Ferris State University
Good News Items
December 2020

Academic Affairs
COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCES AND EDUCATION

- Dr. Tracy N. Busch, Associate Professor of History in the College of Arts & Sciences gave dual presentations at the first Zoom conference (originally in-person annual meeting) of the AAUW of Michigan in May 2020. Her topics were the Museum of Sexist Objects on the theme “100 years later: how far have we come?” and “Off the Pedestal & Into the Streets” a comparison of the suffrage movement and the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Members were present from across the state.
- On 8/14/20 Dr Rita Walters was a panelist for the Big Rapids Race and Social Justice Community Forum.
- On 9/25/20 Dr Rita Walters presented, Understanding the Unique Needs and Challenges of Children with Disabilities: What Foster Care Providers Should Know, a Michigan Department of Health and Human Services In-service Training workshop.
- Rhonda Bishop, Ed.D., Nursing, Victor Piercey, Ph.D, Mathematics, and Mischelle Stone, Ph.D., Social Work, recently published an article entitled "Using a Faculty Learning Community to Promote Interdisciplinary Course Reform" in the Journal of Mathematics and Science: Collaborative Explorations.
- Dr. Christian Peterson (Humanities Department) and Dr. Martin Nekola (Czech Republic) gave a panel presentation via Zoom on October 2, 2020, entitled “How Safe is Democratic Government? Contemporary Populism in the United States and Europe.”
- Dr. Gary Huey and Dr. Christian Peterson gave a presentation via Zoom on October 8, 2020, as a part of the Department of Humanities Colloquium Series entitled, “1969: Racial Unrest at Ferris State.” Emeritus Board of Trustees member Ron Snead, who was a student on campus during that, was a special guest participant. The Department of Humanities Colloquium Series is coordinated by Dr. Rachel Foulk.
- The annual Ferris Speech Contest was transformed into the first ever Virtual Campus-wide Speech Contest and held on October 13, 2020. The event was organized by Dr. Neil Patten and Sponsored by the Ferris State Political Engagement Project, the Department of Humanities, and the Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honorary Society. It featured a panel of judges that included President David Eisler, Provost Bobby Fleischman, and Emeritus FSU Board of Trustees member Ron Snead. Student contestants included Lauren Lotzow, Jessica Oakes, Allana Schivers, Haley McBride, Calvin Smith, Brendan Deenan, Madison McLeod and Aubrey Scott. The first and second place winners in the Novice category were Jan Koupil and Nik Kruger. First and second place winners in the open category were Allyson Faulkner and Riley Newfer.
• Dr. Barry Mehler was cited in an article by Solène Lhénoret published on October 19, 2020, in the French newspaper Le Monde entitled “L’Amérique castratrice,” which discusses the forced sterilization of African American women in North Carolina in the 1970s and its lasting impact today.

• Dan Noren was recently selected as the recipient of the Michigan World Language Association’s (MIWLA) Distinguished Service Award for 2020.

• Tom Stoffer’s writing prompt was chosen for the Association for Business Communication’s Annual National Writing Contest in spring 2020.

• Dan Ding’s newest book, *The Historical Roots of Technical Communication in the Chinese Tradition*, has been published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing House.

• Deirdre Fagan had a poem, “Month of the Dead,” appear in the *Boston Literary Magazine* October 2020 issue, and she had an essay, “Taken,” appear in *eMerge* magazine’s Fall 2020 issue.

• Deirdre Fagan was recently interviewed by Ridge Cresswell of TGICast on widowhood, grief, love, and creativity, and her book of poetry, *Have Love*, was featured on the website, Snowflakes in a Blizzard.


• Rebecca Sammel volunteered to act as a campus ambassador and mentor for incoming international athletes in conjunction with the athletic department.

**COLLEGE OF PHARMACY**

• The College of Pharmacy’s Diversity Committee sponsored a panel on evaluating subtle examples of inequality. Two second-year students, Maria Gonzalez Chavez and Haidar Sounboula-Elhassani, along with Professor of Pharmacy Allison C Bernknopf, discussed Spanish, Arabic, and Jewish culture awareness at Pharmacy’s college-wide meeting on October 29th. Contact the Dean’s office if you would like a copy of the recording.

