

# PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

## From the Provost:

While the recent snow and ice have slowed outside activities, the colleges have been busy serving students and the campus community with a number of inside events. Some items of note include the successful Wintermester initiative; the Spathelf Lecture, now in its seventh year; Ferris-GR partnering with Maranda on the Beautiful U conference for girls; and the ongoing renovation of the Hagerman Pharmacy Building.

February also signals the start of the Festival of the Arts, a series of entertainment, educational, and cultural events provided through a partnership between Ferris and the Big Rapids community. The Festival offers an amazing array of activities for you and your family which are detailed in their [booklet](#).

*Paul*

## WINTERMESTER



The first Wintermester at Ferris State University ran from December 17 to January 11. Small Group Decision Making (taught by Lynann Byars), Ethical Issues in Criminal Justice (taught by Steve Hundersmarck), Michigan History (taught by Christian Peterson), two sections of Popular Culture (taught by Rachel Foulk), and Introduction to Psychology (taught by Chris Redker) attracted 103 students. The fully online format offered flexibility for both faculty and students and made it possible for the courses to take place during a period of time when the University was closed, yet full and complete online support was available.

In a follow-up survey sent to Wintermester students, 87.5% indicated they had either a good or excellent experience and 77.5% responded that they would take another class during Wintermester in the future. Just as important, several students expressed appreciation for the fact that this type of interim semester helped them either stay on track for graduation or graduate early! Students enjoyed the pace of the courses and requested that more courses be offered in this type of format in the future. The faculty, staff, and students who made this new endeavor possible are to be commended.

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## ECDS Has Moved

The Educational Counseling and Disabilities Services (ECDS) office has moved to a new location on campus. They are now located in the Arts and Sciences Commons Building (between the Starr and Science buildings), Room 1017.

Students, faculty, and staff who may need accommodations for this semester are encouraged to make an appointment as soon as possible. Please contact the office at (231) 591-3057 for more information or to set up an appointment.

# BEYOND Initiative Recognized by International Organization



*Faculty, staff, and students from 2014 BEYOND: Diversity*

The Institute of International Education (IIE) announced January 16 that Ferris State University has received the 2019 IIE Andrew Heiskell Honorable Mention Award for the BEYOND Initiative. BEYOND was established in 2012 by the Office of International Education (OIE) in collaboration with faculty, staff, and students across the University and with our international partners. In the award category of Scholars as Drivers of Innovation, Ferris is the first Michigan institution to be recognized by the Institute of International Education in its annual selection of the IIE Andrew Heiskell Awards for Campus Internationalization.

The BEYOND Initiative was conceived in 2011 as a vehicle to drive campus internationalization as the University did not have strong collaborations with international partners. It is an annual, university-wide program to encourage faculty to connect their course outcomes to a global theme and integrate them with co-curricular activities. More than 150 faculty and staff across the University have collaborated with

the OIE over the years. Close working relationships between faculty and international partners have created a strong global ecosystem at Ferris State University. Click [here](#) for a list of these people.

The BEYOND Initiative's first-year theme in 2012 was on the Silk Road. It was used as a metaphor for globalization. Associate Professor of Humanities Tracy Busch was the lead faculty member for the BEYOND Exhibit. The second year's theme was on Mythologies and the BEYOND exhibit efforts were led by Dr. Jordan Fenton of Kendall College of Art & Design. Dr. David Pilgrim, Vice President for Diversity & Inclusion, curated the third-year theme on Diversity. The fourth- and fifth-year's theme was on Globalization. Last year's BEYOND theme was on Conflict and this current academic year's theme is on Conflict Resolution.



