Zac Wendler’s article “How Does Rhetoric Drive New Graduate Nurse Performance?” (co-written with Andrew J. Wendler and M. Cecilia Wendler) was published in Journal for Nurses in Professional Development.

Deirdre Fagan and five creative writing students—Paige Brady, Hannah McKeen, Jason Mickevich, Cassandra Rathbun, and Stepanie Udell—attended the Michigan Writers’ Workshop in Livonia, MI, in May 2019, with support from a CAS student travel grant.


The Political Engagement Project had a standing-room only event celebrating Constitution Day. We awarded the 1st Annual PEP Constitutional Scholar Award to Brett Cooper, the winner of our essay contest. The event featured Brett’s winning essay, a presentation by Dr. Christian Peterson, and a Faculty Q & A with Dr. Peterson, Christina Eames and PEP Coordinator David Takitaki. Students packed the room from 6:30pm to 8:30pm and asked fantastic questions on political polarization, the role of social media, and the electoral college.

The Communication program celebrates the hiring of Sports Communication alumni Nick Owens ('17), Coordinator of Athletic Event Operations and Special Projects; and Jake Daugherty ('17), graduate assistant (MS in Educational Leadership) in Sports Administration, by the Ferris Athletics Department. They join Sports Comm alum Raymoan McAfee ('15), Assistant Men’s Basketball Coach for Ferris and graduate student (MS in Educational Leadership), in the continuing story of our program's success in preparing students for advanced study and careers in the Sports industry right in our own backyard. Meanwhile, Quentin Ruff, Sports Comm minor ('18), begins his MS in Organizational Leadership as a graduate assistant men’s basketball coach for Lewis University this fall.

Christian Peterson won the Visegrad Scholarship to conduct research at the Open Society Archives of Central European University (Budapest, Hungary) from 10 May to 11 July 2020 (http://www.osaarchivum.org/work-with-us/fellowship/visegrad-scholarship/winners-and-reserves)


Dr. Cami Sanderson has been selected to be a Community Educator for the Alzheimer Association. Therefore, she will be presenting speeches for the organization in the surrounding communities. Since this happened recently, she has not yet been able to contact students who wanted to join her in this endeavor.
Lynann Byars completed the Mental Health First Aid Training offered at Ferris this past summer.

The Social Work Program sponsored the Michigan Association of Baccalaureate Social Work Educator’s Annual Conference, “Social Work Education in Changing Times: Supporting Student Success”, on September 19 & 20 at the University Center. Presenting at the conference were: Kathryn Woods, Michael Berghoef, Dana Holcomb, Joanie Hazelton, Carrie Thompson. Michael Berghoef also led two Jim Crow tours for conference participants, and Wendy Samuels was on the conference planning committee.

ACS-PRF: Dr. Luis Rivera received a grant from the American Chemical Society Petroleum Research Fund to support undergraduate research in the amount of $55,000 for a two-year period.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

College of Business Committee of Inclusion hosted the 4th Annual Conversation on Inclusion: The Multigenerational Workforce on September 19th. Discussing changing social attitudes towards different age groups who work together in the work force. Speakers included Michael Walrave, Professor of Psychology at Jackson College, Tim Baumgardner, Director of Digital Marketing Strategy at MLive Media Group and Paige Cornetet, Chief Millennial Officer at Millennial Guru.

The Information Security and Intelligence program is among the first in the United States to receive ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) accreditation in Cybersecurity. ABET is the primary accrediting organization for engineering and technology programs and is considered by many as the gold standard.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN SERVICES

Digital Animation & Game Designed (DAGD) alumnus Michael Coluzzi presented "PassportVR: Building An Immersive Virtual Reality Experience of a Michigan Outcrop" at the Geology Society of America Conference (September 25, 2019) on behalf of co-collaborators Jacob Pollak (DAGD Faculty), Tari Mattox (GRCC Geology Faculty) and DAGD students Logan Brown, Dominic Modderman and Jacob Spagnuolo.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Ryan Meppelink, a senior in the Heavy Equipment Maintenance program, competed in the WorldSkills Kazan (Russia) competition, August 22-27 and earned a Bronze medal. More information can be found on the Ferris News site and at Transportation Topics.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Kimberly S. Beistle, PhD has been accepted to the American Dental Hygiene Association Continuing Education Review Ad Hoc Group, September 2019.

EIO

Gary Wendolsky, Director of Corporate and Professional Development, is currently on the Mid-Michigan Honor Flight board. The Mid-Michigan Honor Flight has just completed their 12th flight to Washington D.C. on September 18th providing 68 veterans from World War II, Korea, and Vietnam wars a chance to visit the monuments and memorials dedicated to their service. The Mid-Michigan hub has now taken more than 700 veterans to our nation’s capital since 2014, and Ferris has played an important role since the very first flight. Flight #13 is scheduled for June 4, 2020 when they will welcome the next group of vets here on campus, where their journey starts.

FLITE

FLITE librarian, Ann Breitenwischer just celebrated her 50th Anniversary with Ferris State University on September 22, 2019.

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY
Dr. Sarah Hinkley, Professor at MCO has recently been awarded the Northern Lights Award by the Mecosta County Community Foundation. This award recognizes citizens or organizations who have made meaningful contributions to the community. Dr. Hinkley was recognized for her part as creator of the Student in Need of Eyecare program.

Drs. Emily Aslakson and Paula McDowell gave a 3-hour presentation to the Big Rapids MOISD titled “Vision and Academic Performance: More than Meets the Eye”.

RETENTION & STUDENT SUCCESS

Jeff Gabalis presented a session on “Accessibility & Video Captioning” during the 2019 Kickoff Week.

FCTL launched the Faculty Transition Program (previously called the New Faculty Transition Program). This redesigned and expanded program is open to all first- and second-year faculty at FSU and offers an innovative menu of engagement opportunities for participants, including face-to-face and online sessions and classroom feedback experiences. The program still aims to enable participants to use effective teaching and learning strategies, establish supportive professional networks, discuss various aspects of the University and apply University resources to their courses, and make a positive transition to the Ferris community, September 2019.

Liz Burbatt and Jody Maloney, in collaboration with FCTL, launched the “First Among Equals: Creating a Supportive First Generation-Focused College Experience” learning community. All faculty were invited to explore foundational research about first-generation students, learn strategies to support them, examine the hidden curriculum, and apply their new learning to their own practice, September 2019.

Julie Rowan and Todd Stanislav led a successful daylong workshop titled Residents as Teachers for the residents of the Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, IL. This was the 8th year that FCTL staff were invited to facilitate this program. They facilitated two sessions “Using Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning (POGIL)” and “Advancing Learning in Clinical Settings.”, September 12, 2019.

Brooke Moore facilitated a first-generation student panel during the 2019 Kickoff Week titled: “Student Perspectives: My Ferris Experience.”

Byron Brooks, one of our honor’s high-profile students and board member of MEHA, was nominated for Forbes’ magazine ‘30 under 30.’

Deedee Stakley was appointed as a member of the MCAN College Access Alliance.

For the third year, the TIP Office hosted the TIP Emerging Scholars Program from August 20th – 23rd for 80 incoming TIP Scholars. TIP Scholars spent all day Tuesday to Friday participating in workshops, events, activities, and social events aimed to connect students to campus resources, create a sense of belonging/community, and increase college knowledge. Some highlights of programming included StrengthsFinder assessments and information, Entrepreneurial Mindset activities, and a campus scavenger hunt.

This summer the TIP Office engaged 14 new and 3 returning TIP Scholars to serve as TIP Emerging Scholars Peer Leaders. These students worked with the TIP Emerging Scholars Program, and led groups of 7-9 students throughout the week.

In partnership with the T2C Studio in Grand Rapids, an effort to increase the high school to college pipeline for Grand Rapids Public School students, and Grand Rapids area TIP Scholars attended the T2C Studio College Mixer to engage with high school students about college.

Liz Burbatt participated in the T2C Studio College Bootcamp for incoming first year GRPS students.

Ferris State University was recognized as a NASPA First Forward institution (official announcement: https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2019/may/naspa.htm). As
part of our efforts to engage first generation faculty, staff, and students, Ferris hosted our first ever First Friday event on September 6th with a webinar titled: Becoming an Individual & Institutional Advocate for First Generation College Students and a faculty, staff, and student mixer. The next First Friday event takes place on October 4th in UC 116 with a webinar from 9am-10am on Exploring the Ways Jargon Influences College Access & Success for First Generation College Students and a mixer to follow from 10am-12 noon.

Administration and Finance

Athletics

- Ferris State University has three teams ranked among the nation’s top 20 this fall. Bulldog Football is currently ranked second in the country with soccer 11th and volleyball 16th. FSU is the only school of more than 300 Division II institutions to have all three of those programs among the nation's top 16 teams to date.
- Ferris State Football has had 10 different players in NFL rookie or training camps over the past two years. Currently, former DB Tavierre Thomas is on the Cleveland Browns' 53-man roster while five other past standouts are presently on NFL practice squads - DL Zach Sieler (Baltimore), LB Brady Sheldon (Green Bay), WR Malik Taylor (Green Bay), TE Jason Vander Laan (New England) and DT Justin Zimmer (Atlanta).
- The Ferris State University men's ice hockey team has partnered with the American Legion for a specialized camouflage jersey auction to benefit Big Rapids American Legion Post 98 for their Nov. 15 game against the Bemidji State University Beavers. All 100 percent of the proceeds from the jersey auction will be donated to American Legion Post 98. In addition, veterans will receive a discount to buy tickets in person leading up to the game. Ferris State Hockey will honor all American and Canadian veterans throughout the Nov. 15 game with a special program.
- A pair of recent Ferris State University hockey alums have played in National Hockey League (NHL) preseason games as forward Gerald Mayhew saw ice time with the Minnesota Wild and defenseman Cooper Zech made his NHL preseason debut with the Boston Bruins.
- Ferris State University senior quarterback Travis Russell (Grand Rapids/West Catholic), a member of the nation’s #2 and unbeaten Bulldog football squad, has been announced as one of the national semifinalists for the 2019 William V. Campbell Trophy® presented by Mazda. Celebrating its 30th year in 2019, the award recognizes an individual as the absolute best football scholar-athlete in the nation for his combined academic success, football performance and exemplary leadership. Russell is among a select group of 185 national semifinalists for the prestigious award, including one of only 19 student-athletes from NCAA Division II member schools.
- The Ferris State women's tennis team recently posted its first win over rival Northwood in GLIAC action since 2004, snapping a 24-match series' losing streak in conference play to the Timberwolves.
- The Bulldog women's golf team matched a school record with a 296 team score in round one at the Cumberland Trail Golf Classic on Sept. 21-22 in Pataskala, Ohio. The Bulldogs' 604 team score in the event also represented the lowest figure for a 36-hole event in school history and senior standout Destiny Lawson also set an individual 36-hole record with a 142 total for the two rounds as FSU earned runner-up honors in the event.
Auxiliary Enterprises

- Bryan Marquardt, Laura Herron, and Kim Young presented “How to move your Student Housing Contract Needle” at the Adirondack Solutions conference in Phoenix on September 26.

IT

- The IT Solution Center’s Audio/Visual Support area continues to play a key role or helps with important events such as Hatch Ed, eSports, Board Meetings, the Hagerman Pharmacy renovation, the Katke dedication, and the Virtual Learning Center.
- Classroom Readiness for Fall Semester resulted in a 99% success rate. Each semester, computer technicians check lecture computers in labs and classrooms for proper operation using a 30 point checklist. This helps our students see a successful course start in their very first week of classes.

Diversity and Inclusion

- We are proud of the work being done with the Ferris Youth Initiative. The program has expanded to 28 students—and 13 new faculty and staff members have been added as mentors. And, speaking of the program, President Eisler and his wife, Patsy, recently established a $350,000 endowment to help these youth receive a Ferris education. To learn more about this wonderful gift go to https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2019/august/eisler.htm.
- Kingsley Anacheluniwa, a Welding Engineering Technology student—and a member of the FYI program, hosted a basketball camp in Nigeria last summer. This is ethical community in action and our students heeding Woodbridge Ferris’ challenge to us to “make the world better.” See, https://vimeo.com/341617839?fbclid=IwAR2DyVuWcLEHzGvz3ACJHM-8iy8iKVZC3usfDnrjV9FwJDwR4iXDxUTz2_M
- Thank you to the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) and the Circle of Tribal Nations for hosting a welcoming event for new and returning Native American students on September 10, 2019. And, another thank you to OMSS for hosting their annual Get Acquainted Day on September 11, 2019.
- There are many diversity and inclusion related events occurring this fall. The College of Business Committee on Inclusion is hosting the fourth annual Conversation on Inclusion. This event brings in speakers who share their professional and personal experiences. The speakers this year are Dr. Michael G. Walraven (Jackson College), Tim Baumgardner (MLive Media Group), and Paige Cornetet (Millennial Guru). The event is on September 19, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., in the University Center.
- A big shout out to the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS), the Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services, the Department of English, Literature and World Languages, the Hispanic Student Organization (HSO), OMSS, and Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity, Inc. for sponsoring this year’s Latinx Heritage Month activities. The excellent lineup includes:
  - LatinXpo featuring Cabildo, Tuesday, September 17, 4-6 p.m., IRC Connector;
  - Latin Film Night – Dolores, Tuesday, September 24, 6-8 p.m., STARR 235;
  - Five Star Event – Philanthropist, Photojournalist & Speaker Saul Flores, Thursday, October 3, 7-9 p.m., UC 202;
  - Fridays at Ferris – Afro-Latin Dance, Friday, October 4, 8-11 p.m., UC 202; and,
  - Discussion - Culture & Identity, Monday, October 7, 7-8:30 p.m., UC 203
• They are doing big things in CLS, and that work is not going unnoticed. The CLS’s Promesa Scholars Program was the recipient of a 2019 Examples of Excelencia finalist award by Excelencia in Education, a national organization dedicated to accelerating Latino student success in higher education. Fifty students across West Michigan successfully completed the Promesa Summer Success program in Grand Rapids, Holland, and Oceana County. Students completed seven college credits in eight weeks—five of the students are now enrolled at Ferris.

• The Ferris Women’s Network is hosting its Spectrum of Opportunities Luncheon Series this year. All luncheons are scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. Fall dates include:
  o September 18 – Kick-off Luncheon at the University Center, Room 203
  o October 15 – Spectrum Health Luncheon for Breast Cancer Awareness at the Spectrum Health Big Rapids Hospital
  o November 14 – Remax Luncheon at Buffalo Wild Wings
  o December 11 – Luncheon (location TBD)

• One of the challenges of workplace life is saying goodbye to colleagues who pursue professional opportunities in other places. We recently learned that Michael Wade, the Assistant Director for OMSS, is leaving Ferris to take a position at the University of South Carolina. Wade, an alumnus of Ferris, has been a strong, persistent, and effective advocate for diversity and inclusion. We will miss him a lot, but we are comforted by the knowledge that we can build on the work that he did here.

Governmental Relations
• Governmental Relations and General Counsel hosted the 13th Annual Founders’ Day Community Ice Cream Social on August 29, 2019. Even with the inclement weather moving the event indoors, celebrity servers from throughout the Ferris and Big Rapids community served Jones’ Homemade Ice cream to over 1,500 people.

• The GRGC office hosted the inaugural Rockford Bulldog Luncheon on September 17th. The luncheon was for Rockford High School graduates that are now Ferris State Bulldogs. The luncheon provided an opportunity for the students to connect with former Rams at Ferris, to meet Ferris faculty/staff from Rockford and to enjoy a buffet luncheon in the President’s Box at Wheeler Pavilion. It was a fun, relaxing event with raffle prizes to be won and hockey tickets to be had!

• On September 19, 2019, Director of Labor Relations Steve Stratton co-presented on the topic of collective bargaining agreements at the Michigan Public Employer Labor Relations Association (MEPLRA) Annual Conference held in Bellaire, Michigan.

Kendall College of Art & Design
• KCAD was awarded over $74,000 in grant funding through the Small Business Innovation Program (SCIP). Through this grant project, a group of KCAD students and faculty will have the opportunity work with Th3rd Coast Media Solutions on research, experimentation, prototyping, and testing over the course of three semesters with the goal of distilling and developing a set of guidelines to roll into a 3D UX/UI Design Process Template. This project, led by Professor and Graphic Design Program Chair Joan Sechrist and supporting faculty member John Koziatek, involves four areas of digital communication and emerging technologies that are reshaping human-computer interactions now and into the future. Student participants will be positively influenced through this project and consequently well prepared to take on positions in the areas of augmented reality, virtual reality, and 3D UX/UI Design following completion of their degree program at KCAD.
• The KCAD Interior Design program has received reaffirmed accreditation after a recent interim visit by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA). This reaffirmation confirms the quality of the education provided by the program.

• The Fed Galleries @ KCAD are currently featuring two new exhibitions. The first, *Surface Matters*, examines materials—from the cutting-edge to the commonplace—from a new perspective while showcasing the designers who are thinking critically and creatively about the changing role and value of materials in the modern world. The second, *Introverted and OCD*, was organized by guest curator Mandy Cano Villalobos to converge the finely-crafted work of artists who are, mark by mark and incision by incision, grasping for a life of substance in a world in which superficiality has become the norm. The exhibition is part of the Fed Galleries’ new IGNITE initiative, which offers space, financial support, and mentorship to emerging curators to realize an exhibition idea.

• KCAD alumnus David Borgerding (’95, BFA Sculpture and Functional Art) is currently showing a collection of new works in a solo exhibition at Callan Contemporary in New Orleans. It’s Borgerding’s fifth solo exhibition at the gallery.

• KCAD alumna Ali Cavanaugh (’95, BFA Painting) was featured on Art Biz Success in a podcast exploring how she successfully reinvented her career as a professional artist by swapping her gallery representation for a more grassroots approach to connecting with new audiences.

• KCAD alumnus Sy Ellens (’63, Advertising Design) was featured in a radio segment on NPR member station WMUK in Kalamazoo that explored his creative trajectory from working as a house painter to studying art at KCAD to teaching art in Nigeria and, eventually, becoming an award-winning professional artist whose work is included in private and corporate collections throughout the world.

• KCAD alumna Danae Hoerauf (’16, BFA Interior Design) was part of a panel discussion, “Detroit’s Design Story,” held at Space Lab Detroit that explored how a multicultural group of designers is helping drive the city’s reemergence. Hoerauf, who was born and raised in Detroit, currently works in the city as a materials coordinator for commercial interior design firm Pophouse.

• KCAD alumna Chakila Hoskins (’12, BFA Painting; ’16, MFA) has her artwork featured in three separate exhibitions: *Shades of Blackness* at DeVos Place in Grand Rapids, *Where We Stand: Black Artists in Southwest Michigan* at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and *Rust to Rise*, a juried exhibition at Community Arts Phoenixville in Phoenixville, Pa.

• KCAD alumnus Michael Nashef (’06, Metals and Jewelry Design) continues to turn heads with his third straight appearance in the Society of North American Goldsmiths Jewelry & Metals Survey (JAMS), an annual juried publication showcasing the artists, makers, and craftspeople whose ideas and practices are setting the curve in the field of metals and jewelry. Nashef is also currently featured in the *Biennial 30* juried exhibition at the South Bend Museum of Art, after being one of only 12 artists selected for inclusion out of 337 applicants from throughout the Midwest.

• KCAD alumnus Joe Parr (’13, BFA Industrial Design) was profiled by Dezeen for the release of PlaySetting, a new furniture collection that’s strikingly minimal, delightfully interactive, and inspired by the free-form nature of childhood play.

• KCAD alumna Hillary Presecan (’08, BS Art History) has been hired as the Program Manager of Community Development–Native Arts Professional Development at First Peoples Fund, a nonprofit that provides support and voice to indigenous artists.
• KCAD alumnus Joey Ruiter ('00, BFA Industrial Design) is currently featured in Disruptors, an exhibition at the Petersen Automotive Museum in Los Angeles that showcases the ways in which Ruiter and fellow creative maverick Rem D Koolhaas take a nonconformist, stripped-down approach to designing everything from boats, bike, and automobiles to furniture and footwear.

• KCAD alumnus Patrick Shureb ('10, BFA Metals and Jewelry Design) has been hired by Henkel to be the social technician in the company’s Global Additive Manufacturing/3D Printing Lab at its Madison Heights, Mich. facility. In addition to managing and running the lab, Shureb will be working with a small team to develop and refine Henkel’s additive manufacturing capabilities for both internal and external customers.

• KCAD alumnus Noel Skiba ('85, BFA Illustration) served as the juror for the 2019 Juried Art Exhibition at Besser Museum in Alpena, Mich.

Urban Institute for Contemporary Arts
• UIICA opened SPECTRA (Sep 6 – Dec 20), an interdisciplinary group exhibition that explores theories of abstract art through multiple mediums. Each work has a foundation in abstract art theories, but dares to defer from traditionally accepted mediums, or offers insight into experimental modes of expression. SPECTRA is presented at UIICA concurrently with Relevant, an exhibition at the Grand Rapids Art Museum (GRAM). Both exhibitions are curated by Juana Williams, UIICA Exhibitions Curator. While SPECTRA examines a broad scope of abstraction, Relevant focuses on traditional abstract paintings and works on paper from GRAM’s collection. Relevant discusses historical and foundational narratives of abstraction; SPECTRA focuses on contemporary, experimental, and recently created works.

• Student artists from the Composite exhibition and the public joined UIICA for a panel discussion about the business of art, and the behind-the-scenes process that goes into curation at a gallery or museum. Posited as an introduction to the business side of making art, a panel of educators and curators shared their perspective and provided valuable information to artists of all levels - from students who desire a career in the arts to working artists who wanted a glimpse at the inner-workings of the curatorial process. Panelists included Miranda Krajniak, UIICA Executive Director (moderator); Michele Bosak, Curator of The Fed Galleries @ KCAD; Stefanie Snider, KCAD Assistant Professor; and Dulcee Boehm, GVSU Professor.

Student Affairs
• In the first 18 business days of the month of August, Financial Aid office staff answered a staggering 4710 phone calls, in addition to meeting with 994 students and their families in person, to assist them with getting their finances in order for the beginning of the new academic year.

• Ferris State Admissions staff attended Promoting the Publics on Friday, September 13th. They were joined by one of our partners from Kendall and they provided information regarding new updates for Ferris and other changes that are occurring, to 600+ High School Counselors.

• Within the last year, the Testing Office has proctored 179 CLEP exams. 277 CLEP score reports have been sent to Ferris. This indicates that students are looking at ways to reduce their college debt by using CLEP to earn credit. Out of the 277 tests, 213 received a passing score. College freshmen and seniors used the services the most. The top three CLEP exams that were proctored for the year were College Composition which is equivalent to ENGL 150, College Algebra which gives credit for Math 115 and Spanish where students can earn up to 8 credits depending on their score.
Christopher Richmond, Ph.D., LP, LMFT, has been named the newest Executive Board Member for the Solution-Focused Brief Therapy Association of North America.

Bulldog Connect, the University’s new student organization system and the new CLACS event calendaring option has seen a lot of engagement: Since July 1, 255 RSOs and departments have joined, 345 events and travel were registered, and 52 events used card swipe, recording 7177 total attendees and 3396 unique attendees.

Student Caitlin St. Clair was selected to represent Ferris and the CLACS office on the Secretary of State Collegiate Student Advisory Task Force regarding the voter registration and voting process. A video announcement can be seen at https://youtu.be/w1wiT0XZDgo

47 events were held during Bulldog Beginnings, with 19 of the events using card swipe and recording a total of 4145 attendees. 61.7% of the attendees were freshman and 2697 were unique attendees.

