

Ferris State University

Good News Items

March 2019

Academic Affairs

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

- Matthew Nikkari participated in the "England through Literature, Music, Art, and Popular Culture" (London, Liverpool, and Bath), an overseas study program sponsored by Wayne State University, in spring 2019.
- Garrett Stack was a finalist in the 7th Annual Write Michigan Short Story Contest, presented by Kent District Library and Schuler Books & Music, and will have his piece "The Widowmaker" published in the 2019 anthology.
- The Ferris State Torch Newspaper captured second place in its division for "College Newspaper of the Year" in the 2018 Michigan Collegiate Press Association's annual contest. The Torch won 18 individual awards in Division 2 as well as some across all three divisions with 17 Michigan colleges entered. These awards were announced Jan. 31 at a conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Deirdre Fagan's nonfiction piece, "The Diagnosis," was published in the Writers' Colony at Dairy Hollow's journal, *eMerge*, in February 2019.
- Deirdre Fagan's nonfiction piece, "Ashes, Ashes," was published in the Florida College English Association's *Orange Blossom Review: A Journal of Creative Arts*, in December 2018.
- Two of Deirdre Fagan's poems "Sleepover" and "Driven Thru" were published in the anthology, *We Will Not Be Silenced*, in November 2018.
- Deirdre Fagan's poem, "You are not alone :/" was published in the *Fly on the Wall* webzine, UK, in January 2019.
- Deirdre Fagan gave a reading of nonfiction, fiction, and poetry as an invited speaker to the Friends of the Library annual meeting at the Big Rapids Public Library in January 2019.
- Ferris' Alpha Nu Rho chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society was notified last October that it was the recipient of the 2018 National Best Chapter Award for Division III. The RSO is advised by History professors Dr. Tracy Busch and Dr. Gary Huey, of the Department of Humanities.
- The FSU Athletic Pep Band, under the direction of Dr. Dale Skornia (Department of Humanities) celebrated its 12th Annual Athletic Pep Band Family Day on Saturday, February 16.
- Almost 40 Sports Communication students raised \$1100 for Women's Heart Health, specifically Spectrum Hospital Big Rapids Cardio Rehab Unit, at the 5th Annual "Red Out the Wink and the Rink" event on Saturday, Feb. 9. Under the leadership of Dr. Sandy Alspach (Department of Humanities), they collaborated with Prof. Jina Rockwell's Sports Marketing class last fall to plan the full day's activities in the Sports Complex, working in conjunction with Mike Pryzdial from the Athletic Department.
- Dr. Richard Scott Cohen (Department of Humanities) and Dr. Mary Beth Zimmer (Department of Biological Sciences) co-presented a session at the 37th annual Academic Chairpersons Conference, in Houston, Texas, entitled, "The Chair's Role: Faculty, Mentor, Colleague, Supervisor?"
- Christian Peterson (Humanities Department) wrote a book review of Eckart Conze, Martin Klimke and Jeremy Varon (eds), *Nuclear Threats, Nuclear Fear, and the Cold War of the 1980s* for the *Journal of Contemporary History* 53, no. 4 (October 2018)

- Christian Peterson (Humanities Department) published a Book Chapter “The Reagan Administration and the Transformation of the Soviet Union,” in William Michael Schmidli and Robert Pee (eds.), *The Reagan Administration, the Cold War and the Transition to Democracy Promotion* (Palgrave Macmillan, November 2018).
 - He also peer reviewed two essay submissions for this publication
- Three Humanities Department instructors and four students have been accepted to present their work (3 separate proposals) at the 2019 Summit of the International Association for Communication and Sport (IACS) in late March in Boise, ID.
 - Project #1 led by Sandy Alspach features two Sports Communication majors Conner Pyrc (Jr) and Brendan Sanders (Fr) who are studying the impact of winning a National Championship for a D2 sport for the first time: FSU's national championship in Men's Basketball.
 - Project #2 led by Paul Zube working with Sports Communication majors Jared Ozella (Jr) and Savanna Stout (Jr) is a follow-up to the paper presented last year at IACS 2018 measuring the positive impact of Unified sports on college students' attitudes about people with Intellectual Disabilities.

