

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

November 2023

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FERRIS STATE
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President's Post



We had a major shake up this year, but our Association is doing very well. MaryKay MacIver retired and is no longer our University liaison. She is now an Emeritus. This summer, she was replaced as our University Liaison by Rachel Fox-Jacobs. Rachel has since been replaced by Ruth Ridderman. Rachel is part-time and UA&M felt a full-time employee, Ruth, would better suit our needs. Ruth is a longtime employee of the University and UA&M. There will be a steep learning curve but I am certain that Ruth will very quickly become an able liaison for us. We (the Board) are looking forward to developing a close relationship with Ruth. Please come to some social events and say "Hello" to Ruth. Our Association is administratively part of the FSU Alumni Association, and I attended the Alumni

Association meeting in September as your representative. Most of the meeting was concerned with how the Alumni Association can re-purpose itself to better serve the needs of the University. The University would like our Association to also re-purpose itself to better serve the needs of the University. Rather than being an organization whose activities center around social events, the University now would like our Association to pitch in to help our parent institution. We will continue to conduct our social activities, but we will also attempt to give back to the University more than we have in the past. Toward that end, VP Kathy Mullins has approached our Association with a plan to get Emeriti more involved with the recruitment, retention, and success of our students. In other words, help the University achieve its goals. Together, we will develop a mechanism whereby UA&M will gather volunteer opportunities from various University entities, inform us of these opportunities, and we will inform our members of the details of each of these opportunities.

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Members may then contact the person(s) in charge of each event in order to volunteer for it. We already contribute to the University financially in a big way, but this plan will be a means of allowing Emeriti to give back to the University in other ways (tutoring, mentoring, being a campus guide on move-in days, etc.). I for one am looking forward to getting involved by volunteering my time to help Ferris succeed. I hope you all have a great holiday season and a prosperous 2024. And GO DAWGS!

Bob Carter, FSUEA President

Meet our new FSUEA Liaison

Ruth Ridderman is the Advancement Assistant for University Advancement and Marketing and the new liaison for the Emeriti Association. She has worked at Ferris for 25 years all within UA&M beginning on the marketing side before switching to the advancement side several years ago.



Ruth provides administrative support and coordinates the activities and functions of UA&M staff. As the Emeriti Association Liaison, Ruth has taken over Rachel's, (formerly MaryKay's) responsibilities. These include assisting with event coordination, member communication, meetings, and communication between the university and the Emeriti Association.

Ruth is a lifelong resident of Hersey where she lives with her husband, Scott, who is an '86 grad and works for the 77th District Court. She enjoys gardening, landscaping and exploring new places in her spare time.

Welcome Ruth!!



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>

**FERRIS STATE
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Greetings from President Pink

To my friends in the Emeriti Association,

This past July marked the start of my second year here at Ferris State University. One year ago, I was settling into my new role –meeting many of you at one of our Link with Pink events or at the FSU Emeriti Summer Picnic. I even had the opportunity to work with some of you fine people before you retired.

In that first year, the primary question that people asked me was, “So, what is your vision for Ferris State?” And while I certainly had a vision—and did not balk at sharing what that vision might look like, I also often responded with –“Now tell me your vision.” To me, that is what the first year is for: Listening, learning and settling in.

The second year...is more fun. The well-traveled paths on our campus have become my well-traveled paths as well. (Once my knee healed up, anyway.) What were once new-to-me employees, have become trusted colleagues. In that second year, the vision solidifies, and we watch a few carefully planted seeds take root and grow. And still, we listen.

These days, some of my favorite stories to listen to are the impact stories. Everyone, I’ve come to find, has their own “If not for Ferris...” story. We all know the ways a Ferris education can change lives—but many don’t stop to think about the ways in which Ferris touches the people who live here, work here, retire from here or just generally choose to be involved. Whether it is the opportunity to attend an art gallery opening, tour the Jim Crow Museum, attend a sporting event, or participate in a lecture series, opportunities abound for our emeriti community to remain involved.

As you consider how Ferris impacts your life—I would urge you to consider how you have and will continue to impact Ferris as well. Even though you may have retired, Ferris needs you now more than ever. Have you urged a child or grandchild to consider Ferris as their first choice? Have you participated in one of our giving campaigns to support our students or programs? Even a commitment to talk with one person a week about the good work of Ferris State University is helpful. For as much as our success relies upon the students that attend this institution—I assure you that it also rides on the support of our Ferris Emeriti.

If there is a way that you would like to have an impact on Ferris State University—I am here to hear that vision. I have come to believe in my years of higher education that opportunity, when it knocks, often knocks softly. If we are not listening, and I mean really listening—those opportunities may pass us by for keener ears. So, I urge you, our Emeriti Association members, please tell me a story. I am listening.

And finally, THANK YOU! Thank you for what you mean to this university, and how so many of you continue to care for our university. Be proud of your university and tell everyone about the way this place changes lives!

Stay Relevant, Stay Responsive!

Best, and Stay Well, bp



Helen's Garden

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 next season to spend chatting happily with us as we plant, 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

Events

New event in December!! Instead of a dinner, the events committee has scheduled a Holiday Brunch event on Wednesday, December 13th from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. at the Eisler Center on campus, Ballroom A. This will be followed immediately by an optional 1/2 hour workshop to learn about access and use of the new Ferris 360 online portal. Please bring your laptop, tablet, or smartphone, if you plan to stay and participate. The reservation form is on the back cover page. Please fill it out and return with your check by December 6th.

