

PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

From the Provost:

On page two is an article about Edward Dillenbeck, a criminal justice graduate who won an award for the abilities he developed while at Ferris. Look at his smile - he exudes confidence. He credits his success to an advisor that provided wisdom just when he needed it and to the knowledge and skills he gained through the first-hand experiences of his Ferris professors.

In preparing students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning, it is easy to get caught up in the many needful tasks and forget that what we do, all of us, changes lives. Thank you.

Please take a few minutes and read of other successes and accomplishments featured in this issue.

Paul

PGA Golf Management Program Receives Award of Merit



Representatives from the College of Business received the Award of Merit on December 3, 2019 at the Michigan Golf Course Association Awards Banquet in Mount Pleasant.

Ferris State University's PGA Golf Management Program was honored with the Award of Merit from the Michigan Golf Course Association (MGCA) on December 3, 2019. This award has only been given out six times in the 43 years that the Association has been active. Because of the program's significant outreach in the industry, its contribution to the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, and its reputation as a national leader in training and educating future golf professionals, the MGCA has selected Ferris and its PGA program for this honor.

The PGA Golf Management program at Ferris was founded in 1975, and was the first of its kind sanctioned by the PGA of America. In 2006, the Award of Merit was created by the MGCA "Scott Family" Educational Support Foundation to recognize an organization that was an outstanding golf business representative in the state of Michigan.

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Calendar Reminders:

- March 7th-16th** – Spring Recess
- March 9th** – Midterm Grades Due
- April 9th-13th** –Midsemester Recess
- May 4th-8th** – Exam Week

Brenda Velandra, owner of Raisin Valley Golf Course and chair of the MGCA “Scott Family” Educational Support Foundation, explains why the Ferris program was chosen.

“Being the first program of its kind in the country, supplying our great industry with an exceptionally qualified work force, and creating ambassadors for golf in Michigan are just a few of the reasons this program deserves special recognition by the Michigan golf industry,” Velandra said.

The award is a representation of the years of hard work students and faculty have put into the program, and also a reflection of the success Ferris alumni have had in the field.

Director of Communications for the MGCA, Kate Moore, said, “I think first and foremost they [students] should be very proud to be in a program that is recognized by the leaders of golf in the state of Michigan.”

Since its first class in 1975, the Ferris PGA Golf Management program has produced over 1,900 graduates and more than 1,000 active PGA members.

Criminal Justice Graduate Wins Award



Ferris Grand Rapids Criminal Justice graduate Edward Dillenbeck credits his Ferris education for helping him win a Criminal Justice Report Writing award.

Ferris Grand Rapids Criminal Justice graduate Edward Dillenbeck won the Report Writing Award following his graduation from the Police Academy at Lansing Community College. He was one of 39 recruits vying for the award.

Dillenbeck attained a bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice December 2018 but was unsure of which career he wanted to pursue within the field. “My report writing professor and academic advisor, Mike McCaw, took me under his wing and advised me on several career options within the criminal justice field,” Dillenbeck said. “He allowed me to realize that a career in public safety was right for me.”

Dillenbeck was hired by Kalamazoo Public Safety during his last semester at Ferris, and started the police academy two weeks after graduation. Throughout his time at the academy, Dillenbeck excelled in his recruit class due to the knowledge and skills gained through first-hand experiences of his professors at Ferris. He is grateful for the opportunity to write superior reports, assist in prosecution, and make the community he serves a better place.

“Ed is now a Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety patrol officer, which is the department I retired from in 2012,” McCaw said. “I know he’ll have a great career. He’s a very solid young man.”

Spotlight: Marissa Kelly



The Center for Latin@ Studies is excited to welcome Marissa Kelly, Assistant Program Coordinator, to the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS).

Kelly is a recent graduate of the Bachelor of Social Work Program and has been working as an intern in CLS.

She will continue to lead the new Amigos de Promesa Scholars Program, a collaboration with the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Building Bridges Through Education Program and the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services Office.

