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President's Post



Social Life in the Age of Facebook

Every era in a country's history acquires a tagline – the Age of _____. The period of James Monroe's presidency (1817-25) became known as the "Era of Good Feelings" from its lack of intra-party political rivalry. The post-Civil War period of economic expansion and prosperity was called "The Gilded Age" in a book by Mark Twain and Charles Dudley Warner, and the name stuck. The anti-Communist reaction after World War II became known as "The McCarthy Era" after one of its political leaders, Senator Joseph McCarthy of Wisconsin. Typically, the nickname captures an essential quality of the time. We are living in what may be called "The Age of Facebook."

First, a few facts, from various articles accessed via Google:

- At the end of 2004, Facebook users numbered one million. At the end of 2019, there were 2.5 billion – 1/3 of the world's population.
- Americans on Facebook number 221 million – 68% of the population.
- The average Facebook user has 338 friends.
- 96% of Facebook users access it from

their mobile phones.

- Until 2010, females were the majority of Facebook users; in 2020, 57% were male.
- The average age of Facebook users in 2019 was 40; in 2013 it was 30.
- 74% of US Facebook users log on in any given day, and the average American spends 41 minutes daily on Facebook.
- In 2020, 300 million photos are posted on Facebook every day.

The voluntary and spontaneous use by so many people of a free Internet-based service means something gigantic is afoot. My daughter reminds me from time to time that "if a website is free, it means you're the product," and we all know that Facebook makes money by mining data about its users, but we continue to make it part of our lives. What unique thing does Facebook add to our lives?

The ultimate answer to this question will take decades to determine, and perhaps by that time Facebook, along with big-box stores, will be something that Americans used to do, but as a user who is older than average, has more Facebook friends than average, and spends more than the average 40 minutes a day on Facebook, I have a few speculative thoughts, based, of course, on my own experience:

- Facebook offers a way to keep in touch with people from all parts of your life. More than half of my 812 Facebook friends are part of my 30-year life at Ferris and in Big Rapids, but many are family members, hometown/K-12 friends, or friends from school. A surprising number

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President's Post, continued from Page 1

are people I have never met except through Facebook itself.

- Facebook allows you to share thoughts, life events, and photos with all of your Facebook friends, just a few, or just one. This quality of immediacy, a kind of dailyness, is possible because messages can be sent so quickly and with much less fuss than writing a letter, sending a fax, or composing an e-mail.
- Facebook has created a new kind of friendship. In the B.F (Before Facebook) years, even a person who was very systematic about keeping up friendships lost touch with people in their lives simply because the new that happens in any given day crowds out the old. Facebook allows us to hold on to those people, even if it is only to wish them a happy birthday or laugh at a joke they post. We acknowledge that we may never see them again, but through Facebook they remain a part of our lives.

So, without being unduly conscious about it, we millions of Facebook users have entered a new era in human life, and for the most part, we have done it with enthusiasm. Many Ferris emeriti have Facebook pages. Some are online all the time, some post only infrequently, and some post so rarely that you are surprised to hear from them. Now that I'm retired, I am a committed user. When I wake up, I check my messages; I check them throughout the day; and before I go to bed, I check them again. Yes, I'm a Facebook Addict. I don't want to lose touch with the people in my life, and I don't want them to lose touch with me. So, Facebook, thanks for everything, and I'll try to avoid being unduly crabby or silly in public because I know that anything I put on Facebook never goes away.

Note: An earlier and somewhat different version of this column was published in the Big Rapids *Pioneer* in 2013.

— Doug



Way to go emeriti! Contributors to this year's FSU United Way Campaign who designated their affiliation as FSU Emeriti contributed a total of \$5,885.00 to the 2019-2020 campaign. This is the highest total since we began encouraging our members to join the university campaign in 2016. Emeriti group contributions totaled 10.7% of the university's goal of \$55,000. You are helping many local agencies to help others.

Reminder: The Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting of the FSU Emeriti Association will be held at the University Center Ballroom, rooms UC202 A&B. The Rock Cafe is undergoing renovations during this period, so we are relocating to the University Center. Since it is term break for the University, ample parking should be available in Lot 1 immediately northeast of the building (enter off Campus Drive from Ives Avenue).



