

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

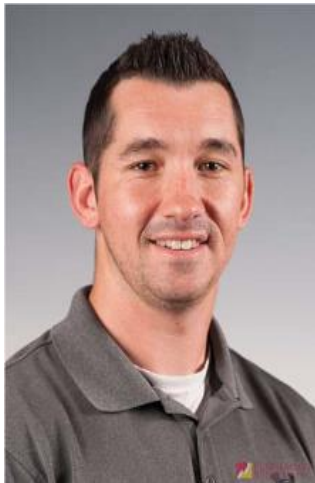
February, 2020

## New Staff Members



**Janitza Sawyer-Ocasio** joined the Registrar's Office in November as a Student Service Representative 3; however, she has been working at Ferris since May 2016. She was born and raised in Puerto Rico and moved to Michigan after receiving a scholarship to attend Alma College, where she earned her bachelor's degree.

Janitza is currently working on earning a Creative Writing Certificate here at Ferris. When she is not writing, you can find her dancing, anywhere and everywhere! Janitza says that the best and (literally) most breathtaking place she has danced on was at the top of the Cotopaxi volcano in Quito, Ecuador, at an altitude of 19,347 feet, during her semester abroad at Alma.



**Justin Harden** was selected through a national search to serve as our next Director of University Recreation & Wellness Programs!

As Director, Justin will oversee the day to day operations of our UREC programs; including management of our campus recreation facilities and operations, personnel, and budget. In addition, he will be responsible for evolving our fitness and recreation programs and services (including intramurals and club sports, fitness, wellness, aquatics, the rock wall, and outdoor programs) to best meet the needs and interests of our students, as well as support university-wide initiatives and events pertaining to student wellness.

For the past three years, Justin did a fantastic job leading our Intramural and Club Sports programs. His demonstrated leadership, personal knowledge, passion and enthusiasm makes him a natural fit to now lead UREC. We are excited to welcome Justin to a different position on the team and to learn more about the vision he brings to this new role. Please join us in congratulating Justin as we look forward to many great new programs, services, and invitations to collaborate in supporting the overall well-being and success of our students.

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February, 2020



**Stoney Hart** joined University Recreation on January 13<sup>th</sup> as the Associate Director for Competitive Sports and Facilities. Stoney graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Health, Physical Education, and Recreation and a Masters' in Education with a concentration of Sports Management. He's been involved in both campus recreation and city recreation for the past nine years. Stoney served as the Intramural and Event Coordinator at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, the Recreational Sports Director at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College and was the Recreation Program Manager for the city of Peachtree Georgia.

Stoney will be overseeing all aspects of the competitive sports program for University Recreation (intramural and club sports). He will also be overseeing the daily operations of the Student Recreation Center.



**Darnell Lewis** is the new Assistant Director for the Office of Multicultural Student Services. Mr. Lewis will coordinate the OMSS cultural programs and events; co-facilitate the Teaching Others What Establishes Real Success (T.O.W.E.R.S) Leadership Development Program and the Black Male Empowerment Network (B.M.E.N); serve as the OMSS liaison on campus-wide committees focused on multiculturalism, diversity and inclusion, leadership development, minority recruitment and retention; and serve as Advisor/Co-Advisor for RSO's affiliated with OMSS.

Darnell's interest in higher education began as a student leader for the GEAR UP program in the Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives at the University of Michigan. He is a two-time alumnus of the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and with a Master's in Social Work. Darnell spent several years as a school social worker in the K-12 education system in Metro-Detroit. He also has a clinical background as a therapist in the residential and juvenile justice systems. Darnell is currently pursuing an administrator certificate in Educational Leadership at Grand Valley State University.

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February, 2020



**Tom Morris** joined the University Center staff as the Set-Up Coordinator on January 12, 2020. He has been employed by Ferris State University for the past 16 years in various capacities. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a mathematics major from Central Michigan University. He also has a Sport Pilot license and enjoys flying his Trike. Tom is an active member of St. Mary-St. Paul Parish.

## Student Recreation Center: What's New at the Pool?

We are excited to announce that our swim lesson program is back!

The swim program has been redesigned to progressively teach swimmers the skills they need to become better swimmers. At the end of every session, swimmers will be evaluated to see if they have completed all skill requirements to advance to the next level. New students who have some swim skills are offered a complimentary swim assessment to determine the appropriate level to start. Swim assessments will be offered at pre-scheduled times. Please contact the Aquatics Coordinator if you are interested.

Pricing:

### **INFANT AND TODDLER CLASS:**

Once a week for 30 minutes  
\$35/ session (4 week sessions)

\* Parents are required to be in the water with their child

### **SWIM LESSONS (LEVELS 1-5):**

Once a week for 30 minutes  
\$45/ session (4 week sessions)

### **ADVANCED SWIM LESSONS:**

Twice a week for 1 hour  
\$85/ session (4 week sessions)

Please let the Aquatics Coordinator, Anna Douglas, know if you have any further questions, or if you would like to sign up for a swim assessment. You can email Anna at [annadouglas@ferris.edu](mailto:annadouglas@ferris.edu).

Happy Swimming!

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February 2020

## CLACS – Center for Leadership, Activities and Career Services

The CLACS office has been busy planning events for the upcoming Spring semester. The list of events, with dates, times, and locations is as follows:

Event	Date	Time	Location
Five Star Event: Chris Singleton - Charleston Church Shooting	1/30	7pm	UCB 202
Fridays at Ferris: Winter Warm-Up	1/31	9-11pm	UCB Main Floor
Fridays at Ferris: Headphone Disco	2/7	9-11pm	UCB 202
Spring Career and Internship Fair	2/20	11am-3pm	Ewigleben Sports Complex
Five Star Event: Ryan Tilman - Bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community	2/20	7pm	UCB 202
Fridays at Ferris: Comedy Magician Trent James	2/21	9-11pm	UCB 202
Diversity and Inclusion Summit	2/27	7-9pm	UCB (various rooms)
Five Star Event: Patrick Van Horn - Self-Protection and Situational Awareness	3/19	7pm	UCB 202
Fridays at Ferris: Casino for a Cause	3/20	9-11pm	UCB 202
Leadership Conference	3/22	3-5pm	UCB (various rooms)
Fridays at Ferris: Chef Challenge	3/27	9-11pm	UCB (TBD)
Five Star Event: Inez Bordeaux - ArchCity Defenders	4/2	7pm	UCB 202
Fridays at Ferris: Fashion Show	4/3	9-11pm	UCB 202
Music Takes Action	4/4	7pm	Wink Arena
Five Star Event: Tim Mousseau - Sexual Violence Prevention and Masculinity	4/14	7pm	Williams Auditorium
Fridays at Ferris: Cincinnati Circus Sideshow	4/24	5pm-11pm	Quad Stage
Torchbearer Leadership and Service Awards Ceremony	4/28	7pm	UCB 202
LeaderShape	5/12-5/15	All Day	The Shack

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February 2020

## Bulldog Connect

A popular new event feature in Bulldog Connect is “Tags.” This feature entices people to attend an event based on the tag the event planner chooses. Some examples include Free Admission, Free Food, Music, Family Friendly, Giveaways, Five Star, and Bulldog Beginnings.

Bulldog Connect continues to capture student engagement. Below is a snapshot of student engagement activity for the Fall 2019 semester (8/22/19-12/11/19), which include all current students and faculty/staff:

- 174: Activities with Attendance Recorded in Bulldog Connect
- 13,412: Total Number of Attendees
- 5018: Unique Attendees
- 77.08: Average Attendees per Activity

## Student United Way Fundraising Exceeds Goal

The Student United Way Campaign led by Meagan Tran, CLACS Volunteer Center student staff member, exceeded its annual goal of \$3000. With coordination of 15 activities and 7 groups, the students and staff raised a grand total of \$5168.29 in contributions of money and goods. Great job and thank you to everyone especially the following organizations.

- Homecoming Committee
- Student Government Association
- Student Life Sober Tailgates
- Pi Kappa Alpha
- Student Fashion Alliance
- Entertainment Unlimited
- Zeta Tau Alpha

Below are Pi Kappa Alpha members presenting their check to Betty Seelye, Executive Director of the Mecosta-Osceola Area United Way.



Picture: Provided by Ashley Schulte

## Therapy Assisted Online (TAO)

The Personal Counseling Center is officially launching TAO (Therapy Assisted Online) as a new mental health resource for students. TAO is an online library of engaging, interactive programs to learn life skills for better relationships, overcoming anxiety & depression as well as other common mental health concerns. Students can access TAO on their own by visiting the Personal Counseling Center website (<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/studentlife/PersonalCounseling/>) and

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February 2020

following the links to TAO Self-Help. Employees at Ferris also have access to TAO Self-Help and are encouraged to explore the program, even to become familiar with the offerings to help students navigate as needed. Access is gained the same way through the PCC website.

