

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

August 2025

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President's Post



Greetings to Fellow Emeriti!!!

It is certainly an honor for me to be chosen as FSU Emeriti Association President for the coming year. The selection process was not competitive (you may read into that statement).

I admire the friendly way Bob Carter handled this role for the past four years. Bob kept FSUEA connected around the campus, kept the organization going with a sense of humor, and did great with fundraising. Bob is an admirer of Ferris State. I remain impressed with his work with the Michigan legislature some years ago on behalf of the College of Optometry.

In my short time on the FSUEA Board of Directors I have noted the pleasure of working with a group of competent,

selfless people. Many are continuing in their recent roles which makes it much easier for me and great for the organization. We are fortunate that Jeff Nagelbush is continuing as Secretary; Randy Vance is continuing as both Treasurer and Newsletter Editor; MaryKay MacIver brings much needed inside knowledge based on her years as our Liaison to UAM, is continuing to manage Helen's Garden, our Facebook page, and the annual FSUEA postcard of events; John Kane remains our Membership Chair; Doug Haneline continues on our Social Committee with efforts to get a group of emeriti going in the Grand Rapids area. Doug is a past president of the association with experience to share.

Ruth Ridderman has been a superb Liaison to UAM for us. Ruth has shared information on UAM and campus activities that are of interest AND carried out numerous tasks within the university to make our activities happen. Ruth has recently retired but we are very fortunate that she wishes to continue as a volunteer with the FSUEA Board. We look forward to the appointment of a new Liaison for FSUEA. *Continues on Page 2*

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Continued from Page 1,

New Director Pat Tobin has agreed to chair our Service Committee. This function includes acknowledgement to families of emeriti who have passed away.

As far as an agenda goes, I see nothing that needs major change. I like the no dues, totally voluntary aspect of the Association. I have a learning curve but there are great people involved. Suggestions are welcome. I hope to see everyone at our upcoming events.

Chuck Drake,
FSUEA President
drakec@ferris.edu

Upcoming Events Report

Annual Picnic Scheduled for August 13

Join fellow Emeriti Association members, spouses, and friends for the annual FSUEA picnic on Wednesday, August 13 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Northend Riverside Park Pavilion on Trestle Bend Drive in Big Rapids. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. The Emeriti Association will once again provide the chicken. Join us for this casual, fun gathering!

Save the Date for the Fall Luncheon

The annual Fall Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 15 in the lower level of Artworks in downtown Big Rapids. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at 12 p.m., catered by Three Girls Bakery. Note: There is an elevator available for those who need it. The cost is \$25 per person. See the registration form in this edition of the newsletter.



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>

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A Note from Retired FSUEA Liaison Ruth Ridderman

For over 20 months I had the privilege of being the liaison for FSUEA. I enjoyed this role immensely. I especially enjoyed helping and getting to know many of you. I saw all the fun you are all having and decided to join you. I retired effective June 20, 2025, after 27 years with Ferris.

I have requested Emeriti status so I hope to see you at future events.

My Ferris email (ruthridderman@ferris.edu) is still active. Please reach out if I can help in any way.

I wish you all the best. Take care.

Ruth

Election of Directors at Annual Meeting

The following members were elected to new, 2-year terms on our Board of Directors:

Chuck Drake

MaryKay MacIver

Tom Kirinovic

Doug Haneline

Pat Tobin

The following current directors have one year remaining on their terms which expire in May, 2026: John Kane, Jeff Nagelbush, Randy Vance, Jerena Keys.

At the June Board of Directors meeting, the following directors were elected as officers for the 2025-2026 year:

Chuck Drake, President

MaryKay MacIver, Vice President

Jeff Nagelbush, Secretary

Randy Vance, Treasurer

FSU Emeriti Help with MATHCOUNTS

Special thanks to emeriti who heeded the call for help with W N Ferris MATHCOUNTS in February. A last-minute plea went out to the Emeriti Association for help with scoring for the W N Ferris MATHCOUNTS competition. Six members replied that they could help out: Terri Bloomquist, Pam Hughes, George Nagel, Kemi Fadayomi, Mary Brayton, and Shannon McLean. They joined “regular” emeriti volunteers including Bob McCullough, Nancy McCullough, Clare Cook, Sue O’Neill-Cook, Murry Stocking, Jeff Pedelty, Fran Rosen, and Chuck Drake. Scoring proved to be a simple enough task. Approximately 90 middle schoolers from area schools enjoyed a day on campus.

