

PROVOSTPOST

Academic Affairs Division Newsletter

From the Provost:

New and returning students this fall found two significant facility additions in the completion of the Swan Annex Expansion and Renovation and the opening of the Academic Literacies Center in FLITE. These academic spaces will have an incredibly positive effect on students from accommodating enrollment growth in technology programs and greater access to equipment to providing resources in breaking down learning barriers – both increasing student academic success and retention.

This issue highlights just a few of the many achievements of students, faculty, and staff over the last few months. Please join me in recognizing their hard work and in welcoming our new faculty to Ferris.

Paul

Focus on Swan Annex: Welding



Nicholas Myszak, of Grand Ledge, (left to right) and Ryan Morrison, of Fowlerville, on robotic welder.

“If you build it, they will come” could be the new motto for the Welding Engineering Technology Program (WET). With the recently completed Swan Technical Arts Building Annex Expansion and Renovation project, prospective welding students, many of whom have been waiting for over two years to attend the program, will now be able to start welding classes. This will include students from community colleges in 2+2 programs that partner with Ferris, as well as transfer students from other institutions.

The Annex project resulted in larger classrooms and lab spaces to accommodate more students as well as additional equipment. Increased space will allow instructors to incorporate a greater number of processes in their teaching that had not been possible in the old, congested setting. The program expansion will allow Ferris to provide opportunities for more students to obtain a Welding Engineering Technology BS degree. Contact Jeff Carney at 231.591.2511 for a group tour.

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Lists of new faculty are scattered throughout the Newsletter. Please join us and welcome them into the Ferris family.

DCCL Texas Cohort Connects Over Dinner

While on a recruiting trip to Houston for Texas Cohort 2, Associate Provost and Doctorate in Community College Leadership (DCCL) Director Robbie Teahen spent an enjoyable evening with 10 of the students in the first cohort – most from Lone Star College and the Houston Community College System. DCCL faculty have enjoyed working with these students, as their experience and enthusiasm makes for lively discussions according to Teahen.

“We are all learning much from each other because of the differences in Texas higher education,” Teahen said. “This group’s encouragement of others to join the next cohort has been very helpful.”



Associate Provost and DCCL Director Robbie Teahen and students from the DCCL Texas Cohort in Houston.

Women of Color Collaborative Luncheon

Ferris State University will host the annual American Council on Education (ACE) Women’s Network Women of Color Collaborative (WOCC) Luncheon on Friday, November 9, 2018. The event is open to the public and will be held in the University Center.

The theme of the 2018 Luncheon is “Let’s Talk About It” and will include lunch, deliberative dialogues, optional tours of the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia, the Museum of Sexist Objects, and networking opportunities. The luncheon is scheduled from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm with optional museum tours at 10:00 am and 1:45 pm. Registration is due by 5 p.m. Friday, October 26.

Ana L. Ramirez-Saenz, a member of the Ferris State University Board of Trustees, will be the keynote speaker. The luncheon is sponsored by the Women’s Network of the Michigan American Council on Education – MI-ACE. For more information or to register, go [here](#).

New Faculty: College of Education and Human Services

- Niccole Erickson
- Melissa Thiebault Marinelli
- Mike Wendling
- David White
- Brandy VanGessel

New Faculty: College of Pharmacy

- Namita Giri
- Sonali Kurup
- Kyle Schmidt
- Scott Sexton

John Scott Gray Honored

Ferris’ 2017 Distinguished Teacher John Scott Gray was recognized at the 12th Annual Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Recognition ceremony in April. Sponsored by the Michigan Association of State Universities (MASU), the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year recognition program recognizes outstanding faculty contributions to undergraduate education.

Each member institution of the MASU nominates one faculty member annually for this award. From this group, a Michigan distinguished professor is chosen. All of the 15 Michigan Public Universities’ Distinguished Professors of the Year individuals were invited to this event. While Gray was not chosen as a Michigan Distinguished Professor of the year, his inclusion into this group of esteemed and illustrious professors is indeed an honor.

Gray was joined at the event by his wife, Jo Anna Meyer and Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Paul Blake. More information on Gray’s award can be found [here](#).



Jo Anna Meyer, John Scott Gray, and Paul Blake.

