



—a Ferris State international education newsletter

Amal

Greetings from the Office of International Education (OIE). Year 2020 has turned out to follow the famous Chinese blessing: “May you live in interesting times”.

We may all agree that we are living in the most interesting of times. In the middle of a global pandemic, the United States finds itself polarized. We find ourselves in conversations questioning science, distrusting experts, justifying social inequities, and seeking regressive approaches. But, the sense of adventure and optimism still propel us. With help from the US and Japan, the first Mars interplanetary mission from the Arab world was launched successfully this week. The UAE’s orbiter, Amal (hope in Arabic), will reach Mars by February 2021 joining US, EU, and Indian orbiters circling and exploring Mars. The fact that this impressive deep space mission was developed from scratch in six years by a small nation is a testament to international partnerships and collaboration. The University of Colorado, Boulder was one of the key partners in this project. International Education provides a pathway for us to soar ahead by collaborating and learning together with others.

The global pandemic, travel restrictions, and shifting federal policies have significantly disrupted travel and student mobility. However, the promise of international education in strengthening the ties that bind us continues. The work we have done over the last ten years has made a difference. Our Ferris international alumni continue to make a difference around the world. We celebrate their success and share their stories to remind us of the promise of International Education. Join us in reading the many stories we will be sharing in our newsletters and on our social media platforms. In this newsletter, we share the stories of two international bulldogs who are thankful for their Ferris experience and finding their own way to give back to make our world a better place. They are our Amal.

Dr. Piram Prakasam
Executive Director, Office of International Education

Making Our World a Better Place



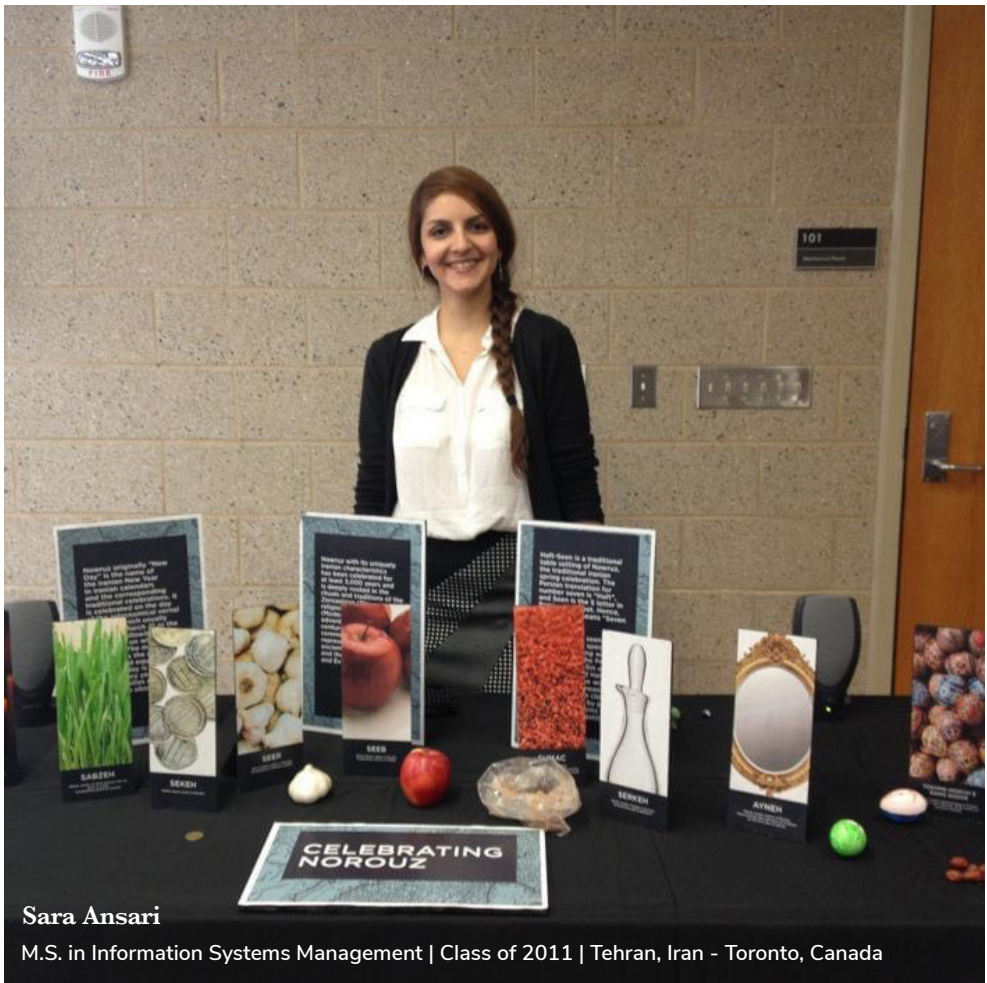
Samir Dave

M.S. in Information Security and Intelligence | Class of 2011 | Surat, India - Fort Worth, Texas

My Ferris State Story

Samir Dave joined Ferris State as a graduate student in the Fall of 2014. During his time at Ferris, Samir was an engaged International student. He wanted to gain valuable experiences outside the classroom and sought ways to be active on campus to learn from others. Samir wanted to put himself in situations that would allow him to grow and be comfortable with new settings. He was an active student in the International Student Organization. He also joined the Student Government and played an active role. He availed opportunities to interact with people from different backgrounds. Samir credits his exposure to various leadership organizations and professors at Ferris State for helping him discover his leadership skills. He also credits his experiences at Ferris for catalyzing the fulfillment of his professional dreams. Samir is thankful to past Ferris Foundation Board Member, Mindy Anderson, for guiding him as he sought employment after graduating in 2016.

Samir is thankful to Ferris State for the opportunities and has committed himself to giving back to the next generation of bulldogs. Currently, he is coordinating efforts to connect International Alumni with Ferris State University to provide career counseling to new students and graduates as they seek employment. Samir is recently married and lives with his wife in Texas, where he continues to pursue his professional goals.



Sara Ansari

M.S. in Information Systems Management | Class of 2011 | Tehran, Iran - Toronto, Canada

My Ferris State Story

Sara Ansari joined Ferris State as a graduate student in the Fall of 2010. Prior to coming to Big Rapids, she was a financial analyst in Tehran with an MBA and five years of work experience. As an active international student at Ferris, Sara enjoyed sharing her culture through the International Student Organization. During her time at Ferris State, Sara secured a Diversity & Inclusion mini grant to host the first ever Persian New Year Celebration (Nowruz) at Ferris State. Working with others, she submitted a proposal to the University to make Ferris an inclusive place for international employees. Sara also played violin in the Ferris State Orchestra and was active in the French Club.

After graduating, Sara worked at Ferris for a couple of years and then emigrated to Canada. Pursuing professional goals and dreams in three different countries is both challenging and rewarding. Two years ago, Sara shared her story on LinkedIn when she was promoted to a managerial position. The story went viral with millions of views and thousands of comments and likes. It touched the hearts of many as it was a quintessential story of the struggles and successes of an immigrant: making a new home in a faraway place and finding purpose. Sara lives in Toronto with her husband and is active in the community helping other immigrants and coaching them through their new experiences of living in a new country. She credits her experiences and interaction at Ferris State for her Diversity & Inclusion advocacy work.



Moment In Time:



The faculty & staff in the Office of International Education welcomes Dr. Robert Fleischman, our new Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. We are looking forward to strengthening and expanding our global efforts under his leadership in Academic Affairs.



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