



# Points of Pride



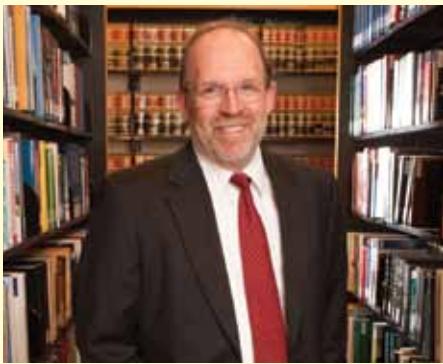
## The Evolution of Learning



**New Faculty  
Orientation Week  
Sets the Stage for  
Future Success**



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY  
*Imagine More* FALL 2011



### Provost's Corner

The beginning of each fall semester is an exciting time in Academic Affairs. It was a distinct pleasure to welcome the newest members of our outstanding faculty to campus as part of New Faculty Orientation Week. At Ferris, we know that our students are in great and capable hands to receive a first-rate education from faculty who are deeply committed to the university's educational mission and who support our students' career goals.

This is an exciting year of growth at Ferris; we are blessed to have a seventh consecutive year of record enrollment as the university system is now up to 14,560 students — including a total of 9,970 on our main campus in Big Rapids. We are very pleased by the role that our faculty members continue to play in strengthening the quality of a Ferris education — quality that allows Ferris to attract not only a greater quantity but higher caliber of students. This year, the university welcomes a freshman class that has the highest composite ACT score in school history, at 21.9. We know that, through the continued collaborative and hard-working efforts of our students, faculty and staff, Ferris State University will continue to attract and retain the brightest and best students statewide, online and around the world.

Finally, we hope that, as you take the time to look through this Fall 2011 issue of *Points of Pride* and become familiar with our new faculty members, you also will take the time to meet and greet them as you see them in classrooms, around campus or in the community.

**Fritz Erickson**

## A New Chapter Begins at Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning

In a season of transition, Ferris State University's Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning experienced significant change while continuing its mission to support university faculty and the overall educational community on campus.

Director Todd Stanislav and his team are working through staff changes. However, in the midst of change, FCTL's team continues to gel in a way Stanislav believes is generating genuine excitement about future possibilities. The center has welcomed the additions of Brooke Moore, faculty-in-residence; Betty Stolarek, faculty-in-residence; and Jackie Hughes, coordinator of instructional technology.

"We have two faculty-in-residence team members, and a new coordinator of instructional technology has joined our team," Stanislav said. "We're excited about our new team and the opportunities that are possible in the new academic unit."

FCTL's newest members join a team that continues to collaborate with faculty to create a positive and welcoming learning community. Bea Griffith-Cooper returns as an instructional designer and Laurie Daniels returns as the office's administrative assistant. The center is in the process of hiring a new instructional technologist to round out its staff.

"With any change, large or small, we believe there are new opportunities and collaborations that are possible," Stanislav said. "The staff in FCTL is eager to explore and develop these opportunities."



## Transition to Blackboard Learn 9.1 Offers Faculty Greater Teaching Opportunities

Commitments to excellence, innovation and creative learning are cornerstones of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning's mission at Ferris State University.

The introduction of Blackboard Learn 9.1, the university's new online-based course delivery program, is a big step into the future of online education for faculty at Ferris.

Beginning in the summer of 2011, the university began a transition from FerrisConnect Blackboard Vista to Blackboard Learn 9.1. The transition, coordinated by faculty member Gloria Lukusa-Barnett, is a collaborative effort among FCTL, Information Technology Services, Academic Affairs and faculty from across the country. The premise behind the move was to provide Ferris faculty with an enhanced educational tool that expands learning opportunities for students online. The transition to Blackboard Learn 9.1 is slightly staggered. FCTL estimates that approximately 75 "early adopter" members elected to use Blackboard Learn 9.1 as part of their Fall 2011 Semester courses. More than 200 courses will use Blackboard Learn 9.1 this fall semester. Anticipating an increase in faculty utilizing Learn 9.1 during the Spring 2012 Semester, the dozen-plus faculty members and FCTL staff will be offering various training options to help faculty maximize the full potential of the online education module.

