

PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

From the Provost:

This month's issue features several articles on how we serve students, some of whom are not yet Bulldogs. MATHCOUNTS and Promesa Avancemos that build middle schoolers' awareness of careers in STEM and in health professions, the Summer Student Research Fellowship program for current Ferris students, and the Plaza Roosevelt initiative that will affect an entire community are making a positive impact on students.

Paul

Mathletes Compete On Campus

More than 110 middle school mathletes converged on the campus for the annual Woodbridge N. Ferris MATHCOUNTS Competition on Friday, February 2, 2018. This year's theme was "Is Phil Rationale?" in recognition of Groundhog Day. The day-long event featured a variety of challenges for young math minds.

MATHCOUNTS, a local event, is a nationwide math enrichment program for 6th through 8th graders. It was sponsored by the Big Rapids chapter of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers and financially supported by the Ferris State College of Engineering Technology, Ferris State Student Affairs, as well as Cargill.

Eight schools participated this year, including St. Peter's Lutheran School, McBain Middle School, Reed City Middle School, St. Mary's Catholic School, Big Rapids Middle School, Crossroads Charter Academy, Morley-Stanwood Middle School, and Vestaburg Community School.

More than 30 local volunteers helped make this event a success. Volunteers included Jan Anderson, Brian Brady, Sue Burns, Jason Daday, Debbie Dawson, Chuck Drake, Lisa Knudson, Nate Leatherman, Bob McCullough, Nancy McCullough, Jane Pedelty, Fran Rosen, Murry Stocking, and Lee Templin as well as College of Engineering Technology Tau Alpha Pi Honorary inductees and Math Club members. Members of the winning team and top individuals will progress to the State MATHCOUNTS Competition in East Lansing, Michigan on March 10, 2018.



Pictured: Left, Rickey Andrews, Reed City Middle School, and Varun Piram, Big Rapids Middle School

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Calendar

3/1 : **Deadline for March ProvostPost Newsletter Submission**

Submission

3/2 : **Deadline Summer SRF Program Applications**

Academic Affairs Policy Updates:

Recently Revised:
 18:1 Medical Withdrawal From the University
 18:2 Program Academic Minors

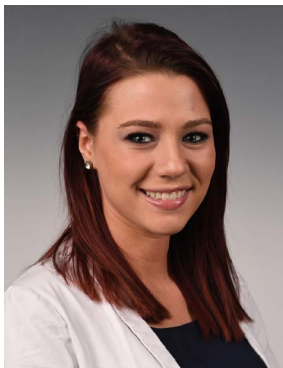
Under Review:
 18:3 Study Abroad

Shoah Project Work Ongoing into the Classroom

The Shoah Project has a number of exciting projects this semester. Last semester, faculty explored the Shoah Foundation Visual History Archives. This semester, faculty will be developing ways to integrate the Archives into their curricula. Dr. Barry Mehler's experimental course, "Shoah: Genocide in the Twentieth Century," filled quickly last semester and is continuing this semester with teams of students focused on different topics in "comparative genocide." Other examples include Social Work students using Shoah testimonies to learn how to handle trauma with empathy. International Education Program students are using the Iwitness program for language and culture instruction. Students who have used the Archives for research are planning a round table discussion later this semester.

There are two events planned for spring. First, the Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society group is hosting a Midwest regional conference which will feature Henry Greenspan, University of Michigan Holocaust expert and author of the award-winning one-man play "Remnants." Second, a group of 25 student leaders and international students will work together on a Shoah testimony project and then travel with faculty at the end of the semester to Detroit for visits to the Holocaust Museum and Museum of Arab Americans.

Engineering Student Selected for Leadership Opportunity



Julia Tisdale, a senior from Midland, Michigan, in the College of Engineering Technology's Construction Management Program, was one out of 36 women selected from across the nation to attend the Kiewit Women's Construction Leadership Seminar in Colorado on January 23-24, 2018. Participants further developed leadership skills and

learned more about career opportunities for women in the fields of construction and engineering.