Additionally, she will be assisting with the Promesa Summer Success Program.

MCO Earns Custom Stable Cup

Ferris' Michigan College of Optometry (MCO) won the Custom Stable Cup Challenge that took place at the American Academy of Optometry in Orlando, Florida, October 23-27, 2019.



MCO will have the honor to display the trophy until October, 2020. Two \$500 scholarships were also awarded to recipients chosen at random from the MCO team which was composed of around 10 students.

MCO Professor of Optometry, Josh Lotoczky, explained the difficulty of the challenge. "For the contest, students placed a scleral contact lens on a patient's eye. This is a specialty ridged contact lens that forms a tear reservoir between it and the eye," Lotoczky said. "The students then used a biomicroscope to examine the patient in order to figure out the thickness of the tear reservoir."

The patient was then scanned with an Optical Coherence Tomographer (OCT), Lotoczky said, which gives extremely precise measurements and functions as an ultrasound using light instead of sound. The difference between the student guess and the OCT are then compared.



From left, Michigan College of Optometry students Kaitlyn Arnold, of Jackson, Michigan; Stephanie Slijka, of Chesterland, Ohio; Peter Lawrence, of Gibraltar, Michigan; and Professor of Optometry Josh Lotoczky display the Custom Stable Cup won at the American Academy of Optometry's 2019 Custom Stable Cup Challenge in Orlando, Florida.

"The average error for a group is around 100 microns, an impressive feat," Lotoczky said. "However, the MCO students managed a 6 micron average, which is unbelievable, with the second closest group averaging 83 microns."

Vice President of Valley Contax, Josh Adams, said, "The Custom Stable Cup is an incredible way for students and alumni to work together and compete in a fun setting. This year's event at the American Academy of Optometry's

98th annual meeting was once again nothing less than spectacular. I'm continually blown away by the expertise and determination that our future scleral lens fitters demonstrate."

The Challenge was sponsored by Valley Contax, Optovue, Contamac, TelScreen, and Menicon, who encouraged both students and alumni to participate.

Kaylee Burke Awarded NLA Fellowship



Kaylee Burke

Executive Director, Center for Latin@ Studies, Kaylee Burke, was selected to participate in the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education (AAHHE) [New Leadership Academy \(NLA\) Fellowship](#). As a NLA fellow, Burke will be the first representative from Ferris to participate in this training, which is a partnership between the National Forum on Higher Education for the Public Good and the AAHHE.

The program's curriculum is premised on a recognition that the demographic, democratic, and discursive foundations on which modern higher education has been built are changing. As colleges and universities respond to these environments, leaders will require specialized knowledge and tools, as well as the personal and professional courage to be effective in complex environments.

The NLA curriculum will incorporate traditional leadership theory as well as contemporary scholarship that investigates the roles of leaders in difficult times. The program will consist of online learning modules and discussions, an interactive case study simulation, written reflections, and coaching sessions throughout the six month program from January 2020 to June 2020. The program concludes with an intensive five-day Summer Institute hosted at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Sharing the HLC Story



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Higher Learning Commission



The HLC Leadership Team wants to thank the Ferris State University community for the incredible input received through the Town Hall series. Between November 2019 and January 2020, the HLC Leadership Team hosted 10 Town Hall sessions, with participants attending at the

Big Rapids campus, the KCAD campus, and remotely through Blue Jeans. These sessions were attended by more than 240 participants and resulted in the collection of hundreds of suggestions, comments, and corrections of fact.

The feedback from the Town Halls is being reviewed by HLC Team editors and changes are being made to the Assurance Argument to strengthen the Ferris story. The HLC Leadership Team appreciates the many faculty, staff, and administrators who invested time to review the draft and participate in this process.

Ferris' Assurance Argument narrative relies heavily on evidence to support its claims. Evidence curation is in full swing and the HLC Steering Committee will continue to work on filling gaps to present the most complete and accurate representation of Ferris' alignment with HLC criteria.