College of Business Earns Accreditation Renewal



Ferris State University's College of Business received reaffirmation of accreditation of its business programs by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) in May 2018. The ACBSP process reviews the quality and integrity of business degree

programs through evaluation of leadership, strategic planning, relationships with stakeholders, quality academic programs, faculty credentials, and educational support.

Based on the Baldrige Education Criteria for Performance Excellence, the ACBSP process assesses the rigor of the educational experience and commitment to continuous quality improvement. Institutions accredited by ACBSP must undergo a process of reaffirmation every 10 years in order to maintain accredited status. To ensure continuous improvement, a Quality Assurance Report is due five years prior to the next reaffirmation visit. College of Business's next ten-year reaffirmation will be in 2028.

For more information about the College of Business's accreditation, please go [here](#).

Zimmerman Receives Appointment

Gov. Rick Snyder recently appointed Gregory Zimmerman, academic department head of Clinical Laboratory, Respiratory Care, and Health Administration in the College of Health Professions, to the Michigan Board of Occupational Therapists. He will serve on a nine-member board that assists the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs in overseeing the licensure and practice of Michigan's occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants.



Zimmerman has been with Ferris since 2009, and is committed to helping students succeed. This spring, he spearheaded the inaugural (1st annual) golf scramble to support the College of Health Professions' Endowed Student Economic Assistance Scholarship Fund which raised in excess of \$16,000. He is also active in the Global Healthcare

Conference (GHC), an interdisciplinary Academic Research Organization that addresses global health challenges. He serves as a GHC peer reviewer on the program committee, acts as a regular conference speaker, and in 2015, gave the keynote address in Singapore.

Zimmerman earned a doctoral degree in higher education leadership from Nova Southeastern University. He also earned a master's degree in health services administration and a bachelor's degree in sports medicine and public health education, both from Central Michigan University.

Zimmerman will serve a four-year term through December 31, 2021. His appointment is subject to the advice and consent of the Michigan State Senate.

Grant Proposal Writing Workshop a Success

Nearly 30 faculty and staff from seven colleges and units within Academic and Student Affairs participated in a three-day workshop held in FLITE on May 7-9, 2018. Topics covered during the workshop included pre-proposal planning, funding agencies, budgets, research proposal development, program proposal development, and designing program evaluation plans. Proposals for potential grant funding include development of online tutoring programs, documentation and research issues surrounding genocide, biomedical research in Parkinson's disease, use and safety of electronic nicotine delivery systems, botanical and herbal supplementation, innovation in K-12 STEM education, and many others.

A special thank you to presenters and review panelists: Kristi Haik, Jennifer Hegenauer, Tom Dowling, Jason Bentley, Arrick Jackson, Greg Gogolin, Victor Piercey, David Frank, and Wendy Stapp. The workshop was sponsored by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) and the College of Arts and Sciences.



Faculty members at the Grant Proposal Writing workshop.

New Faculty: College of Business

- Mary Cooper
- Brian Hauch
- Mary Holmes
- Katie Kalata
- David Nowacki
- Tyler Watts

TMC FutureTech National Student Competition Winner

The National Technician Skills Competitions took place in Orlando this year, but the distance did not stop one proud Ferris State University student winner, Ian Partak. Partak went head to head with contestants from around the country during written and hands-on challenges, ultimately becoming the winner of the TMC FutureTech National Student Technician Competition. Taking second last year, Partak said he “couldn’t be happier” that he took a chance at it again this year.

Partak is currently a senior in the four-year Heavy Equipment Service Engineering Technology bachelor’s program, stating that, “Engines are my passion.” He said that the competition was “challenging, hands-on, but it’s also technical,” which put his skills and his love for engines to the test. He managed to pull ahead of all the other competitors and take home the win. “The bachelor’s degree program that I’m in helped me immensely,” Partak said.

American Trucking Associations (ATA) is the largest national trade association for the trucking industry. Its Technology and Maintenance Council (TMC) focuses on truck technology and maintenance, and with member companies, works to create the industry’s standards for future truck technology. FutureTech 2018 was sponsored by Tech Force Foundation.



Ian Partak winning the TMC FutureTech National Student Technician Competition.