• On October 14, Kim Hancock presented a Webinar for the publisher Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins to an audience made of up faculty members and librarians from across the United States, entitled “Flip it Good – Managing Facetime” describing her use and research of a flipped classroom in teaching within the pharmacy curriculum. The webinar included ways to maximize student to student and faculty to student interactions in the classroom.

**Publications:**


• Anne Ottney co-authored an opinion paper entitled “Mobilizing pharmacists to address the opioid crisis: A joint opinion of the ambulatory care and adult medicine practice and research networks of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy” in the *Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy*, [https://doi.org/10.1002/jac5.1331](https://doi.org/10.1002/jac5.1331)


- Lisa Meny co-authored a committee report entitled “The Report of the 2019-2020 Professional Affairs Standing Committee: Pharmacist Integration with Primary Care Practices” that was published in the *American Journal of Pharmaceutical Education; 84*(10), [https://doi.org/10.5688/ajpe8199](https://doi.org/10.5688/ajpe8199)

- Lisa Salvati co-authored a research paper entitled “Comparison of diagnosis and prescribing practices between virtual visits and office visits for adults diagnosed with uncomplicated urinary tract infections within a primary care network” in the journal *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology*, 1-6. [https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2020.1255](https://doi.org/10.1017/ice.2020.1255)

- David Bright and Minji Sohn, along with students Nicole Bailey, Patricia Kaarto and Jessica Burkey, co-authored a paper entitled “Evaluation of an American Sign Language co-curricular training for pharmacy students” in the journal *Currents in Pharmacy Teaching & Learning, 13*(1), 68-72. [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2020.08.002](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cptl.2020.08.002)

Presentations:

- Kyle Schmidt co-presented a poster entitled "Impact of Opioid Administration in the Intensive Care Unit and Subsequent Use on Opioid-Naive Patients" at the 2020 ACCP Annual Meeting on October 27, 2020. The project was selected as a Finalist in the Best Resident Poster category.

- Felix Amissah presented two research seminars "Modulating oncogenic GTPase signaling in cancer using COX inhibitors and PUFAs," to the Michigan State University College of Medicine’s Pharmacology and Toxicology Department, and the Central Michigan University College of Medicine’s Mitochondria Research Group.

- Joshua Matson, first-year pharmacy student, gave an undergraduate talk entitled “Investigation of Simultaneous EGFR and Aurora Kinase Inhibition in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Cells” at the Van Andel Institute’s West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference 2020. His faculty research mentors are Felix Amissah and Sonali Kurup.

- Katelyn Brown, majoring in biotechnology, presented a poster entitled “BioBricks metabolic engineering of elloramycin and tetracenomycins” at the Van Andel Institute’s West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference 2020. Her faculty research mentor is Eric Nybo.

- Mitch Leukin, majoring in biotechnology, presented a poster entitled "BIOPOLYMER: BIOBricks POLYketide Metabolic EngineeRing of minimal polyketide synthases" at the Van Andel Institute’s West Michigan Regional Undergraduate Science Research Conference 2020. His faculty research mentor is Eric Nybo.

• Peggy Devoest presented "Pharmacy Students and Transitions of Care" to the Michigan Society of Health System Pharmacists (MSHP).
• Thomas Dowling was interviewed by Jeffrey Mosher for the Michigan Business Network’s Michigan Business Beat podcast, to discuss MEDC and research collaborations at Ferris State. https://soundcloud.com/mi-biz-network/fsus-tom-dowling-ferris-state

Grants Awarded:
• Michelle Sahr received a $52,000 grant for the project “Physician-Pharmacist Collaboration to Improve Cardiovascular Disease in Rural Communities”. The grant is funded by the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation.

New Patents Issued:
• Eric Nybo had a patent issued from the US Patent and Trade Office (Application: 16/015,821; Issued 11/18/2020) entitled “Genetically modified host organism for expressing an anthracyclinone analogue, method associated therewith, and synthetic nucleic acids.”

