 2010

Share Your Success – Allied Health Sciences and FLITE

Provost Fritz Erickson and I continue to learn about your work through the “Share Your Success” college meetings. Last week’s message included highlights from our session with the College of Education and Human Services. This past week we heard from faculty and staff in Allied Health Sciences and the Ferris Library for Information, Technology and Education. This week we will be visiting with faculty and staff in Business, Engineering Technology, Pharmacy, and University College. Here is some of what we learned from last week’s sessions.

Allied Health faculty focused on the achievements of their students -

- Marie Sickelsteel, Medical Records, shared several examples of exciting work student interns are doing at sites including St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Rapids. There, an intern is involved with revising the supply chain to reduce inventory levels and costs. Another student intern at the Veteran’s Administration was exposed to management leadership at the top levels and visited other VA facilities in and out of the state as part of her internship.
- Arlene Morton, Nursing, reported on service learning in their program. After completing a service learning project and poster, the student presents on the experience to their class. She also discussed the clinical instruction workshop for new clinical faculty, which has been well received.
- Cathy Archer, Dental Hygiene, discussed students’ internships, which places them with working dentists. The program, headed by Sandra Burns, helps prepare students for licensing and real world practice.
- Megan Dixon, Respiratory Care, commented on the strength of their students, whose pass rates on board exams are above the national average.
- Student Ashley Weaver told about her volunteer project to help fill the need for bone marrow donors. She collaborated with our local hospital and the national bone marrow program out of Lansing on marketing, advertising and research. The initiative had 145 people sign up, a remarkable number.

FLITE

- Melinda Isler taught 23 sections of FSUS on Ferris history and Woodbridge Ferris.
- Alison Konieczny’s article “Experiences as an Embedded Librarian in Online Courses,” appears in the current issue of *Medical Reference Services Quarterly*. Konieczny is president-elect of the West Michigan Health Sciences Library Association.
- Randall Schroeder, Kristy Motz and Mari Kermit-Canfield presented “Assessing Information Literacy from the Ground Up – Creating a Culture of Assessment” at the Michigan Library Association’s annual conference in November. Motz, Kermit-Canfield, Emily Mitchell and Stacy Anderson presented posters at the conference.

- Rick Bearden and Emily Mitchell are developing an electronic resources management system using open-source architecture and will offer a session about it at the Computers in Libraries Conference in April.
- David Scott was appointed to the MeLCat Advisory Committee. MeLCat is the statewide library catalog and resource sharing project.
- Eight instruction studios and seminar rooms have been upgraded to “Smart Classroom” technology standards.
- RefWords, a \$12,000 per year program, has been replaced with the freeware rebase. Emily Mitchell has programmed customized features and created an online tutorial for this.
- Media Productions aired a series of diversity lectures via Ferris Cable TV.
- Librarians have collaborated with Admissions on “FLITE Training School” – high school research days.

MCC Awards

Seven Ferris students have been recognized by Michigan Campus Compact for their dedication to public service. The following students are recipients of the MCC’s Heart and Soul Award, which recognizes undergraduate and graduate students for their time, effort and personal commitment to their community through service: Elizabeth Albright, Sandra Winchell, Kellie Langschied, Joel Lawwell, Tiffany Beckmann and Jeffrey Mahar. Rebecca Wardach has been selected to receive the Outstanding Community Impact Award for her efforts to build partnerships between the Ferris campus and the broader community.

Michigan Campus Compact promotes the education and commitment of Michigan college students to be civically engaged citizens, through creating and expanding academic, co-curricular and campus-wide opportunities for community service, service-learning and civic engagement.

These students will receive their awards at a brunch ceremony on April 10, at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. My congratulations not only to these award winners, but to all of the many Ferris students who each year contribute thousands of volunteer hours to better their University and community.

The BIG Event

A project that illustrates student volunteerism to the fullest is the BIG Event. Student Government is working with the City of Big Rapids to present the third annual BIG Event set to take place Saturday, April 17th. This is the largest student volunteer project at Ferris State. Last year more than 700 students volunteered at 101 houses in the community. This year, Student Government hopes to make the BIG Event even better. To date it has 222 houses it plans to help maintain by washing windows, raking leaves, trimming bushes, sweeping, weeding, performing small paint jobs and much more. Organizers hope to attract as many as 1,500 student volunteers and perhaps even more.

The BIG Event is a remarkable example of Ferris students coming together to give back to the community in a most tangible, welcome and unselfish way. If there are ways in which you can help Ferris students in their efforts, please do so. Joining Student Government are BIG Event sponsors both on and off campus. At the University these include Dining Services, the Honors program, Physical Plant and Student Affairs. Community sponsors include Bernie’s Donuts, Biggy Coffee, Isabella Bank, Lowes, Meijer, Menards, Papa John’s Pizza and Sherwin Williams.

Board of Trustees Appointments

Governor Jennifer Granholm has appointed Dr. D. William Lakin of Clinton Township to fill the seat previously held by Patrick LaPine. Dr. Lakin, who is president of Family Eye Care Associates, has served on the board of directors of the Michigan Optometric Association and as its president in 1995-1996. In 1996 he was recognized as Optometrist of the Year by the MOA. Dr. Lakin has also assisted the American Optometric Association on legislative issues and served as a board member for VISION USA, a national non-profit that assists limited income families in receiving eye care. He currently serves on the State Board of Examiners in optometry. His father, Dr. Bill Lakin, was a member of our optometry faculty.

The governor's two other appointments are for seats that will open at the first of the year. These appointees are Edward Haynor of Newaygo and Larry Leatherwood of Lansing. The appointments take effect in 60 days unless rejected by the state senate.

Basketball Honors

Congratulations to junior forward/center Justin Keenan who has been named to the 2009-2010 Division II State Farm Coaches' All-America Team. Keenan averaged a GLIAC-leading 21.1 points in conference matchups, and was one of 16 players named to the team that was chosen by members of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). With the selection, Keenan becomes the only Bulldog men's basketball player in program history to gain All-American honors at the Division II level. The previous four All-American selections in the basketball program played at the NAIA level.

The prestigious honor of being named to the All-American team finishes off a post-season award run for Keenan, who was also named the GLIAC Player of The Year for 2009-2010, becoming the first Ferris player in 20 years to be recognized for the award. He was also named to the NABC All-District Team and Daktronics All-Midwest Region First Team. Additionally, Keenan was tabbed by the *Grand Rapids Press* as its West Michigan Small College Player of the Year for this season.

Sincerely,

David L. Eisler, President