

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

August 2023

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FERRIS STATE
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President's Post



Never Forget

I have been on the FSUEA Board of Directors since 2013 and the President for the past 2 years, so it should not be a surprise to anyone that our University Liaison, MaryKay MacIver, and I communicated regularly. We usually used text messaging so it took me aback somewhat when, 3 months ago, she **called** me on the phone. My immediate thoughts were “This must be important. Did someone die? Did the University suffer something catastrophic?” I answered “Hey MaryKay, what’s up?” “Are you sitting down?” she replied. I thought “OMG!”. But I calmly answered: “As a matter of fact I am sitting down. Why?”. “I thought you should be the first to know that I am retiring effective June 30.” “OMG!!!”, I thought, but gathered myself and politely said: “Congratulations. That’s great.” But I

was still thinking “OMG!!!”. As most of you know, and those of you who have been on the Board certainly know, MaryKay has been the glue that has held the organization together for the past two decades. She has been at the helm, somewhat behind the scenes, making sure the ship sailed straight.

In the past 3 months, I have gotten over my initial angst. I now know that the Association will survive and be even stronger in the future. MaryKay prepared an excellent Emeriti Liaison Handbook prior to retiring on June 30, 2023. A new University Liaison, Rachel Fox-Jacobs, has been named and I am sure she will do a great job keeping the ship on the proper tack. Those of us on the Social Committee have met with her and she is truly an impressive young woman. Please read the article about her in this newsletter and come to the Picnic on August 9th to greet her and give her a warm welcome.

I want to thank all of you who donated to MaryKay’s retirement gift. Through your generosity, we were able to give her and Mark a two night stay at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac

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Island and enough spending money to get them over the “Mighty Mac” and International Bridge in the Soo several times on their frequent trips to the U.P. and Canada. MaryKay may have retired from the University but not from the FSUEA. She has assured me, now that she is a member of the FSUEA, she will remain active in our organization. Thank you MaryKay for all you have done and will continue to do for the FSUEA and the University.

Bob Carter, FSUEA President



Meet our new FSUEA Liaison

Welcome Rachel!!

Rachel Fox-Jacobs works in Ferris's University Advancement and Marketing department as the Donor Relations Assistant and the new liaison for the Emeriti Association. She got her Bachelor of Science in Public Relations from Ferris State University in December 2020. While a student

at Ferris, she was active in the theatre department and the Public Relations Student Society of America.

In her role, Rachel coordinates major donor events. These include the President's Football Box, the President's Hockey Box, grand opening events, groundbreaking events, and the Big Rapids and Grand Rapids Holiday Parties.

As the Emeriti Association Liaison, Rachel has taken over Mary Kay's responsibilities. These include assisting with event coordination, member communication, meetings, and communication between the university and the Emeriti Association.

Outside of work, Rachel was recently in the Grand Rapids Civic Theatre's production of “Puffs”. Her other hobbies include riding her dirt bike, making pottery, and spending time with her husband, Mark, and their son Miles.



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,

Rachel Fox-Jacobs

RachelFox-Jacobs@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>

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Helen's Garden

It's been a tough season at Helen's Garden so far with the severe drought conditions in the area. We did receive some much-needed rain in June, which was a relief for volunteers who were watering constantly. A major event this spring was the installation of the new rose bed. Please stop by if you get a chance to enjoy the beautiful and fragrant blossoms. We also met with the Ferris grounds staff this spring who are very willing to help us with some larger tasks, such as helping us trim the boxwood and with weed control around the perimeter of the garden. There is also a diseased tree in the center of the garden that they will be removing and replacing with a large planter. As always, we are seeking more volunteers to help out. Please contact me at MaryKayMacIver@ferris.edu if you have a spare hour or two to spend chatting happily with us as we pull weeds and water flowers.

TUTORS NEEDED!

The Academic Learning Center would love to have your help with tutoring students. Even two hours a week is helpful, and you can pretty much set your own schedule. I have started an evening Accounting Workshop and thoroughly enjoy it – feels so good to be back on campus! If interested, please contact Karen Royster-James at KarenRoysterJames@ferris.edu. She is very responsive and a delight to work with. What a great way to serve Ferris and keep your brain active!

- Terri Cook

From MaryKay MacIver:

Thank you:

Many of you know that I retired from Ferris State University on June 30. It has truly been an honor for me to serve as your liaison for the past 20 years. I have enjoyed getting to know all of you and being a part of your lives. It's been a favorite and meaningful part of my job at Ferris. Hearing about what you are doing in retirement has been an inspiration to me, and I hope to accomplish at least half as much!

Thank you so much to all of you contributed to my retirement gift. At the Spring Luncheon, I was presented with a gift card to stay at the Grand Hotel - something that has been on my bucket list for some time. I'll be sure to take photos from the front porch of this iconic landmark and post them to the Emeriti Facebook page. And just to let you know, I'm not disappearing all together. I have been granted Emeriti status and will be hanging out with all of you at future Emeriti events. Next spring, I will join the Emeriti Board of Directors. In the meantime, you can get to know your new liaison, Rachel Fox-Jacobs. See her bio on page 2.

Thanks again, and I'll be looking forward to seeing you!

Mary Kay MacIver

Granting of Emeriti Status by the FSU Board of Trustees

As of 6/30/2023

Harlan, Kathleen – Associate Professor, College of Health Professions – Dental Hygiene, August 14, 2023

McNeill, Kelly – Library Assistant 3, Flite – Collections & Access Services, May 19, 2023

Rizzo, Ronald – Director of Charter Schools, Academic Affairs – Provost Office, August 30, 2023

Wancour, Susan – Associate Professor, College of Health Professions – Dental Hygiene, May 8, 2023

In Memoriam: Current Faculty/Staff and Emeriti Deaths reported since last issue

Emeriti:

Katherine (Kay) Janzen, October 29, 2022

Mrs. Pamela Nyman, April 10, 2023

Dr. William Keller, April 21, 2023

Mr. John Montgomery, April 26, 2023

Mr. Karl Walker, May 22, 2023

Mrs. Donna Turner, May 26, 2023

Mrs. Marguerite Wolfram, June 4, 2023

Dr. Robert Friar, June 16, 2023

George Terence Wales, July 12, 2023

Associate Emeriti:

Mrs. Natalie Kelsh, June 12, 2023

Mr. Joe Spedowski, June 15, 2023

Current Faculty & Staff:

None reported

Emeriti in Retirement...What are they doing now?

Recently received from Phil Sterling (Dept of Lang. & Lit., 1987-2013):

“My new collection of poetry, Local Congregation: Poems Uncollected 1985-2015, will be published by Main Street Rag in the Fall. I'm excited for this book, as it brings together poems that have appeared in many small magazines and literary journals over the years--years I taught at Ferris. More than a few of the poems concern family, as they were written during the years of raising four children and the caretaking of my parents. Please pass along this info to my fellow emeriti. It seems appropriate to do so during National Poetry Month, one of the busiest months of the year for me when I was on campus.”

For more information, see <https://mainstreetragbookstore.com/product/local-congregation-phillip-sterling/>

If you need an Emeriti Association membership directory, contact Rachel at RachelFox-Jacobs@ferris.edu to receive a digital copy in PDF format



Events Calendar



Upcoming Events August, 2023— October, 2023

August 7— Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 101J, Zoom

August 9 — Summer Picnic, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., Northend Riverside Park, look for FSUEA banner by pavilion; bring a dish to pass, chicken provided by FSU Alumni Association

October 9 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 101J, Zoom

October 18 — Fall Luncheon , 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Artworks Lower Level, 106 N. Michigan Ave. in downtown Big Rapids. See reservation form on p.7

All FSUEA Board meetings are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and held in Prakken 101J unless otherwise indicated.