From the Social Media Coordinator

We are looking to enrich our media sites (Facebook/web page). To do that we would like Ferris emeriti to submit pictures, stories and information about things that Emeriti are doing. People that have them can email them to me or upload them onto our Facebook page. In either case a description of the activity should be included. Thanks,

MaryKay MacIver

MaryKayMacIver@ferris.edu

The emeriti web page can be found here

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/Emeriti/>

And the Facebook page can be found here

<https://www.facebook.com/FSUEA>



One Day for Dawgs

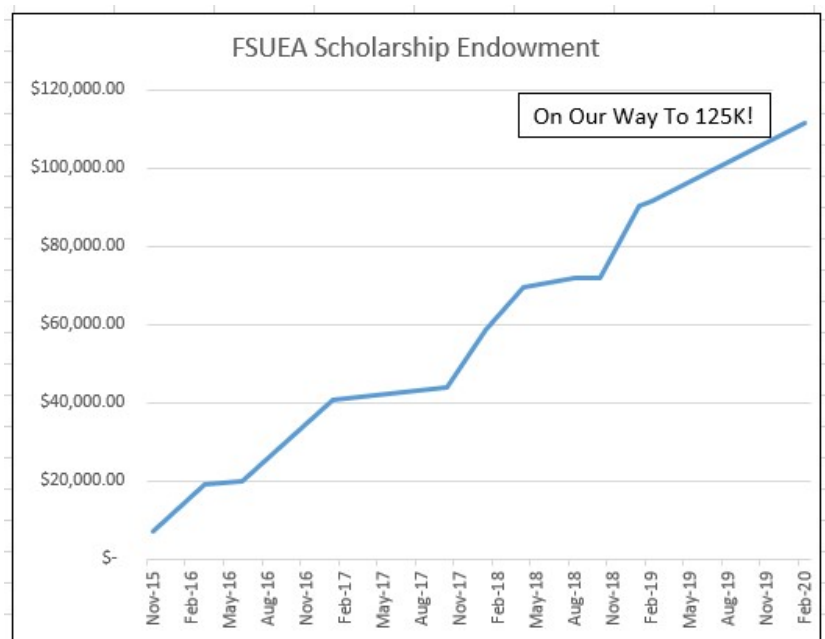
SAVE THE DATE!! April 22nd is the annual “One Day for Dawgs” event, which is the annual Ferris giving day. The event is a 24-hour online fundraising event that celebrates philanthropy, collaboration, community and Bulldog pride. Multiple causes will be featured ***including for the first time, our own Emeriti Association Scholarship Endowment!*** This is a great opportunity for us to feature our endowment to the entire Ferris network of faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends. And we have the opportunity to have all donations to our endowment matched by The Ferris Foundation, no matter how small! Last year more than 1,000 donors from across the world raised over \$94,000 for 35 causes. The “One Day for Dawgs” event has become a statement about the power, drive and determination of the Ferris community of which we are a part and how we impact our students every day. Stay tuned to our Emeriti Association website for more information at <https://www.ferris.edu/alumni/emeriti>. You have 2 options to participate: 1) go online April 22nd to the One Day for Dawgs site, and use a credit card to donate. You will be able to designate that your donation goes to the FSUEA Scholarship Endowment, or 2) make out a check to The Ferris Foundation, and indicate in the memo line “One Day for Dawgs” and “FSUEA Scholarship”. Mail it to **The Emeriti Office, PRK 101, 420 Oak Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307**. Just like our December “bucket campaign”, your donation will have twice the impact.

FSUEA Scholarship Endowment Update

Congratulations, Emeriti! We surpassed the \$100,000 mark as we closed the 2019 calendar year with another successful “bucket campaign”.

In the November newsletter, we reported that the fund balance was \$96,883.00 as of September 26, 2019, and as of January 31, 2020 it is \$111,773.00. We have had sufficient funds on deposit long enough to enable two scholarship awards to be given in FY 2021.

Bob Carter, Chair FSUEA Fundraising Committee



The Tucson, AZ area emeriti gathered at the Golden Corral on February 6 for their annual luncheon

Granting of Emeriti Status by the FSU Board of Trustees

As of 2/26/2020

Briggs, Lianne – Professor, Sports Entertainment Hospitality Management, August 17, 2020

Cook, Teresa – Professor, Accountancy Finance and Information Systems, May 11, 2020

Dekoster, Mark – Assistant Professor, Automotive Management, May 11, 2020

Duddles, Janice – Auxiliary Enterprises Assistant, Auxiliary Enterprise, November 1, 2019

Eberts, Larrey – Set-up Coordinator, Business Services, December 13, 2019

Gerber, Gary – Associate Professor, Architecture and Facility Management, May 11, 2020

Korcak, Michael – Assistant Professor, HVACR, May 10, 2021

Larabel, Thomas – ICET Director, Construction, June 30, 2020

Nagelkirk, Diane – Program Coordinator/Professor, Architecture and Facility Management, August 14, 2020

Pedelty, Jane – Copy Center Supervisor, Copy Center, November 15, 2019

Samuels, Wendy – Professor, A&S Deans Office, July 31, 2020

Bitzinger, William H. – Manager of Photographic Services, June 30, 2020

Eberle, Suzanne – Professor, Kendall College of Art and Design, May 9, 2020

Halm, Theodore – Web Content Manager, University Advancement & Marketing, June 30, 2020

Kuk, Linda – Senior Academic Advisor, College of Health Professions, February 28, 2020

Motz, Kristen – Librarian/Professor, FLITE Administration, January 3, 2020

Stocking, Murry – Assistant Professor, Electrical/CNS, August 14, 2019

Stratton, Steven – Director of Labor Relations, Government Relations Administration, January 31, 2020

Waltz, Aaron – Associate Professor, Sports Entertainment Hospitality Management, January 3, 2020

Staying in touch



Are you interested in receiving communications from the bargaining unit you participated in while employed at Ferris? Contact the unit representatives below for information on how to stay in touch.

AFSCME Local 1609	Jim McIntyre	231-591-2602	JamesMcIntyre@ferris.edu
Clerical Technical Association	Marie Delamater	231-591-3662	MarieDelamater@ferris.edu
Ferris Faculty Association	Charles Bacon	231-591-2586	CharlesBacon@ferris.edu
Kendall Faculty Association	Adam DeKraker	616-451-2787	AdamDeKraker@ferris.edu
POLC I (Public Safety Officers)	Aaron Humphreys	231-591-5000	AaronHumphreys@ferris.edu
POLC II (Public Safety Supervisors)	Diana Hepler	231-591-5000	DianaHepler@ferris.edu
Teamsters Local 214 (RN's)	Melissa Sprague	231-591-2614	MelissaSprague@ferris.edu

Report from the Events Committee



The annual winter Soup Talk was attended by 19 at the United Church on February 12. Delicious soups and good conversation were enjoyed and many to-go bowls were taken home!

Next up is the Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting of the FSU Emeriti Association, which will include election of board members to new terms. Please contact Nominating Committee chair Jerena Keys if you are interested in serving on the Emeriti Board of Directors. This is scheduled for May 13, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. at the **University Center Ballroom, UC 202 A&B**. Park in Lot 1 northeast of the building. You access that lot off Campus Drive from Ives Avenue.

Mark your calendar for the Summer Picnic at Hemlock Park's Pavilion on Wednesday, August 12 starting at 11:30 a.m.

FSUEA President's Office Hours

President Doug Haneline keeps regular office hours on campus in Prakken 114, should you wish to meet with him. Between now and June 1, he is scheduled Tuesdays 1-4 : 3/10, 3/17, 4/14, 4/21, 5/12, 5/19 . He will be in the office 1-4 on the Mondays that the full Board meets: March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1. Please call first at 231.591.3815 to be sure there have not been any unforeseen changes.

The SECURE Act Brings Changes to Retirement Plans

The SECURE Act was enacted January 1, 2020 and includes the most significant changes to retirement plans since 2006. Some of the changes will affect our members including:

- The required minimum distribution (RMD) age changed from 70 ½ to 72 for those who did not turn 70 ½ in 2019.
- Non-spousal IRA beneficiary rules have changed. If anyone other than your spouse is a beneficiary, they must now withdraw the entire amount within 10 years instead of stretching it out over their lifetime.
- If you are still working actively in a second career after Ferris, you can contribute to your IRA longer. The 70 ½ rule goes away for anyone who has wage income.