The BEYOND Initiative has evolved from hosting an exhibit to also incorporating a variety of co-curricular activities, a TEDx-type speaker series called Minds Aflame, and Deliberative Dialogues in the classroom on difficult topics. More than 500 students in classes across campus will participate in Deliberative Dialogues on immigration and the refugee crisis as part of the BEYOND Initiative in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Representatives from Ferris State University will receive the award at the 2019 IIE Summit in New York City on February 18. The BEYOND Initiative will be featured at the conference as a "best practice" in international education. A summary of the program will also be included in IIE's new "best practices" feature, both online and in their magazine, IIE Networker. The IIE announcement of the award winners can be viewed [here](#).



*Pictured left to right are initiative supporters Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake, Intensive English Program Instructor Louis Arokiasamy, OIE Executive Director Piram Prakasam, Dean of the College of Business David Nicol, Dean of the College of Pharmacy Stephen Durst, and OIE Assistant Director Lisa vonReichbauer.*



## FSU-GR Partners with Maranda's Beautiful U Conference

Ferris State University-Grand Rapids recently hosted Maranda's Beautiful U for 140 middle school students. This was the 10th year FSU-GR hosted this event and students from Wyoming, Kentwood, and Grand Rapids Public Schools were represented. The day-long youth empowerment conference gave sixth through eighth grade girls an opportunity to hear from doctors, fitness instructors, college admissions staff, chefs, and professional entertainers. Maranda, Ferris, and many corporate partners worked together to provide the girls messages of confidence: who the girls are and what makes them unique, the realities of social media, physical and mental health, and preparing for their career and future. One of the day's highlights was dancing with 18-year-old hip-hop dancer, Amanda Lacount, whose message is to ignore bullying and negative self-talk and do what you love to do. She has danced on TV's *Ellen* and with Katy Perry and is breaking stereotypes with her inspirational message.

Members of the Ferris marketing team in Grand Rapids, Eric Hazen, Ashlee Mishler, Taylor Benson and Jennifer Amlotte, worked with Maranda on the day's logistics and all the work behind the scenes. In addition to hosting, Marketing Communication Specialist, Ashlee Mishler, gave a presentation on careers. Her talk included a short inventory on likes/dislikes and personalities to help the girls discover careers that may fit them as well as encourage them to learn about vocations they may have not considered.

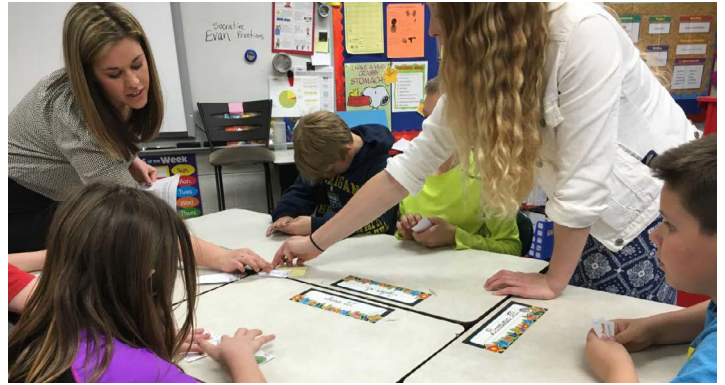
Along with Maranda and WOTV/WOOD, FSU-GR worked with Priority Health, Helen Devos Children's Hospital, United Dairy, Meijer, Pine Rest, GRCC's Culinary dept, P2 and Wedgewood Christian Services on this event.

Feedback after the event included: "This was amazing! I wish I could come back next year to help and inspire other girls the way I have been inspired!" [Here](#) is a link to view the segment from Maranda and WOTV.



Photo Credit: Michael Buck

## Ferris Educators Receive \$5,000 NEA Student Achievement Grant



Top photo: Ferris students work with Riverview Elementary students. Directly above, Andrea Kitomary and Amy Kavanaugh from the School of Education.

Student Retention and Recruitment Coordinator Andrea Kitomary from the School of Education recently received a \$5,000 National Education Association (NEA) Student Achievement Grant. The grant's purpose is for Ferris Elementary Education Language Arts pre-service teachers enrolled in Ferris's School of Education to work collaboratively with Riverview Elementary teachers and administrators to implement a project to improve literacy rates.