## Transfer Portal

A cross-divisional team led by Kristen Salomonson (Dean of Enrollment Services) and Jason Bentley (Dean of Retention and Student Success) is implementing the Transfer Portal - an EAB product. It is designed to assist transfer students estimate how many of their credits will transfer to Ferris programs. Using Ferris' data from Banner and MyDegree Audit, the Portal offers prospective students credit estimates immediately, recommendations for their best-fit majors, and customized application support to guide them step-by-step through the enrollment process. It will also help empower admissions staff to reach out to transfer prospects once they've used the portal. We are looking to go live in March of 2020.

## Commencement

Our Fall Commencement was held on Saturday, December 14th. A total of 436 graduates walked across the stage and 111 faculty members participated in the December's Commencement

ceremonies. Over 1,700 handshakes were given as the graduates crossed the stage. The Social Media Wall was also introduced this year. A lot of positive feedback was received with 83.8% of the posts coming through Twitter and 15.2% coming through Instagram. The Social Media Wall will also be included in the Spring ceremonies.



## New Opportunities for Registered Student Organizations (RSOs)



**RSO Pit Stop** - Don't have time to go to an hour-long workshop?

Make a quick Pit Stop to tune up your RSO! The Pit Stop will last 15 minutes or less and give quick, interactive advice on a variety of topics. Upcoming topics include how to create a form or update your profile in Bulldog Connect, how to apply for a Finance Division grant, member recruitment strategies, and more. Check [Bulldog Connect](#) for upcoming dates.

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February 2020

**RSO Trades** - CLACS is now coordinating opportunities for RSOs to work together and share resources.

- Does your RSO need additional resources or training?
- Does your RSO have skills and services to share with other RSOs?
- Maybe your RSO has great recruitment strategies that it would share with others or could provide services at a lower cost than an outside vendor?

The monthly RSO newsletter will showcase the services and opportunities.

## **Diversity and Inclusion Summit**

Join a variety of professional faculty/staff from Ferris as they discover, discuss, and get motivated to support the [University's core value of diversity](#) in our everyday lives and as we lead student organizations.

There will be a keynote welcome by Dr. David Pilgrim, concurrent sessions with a variety of topics to choose from, and a panel discussion to answer questions about how you and your student organization can make an impact. The Summit will be held on Thursday February 27, from 7:00-9:00 pm in the University Center Ballroom. It is free and open to all. Refreshments will be available, and no RSVP is required.

## **LeaderShape**

From January 12-17, 2020, Nicholas Campau served as a Co-Lead Facilitator for a campus-based LeaderShape Institute with Martha Ellen Florence (Nebraska PBS) for 57 students and 6 faculty/staff members from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. The LeaderShape Institute is a six day interactive, immersive, and intensive institute-focused event centered around **creating a just, caring, and thriving world where all will lead with integrity and display a healthy disregard for the impossible.** Participants are taught this through the LeaderShape definition of leadership, which states that “leadership involves living in a state of possibility, making a commitment to a vision, developing relationships to move the vision into action, and sustaining a high level of integrity. Effective leadership takes place in the context of a community and results in a more equitable society.”



# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February 2020

Ferris State University will be hosting our 5<sup>th</sup> LeaderShape Institute this May. To learn more about the program, refer students to participate, or to serve as part of the faculty team, contact Angela Roman in the Center for Leadership, Activities, and Career Services at [AngelaRoman@ferris.edu](mailto:AngelaRoman@ferris.edu) or visit [LeaderShape.org](http://LeaderShape.org).



## Crimson and Gold

The Crimson and Gold team recently completed their first fall semester visit program. After receiving the Distinguished Team Award, the organizers, Arielle Miller and Jessica Davison, expanded the program for the Fall 2019 semester. For the first time non-accepted high school seniors were also able to participate in the visit program. The Crimson and Gold program resumed in January 2020 and the staff is excited to welcome potential students for a visit.