Blackboard Learn 9.1 training options available to faculty include:

- In-depth, six-hour face-to-face workshops and mentoring communities
- Essential three-hour face-to-face workshops and mentoring communities
- Self-paced online class
- Just-in-Time training videos
- One-on-one training sessions

Ferris expects to fully transition to Blackboard Learn 9.1 by the Fall 2012 Semester.

Visit [ferris.edu/ferrisconnect](http://ferris.edu/ferrisconnect) to learn about FerrisConnect Blackboard Learn 9.1 and choose a training option.

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## Points of Pride



Steven Amey



Chris Vanette



# New Faculty Capsules

## **Steven J. Amey**

### **Criminal Justice Major Returns to Teach at Ferris**

Steven J. Amey is a proud graduate of Ferris State University's Criminal Justice program. When he enters the classroom as a faculty member, Amey's students can expect to experience that Bulldog pride as Amey returns to his alma mater to give back some of what he has learned to future generations of Ferris Criminal Justice graduates. His motivation to return to Ferris was in part fueled by the strong reputation of the school's heralded Law Enforcement Academy. Amey believes that the academy prepared him for success in field work and, ultimately, an opportunity to return to Ferris as a member of its faculty. "I see Ferris as the place to become a top-notch police officer and get first-rate law enforcement training. When I was a student, Ferris faculty played a key role in my training as a police officer and were instrumental in me becoming the educator that I am today. I knew when I graduated that I wanted to someday return to Ferris to teach because this university provided me so much. Once you're a Bulldog, you're always a Bulldog. I chose to return to Ferris, as a faculty member, because I want to be part of the learning exchange that gave me my foundation and to complete a lifetime goal to teach here," he explains. His experiences at Ferris include work as an adjunct professor since 2009 in Crime Control Policy in Law Enforcement and Ethics in Law Enforcement, as well as an appointment to the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. He has six years of teaching experience at St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron. Amey enjoys playing with his son, Karson. He also likes playing the guitar, watching live concerts, exploring emerging computer technology, lifting weights, reading true crime stories and having Sunday barbecues with his best friends. He serves as an advisory board member to Dreamcatchers, a non-profit organization that fights child abuse. For more information about Dreamcatchers, visit: [dreamcatchersforabusedchildren.com/who/advisory-board](http://dreamcatchersforabusedchildren.com/who/advisory-board).

## **Chris Vanette**

### **Ready to be a Part of Ferris State University's Growth**

Ask Chris Vanette about the reasons he chose Ferris State University, and he can begin to rattle them off, with a big smile. As Vanette began to look closely at Ferris as an institution, he liked what he learned and realized that both as an academic institution and

as a home, Ferris was an ideal spot for him to teach students about German language and culture. He has big plans and big dreams here at Ferris State University. "I chose Ferris because it is a growing institution in a beautiful part of the country. I was also attracted by Ferris' strengths in engineering. Engineering and manufacturing are keys to Germany's industry, and I think that connecting an engineering degree with skills in the German language will make Ferris' graduates highly employable. My hope is to create opportunities for this type of interdisciplinary work on campus," he explains. Vanette brings a wealth of real-world experience to campus — including years of study and work in Germany. He has eight years of university-level teaching experience in German language, literature and culture that will serve him well at Ferris. He looks forward to sharing his experiences with students and inspiring them to great heights in the future. Vanette says, "Hearing from students after they leave the classroom and succeed in the world is the best motivation for any teacher." Vanette is far from all work and no play, however. In his spare time, he enjoys outdoor sports, particularly hiking, camping and backpacking. "I also travel to Europe to visit family and friends when the chance arises. I'll also never stop being a student. I read whenever I get the opportunity," he says. Vanette has completed a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona and his master's and Ph.D. at The Ohio State University. He adds, "I've also studied at the University of Konstanz on the German/Swiss border and at the Free University in Berlin."