All four students' conference experiences are funded by Student Research/Travel grants from the Department of Humanities and the College of Arts and Sciences. Professors Gray and Zube also have their own work featured in the program for this conference.
- Richard Scott Cohen (Humanities Department) gave the keynote presentation “La Integració Internacional del Món Bandístic Valencià (The Internationalization of the Valencia Band World)” at the “Música a la Llum” conference in Valencia, Spain (December 2018).

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

- Information Security and Intelligence Students Earn Amazon Web Services Cloud Computing Certification.
<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2019/february/certification.htm>
- Students in the PR program are hosting the inaugural Business-Communication (Biz•Comm) Sports Summit Friday, March 22 from noon to 4pm in the University Center ballroom. For more information: 2019sportssummit.eventbrite.com
- Jim Furstenberg, Assistant Professor in the Information Security and Intelligence program, was nominated by the Ferris Women's Cross-Country team and selected by the Student Athlete Advisory Committee as a faculty member who goes above and beyond in supporting student athletes.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

School of Criminal Justice (SCJ)

- Students in the Criminal Justice program organized a Criminal Justice Job Fair on February 6, 2019. Over 35 agencies and departments attended.
- On February 19, 2019, the SOCJ Faculty in conjunction with the Law Enforcement Academy hosted their annual Open House where over 80 students attended. Forty-five (45) students from the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District Career Center and the Montcalm Vocational Education Center also attended. Academy students provided full information on future careers in law enforcement and their ability to attend FSU.
- On February 23, 2019, students in the SOCJ Law Enforcement Academy participated in the Michigan Special Olympics (MSO) Polar Plunge at Chippewa Lake. The academy students raised \$3,600 for their donation to MSO and received a 1st place trophy for being the top fundraising group for the event. Two academy students were recognized also for being the top two individual fundraisers for the Polar Plunge this year. The Law

Enforcement Academy students previously donated \$1,100 in September 2018, making their total donation of \$4,700 to MSO.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

- Anuli Njoku, Assistant Professor in Public Health, was a selected applicant and travel grant recipient to attend the 2019 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation New Connections Capstone Symposium in New Orleans, LA. The symposium serves as a forum for early and midcareer researchers to network and share research ideas.
- James C. Glasheen, a 2018 graduate of the FSU Master of Healthcare Administration program and 2016 graduate of the FSU Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences program, has been awarded the Stuart A. Wesbury, Jr. Postgraduate Fellowship with the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). ACHE is the premier society for healthcare executives. Selected from candidates across the nation, Mr. Glasheen's fellowship preceptor will be ACHE President and Chief Executive Officer Deborah J. Bowen.

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

- Congratulations to the following students on their achievement of their American Academy of Optometry Student Fellowships at the November meeting in San Antonio: Natalie DeCook, 4th year, Luke Lirones, 4th year, Courtney McNulty, 3rd year
- Michigan Optometric Association 2018 Award Winners: Optometrist of the Year- Lillian Kalaczinski, O.D., Young Optometrist of the Year- Paula McDowell, OD, FAAO, Educator of the Year- Emily Aslakson, OD, FAAO, Student of the Year- Luke Lirones. These awards were given at the Michigan Optometric Association Winter Seminar in Lansing on February 6, 2019.

RETENTION & STUDENT SUCCESS

- Alexis Fleming, an Office of Transfer and Secondary School Partnerships student employee, began working on Military Credit Equivalency and did a fantastic job sorting through thousands of rows of military equivalencies and finding and linking the associated supporting information on the American Council of Education website.
- All new Thompson Scholars and General Studies students were sent invitations to participate in a series of online learning and coaching activities through EduGuide. www.eduguide.org
- Bob Griffith, Web Master for the BUGMI organization (Banner Users Group of Michigan), is part of the team that is developing the leadership structure and planning the next BUGMI.
- Brooke Moore and three FCTL student assistants – Alondra Brandon, Elizabeth Lalone, and Ruth Sifuentes – gave a presentation for the Academic Literacies Center's Speaker Series titled "Go Big or Go Home: Developing Habits to Be a Successful Student."
- Honors Program Director, Dr. Peter Bradley, served as an external reviewer for Ithaca College's Honors Program.

Administration and Finance Information Technology

- The IT Solution Center in the University Center has deployed QLess. QLess allocates resources during heavier demand and does a great job interacting with those waiting for service. Text messaging communicates status and allows accommodations for visiting nearby stores like Starbucks, the Bookstore, or the Quad Dining area. QLess communicates status while in line and supports interactions for delays. For those that like to plan their days with appointments, QLess supports scheduling. For the last fiscal year, our goal has been to minimize the wait times with quality support so people can focus on their reasons for being at the University.

- IT is in the process of implementing a new Mobile Device Management tool or MDM for short. This will help IT in locating mobile devices if lost, and it helps with compliance like HIPAA, FERPA, and PCI. Initially this will be tested with Apple devices.
- Cyber security has initiated their annual external penetration testing in the mid of February. This is just one security measure being displayed to make sure our systems are secure.

Athletics

- Ferris State University junior quarterback Travis Russell has been chosen as a national semifinalist for the prestigious Wooden Cup, which honors the nation's top student-athlete for citizenship on and off the field of play.
- The defending national champion Ferris State men's basketball squad is listed seventh overall in the initial NCAA Division II Midwest Regional Rankings as announced by the NCAA. The top eight teams at the end of the year earn berths into the NCAA Tournament. The Bulldogs are seeking their fifth-straight appearance in the big dance.
- Ferris State played host to its first-ever live national TV games inside of Jim Wink Arena in early February as the Bulldogs hosted Ashland in the NCAA Division II National Showcase Games of the Week on ESPN3 and the WatchESPN app.
- Ferris State University senior left tackle Devon Johnson (Aurora, Ill.), who helped lead the Bulldogs to their first NCAA Division II National Championship game appearance this past fall, has been invited to the 2019 National Football League (NFL) Combine, becoming only the second player in school history and the first in 28 years to receive an official invitation.
- Ferris State University has received recognition as Michigan's best football team of 2018 following the most historic season in school history that saw the Bulldogs reach the NCAA Division II National Championship game. SB Nation recently unveiled its list of the best collegiate football teams in every state, picking a single institution as the state representative from all levels of competition. FSU won the Michigan honor over D1 schools such as Michigan, Michigan State, Western Michigan and others based on an outstanding fall campaign.
- A total of 73 Ferris State University student-athletes have achieved Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) All-Academic & All-Academic Excellence Team honors for the recently-completed 2018 fall athletics campaign as announced by the league office and presented by Meijer. The 73 Bulldog student-athletes represent six varsity programs, including football, volleyball, women's soccer, women's tennis, women's cross country and men's cross country.
- A pair of Ferris State University student-athletes have earned the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (GLIAC) Commissioners Award for the fall 2018 campaign, according to an announcement made recently by the league office. Junior All-America outside hitter Allyson Cappel (Tinley Park, Ill.) of the GLIAC Champion Bulldog volleyball squad and senior captain Carley Dubbert (St. Joseph) of the FSU women's soccer squad both received the prestigious distinction after outstanding fall campaigns.

Public Safety

- Public Safety held their Food for Fines drive from February 1-8. As a result of this community service minded effort, DPS delivered almost 500 pounds of food to the Wesley House, home of the student food pantry. Through this drive, a total of 46 citations were voided. Approximately 75 students benefit from the pantry each month.

- During the polar vortex this winter, Public Safety jumped 62 student cars in one week on campus. These vehicles would not start due to the extreme cold temperatures. We are proud of our Officers and Sergeants for this outstanding service to our students.