FERRISNOW

Spring 2020

The FerrisNow Program continues to see significant numbers of high school students taking advantage of the University's college credit opportunities. Nine-hundred and forty-eight high school students registered for Ferris courses. The University is currently offering 87 course sections for secondary partners, and students are taking 3,083 credit hours.

Year-To-Date Information

Unduplicated student enrollment for the 2019-20 academic year is 1,427 students. These students are saving \$2,681,682* on future college expenses by taking 6,222 credits. A total of 175 course sections have been offered at high schools and career teach centers throughout Michigan.

Ferris collaborates with over 30 secondary school partners, the Ferris Center for Latin@ Studies, the Ferris Charter Schools Office, and 14 academic departments to provide college credit opportunities for high school students.

*based on Ferris' 2019-20 undergraduate tuition rate of \$431/credit hour.

Academic Colleges to Merge

To gain fiscal and academic efficiencies, the three Schools that presently comprise the College of Education and Human Services will merge with other colleges between now and July 1, 2020. The School of Education will become part of the College of Arts and Sciences, and both the School of Criminal Justice and the School of Digital Media will become part of the College of Business. All three of these Schools and their staffs will remain intact. The Schools will remain located in Bishop Hall until the new Center for Virtual Learning is complete. At that time, both the School of Education and the School of Digital Media will move to the new Center for Virtual Learning building, and the School of Criminal Justice will move to the IRC. The COEHS Dean's Office staff, however, will see changes. Members of the Dean's staff will move to one of the new host colleges or to a new department/location on campus.

Transition teams will be established by the week of Feb 1st and will begin to work to resolve policy and process alignment with their new colleges. The teams will incorporate members of both the host colleges and the three Schools from COEHS to work with each other and the bargaining units to align tenure/post-tenure, workload, promotion and merit policies, as well as realignment/reallocation of Senate seats, scholarships, etc.

The new alignments will offer excellent potential for program synergies. Having the School of Education aligned with the College of Arts and Sciences provides distinctive collaborations between content and pedagogy. Having the Schools of Criminal Justice and Digital Media aligned with the College of Business provides distinctive program collaboration with information security, marketing, design, virtual reality and artificial intelligence among others.

FERRIS ART GALLERY EXHIBIT

MFA Graduate Competition Exhibit
Emily Mayo: Chorbah – Chadash

January 13th – February 15th

“Pronounced “khor-bä “ and “khä-dash” these two words originate from the Hebrew writings of the Bible. Rarely seen together, “Chorbah” was used to mean “a place laid waste, ruin, waste, desolation,” and “Chadash” is “to be new, renew, repair.” Butting these two words together suggests the transition between these two states and references the undeniable hope - not specific to the home or the plight-ridden neighborhood, but also to the human.”



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AWARDS

Nominations are still open for the 2020 Academic Affairs awards but will close soon. Full descriptions of the awards and nomination instructions are available on the [Academic Affairs Awards page](#).

Deadline

Please follow the nomination process detailed for each award. Note that all nominations, except the Excellence in Assessment Award, need to be received electronically **by 5 PM on Friday, February 7, 2020**.

List of Awards

Academic Scholar Award – Recognizes a member of the academic community who has demonstrated excellence in research, inquiry and/or scholarship.

Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award – Recognizes an adjunct faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching.

Distinguished Service Award – Recognizes a faculty member who serves the community through leadership in departmental college and/or university committees; participation in activities that contribute to the well-being of the institution; leadership in local, regional, state, national or international professional organizations; and in mentoring colleagues and students.

Diversity Enhancement Award – Recognizes a faculty or staff member who demonstrates a significant commitment to enhancing diversity and harmonious relationships at Ferris State University.

Excellence in Assessment Award – Recognizes individuals or teams demonstrating excellence in the use of assessment data to improve student learning, retention, the learning environment, and/or a culture of continuous improvement. **Nominations due Monday, March 2, 2020.**

International Educator Award – Academic Senate award that recognizes a faculty member who exemplifies a level of involvement in international activities.

