

PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

From the Provost:



Fall semester has seen a number of distinctive initiatives and activities introduced to both the local and extended campuses. They range from the Shoah Project directed by Barry Mehler to a FIRST Robotics competition organized by Nate Leatherman and a Health Fair for the Grand Rapids Asian community supported by the College of Health Professions.

This newsletter will become a monthly sharing and notification of the academic activities, accomplishments, and involvements on campus and at extended locations.

Paul

Andrés Chavez Speaks on Legacy of Grandfather, Cesar Chavez

On October 18th, the Center for Latin@ Studies hosted Andrés Chavez, grandson of Cesar E. Chavez. During his visit, Chavez shared stories, inspiration, and lessons learned from his grandfather. The evening started with an intimate reception, followed by a keynote address, and ended with a question and answer period. Many students were excited to learn more about their history and the lasting impact Cesar E. Chavez and the foundation created in his legacy continues to have across the country. After the discussion, a number of student leaders from the Hispanic Student Organization and Center for Latin@ Studies staff attended dinner with Chavez where students learned more about Chavez's personal story and advocacy efforts throughout his undergraduate career.



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Calendar

11/16 -11/31:

Kathleen VanDeMark Wolf Series

IRC: Room 300

11/16 :

DACA Dreamers

IRC: Room 120

4:30 - 6:30 pm

11/22 -11/26:

Thanksgiving Recess.

Wednesday classes dismiss at noon.

Ferris Hosts FIRST Robotics Roboday



Thanks to the guidance and direction of Professor Nate Leatherman, Ferris, along with host teams from Big Rapids High School and Crossroads Charter Academy, hosted the first annual Ferris State Roboday on campus. On September 23, 2017, twelve students on teams from across the State participated in the day-long FIRST Robotics competition. During breaks in the competition, Admissions guides hosted students for campus tours. The event was sponsored by FSU's Office of Academic Affairs and the College of Engineering Technology. Other sponsors included Stappywear and Domino's Pizza.

Swan Building Renovations Gliding Along



The expansion and addition of the Swan Annex Building is on schedule to open Fall Semester 2018. Updated current as well as additional new labs and classrooms for

both the Manufacturing Engineering Technology Program and the Welding Engineering Technology Program will be housed within the annex. Enhancements to already state-of-the-art facilities, equipment and curriculum will be the product of this project within both floors of the Swan Annex. The project has also involved portions of the main Swan Building as well. The first floor was completely renovated mainly for the Architecture Program with some additional areas added for the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program. Several other floors have had updates as a result of the displacement of other programs due to the construction focus. Both the outside and inside of the renovation and addition are very impressive and add to the currency of manufacturing and industry today. They also reflect the unparalleled education and career opportunities realized by our students.

Ferris Students Assist in Asian Community Health Fair

An Asian Community Health Fair was held September 23, 2017, at the West Michigan Refugee Education Center in Kentwood, MI. This was an interprofessional initiative between the College of Health Professions (CHP) and the College of Pharmacy (COP) to provide free health screenings to recent immigrants to Grand Rapids. CHP School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene faculty and students conducted BMI, blood pressure, and dental hygiene screenings while COP faculty and students conducted blood glucose and cholesterol screenings as well as prescription medication review. The Grand Rapids community members were beyond thankful for the Health Fair. Future Health Fairs are scheduled to be held three times per year and will involve both the College of Pharmacy and the Michigan College of Optometry.



Harvest Party



On October 5th and 6th, the Ferris community celebrated the harvest by bringing together different Jewish, Circle of Tribal Nations, and Chinese celebrations. Celebrating the harvest is common to many cultures and includes the theme that all cultures are connected to and dependent on a healthy Earth. “We had lots of student traffic,” said coordinator Barry Mehler. “We gave out Chinese moon cakes, apples, apple pie, pumpkin pie, drinks, and candies.”

Attendees helped build the Sukkah (a temporary hut constructed for use during the week-long Jewish festival of Sukkot), witnessed a traditional Native American full moon ceremony, and participated in lantern flying while learning more about the various traditions. The Harvest Festival Program is a collaborative effort between faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences, FLITE, and the Office of International Education with support from the Diversity and Inclusion Office.

Ongoing Initiatives

A panel of four Ferris faculty, including Erin Miltzer-Benander, Melissa Smith, Anil Venkatesh, and Kirk Weller, presented on two initiatives that are impacting the campus community.

The Linked Course Project is an interdisciplinary collaboration between the Mathematics Department, the Department of English, Literature and World Languages, the College of Business, and the School of Education. Three pairs of mathematics and

composition faculty have been involved in it since 2013. As a part of the project, math students learn how to express mathematical ideas in writing, and the writing students learn how to interpret reading assignments from a quantitative perspective. The overarching goal of the project is to help students to develop problem-solving abilities and critical thinking skills through an interdisciplinary connection that involves mathematics, reading, and writing.

The C4 (Cross-Curricular Career Community) Scholar Program is a yearlong learning community for students who need remediation in English composition, mathematics, and reading. It has been in existence since the fall of 2016. Student participants, selected randomly from General Studies students in Retention and Student Success, take English composition, mathematics, and reading as a two-semester cohort with a focus on the formation of a professional mindset. The project is part of a multi-year qualitative study to develop a scalable program to nurture formation of intellectual and emotional dispositions needed for long-term academic and professional success among at-risk students.

Personnel Spotlight: Jason Bentley



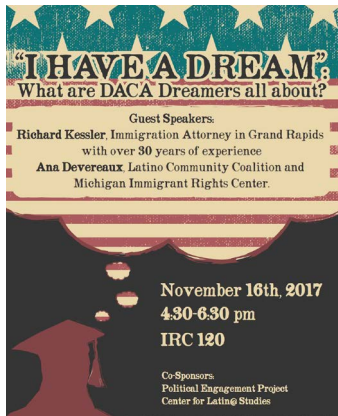
Jason Bentley joined Ferris State University in July as Dean of Retention and Student Success following the retirement of Bill Potter. Prior to joining Ferris, Jason served as Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

Jason is a Michigan native and grew up in Lapeer County before attending and completing college at Central Michigan University where he earned three degrees and worked in various roles for 17 years.

Shoah Archive Roll-out

After a year of preparation and a summer training session for faculty and staff, the Shoah program was rolled out this semester between September 11 and 14. During the rollout, the campus community was introduced to Professor Henry Greenspan and Rabbi Peter Mehler, two Holocaust experts who participated in the rollout week. Both will be back to campus via Skype to join the next phase of the Ferris Shoah programming: the Shoah Faculty Learning Community, which began meeting October 20 and 23. Those who have signed up for the Shoah Learning Community include: Sarah Rescoe, Joanne Hazelton, Ghada Mahdi, Christian Peterson, Victor Piercy, Jana Pisani, Kathryn Woods, Bethany Brown, Michael Berghoef, and Melissa Derosia. This group represents the core of the team working to integrate the Shoah archives into curricula. The group is planning a trip to Detroit to visit the Holocaust Museum and meet with Mickey Shapiro, the generous benefactor who gifted the Archives to Ferris.

DACA Dreamers



What is DACA and how does it affect our students? There will be a panel discussion on November 16th, in IRC 120, where professionals in the field will dispel myths and talk about DACA from a legal, humanitarian, and community organizing perspective.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA program, was created in 2012 by executive order by then-President Obama to allow children brought by their parents into this country illegally to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and to be eligible for a work

permit. Other benefits include the ability to get a social security card, and in most states, a driver's license.

Currently there are about 800,000 DACA recipients or Dreamers. Since DACA applicants must be students or have completed school or served in the military, any changes to DACA could impact some university students.

The Trump administration moved to end the program on March 5, 2018. No new applicants are being accepted though permits are being renewed.

Plaza Roosevelt Reveals Their Site Plan Map

Plaza Roosevelt, a \$40 million redevelopment project in Grand Rapids, came one step closer to realization when the site plan was unveiled at an August 30 press conference.

Situated on Grandville Avenue SW between Graham and Franklin streets, Plaza Roosevelt will include a new \$20 million Spanish-English dual immersion high school, 45 new affordable rental apartments, 19 affordable single-family and multi-family houses, expanded health services from Clinica Santa Maria, as well as a new city park and increased arts and cultural programming through Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities.

Project partners include Habitat for Humanity of Kent County, Mercy Health Saint Mary's, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Dwelling Place, Grandville Avenue Arts and Humanities, Ferris State University, Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, and Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association.



Site Plan Key:

- 1: Cook Art Center
- 2-3: Dwelling Place
- 4: GRPS
- 5, 6, 8: Habitat for Humanity
- 7: Habitat for Humanity
- 9: Mercy Health
- 10: Park and Plaza

For more information on the Office of Academic Affairs, go to <https://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/index.htm> or call (231)591-2300