Approximately 250 students attended “Rockin the Roller Rink,” a new, 2 hour, free event sponsored by CLACS.

212 students attended Headphone Disco, the first Fridays at Ferris event sponsored by Entertainment Unlimited.

Ashley Schulte is a panelist for the Young Professionals in Higher Education conference and will lead a discussion in Critical Issues in Higher Education: Identity.

University Advancement and Marketing

Since July 1, 2016, The Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge has received 5,214 gifts and pledges to new and existing endowments, with more than $7.77 million of new gift commitments from Ferris State University benefactors. With the match, this creates more than $15.54 million of new endowed funds for the support of Ferris students. There have been 1,654 endowment gifts by alumni, 2,727 by friends of the University, and 833 by faculty/staff (data through Sept. 25, 2019).

The Ferris Grand Rapids Council hosted their inaugural Dawg Catcher event on Saturday, Sept. 21 at the Millennium Park in Grand Rapids. The Council is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers that include alumni and friends of the University. These members collaborate with The Ferris Foundation to cultivate Bulldog Pride, support Ferris' economic impact, and increase educational opportunity in the Grand Rapids area.

This event served as the Council’s fall service project. Alumni in the Grand Rapids area joined the Council to “Rouse the Dog” and give back to the West Michigan community. More than 38 volunteers helped with picking up trash, landscaping, checking trails, and harvesting Native Prairie seeds.

The Alumni Association awarded $31,000 to 28 recipients of the Ferris Alumni Legacy Scholarship at a special brunch on Saturday, Sept. 14. The students, their families, deans, members of the Alumni Association Board, and special guests were in attendance to celebrate the students’ successes and their legacy at Ferris.

One of this year’s award winners, Victoria Funke (Welding Technology) and her father, Jeff Funke (95’ Welding), discuss the importance of a Ferris State University degree and what it means for family to attend Ferris.

Alumni in central Florida gathered at the Lakeridge Winery on Saturday, Sept. 14, to enjoy good music, a tour of the winery and samples of wine and cheese. This alumni gathering was led by Alumni Ambassador Walter Nied from Tavares, Fla. For more information on the Bulldog Ambassador program visit: https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/about-us/Bulldog-Ambassadors.htm.
On Thursday, Sept. 19, the Student Alumni Gold Club held their annual “Cover the Seal” event on the quad. Throughout the day members collected loose change from students, faculty and staff passing through the quad in an effort to raise money for the Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital. SAGC raised more than $1,000 in support of a former SAGC alumnus who battled childhood cancer and was treated at Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital.

An analysis of website traffic for the month of August 2019 has revealed that the ferris.edu website has achieved 886 Top 10 rankings in the Google search engine across the University’s seven academic colleges and Retention and Student Success pages. During the month of August, the Ferris website logged 1,131,341 total page views from 491,718 user visits – including 218,219 unique visitors.

Ted Halm, web content manager, has created a [website highlighting the activities for October’s Disability Awareness Month](#) as part of his role with the Liaison Committee for Students with Disabilities.

Halm is a charter member of the committee which serves as a champion and advocate for students with disabilities attending Ferris. He worked with Maggie Walcott in the President’s office on the website through her behind-the-scenes initiatives of a subcommittee consisting of Walcott, Denise Moulter, Chris Richmond, Andrea Maciejewski, Amy Greene, Ashley Hawley and Kim Dickman.

Disability Awareness Month is a national observance that celebrates successes of individuals who have not allowed disabilities to limit their futures while offering a call for inclusivity and assistance for students in need of support and services.

The events include an “all bodies” dance party, a free film screening of a documentary about autism and inclusion; a “Unified Esports Tournament;” a discussion of sexual identity, relationships and disability; a gathering of service animals in the campus quad; and the “Skeleton Skurry,” an inclusive 5k run/walk/roll race in Big Rapids that is open people of all ages and abilities.