



—a Ferris State international education newsletter

Virtual International Festival of Cultures

Ferris State University hosted the 32nd annual International Festival of Cultures on April 18th. The annual festival is sponsored by the President's Office and hosted by the Office of International Education. The event typically draws around 1500 attendees and had been scheduled to take place on campus on April 5. With the campus closure and the Stay Home, Stay Safe order in Michigan, the on-campus festival on April 5th had to be cancelled. However, the prospect of not holding the festival this year after hosting the event for 31 consecutive years was just not something we could bring ourselves to do. Therefore, we put our heads together to see what we could come up with. We decided to bring the festival to our local and global community in a virtual format by hosting it on the Twitch platform. Although one of our favorite parts of the festival, all of the wonderful food that our catering staff prepares in collaboration with our international students, could not be part of the virtual festival, we developed some new collaborations that fit this format perfectly.

This year we partnered with Dr. Scott Cohen in the Department of Humanities, Dr. Ed Mallett from the Tuba Bach organization, and Lynne Scheible from Art Works to bring a variety of entertainment from gifted musicians, poets, chefs, and comedians to be part of the festival. It was a wonderful collaboration with the campus, the Big Rapids community, and our students and partners around the world. We had originally planned for 3 hours of content, and we were delighted to have many more submissions than we anticipated. We ended up with a long 5-hour marathon! We are so glad that we were able to host it and that we reached several hundred people. President Eisler opened the festival with a welcome message followed by a wonderful variety of musical pieces, recipes demonstrations, spoken word and jokes. The performances were broadcast on the Twitch platform, and I hosted the event live in front of the Office of International Education on campus to showcase the new Ubuntu Mural, which was unveiled in December. If you were unable to attend the festival, please check out the performances in the links on the next page. They were wonderful! The virtual format worked so well that we plan to incorporate this element into future festivals to make it easier for our international alumni, partners, and friends to join!

Lisa vonReichbauer

Assistant Director, Office of International Education



Highlights from the 32nd Annual “Virtual” International Festival of Cultures

Below you will find links to view the festival performances and key components of the event. The first link will lead you to the introductory Ubuntu video. This video highlights the philosophy of Ubuntu, which inspired the new mural outside of the Office of International Education. The video incorporates elements of the University’s mission and general education philosophy, the Thought and Reason mural by Robert Barnum in FLITE, and the new Ubuntu Mural in IRC. These elements overlay the music of Sting in his song A Thousand Years.

Under the link to the Ubuntu video you will find a link to a playlist containing all of the selections from the festival. The festival selections have been broken up into a series of three sequential videos. We have also included a link to short clips of the live event on Twitch.

Ferris State Ubuntu Video on YouTube

https://youtu.be/Ntea_Vt8CF0

Virtual Festival of Cultures 2020 Playlist on YouTube

<http://tiny.cc/7ujbnz>

Introductory video clip from Twitch

<https://www.twitch.tv/fsuinternational/videos>



Upcoming Events:

Under the Banyan: Virtual Global Conversations Series

We will be hosting conversations with international partners, students, and alumni to learn how countries around the world are coping with the COVID-19 crisis and the reopening of economies. Please join us using this zoom link every Thursday at 11 AM at URL: <https://zoom.us/j/98874271453>



Moment In Time:



We celebrate all of our Ferris graduates for the Spring 2020 semester. Pictured are a few of our international graduates: Andri Stephanie from Indonesia earned a Bachelor of Science in Heavy Equipment Service Engineering; Ndzonga Tema from Botswana earned a Bachelor of Science in HVACR Engineering Technology and Energy Management; Mehul Suresh Modi from India earned a Master of Science in Information Security & Intelligence; Jennifer Hong from Canada earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology/Pre-Medicine. Many more who are not pictured here successfully completed their degrees this semester.



Past Newsletters

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Ferris Forward