"This project will aid pre-teachers in learning the essential practices in literacy, while preparing them as literacy coaches which can contribute to their future employment placement," wrote Kitomary in the grant application. "Additionally, it will provide classroom support to teachers, instructional and assessment plans for children who lack grade level literacy skills, and give students the skills and confidence to excel in literacy at or above grade level."

Professor Amy Kavanaugh, in the School of Education, will implement the project which is designed to improve literacy rates for "at risk" students scoring below grade level in literacy in grades 1-3. She will assist Ferris pre-service teachers to put into practice effective literacy diagnostic analysis and interventions strategies while engaging them in coaching, observation, and collaborative planning.

## Spathelf Lecture Features Interprofessional Education Expert



Dr. Barbara Brandt, associate vice president and director, National Center for Interprofessional Practice and Education, Academic Health Center at the University of Minnesota, was this year's honored speaker at the 2019 Spathelf Lecture on January 24. Renowned for her work in health professional education, and specifically, interprofessional education and continuing education, Brandt spoke

on "Peering into Your Unimaginable Future in Healthcare Today."

The Spathelf Lecture is a collaborative effort between the College of Health Professions, the College of Pharmacy, and the Michigan College of Optometry to provide students an opportunity to hear from influential and accomplished professionals in the healthcare field. As in the past, a student-led panel discussion followed Brandt's speech which allowed students to interact with Brandt.

In her leadership roles, Brandt has served as a consultant, advisor and speaker for a wide variety of organizations such as the Institute of Medicine, the National Quality Forum, the Academy of Healthcare Improvement, the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and the American Medical Association.

## Lunar New Year Celebration

**Tuesday, Feb. 5**

**5 - 7 PM**

**IRC Connector**

The Lunar New Year is celebrated in countries and territories with significant Asian populations. This year is the "Year of the Pig" and the celebration at FSU will include arts and crafts, student presentations, activity tables and a taste of authentic Asian foods.



## Center for Virtual Learning Plans

Ferris State University is one step closer to making the Center for Virtual Learning a reality. In December, the legislature gave Ferris planning authorization for the capital outlay project, Center for Virtual Learning.

The project will involve demolition of Bishop Hall and renovation and expansion of Vandercook Hall. This will create a physical location to bring together the University's online education efforts, while providing program development support and preparation for faculty engaged in virtual education. The Center will house the undergraduate and graduate programs in Information Systems and Intelligence; Digital Media and Game Design; and Career, Technical Education and Teacher Education.

President Eisler reported in his weekly email, "With planning authorization being the first step in capital outlay approval, we will work to complete project planning and then seek final funding authorization from the legislature."

Sen. Darwin Booher, chair of the joint capital outlay committee, is to be commended as he was instrumental in the process. For more information, go [here](#).

## Farewell to Robbie Teahen

Roberta Teahen, associate provost of Accreditation, Assessment, Compliance and Evaluation retired January 2 but will continue in a temporary, part-time position as director of the DCCL program and as a faculty member. We thank her for her many years of dedicated service!



## Welcome to Mandy Seiferlein

Please join us in welcoming Mandy Seiferlein to the Office of the Provost. She will assume assessment and accreditation responsibilities through the spring semester as well as continue with some of her duties in the College of Pharmacy. Welcome!





## Center for Latin@ Studies On Air



*Executive Director Kaylee Moreno at the studio for the WGVU Morning Show with Shelly Irwin.*

On January 3rd, the Center for Latin@ Studies Executive Director, Kaylee Moreno, was invited on the [WGVU Morning Show with Shelly Irwin](#) to discuss the impactful work the Center for Latin@ Studies is doing in partnership with West Michigan communities. Now in its sixth year, Moreno explained that CLS was created to help connect different communities. "Our center has taken a look at the West Michigan Latino community and asked how can we help to bridge what communities feel and what they need in the West Michigan area with our campus," said Moreno. "There really is a seamless connection between Grand Rapids, Holland, Oceana County and the Big Rapids Campus, even though they are all an hour away from each other."