Academic Literacies Center Addresses Student Needs



Students enjoying ability to collaborate and learn in new Academic Literacies Center.

The new Academic Literacies Center (ALC) opened its doors for the first time in August. The ALC embraces a holistic approach to student learning, including recognition of the visible and not-so-visible barriers to success. It provides students opportunities to be successful in particular courses, specific content areas, and/or finding ways past their barriers.

The ALC continues to offer services that the Tutoring Center and Writing Center previously provided, such as tutoring, Structured Learning Assistance (SLA), study skills, and writing assistance. In addition, the facility has an adaptive technology lab and a communication lab. More services that will address cultural/linguistic and light/migraine barriers, as well as provide auditory, reading, and visual assessments, will soon be available.

The ALC is located on the first floor of FLITE and is open Monday – Thursday, 8 am-5 pm and Friday, 8 am-2 pm. To contact the ALC office, email alc@ferris.edu, or call 231.591.3543.

Academic Affairs Policies:

The following polices were sent to the Academic Senate in early September 2018, and once reviewed, they will be posted for 30 days to allow comments:

1. Policy Creation and Revision Procedure
2. Academic Meeting Schedule Policy
3. Compensation and Budget Policy
4. Awarding Credit Policy

FSU Public Health Students – Serving the Community

Students from the Public Health Student Association gained valuable networking and learning opportunities when they assisted with the Second Annual Chronic Disease Prevention Summit held on Friday, September 21, 2018 in Ferris' University Center. The Summit's theme was "The Power of Collaboration" and was attended by more than sixty healthcare leaders from across the state including Spectrum Health Big Rapids and Reed City, as well as the District Health Department #10 Mecosta office.

The Summit, sponsored by the Northwest Michigan Chronic Disease Council (NMCDC) District #10 Health Department, provided sharing of best practices from each of the ten counties represented in District #10. Faculty involved included Dr. Gail Bullard, Chair of the NMCDC and Program Coordinator of the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program, and Dr. Fathima Wakeel, Program Coordinator of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program. An interdisciplinary experience, the event offered opportunity for individuals from all areas of healthcare to share and learn from one another, as well as gain exposure to the Ferris campus community.

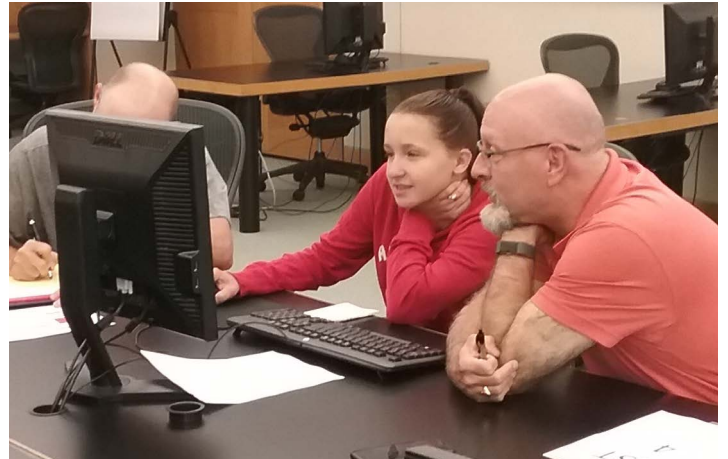


Public Health students (from left to right) Tricia Smith, from Grand Rapids, and Breanna Frasher, of Beaverton, pose in front of their informational stand. Not pictured is Kayley Riffey, who also assisted.

New Faculty: College of Arts and Sciences

- Stacey Armstrong
- Sean Hill
- Erin Johnson
- Glenn Stamps
- Joseph Verschaeve

FLITE TestFest Day Brings Results



Early in Fall Semester, nine FSU student volunteers helped test the usability of the new FLITE website. The website was designed for accessibility and mobile responsiveness using student input gathered over the previous 12 months. The volunteers represented colleges from all over the University and were a mix of users from first-year to graduate level.

Students rotated through five different stations. At four stations, they performed a search using the FLITE website. At the fifth station, they answered general questions about their overall website impressions. Students were also asked to reserve a study room, find an article from a specific database, find a course guide for a class, and find the Library's citation help guides.