## Title IX

Over the course of the 2019 calendar year, Kaitlin Zies and Kylie Piette facilitated 28 in person sessions of Responsible Employee Training. Thank you to all who attended or sponsored a responsible employee training session! As we begin a new calendar year, please do not hesitate to contact Kaitlin Zies ([kaitlinzies@ferris.edu](mailto:kaitlinzies@ferris.edu)) to schedule a session for this year.

## Stalking Awareness Week

**Stalking Awareness Week** at Ferris is January 26-31, 2020 and the lineup of events is attached in a graphic to share. For full program details visit: <https://ferris.presence.io/organization/anti-violence-alliance-ava>.

STALKING AWARENESS WEEK	
Join the Anti-Violence Alliance for a series of events and workshops, discussing the dangers of stalking.	
Monday, Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup> 11AM-1PM	Cyberstalking Tabling Event First Floor UC, Across from Starbucks
Tuesday, Jan. 28 <sup>th</sup> 7PM-8PM	YOU Netflix Stalking Awareness Discussion UC 217
Wednesday, Jan. 29 <sup>th</sup> 11AM-1PM	Stalking Awareness Tabling Event First Floor UC, Across from Starbucks
Thursday, Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup> 7PM-8PM	Stalking Awareness Workshop UC 217



# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February 2020

## Wellness Wednesdays

Wellness Wednesdays focus on the Seven Dimensions of Wellness and run approximately every other week on Wednesdays from 11:00 am-1:00 pm in the University Center Rankin Atrium. This semester the schedule is as follows.

- JAN 29: Stalking Awareness (see article on above prior for details) (Anti-Violence Alliance)
- FEB 12: Love Your Body Week (University Recreation)
- FEB 26: Eating Disorders (Personal Counseling Center)
- MAR 4: Travel/Spring Break Safety (Department of Public Safety)
- MAR 18: Alcohol Awareness (CREW/Student Life)
- APRIL 1: Sexual Assault Awareness (Anti-Violence Alliance/Title IX)
- APRIL 15: Organ Donation (Volunteer Center)
- APRIL 22: Earth Day/Sustainable Practices (Wellness Wednesday Committee)
- APRIL 29: Exam Destressor/Wellbeing During Academic Stress (TBA)

## Orientation

New Student Orientation registration has begun for Fall 2020. Students can register using their student ID and date of birth by going to [ferris.edu](http://ferris.edu) and clicking the 'orientation' tile. The agenda is also viewable on that page.

## Gala 2019

On November 1, Student Affairs was well represented at the 2019 Ferris Foundation for Excellence Gala by Veterans Services, Orientation, Student Admissions, Birkam Health Center, Personal Counseling Center, Office of Multicultural Student Services, CLACS, Greek Life, LGBTQ+ Center, University Recreation as well as Student Government. Teams brought large displays and interacted with alumni and supporters of Ferris about all that we offer our students. Many photos were taken under the photo archway, and guests were impressed with all that incoming and current students are offered at Ferris.



# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Division of Student Affairs Newsletter

February 2020

## Let's End Sexual Assault Summit

On December 2, Ferris State University was represented at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Let's End Sexual Assault Summit hosted by the Governor's Office. Staff from Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and a student from the Anti-Violence Coalition attended the summit. Governor Gretchen Whitmer was the keynote speaker and shared her personal story as a sexual assault survivor and the work that still lays ahead to prevent sexual assaults on campus.



Attendees at the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Let's End Sexual Assault Summit (left to right): Leonardo Almanza, Elizabeth Tomaro, Kaitlin Zies, Jocelyn Goheen, Ashley Schulte, Marie Yowitz, Andy Slater, Nicholas Campau and Joy Pulsifer.

## OMSS –Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

The Office of Multicultural Student Services sponsored its annual events honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday, January 20. This year's celebration kept with tradition with the office hosting their 34<sup>th</sup> annual MLK Freedom March and MLK Student Tribute programs. Each event had over 250 participants who joined in the celebration to keep Dr. King's dream and legacy alive on the campus of Ferris State University. This year's MLK Student Tribute Program featured a special talk and performance by Mike Ellison, a multifaceted Executive Artist, musician, actor and producer. Ellison has released independent records and headlined national tours, while registering acting credits spanning film, television, and theater. Ellison's MLK presentation was a blend of culture, commentary, history and hip-hop, spoken word, and storytelling. As always, this year's celebration was enjoyed by students, faculty, staff, and the local community.