FSU UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

All members of the Ferris family will be engaged in a campaign to raise funds for our local United Way. The University goal is \$40,000. Below are the statistics from previous years for the Emeriti Association:

2022-2023 – 48 members contributed \$7985

2021-2022 – 47 members contributed \$6320

2020-2021 – 50 members contributed \$7930

2019-2020 – 47 members contributed \$5885

2018-2019 – 49 members contributed \$5450



Way to go Emeriti -- THANK YOU to all who contributed. At press time, we already have 28 member donations totaling \$5,290. To have your donation counted toward the University goal in the 2023 campaign, make a check payable to the Mecosta-Osceola Area United Way, and send to:

Emeriti Office
c/o Ruth Ridderman
420 Oak Street – PRK-101
Big Rapids, MI 49307

The Ferris Campaign is scheduled to end November 17, 2023.

Granting of Emeriti Status by the FSU Board of Trustees
As of 10/6/2023

Bouthillier, Michael – Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy – Pharmacy Practice, June 30, 2023

Boyd, Danette – Dental Hygiene Facilities Coordinator, College of Health Professions – Dental Hygiene, May 26, 2023

Clark, Ferrell – Associate Professor, College of Engineering Technology – Construction, May 6, 2024

Compton, Joseph – Director/Associate Professor, College of Engineering Technology – School of Built Environment, July 31, 2023

Dow, Angela – Professor, Kendall College of Art & Design – Graphic Design, December 18, 2023

Fischer, William – Professor, Kendall College of Art & Design – Digital Art and Design, August 18, 2023

MacIver, Mary Kay – Associate Director of Advancement & Prospect Management, University Advancement & Marketing, June 30, 2023

Nelson, Kristine – Director, Student Financial Services, July 7, 2023

Rizzo, Ronald – Director of Charter Schools, Academic Affairs – Provost Office, October 31, 2023

Seitter, Kelly – Professor, College of Engineering Technology – Construction, May 8, 2023

Smith, Curtis – Professor, College of Pharmacy – Pharmacy Practice, December 22, 2023

Upham, Benjamin – Associate Professor, College of Engineering Technology – Automotive Services, December 18, 2023

VonderHaar, Christine – Professor, College of Arts, Science, and Education – Languages & Literature, May 6, 2024

Woolen, James – Academic Department Head, College of Business Dean’s Office, January 5, 2024

Zeeuw, Diane – Professor, Kendall College of Art & Design – Painting, December 18, 2023

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

Emeriti:

09/12/2023 Robert Aamoeth, TECH-Const. Mgmt 2005-2014

09/04/2023 Harold Gregorich, CHP Health Sciences 1983-1995

09/12/2023 Dr. Dick Hansen, BUS Marketing 1983-2010

Associate Emeriti:

07/14/2023 Leonard Crystal

08/10/2023 Sara Ham

08/12/2023 Mary Henry

10/01/2023 Alice Leister

08/19/2023 Julie Stewart

Current Faculty & Staff:

None reported

Events Calendar



Upcoming Events November, 2023— February, 2024

November 17— Deadline for annual United Way campaign donations

December 4 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 101J, Zoom

December 13 — Holiday Brunch, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., Eisler Center Ballroom A. *See Reservation form on back cover page; optional presentation/workshop on Ferris 360, the new university portal, to follow at 11:30 a.m.—Noon. Bring your laptop, tablet, or smartphone if you plan to participate.*

February 5 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 101J, Zoom

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	MaryKay MacIver
Publicity	Ruth Ridderman
Service	Jim Jacobs
Events	Jerena Keys
Fundraising Committee	Bob Carter
Director	Terri Cook
Director	Jane Pole
Director	MaryKay MacIver
Director	Tom Kirinovic
Director	Chuck Drake

Scholarship Endowment Update

As most of you know, we conducted our annual “bucket” campaign in September instead of December this year because the Ferris Futures matching fund was rapidly being depleted. Thanks to your generosity, we received \$1,300 in donations, but we only received \$1,200 in matching funds. We literally drained the last drops out of the matching fund. The market value of our endowment is now in excess of \$222,000 and we are able to annually give an award of about \$1,500 to a student in each of the 5 undergraduate colleges at Ferris. This ability was the stretch goal when we implemented the endowment, and thanks to your generosity and the matching funds, we succeeded in reaching our goal. GOOD ON US!

The Ferris Futures matching fund was created by President Eisler and the Board of Trustees when the State of Michigan refunded money to several higher education institutions that had overpaid into the state retirement pool. FSU’s refund was approximately \$17.9 million. At the initiation of the matching fund rules, the University decided the least donation amount that would be eligible for the match was \$1,000. Hence, our Association created a “bucket” to place donations in so individual emeriti could donate less than \$1,000 but our “bucket” total would exceed \$1,000 and get the match. This strategy has worked very well since 2016 when the match was initiated. However, in the future, we will not be conducting anymore “bucket” campaigns unless a new matching fund is created by the University, and the \$1,000 minimum rule is reinstated. You may still donate to this fund at any time during the year by sending a check (to the address below) made out to The Ferris Foundation with Emeriti Scholarship Endowment written in the memo line.

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

You can also donate on-line. Thanks to all of you who have supported this endowment.

Bob Carter,
FSUEA President
FSUEA Fundraising Committee Chair

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HOLIDAY BRUNCH RESERVATION FORM

The Holiday Brunch will take place on Wednesday, December 13th, **10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.** at the David Fisher Center Ballroom A. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Reservations and checks due not later than December 6th.

PLEASE complete and return with your check

Name(s):	
Address:	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like a ride to the brunch; please contact me at _____ (phone)	

Total amount enclosed	
Brunch fee (\$20.00 per person)	
Number participating	
Total cost	

Please make checks payable to Ferris State University with FSUEA Brunch in the memo line. Mail check and reservation form to arrive by **December 6, 2023** to:

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