

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

August 2020

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President's Post



The Emeriti Association and the Pandemic

My original title for this column was going to be "What I Did during the Pandemic," a piece tipping the hat to a widely remembered first - day - of - school high school English class assignment, and describing, with some gentle humor and examples, the adjustments in our daily lives Melissa and I have made since early March when social isolation and other measures began. Our lives have been significantly affected, just like the lives of other emeriti families, and though the constraints are similar, the details are varied.

At this point in our lives, we emeriti are retired and our children are launched, so we have the freedom to travel, to attend cultural events, to dine out, and to socialize with our friends. Many of us are snowbirds, or RV road warriors, and spring is a time to begin a long season of travel. Melissa and I had planned a whole spring and summer's worth of excursions near and far, with a long trip planned for August to see family out east.

Well, as Robert Burns said, "the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft aglay"! We're still going out east - though not

through Canada! - in August, but the rest of our itinerary is gone. It involved travel to venues now closed, mingling with large groups of people, and extended time in crowded public places - things suddenly dangerous, especially to older folks.

So, like many of the readers of this piece, we have spent a lot of time at home, perfecting our jigsaw puzzle and cooking skills, doing home repairs we somehow had never got to, and mastering Zoom to connect with family and friends.

The last time this kind of thing happened in America was in 1918, so hardly anyone has any direct personal experience of coping with an infectious disease for which there is no cure and no vaccine. But we seem to be muddling through, with regional and personal differences.

The pandemic has affected FSUEA as well. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, all face to face events scheduled for 2020 have been canceled. In October, we will be having a Zoom mediated meeting to elect new Board members and give updates. We are tentatively planning to hold the soup talk in February, but, guided by University policy, if a gathering is potentially unsafe, it will not be held. The weekly office hours I hold in the Emeriti Office will not be held until further notice.

All of this makes technology enabled means of getting together and staying in touch very important. Let us know what you're doing and visit the Facebook and web pages for updates. And stay safe. In this time of national emergency, let us be together separately.
-Doug



Greetings from President Eisler

It is my sincerest hope that you are doing well and staying safe. For me, I would have never imagined that for four months, a former kitchen table in the basement would be my office, and meetings would be conducted virtually with faculty, staff and students, and with colleagues across the nation.

From Gov. Whitmer's stay-at-home order beginning in mid-March and faculty pivoting to remote delivery of instruction, to continuing remote delivery throughout the summer, it has been unlike anything we have ever experienced at Ferris State University. However, even through this incredibly challenging time, our faculty and staff came together in many new and creative ways to help our students successfully complete their courses and to help our community stay safe. As a University president, I am immensely proud of the work of our University community.

We have since transitioned from COVID-19 emergency planning to a careful and intentional planned re-engagement for the fall semester. The 16-member FSU Re-entry Committee, led by Vice President for Student Affairs Jeanine Ward-Roof, has been charged with preparing the University for the return of faculty and students this fall. Perhaps you have been following this information; if not the University's re-entry plans are available at www.ferris.edu/coronavirus.

Through August 23, employees from across the University are gradually returning to working on campus. This is part of Phase 2 of the University's Re-engagement Plan. Classroom and lab occupancies have been established following the Center for Disease Control's six-foot social distancing guidelines, and faculty are currently planning their methods of instructional delivery for fall – face-to-face, hyflex (delivery is flexible, taking place at specific days and times including face-to-face and remote as arranged between the instructor and the student) and online (fully remote, synchronous and asynchronous). While there will be in-person instruction this fall, a significant number of classes will be offered via alternative delivery methods. Given the uncertainty in the months ahead, providing flexible teaching and learning approaches are an important part of planning for the next academic year.

As most students travel home for the Thanksgiving break, there was significant concern this could create increased risk for COVID-19 on our campuses. With this in mind, we have made the decision to move instruction, where possible, to remote delivery after Thanksgiving. In a recent survey over 75% of faculty respondents favored this approach. This plan will allow the University to significantly lower campus density for the final two Instructional weeks of the semester and position us well for a safe start to the spring semester in January 2021.

Throughout this pandemic we are working very hard to support our students. Many have lost their jobs, are experiencing food and housing insecurity, unanticipated travel and childcare expenses, along with technology needs. To help our students, many faculty, staff, emeriti, alumni and friends donated to the Student Hardship Fund, created with a lead gift from faculty member Fran Rosen. This fund has grown to more than \$134,500 and has provided \$300 gifts to many students in need. Thank you so very much for continuing to support our students in this meaningful way.

The University was fortunate to receive over \$4.57 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, specifically earmarked to help our students who are struggling financially due to COVID-19. Grant awards of up to \$400 are being given to students with a demonstrated financial need. If you know of students who have demonstrated financial needs as a result of COVID-19, please encourage them to request CARES Act funding through our Financial Aid office.



Continued next page

At Ferris a strong piece of our heritage is rooted in succeeding against significant adversity. Our founder, Woodbridge N. Ferris, lost the money people had invested for Old Main in a bank closure, but built the building and paid everyone back. There were times in the 1930s when Ferris Institute enrollment was much less than 50 people, and the school took in animals and farm goods in barter to survive. And there was February 1950 when Old Main burned to the ground and the school could have been lost. In each of those occasions, Ferris persevered and emerged a stronger institution.

Today we are operating in a very uncertain and rapidly changing environment. Within this context we remain committed to the safety and health of our people and to the education of our students. There are and will be many challenges from COVID-19 as we continue to move forward, but I am confident we will not only thrive through adversity, but emerge from this period prepared for even greater success in the future.

Thank you for your many years of service and commitment to Ferris, and for your continued interest in our University. Together we all can help move Ferris Forward. - Dave

David L. Eisler, President

Report from the Events Committee

Regrettably, due to the pandemic circumstances, the Emeriti Board has decided to cancel all remaining in-person social events previously scheduled for 2020. This includes the August picnic, Fall Luncheon in October, and Holiday Dinner in December. The Board continues to meet regularly via Zoom, and at its next meeting will discuss how we might offer alternative social connecting opportunities for members using Zoom.

It was intended that we would hold our postponed annual association business meeting during the Fall Luncheon. Back in May, current board members agreed to extend their elected terms pending a reschedule of the business meeting. However, with the Fall Luncheon now cancelled too, the Board will re-purpose the time to conduct a virtual meeting with the primary purpose of electing board members. So, mark your calendars for **October 14, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. and join together for the Annual Meeting of the FSU Emeriti Association via Zoom.** Here's the October 14 meeting information:

Topic: Ferris State University Emeriti Association Board Elections and Updates

Time: Oct 14, 2020 11:00 AM America/Detroit

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95126130283>

Meeting ID: 951 2613 0283

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,95126130283# US (New York)

+13017158592,,95126130283# US (Germantown)

****** If you are not able to meet via Zoom on October 14th, a mail-in Board member election ballot is provided for you on Page 5 ******

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 951 2613 0283

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aeGxROY3gA>

Helen's Garden

The FSU Emeriti Association adopted maintenance of Helen's Garden in the summer of 2015. At that time, the Garden had been sadly neglected with no annuals planted and weeds over 3 feet tall dominating the flower beds. Over the past 5 years, volunteers have steadily brought the garden back to a showcase of red and yellow annuals to complement the many perennials that were favorites of Helen Ferris.

In a normal year, geraniums donated from the Commencement office make their way to the garden and interspersed with marigolds to make a cheerful Crimson and Gold display. Last year's annuals were particularly spectacular! There has been nothing normal about this year however, and the Garden shows it. Volunteers could not access the garden until the middle of June. With no showy geraniums to plant, the Ferris Grounds Crew came through with marigolds, petunias and zinnias. Volunteers over several work sessions brought the garden beds back into tip top shape. The weed pile was over 5 feet tall!