Ten FLITE staff and librarians helped run and record the sessions, and the results were stellar. Students received a free pizza lunch and thank-you gift and enjoyed the day so much that most responded again when a call was put out for another usability test at the end of the month. FLITE recruited students at the FLITE Founder's Day table, where they were asked to join the FLITE Usability Test group in OrgSync. TestFest students then responded to a call for volunteers. More than 50 students now belong to FLITE's OrgSync group and are invited to participate in FLITE website testing for incentives each month.

As a result, FLITE personnel have altered some of the policies of the new study room reservation system and made a change in location for the chat button. Two testing sessions have also been scheduled to try out more of the suggestions received. The day was so successful that plans are being made to repeat FLITE TestFest 2 early in spring semester.

For more information, please contact Kristy Motz, Chair of the FLITE Web Services Usability Committee at Kristy-Motz@ferris.edu or call 231.591.3625.

Dental Hygiene Students Serve Special Olympics Athletes at Summer Games

Ferris Dental Hygiene students, along with help from various “tooth fairies”, conducted oral screenings and provided health education to athletes competing at the annual Michigan Special Olympics State Summer Games. Held in Mount Pleasant May 31 and June 1, the State Summer Games is the largest Special Olympics competition in Michigan involving over 2,900 athletes. During this three-day event, in addition to competing, the athletes were welcomed to the Healthy Athlete Village where they received many services related to their health and well-being (dental screenings, eye exams, nutritional counseling, etc.).

Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene Kathleen Harlan and Clinical Dental Hygienist Denise Byrnes organized and directed the six volunteers from Ferris’ Students of the American Dental Hygienist Associate group. Service to others must be a family value as Harlan had two granddaughters volunteer as well.

“The Ferris DH program has been volunteering at this event for several years,” Harlan said. “This is just one of the many ways in which our students participate in serving their community. Receiving much more than they give, this opportunity fuels their desire to continue in service as they enter into their professional careers.”

Here is the [link](#) to read more on the summer games.



Ferris students, faculty, and friends provided dental education at the Special Olympics Michigan State Summer Games in Mount Pleasant. They are (top row, from left,) Genieve Harlan, Kathleen Harlan (DH faculty), Kayla Leach (DH student), Turner Bennett (DH student & tooth fairy), Allyson Baier (DH student), and (bottom row, from left), Isabell Harlan, Leah Potter (DH student & tooth fairy), Denise Byrnes (DH faculty) Brooke Hollenbeck (DH student tooth fairy), Justine Berry (DH student, tooth fairy).

The College of Business Promotes Core Value of Diversity



The College of Business’ Committee on Inclusion continues to promote diversity and inclusion as they hosted their third annual event, “Conversation on Inclusion: The Glass Ceiling—Imaginary or Not?” This year’s panelists included Sue Franz, vice president of chemistry at Gentex; Michelle McHale-Adams, Plante Moran partner and noted certified fraud examiner; and Karianne Thomas, Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety director and a Ferris alumna. The women shared their personal and professional experiences in the work environment and the obstacles they encountered because of their gender.

The event was open to all students, faculty and staff of Ferris and began with an opening reception in the University Center Ballroom on Wednesday, September 12. Before the event, speakers made themselves personally available to students who wanted to ask specific questions related to their fields of expertise. Speakers then mingled with students during a social hour and accepted resumes and contact information for future communication.

Student responses from the event included statements like, “The speakers were phenomenal,” and “This was the best event of the series.” The Conversation on Inclusion attracted approximately 275 students, administrators, faculty, and other guests who registered to attend.

For more information, contact the committee chair at 231.349.3145. The video of the event can be found [here](#).

New Faculty: College of Health Professions

- Deborah Cress
- Katie Hamelund
- Julie Herrema
- Mariah Lab

Heavy Equipment Student Awarded Scholarship and Is Headed to Kazan, Russia



Top - Competitors who will represent the USA at WorldSkills. Bottom left - Family support for Ryan Meppelink. Bottom right - Meppelink (left to right) with instructor Kevin Wiersma and Nate Graveling at the National Skills USA competition.