MATHCOUNTS is a national math enrichment program for middle schoolers. Top scorers from local competitions go on to a statewide competition and possibly to the national competition in Washington, DC. MATHCOUNTS began nationally in 1983 and locally in 1987.

FSU Emeritus Jim Brand celebrates 100th Birthday

On May 17th, Jim and Merrelyn Brand celebrated Jim’s milestone birthday —100! Well known for his classic car knowledge and affinity, a 100-car antique car parade was arranged by the family to mark the occasion. Read all about it in this article which appeared in the Big Rapids Pioneer.

https://eedition.bigrapidsnews.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=ca0e5042-7a5c-4361-af2b-b3b582b9de17&share=true

Bloom Time in Helen’s Garden

The flowers are in full bloom at Helen’s Garden. We are so grateful for the donation of geraniums from the Commencement Office and the addition of marigolds and zinnias from the Ferris Grounds department. Each bed is a riot of color, and the bees are loving it! The roses are popping, as well as the Black-Eyed Susan and the bee balm. We also continue to cultivate milkweed, and the monarchs have been frequent and welcome visitors. We did lose the tree in the center of the garden, and we hope to replace it with a large planter next year. There is a picnic table at the garden for visitors who want to enjoy the garden at lunchtime or anytime. Be sure to stop by! A big “thank you!” to our volunteers who help to keep the garden looking great – Tammy Babcock, Jennifer Yontz-Barger, Teresa Cook, Mary and Randy Hansen, Beth Logan, Pat Tobin and Karen Hogenson. The brothers of Sigma Pi fraternity help us by cleaning up the beds in the fall and prepping them for planting in the spring. We are always looking for more hands. Please contact me if you have a little or a lot of time to help care for Helen’s Garden.

MaryKay MacIver at marykaymaciver@ferris.edu for more information.

Granting of Emeriti Status by the FSU Board of Trustees
As of 7/31/2025

Tara McCracken, President, Kendall College of Art & Design

Nancy Wencil, Director, Student Financial Services, Bursar

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

Emeriti:

John Fogarty 4/30/25

Joel Galloway 5/5/25

Don Hanzek 7/14/25

Richard Perrin 3/4/25

Ronald Shepler 5/24/25

Elizabeth Stolarek 4/4/25

Robert Utke 3/29/25

Associate Emeriti:

Janet Goldfogle 5/16/25

Barbara Leone 6/24/25

James McIntyre 5/15/25

Don Nelson 2/23/25

Margaret Samuels 3/17/25

Current Faculty & Staff:

John Smith 5/11/25

Events Calendar

Upcoming Events: August 2025 — December 2025



August 4 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 114, Zoom

August 13 — Annual Picnic, Northend Riverside Park Pavilion, Big Rapids, 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

October 6 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 114, Zoom

October 15 — Fall Luncheon, Artworks Lower Level, 106 N. Michigan Ave. , 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. (see Reservation form on page 7)

December 8 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 114, Zoom

December 15 — Holiday Brunch, David Eisler Center, Ballroom A, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m.

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

FSUEA Board

2025-2026

University Advancement & Marketing
420 Oak Street, PRK 101
Big Rapids, MI 49307

FSU Emeriti Association
Office: PRK 114



Officers

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer

Chuck Drake
MaryKay MacIver
Jeff Nagelbush
Randy Vance

Committee Chairs and Directors

Newsletter Editor
Membership
Social Media Coordinator
Publicity
Service
Events
Fundraising Committee
Director
Director
Director

Randy Vance
John Kane
MaryKay MacIver
MaryKay MacIver
Pat Tobin
MaryKay MacIver
MaryKay MacIver
Tom Kirinovic
Doug Haneline
Jerena Keys

**FALL LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2025
Reservation Form**

The Fall Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 15th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Artworks, Lower Level, 106 N. Michigan Ave, Big Rapids. The cost is \$25.00 per person. **Reservations and checks due not later than Oct 8th.**

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 **Oct 8, 2025** to:

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

Questions? Kim Erickson 231-591-3825 email: KimberlyErickson@ferris.edu

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Big Rapids, MI 49307

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