The Helen's Garden volunteer crew could use help with weeding, deadheading and lots of watering. Volunteers are welcome to work in the Garden at any time, but particularly on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. We have some tools available, but you should bring your own mask, kneeling pad, gloves, small tools and drinking water. Contact Alice Bandstra for more information at jbandstr@charter.net. We are grateful to receive assistance from Sigma Pi Fraternity in the spring and fall.

Annual schedule

- ◆ May: Spring cleanup, mulching, weeding, pick up geraniums from Wink Arena after Commencement
- ◆ June: Plant annuals
- ◆ July, August, September: Water, weed, deadhead annuals
- ◆ October: Pull out annuals, rake leaves and clean up beds.

FSUEA Scholarship Endowment Update

During our first-ever spring on-line fundraiser, 19 emeriti donated a total of \$3,172.00, which was matched dollar for dollar by The Ferris Foundation. Thanks to the generosity of our fellow emeriti, as of June 26, 2020, the book value of our endowment was \$119,167.00 and the market value was \$128,567.23. Thus far, we have awarded four \$1,000 scholarships and this coming year (2020-21), we plan to award two more \$1,000 scholarships out of our \$3,082 available fund to students in the College of Technology and the Kendall College of Art and Design. These awards will round out our commitment to give an award to a student in each of FSU's (previously) six undergraduate colleges. This will leave enough money in our available fund to give one \$1,000 award in 2021-22 even if the market does not perform well.

Our goal is have enough money in our endowment to award a scholarship to a student in all of the existing undergraduate programs annually. With the restructuring of the University, FSU now has only five undergraduate colleges. We are very close to this goal assuming the markets cooperate. As the fund grows, the Fundraising Committee will decide between 1) awarding more scholarships 2) increasing the amount of each award, or 3) both 1 and 2. If you have any suggestions concerning this future decision, please contact me at your convenience.

If you are so inclined, FSU's big push right now is growing the Student Hardship Fund. Due to current circumstances, many students are strapped for cash and this fund helps them out tremendously. Student "thank you" videos can be seen on the FSU website.

Also, if you are so inclined, you can reach out to UA&M to set up a planned gift to the University to support a cause of your choosing.

Dr. Bob Carter, Chair, Emeriti Fundraising Committee

cadimstr@aol.com

231-796-4738

FSUEA Board Member Election Ballot
10/14/2020

If you are not planning to attend the online Annual Business Meeting via Zoom on October 14th at 11:00 a.m., you may fill out this ballot and mail it in advance to be received by the meeting date.

The following members are nominated for new 2-year terms ending May, 2022. Please indicate your vote(s) with a check mark ✓ by each nominee you are voting for.

The Board recommends a vote FOR all nominees.

- LORI HELMER
- JOHN KANE
- JERENA KEYS
- BOB KRUEGER
- JEFF NAGELBUSH
- RANDY VANCE

The following member is nominated for a new 1-year term ending May, 2021. Please indicate your vote with a check mark ✓ by each nominee you are voting for.

The Board recommends a vote FOR all nominees.

- PAULA HADLEY

Member signature: _____ Date _____

Mail to: FSU Emeriti Office
Attn: MaryKay MacIver
Prakken 101
420 Oak Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Granting of Emeriti Status by the FSU Board of Trustees

As of 7/9/2020

Bellavance, Leslie – President, Kendall College of Art & Design, June 30, 2020

Bell-Scriber, Marietta – Professor, College of Allied Health Sciences, August 14, 2012 (*correction of omission from November 2, 2012 Board actions*)

Blake, Paul – Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, Academic Affairs, June 26, 2020

Constantine, Jay – Professor, Kendall College of Art & Design, May 15, 2020

Courtney, Julia – Office Supervisor, Public Safety, April 10, 2020

Craig, Brian – Director of the Master of Architecture Program, Kendall College of Art & Design, January 31, 2020

Cullen, John – Professor, Languages & Literature, May 8, 2020

Goosen, Richard – Interim Dean, Academic Affairs, May 22, 2020

Hughes, Pamela – Administrative Secretary to the Dean, College of Pharmacy Deans Office, July 31, 2020

Myers, Gene – Plumbing Supervisor, Plumbing, May 22, 2020

Parrish, Debora – Buyer, Purchasing Office, May 1, 2020

Schoner, Dale – Custodian, Physical Plant, April 1, 2020

Waters, Margaret – Assistant Professor, Respiratory Care, May 11, 2020

Ferris Student Hardship Fund Update

The “One Day for Dawgs” annual giving day event for Ferris was interrupted last spring by COVID-19. After much discussion, it was decided it was best to cancel the event, much to everyone’s disappointment. However, FLITE librarian Fran Rosen had other ideas. She came forward with a lead gift to initiate the Ferris Student Hardship Fund, which provides funding to students whose lives have been turned upside down by COVID-19. Students are able to apply to the fund for grants up to \$400 to help with basic needs such as food and housing, as well as unexpected expenses incurred due to the pandemic. The fund has grown to \$134,551 from 481 donors as of July 9. Over 5.5% of the total - \$7,425 - has been donated by members of the Emeriti Association. The fund has so far provided critical assistance to over 2,000 Ferris students. Thank you to all of our Association members who have donated to this fund.

Visit www.ferris.edu/giving and click on “Student Hardship Fund” to make a gift.

Read more about Fran’s gift here: <https://www.ferris.edu/giving/ferris-foundation/ImpactStories/Fran-Rosen.htm>



FSUEA President's Office Hours Suspended

In the interest of health and safety, President Doug Haneline is suspending his regular office hours on campus in Prakken 114 for the remainder of the calendar year.

Events Calendar



Upcoming Events August, 2020 - December, 2020

August 3 — Board Meeting 10:00a.m.-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

September 14 — Board Meeting 10:00a.m.-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

October 5 — Board Meeting 10:00a.m.-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

October 14 — 11:00 a.m., Emeriti Association Annual Business Meeting via Zoom

Meeting link: <https://zoom.us/j/95126130283>

See additional information on p.3 in Events Committee Report

November 2 — Board Meeting 10:00a.m.-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

December 7 — Board Meeting 10:00a.m.-11:30 a.m. via Zoom

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

Stay up to date with university events and policy changes: [Click here](#) or enter this address in your browser: <https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/coronavirus/homepage.htm>

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; suspended
through December 2020**

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, March 2020 — July 2020

Emeriti:

Mrs. Caryl Ferguson, Associate Member, 03/24/2020
Mr. Bob Leach, 05/27/2020
Mrs. Barbara Benson, Associate Member, 04/05/2020
Mr. Dave Wininger, 03/23/2020
Mrs. Sally McNamara, Associate Member, 03/31/2020

Ms. Asborg "Pøni" Hansen, 05/01/2020
Mr. Marshall Williams, 03/02/2020

Current Faculty & Staff:

None reported

Save The Date: The family of Bob Leach invites members of the Emeriti Association to attend a memorial for Bob on September 19 from 12-3 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Big Rapids.

Emeriti in Retirement; What Are They Doing Now?

Joan Boroff and Jerena Keys Assist Children's Story Hour

Joan Boroff and Jerena Keys have been members of the General Federation of Women's Club of Big Rapids for many years. They have been active in the education community service project within the club for the past few years. One of their ongoing projects is helping with the children's story hour parties at the Big Rapids Public Library. The latest one took place March 4, 2020 with 26 children attending along with 15 adults in honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday. The children enjoyed a Green Eggs and Ham video and a Dr. Seuss story read by Mr. Howard. They served punch and a cleverly decorated birthday cake complete with the Cat in the Hat. Each child was then able to pick out a Dr. Seuss story book to take home.



FSU Emeriti and General Federation of Women's Club members Joan Boroff (left) and Jerena Keys (right) serving cake at the Big Rapids Public Library in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING CHANGE:

The Annual Meeting of the FSU Emeriti Association will be conducted virtually via Zoom on October 14, 2020 beginning at 11:00 a.m. See the Events Calendar, and the Events Committee Report inside for further details.