"I don't think leadership is something you can ever perfect. It is something you are constantly working at," Tisdale said. "I am thankful for such an opportunity to continue to improve my management skills so early in my career."

This isn't the first time the current Women in Technology

student organization president has been recognized for her academic achievements and leadership qualities as she also was a recipient of one of the Michigan Department of Education [Breaking Traditions Merit Awards](#) in the Spring of 2017. To learn more about the women's leadership seminar, visit [here](#).

Center for Latin@ Studies Promotes Future STEM Students with Promesa Avancemos



Promesa Avancemos, a middle school program highlighting partnerships between the Promise Partners Mentor Collaboration (PPMC), Burton Middle School, and the Grand Rapids Public Museum, is a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) college and career exploration program sponsored by the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS). The program is led by Barry Hall, CLS Pre-College Program Coordinator, and Jaime Cain, Senior Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) Intern.

The program encourages students to begin the process of college and career exploration. Promesa Avancemos emphasizes bridging the gap in the educational career pathways such as health professions and engineering. Students work through various exercises and activities that enhance critical thinking skills and future forward thinking.

Students who participate in the program come from diverse backgrounds. These include recent immigrants and Burmese and Korean students, as well as English Language Learners. The program builds on elements of cultural identity as strengths for college and career exploration, and challenges students to explore those strengths and identity throughout the process. CLS, Perkins, and Grand Rapids Partners are working collectively to inspire future Bulldogs to explore career opportunities in health professions and engineering fields.

Services of the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs (ORSP)

The ORSP is a campus-wide resource that helps faculty achieve their goals as teacher-scholars in research, education, and service delivery through successful competition for internal and external funding. The office manages programs such as the Summer Student Research Fellowship (SRF) program, the Institutional Review Board (IRB), and the animal care committee (IACUC). The ORSP assists principal investigators with pre-award grant submissions using the Cayuse 424 grant management system and is a central resource for research involving intellectual property. The ORSP is available to assist with all pre-award activities including grant budget preparation, funding searches, biosketch preparation, as well as post-award effort reporting and stewardship of sponsored projects.

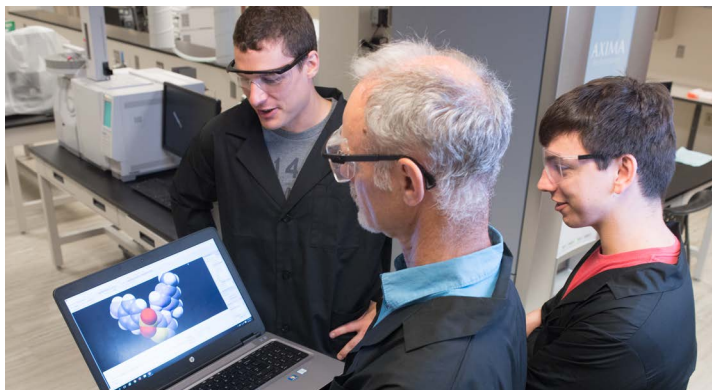
In Fiscal Year 2017:

- grant applications were submitted to external sponsors
- 55** grants or contracts were awarded
- 1** Provisional US Patent application was submitted
- \$2.4** million was the total amount received for grants and contracts

SRF Applications Now Available

Applications for the 2018 Summer SRF Program are now available on [the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs \(ORSP\) Webpage](#) and will be accepted through Friday, March 2nd (Friday before Spring Break).

The Student Research Fellowship (SRF) Program is intended to promote collaborative research projects between faculty and students at Ferris State University during the summer. Student fellows will work full time on a research project with a faculty mentor for a 10-week period over the summer. The results of their work will be shared with the University community at the SRF Symposium during Faculty Welcome Back Week beginning August 22, 2018.



