

PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

From the Provost:

Spring has finally arrived and with it the close of the academic year. While this newsletter cannot report on all of the important activities to which faculty and staff devote their time, please note some significant achievements in this issue. These include our current Board of Trustee, Ana Ramirez-Saenz, receiving the "Hispanic Businessperson of the Year" award, the recognition of the 2018 Academic Affairs Awards recipients, and the Center for Latin@ Studies celebrating its fifth year anniversary. As this semester ends, thank you for your incredible dedication and service to Ferris. Have a delightful summer.

Paul

Center for Latin@ Studies Celebrates Five Years



The Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) would like to thank everyone who came to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Center's existence on the Ferris campus. Its success is due to the collaborative support of the many faculty, staff, students, and community members that continue to advance and support the Center.



During the celebration, CLS shared new graphic designs that visually depict the Center's mission of working with students and communities to navigate higher education opportunities. The compasses used to describe the various programs demonstrate a connection to the indigenous roots while also demonstrating how CLS helps to navigate the in-between spaces of higher education. Thanks go to the Advancement and Marketing Department and the Center's student employees who helped to conceptualize the Center's work into these graphics. To see more photos from the event, go to the [Ferris State Center for Latin@ Studies Facebook page](#)

Content

- Ana Ramirez-Saenz Honored ... 2
- ADA Assessment 2
- Academic Award Recipients 3
- Human Trafficking Conference .. 3
- Student Research Fellows 4
- HERS Presentation 5
- KCAD & Ferris Collaboration ... 5
- Olukemi Fadayomi Awarded 5
- Latino College Graduates 6
- Swan Annex Project 6

Calendar

- 4/30:** Exam week begins
- 5/4:** Exam week ends
- 8/15:** Deadline for September ProvostPost Newsletter Submission

Spring Commencement Ewigleben Sports Complex

- Friday, May 4, 2018**
 3:30 pm (CHP & MCO)
 7:00 pm (CAS, COP & DCCL)

Saturday, May 5, 2018

- 9:00 am (CEHS)
- 12:30 pm (CET)
- 4:00 pm (COB)

Ana Ramirez-Saenz Honored for Achievements



Pictured (L-R): Promesa Scholar Sayra Moore, Office of Community Engagement Director Tony Baker, Promesa Scholar Daniel Rivera, Promesa Scholar Rogelio Nino-Vazquez, Board of Trustee Member Ana Ramirez-Saenz, Center for Latin@ Studies Program Coordinator Jessica Ledesma, Executive Director of Leadership and Giving Barbara Benda, Latino Business and Economic Development Center Director Carlos Sanchez, and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Blake.

For the second year in a row, a prominent Ferris leader is the recipient of the “Hispanic Businessperson of the Year” award at the West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 2018 Annual Awards Gala.

Current Board of Trustee, Ana Ramirez-Saenz, President of La Fuente Consulting, LLC, was one of only six honorees recognized for her outstanding contributions and commitment to service to the West Michigan community. As an example of her commitment to Ferris, she attended the César Chávez celebration at Ferris on March 13th and presented the Center for Latin@ Studies with a financial contribution to launch an emergency-need fund to support students in their programs.

The Hispanic Chamber Awards Gala also provided an opportunity for the Scholars of the Promesa Scholars Program to attend one of their first professional networking events. The Scholars were poised and adeptly networked to meet attendees of the Gala. They developed these skills by participating in the “Entering a Professional Community” program sponsored by last year’s award recipient and Director of the Latino Business and Economic Development Center Carlos Sanchez.

ADA Facility Assessment Completed

During the 2017-18 academic year, in an effort to assess Ferris State’s compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), an Accessibility Audit Project was conducted involving the following parties: Disability Advocates of Kent County, Ferris State University Office of Educational Counseling and Disability Services, and senior Ferris students from the Facility Management program. Under the guidance of Architectural Technology and Facility Management Professors Dane Johnson and Diane Nagelkirk, students evaluated six buildings: Business Building, Starr Educational Center, Rock Café, Johnson Hall, Wink Arena, and the Swan Building. Each building was evaluated for accessibility regarding approach and entrance, goods and services, public toilet rooms, and additional items such as water fountains and public telephones.

