



—a Ferris State international education newsletter

Intentionally International

Greetings from the Office of International Education (OIE). The change of seasons is here, and it is an exciting time for international students. Many of our new international students are experiencing changing colors and falling leaves.

For us in the OIE, it is one of the busiest times. Jacob van Laar, our International Recruiter, is in the middle of his ten-country tour to recruit international students. Valerie Campbell, our Admissions Coordinator, just returned from a four-city recruitment tour in Canada. Megan Hauser-Tran is preparing for the Study Abroad fair that is coming next week. The rest of us had the opportunity to host the German Consul General from Chicago, Mr. Wolfgang Moessinger, in between working on our Inclusion Wall Project, International Student Ambassador Endowment project, and the Comprehensive Internationalization Planning (CIP).

The newly created Strategic Plan has established a new goal for increasing international student enrollment. We vigorously participated in the debate and continue to passionately advocate for a University that is intentionally international. We are glad to see that our new vision statement boldly communicates that the University “will foster opportunity, discovery, and professional preparation for a dynamic global society.” It includes the words “Ferris State University will be an agile and transformational University.”

This new vision requires all of us to play a critical role in fostering an ecosystem to prepare our University itself. We need to prepare ourselves so as an institution we can be agile and transformational in preparing our students for the 21st century. How do we prepare them for a world that will be dominated by automation and artificial intelligence? We need to be intentionally international.

In the next few pages, we are sharing details of the German Consul General visit and the events ahead that will help move Ferris Forward, together.

Dr. Piram Prakasam
Executive Director, Office of International Education



German Consul General Visit:

The Office of International Education (OIE), partnering with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan, hosted the Hon. German Consul General Wolfgang Moessinger in Big Rapids last Monday. In the afternoon, he met with our Global Competency Collaborative (GC3) Program students to discuss the importance of US/German relations and being globally engaged. The visit also provided an opportunity to celebrate our successful partnership with Hochschule Rhein Waal University (HSRW) of Germany.

The evolution of our partnership with HSRW exemplifies how Student Exchange programs create collaborations that build lasting friendships and institutional partnerships. The partnership between HSRW and our University was developed by an exchange student, Manuel Abels, who came through the US Congress and German Bundestag scholarship in 2010 to study at Ferris State. We have a robust exchange program with HSRW, a double degree program with College of Business, and many professional development opportunities for faculty. Currently, the College of Arts & Sciences is exploring a certificate program on diplomacy.

The Con. Gen. visit was capped with a formal dinner hosted by the OIE and attended by the President, Provost, Mrs. Patsy Eisler and Mrs. Leanne Blake along with many faculty, staff, students, and administrators who have collaborated in building our German partnership. The dinner was sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan.



Study Abroad Fair:

The Office of International Education is hosting the annual Study Abroad Fair this coming week in the UCB Ballrooms. It will be a two-day event to showcase many of the opportunities the University provides students, faculty, and staff to prepare our community to be successful in a dynamic global society.

Participants will learn about our Global Competency Collaborative (GC3 program), double degree program in Germany, and semester-study abroad opportunities in our partner universities and also through our third-party providers. Participants will also have an opportunity to meet with our exchange students from our partner universities. Faculty offering short-term summer programs will also be there to promote their programs.

One of the highlights of this year's Study Abroad program is the month-long China program offered by the College of Business. This program showcases the value of

collaboration within Ferris State and our international partners. This program was developed by faculty with significant support by the College of Business and the Office of International Education and in partnership with Shanghai Printing and Publishing College (China) and Amway Corporation (China). It started with two faculty offering the program in Summer 2017. This year, it will be offered by four faculty members. The program has plans to collaborate with the Detroit Chinese Business Association (DCBA) to integrate resources in Michigan to expand student learning locally.

The China Study Abroad program faculty were invited to the Board of Trustees meeting in Grand Rapids at the beginning of October to share their program. It was well received. It was an opportunity to highlight how we can move Ferris Forward, together, if we are intentionally international.

Come join us to learn about the many opportunities we have for our students and for you to GO Beyond!



Go BEYOND : Minds Aflame

We are excited to invite you and our campus community to our inaugural event for our BEYOND Initiative (BI) on Oct 22nd in Williams Auditorium at 6 PM.

Many of you may recall that the Beyond Initiative (BI) was recognized last year by the Institute for International Education (IIE) as a best practice in campus internationalization in the category of “Faculty as Drivers of Innovation.” Over the years, more than 100 faculty and staff across campus have participated in the Beyond Initiative, reaching several thousand students.

The BI is now in its eighth year was established in 2012 to bring faculty and staff together around an annual theme to plan curricular and co-curricular projects and activities that encourage our students to be globally engaged. The thriving global ecosystem we have in our campus can be rooted to the work of the BI.

Past themes have included:

1. 2012-13 Beyond: The Silk Road
2. 2013-14 Beyond: Mythologies
3. 2014-15 Beyond: Diversity
4. 2015-16 Beyond: Globalization
5. 2016-17 Beyond: Globalization and Us

6. 2017-18 Beyond: Conflict
7. 2018-19 Beyond: Conflict Resolution

We are excited to continue our efforts this year. The Beyond Advisory Council met this summer to discuss our approach and theme for the upcoming year. Following on the theme of 'Conflict Resolution', the committee felt strongly that 'Sustainability' would be a natural fit. We decided to focus on environmental, social, and economic sustainability. But the exciting part is that we will use this theme for the next three years. This will allow more faculty and staff to join the initiative. If faculty and staff are not ready or able to join in year one, they can learn about the events and activities and see how it is being infused into curriculum. Then they can plan ahead for year two and year three.

We are kicking off the Beyond: Sustainability Initiative with the Minds Aflame Speaker event on October 22 from 6-9 in Williams Auditorium. This is a Five Star event and is free and open to the public. We will share details of this event in our next issue. If you would like to join the Beyond: Sustainability Initiative, contact the Office of International Education to find out how.

The BI is a great vehicle for us to move Ferris Forward, together in a sustainable way. Let's Go BEYOND!



In Context:

1. **Read and Explore:** [Ferris State University, Strategic Plan 2019-2024](#)

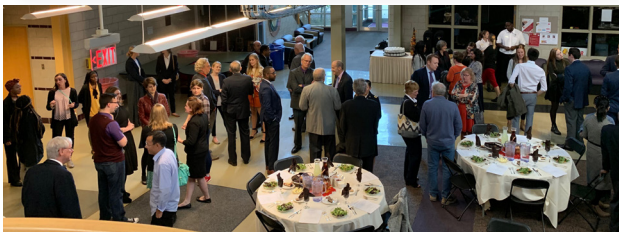


Upcoming Events:

1. **Study Abroad Fair** – Monday, October 21 from 11:00 am -3:00 pm and October 23 from 9:00 am -1:00 pm - UCB 202.
2. **Minds Aflame Speaker Event** – Tuesday, October 22 from 6:00 – 9:00 pm - Williams Auditorium. This event is free and open to the public.



Moment in Time:



German Consul General, the Honorable Wolfgang Moessinger, visited campus on Monday, October 7. He met with our Global Competency Collaborative Certificate Program (GC3) and Global Ambassador Certificate Program (GAC) students for a lunch conversation in the afternoon. In the evening, we hosted CG Moessinger for a dinner, sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan, in the Granger Atrium with faculty, staff, and students in attendance.



Ferris Forward



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