Governmental Relations

- The Governmental Relations and General Counsel's office hosted 90 students and parents from the Grand Rapids Griffin Youth Foundation to campus on February 1. The group toured campus, learned how college is possible for each of them, dined at The Rock and closed out their evening watching Bulldog hockey. This past fall, the Ferris hockey team played a scrimmage game and held a hockey clinic for the youth skaters from the foundation. This continued relationship between Ferris and the GR Griffins Youth Foundation strives to set the fundamental belief in each child that college is attainable.....and why not be a Bulldog!
- Director of Equal Opportunity Kylie Piette joined Title IX Coordinator, Kaitlin Zies in co-presenting a "Responsible Employee Informational Session" through the Staff Center for Training and Development on Wednesday, February 20, 2019. Future sessions are being offered this spring through the Staff Center.

Kendall College of Art & Design

- The KCAD Master of Architecture (MArch) program is now accredited by the National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB), having been granted Initial Accreditation at the January 2019 NAAB Board meeting. Accreditation is effective January 1, 2018, and program graduates—beginning with the inaugural cohort, which graduated in 2016—now fully meet the educational requirements required for licensure in architecture.
- Painting Professor Jay Constantine held a solo exhibition, "Anti-Icons," at the Mott Community College Fine Arts Gallery in Flint, Mich. In conjunction with the exhibition, Constantine also gave a presentation on his featured paintings, which examine the historical conflict between science and religion and confront the uncomfortable realities such conflict has created.
- Art History Assistant Professor Dr. Stefanie Snider has been appointed to a three-year term (beginning in 2019) on the College Art Association (CAA) Committee on Diversity Practices, which, according to the CAA, "supports the development of global perspectives on art and visual culture." Dr. Snider also recently presented new research on Finnish artist Iivari Susiraja at the Universities Art Association Conference held at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.
- Painting Professor Margaret Vega opened a solo exhibition, *Landscape as Muse*, at Dacia Gallery in New York City. Vega also gave an artist talk during the exhibition's opening reception that focused on the ways in which her work leverages the natural world as both an inspiration and a point of departure. Vega also had her monotype "Head of a Boy" recently acquired by the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM) for inclusion in its permanent collection, featured in the GRAM exhibition *A Decade at the Center: Recent Gifts and Acquisitions*.
- Digital Media student John Girkin won the 2018 Creative Outlook Cover Contest, held by Creative Outlook magazine, with his piece "Woodwork." Girkin's winning piece was featured on the cover of the recently released 2018 issue of the annual publication.
- Art Education student Lynn Loubert has been elected to the Board of Directors for the National Art Education Association (NAEA). Loubert will serve a two-year term as Preservice Division Director Elect, followed by a two-year term as Preservice Division Director.

- Interior Design Student Sarah Petoskey won the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Michigan chapter's 2019 Student Video Competition. Her winning entry has earned her an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2019 IIDA Shift Student Conference in Dallas, Tex., where she'll have the opportunity to network with over 300 other student participants from around the country.
- Robert Andy Coombs ('13, BFA Photography) was profiled by the Yale News in a piece exploring his first exhibition of work as a student in Yale's MFA Photography program.
- Beth McGee ('01, BFA Interior Design) was hired by Georgia Southern University as an assistant professor of interior design.
- Michael Nashef ('06, BFA Metals and Jewelry Design) was featured on an episode of the podcast Perceived Value in a segment exploring the benefits of attending symposiums and national conferences held by professional organizations. Nashef has been invited to present at the 2019 Society of North American Goldsmiths (SNAG) Annual Conference in Chicago this May.
- Richard Oversmith ('95, BFA Illustration) is currently showing a new collection of his impressionistic landscape paintings at the Depot Room in Tryon, N.C. Oversmith, who paints in the "en plein air" style, frequently immerses himself in the natural splendor of North Carolina as part of his process.
- Jon Post ('82, AFA Illustration) had two paintings of Jackie Robinson he created purchased by the production company of filmmaker Spike Lee for use in a forthcoming short film titled "Impact."
- Cory Peeke ('91, BFA Fine Arts) held a solo exhibition, *On the Tip of My Tongue*, at the Pendleton Center for the Arts in Pendleton, Ore. that showcased his ephemeral collage work. Peeke also invited a small group of other collage artists to show alongside him.
- Chelsey Sawallich ('17, BFA Fashion Studies) has designed a new womenswear collection, Michigan Wildflower, that will be inclusively sized, sustainably sourced, and expertly crafted by fairly compensated sewists in Lansing, Mich. Sawallich also started a Kickstarter campaign to help launch the line, which has since been fully funded.