Spaces and architectural features that passed and those that failed were identified. Solutions were then proposed to assist the Physical Plant in outlining a plan to attain readily

achievable barrier removal. In addition, this project presented an opportunity for students to explore applications of the principles of universal design, which aim to create a more user-friendly environment for people of all abilities and varying learning styles.

The report detailed two tiers of solutions to identified issues. Tier one solutions bring the condition into compliance with ADA. In general, they are easily accomplished and less expensive (for example, reconfiguring toilet stalls). Tier two solutions reflect universal design goals, in particular, those that pertain to equitable use. These solutions commonly require more extensive architectural changes (for example, new elevator construction).

The final report was distributed to stakeholders in March 2018 for review and implementation.

Academic Affairs AWARDS 2018

Each year, the Division of Academic Affairs recognizes Ferris State University faculty and staff who demonstrate excellence in their professional endeavors. Here are this year's awardees:

Academic Scholar Award – Christopher M. Redker, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences. This award recognizes a member of the academic community who has demonstrated excellence in research, inquiry, and/or scholarship.

Adjunct Teaching Excellence Award – Sarah Rescoe, Adjunct Instructor 1, College of Arts and Sciences. This award recognizes an adjunct faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in teaching.

Distinguished Service Award – Jennifer J. Johnson, Professor, College of Arts and Sciences. This award is conferred upon a faculty member who serves the community through leadership in departmental college and/or university committees; in activities that contribute to the well-being of the institution; in local, regional, state, national, or international professional organizations; and in mentoring colleagues and students.

Distinguished Teaching Award – Deborah A. Rockman, Professor, Kendall College of Art and Design. This award is symbolic of the appreciation of the faculty for their dedication to and excellence in teaching.

Diversity Enhancement Award – Olukemi Fadayomi, Professor, College of Arts and Sciences. This award is conferred upon a faculty or staff member who demonstrates a significant commitment to enhancing diversity and harmonious relationships at Ferris.

Excellence in Course Assessment Award – Kali M. VanLangen, Associate Professor, College of Pharmacy. This award is given based on excellence in use of assessment data in a course to improve student learning.

International Educator Award – Christine Vonder Haar, Professor, College of Arts and Sciences. Individuals of this award exemplify a high level of achievement in international education.

Outstanding Academic Advisor Award – Dawn Schavey, Senior Academic Advisor, Extended & International Operations. This award recognizes an academic advisor who has demonstrated excellence in such areas as providing superior service to students and/or developing innovative advising

strategies and tools.

Outstanding First-Year Advocate Award – Anne Spain, Associate Professor, College of Arts and Sciences. This award recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the academic and/or personal lives of first-year students.

The Richard W. Griffin Political Engagement Award – Kristi L. Scholten, Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences. This award is conferred upon a faculty or staff member who demonstrates exemplary commitment and contributions to the political knowledge, skills, and motivation of members of the Ferris community.

Building Awareness of Human Trafficking

The University's Coalition Against Slavery cites a reported 305 cases of human trafficking recorded in Michigan in 2017, which was the sixth-highest total in the U.S. To address this issue, the Coalition hosted the second annual Inter-professional Conference on Human Trafficking Awareness (ICHTA) April 10 – 11, 2018. The conference educated community members, faculty, staff, students, and professionals on the realities of human trafficking and provided valuable continuing education credits for professionals in many disciplines including social work and dental hygiene.



Pictured above is Becky McDonald

With the support of the Ferris Diversity and Inclusion Office, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, this educational event provided collaborative opportunities that included multiple student organizations and academic programs across colleges.

The conference began with a free viewing of the documentary "I Am Jane Doe" Tuesday evening. On Wednesday, featured speakers included Assistant Attorney General Kelly Carter, FBI Victim Specialist Carmen Kucinich, and Becky McDonald, the president and founder of Women at Risk, International, who gave the keynote address. Go here to learn more on [Women of Risk, International](#).

Summer Student Research Fellows Chosen



Pictured above is Dr. Jennifer Lamberts.

