

# PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

## From the Provost:

This month's issue features several articles on students, faculty, and staff who have been recognized outside of the University for excellence and achievement. Whether it is students creating a competitive off-road vehicle, Extended and International Operations staff designing unique marketing tools to help students return to college, or the many individuals sharing their works at the Author Celebration, please join me in congratulating these people on their accomplishments.

Speaking of excellence and achievement, congratulations to the Men's Basketball Team and all the faculty and staff who have supported their journey!

*Paul*

## Students Blast to Victory in Blizzard Baja



Students participating in the Blizzard Baja Competition include (L-R): Kevin Volesky, Midland, MI; Brian Favier, Chesterfield, MO; Ty Pardee, Elsie, MI; Nick Horton, Sault Ste. Marie, MI; Jake Vaillancourt, Fenton, MI; Jackson Mitchell, Dubuque, IA; and Eric Troyer, Manistique, MI.

The Ferris State University Baja Racing Club competed in the Blizzard Baja competition at Michigan Technological University on February 18, 2018. Of 28 teams, FSU Baja won first place in the 4-hour endurance race.

FSU Baja is affiliated with the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Collegiate Design Competitions, which gives students the opportunity to gain experience through application of their coursework in the real-world environment of competitive off-road racing. As members of the FSU SAE Baja team, the students gain experience in leadership, time management, project management, communications, organization, planning, delegation, budgeting, and finance. Rusty Leonard, associate professor in Automotive Service Technology, is the team's faculty advisor. He and his wife, Jodi, provided student support during the competition.

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## Calendar

**4/9:** Deadline for April ProvostPost Newsletter Submission

**4/19:** Robert C. Ferguson Annual Fulbright Foreign Lecture  
Featuring Ivo Soljan, guest lecturer  
4:30 – 5:30 pm

**5/7, 5/8, & 5/9:** ORSP Grant Workshop  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Spring Commencement  
Ewigleben Sports Complex

**Friday, May 4, 2018**  
3:30 pm & 7:00 pm

**Saturday, May 5, 2018**  
9:00 am, 12:30 pm, & 4:00 pm

## Inaugural César E. Chávez March Focuses on Social Justice



*Eduardo Chávez, grandson of civil rights activist, César Chávez, (standing fifth from left) joined the Ferris community in the inaugural César E. Chávez Social Justice March on campus Tuesday, March 13.*

On Tuesday, March 13, the Center for Latin@ Studies partnered with students in Associate Professor of Humanities Stephanie Thompson's COMM 340 class in an academic service-learning project to host the inaugural César E. Chávez Social Justice March on the Ferris campus. During the march, students heard from Eduardo Chávez, grandson of labor leader César E. Chávez, who highlighted how people across cultures and communities can continue to honor and live a life honoring his grandfather.

“...if you practice these three things—be a selfless leader and always put others needs in front of your own, be relentless in the pursuit of your passions and goals, and speak up when you see injustices—then you will truly be carrying on the legacy of my grandfather.”

After marching through campus and along State Street, students, faculty, and staff gathered to hear words from Provost Paul Blake highlighting the importance of student voices and activism. Board Trustee Ana Ramirez-Saenz also attended the march and presented a generous donation to the Center for Latin@ Studies to continue its work and assist students to enter and complete college by building on their cultural identity.

The Center for Latin@ Studies would like to recognize the collaborative efforts of the Office of Multicultural Student Services; the Diversity and Inclusion Office; Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc.; Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity Inc.; Hispanic Student Organization; and Stephanie Thompson and her students from COMM 340 to make this historic moment on campus happen. More images from the march can be found on the Ferris State Center for Latin@ Studies [Facebook Page](#).

## “Stop Out Campaign” Reaches Out to Students

Ferris Statewide and Online has won an award for the “Stop Out Campaign” in the 33rd Annual Educational Advertising Awards sponsored by the Higher Education Marketing Report. The Educational Advertising Awards is the largest, oldest, and most respected educational advertising awards competition in the country. Over 2,250 entries were submitted from more than 1,000 colleges, universities, and secondary schools.

The “Stop Out Campaign” included emails, personal URLs (PURLs), and direct mail with a 3D bulldog figure. Students who graduated with an associate's degree, but not a bachelor's degree, and students who left Ferris with over 49 credits, but no degree, were reached. As of the award submission in January, 102 students had submitted a form on their PURL, 24 were admitted for a future semester, and three additional applications had been submitted.



*Staff from Extended & International Operations (EIO) won an award for a marketing campaign to students who have left Ferris without obtaining a degree. Pictured (L-R): Ashlee Mishler, Marketing Communication Specialist; Jennifer Amlotte, Director of Marketing and Admissions; Alissa Raddatz, Graphic Designer; Taylor Benson, Marketing Communication Specialist; and Eric Hazen, Marketing Manager.*

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## ORSP Hosting Grant Workshop

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) is hosting a grant writing workshop for faculty and staff on May 7, 8, and 9. The workshop is designed so that when participants complete the three days of grant training, they will have a finished draft of a grant proposal ready to submit.

For further details and information on professional development funding opportunities and requirements, contact Wendy Stapp at 231-591-2547 or [WendyStapp@ferris.edu](mailto:WendyStapp@ferris.edu).

## Author Celebration a Success

The Sixth Annual Author Celebration was held on March 15 at the Woodbridge N. Ferris Building at Kendall College of Art and Design. This event honors Ferris faculty, staff, and students who have authored or created works during 2017 that were recognized outside of the University.