Outstanding Academic Advisor Award – Recognizes an academic advisor who has demonstrated excellence in such areas as providing superior service to students and/or developing innovative advising strategies and tools.

Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award – Recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the academic and/or personal lives of first-year students.

Summer 2020 Student Research Fellowship (SRF) Applications Now Available

Applications for the Summer 2020 [Student Research Fellowship \(SRF\) Program](#) are now available from the [Office of Research and Sponsored Programs](#).

Deadline

The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday, March 6, 2020**. The SRF program provides funds for a student to work collaboratively with a faculty member on a project in the arts, humanities, social sciences, STEM and health sciences (such as math, physics, geography, chemistry, computer/data science, engineering, environmental biology, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, public health).

Student fellows will work full time on a project with a faculty mentor for a 10-week period over the summer, with results of their work shared with the University community at the SRF Symposium during Kickoff Week, August 27, 2020.

To Apply

Faculty must prepare and submit the SRF application form with required signatures and attachments to research@ferris.edu by **5:00 pm Friday, March 6, 2020**.

Program Highlights

Up to \$500 may be requested by faculty members to cover project-related expenses.

The Faculty Mentor must be available to supervise the work for the entire 10-week period and must have an appointment (or anticipated appointment) for the following Fall Semester.



Joshua Matson assisting Dr. Felix Amissah as a part of the 2019 Summer Research Fellows.

Njoku Chosen as Fulbright Specialist

Anuli Njoku, associate professor of Public Health, has been selected as a Fulbright Specialist by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for a tenure of three years beginning August 2019.



Dr. Anuli Njoku

The Fulbright Specialist Program, part of the larger [Fulbright Program](#), was established in 2001 and sends U.S. faculty and professionals to serve as expert consultants on curriculum, faculty development, institutional planning and related subjects at academic institutions abroad for a period of two to six weeks, allowing them to continue their work in their academic positions. Projects are designed by foreign host institutions from over 150 countries.

Njoku is an avid traveler and has visited over 20 countries. Her overarching goal for participation in the Fulbright Specialist program is to be matched to a project where she can teach students, develop curriculum, impact a host institution abroad, benefit her home institution by applying lessons learned, and sustain continued dialogue and collaboration after the visit.

According to Fulbright, "All prospective Fulbright Specialists complete a robust application process prior to being eligible to serve on a host institution's project abroad. That process begins with completing the Fulbright Specialist application. If an applicant meets all basic eligibility requirements, their application is then reviewed by a peer review panel. If the panel approves the applicant, they are placed on the Fulbright Specialist Roster for a three-year tenure as a Fulbright Specialist Candidate, during which time they are eligible to be matched with host institution projects abroad."

Njoku's research and teaching specialties include cultural competency in higher education, health disparities, health promotion and education, and rural health. Her experience in the field includes having developed postgraduate courses, and having published on learner-centered curriculum development in Public Health, academic-community partnerships to promote rural health, and promoting health disparities awareness among Public Health students.

Njoku will remain on the Fulbright specialist roster until August 2022.

Big Rapids Festival of the Arts



The Festival of the Arts is a month-long series of arts and cultural events co-sponsored by Ferris State University and the City of Big Rapids, Michigan. With over 85 workshops, events, exhibits, and activities, there is something for everyone. Facebook offers a great way to keep up with what is happening each day and also to see photos after events.

Many of the workshops have limited seating capacity so pre-register for the event. There is not a single registration contact or site because of the variety of people and places hosting, so be sure to check on the page of each event for pre-registration information and sign up early!

February in Michigan offers special challenges in terms of weather. To help communicate to the public should changes be needed, cancellations and reschedule dates will be on the changes in events portion of the website and also on [Facebook](#).

For more information or special accommodations, please contact chairperson Bruce Dilg (231) 796-0250.

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

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY