

President's Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

Office of the President
September 8, 2017

Diversity is a core value at Ferris State University. We can trace this commitment back to the beginning of the 20th century when Woodbridge Ferris offered English as a second language to immigrants at the Ferris Institute. More recently, we have seen this embodied in efforts by faculty, staff and students to create and engage in activities that foster our understanding of diversity and inclusion. In this rapidly changing global environment, it is critical we do so.

On this week's campus calendar in Big Rapids there are multiple events centered on diversity and inclusion. Everyone is welcome, and I strongly encourage you to attend and to ask others to join you.

Shoah Visual History Events

Last year Ferris State University became one of three universities in Michigan and just one of 85 institutions in the world to have full access to the Shoah Visual History Archive. This is a fully streaming video collection of 55,000 primary source testimonies of survivors and witnesses of the Holocaust and four other genocides. Next week, under the leadership of Dr. Barry Mehler, a series of programs focusing on 20th century genocide will be presented.

- *Monday, Sept. 11, 6 p.m., IRC 104: Accessing Genocide Testimonies: Learn how to access the eyewitness accounts of genocide available in the Shoah Visual History Archive.*
- *Monday, Sept. 11, 7 p.m., BUS 111: Remnants – A Live Performance by Henry Greenspan, a psychologist and playwright who has written and taught about the Holocaust for nearly three decades. He has performed REMNANTS as a one-man presentation at more than 100 venues throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as in Britain, Israel and the Czech Republic.*
- *Tuesday, Sept. 12, 11 a.m., IRC 120: How do Holocaust Survivors Retell Their Stories? Presentation by Henry Greenspan.*
- *Wednesday, Sept. 13, 4 p.m., IRC 104: Rabbi Peter Mehler presents "Living With Survivors."*
- *Thursday, Sept. 14, 11 a.m., IRC 104: Outcomes and Assessment, a panel discussion by Summer Training Institute participants Ghada Mahdi, Bernadette Fox, Tracy Busch, Scott Cohen and Melissa Smith, with Barry Mehler as moderator.*

The Shoah Visual History Archive is a priceless resource available for our faculty, staff and students. We will have access to these compelling materials in perpetuity thanks to a generous gift made earlier this year by Dr. Mickey Shapiro, former Ferris student and child of holocaust survivors. Special thanks go to Dr. Mehler and everyone who helped develop these events.

Conversation on Inclusion

The College of Business Committee on Inclusion is hosting a "Conversation on Inclusion: Immigrants in the Workplace" Wednesday evening, Sept. 13. The program features

an interactive discussion with four entrepreneurs from a variety of industries who will share their personal and professional experiences surrounding diversity, inclusion and immigrants in the workplace. Our guests are:

- Bing Goei, CEO of Eastern Floral and director of the Michigan Office of New Americans (Indonesia)
- Bahrudin (Rudy) Kadiric, president of Titan Interiors (Bosnia)
- Raquel A. Salas, co-founder and managing member, Avanti Law Group (Dominican Republic)
- Dr. Shri Thanedar, founder of Avomeen Analytical Services (India)

The evening begins with an opening reception in UC 202B at 5:30 p.m. with the program concluding at 8:30 p.m. I would like to thank the committee members and its chair, Catherine Browsers, for organizing this evening.

Latin@ Heritage

On Thursday, Sept. 14, the band Comparsa Sur, "The Voices and Colors of Latin America," will kickoff the "Diversidad - 2017 Latin@ Heritage Celebration." They will perform in the University Center Room 202 from 4-6 p.m. The following Thursday evening, Sept. 21, experience el Arte Latin@ through storytelling at the "Celebración del arte Latin@" in Grand Rapids. The Latin@ Heritage Celebration continues through October with this series of events:

- *Tuesday, Oct. 3, 5 p.m., IRC 120: Historia e Identidad Latin@*, a panel discussion of the colonial history of Latin America, Latinx identity and current issues.
- *Monday, Oct. 9, 5:30 p.m., IRC 120: Strategy of la Comunidad, U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities Speaking Tour* presentation on community organizing and building a social movement to confront injustice.
- *Wednesday, Oct. 11, 10 a.m., MCO 210: Nueva Dimensión, U.S.-El Salvador Sister Cities Speaking Tour* workshop on cross-border solidarity.
- *Friday, Oct. 13, 5 p.m., IRC Connector: Convivio*, presentations on Latin American culture, featured performances and authentic food.

Additional information is accessible on the [OMSS website](#). Thank you to the Center for Latin@ Studies, Diversity & Inclusion Office, Hispanic Student Organization, Spanish Club, Spanish faculty, Phi Alpha Honor Society for Social Work Students, Office of International Education and Office of Multicultural Student Services for sponsoring these events.

Good News

Monthly we collect and share honors and accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. I enjoy hearing about your achievements and those of your colleagues, students and programs. Thank you for taking time to share these with us. Presented here is only a small sampling of what is truly a remarkable listing. When you have the opportunity, I encourage you to review this month's entire [Good News](#) and congratulate your colleagues on their achievements.

- Tina Arduini presented a paper "Generative Assessment: Co-crafting Multimodal Grading Rubrics with Students" at the Computers and Writing Conference in Ohio.
- Deirdre Fagan's paper "Kay Ryan and Poetic Play" won Best in Section at the 2017 College English Association conference.
- David Marquard presented "The Student as Ethnographer: Interrogating the Genre, Writing in the Disciplines" at the European Association for Teaching Academic Writing at the Royal Holloway, University of London.

- Melissa Sara Smith co-presented a paper “Shaping Our Future Scientists and Citizens: The (Mis)Representations of Dinosaurs in Books for Children” at the Children’s Literature Association Conference in Florida.
- Information Security and Intelligence programs were reviewed and renewed as a National Center of Digital Forensic Academic Excellence. Ferris was the first university in the nation to achieve this designation.
- Arrick Jackson presented a workshop “Youth Trauma and its Impact on Educational Outcomes” at the Our Education Through Our Eyes conference at Eastern Michigan University.
- Nancy L. Hogan co-authored an article published in the *Journal of Applied Security Research* entitled “Organizational Trust and Fear of Injury and the Correlates of Organization Trust Among Private Correctional Staff.”
- Criminal Justice signed an articulation agreement with Kirtland Community College in Gaylord and is launching a new graduate program at St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron.
- Joshua Pardon participated in the production of a 1-hour TV pilot to air on public television that explores family histories through family photographs and what this can tell us about the history of a particular city or region (the pilot focuses on Detroit).
- Anuli Njoku, Fathima Wakeel, Michael Reger, Emmanuel Jadhav and Julie Rowan published “Developing a Learner-Centered Curriculum for a Rural Public Health Program” in the *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education*.
- KCAD Communications earned an Award of Excellence in the University and College Designer’s Association Design Competition for the college’s 2017 Commencement: Into the Future materials.
- Jay Constantine received the 2D Juror Award in the Festival of the Arts Regional Exhibition for his piece “Heretical History: The Munster Revolt.”
- Molly Alicki Corriveau received the Martha Despres Memorial Award in the 2017 Festival of the Arts Regional Exhibition for her piece “Mother Nature Repeats a Pattern.”
- Sandy Britton received a Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Art Education Association.
- Phil Renato was featured in “Cast,” a book focused on the process of casting.
- Brenda Sipe published the article “Using Design Thinking to Solve Problems in Community Colleges” in the journal *Leadership Abstracts*.
- A short film produced by KCAD’s INTERSPACE student organization in collaboration with Los Angeles-based cinematographer Anthony Ferrara and United Kingdom-based performance artist Bex Isley was featured at Nonplussed Fest, a celebration of DIY culture held in Los Angeles.
- Students collaborated with Grand Rapids Poet Laureate Marcel Price on a series of videos on mental illness combining spoken-word poetry, digital animation and music. The video has over 10,000 views between Facebook and YouTube.
- Art History student Aaminah Shakur published the essay “Black Femme Lesbian Identities in the Paintings and Photographs of Mickalene Thomas” in the journal *Rigorous*.
- The UICA’s exhibitions *US IS THEM* and *Here + Now* welcomed over 9,000 guests between February and May 2017.
- Stephanie Ramdass published the article “Contact Lens Opportunities in Pediatric Populations” in *Eye Witness*.
- Vandana Rajaram received the Michigan Optometry Student Association First Year Class Student Choice Outstanding Professor Award.

