

Ferris State Alumni Message



Keith Barber '13 in Soweto, South Africa

Hi I'm Keith and am proud to be an Alumnus of *Ferris State University's* Education Program. *Ferris State University's* Education Program taught me the skills to be an effective and professional teacher in today's world. Graduating in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in Secondary Education, I was ready to show off my Bulldog Pride!

I began my Special Education experience in the *Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District's Education Center*. As a para professional in a severely cognitively impaired classroom, I gained valuable practice and understanding of what it takes to be a Special Education Teacher. I'll be forever grateful for the opportunity Ms. Sweppenheiser gave me to lead a daily calendar activity in class. This responsibility helped me to understand the differentiation required to meet each individual student's needs.

As the school year came to an end, I was offered an internship with the non-profit *Grassroot Soccer* in Johannesburg, South Africa. GRS uses the sport of soccer to help educate youth about proper HIV/AIDS prevention and understanding various gender norms and stereotypes in local communities. My role as a programs intern in Soweto involved assisting coaches with professional development, helping with monitoring and evaluation data recording for the site, and delivering needed supplies to the after-school programs. This experience in South Africa taught me so many valuable life lessons, but most of all it revealed that my greatest passion in life is working and learning in the field of Special Education.

After this incredible year-long internship, I felt a calling to officially begin my teaching career in Special Education back in the States. Upon being offered a teaching position for the 2015/16 school year with the *Lee County School District* in Fort Myers, Florida, I was overwhelmed with joy. *Buckingham Exceptional Student Center* is a 10 classroom school designed for students with multiple severe impairments. I immediately fell in love with the school's motto "We are One", and was excited to begin teaching the amazing students. My classroom uses a middle school adapted curriculum to teach students with various disabilities including Autism, Down Syndrome, and Traumatic Brain Injury. Each day I continue to grow and learn new teaching techniques through my experiences at *Buckingham ESC*. I am now in my second year teaching with Buckingham, and continue to be inspired by my students in the classroom.

Overall, I am so thankful to Ferris State University for giving me the education necessary to reach my goal in becoming a Special Education teacher. I'll continue to "imagine more" as my career in education moves forward!

In the Classroom

New Education RSO Opportunity: Child Life Specialists

If you are interested in the Child Life Specialist profession, you may want to consider joining the newest RSO for Education students at Ferris State University, Child Life Specialists. A Child Life Specialist works in hospitals, courtrooms, and dentist offices to help children cope, understand and come to terms with various events in their life. Our mission is to prepare Child Life students with the resources and knowledge to help them succeed. In our meetings, we will discuss the newest Child Life practices as well as keep students up to date with what it actually takes to become Child Life Specialists. We will go over various medical terms, practice for the Child Life certification exam and create lesson plans that we could potentially use when we become Child Life Specialists. A key aspect in our RSO is to find one family or non-profit organization to sponsor or raise awareness. We hope to raise money and awareness about medical conditions that impact children and potentially help families who may be struggling due to these conditions. If you or someone you know is either in Child Life or is curious about this exciting profession please come to FLITE room 304 Thursdays at 6:15pm to learn more!

Program Spotlight: Career & Technical Education

- Do you have a bachelor's degree in a technical, cosmetology or health-care field and have two years (4,000) hours of recent and relevant work experience in your occupational area? You only need an Interim Occupational Certificate (IOC) to be eligible to teach in Michigan. An IOC requires verification of the information and 9 credits from Ferris State!
- Do you have coursework in Business, Computer Technology, Management, or Marketing? You can earn a Bachelor of Science in Business, Management, Marketing and Technology Teaching by completing the professional education sequence of courses!

- Do you have an associate's degree in an occupational area and want to earn your Bachelor's degree in Technical Education? You may only need to pick up the professional education sequence of courses and you can do that through the Pro-Mo-Ted program in 12 months!
- Already teaching in a CTE center? We have a flexible graduate program that leads to a Master of Science in Career and Technical Education.

Ferris State University's School of Education is the premier teacher training institution for Career and Technical Education (CTE). Grounded in the career-oriented mission of Ferris, the program certifies more CTE teachers than all the other universities combined!

School of Education Student Wins Disney Scholarship!



Brooke-Lynn Ferris, student in the the School of Education has been awarded a Disney College Scholarship for the Spring Semester, 2017.

Brooke-Lynn will spend her spring semester at Disneyworld in Orlando Florida working at the park while still earning college credits toward her degree.

Congratulations to Brook-Lynn! We look forward to keeping up with her experiences in Florida throughout the spring semester and wish her the best of luck with this one-of-a-kind opportunity!

In the Community

Grant Award! Academic Service Learning & Language Arts

Dr. Kavanaugh and Dr. Edwards secured an Academic Service Learning grant for Early Childhood and Elementary Education students as well as students at Riverview Elementary School in Big Rapids. The grant will fund informational text related to social studies to be used in the fourth grade classrooms. These materials will afford 84 elementary students enrichment materials to use with their teachers. The EDLA 340 Writers Workshop classes will plan and co teach writing to small groups of students at Riverview Elementary in December.



FSU at Riverview Elementary

Ferris Students Volunteer at Morley Stanwood Family Night

On September 29th, Morley Stanwood Elementary school held its quarterly family night. The event invites children and family members from the district to participate in learning opportunities and games. Ferris Education students who are part of the Kappa Delta Pi and Association of Future Educators have been volunteering at the event for 2 years. Every Family Night has a different theme. The theme for this particular event was Health and Fitness.

Children and their guest can choose from many different tables within the gymnasium, each table having a different game or activity related to the theme. During the event, the children have punch cards which are marked for each activity they participate in and at the end of the night they can receive a free book for their effort. In addition to the fun and activities, the school provides families with dinner so families can dine together while enjoying the community atmosphere. This is a great community event that the school puts on because it brings families together for a night of laughs and lots of fun. It also provides an opportunity for pre-service teachers to interact with children and network with community educators.

Alumni Focus

Ferris and Japan Exchange and Teaching Program

Makenzie L. Hall, an Elementary Education graduate in 2016, and School of Education Student of the Year 2016, has been teaching English in Niigata prefecture in Japan. Dr. Murata has spear-headed Ferris involvement in JET and is very proud of his former student. Dr. Murata added, "I was very glad that I could see her off when my wife and I attended the JET program send-off reception in July, 2016. The Japan Exchange and Teaching program is provided by the ministry of Education in Japan with more than thirty years of history, so the program is very prestigious and well established. Since the Japan Exchange and Teaching program is primarily a teaching position, our students in the School of Education have a greater advantage than other students. When I found out Makenzie's application made it to the consulate general of Japan in Detroit, I was extremely excited. I respect and admire her very much. I am very sure that she has become the best teacher candidate no matter where she applies for a teaching position here in the United States when she comes back from the JET program."

You can read about Makenzie's journey on her blog <http://goo.gl/WAA28y>

If you are interested in finding out more about the JET program, contact Dr. Murata at hikarumurata@ferris.edu.

Alumni Focus continued

FSU Graduates Found Culinary Arts Academy



Founded in 2012 by Mark & Deb Prentiss '11, Rising Stars Academy is a school for students aged 18-26 with special needs. They provide a unique curriculum, rooted in the culinary arts, that promotes education, hands-on experience and personal growth that will help students prepare to be gainfully employed in the future.

Rising Stars is a school that runs all year long, with a summer hiatus that begins in mid-June through mid-August. With this, students are provided an education that is consistent and ensures stability throughout their development and growth. They offer a unique programming that has become the heart of their educational approach.

<http://www.rising-stars-academy.org/reservations-1/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljwe-hgapBE>
<https://www.facebook.com/RisingStarsAcademyMI/>

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Contributions to the *Spotlight* can be made by emailing soenewsletter@ferris.edu. When making contributions, please include relevant information and adhere to the format below.
Name, Education degree focus (elementary, special ed, etc.), year of graduation
Article no more than 150 words in length
Article saved as docx file
Photos 300 dpi
Photos saved as eps or jpeg

Making a Difference Award Goes to Ferris Graduate

Jenette Schanick, *Magna Cum Laude* '06 received a **Making a Difference** award at UM School of Dentistry. Currently, she works as an instructor at both Mott Community College and Baker College of Flint/Port Huron. She is also an Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Assistant at The University of Michigan, School of Dentistry, Ann Arbor along with being a Chair-Side Dental Assistant at Convenient Family Dentistry, Burton. Jenette also works with Mission of Mercy, a volunteer organization which services over 1,200 patients with free dental care.



Jenette Schanick on right

On The Calendar

While there are many events planned for the School of Education this spring, we would like you to save the date for our 2nd annual teacher celebration, A Touch of Class. We will celebrate the work of local teachers on **March 16th** from 5 – 7 in the University Center Room 202. Please join us in acknowledging the hard work of our teachers.