

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

September, 2020

NEW EMPLOYEES IN STUDENT AFFAIRS



Megan Bahlke is a Financial Aid Lifer! She comes to Ferris State with 5 years of Financial Aid experience from Alma College. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology from Central Michigan University and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Northwood University. Megan will be working with student loans. Megan enjoys reading, hiking and binge watching The Office.



Heather Stewart has rejoined the Financial Aid Office as a Financial Aid Advisor and will be working with scholarships. She had spent the last 3-1/2 years as a Campaign and Event Coordinator with Heritage Broadcasting of MI WWTW 9&10 News. Prior to that, she had worked in the Financial Aid office as a Financial Aid Assistant. She has a Bachelor of Science Business in Advertising from Ferris State University. Once a bulldog, always a bulldog! Heather's interests include gardening, listening to music, drinking coffee, completing home improvement projects and trying to embarrass her children.



Keontré Miskel joined the team of Admissions Recruiters on August 31st. Keontré has hit the ground running and is already diligently working on recruitment efforts and scheduling virtual high school visits for recruitment efforts in southeast Michigan. Prior to his time at Ferris, Keontré worked as a Behavior Specialist at North Godwin Elementary. Keontré has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Physical Education: Sports Leadership and a Master of Education in Higher Education, both from Grand Valley State University.

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Carlton Thompson joined the team of Admissions Recruiters on August 31st. Carlton may be a familiar face as he was a Student Admissions Representative (STAR) last year. Carlton is excited to work with prospective students from Southwest Michigan while recruiting for Ferris! Carlton has a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Ferris.



Laurie Mumby joined the Registrar's Office at the end of July as a Student Service Representative. Laurie is working with compliance related processes including total withdrawals and Title IV unofficial withdrawals. She will also provide back-up for other areas in the office. Before joining the Registrar's Office, Laurie worked in Extended and International Operations for three years and the College of Arts and Sciences for three years. Laurie is known for her amazing baked goods and creative cakes. Laurie and her husband operate Mum Bees Honey Farm.



Chelsea Nelson, RN, joined the Birkam Health Center team in August as a Registered Nurse. Chelsea graduated from Ferris in 2018 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She began her nursing career at Altercare in Big Rapids and worked for Spectrum Health as a charge nurse on the Medical/Surgical floor. She also enjoys her position as the Big Rapids High School Varsity Volleyball coach. She takes advantage of any spare time she may have by spending time outside hunting, fishing or simply relaxing with a cup of coffee on the deck. Chelsea recently began pursuing her Master's degree in Nursing with a focus on education. She is committed to lifelong learning and is very passionate about mental health. She is looking forward to having a positive impact on the students at Ferris.

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Dr. Rachael Williams joined the Birkam Health Center team in August and will serve as the Part-Time Supervising Physician. She will collaborate with the Birkam Health Center Nurse Practitioners providing clinical oversight, consultation and quality care assurance. Dr. Williams grew up in Big Rapids and attended medical school at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin, Ireland, completing her family practice residency in Midland, MI. Over the past 10 years practicing medicine, she has worked for the Indian Health Service, the Veterans Affairs Hospital, migrant health clinics and inner-city medical clinics. She opened her own practice in Big Rapids in 2018 as being a part of the BR community is very important to her. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, time with family and friends and traveling. We are honored to have her as a member of the Birkam Health Center team and look forward to the knowledge she will bring as a reference to the current clinical staff.



Ravin Hills has accepted the temporary position as Violence Prevention Coordinator and began her role remotely on August 24th. This unique, inaugural role in the Student Life area was launched with the Michigan Coalition to End Dating and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV), which amended the scope and potential of this role leading our awareness, education, and prevention efforts around sexual and interpersonal violence.

Ravin has a B.A. in Psychology from Williams College and a M.Sc. in Forensic Psychology from the University of York. She previously served as a Children and Youth Advocate/Prevention Education Advocate at the Safehouse Center in Ann Arbor.

TITLE IX

Sexual Misconduct Reporting Obligations Reminder

Thank you all for your continued support of our Title IX compliance efforts. Raising our collective awareness is critical in our efforts to create an educational and working environment that is free from sexual harassment and sexual misconduct. While our ultimate goal is to prevent such behavior, we are also committed to responding to all reports with appropriate action to address the harassment, remedy the effects, and prevent it from reoccurring. Please remember that all University employees have a duty to report sexual harassment and misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator or a Deputy Title IX Coordinator when they receive a report of such conduct or witness such conduct. Sexual misconduct includes allegations of sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking.

Please contact Kaitlin Zies at KaitlinZies@ferris.edu if you are interested in scheduling training for you or your department.