## **Dr. Amy Dinardo**

### **An Active Optometrist Lands at Ferris and MCO**

A graduate of the Michigan College of Optometry at Ferris State University, Dr. Amy Dinardo is eager to embrace what she describes as the "collaborative culture and friendly work environment that I experienced as an adjunct," as a tenure-track faculty member. She also enjoys working in the new MCO facility. Dinardo is excited about the work she and fellow faculty members will be able to do in the new facility to strengthen educational opportunities for current and future students at Ferris. Says Dinardo, "The Michigan College of Optometry's new state-of-the-art facility allows me to use innovative teaching techniques to bring real-world experience to my students and provide the highest quality eye care possible to patients." Dinardo earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake. In 2007, she graduated with high distinction from MCO. One year

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later, she completed a residency specializing in contact lenses and anterior segment diseases. In August, she earned a Master of Business Administration with an Advanced Studies Certificate in Management Tools and Concepts from Ferris. Dinardo also has real-world experience having practiced at commercial and private practice optometry locations. Prior to being hired at Ferris as a tenure-track faculty member, she worked at the University Eye Center as an adjunct clinical faculty member. She will teach subjects pertaining to optometry, including contact lenses, pediatrics and primary care. One of the things that motivates Dinardo, as a teacher, is that MCO "enrolls high-caliber students who are intrinsically motivated to learn optometry and contribute to the optometric profession in a positive way." She adds, "The optometry students motivate me to be a better teacher and they make my job fun." In her free time, she enjoys cooking and going on walks with her golden retriever, Bogey. Dinardo is very active in organized optometry. She serves as president of the West Michigan Optometric Association and on committees for the Michigan Optometric Association and the American Academy of Optometry. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry. Even with all of her activities, providing quality patient care and educating future generations of optometrists motivates her on a daily basis. "My top priorities are to provide an innovative learning experience for my students, as well as providing the highest quality eye care possible to my patients," Dinardo says.

## Anne Spain Enjoys Developing Scientific Experiments

Anne Spain came to Ferris State University seeking an academic setting focused more on teaching than research. As she considered her options, she soon realized that her most attractive option was where she came from, in Michigan – at Ferris. Besides, after spending years out of state, Spain missed Michigan. During the interview process, she learned more about Ferris and imagined how her talents would mesh with Ferris' institutional goals and educational philosophies. "It just felt right, and that's why I chose Ferris," she says. Spain graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a minor in Chemistry from Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. In 2009, she earned a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the department of Botany and Microbiology at the University of Oklahoma's College of Arts and Sciences and Institute for Earth and Energy in Norman, Okla. She had opportunities to conduct important research and gain experience while pursuing a Ph.D. in Oklahoma. Says Spain, "I have conducted research in an academic lab for two years following graduate school, working on using an advanced molecular sequencing-based technique, 'metatranscriptomics,' to identify and

characterize novel genes and microorganisms that contribute to sulfur cycling in the environment." She has experience in the classroom to complement her research and has taught upper division lab courses for Microbiology majors as a graduate teaching assistant in the department of Botany and Microbiology at the University of Oklahoma. She worked with class sizes that ranked from 20 to 24, with two- to three-hour sessions per week. "These competitive courses were comprised of students in microbiology majors and pre-health professional students. In each class, I had several responsibilities, including involvement in prepping for labs and putting together course material and lectures," she says. At Ferris, Spain plans to teach Biology classes but hopes to develop upper-level undergraduate courses relevant to areas of her expertise in environmental microbiology and microbial ecology. Spain hopes to be a difference maker in the lives of each student she encounters. "As a teacher, I really enjoy working with undergraduates and watching them grow as students, individuals and scientists. That is what motivates me to teach," she says. In her free time, she enjoys hiking, camping, going to the beach, walking her dog, reading, writing and enjoying the gridiron action of college football during the fall.