Urban Institute for Contemporary Art

- UICA Associate Director Megan Bylsma was awarded a Ferris State University Faculty/Staff Mini-Grant to implement a promotional and engagement campaign to increase visitor socioeconomic equity. The grant will support UICA's partnership with Museums for All, an access program from a cooperative initiative between the Association of Children's Museums and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.
- On February 15, 2019, UICA welcomed guests to the opening of *Or Does it Explode*, an exhibition of the work of four international photographers documenting the lives of people who were either forced to migrate, or who were refugees. In an effort to build awareness of the millions of lives affected globally, this exhibition offers figurative work merged with descriptive text that individualizes the numerous struggles that result from migration. The exhibition was curated by UICA Exhibition Curator Juana Williams.
- UICA was awarded \$10,000 from Herman Miller Cares in support of the 2019 ArtWorks program. This summer, two groups of 15 students will each work with an artist/mentor and additional instructors to complete projects for clients over a five-week period. The first is a mural in the City of Grand Rapids Gallery parking ramp; the second is the design and sculptural elements for a City of Grand Rapids parklet.
- UICA began a partnership with AARP to offer a \$1 discount on gallery admission for their members.

Student Affairs

- Omar Gonzalez, Coordinator of Recruitment/Community Relations & Regional Populations, has been nominated in the **Young Hispanic Professional of the Year** Category for the Hispanic Chamber's 2019 Annual Awards Gala!
- The Admitted Student Open House on Feb. 16, 2019 had 437 total guests with 164 students in attendance. This is the largest February open house since 2016. The event allowed students to meet with and tour colleges, as well as attend presentations from various departments. Over 65 students signed up for orientation during the event as well.
- The Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid has mailed estimated financial aid notices to over 800 new students that have not yet completed their financial aid requirements. This communication is being sent to encourage these prospective students to complete their missing requirements and to take the next steps that will lead them to new student orientation and becoming a Bulldog.
- Nick Campau (Associate Dean of Student Life) and Kristen Salomonson (Dean of Enrollment Services) gave a presentation entitled "Establishing a Comprehensive Program of Student Affairs Assessment" at Lake Michigan College on February 14. The content focused on 20+ year history of comprehensive assessment in Student Affairs at Ferris, how our system of Assessment Buddies helped us to develop a true commitment to the assessment process, and practical tips on how to assess the work of the variety of departments in Student Affairs.
- Nicholas Campau and Kaitlin Zies presented a half-day preconference session on Stalking on Campus, focusing on recognizing, investigating and adjudicating stalking in a manner that meets a school's obligation for Clery Requirements, at the annual Association of Student Conduct Administrators conference in Jacksonville, Florida.
- Ashley Schulte was invited to facilitate a one-day, three-part leadership workshop for the National Leadership Conference for Phi Sigma Sigma, a national sorority, in Washington D.C. Over the course of the weekend, she assisted 13 chapter presidents in identifying source issues in their organizations and on their campuses, and how to apply a prevention lens to solving problems before they turn into critical issues.

University Advancement and Marketing

- February is Philanthropy month! The Student Alumni Gold Club celebrated the annual event by having their 55-member organization pay tribute to the Alumni Association Board of Directors, The Ferris Foundation Board of Directors and the Alumni Association's Bulldog Ambassadors, who are located across the country. Through short video clips, the students communicated their gratitude while shining the spotlight on these very worthy Ferris State Bulldogs. Check out the [Gold Club's work](#).
- Since July 1, 2016, the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge has received gifts toward 262 new or existing endowments, with more than \$6.63 million of new gift commitments from Ferris State University benefactors. With the match, this creates more than \$13.26 million of endowed funds for the support of Ferris students. The Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge has matched 1,724 generous donations from 431 alumni, 126 faculty/staff, and 1,167 friends.
- Duane Johansen (T'92, B'94) and his parents, Carl and Betty Johansen, established a scholarship endowment in memory of their brother and son, Paul Johansen (T'85). The

endowed scholarship will provide financial support for students majoring in the Heavy Equipment Technology programs in the College of Engineering Technology.

- Trace Tandy (B'84) established the Trace and Veronica Tandy/Great Western Manufacturing Scholarship Endowment to provide financial support for students majoring in any program in the College of Business.
- Edw. C. Levy Company and the Michigan Aggregate Association made a commitment to the Institute for Construction Education and Training's new Hot Mix Asphalt and Aggregate Laboratory project.
- The Alumni Association traveled to Florida in January, first hosting a Professional Golf Management Alumni Reception, co-sponsored by GolfTec, at Orlando's Orange County Convention Center, and then the annual Sarasota Alumni and Friends luncheon at the TPC Prestancia. More than 200 were in attendance at both events.
- On Feb. 7 and 9, respectively, the Ferris Alumni Association hosted the Tucson Emeriti, Alumni and Friends Luncheon and the annual Phoenix/Scottsdale Regional Alumni mixer. These annual regional alumni events represent recurring efforts to engage nearly 2,000 Arizona alumni, emeriti and friends. Tucson's luncheon, which has been held for more than a decade, included many classes of Ferris alumni and emeriti representing multiple academic colleges and many adopted bulldogs (friends). In Scottsdale, 46 alumni/friends met at McFate Brewing to watch a livestream game of Ferris State hockey vs. Bemidji State University.
- On Feb. 16, the Alumni Association Board of Directors met at Grand Rapids Brewery for their annual meeting. Board updates included information on the *Now & Always* campaign, University marketing and branding initiative, and committee and staff reports. Following the meeting, board members joined Grand Rapids area alumni at Buffalo Wild Wings for a pre-game reception. More than 70 area alumni and friends attended the Grand Rapids Griffins event at Van Andel Arena for their sold out Star Wars night.
- Ted Halm, web content manager, collaborated with faculty and administration from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences and Engineering Technology to develop a new ["Project S3OAR" website](#).

Ferris has received a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation to establish Project S3OAR – short for Sustainable, Scalable Scholarships, Opportunities, Achievements and Results. The four-year program will award 36 scholarships annually to incoming freshmen and will seek to graduate low-income, academically talented students in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

S3OAR Scholars will participate in orientation, a freshman seminar, a learning community, entrepreneurship education and other co-curricular and enrichment opportunities, in addition to being assigned a mentor.

Mathematics professor Hengli Jiao, Ph.D., serves as the principal investigator for the S3OAR program. Kristi Haik, Ph.D., dean of Ferris' College of Arts and Sciences, and Brent Williams, an associate professor of Welding Engineering Technology, serve as co-principal investigators. Haik formerly worked at Northern Kentucky University and was instrumental in developing the original program.

- Nate Clark, graphic designer/copywriter, continues to conduct educational meetings and workshops related to implementation of the DesignConductor self-serve publication

template system. To gain access to the system, Ferris faculty and staff can email Nate at nateclark@ferris.edu to sign up for a one-on-one or workshop training session.

- Christa Bull, senior graphic designer, developed new designs for Ferris' multimedia advertising package in Fifth Third Ballpark with the Grand Rapids Whitecaps.
- Throughout February, News Services and Social Media Manager Sandy Gholston co-hosted a series of social media sessions in collaboration with the Staff Center for Training and Development. Sandy co-hosted the meetings with Megan Biller, assistant director of the Doctorate in Community College Leadership program. The sessions included tips to help employees improve their proficiency in Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Twitter management. The meetings also included tips for live video and general social media best practices.