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
• At the Associated Schools of Construction Region 3 Virtual Conference/Student Competition held in October, Ferris State University entered seven teams (six students per team) into six different student competitions. One of the two design-build teams coached by - Mark Dyke, Chris Copser and Joe Pacella - won first place. The Electrical competition team (a new competition team) coached by Brian Bejcek, won first place. The Heavy-Civil competition team, coached by Jen Miller, won third place. In all, 41 students and four coaches participated in the virtual conference/competitions.

CENTER FOR LATIN@ STUDIES
• Kaylee Moreno Burke, graduated from the New Leadership Academy National Fellowship through the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education in October, 2020.
• Kaylee Moreno Burke was selected by Delta Zeta National Sorority for their 35 Under 35 National Award.
• 8 Ferris State University students were selected for the inaugural cohort of Building Bridges Through Education Fellowship through the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
• 1 Ferris student was selected to receive the Hispanic Latino Commission Annual scholarship.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
• TDMP Associate Professor Nick Kuiper attended the Austin Film Festival. Kuiper attended over twenty presentations from film and TV insiders during the five-day virtual conference (October 22-26) including “Drafting Dialogue,” “Creating Compelling Characters,” “Writers Room Dynamics,” and “Story Structure.” He also gained valuable writing insights from presenters like Damon Lindeloff (Lost, and Watchmen), Kevin Willmott (Da Five Bloods, BlacKkKlansman), and Emily V. Gordon (The Big Sick).
• TDMP faculty member Nick Kuiper attended the three-day Television Academy Faculty Seminar which six insightful conversations from industry leaders in primetime TV. Topics included Homelessness in Storytelling with the writing team from NBC’s This is Us, Creativity in a Time of Crisis with the writer of Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, and Artistry in Production with the design team from Schitt’s Creek.
• TDMP faculty member Nick Kuiper’s TV pilot “Phojo” has advanced to the semifinals of the WeScreenplay TV Pilot contest.

• Graphic Design Program hosts AKQA Creative Director Sarah Lockwood. Lockwood shares 12 things she learned along her journey from an FSU student to the creative director of a Fortune 100 client at AKQA. [https://business.ferris.edu/graphic-design-program-hosts-akqa-creative-director-sarah-lockwood/](https://business.ferris.edu/graphic-design-program-hosts-akqa-creative-director-sarah-lockwood/)


EXTENDED AND INTERNATIONAL OPERATIONS

• Tracy Russo, Senior Instructional Designer presented at the 2020 Association for Educational Communications & Technology (AECT) Annual Conference, Towards Culturally-Situated Learning Design and Research (AECT.org). Her individual presentations were Making Sense out of Senseless Crimes (Steve Hundersmarck, contributor) and Student Perceptions of Quality Teaching in Virtual Reality. Collaborative presentations with other institutions included Designing Digital Escape Rooms: A Beginner's Guide for Educational Settings, Escape Rooms: Pedagogy without Borders, Student Perceptions of Quality Teaching in Virtual Reality, and Innovative Pedagogic Support Spaces and Practices.

• Kelley Senkowski is pleased to announce the award of the Online Teaching Essentials badge to several faculty for completing course one of the three CDA Essentials courses. Congratulations to Jen Coburn Engquist, Sharon Colley, Steve Hundersmarck, Erin Johnson, Jennifer Johnson, David Marion, Steve Schuiling and Janet Vizina Roubal.

• Kelley Senkowski, in eLearning, represented Ferris by presenting at the National Association for Gifted Children, with 4000 registrants from around the country and world attending virtually. The presentation title was, "Engaging Online Experiences for Lifelong Learners."

Administration and Finance

Athletics

• The Ferris State men’s basketball team is a consensus pre-season top 20 team in the D2 National Polls this year. The Bulldogs are ranked #11 by the Division II Sports Information Directors along with 15th by the National Association of Basketball Coaches and 17th from The Basketball Times entering the year.

