

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

What started out as an ordinary semester turned into a semester very different than all the others. During this unprecedented time, each department in the Student Affairs division was challenged to develop innovative ways to serve and engage both our current students as well as our prospective students. This newsletter illustrates a few of those successes.

Admissions Virtual Events

The **Online Orientation** system is being utilized by all incoming students this summer. To date, 862 freshman and transfer students have completed the online orientation system for main campus. Students looking to complete online orientation should be directed to ferris.edu/orientation. After reviewing the information, there is a link to start the online orientation process and sign-in with their MyFSU/password. Information presented is specific to the student's campus location and student type. The final module of the online orientation contains pertinent information to next steps including when they will be notified to sign up for courses with their college in a one-on-one course advising session and how to sign their housing contract. Within 2 business days, their colleges will be notified of their completion and reach out to set up an appointment for the class registration process. Students are encouraged to continue checking their email as they prepare to be a Bulldog. They'll also continue receiving emails inviting them to participate in upcoming Explore Ferris Live, Admitted Student Live, and New Student Social Hour events!

The **Explore Ferris Live** event, similar to Dawg Days, was held for prospective students to learn about our University including the colleges as well as the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services (CLACS), University Recreation, Office of Multicultural Student Services and the Center for Latino Studies. A total of 50 individuals participated in this lively event.

Admitted Student Alive! events, similar to the Admitted Student Open Houses, have been successful with over 150 students who are admitted for Fall 2020 participating. The following have been featured during these events: Online Orientation, MyFSU, Housing, Dining, Financial Aid and Student ID Cards.

A **Virtual Open House** in collaboration with Extended and International Operations was held in April with 168 prospective students. A total of 31 staff members were available to assist students. This provided a tremendous opportunity for students to drop in and learn about the next steps in the process and explore Ferris further. Students had the opportunity to speak with advising staff from our statewide sites, financial aid and recruitment staff, while also having the ability for an admissions decision on the spot. Many staff members stayed nearly an hour past the originally designated time to assist students.

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New Student Social Hour will debut on June 3. This event will allow incoming students to meet their Fall 2020 Bulldog Classmates. Every social hour will feature different themes and may include: Stay at Home Show and Tell, Let's See Your Pets, Lunch/Dinner with Bulldogs (show us your culinary talents), Create Something, and You're All Bulldogs Now. The use of gallery view and chat will be encouraged so participants can communicate with each other. Students will be given an opportunity to win prizes by answering Ferris trivia questions.

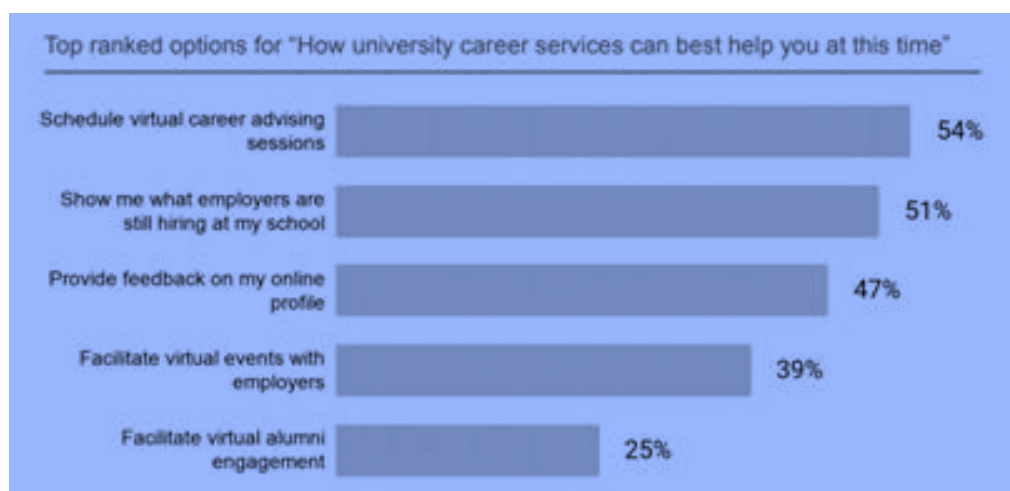
Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services (CLACS)

Career Center Update

The Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services (CLACS) Career Center is committed to increasing communication with students, alumni, and employers affected by COVID-19. For more information regarding who is hiring, career coaching, employment resources, and professional development opportunities, visit these resources:

- Handshake Resources: <https://ferris.joinhandshake.com/login>
- Ferris Career Readiness and Networking LinkedIn Group <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4197984/>
- Bulldog Connect <https://ferris.presence.io/>

As of April 21, 2020, Handshake was able to share additional insights from the student and employer surveys.



CareerFestival Professional Development Opportunity for students and alumni

The university's Alumni Association and Ferris' Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services (CLACS) are collaborating to make the seventh annual Grad CareerFestival program available to all Ferris students and alumni, free of charge, on June 23-26. A specific track presented each day from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. will feature 72 career authors and coaches.

The daily categories include career management, job skills, advice on what to expect after graduation, and developing soft skills. More than 70 presenters contribute over the course of this conference, in Facebook Live events, TED talks, and webinars that can help participants land a job more quickly, or to develop a career plan. Participants may register at <https://gradcareerfestival.org/ferris>.

The CLACS Career Center provides a variety of free services for Ferris students and alumni. Contact CLACS@ferris.edu or call (231) 591-2685 for more information or assistance with any career-related consideration.

Michele Albright, Coordinator of the CLACS Career Center, shares the importance of our work by stating, "In this challenging economic time, we want to ensure that our Ferris family has a leg up when it comes to seeking and obtaining employment."