The Student Research Fellowship (SRF) program supports collaborative research projects between faculty and students at Ferris State University. The program provides Ferris students with valuable research experience, as well as contributes to the professional development of faculty.

Student fellows work full time on a research project with a faculty mentor for a 10-week period over the summer. Results of their work will be shared with the University community at the SRF Symposium on Wednesday, August 22 at 2:00 pm in SCI 126 (Wednesday of Faculty Welcome Back Week).

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) would like to acknowledge and thank Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Blake for providing SRF funding, as well as the faculty of the SRF review committee for sharing their time and careful consideration of the 2018 SRF applications.

The 2018 SRF program would not be successful without the financial support of faculty mentors by their respective college deans: Matthew Adeyanju, Dave Damari, Stephen Durst, and Kristi Haik.

Please join us in congratulating the 2018 SRF recipients:

Student Research Fellow: **Breanna Frasher**, Public Health
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Michael Reger**, Health Professions, Public Health

Project: *Phytoestrogen Intake and the Risk of Total and Advanced Colorectal Cancer*

Student Research Fellow: **Gregory Shaffer**, Pharmacy
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Jennifer Lamberts**, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Project: *Understanding the Role of Neuroinflammation in Parkinson's Disease*

Student Research Fellow: **Megan Van Baren**, Pharmacy
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Felix Amissah**, Pharmacy, Pharmaceu-

tical Sciences

Project: *Impact of Cyclooxygenase Inhibitor/Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Combination on Rho GTPase Function in Lung Cancer Cells*

Student Research Fellow: **Andrew Bobian**, Pre-Pharmacy
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Dan Adsmund**, Arts and Sciences, Physical Sciences

Project: *Using Amidines as Centerpieces of Ternary Cocrystal Design*

Student Research Fellow: **Taylor Jones**, Pharmacy
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Kim Hancock**, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Science

Project: *Dissolution of Antidepressant Medications in a Vertical Sleeve Gastrectomy Dissolution Simulation*

Student Research Fellow: **Heidi Stultz**, Pharmacy
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Qian Ding**, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Sciences

Project: *Prevalence of Antipsychotic Medications Prescribing Errors for Elderly Patients Based on Medicare Claims Data*

Student Research Fellow: **Jesse Birsching**, Optometry
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Amy Dinardo**, Optometry
Project: *Not a Dry Eye in the House?: A Clinical Analysis of the Meibomian Gland Structure and Function in Patients Without Dry Eye Disease*

Student Research Fellow: **Jacklyn Zvonar**, Biology/
Pre-Medicine
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Changqi Zhu**, Arts & Sciences, Biological Sciences

Project: *Mechanistic Study of the Role of Atg Genes in Fruit Fly Lifespan Regulation Through Adult Muscle Tissues*

Student Research Fellow: **Roan Fahey**, Biology
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Christopher Westerkamp**, Arts & Sciences, Biological Sciences

Project: *Effect of Chronotype and Time of Day on Exercise Performance*

Student Research Fellow: **Zackary Hren**, Chemistry
Faculty mentor: **Dr. Luis Rivera**, Arts & Sciences, Physical Sciences

Project: *Pressure Effects on the Relaxation of an Excited Ethane Molecule in an Argon Bath*



Pictured above right is Dr. Christopher Westerkamp.

HERS Participants Share Experiences

Ten Ferris State University women leaders presented on their experiences participating in a Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Summer Leadership Institute. The Women's Leadership Program Poster Presentation was held on Tuesday, April 24, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in UCB 217. In addition to sharing their knowledge gained through HERS, the women shared their personal goals that led them to attend HERS and provided details of their Ferris leadership project.

HERS is dedicated to creating and sustaining a community of women leaders through leadership development programs. Participants attend an intensive 12-day residential program with a focus on self-knowledge, networking, and institutional awareness.

Past HERS attendees include Lianne Briggs, Olukemi Fadayomi, Jackie Hughes, Jennifer Johnson, Leah Monger, Susan Owen, Theresa Raglin, Mischelle Stone, Meral Topcu, and Trinity Williams.