This year, 74 individuals participated, a 37% increase over last year. Attendees were able to view each others' work as well as exhibitions on faculty sabbaticals and KCAD collections in the Fed Galleries. Later, guests enjoyed delicious food and shared inspiration for their work through author lightning talks. The special gift this year was a set of stunning collectible cards created from a book by August H. Thomas taken from KCAD's Library's Special Collection.



## Linked Course Project Benefits Students & Faculty

First-year students traditionally view subjects as having distinct divides and unrelated learning outcomes; sometimes faculty do the same. The more bridges are built across disciplines, the greater opportunities there are for students and faculty to discover or rediscover the interrelated nature of all disciplines. The Math-English Linked Course Project at Ferris is an example of this type of collaboration.

For the past several years, faculty members in Mathematics and English have developed learning communities for first-year students in algebra and composition. By employing a yearlong cohort model, this initiative has provided a support network for new students, helped remediate

college-readiness issues, and helped the faculty to discover practical strategies for cross- and interdisciplinary teaching.

In April 2018, Deirdre Fagan, assistant professor in English, Literature, and World Languages, and Anil Venkatesh, assistant professor in Mathematics, will present on their work in the Math-English Linked Course Project at the College English Association's annual meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida. Entitled "Bridges," the conference calls for proposals that build bridges between and among texts, disciplines, people, cultures, media, languages, and generations. Fagan and Venkatesh will offer an overview of how the learning community was created, explain what the challenges and rewards have been, and examine the personal, professional, and institutional benefits of building bridges between faculty and students across seemingly dissimilar disciplines.

## Ferris Team Visits China

Arrick Jackson, dean of the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS); Piram Prakasam, executive director of the Office of International Education (OIE), and Lisa vonReichbauer, assistant director of OIE; and Damei International Education Consulting Company (DMEC) visited China January 6 -12, 2018. The purpose of the trip was to explore various opportunities for student and faculty exchanges, visiting scholars, internships, summer programs, and training partnerships in the areas of Teacher Prep, Early Education, and Digital Media.

The team visited several schools: Rizhou Polytechnic, Qingdao Vocational and Technical College of Hotel Management, Taishan Medical University, Taishan Polytechnic, and Shandong Normal University. All of the visits were productive, and curriculum in Digital Media and Early Education is being developed. Brady Flachs, assistant professor in the School of Education, and Liza Ing, School of Education director, will be offering a summer course in China. As the COEHS continues to pursue these partnerships, Katherine Manley, professor in the School of Education, will serve as the lead for developing career and vocational training curriculum that meets the goals of the college and China partners.



## Ferris MyDegree Team Chosen for Special Project

Ferris State University has been chosen as one of ten institutions around the world to be a part of the inaugural Development Partner Group MyDegree Dashboard project. This project was created to help Ellucian make the user interface for MyDegree more user friendly.

Amy Buse, MyDegree Director, and Bob Griffith, MyDegree System Administrator, will represent Ferris on this project. They will be working with Ellucian on testing new software releases and guiding the development road map for the MyDegree software.

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## Opioid Task Force Progress

To address the opioid epidemic, the Opioid Task Force was formed with broad-based membership from across campus and the community. Initially conceived by the deans of the College of Health Professions, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Pharmacy, and the Michigan College of Optometry, the University's Opioid Task Force has organized around three primary workgroups differentiated on constituencies to be served – Workgroup One: faculty, staff, and students; Workgroup Two: healthcare providers; and Workgroup Three: the broader regional community. Shared responsibilities for each workgroup include conducting a baseline needs assessment, development of a timeline and recommendations for action, delivery of education programming, supplying appropriate resources/system-level interventions, and development and implementation of an assessment strategy.

Workgroups are currently developing plans to address each of the responsibility areas outlined above in a manner specific for their assigned population. Ease of access to opioid medications, facilitated by over-prescribing and improper storage; a low perception of risk by both students and non-students due to a lack of understanding of addiction and the risks of opioid use; and the common practice of self-medication for coping with mental health issues are seen as overarching issues to be addressed by the Task Force and the workgroups.

The Task Force will be utilizing existing resources whenever possible, bringing programming or materials to the campus or the region. Activities will begin in spring, with initial programming to begin in May 2018. Anticipated outcomes for the ongoing efforts of the Task Force include a heightened awareness of the presence of opioid medications and their risks by the community, a more detailed understanding of opioid addiction, a reduction in the stigma surrounding addiction, and increased training to address opioid overdose.

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## Fulbright Scholar Lecturer To Revisit Ferris 25 Years Later

Ferris Fulbrighters, a group of Ferris State University faculty and emeriti who have been awarded Fulbright Scholarships, is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration will feature the return of the group's very first lecturer in 1993, Ivo Soljan, who will deliver an address on Thursday, April 18, at 4:30 p.m. in IRC 120 lecture hall for the annual Robert C. Ferguson Foreign Fulbright Lecture.



Soljan is currently a professor of English Literature at Grand Valley State University. He was born in 1947 in the ancient Roman city of Split (Spalaton) in Croatia, formerly known as Yugoslavia. He has extensive political experience working towards a peaceful resolution of the bloody Yugoslavia War (1990-1995) that resulted in the creation of seven separate republics: Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, and Kosovo/Kosova. He participated as a US State Department contractor at the Dayton Accords (peace negotiations) in November 1995. The Accords resulted in the end of open hostilities and the signing of a peace agreement that ushered in a long-lasting period of political and economic stability.

The title of Soljan's original lecture, delivered at Ferris 25 years ago on April 6, 1993, was "Despair, Hope, and Warnings: The New World Order and Former Yugoslavia." This year's Fulbright Jubilee lecture and discussion is entitled: "Are We Any Wiser Today: One More Disappointing WORLD DIS-ORDER."

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

