



*—a Ferris State international education newsletter*

## **Looking back to move forward:**

Greetings from the Office of International Education (OIE). Looking back at our work in OIE, the 2018-19 academic year has been productive and successful.

We welcomed two new members to our team as we said good bye to two colleagues who made a difference. We also received national recognition for the internationalization work we have done, made significant progress on projects, achieved goals set for the year, reached milestones, and brought people together to have difficult dialogues.

In this newsletter, we are sharing the goals that we have achieved this academic year. We ended the year by bringing the campus community and our partners together in celebration of our collaborations.

Last week, the OIE hosted our Second Annual Study Abroad Banquet in support of the university's comprehensive "Now and Always" campaign to expand scholarship opportunities for students. It was also an opportunity to celebrate our collaborations across campus and beyond. Our celebration captured the essence of the philosophy of Ubuntu, which is best explained as, "I am who I am because of who we all are."

During the Study Abroad Endowment Banquet, Provost Blake honored Dr. Scott Cohen with the Ubuntu Award. This is the second year we have given this award. We were honored to have the previous recipients, Dixie Anderson and Dr. Chris vonder Haar, present for the event.



The Ubuntu award includes the following words: “Like a gem in the net of Indra, you reflect and amplify the best in all of us.” The metaphor of a gem comes from a Vedic story about how Indra, the Lord of the Heavens, built an infinite net above his palace. In the net, he had gems placed on each nodal point/interface so that the gems would reflect and amplify light on each other to make the heavens glow.

Individuals like Scott Cohen, Dixie Anderson, and Chris vonder Haar are the gems among us reflecting and amplifying the best in all of us.

This makes our university and community an inclusive and welcoming place. Elevating the best in all of us makes our world a better place.

Looking ahead to move forward, we have been advocating for a comprehensive internationalization plan for Ferris State. Provost Blake has charged us to develop a comprehensive internationalization plan.

We hope to bring various stakeholders together to start conversations on developing a comprehensive internationalization plan through intentional, inclusive, informed deliberative dialogues with broad campus support. We plan to share the details of our approach in the next newsletter. We also plan share data to inform and engage our campus community in the next few issues of our OIE newsletter. Watch for invites to be part of the conversation. If you would like to be part of the dialogue, please connect with me.

Dr. Piram Prakasam

Executive Director, Office of International Education



## **Moments and Milestones:**

Our second annual Study Abroad Scholarship Banquet celebrated several important moments and milestones. First, the combined contributions of more than a hundred faculty, staff and community members during the inaugural banquet last year, the One Day for Dawgs campaign in April, and proceeds from this year’s banquet have allowed us to exceed our goal of raising \$12,500 for study abroad scholarships. Reaching this threshold qualifies the endowment for matching funds from the university to fully fund the new Study Abroad Endowment with more than \$25,000, which will yield scholarships in just over a year.

Another important moment at the banquet was when we introduced the new Global Competency Collaborative (GCC) Certificate Program to the audience and invited the GCC students to speak about their experiences.

The culminating moment of celebration at the banquet was when we unveiled the composite portraits of Woodbridge and Helen Ferris for the Inclusion Wall. The portraits visually portray the essence of Ubuntu. They will be installed in the IRC surrounded by images of the hopes and dreams of our campus community as part of the Founder’s Day celebration in September.

As we celebrate moments and milestones, it is important for us to look back and reflect. Each year the OIE establishes goals that we work towards achieving.

In the 2018-19 academic year, the OIE achieved the following goals:

1. Receiving national recognition for campus Internationalization by the IIE.
2. Establishing a Study Abroad Endowment
3. Unveiling of the Inclusion Wall portraits
4. Implementing BEYOND: Conflict resolution
5. Launching the Global Competency Collaborative (GCC) Certificate Program
6. Advocating for campus internationalization
7. Co-sponsoring the third Lighthouse Symposium for Business Educators in the Netherlands with Saxon University and Rhine-Wall University
8. Enhancing summer study abroad programs with Shanghai Publishing and Printing College
9. Renewing the HVAC transfer articulation agreement with Humber College
10. Expanding recruitment efforts in the Middle East and South East Asia.

In addition, in line with the BEYOND theme, we are also addressing legacy issues that will help us move forward and expanding conversations on difficult topics through deliberative dialogues.

We have used the biweekly newsletters as way to engage the wider university community to learn about the work we do in the Office of International Education. Please share any comments or feedback about the newsletter.

Lisa vonReichbauer

Assistant Director, Office of International Education



## In Context

1. **Read:** [Bulldogs Abroad – Ferris State University Torch](#)
2. **Read:** [Study Abroad Matters – iie.org](#)



## Upcoming Events:

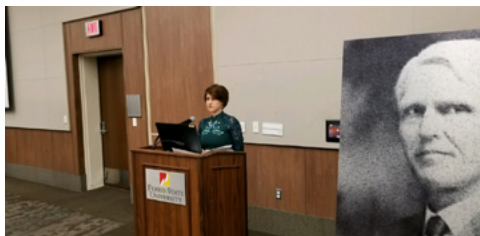
1. **May 24 at 7:00 pm** at Rhine-Wall University of Applied Sciences in Kleve, Germany –The Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration of Rhine-Wall University. A delegation from Ferris State led by Provost Blake will join for the celebration of one of our closest partner universities.



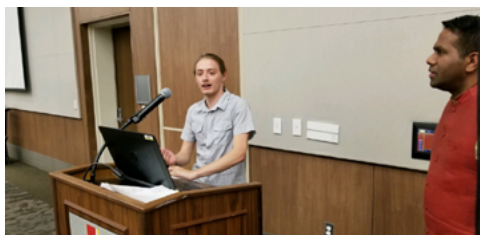


## Moments In Time:

### *Speakers*



### *Students*



### *Attendees*









*Portraits*



*Inclusion Wall*



*Guests of Honor*



Imagine more...



# *Past OIE Newsletters*

## Spring 2019



Spring 2019 Issue 5



Spring 2019 Issue 4



Spring 2019 Issue 3



Spring 2019 Issue 2



Spring 2019 Issue 1

## Fall 2018



Fall 2018 Issue 6



Fall 2018 Issue 5



Fall 2018 Issue 4



Fall 2018 Issue 3



Fall 2018 Issue 2



Fall 2018 Issue 1