The event was sponsored by the Provost's office and was open to the public.



Pictured (L-R): Leah Monger, Theresa Raglin, Meral Topcu, Trinity Williams, Jackie Hughes, and Olukemi Fadayomi.

Art Gallery Showcases Unique KCAD and FSU Student Collaboration

The Ferris State University Art Gallery recently featured an exhibition from students in four different programs: English, Digital Animation & Design, and Product Design & Engineering Technology from Ferris' main campus, and Illustration from Kendall College of Art and Design's (KCAD) campus. *Indie Incubator: From Poem to 3D Print*

began when Literature students wrote poems exploring conflict. Their ideas were interpreted into two dimensional models by Illustration students at KCAD. Digital Animation & Design program students then transformed the models into 3D, after which they were printed by Product Design & Engineering Technology students.

Professor Patricia Constantine's Illustration Life Drawing class (pictured) was given the task of developing a character from each of the poems. In addition to displaying their work at the Ferris Art Gallery, their contributions, along with the work from the students in the other programs, will be presented by Carrie Weis, Ferris State University Gallery Director, at the upcoming 13th Annual Arts & Society Conference in Vancouver this June.



KCAD Illustration students getting into character (Photo credit: Patricia Constantine)

Fadayomi Chosen to Receive Award

Olukemi Fadayomi, professor of Biology, has been named a recipient of the 2018 Michigan Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award. Michigan American Council on Education Network for Women in Higher Education sponsors the award.

She will officially be presented with the award by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake during a luncheon on Tuesday, June 5 in East Lansing, Michigan. The honor is in recognition of Fadayomi's impact on the Ferris campus and beyond in promoting and mentoring women in higher education. In addition to teaching, Fadayomi is a Faculty-in-Residence in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.



Hispanic/Latino College Graduates Celebrate



Pictured (L-R): Marco Rojas-Garcia, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice; Taylor Flannigan, Associates of Science, Social Work; Samantha Sanchez-Rivera, Bachelor of Science, Social Work; Maria Macias, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice; Adrian Viera, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice; David Perez, Associate of Science, Mechanical Engineering; 2nd Row Jacqueline Recinos, Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice; Anna Rivera, Associates of Science, Social Work

On Friday, April 6, the Center for Latin@ Studies participated in the 2nd Annual Statewide Hispanic/Latino College Graduation in Lansing, MI. Over 250 people from across the state were present to celebrate the 70 graduates who had earned degrees ranging from associate to doctoral degrees.

Anna Rivera, a Promesa Summer Success Alumna, reflected that, “Walking in this graduation to recognize earning my associate’s degree helps me to appreciate how far I have come and helped me to recognize my accomplishments in coming this far.” She also stated that it encouraged her to keep pushing forward to earn her Bachelor’s degree in Social Work.

Both Rivera and Marco Rojas-Garcia, a Promesa Scholar graduating in May with his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, both agreed that, “This was a shared space to have our community celebrate our accomplishments with us. Even if all of your family can’t see you walk, we had a community that understands our struggle to celebrate with us.” Marco also stated, “It didn’t matter here if you couldn’t afford a cap and gown as you still could walk and not feel out of place.” The Center for Latin@ Studies is proud to have participated in the last two graduations and looks forward to taking graduates to the 2019 graduation.

Swan Annex Project Making Progress

Governor Rick Snyder recently visited Ferris State University to talk with educators and business leaders about his new Marshall Plan and he took time to tour this phase in the construction of the Annex. He was able to view what has been done recently and speak with Ferris employees.

Overall, the Swan Technical Arts Building Annex is on schedule to be fully occupied by fall semester 2018. The existing welding program area is being updated and merged with the new construction. Many of the lecture and lab rooms are already being occupied. Most of the changes to the main Swan Building have been completed to accommodate other programs such as Architecture and Mechanical Engineering Technology, who were initially displaced due to the construction.



Pictured (L-R): Professor of Welding Engineering Technology Jeff Hardesty, Associate Professor of Welding Engineering Technology Dave Murray, and Michigan Governor Rick Snyder

Academic Affairs wishes you
a great summer!



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

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