• Ferris State Athletics, in conjunction with local flagship station Sunny 97.3 FM and the Bulldog Sports Network, have produced a weekly radio show called “Ferris State Friday’s Live” this fall. The show has aired each Friday in October and November to date from 10 a.m. (ET) to noon on both Sunny 97.3 FM and FerrisStateBulldogs.com, highlighting each program with interviews from head coaches and guests this fall.

• The Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Council of Presidents and Chancellors approved the winter and spring competition calendar based on evolving COVID-19 testing, travel and venue protocols. The approved schedule models for fall sports competing in the spring feature a reduced conference-only regular season, plus a conference tournament. Schedules for both volleyball and women’s soccer along with basketball have been announced to date.

• The WCHA has also announced the Bulldogs’ 2020-21 conference and non-conference hockey schedule for the Bulldogs.
- The head men's ice hockey coach at Ferris State, Bob Daniels, has been appointed to the Division I Men's Ice Hockey Committee, effective immediately. He will have a four-year term representing the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

- Ferris State Hockey is currently offering fan cutouts for the 2020-21 season, giving those fans not able to attend games with the reduced capacity a chance to still be present at the Ewigleben Ice Arena. The cutouts are a fundraiser for Bulldog Hockey and will be displayed at each home game during the year.

- Ferris State University football alum Zach Sieler (Pinckney) was signed to a contract extension through the 2023 season by the National Football League's (NFL) Miami Dolphins. This season, the standout defensive lineman has played in all 10 games with three starts for the Dolphins. Presently, Sieler is one of five Ferris State alums on NFL active or practice rosters this fall, which is the most of any NCAA Division II school in the country.

**IT**

- Implementation of security cameras in the residence hall entry and exit doorways has taken place. Student affairs and public safety collaborated in securing a grant for $50,000. ITS has worked with Public Safety in allocating these funds to purchase 23 cameras that have been installed in all the residence halls to help the building monitors and public safety officers to monitor the entry and exit doorways.

- Access to Banner On-Demand Training has been provided to all Staff and Faculty. A campus-wide license for the Banner on-demand training tool has been procured. Here is the link for the information https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/adminandfinance/human/Training/ondemandtraining.htm

**Auxiliary**

- Brian Corwin has been hired as the new Head Golf Professional at Katke Golf Course. Brian is a Ferris PGM alumnus and has a variety of experience with operations management in the golf and corporate world, working at several golf courses since graduation in addition to a long history with Coca-Cola. He also coaches boys and girls varsity golf in the Lakeview Community School System. He looks forward to increasing sales, instruction, and engagement at Katke as he enthusiastically returns to his alma mater. Please welcome Brian.

- Ferris Dining Services, with the contributions of faculty and staff, is providing Thanksgiving meals to students remaining on campus over the holiday. Nearly $4,000 was raised during the “Sponsor a Brutus Box” campaign. Thank you, Ferris!

- Auxiliary Enterprises, with support from many departments, is conducting COVID-19 testing clinics for athletics, students, and faculty/staff who are asymptomatic. These testing sessions use a rapid test and results are reported back to the test subject within 24 hours. Auxiliary is also adding a shuttle stop at Wink Arena on testing dates to help make sure those who want to be tested have transportation to the arena.

- Ferris Printing Services is pleased to offer holiday cards to Ferris departments and the public for purchase. There are a variety of scenes and sentiments to choose from. Visit ferris.edu/printingservices for more information.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

- The Office of International Education is spearheading a university-wide initiative, “One Community; One Book.” Using the book, *Haste to Rise*, the initiative seeks to strengthen
the community while addressing the University’s historical commitment to opportunity and racial justice. The book reveals that our founders built a strong partnership with Hampton Institute, an HBCU, which led to many African American students transferring to Ferris Institute. From its early years, the Ferris Institute was comprised of women, students of color, and students from other countries.