GRANT FUNDING

Anti-Violence Alliance (AVA)

The Ferris State Anti-violence Alliance received an additional \$450,000 in grant funds from the Michigan Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (MCEDSV) and the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women, Campus Programs Grant to continue to strengthen our response to crimes of sexual assault, domestic and dating violence, and stalking; to study the efficacy of our Bystander Intervention model; and to enhance collaboration across campus and statewide locations, local law enforcement, and victim advocacy organizations. For more information about the Anti-violence Alliance, please visit <https://fsuantiviolence.org/>.

Peer Success and Involvement Coach Program

The Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services has secured a \$10,000 Michigan Campus Access Network (MCAN) grant to fund a Peer Success and Coaching initiative. The grant was awarded to programs that were created in response to COVID-19 needs. The Peer Success Coaching program started August 1st with contacting 1480 FTIAC students to welcome them and answer questions. Nine Peer Coaches have already been selected and more will be added. Coaches will be working with students virtually and in-person, one-on-one and in groups. The program goals are to welcome, support, retain, and celebrate first year student involvement and success by

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helping students get connected quickly, join student organizations, discover involvement opportunities, and find ways to build their career essential skills.

The first “Becoming A Bulldog” First Year Transition Week took place the week of August 17th. Fifteen-plus virtual sessions were led by Peer Success Coaches on topics such as using Bulldog Connect, Joining Student Organizations, Finding Service Opportunities and discovering co-curricular experiences. Social activities also took place such as movie watching, icebreakers, and Bingo. At the end of the week, one student participant shared how grateful she was for the program.

“Thank you all SOO much for everything this past week! I have had so much fun and have met so many new people. I’ve also received really great advice from all of the mentors. I think that all of these events have made me feel a little more comfortable with my transition to Ferris!”

Peer Success Coaches will continue to connect with students throughout the first year. Along with answering questions and referring students to resources, coaches will focus on helping students set goals, create healthy routines, understand campus practices, attend events, attend study groups, and create a career action plan.

This retention-based program has a goal to increase FTIAC semester GPA, fall to spring retention and fall to fall retention. If you are interested in getting more information contact angelaroman@ferris.edu.

College Readiness and Success Assistance

Congratulations to a team from Enrollment Services who received a grant from MCAN (Michigan College Access Network) totaling \$8,000 to assist with the rising need of reliable internet services in college readiness and success. MCAN charged applicants with utilizing the funds to meet and prioritize the needs of minority, low income, and/or first-generation students. Working with IT Services, the team was able to identify areas on campus that would best serve these populations on campus and from the surrounding communities (Lots 1, 35, and 37).

Wireless Access Points will be installed at or upgraded at these locations to provide a strong enough signal that anyone parked in the parking lot could utilize the internet services. This would allow Ferris students to have somewhere to go outside of their rooms to complete assignments. Additionally, high school seniors from surrounding communities would have a reliable location to go to complete their FAFSA, college applications, or even a Zoom college visit.

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ADMISSIONS VISITS

Beginning in mid-July, Admissions resumed on-campus visits for prospective students and their families. Using multi-passenger golf carts, Admissions staff share information with our campus guests while providing a campus tour customized to the student's interests. Survey results from our guests in July & August indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the one-on-one visits with guests especially enjoying the personal attention.

For Fall semester 2020, the Office of Admissions is continuing its One-on-One campus visit program for prospective students. The program will continue through October and has expanded to include Saturdays. In addition to these visits, Admissions is hosting live virtual visits twice weekly with a live student panel for questions and answers. Visit plans for November and the winter months continue to be developed with a focus on expanding on-campus visit opportunities as much as can be done safely for all students, visitors, faculty and staff.

RECRUITMENT PLANS

Traditionally in early September, the Admissions Recruiters would be finalizing travel plans and hotel reservations for the fall travel season. With many schools limiting visitors to their schools and college fairs being cancelled, things are feeling and looking different for fall. Although most travel plans have been halted due to COVID, our team is diligently working with our high school partners to coordinate virtual visits with prospective Ferris students and share all the great things that Ferris has to offer. The team is also participating and representing Ferris through a variety of virtual college fairs hosted nationally as well as across the state of Michigan.

TESTING LAB MOVED TO THE UNIVERSITY CENTER

The Testing Lab that was located in the Timme Building (313) has been relocated temporarily for Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 to the lower level of the University Center (UC 016). They are now open for testing and their hours are 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with the office closing from 12:30-1:30 for lunch. Questions can be answered by calling 231-591-3628 or emailing testingoffice@ferris.edu. If a student would like to sign up for a CLEP exam, they can do so by calling the office or by visiting the online registration at <https://www.ferris.edu/admissions/testing/register.cfm>.