ORSP Hosting Grant Workshop

Do you have a program or project for which you would like to get grant funding? On May 7, 8, and 9, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is hosting a grant writing workshop for faculty and staff. The workshop leaders have received more than \$10M in grant funding in the past and are willing to share their expertise with Ferris faculty and staff. The workshop is designed so that when participants complete the three days of grant training, they will have a finished draft of a grant proposal ready to submit.

Schedule: (start in FLITE 446, Lab room TBD)

9:00 am -11:30 am: Presentations on various components of successful grant proposals

11:30 am -12:00 pm: Lunch

12:00 pm – 3:00 pm: One-on-one writing/consultation time with leaders, faculty, and staff experts

Prior to the workshop, participants will work with the workshop leaders and ORSP to identify a funding source and application guidelines. The participants will also do a literature review or other preparatory work on the topic before the workshop in order to make the most efficient and effective use of this dedicated time for proposal writing.

Professional development funding of up to \$500 is available. For further details and funding requirements, contact Wendy Stapp at 231-591-2547 or WendyStapp@ferris.edu.

Alumnus Returns to the College of Pharmacy

Rodney A. Larson, PhD, RPh, has been named the Assistant Dean of Academics and Practice in the College of Pharmacy. Larson's appointment was effective February 5, 2018. He brings a wealth of knowledge regarding academic pharmacy to the position; Dr. Larson was the Assistant Dean of Student Services in the College of Pharmacy until his departure to serve as the founding Dean at Husson University, Bangor, Maine.



Larson will have offices on both the Big Rapids and Grand Rapids campuses and will divide his time between the locations.

In addition to enjoying soccer, Larson is an amateur photographer and likes hiking, camping, and kayaking. Please join the College of Pharmacy in welcoming him in his new role.

Plaza Roosevelt Update



Partners receiving award from Leadership Grand Rapids

In 2013, Habitat for Humanity of Kent County acquired over five acres of land along Grandville Avenue in Grand Rapids with the vision that it could be a catalyst for neighborhood-driven revitalization. Between 2013 and 2015, Habitat Kent initiated a series of neighborhood design charrettes (resident focus groups) and door-to-door surveys within the neighborhood in order to incorporate neighborhood input into the vision for the development. Since then, seven organizations have partnered with the neighborhood to develop Plaza Roosevelt: Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Mercy Health Saint Mary's, Dwelling Place, Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, and Ferris State University.

Plaza Roosevelt will include a Grand Rapids Public high school, 45 new affordable rental apartments, 19 affordable single-family and multi-family houses, an expansion of Clínica Santa Maria, a new city park, as well as opportunities for innovative cross-collaboration initiatives among the partners.

Ferris State University has a long history of collaboration in the Grandville area. The University has worked in and with the community through the Center for Latin@ Studies, Ferris Grand Rapids, the Latino Business and Economic Development Center, and Kendall College of Art and Design, to name a few.

The City's Planning Commission approved the plan on January 11th and was on the Community Development Committee's agenda for approval on February 6th.

Flannel Friday Benefits Food Pantry

Employees on the third floor of the Timme Building celebrated the first ever Flannel Friday on January 26. Based on Student Affairs' Friday Jeans Day, staff brought in bags of groceries for the Wesley House Student Food Pantry and donned their favorite flannel shirt. They also enjoyed a delicious potluck. David Pilgrim's famous gumbo and Linda Telfer's decadent raspberry chocolate cake both made a short appearance.

This was a group effort. Academic Affairs' student workers designed graphics for the event which Student Affairs staff used to create buttons showing a bulldog wearing a plaid shirt. The President's Office and Academic Affairs staff decorated to make the area festive. Staff from the Diversity and Inclusion Office and Academic Affairs delivered the food to the Wesley House. To learn how your office can alleviate student food insecurity, go to [Area Food Resources](#).



For more information on the Office of Academic Affairs, go to <https://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/index.htm> or call (231)591-2300