Ryan Meppelink of Holland, Michigan, was awarded the National Association of Fleet Administrators (NAFA) Foundation's 2018 Willard DaSilva Scholarship on April 25. This \$3,000 scholarship was originally created to honor outstanding academic achievements of an individual enrolled in the automotive or fleet program at a university.

A junior in the Heavy Equipment Service Engineering Technology program, Meppelink holds six Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications and is working to become master-certified.

NAFA is the world's largest not-for-profit membership association and the competition they host is intense. Contestants cycle through fourteen stations testing and troubleshooting engines, electrical systems, and power train systems. They then must also demonstrate skills in hydraulic systems, vehicle inspections, fundamental failure analysis, brake systems, air-conditioning systems, and general shop skills. At the end, they perform a job interview and a written test. Meppelink successfully completed all requirements which earned him first place and the Willard DaSilva Scholarship.

Meppelink's interest in the heavy equipment industry started when he was a student at the Careerline Tech Center Diesel/Heavy Equipment Mechanics program in high

school. In addition to NAFA, Meppelink has competed at SkillsUSA contests. At the 2016 SkillsUSA National Contest, he won gold for Diesel Equipment Technology—Secondary.

At the 2018 SkillsUSA Conference in Louisville, Kentucky, Meppelink earned a place on the United States team to compete at the 2019 WorldSkills contest in Kazan, Russia. The competition will showcase trade skills from construction and building technology, creative arts and fashion, information, and communication. Competitors will represent 76 countries and regions around the world.

Hinkley Attends HERS Summer Institute

Professor and Chief of Vision Rehabilitation Services Sarah Hinkley was awarded full institutional support from the Office of the Provost and participated in the 12-day 2018 Higher Education Resource Services (HERS) Summer Leadership Institute June 18-30. The intensive program prepares women faculty and administrators for leadership roles in higher education. Hinkley attended the HERS Institute at the University of Denver with approximately 70 other women leaders from across the nation. At the Institute, she was one of 26 who also participated in the HERS Luce Program for Women in STEM Leadership.

The HERS curriculum consists of a leadership development model that involves self-knowledge, networking, and institutional awareness. Before attending the institute, participants complete readings and assignments that provide assessment of their own leadership skills and knowledge of their institution. Women faculty with experience in higher education, national academic organizations, government, and foundations act as guides for the sessions. The Institute provides attendees a rich network of women influential in many other institutions to use as resources and mentors. The HERS Luce Program includes a HERS STEM network that incorporates strategies to develop women in STEM leadership roles.



New Faculty: Michigan College of Optometry

- Corrie Pollock
- Jessica Walter

Promesa Scholars Program Off to Successful Start

The Promesa Scholars Program (PSP) is an academic leadership program through the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) that is focused on Latin@ student success. Students join Promesa Scholars during their first year at Ferris and through peer mentorship, a sense of belonging is fostered and students learn to support one another. Cultural differences are seen as a strength and give the students a strong sense of self that helps them adapt to new and changing environments. The program has 31 students this year.

The program provides leadership opportunities empowering Promesa Scholars to share their voice throughout the campus. PSP offers trainings to help the students gain self-awareness, develop cultural intelligence, and value diversity.

Academics are central to the program. PSP assists the students to develop and practice skills in self-advocacy, research development, and personal accountability. In addition, limited scholarships are awarded every year based on overall Promesa Scholar performance and standing.



The Promesa Scholars at Ferris' Homecoming parade.

Articulation Agreements Smooth the Transfer Path

Through collaborative partnerships with community colleges, Ferris State University has established program transfer guides and articulation agreements to help students transfer easily to Ferris. Students utilize a transfer guide when they plan on transferring from one institution to another. The transfer guide or articulation agreement helps to ensure that the classes students take at the community college will fulfill degree requirements at both of the post-secondary institutions.

The following articulation agreements were signed in August and September, 2018.

