

# PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

## From the Provost:



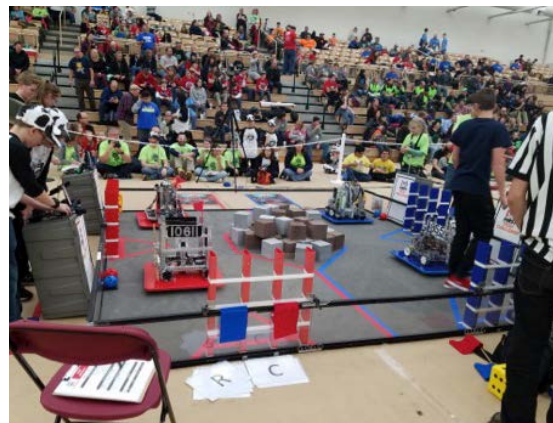
As the semester quickly draws to a close, I want to extend my appreciation to all of you for your incredible work, dedication, and service to our students and the University community. This last month has seen many accomplishments from the dedication of the Anderson Clean Room to the collaborative work between KCAD and main campus in the production of the Indie Incubator to the continuing work of the Opioid Task Force, Graduate Studies Committee, Strategic Planning sessions, and the HLC Steering Committee.

Please enjoy a well-deserved holiday break with family and friends. I look forward to working with you in 2018.

*Paul*

## Robotics Teams Square Off in Wink Arena

On Saturday, December 9, a FIRST Tech Challenge Qualifier was held in Wink Arena. Thirty-six middle school teams from across the state competed in this year's game with several qualifying for state competition. In addition to this, Ferris will host a FIRST Robotics Competition Kickoff event in January where fifteen local high school teams will be given information on this year's competition and be able to participate in workshops and brainstorming sessions.



Among the 36 teams in attendance, four represented the Big Rapids and Reed City areas. Local teams included the Big Rapids Middle School's Cardinal Nation, Crossroads Charter Academy's Wire-Catz, St. Mary Catholic School's Thunder Colts, and Reed City Middle School's Coyote Constructinators.

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## Calender

FALL COMMENCEMENT  
Saturday, December 16, 2017  
Ewigleben Sports Complex

### 10:00 am

College of Arts and Sciences  
College of Education and  
Human Services  
College of Engineering  
Technology

### 1:30 pm

College of Business  
College of Health Professions

## Indie Incubator: From Poem to Print

Featuring the art of four Ferris and Kendall colleges and disciplines, Indie Incubator: From Poem to 3D Print takes viewers on a journey from the spark of artistic inspiration to final art product. Assistant Professor Deirdre Fagan's Literature 231H students led this collaboration with the artistic spark.

Inspired by the current annual Ferris theme, as proposed by the Office of International Education Beyond event, the writing students drafted poems reflecting on four types of conflict: internal, interpersonal, social, and existential. These poems were then sent to Professor Patricia Constantine's Illustration Life Drawing class at Kendall College of Art & Design. There, students envisioned the voice of the poem and rendered two dimensional models.



The illustrations were then sent to Mel Danes and Cari Mayle, instructors in the Digital Animation & Design program. Their students selected the best of the illustrations and worked to model them three-dimensionally. The 3D models were printed by Danes and Luke Hedman, instructor from the College of Engineering Technology.

The Ferris Art Gallery would like to thank the following programs, professors, and their students for making this exhibition concept a reality!

**Deirdre Fagan**, College of Arts & Sciences, English, Literature, and World Languages – Big Rapids campus

**Patricia Constantine**, Kendall College of Art & Design, Illustration Program – Grand Rapids campus

**Mel Danes**, College of Education and Human Services, School of Digital Media – Big Rapids campus

**Cari Mayle**, College of Education and Human Services, School of Digital Media – Grand Rapids campus

**Luke Hedman**, College of Engineering Technology, School of Engineering & Computing Technology – Big Rapids campus

\*Illustration above created by Emmylou Smith

## Strategic Planning First Steps

Dr. Patricia Cormier held listening sessions with faculty, staff, and students in November. She very much appreciated learning more about Ferris and hearing the campus community's thoughts and ideas on the University's future. Dr. Cormier will return to campus in mid-January and hold additional listening sessions for those unable to attend in November.

As Ferris moves forward with strategic planning efforts, Professor Spence Tower and Dean Kristi Haik will be chairing the strategic planning steering committee. If anyone has an interest in strategic planning and would like to serve on this committee, please e-mail your interest to the co-chairs. The committee thanks the Ferris community for its valuable input to help in formulating the next strategic plan for Ferris. They look forward to continuing this work in 2018.

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## Sixth Annual Author Celebration Submission Form Now Open

The submission form is now available for faculty, staff, or student authors or creatives who want to be considered for recognition at the Author Celebration. The event will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Woodbridge N. Ferris Building (WNF).

Examples of scholarly or creative work include:

- ~Sound & video recording
- ~Non-fiction book
- ~Scholarly article
- ~Fiction book
- ~Documentary
- ~Book chapter
- ~Short story
- ~Poem
- ~Poster
- ~Art exhibit
- ~Performance
- ~Presentation
- ~Creative expression



For more information or to view last year's event booklet, go to the Academic Affairs website and choose Events on the top navigation ribbon or by going to <https://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/Events/AuthorCelebEvent/index.htm>

## Dedication of Dr. Roger W. and Betty M. Anderson Clean Room

Students in the College of Pharmacy will be able to receive cutting-edge training on sterile compounding techniques due to the generosity of Dr. Roger W. and Betty M. Anderson. Their gift of \$100,000 allowed Ferris to renovate the sterile preparation room in the Hagerman Pharmacy Building.

In addition to providing the funds to renovate the room, Dr. Anderson was instrumental in working with Qlean Air Scandinavia, Inc., a Swedish manufacturer, who provided in-kind contributions. These contributions made possible installation of laminar flow hoods, which will allow Ferris Pharmacy students to experience compounding sterile medications as they would in a health system environment. College of Pharmacy Assistant Professor Mark Young said that the Anderson Clean Room is only the second such operation now available to pharmacy students studying in the U.S.

“Many schools turn to online or simulated sterile compounding instructional programs, but nothing beats a student feeling the filtered air and practicing their skills under these new hoods,” said Young.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility was held on November 9. Anderson and his wife were joined by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake, College of Pharmacy Dean Stephen Durst, Qlean Air Scandinavia, Inc. USA President Brad Ballantine, and Young in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Clean Room on Thursday, Nov. 9.



*(left to right) Ferris State University College of Pharmacy Assistant Professor Mark Young, Qlean Air Scandinavia, Inc. President Brad Ballantine, College of Pharmacy Dean Stephen Durst, College of Pharmacy alumnus Dr. Roger W. Anderson and his wife, Betty, are shown in the Clean Room, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the facility on Thursday, Nov. 9.*

## Community Engagement Update



The Academic Colleges have expanded their interest and investment in community partnerships to enhance their academic programs and create more opportunities for college in Grand Rapids. Ferris has taken an interest in creating pathways for college access and utilizing the local resources of Innovation Central High School, of Grand Rapids Public, to also benefit learning for its current students. There were two very impressive events in November that exemplify this success.

The Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering Technology, and Health Professions worked in partnership with Admissions and with the office of Community Engagement to create a unique pathway to Ferris for 40 Innovation Central High seniors. These seniors, who were pre-admitted and had completed rigorous career pathway programs in either Health Care, Engineering, Construction Management, or Business, were treated as if they were star athletes being wooed for Bulldog athletics. Program leaders in HVAC, Construction Management, Manufacturing, Biological Sciences, Social Work, Health Care, and Business rolled out the red carpet to recruit these potential star leaders in their field. This was a truly remarkable day. Ferris faculty and staff thank all involved, especially Jason DaDay and Charlotte Tetsworth, for their innovative responses to these students.

Days later, Chris Cospes, Assistant Professor in Architectural and Facility Management, unveiled his senior students' work with Innovation Central High School's Senior Design class on the prospective redesign of this historic high school building in downtown Grand Rapids. Cospes's students worked in tandem with the high school students to imagine redesigning the new high school renovations. It was an opportunity to see Ferris' students enhance their own learning and cement in their minds some of the foundational skills they have developed by teaching the tools of their trade to the Innovation students.



## ADVANCE Grant Funds Awarded

Dr. Eric Nybo, Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, College of Pharmacy, was awarded matching funds from the ADVANCE Early Stage Proof of Concept Technology Grant Fund. The fund is administered by Michigan State University (MSU) and funded by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Entrepreneurship & Innovation initiative.



Nybo's project, "A Novel Metabolic Engineering Platform for Production of Anthracyclonones," is an invention that allows genetically-engineered actinomycetes to produce novel anthracyclinone and anthracycline drug molecules that are useful for chemical starting materials, antibiotics, or anticancer agents. Tom Dowling, Assistant Dean and Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, explains that Nybo's project stems from his invention that was reviewed by MSU Technologies leading to a provisional patent that was issued on June 23, 2017, with the aim of submitting a full patent by June 2018.

Funded projects come out of Michigan State University, Ferris State University, and Western Michigan University. Through the Advance fund, the MEDC provides up to \$40,000, with matching contributions from the universities, to support, advance, and encourage early stage technologies. The fund allows inventors to benefit through achievement of critical early stage milestones such as proof-of-concept or market opportunity validation which will lead to follow-on commercialization activities.

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## Preparations Begin for HLC Visit

Work has begun for the 2020-2021 Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation visit for Ferris State University. The steering committee, led by Jeff Ek, Marketing Department chair and coordinator for the Graphic Design program, and Kristi Haik, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has begun its meetings, and, in January, the five additional Criterion committees will be appointed. Ferris is preparing for a fall 2020 visit, at which time the University must have documented evidence of its meeting all of the standards. Find each of the criteria and the core components

and sub-components documented here: <https://www.hlcommission.org/Policies/criteria-and-core-components.html>. Volunteers and nominations are still welcomed! Suggestions are also welcomed by the co-chairs and Robbie Teahen in Academic Affairs.

The Steering Committee is developing its purposes and proposed outcomes, which will be shared soon. Among them will be the heightened utilization of data to inform University decisions with the expectation that embarking on this process in 2017 will result in a stronger University in 2020.

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## Dental Therapist Opportunities

Even though Michigan residents have increased choices for dental coverage today, a significant number lack dental insurance or, more importantly, lack access or the ability to receive dental care. One solution to the "Access to Care" problem is to include a dental therapist as part of a dental team. Senate Bill 541, to establish a new mid-level dental provider or dental therapist, passed the Michigan Senate on October 11, 2017. The House of Representatives Committee on Health Policy is now reviewing the bill that will assist Michigan residents gain access to necessary oral care.

Ferris is exploring this issue as it is an opportunity for our graduates to serve underrepresented populations, especially those groups that are underserved by virtue of their geographic locations in rural settings. This proposed mid-level provider will be required to practice in settings serving primarily low-income, uninsured, and underserved patients, or practice in areas designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas. These practice limitations will help address the gap in care for the underserved patients in Michigan.

The dental therapist will become a licensed member of the dental team and will practice under the supervision of a dentist, provide preventive care, and approximately 10% of some of the basic services provided by a dentist. This legislation requires that a dental therapist graduate from a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) approved dental therapy education program, pass a competency based clinical examination, and complete 500 hours of supervised clinical practice under direct supervision of a dentist.

In addition, Ferris dental hygiene graduates with a BS degree would be eligible for enrollment in any future dental therapist program to expand their education and become part of the solution to provide access to quality dental care for all Michigan residents.

## Opioid Task Force Begins Work

With representation from across the University, the Opioid Task Force was formed at the start of Fall Semester 2017 to address what has been classified as the “Opioid Epidemic.” The Task Force was originally proposed by Dean David Damari, Michigan College of Optometry, with support from the College of Health Professions, College of Arts and Sciences, and College of Pharmacy. Meetings have been held throughout the semester with membership expanding at each meeting.

To organize the effort, the Logic Model, which relates resources, activities, and outcomes, was used by a subcommittee of the task force to organize the effort into three distinct workgroups of focus: the University community (students, faculty, and staff); regional healthcare providers/prescribers; and the broader community. The primary focus of each workgroup will be education and the organization of resources to address the epidemic.

Further cross-cutting responsibilities of the workgroups include completion of a baseline needs assessment, development of appropriate timelines, and formulation of an assessment strategy for planned interventions.

Additional Task Force members, representing specific areas of the University community, are sought. To receive further information about the committee’s work or to join the taskforce, contact Stephen Durst, dean, College of Pharmacy (StephenDurst@ferris.edu).

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## Graduate Studies Committee Continues to Meet

The Graduate Studies Committee was formed in late 2016. The group has met 13 times since December 2016. Subcommittees were created to research the following focus areas: Central Office, Growth & Development, Marketing/Website, Online, and Policies/Procedures/Processes. Preliminary recommendations in each of the areas have been formed and are currently being presented to the deans and college representatives.

Members of the committee include: Paul Blake, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Wendy Samuels, representing the College of Arts and Sciences; Greg Gogolin, representing the College of Business; Sandra Balkema, representing the Doctorate in Community College Leadership; Nancy Hogan, representing the College of Education and Human Services; Stacy Anderson, representing FLITE; Sharon Colley, representing the College of Health Professions; Chad Rosen, representing

the Michigan College of Optometry; Felix Amissah, representing the College of Pharmacy; Christopher Cosper, representing the College of Engineering Technology; Mischelle Stone, representing Academic Senate; and Olukemi Fadayomi, representing Academic Senate.

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## Veterans Day Concert

The Ferris West Central Concert Band presented its 15th Annual Veterans Day Concert on November 12. In addition to the band, which is comprised of Ferris students and area community members, the concert also featured a host of guest participants, including FSU alumnus and veteran Rudy Grahek (aka “Dynamite the Clown”); Tim Zielke, bagpiper; FSU student Courtney Wernette, vocalist; FSU Professional CAS Advisor Dave Schrock, narrator; FSU Communication Professor Dr. Donna Smith, announcer; FSU emeritus Jim Lindsey, veteran speaker; FSU Media Specialist Jeff Gabalis, visual effects coordinator; Dr. Charles B. DCamp, guest conductor; the Ferris State University Student Veterans Association; Dr. David Nicol, FSU Dean of the College of Business, welcome address speaker; the Big Rapids American Legion Post 98 Honor Guard, coordinated by FSU emerita Jean Bennett; and Dr. Mark S. Kane, The Patch Adams/Gesundheit Institute’s “Clownvets” Project, presenter.

The concert also featured a special performance of “What Was the Point Again?” a one-act play written by local playwright and FSU alumnus Jim Samuels, and performed by Justin Gray and Jim Samuels. The Mid-Michigan Honor Flight and the FSU Delta Kappa Omega chapter of the Kappa Kappa Psi National Band Fraternity also contributed with displays in the lobby of Williams Auditorium.



## A Welcome Space for All



FLITE's Meditation and Prayer Room opened in November and serves as a safe space for quiet reflection of all types for the Ferris community. Located on the third floor of FLITE, Room 314 is kept unlocked and is equipped with yoga mats, floor cushions, and chairs, and patrons are welcome to bring additional materials. Shoes, sleeping, homework, and group work are not permitted in the space.

"It is a good idea, and a good spot for people to practice their faith in private and away from the stress of life," said Stephanie Wilson, a freshman in Early Childhood Development. "They have other specific places for students, like the sports complexes for the athletes, so this is a good place for people to just relax and practice their faith."

The room also features an art installation created by FLITE members that includes the insightful thoughts and mindful practices of those who attended the room's opening celebration. This art piece consists of 800+ hand-painted tissue circles and took over two weeks to complete.

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## GRPS-Ferris Agreement Aims to Train Future Teachers

Ferris State University's School of Education is partnering with the Grand Rapids Public Schools in the development of an Academy of Teaching and Learning at Innovation Central High School.

The partnership will provide a pipeline to develop

teachers to work in the district which currently struggles to find teachers.

Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal signed the partnership agreement with Dr. Arrick Jackson, FSU School of Education and Human Services dean. "We decided to grow our own teachers," said Neal. The arrangement is meant to develop a pipeline that feeds students K-12 to higher education and then returns them to GRPS. "We want to boost the careers in teaching because there is an alarming reduction in the numbers of students going into education."

Tony Baker, treasurer of the GRPS Board of Education, helped create a model that includes the recruitment, training, and retention of new teachers. He said the Academy is "in many ways a much bigger dream."

"Imagine the barriers that keep students away from college in general," said Baker, a Ferris professor of sociology and director for Community Engagement. "We need our students to become teachers of our students in the future."

Innovation High students who are interested in pursuing a teaching degree will enroll in the Academy beginning fall 2018. They will then be able to take dual-enrollment education courses and earn seven credits from Ferris. A Ferris professor, along with GRPS staff, will teach the courses. The curriculum will allow students to be given opportunities for in-classroom experience as well as teaching mentorships. Once the students graduate from high school, they will gain an additional three credits, for a total of 10 credits, towards their bachelor's degree upon enrollment at Ferris.



*Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal and Dr. Arrick Jackson, dean of Ferris' College of Education and Human Services, sign agreement as Innovation Central Principal Mark Frost, right, looks on.*

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For more information on the Office of Academic Affairs, go to <https://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/academicaffairs/index.htm> or call (231)591-2300