- Over the last several months, Ferris State University students, faculty, and staff have had meetings, including zoom town halls, with Big Rapids City officials to discuss interactions and relations between local police and Ferris students.
- Ferris State University staff are collecting and analyzing demographic data on students’ contacts with the Department of Public Safety and the Office of Student Conduct.
- From October 21-November 18, Ferris State University students participated in the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates (NACCC) survey. The survey is designed to help assess, from our students’ perspective, the racial climate at the University. This information should prove useful to improve our diversity and inclusion efforts for students.
- The University hosted its second “Conversations That Matter” listening session on Zoom with students Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. This was an opportunity for our students to share their voices with University leaders.
- Thirty people were trained to facilitate deliberative dialogues on campus by Assistant Professor in Developmental Curriculum Kristin Conley. The participants learned skills to enable them to facilitate deliberative dialogues on campus. The intent is to host dialogues every 4-6 weeks on various topics to enable our community to develop ways to engage and learn from each other regarding a variety of topics. Recently a deliberative dialogue occurred with the Student Government on the topic of a House Divided, which focused on democracy. Additionally, the Center for Latin@ Studies and the Office of International Education used this approach to facilitate dialogues with their students.
- Kendall College of Art and Design (KCAD) assembled an Equity Council of local advisors to assist with the College’s diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.
- Ana Ramirez-Saenz, the founder of La Fuente Consulting, was a featured speaker in KCAD’s Brown Bag Discussion Series. She focused on Inclusion and Belonging in the Age of Zoom. In an earlier session, the College welcomed Grand Rapids City Manager Mark Washington to lead a conversation on how government, art, and equity can intersect to elevate the quality of life.
- On November 4, the Office of Multicultural Student Services hosted a panel discussion that probed the roots of structural racism that limit equality and social mobility for Blacks and other students of color in higher education.
- Sarah Doherty, LGBTQ+ Coordinator, and David Takitaki, a political science professor, joined with students who identify with the LGBTQ+ and ally community to check-in and debrief after the presidential election.
- The Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) hosted the first Latinx Welcome Back event as part of Bulldog Beginnings. The CLS also held a Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a celebratory holiday to remember and celebrate the lives of departed loved ones.
• Eight Latinx students were selected for the inaugural cohort of the Building Bridges Through Education Fellowship through the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. A shout out to Kaylee Moreno Burke, executive director of the CLS, who completed the New Leadership Academy National Fellowship with the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education.

• Equal Opportunity has partnered with the Staff Center for Training and Development, Human Resources, and the Title IX Office to move the Title IX Responsible Employee Training Module and the Anti-Harassment & Non-Discrimination Training all online into Canvas.

• The Jim Crow Museum was featured on C-Span, see https://www.c-span.org/video/?476906-1/jim-crow-museum-racist-memorabilia. David Pilgrim’s essay, “At the Jim Crow Museum, We Use Racist Objects to Engage Hearts and Heads in Social Justice,” was published in Folklife, a Smithsonian Institute publication.

Kendall College of Art & Design

• KCAD’s Wege Prize 2021 design competition—which challenges college/university students around the world to solve complex problems by collaborating across institutional, disciplinary, and cultural boundaries—has drawn the largest and most diverse field of competitors in its 8-year history. 35 student teams of 5 applied, representing 88 different academic institutions from around the world, 27 different countries (by participant citizenship), and 114 unique academic disciplines.

• For the third installment in KCAD’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Brown Bag Discussion Series, the college welcomed La Fuente Consulting Founder/CEO Ana L. Ramírez-Sáenz, who drew on her 15+ years of experience guiding companies toward inclusive and equitable work cultures to explore how individuals can thrive in the virtual working world. Ramírez-Sáenz also lead a Q&A session following the presentation.

• The EPIC Project, organized by the KCAD Digital Art and Design program, has once again earned acclaim for its collaboratively-produced and highly innovate educational media. Powder Keg! A Revolutionary War Card Game—developed by KCAD students and faculty with students at the Grand Rapids Public Museum School; History Professors from Grand Valley State University, Calvin University, and Aquinas College; and developers from Open Systems Technologies—has won a professional category Gold Medal Award at the 2020 International Serious Play Awards. The interactive role-playing adventure game, designed to inspire active learning around the American Revolution, competed against educational games from throughout the US, Canada, Greece, Iran, Turkey, and China.

• KCAD Graphic Design student Olivia Brenner is the latest KCAD student to intern with Avenue for the Arts. Her experience is connecting her with local artists to learn from their experiences and understand what it takes to make a nonprofit arts organization work.

• KCAD Master of Architecture student Logan Wyse won the 2020 Student Project Design Award from The American Institute of Architects Grand Rapids chapter with his design for a waterside public library in Manistee, Michigan that’s inspired by an iconic Seurat painting and built on a foundation of equity, accessibility, and intersectionality.

• KCAD Associate Professor and Medical Illustration Program Chair Kevin Brennan recently served as a juror for the Best Image Awards, held in conjunction with the recent Eurographics Workshop on Visual Computing for Biology and Medicine. In addition to the awards, the workshop addressed the state of the art in visual computing.
research with a strong focus on applications in biology and medicine, and provided an interdisciplinary forum for experts working on next generation visual computing solutions for medicine, healthcare and the biotechnology sector.

- KCAD Associate Professor and Fashion Studies Program Chair Lori Faulkner gave a presentation on sustainable fashion to the Association of Sewing and Design Professionals at the organization’s recent ASDP Voices Meeting. Faulkner—one of 8 presenters invited to share innovations they’re pursuing in their own fashion design and construction processes with ASDP members from around the world—talked specifically about her use of a zero-waste design method for patternmaking in which the entire length of a fabric is utilized in the finished garment.

- KCAD Art Education Professor Dr. Cindy Todd co-authored an article in the latest issue of SchoolArts advocating for the necessity of incorporating design thinking into arts education. Drawing on their experiences running the National Art Education Association’s Summer Studio Design Thinking Initiative, Dr. Todd and co-author Jan Norman point to design thinking as a driver of creative problem solving skills for students and educators alike, especially as COVID-19 has necessitated alternative and experimental approaches to instruction and interaction.

- KCAD alumna Devin DuMond (’10, MFA; ’05, Illustration) won the Juried Vote—and a $1,000 prize—in the first annual Ale Prize, hosted by the Beer City Brewers Guild, with her wilderness-inspired mural at the aptly-named Third Nature Brewing Company.

- KCAD alumna Jade Heiler (’19, Master of Architecture) has been appointed to be the at-large director of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Associates Committee (NAC). Heiler, currently an intern architect at Fishbeck in Grand Rapids, will serve a two-year appointment beginning this month. The NAC represents and advocates for AIA Associates—those AIA members who are not yet professionally licensed architects—to promote their growth, provide them with information and leadership, foster inclusiveness within the AIA community.

- KCAD alumna Emily Grush (’20, BFA Digital Media) has co-founded Karmascore, a new lifestyle app that acts like a credit score for personal relationships. Users record their memories with a person, rate the positivity of that experience, and over time each relationship is given a Karmascore based on how balanced the relationship with a friend, coworker, boss, significant other, or family member is. The goal of the app is to become a tool for people to recognize healthy, and unhealthy, relationships based on the memories that impact them the most.

- KCAD alumna Gillian Moore (’19, MFA) participated in Rapid Art Movement, an innovative new public art event presented for this first time this year by Avenue for the Arts. The event challenged Grand Rapids artists to create pieces that could be displayed and performed on the move. Moore’s flowing handmade dress was transformed into performance art by a local model.

- KCAD alumna Laura Niece (’03, BFA Furniture Design) has once again earned a place in the winners’ circle of the International Society of Furniture Designers’ annual Pinnacle Awards. Niece, a senior designer with Otto & Moore Furniture Designers, collaborated with the firm’s president, Dudley Moore, on the Modern Decker Wall Bed, Soren Bedside Tables, and Soren Dresser for Universal Furniture that won a Pinnacle Award in the Bedroom-Luxury category, while the collection the pair created with designer Nina Magon won top honors in the Major Collections category.

- KCAD alumni Ashley Paige (’19, MFA), Jeen Na (’17, BFA Photography), and Ethan Ross (’14, MFA) were all part of a recent exhibition held at 106 S. Division Ave in Grand Rapids. At Home in a Time of Quarantine, curated by Ross and featuring work by Na, Paige, and several other local artists, focused on reconsidering our notion of intimacy
within the context of social distancing and developing a deeper understanding of the world around us and our role in shaping the world that comes next.

- KCAD alumna Krista Pomorski (’11, BFA Art Education) was featured in an article by School News Network exploring how she’s teaching K-12 students resiliency through art by giving them space to explore self-expression amidst the tumultuous reality of COVID-19.
- KCAD alumnus Joshua Risner (’14, MFA), who serves as the master decorative painter for the Michigan State Capitol Building, has unveiled a portrait of former Michigan Governor Rick Snyder that will hang in the building alongside portraits of his predecessors.
- KCAD alumna Dayna Walton (’19, BFA Printmaking) collaborated with Downtown Grand Rapids Inc and local nonprofit Treetops Collective to lead a group of young refugee women in the creation of mural in Heartside Park. Title “Welcome Garden,” the mural is filled with flora and fauna from the women’s respective home countries.

UICA

- UICA Executive Director and KCAD alumna Miranda Krajniak (06, Drawing) served as a juror in the inaugural Ale Prize—a city-wide competition in Grand Rapids that paired local artists with local breweries—alongside ArtPrize Senior Exhibitions Manager and fellow alum Katie Moore (’11, MFA).

Student Affairs

- **New Scholarship - Scholarships based on GPA only**
  - Ferris State University is proud to offer the following GPA Only merit awards for Fall 2021. Those applying to the University without a test score will automatically be considered for the scholarship opportunities listed in the chart below.

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<th>HSGPA</th>
<th>Annual Value</th>
<th>Four Year Value</th>
<th>Cumulative Ferris GPA</th>
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<td>$6,000</td>
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<td>3.25 - 3.49</td>
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<td>2.75</td>
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<td>3.75 - 3.99</td>
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<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
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*These scholarships require continuous full-time enrollment.

- **High Activity on the Ferris Interactive Map & Video Viewbook** - Interested in learning about Ferris on two virtual platforms - the Video Viewbook and the newly created interactive Big Rapids Campus map - is strong. As opportunities to tour campus physically have been limited, our immersive digital options are the best alternative. Since the beginning of the Fall Semester, there have been 2,180 visitors to the Viewbook or Map. Just over half of those were from Michigan. There were visitors from 48 out of 50 states - with the most from Illinois, Texas and Georgia (what’s up Idaho and North Dakota?) On the international scene, we had just over 100 visits from countries around the world. At the top of the list were China, Canada, Germany and Brazil. About half of
the traffic is generated by links embedded in our email and printed in our physical viewbook, while the other half is organic. The link can be found at: https://www.ferris.edu/ferrisfaq/index.htm

- **Financial Aid**
  - 1,845 students have received a WNF Scholarship offer for Fall 2021.
  - Over 8,000 FAFSA’s have been loaded into the test system for awarding for Fall 2021.

- **Bilingual Virtual Financial Aid Night** - In a collaborative effort, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, Center for Latino Studies and Office of Admissions hosted a Bilingual Virtual Financial Aid Night for prospective students and families.

- **Recruiting Efforts** - Our recruiting staff is working hard to bring in students by virtually meeting with students through one on one visits, high school visits, college fairs, and events, as well as working through various calling campaigns.

- **Application Month** - As a part of Michigan College Application Month, the Admissions Office hosted their own Ferris Application Month Celebration. Through promotion on social media and text message communication, a total of 1,080 prospective students accessed our application. Out of these students, 15 students were selected as winners. Winners will receive a scholarship valued up to 2,000, a parking pass credit, or a Ferris swag box.

- **The National First-Generation College Celebration** was held in the beginning of November in collaboration with Student Affairs and the First-Generation Work Group. Posters were printed and shared on social media and around campus that featured Ferris’ first generation students. Additionally, we hosted speaker La Tonya “LT” Rease Miles, Ph.D., as we discussed the first-generation college experience.

- **The Diversity and Inclusion Summit** featuring Dar Mayweather, who focused on opening easier conversations on race, had 30 people in attendance and received very positive feedback.

- **Halloween Weekend at Ferris** included a variety of activities which included a drive-in movie, “Halloweentown,” a virtual murder mystery, and the Day of the Dead celebration.

- **A Family Feud program** sponsored by Entertainment Unlimited featured a Ferris alum, Matt Eickhoff, as the host.

- **Five Star Event** – On November 12, 42 students attended an eye-opening Five Star lecture by David Zach, lead singer and songwriter of *Remedy Drive*, which discussed the prevalence and impact of human trafficking.

- **A Roving Magician** was sponsored by The Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services for four different residence halls where students were shown some brief card tricks and illusions.

- **Dr. Sydney Lewis** (University of Maryland), was a featured guest speaker and gave a presentation on Femme resistance and the queer and feminist origins of the Black Lives Matter movement for LGBTQ+ History Month sponsored by the LGBTQ+ Resource Center.


- **A Trans Awareness Week and Native American Heritage Month speaker**, Jazz McKinney, presented wonderful information about Two-Spirit identities and issues which was hosted by the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and the Office of Multicultural Student Services.
Native American Heritage Month was celebrated with an “Anishinabe Spirituality” presentation featuring guest speaker, Raymond Cadotte of the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways. Raymond discussed the Seven Grandfather teachings that are guiding principles for living a balanced life, as well as other important Anishinabe beliefs, stories, and ideas that shape how people live. This was sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services.

University Advancement and Marketing

- This year’s Ferris Foundation for Excellence Benefit was a virtual celebration, where participants engaged with Ferris throughout the week of Nov. 2 by visiting our Virtual Ferris Foundation website.

  To date, we have raised more than $100,000 for Foundation for Excellence student scholarships and faculty and staff merit grant awards. Nearly 50 sponsors and donors supported the Benefit. The event has been viewed by close to 1,100 individuals from 10 different states.

  If you haven’t had a chance to experience the website, it is still accessible by clicking the link above. All gifts to the Foundation for Excellence Endowment will be matched, doubling the impact of support on our students and faculty and staff.

- More than 70 students from multiple RSOs across campus joined the Student Alumni Gold Club (SAGC) for the annual Rake n' Run event on Saturday, Nov. 7.

  Participants enjoyed a beautiful day while raking the lawns of local homes around campus. SAGC plans the Rake n' Run around leaf-pickup with the city of Big Rapids and invites students and RSOs from campus to thank the community through service.

- The News Services and Social Media Team collaborated with TV 9&10 News and Card/Riley Conservation and Wildlife Education Center staff in early November to facilitate a filmed television segment that aired on the network. This extended segment includes an interview with donor and alumnus Roger Card. Here’s the piece from the TV 9&10 News website.

- The News Services and Social Media Team helped promote College of Engineering Technology students’ efforts toward a local Big Rapids project at the Brutus Dog Park. The Associated Construction Students led this effort that benefits the Big Rapids community, generally, and dog owners, specifically. The Facebook post highlighting this effort performed well with 12,800-plus people reached, 1,600-plus engagements, more than 360 likes with 26 shares. Further, the story garnered local media attention from media outlets such as The Big Rapids Pioneer and WYBR radio. Here’s the original news release, which includes comments from Big Rapids City Manager and Ferris alumnus Mark Gifford, posted on the University News website.

- The News Services and Social Media Team’s Veterans Day posts across various University social media platforms yielded solid engagement. On Facebook, the Nov. 11 post reached nearly 7K people with almost 400 engagements. The post received more than 280 reactions with 23 shares. The Veterans Day Twitter post
earned more than 15K impressions, was liked 65 times and retweeted 18 times. On Instagram, the Veterans Day post garnered 220 likes.