FSUEA Board

2023-2024

Bob Carter, President
Ferris State University
420 Oak Street, PRK 101
Big Rapids, MI 49307

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



Officers

President	Bob Carter
Vice-President	Jerena Keys
Secretary	Jeff Nagelbush
Treasurer	Randy Vance
Past President	Doug Haneline

Committee Chairs and Directors

Newsletter Editor	Randy Vance
Membership	John Kane
Social Media Coordinator	Rachel Fox-Jacobs
Publicity	Rachel Fox-Jacobs
Service	Jim Jacobs
Events	Jerena Keys
Fundraising Committee	Bob Carter
Director	Terri Cook
Director	Jane Pole
Director	George Nagel
Director	Tom Kirinovic
Director	Chuck Drake

Scholarship Endowment Update

In the 2023-24 academic year, we will again be able to grant an award to a student in all five of the undergraduate Colleges at FSU and each award will be about \$1,500. Donations to our endowment can be made at any time during the calendar year and the Ferris Futures program will match the donation. However, the matching funds are close to being exhausted. Unless FSU can find another way to continue matching scholarship donations, the program will probably not continue through December, 2024 as previously published. If you want to contribute to the Emeriti Endowment, or any other scholarship at FSU, and get matching funds, I suggest that you contribute sooner rather than later. Toward this end, the Board will take up the matter of conducting the annual “bucket campaign” earlier this Fall instead of in December as has been done in the past. If we decide to do a Fall campaign, you will receive an email notification in early September. You may donate to this fund by sending a check (to the address below) made out to **The FSU Foundation** with **Emeriti Endowment** written in the memo line. You can also donate online.

The Ferris Foundation
420 Oak Street,
Prakken 101
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307-2020

Thanks to all of you who have supported this endowment.

Bob Carter, FSUEA President, FSUEA Fundraising Committee Chair

How do I sign up to take classes as an Emeriti? -From Terri Cook

Hello! As promised at the Annual Meeting in May, I am passing along some guidance about how to take classes at Ferris. Remember – Emeriti get free tuition! The tough part is that as I am writing this, Ferris is in the middle of transitioning to a new online portal so I cannot be as detailed as I would like with some of the information. Nevertheless, the basic steps will remain the same but in a different online format.

Please understand that all classes are now using online resources, so you need to have some good, basic computer skills in order to take a course. In fact, you will find that just signing up for a course also requires computer skills.

Taking a class requires three steps:

1. Apply to be a student
2. Register for a class
3. Submit a tuition waiver form

Step 1. Apply to be a student

Go to the Ferris home page and scroll over the “Quicklinks” button in the white banner at the top of the page. Click on the “Apply Now” option that appears in the dropdown menu.

You will be directed to a separate page that instructs you to set up a student account as a new applicant or login as a returning applicant. After you have established a login, you can fill out your application to be a student. You should apply as “Non-Degree Seeking” (NDEZ) (I was told that, at some point, we should be able to apply as an Emeriti but not yet).

The acceptance of your application may take a few weeks. If you need assistance, please contact Charlotte Tetsworth via email at CharlotteTetsworth@ferris.edu.

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Step 2. Register for a class

After you have been accepted as a student, you can view the class schedule in MyFSU. This can be found under the student tab and clicking on the MyRegistration button at the top of the page. Within the MyRegistration page is a link on the lefthand side that is called Lookup Classes. Clicking up this link opens a search page where you can look for classes.

After you have found a class in which you are interested, you then go through the “add a class” process on the same page. If you need assistance, please contact Shelly VandePanne at ShellyVandePanne@ferris.edu.

Step 3. Submit a Tuition waiver form


Within MyFSU, click on the Forms tab at the top of the page. Scroll down the lefthand side until you find the link for Human Resource and click on it. In the top left corner of this page, you will see a link that is titled “All Human Resource Forms”. Click on this which will take you to a list of forms under which you will find a link for a Tuition Waiver form. This needs to be filled out and submitted to the email address on that page. You can verify your account balance in MyFSU. Note there may be a software fee applied.

**EMERITI FALL LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023
Reservation Form**

The Fall Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, October 18th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Artworks Lower Level, 106 N. Michigan Ave. in downtown Big Rapids. The cost is \$25.00 per person. **Reservations and checks due not later than October 11th.**

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 (\$25.00 per person)		
Total amount enclosed		

Please make checks payable to **Ferris State University** with **FSUEA Luncheon** in the memo line. Mail check and reservation form to arrive by **October 11, 2023** to:

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

Questions? Rachel Fox-Jacobs 231-591-5428 RachelFox-Jacobs@ferris.edu

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420 Oak Street, PRK 101
Big Rapids, MI 49307

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