## Rachel Foulk Motivated by Art History and Teaching

Rachel Foulk discovered rather quickly, at Ferris State University, that she has joined a dynamic team of educators as a faculty member. Foulk is teaching courses in Art History and Humanities this year and could hardly be happier. "I was impressed with the quality and friendliness of the students and faculty at Ferris. I found a vibrant program in Humanities at Ferris, and I am especially interested in the opportunity to help build an Art History major," she says. Her perceptions of what the university and the faculty have to offer, in terms of an Art History program, were shaped during the interview process. Foulk could not help but smile: "I learned that this process was already underway, and I look forward to contributing to the growing program here at Ferris." Foulk earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin in Art History in 2003, a master's degree in Art History from Emory University in 2007, and a Ph.D. in Art History from Emory University in 2011. She has five years of college-level teaching experience at Emory University, the Savannah College of Art and Design, and Georgia State University. Her experiences extend beyond campus, however. Foulk's real-world experiences include work at art museums and on archaeological excavations abroad in Greece and Italy. Those broad-based experiences should serve her well at Ferris. Foulk looks forward to bringing her background and enthusiasm to Ferris.



Amy Dinardo



Anne Spain



## Points of Pride



Rachel Foulk



Jerry Emerick



Dan Tuuri



She plans to share that passion for art and art history with her students. "I am drawn to teaching because I love learning. I believe my success as a teacher depends on recognizing how my students learn and finding ways to encourage their intellectual curiosity," she says. Foulk's interests also include the social and political implications of ancient Greek and Roman art. It's the basis for some of her current research: "My current research examines the reception and meaning of landscape painting in imperial Rome. This is the focus of my first book project, tentatively entitled, 'Politics of Place: Landscape Painting in Imperial Rome and its Environs.'"

## Dan Tuuri

### Ready to Return to Ferris and Embrace the Mission, Core Values

Selling Ferris State University's mission and core values to Dan Tuuri was pretty easy. "Ferris has had a core mission of preparing individuals for in-demand careers. The opportunity to teach at the university level, where teaching is so highly valued, was vital in my decision to transition my career," Tuuri says. When he started to look at potential locations for his career as a faculty member, Ferris had all the makings of the ideal home. "I have the opportunity to return to an institution that is responsible for igniting the passion I have for my craft." At Ferris, he will teach Computer Networking, Microsoft Serve, and security courses in CIT and CIS degree programs. "Knowing that I help individuals prepare for a career where they make a difference and feel rewarded, while they also provide for their family, is what drives me as an educator," he says. Tuuri has strong West Michigan roots, as he earned an associate degree from Grand Rapids Community College, a bachelor's degree from Davenport University and a master's degree from Ferris. Tuuri also has acquired numerous IT certifications, including Project Management Professional, Certified Information Systems Security Professional, Certified Information Systems Auditor and Microsoft Certified Trainer. His real-world experience includes three-plus years of IT management, six years of IT consulting, two years of IT auditing and seven years of business ownership. He spent three years working full time as a lead instructor/advisor of Computer Information Systems and Network Administration at Alpena Community College. The Ferris experience is familiar to Tuuri. He is looking forward to this homecoming, "I grew up in Big Rapids, the son of a faculty member in College of Technology, Ron Tuuri, of Auto Service. As a child, I frequently attended Super Saturday Classes through the Gerholz Institute for Lifelong Learning (now the College of Professional and Technological Studies). Through these courses, I had the opportunity to learn basic programming, which stemmed a long-term

interest in computing. As a teenager, I spent countless hours learning about and experimenting with the Internet using the lab at the Ferris library (located at what is now the Timme Center for Student Services)." Today, Dan is a father who enjoys spending that same quality time with his kids and other activities that allow him to unwind, "I enjoy reading and playing with my children, as well as kayaking, cycling and downhill skiing."

