This August issue is being distributed at the end of a very busy summer. Following are some updates on a number of projects and services underway in Administration and Finance.

- The new coffee shop in FLITE, labeled the **FLITE Between Chapters Café**, is the relocated version of Seattle’s Best that had been in Rankin. This new offering in FLITE is scheduled to open on August 23 and the intention is to make this offering available longer term.

- The **Grand Rapids Shuttle Bus Service** will start its third year of operation on August 26 with four complete round trips offered Monday – Friday when classes are in session. The bus will leave the Big Rapids campus at 7:50 a.m., 10:35 a.m., 2:25 p.m., and 6:15 p.m. each day (times provided are for the bus stop at the northwest corner of the Science building). Due to student requests we have increased the number of round trips daily from three provided in 2012-13 to four for the coming semester.

- A new **Campus Shuttle Service** has been launched in partnership with the City of Big Rapids to provide shuttle service for students and others on campus as a convenience while the University Center project is under construction and with the temporary locations of the Bookstore in the mall south of campus and Westview Dining relocating to the former Center Ice location (see separate story in this Scoop).

- The vacant of seats in the **Ferris Leadership Program** offered through Human Resources are going fast. The program meets one ½ day a month from October – April. If you are interested in being part of this program please submit an application, which is available through the Human Resources website at: [http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/human/Forms/FerrisEmployeeLeadershipDevelopmentProgramInfo-Appl.doc](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/human/Forms/FerrisEmployeeLeadershipDevelopmentProgramInfo-Appl.doc).

- Have you wondered what the **big piece of equipment** is on the trailer on the north side of the Timme building and what the big crane was for last week? We are in the process of replacing the air conditioning equipment that services Timme Student Services building. Temporary chiller equipment was brought in to provide the cooling until the new equipment arrived and through the installation process of the new equipment. The new equipment was put on the roof last week and is now operational. Final system tuning is occurring this week. The trailer mounted chiller is scheduled to be removed by the end of this week. Thank you for your patience through this system replacement project.

- Many faculty and staff do what we can to help with enrollment, retention, and reducing student debt. One of the things the Finance area has done is expanded our options through TouchNet so that we can provide more **payment plans for our students**. This expanded flexibility for our students and their families will increase the number of options from the one that existed previously to three payment plans (50/25/25; 25/25/25/25; 33/33/34) for the fall semester with the option of adding additional payment plan options in the years ahead.
Traffic patterns will be a little different on the northeast portion of campus this fall with the permanent closure of the portion of Campus Drive between the University Center and the former Carlisle Hall. In addition, the parking that had been available on the circle drive east of the University Center will be off-line indefinitely. The 2013-14 Automobile and Regulations campus map shows the University Center project and the site that is under construction. It also shows the areas of parking that will be available. The highlights of the parking changes include:

- The meter parking will still be available in the circle drive on the south side of the University Center renovation project.
- Lot 1 on Ives Street, immediately north of the Swan building, will be open and available for commuter use.
- The on-street commuter parking that has been available south of Automotive and north of the former Masselink Hall will be open and available for commuters.
- The other parking lots in and around that portion of campus will continue to be available.

With Westview Dining closed as a result of the University Center renovation students will have the opportunity to eat at the Westside Café, which is a redecorated facility and the former site of Center Ice off the Bond circle. Our staffs from Dining Services and Physical Plant have collaborated to rebrand and freshen the area with new paint and lighting. Some equipment was relocated from Westview Dining and other locations on campus and provides seating for 265. Dining Services hosted a soft opening of Westside Café on August 21 and 22 with a full regular operation beginning on August 23.

The football scoreboard and sound system at Top Taggart field was installed some time during the 1980s. This system is beyond repair and our campus employees have worked diligently to keep it in operation over the last several years. A new board and sound system has been ordered and will be in place for either the first home game on Sept. 14 or for Homecoming on Oct. 5. While the football team will provide plenty of excitement this fall at Top Taggart the improvements through the scoreboard and sound system will certainly add to the experience. Come on out and cheer on the Bulldogs!

The temporary road between the University Center circle drive east to Ives will be reopened on August 19. There will be a need to have one more temporary closure at some point later in the fall to replace a streamline between the University Center and the Swan building. We will strive to do this at a time when it is least disruptive to the campus and still allow for the utility work to be completed and the asphalt restored before the asphalt plants close in mid-November.

As many of you know the University web server experienced a cyber attack in July. While attacks on servers in organizations like Ferris are fairly common, most of these are never reported. In the past our security systems have defeated almost all of these attempts. However, the very sophisticated attack in this case did gain access to some of our systems and data. While there have been several communications regarding this incident, I did want to note here that our IT staff put in more than a thousand hours working with an outside forensics firm, as well as on our own efforts to diagnose the problem, increase our security measures, and restore services.
Many units in Administration and Finance are “racing to the finish line” to maximize our readiness for the start of the fall semester. This is especially true in the bookstore, Housing, Dining, ITS, and the Physical Plant.

With the closure of the Rankin Center some individuals on campus will be looking for alternate spaces to hold meetings and events. In collaboration between Administration and Finance, Academic Affairs, President’s Office and Student Affairs a list of available spaces on campus for meetings or events has been assembled and can be found on the website at: [http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/physical/renovation/pdfs/TemporaryMeetingEventSpaces.pdf](http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/physical/renovation/pdfs/TemporaryMeetingEventSpaces.pdf). This list has been expanded over the last couple of weeks so feel free to check it out!

*We know and appreciate that our people make the difference in the projects and services that we provide for you. I want to extend a big thank you to the many dedicated employees in Administration and Finance who work hard each day, all year long to provide quality services to the campus! Thank you too for the big push the last few weeks for our fall semester readiness.*

*Best wishes for a great fall semester!*

Jerry L. Scoby
Vice President for Administration and Finance