- Lindsey Westerhof received first place for the 2017 American College of Clinical Pharmacy Virtual Poster Symposium Ambulatory Care PRN Awards.
- Jennifer Lamberts was selected by the American Pharmacists Association as Basic Sciences Section Chair-elect on the APhA's Board and Academy leaders.
- Kim Hancock received the Lambda Sigma Advisor Award. This is her second time receiving this recognition.
- Tracy Busch and Mari Kermit-Canfield presented on the Museum of Sexist Objects, and Fran Rosen and Dejah Rubel presented "Collaborative Work Team Building in Technical Services Using Adaptive Schools Resources and Techniques" at the Mi-ALA Annual Conference.
- Stacy Anderson, Gary Maixner, Kristy Motz and Andrew Peterson will present "Jumpstarting OER on Campus: Faculty On Board!" at the Michigan Open Educational Resources Summit at Kellogg Community College.
- Fifteen Student Research Fellowship recipients shared the results of their summer research at the SRF Symposium on campus in August.
- Public Safety issued the first complimentary exempt parking pass to a Ferris student veteran and Purple Heart recipient.
- The football team was chosen as "Michigan's Best College Football Team" by Hero Sports.
- Men's golfer Jack Weller qualified and competed in the 2017 U.S. Amateur Championship in California.
- The Diversity and Inclusion Office has received a \$347,880 grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to fund a Living Life Skills Coach for the Ferris Youth Initiative.
- Ferris State University is listed as one of the "20 schools with single parent programs to consider" in the book "I'm First" which is dedicated to first generation college students.
- Over a four-week period, the Snapchat filter designed for Big Rapids orientation was used, on average, 128 times per week, and was seen over 16,000 times.
- Saturday, July 29, was the largest summer Dawg Day in history with 414 total in attendance.
- In August the Financial Aid Office received 4,793 incoming calls for a total of over 329 hours of talk time and saw over 650 students in the office.
- 23 FSU students graduated from the 2017 LeaderShape Institute, learning how to "Lead with Integrity."
- Since July 1, 2016, the Ferris Futures Scholarship Challenge has received 167 gifts and pledges to new and existing endowments, with more than \$3.1 million in new gift commitments. With the match, this creates more than \$6.2 million of new endowed funds for the support of Ferris students.

Athletics

Fall sports are underway and off to a great start. Last weekend the women's volleyball team opened up their season at the Ferris State Invitational and came out strong winning all four matches. Climbing to #8 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II Rankings this week, they are looking to continue their success today and Saturday at one of the nation's most prestigious regular-season tournaments, the Colorado Premier Tourney in Denver.

Women's soccer won 3-0 last Sunday against King University in Tennessee and did not allow a single shot on goal during their first win of the season. With the victory, they improve to 1-1 overall and will take on the nationally 19th-ranked Minnesota State today at 4 p.m. in their home opener at the new South Athletic Fields.

Our football team is attracting significant national attention. This week they are second in the nation in the American Football Coaches Association Division II Rankings. Tomorrow they will open their season with a non-conference matchup against Findlay in Ohio at 7 p.m.

Men's and women's cross country teams will host the 43rd annual Ray Helsing Bulldog Invitational this weekend at Katke Golf Course. Saturday's meet will represent the first competition of the season for both teams and their only opportunity to run on their home course this fall.

Our student-athletes and coaches truly enjoy seeing the support of our students, faculty and staff. Thank you for educating and encouraging our student-athletes to be the best they can be, both inside and outside the classroom.

David L. Eisler, president