

From: [University Wide Notices](#)
To: [University Wide Notices](#)
Subject: University-Wide Notices for 3/27/19
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2019 4:24:34 PM

University Wide Notices

Here is a list of today's notices:

- [Featured guest Rev. Devon Herrell at LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffeehouse](#)
- [Blackboard: "To Do" Module Not Working](#)
- [Bulldog Weekends](#)
- [Engaged!](#)
- [We've Got a Cause for Every DAWG!](#)

To view our University Wide Notice (UWN) Procedures, please click [here](#).

Featured guest Rev. Devon Herrell at LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coffeehouse

The LGBTQ+ Resource Center welcomes our featured guest, Rev. Devon Herrell, Director of Wesley House, at our weekly Coffeehouse today, 3/27, from 4-6p.m. Rev. Herrell will share in our light snacks and coffee and tea and make herself available to answer questions and talk about how the recent United Methodist Church General Conference vote affects her practice, and about her commitment to LGBTQ people. Join us, today or any Wednesday!

[Back to top](#)

Blackboard: "To Do" Module Not Working

We have received calls from alarmed students who have missed assignment deadlines because they were depending on the "To Do" module in Blackboard to keep track of due dates.

This is a "Known Issue" with Blackboard, but we have not been provided a resolution timeline.

Please be aware that the "To Do" module in Blackboard is not consistently populating due dates for all assignments for some of your students.

A message with this information has been sent to students, but please remind them not to rely on the "To Do" module to keep track of due dates for their courses. Students can see when things are due by going into My Grades and by looking at the Calendar. Please check your due dates to make sure they are accurate. Please make sure students can access the Calendar and My Grades tools on the left menu. It may also be beneficial to have a document with a list of assignments and due dates available for students.

If you have questions or concerns, feel contact eLearning by phone at (231) 591-2802 or by Email at eLearning@ferris.edu.

Amy L. Greene, Ph.D.

Executive Director for Online Learning

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[Back to top](#)

Bulldog Weekends

Here is some info on the great activities on campus and around Big Rapids this weekend. Remember that faculty and staff are welcome and encouraged to attend!

3/29– Friday

7 PM (1st Showing)

9 PM (2nd Showing)

Friday's at Ferris - Movie: On the Basis of Sex

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a struggling attorney and new mother takes on a groundbreaking tax case , that could change the direction of her career and the way the courts view gender discrimination.

Located in UC 202.

4 PM

Men's Tennis Hosts Northwood

Located at FSU Racquet and Fitness Center

3/30– Saturday

12 PM

Softball Hosts Wisconsin-Parkside

Located at FSU Softball Field

6PM Doors and 7 PM Show

Music Takes Action with Jesse McCartney and MAX

Annual concert at Wink Arena sponsored by Entertainment Unlimited.

Tickets are on sale for \$10 at the Wink Arena Box Office and online at Star Tickets. Tickets are \$15 at the door (if still available).

3/31– Sunday

11 AM—2 PM

Women's Conference Hosted By: You Beautiful Black Women (YBBW)

The Women's Conference is an event to empower women during Women's History Month. There will be keynote speakers and a luncheon to provide a more comfortable space.

Located in UC 202

12 PM

Softball Hosts Purdue Northwest

Located @ FSU Softball Field

All Weekend

FSU Theatre: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

The story concerns a mystery surrounding the death of a neighbor's dog that is investigated by young Christopher Boone, who has an autism spectrum condition, and his relationships with his parents and school mentor.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday—7:30PM


Sunday— 2:30PM

Students = \$5 Adults = \$10 Seniors 65+ = \$7

Located at Williams Auditorium

Ferris State University is an equal opportunity institution. For information on the University's Policy on Non-Discrimination, visit ferris.edu/non-discrimination.

Anyone with a disability who needs special accommodations to attend the event should contact the CLACS office at 231-591-2685 or CLACS@ferris.edu at least 72 hours in advance.



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[Back to top](#)

Engaged!

For previous *Ferris Engaged!* blog posts, please see <https://ferrisengaged.com>.

FEELING BLUE? STRESSED?



Mid winter weather, long semesters and busy schedules can lead people to feel isolated and lonely by limiting the amount of contact and interaction one has with other people. It may be challenging, yet making intentional effort to keep connected with others is important to reduce these feelings. Although staying connected through our devices and online learning is helpful and convenient, keeping a balance of other face-to-face positive interactions is key.

Research shows that depression and loneliness increase the more time a person spends online. To help reduce these feelings, a person should have live, simultaneous interaction with others. According to Garrison, “online students are in greater need of higher-level social presence, which has a strong effect on their learning achievement and satisfaction. “ (Garrison, p. 1) A study at Carnegie Mellon (1998) showed that depression and loneliness increased as online activity increased.



Add to that the fact that as students are nearing the end of a semester, or beginning or ending their college experience anxiety, stress and depression increase as life changes are happening. On top of that, goals, grades, workloads, family and relationships may not be where they would like them to be, as time and focus are on learning, and can add to stress levels.

HOW TO HELP

While video chats and other live forms of online communication can help reduce the feelings of isolation, positive face-to-face conversations and interactions with nature significantly improve mood and well-being.

Tips to minimize depression and isolation for students in online courses:

Talk to others

Set up instructor-to-student live video meetings, chats or discussions with students. Use free tools, such as zoom.us, that work great and allow for screen sharing and multiple people.

Require partner or team interaction. Have students schedule live chats in the course, or have them send you the link to the recording of their team meeting, or ‘stop in’ on their group video meeting to discuss their project progress

Face-to-face

Encourage students to engage in face-to-face interactions outside of the online course – where team members are geographically located in close proximity

Assign discussion board posts where students need to get out in the world and post. Interview a person, take a picture in nature or in public and post how it applies to class content in the course discussion.

Self Care

Suggest your students exercise and get out into nature as a stress buster. As stress builds in the class with project due dates, along with date reminders they may also need reminding of getting adequate sleep and eating right. We all need those reminders periodically!

Written by Kelley E.B. Senkowski, M.Ed.,

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References

Howell, D. (2001). Elements of effective e-learning: Three design methods to minimize side effects of online courses. *College Teaching*, 49(3), 87-90.

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Zhan, Z., & Mei, H. (2013). Academic self-concept and social presence in face-to-face and online learning: Perceptions and effects on students' learning achievement and satisfaction across environments. *Computers & Education*, 69, 131-138.

Ferris eLearning Department

For more information about Ferris eLearning, please see our website at <https://ferris.edu/elearning>, or contact us by phone at (231) 591-2802 or by Email at eLearning@ferris.edu.

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The new eLearning team of instructional design consultants, technologists and trainers support faculty in enhancing student success through high quality use of technology and course design. We provide leadership through strategic planning, expertise, instructional design, best practices, and ...

If you would like assistance designing your online course at Ferris, email eLearning@ferris.edu. We can help!

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[Back to top](#)

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Contact Janel DePew at depewj@ferris.edu
or (231) 591-3812 for questions or more information.

[Back to top](#)