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS

The First Impressions initiative, organized and led by Mark Schuelke, Shana Beisiegel, and Angela Palmer, continues to be a successful way to make a positive first impression to our first-year students, parents, grandparents, and guests at Ferris State University. Approximately 36 Ferris faculty, staff, and alumni volunteered to greet and welcome guests to campus during check-in and move-in for our residence hall students. This year, to accommodate the move-in schedule of the residence halls, two additional days were added to the First Impressions schedule, for a total of four days of service. The First Impression tents were strategically placed throughout campus to be available for the most populated areas on each given specific day. Our volunteers were on hand at each location to greet visitors, answer questions, and most importantly, welcome our students to their new home. Thank you to everyone who made this year's First Impression initiative successful!

D.E.A.L

The Office of Multicultural Student Services in collaboration with the Center for Latin@ Studies, LEAD by Design and TIP Programs hosted an early move in living and learning community this summer called the D.E.A.L (Diversity enhancement, Engagement experiences, Academic enhancement and Leadership Skills). There were 55 students who began the hybrid program on Monday August 24th with two days of virtual workshops focused on academic success and college readiness. Some of the key workshops included presentations from the Academic Literacies Center as well as Math, English, and Reading Professors. Additionally, the students participated in a cultural diversity presentation. After settling into their residence halls for the semester, students participated in small group, outdoor and socially distanced activities. The connections between DEAL students will continue throughout the academic year as students live and learn together in McNerney Hall.

BLACK STUDENT WELCOME

The Office of Multicultural Student Services sponsored its annual Black Student Welcome event on Friday, August 28. Over 25 students participated in this year's virtual event that aimed to support students who identify as Black/African American and to welcome them to campus and help build a sense of belonging, community, and pride in Ferris State University. In addition, students were exposed early to campus resources and faculty and staff who will assist them in achieving academic success.

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OMSS ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE

The Office of Multicultural Student Services hosted its Annual Open House virtually on September 2nd. Students had the opportunity to meet staff, learn about volunteer opportunities, upcoming events and leadership development programs, including TOWERS and BMEN. About 30 students and staff members participated in the event. Two students earned gift cards to Starbucks for winning an OMSS trivia Kahoot game.

“KNOW YOUR RIGHTS” PANEL

The Office of Multicultural Students Services and Black Greek Council hosted the “Know Your Rights” Panel and Discussion on September 16 as part of their Black Lives Matter Series. A panel of law enforcement and professionals educated students on their rights, options, and responsibilities when interacting with police officers. The panelists also addressed mass incarceration of Black men, the school to prison pipeline, community policing, and progress moving forward. Twenty students and staff members participated in the event. The panelists included Mrs. Victoria Burton-Harris, Esq. Defense Attorney at McCaskey Law, LLC; Chief Anthony Holt, Wayne State University Police Chief; Mr. Quron Wheeler, Flint (MI) Police Officer; and Mr. Fernandez Massenberg, retired New Jersey State Police Officer.

STUDENT RECREATION CENTER IS BACK OPEN!

The University Recreation Center is so excited to announce that they are back open! Due to the limited spaces available in each workout area, students are encouraged to reserve a space ahead of time to guarantee their area of choice. Students will have to check-in at the front desk and again at the location they have reserved. Each workout session is 45 minutes long and must take place in the same space for the entire 45 minutes. After 45 minutes, each area will be cleared out and cleaned. Students may reserve back-to-back workout times, but will still be asked to leave the area during the cleaning period.

To make a reservation, students should the following

link: <https://ferrisstateurec.ezfacility.com/Sessions>

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FITNESS OPPORTUNITIES

University Recreation has teamed up with an App called F45 to bring our students and members an in-home workout experience. This App offers much more than at home workouts. Through this platform, one can receive nutritional advice, healthy recipes, goal tracking, a 45-day global challenge and much more. Download the app, and create an account using your @ferris.edu email, or go online at <https://f45challenge.com> to create an account and explore all the options.

University Recreation has also created an outdoor group fitness program schedule for all students and members to attend. This schedule includes group run times, high intensity interval training and ab classes. Please visit the website <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/u-rec/Fitness.htm> for the full schedule.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Intramural Sports is still being offered this Fall. They have transitioned from the typical team sports to individual and small team sports. Both in person and virtual opportunities for intramural sport participation is offered. For a full list of intramural opportunities, please visit imleagues.com/ferris or visit the intramural section of UREC's website <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/u-rec/students/intramurals/>

CLUB SPORTS

There are still club sport opportunities this Fall for those students looking to join a club. At this time trainings and practices can still take place outside. For more club sport information, visit our club sport section of our website <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/u-rec/students/clubsports/>