## Gerald "Jerry" Emerick

### Embraces Ferris' Vision Statement: "Where Theory Meets Practice"

Jerry Emerick's enthusiasm is strong these days. As the start of the fall semester crept closer and closer, Emerick could hardly wait to roll up his sleeves and get to work on his life's next chapter — as a faculty member at Ferris. "I am very excited to begin a new career that allows me the opportunity to pour my energies into helping students achieve success in this program and their subsequent careers," he says. Emerick, an adjunct faculty member at Ferris the last 10 years, knew from firsthand experience that the faculty was a team he yearned to join. "Throughout my years as an adjunct, and more recently during the interview process, I was impressed with the quality of the program, faculty and leadership. I knew instantly that I wanted to become part of this team," he said. Ferris' mission and core values mean something significant to Emerick. He embraces them and the university's approach to education. "I believe strongly that the Ferris vision statement of 'where theory meets practice' is absolutely the right vision and approach to education," he says. He plans to continue to integrate that approach into his teaching. Emerick earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration – Business Computer Systems from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree from Grand Valley State University in Computer Information Systems. He is certified in professional management and information systems security. Emerick has industry experience and consulting experience. He looks forward to continuing to apply past experiences to his future learning opportunities for students: "I am devoted to education and learning, and enjoy working with students of all ages and backgrounds to further their knowledge and personal growth. A quality education has been one of the primary factors that have created opportunities that have led to a more successful and rewarding personal life for me." Outside of the classroom, Emerick enjoys time with his family, biking, water skiing, kayaking, playing the guitar and doing pretty much anything that allows him to appreciate the outdoors in Michigan.

### Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning Finds New Home in Familiar Location

The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning found itself on the move during the summer of 2011 but back to a familiar location on campus.

Director Todd Stanislav and his staff packed up their offices and returned to the Ferris Library for Information Technology and Education. Specifically, FCTL has landed back in FLITE 408 and switched offices with the Office of International Education.

"The move to FLITE is an opportunity to look again at how we can serve and support faculty — how we can engage with them in new and innovative ways to affect deep student learning," Stanislav said. "Things sometimes have a way of coming full-circle. When I came to Ferris in 2006, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning was located in FLITE while renovations were being completed in IRC."

FCTL plans to continue to deliver essential services to faculty in its new location.

"So we're back in those same digs, but we're a different team now — a staff with a rich set of skills, knowledge and experience who can collaborate with faculty to affect deep student learning," Stanislav said. "We really appreciate the support from the FLITE faculty and staff who have welcomed and supported us in our transition back."





## Ferris State University Also Welcomes the Following New Faculty:

**Gabor Barsai**, Surveying Engineering

**Karyn Bledsoe**, Sports Entertainment and Hospitality Management – Professional Golf Management

**Daniel Boyll**, Social Sciences

**Adam Clark**, Interior Design/Furniture Design/Design Studies, Kendall College of Art and Design

**Daniel Durosoy**, Mathematics

**Cheryl Endean**, General Education, Kendall College of Art and Design

**Jordan Fenton**, Art History, Kendall College of Art and Design

**Lawrence Getubig**, Photography, Kendall College of Art and Design

**Paul Long**, Architecture and Facility Management

**Arinze Okere**, Pharmacy

**J. Penn**, Social Sciences

**John Shaw**, Photography, Kendall College of Art and Design

**George Sherlock**, Humanities

**Kate Silvio**, Sculpture and Functional Art, Kendall College of Art and Design

**Devin Slattery**, Drawing and Printmaking, Kendall College of Art and Design

**Michael Vasicek**, Criminal Justice

**Kari Vavra**, Pharmacy

**Aaron Waltz**, Sports Entertainment and Hospitality Management – Professional Golf Management

**Laura Whatley**, Art History, Kendall College of Art and Design

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## Contact Information

*Points of Pride* is published quarterly by  
University Advancement & Marketing  
Prakken 108

Editor: Sandy Gholston  
(231) 591-2021  
[sandygholston@ferris.edu](mailto:sandygholston@ferris.edu)

Contributing Writer: Sandy Gholston

Graphics: Al Williams

Photography: Bill Bitzinger



Ferris State University is reporting a record enrollment total for a seventh consecutive year to begin the Fall 2011 Semester. Michigan's fastest-growing university reports that there were 14,560 students enrolled system-wide at Ferris to begin the semester. This fall's enrollment total is up 179 students from the Fall 2010 Semester figure, an increase of 1.2 percent for the university system. On the main campus in Big Rapids, Ferris has a total of 9,970 students, up 39 students from the previous fall term. To read more about Fall 2011 enrollment, visit [ferris.edu/htmls/news/archive/2011/september/enrollment.htm](http://ferris.edu/htmls/news/archive/2011/september/enrollment.htm).