Other CLACS NEWS

American Marketing Association (AMA) - held the "Beat the Scanner" event as an online workshop that taught what an Applicant Tracking System (ATS) is, how many companies use ATS to scan resumes for online job postings, and how to craft your resume to get it past the scanner and into the hands of the HR department. During a CLACS hosted Virtual Challenge Competition amongst RSOs, The American Marketing Association won a prize of \$20,000 with their "Beat the Scanner" entry. Their entry was one out of four other entries from RSOs.

Bulldog Radio - hosted a Jackbox party night. Jackbox is a game that one plays via their phone in response to a main screen. The main screen was live streamed via Twitch.

Cygnets: Official Interest Group of Gamma Phi Omega International Sorority, Incorporated - held an Instagram Live to share what multicultural means to them. They were interested in hearing what it means to each Cygnet and to learn about what they value.

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FIRST Robotics - held a Netflix watch party showing Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

2019 – 2020 Student Activities Fun Facts

- 214 Student Organizations are currently registered
- 975 events and travels (44) were registered by RSO's
- 133 Virtual Events were submitted by RSO's and Departments to Bulldog Connect from March 15th – present
- There were 5,521 unique attendees at all RSO and Department events that collected attendance in Bulldog Connect

20th Annual Torchbearer Leadership and Service Awards Ceremony

The ceremony goes on! The Torchbearer awards were announced through Instagram Story throughout the week of April 27th – May 1st. Staff presenters shared heartwarming videos congratulating the hard work of our student leaders this past year. If you missed the nominees and winners, you can find the information on the CLACS Torchbearer website:

<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/studentaffairs/CLACS/leadership-center/torchbearer.htm>

Virtual Commencement Celebration

Spring 2020 graduates were invited to participate in a virtual celebration of their achievements on May 7 and May 8. While nothing can substitute for the excitement of a live ceremony, we did our best to make it special for students and their families/friends. Each graduate had their own announcement slide with their Name, Degree, and Academic Honor designation they earned. In addition, graduates could opt to send a 12-second video, photo and quote. Over 400 graduates submitted these additional materials.

With a nod to tradition, the virtual ceremony included inspiring remarks by our Board of Trustees Chair, the President, Provost, Academic Deans, and an Alumni Representative. Each of the 2,160 graduates have the opportunity to download a 30-second clip of their virtual time "on stage". Many students planned virtual watch parties to share with their loved ones.

Here is a photo of one of our Student Affairs staff celebrating the virtual way. Congratulations to Deanna Goldthwait on her Master's Degree.

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Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

May, 2020



Deanna Goldthwait

LBGTQ+ Resource Center

Lavender Graduation

On May 6, Ferris State University celebrated its third Lavender Graduation. Lavender Graduation is the celebration of the achievements of graduating students in the LBGTQ+ and ally community. Although the LBGTQ+ Resource Center had planned for a Grand Rapids celebration and a Big Rapids celebration in 2020, the celebration was moved online in the wake of the pandemic. Faculty and staff of the Kendall College campus and the main Big Rapids campus, as well as an alum, sent in short congratulatory videos, and FSU community members joined the graduates' families and loved ones to celebrate each of the eight graduates. Sarah Doherty's speech notes are available on the LBGTQ+ RC facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/notes/ferris-lbgtq-resource-center/coordinator-notes-lavender-graduation-2020/656737578221014/>.

Multicultural Graduate Recognition Program

The Office of Multicultural Student Services in conjunction with the Center for Latin@ Studies and the Office of International Education sponsored its annual Multicultural Graduate Recognition Program on Thursday, May 7, via its first ever virtual format due to COVID-19. The event was a success due to the commitment of all 30 graduating seniors who participated. There was a host of faculty and staff who gave their support, submitted videos, made live congratulatory remarks, or shared words of wisdom that each graduate could use to assist them in being successful in their future careers. In addition, the office would like to also give a special thank you to President Eisler, Trustee Ana Ramirez-Saenz, Vice President Jeanine Ward-Roof, and Vice President David Pilgrim for their participation, special comments and encouraging words.

The Multicultural Graduate Recognition Program is an opportunity to recognize our students from diverse backgrounds that have earned an Associates, Bachelors, Masters or Doctorate Degree from Ferris State University. The event was created to celebrate and recognize students who have completed their educational journey, despite and in addition to their marginalized identities, experiences of social exclusion and under-representation. Additionally, the event aims to encourage graduates to continue to strive for excellence after graduation, as well as to inspire current students to continue to work hard on their educational goals.



Picture of a Previous Multicultural Graduation Recognition Ceremony

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UREC Engagement

University Recreation is continuing to engage users on their social media platforms with at home workout tips, activities to take part in during quarantine, and fun recipes to follow. You can find UREC on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @ FerrisUREC.

University Recreation has been engaging with students, community members and faculty/staff with a variety of free fitness offerings. Through Fitness on Demand, they have engaged 152 users which has resulted in over 300 workout videos being played for a total of more than 5,000 minutes of workouts.

UREC has also begun collaboration efforts with the Esports club to begin to offer Esports leagues and tournaments beginning the second week of June. They will be offering a variety of Esports from League of Legends to MLB Show Tournaments. These events will be offered via IMLeagues for registration purposes.

Thanks to all within the Division of Student Affairs for their work to move our operations remote and to continue to serve our students in new and innovative ways!

If you have any questions or need more information about items in this newsletter, please contact Jeanine Ward-Roof, Vice President for Student Affairs at jeanineward-roof@ferris.edu.