Rules that have stayed the same include:

- Your spouse's ability to continue to withdraw from the account throughout their lifetime.
- You can still withdraw funds starting at 59 ½ without penalty.
- Those who are 70 ½ or older can still make a tax-free gift of up to \$100,000 from their IRA to a qualified charitable organization without paying income tax on the withdrawal.

Be sure to make an appointment with your financial advisor if you have any questions regarding the impact of the SECURE Act on your situation. The Ferris Foundation offers a free resource "Your Guide to Working With a Financial Advisor." Contact Robert Murray at RobertMurray@ferris.edu to receive a copy or call 231-591-2365.

Events Calendar



Upcoming Events March, 2020 – August, 2020

- March 2 - Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., Prakken 114
- March 11 - Florida Emeriti Luncheon, Mattison's 41 Restaurant, 12:30 p.m.
- April 6 - Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., Prakken 114
- April 8 - Florida Emeriti Luncheon, Mattison's 41 Restaurant, 12:30 p.m.
- April 17 - New Emeriti Reception, University Center 213. 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- May 4 - Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., Prakken 114
- May 13 - Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., [University Center 202 A&B](#)
- June 1 - Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., Prakken 114
- August 3 - Board meeting, 10:00 a.m., Prakken 114
- August 12 - Emeriti Summer Picnic, Hemlock Park Pavilion, 11:30a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All FSUEA Board meetings are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and held in Prakken 114

FSUEA Officers

2019-2020

Doug Haneline, President
Ferris State University
420 Oak Street, PRK 101
Big Rapids, MI 49307
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1-4 in PRK
114; **exception: Monday 1-4 on
Board meeting days; see p. 5 for
specifics**

FSU Emeriti Association
Office: PRK 114
Phone: 231.591.3815
Email: FSUEA@ferris.edu or
hanelind@ferris.edu



The Board meets the first or second Monday of the month year round

Officers

President	Doug Haneline	hanelind@ferris.edu
Vice-President	Jerena Keys	jerenakeys@ferris.edu
Secretary	Jeff Nagelbush	nagelbuj@ferris.edu
Treasurer	Randy Vance	randyvance@ferris.edu

Committee Chairs and Directors

Newsletter Editor	Randy Vance	randyvance@ferris.edu
Membership	Barb Johnson	nb_johnson@charter.net
Social Media Coordinator	MaryKay MacIver	maciverm@ferris.edu
Publicity	MaryKay MacIver	maciverm@ferris.edu
Service	Jim Jacobs	jacobsj418@yahoo.com
Events	Jerena Keys	jerenakeys@ferris.edu
Director-Professional Concerns	Bob Krueger	kruegerr@ferris.edu
Director-Professional Concerns	Bob Friar	robertfriar@ferris.edu
Fundraising Committee	Bob Carter	cadimstr@aol.com

In Memoriam: Current Faculty/Staff and Emeriti Deaths, September 2019 — February 2020

Emeriti:

10/18/2019 Ruth Dachoff, Associate Member
10/21/2019 Mr. Chuck Spaulding
11/03/2019 Dr. Bob Ewigleben
11/11/2019 Mrs. Jackie Perrin
11/29/2019 Mrs. Earline Smith
12/05/2019 Mr. Richard Reed
12/28/2019 Dr. Marilyn Clark

2/05/2020 Dr. Phillip Martell
2/06/2020 Mr. Rick Bearden
2/07/2020 Mr. Gordon Telfer
2/09/2020 Mr. Opie Wiest

Current Faculty & Staff:

2/04/2020 Mr. Timothy Brotherton



SPRING LUNCHEON
**** NEW LOCATION ****
WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020
Reservation Form

The Spring Luncheon and Annual Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 13th at the University Center Ballroom, Rooms UC202 A&B (***note change of location, The Rock Cafe is undergoing renovation***). Social time 11:30 a.m., lunch at 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$12.00 per person. Reservations and checks due not later than ***May 6th***.

PLEASE complete and return with your check

Name(s):		
Address:		
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like a ride to the luncheon; please contact me at _____ (phone)		
	Number participating	Total cost
Luncheon fee (\$12.00 per person)		
Total amount enclosed		

Please make checks payable to FSU Emeriti Association. Mail check and reservation form to arrive **by May 6th, 2020** to:

**The Emeriti Office
PRK 101
420 Oak Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307**

Questions? MaryKay MacIver 231-591-3739 MaryKayMacIver@ferris.edu