Moreno then shared information about Promesa Pathways to Post-Secondary Success which are CLS's three main programs: Promesa Avancemos for middle school students; Promesa Summer Success for high school students; and Promesa Scholars, a Ferris student leadership program. Depending on the level, the programs assist students to get to college and through college by building on their cultural identity. The entire interview can be heard by visiting [the Ferris State Center for Latin@ Studies facebook page](#) or [clicking here](#).

## Spotlight on FerrisNow Partner

The FerrisNow program had record enrollment this last fall but many people on campus know little of these Ferris partnerships. The **Wilson Talent Center (WTC)** is one such partner that Ferris collaborates with to provide University courses to high school students. WTC is a career and technical education center serving the Ingham Intermediate School District. Since partnering with Ferris fall 2015, its students have earned 996 credit hours through FerrisNow.

Ferris classes offered at WTC include Career and Education

Planning, Criminal Justice, Graphic Design, English, Hospitality, and Risk Management and Insurance. Most of these are concurrent enrollment courses taught by WTC teachers who meet Ferris' teaching requirements and Higher Learning Commission guidelines.

The University also collaborates with the Capital Region Technical Early College (CRTEC), which is based on the WTC campus. CRTEC allows students to earn college credit at no cost to the student. Ferris is a partner in the Business and Risk Management program and the Culinary Arts and Hospitality program.

"Our unique partnership with Ferris State University through our Capital Region Technical Early College provides our students with an academic roadmap that accelerates them through a rigorous program of study," said Nikki Coor, Early College Coordinator. "Ferris provides a qualified and dedicated staff to guide and support our students. This acclimates them and creates a seamless transition to their college going experience."

The early college programs take three years to complete because early college students enroll in high school for a fifth year to obtain college credentials while earning their diplomas. Students attend their home high schools and take college classes at WTC in 11th and 12th grades. In their 13th year, students enroll full-time in college. Students in both disciplines earn general education credit, credit specific to their chosen college degree, and post-secondary certificates through Ferris and Lansing Community College, which also partners with the CRTEC. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Farewell to Scott Garrison

Dean of FLITE Scott Garrison has accepted the position of Executive Director of the Midwest Collaborative for Library Services. His last day with Ferris will be Thursday, February 28. We thank him for his service to the Library and to the entire campus community.



# Renovation Progress at Hagerman Pharmacy Building

## Ferris State University College of Pharmacy Renovation



THIRD FLOOR (no changes)



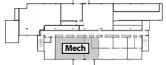
SECOND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



LOWER LEVEL



**SS** SIMULATION SUITE

Simulation rooms  
Observation  
Storage

**AP** ACTIVE PHARMACY

Pharmacy  
Consult rooms

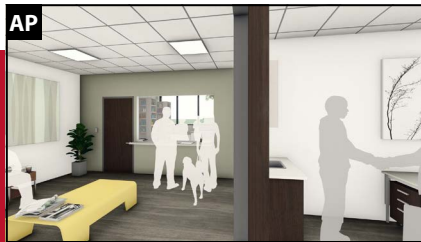
ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOM **AL**

STERILE LAB

PATIENT INTERACTION **PI**

Prep Room  
Classroom

LOBBY



The initial phase of renovations to the Hagerman Pharmacy Building have started. The renovations, made possible by the generous donations from pharmacy alumni with additional funding provided by the University, will focus on providing students and faculty with up-to-date classrooms and administrative offices.

The entire first floor will now be committed to instruction and practice – active learning classrooms, patient care

labs, simulation labs, Ferris Pharmacy Care Clinic and consultation rooms. To accommodate the expanded instructional spaces, the administrative offices will be permanently relocated on the second floor.

Completion of the Pharmacy Care Clinic is expected in early spring along with the administrative offices. All instructional spaces will be completed in time for the Fall 2019 semester.

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