Muskegon Community College
Early Childhood Education Bachelor of Science Degree
9/1/18 – 9/1/21

Northwestern Michigan College
Nursing - RN to BSN Completion Bachelor of Science
9/1/18 – 9/1/21

Southwestern Michigan College
Elementary Education Language Arts and Math Minors
Bachelor of Science Degree
8/1/18 - 8/1/21

Cramer Featured by Pink Tractor Magazine

Heavy Equipment student Megan Cramer of Grand Rapids was featured in May in *Pink Tractor*, which is a magazine that has both a digital presence and is printed nationally. Cramer is one of two female students enrolled in the Heavy Equipment Program at Ferris and *Pink Tractor* took an opportunity to recognize her as a strong female role model in an almost completely male-dominated industry.

Cramer's grandmother, a retired chemist professor, influenced Cramer's interest in science and engineering. She studies agricultural equipment, construction equipment, and trucking equipment at Ferris.

Cramer is also President of the Association of Heavy Equipment Technology and said that when she graduates, she hopes to work in fleet management and start her own farm. Through her program, Cramer has had many hands-on internship opportunities. These include stints at Mason Dynamics, Inc., in the transportation department of a public school, at Wolf Kubota, and most recently, at Consumers Energy.

Pink Tractor is the only national magazine to showcase and report on women in agriculture. It can be accessed online, or in print by subscription, and has an online store and a newsletter. Its website includes information for farm women on resources, leadership positions, scholarships, and academic majors. For magazine information, go [here](#).



Productive Time for Summer Student Research Fellows



Professor of Biology Changqi Zhu with Biology/Pre-Medicine student Jacklyn Zvonar of Coloma, Michigan

Student Research Fellows (SRF) worked full time for a period of 10 weeks over the summer months on a research project with a faculty mentor. They shared the results of their hard work at the Student Research Fellows Symposium held August 22, 2018.

An advantage of the program is that students are able to work full time on a focused research project. The research experiences that the students gain allow them to learn how they can be involved in working on a specific research project and help make progress for the project, said Professor of Biology Changqi Zhu.

“By doing all the research work, the students have learned how to coordinate the different types of work among the team members and get things done,” Zhu said. “They also learned how to become resilient in finding the right solutions to certain problems when they need to.”

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

Please join us in congratulating the 2018 SRF recipients:

Breanna Frasher, Public Health

Gregory Shaffer, Pharmacy

Megan Van Baren, Pharmacy

Andrew Bobian, Pre-Pharmacy

Taylor Jones, Pharmacy

Heidi Stultz, Pharmacy

Jesse Birsching, Optometry

Jacklyn Zvonar, Biology/Pre-Medicine

Roan Fahey, Biology

Zackary Hren, Chemistry

Creating a Seamless Transition for Military Credit Equivalencies

The Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency has approved Ferris State University's application for the 2018 Military Credit Equivalency Grant. The purpose of the Military Credit Equivalency grant is to ease the veteran transition from the military to civilian life by translating competencies acquired while in the military. The grant focus areas are Focused Military Occupation Specialties, Targeted Career Areas, Laddered Credentials, and Inter-institutional Agreements. The grant award will be funded for up to \$49,999.00 of approved costs during the grant period, effective August 30, 2019.

The award will be carried out under the direction of Deedee Stakley, director of the Office of Transfer and Secondary School Partnerships. The Implementation Team is comprised of Deedee Stakley, Leonard Johnson, Amy Greene, Sandy Stoddard, Jacob Schrot, Anne Hogenson, and Roxanne Cullen.

Each of the five projects will be implemented and are sustainable, scalable, and/or replicable. The intent of the identified projects is to create long-term, lasting change in how veteran students are provided equivalencies and/or credit that will allow them to use their military experiences to meet program requirements. These changes may accelerate time to degree and result in less student debt.

Implementation of the projects will occur in phases which will be carefully monitored and tracked. Grant funding will be used to move project ideas from concept to reality. Implementing these projects is a long-term strategy to assist veteran students in gaining greater college benefit for their military experiences. Once completed, these projects will support veteran student recruitment, retention, and completion initiatives at Ferris.

In addition to internal partnerships and collaborations to carry out the work of the grant, Ferris State University will partner with Mid Michigan College to create a Veteran's Credit Reciprocity Agreement with focuses in identified program areas.

New Faculty: College of Engineering Technology

- Brian Bejcek
- John Posillico
- Mark Prosser
- Kyle Rouech
- Tanzia Sharmin
- Thomas Van Pernis

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

 **FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY**