

# FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY

## EMERITI ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

March 2025

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### President's Post



Niagara Falls, USA

The picture above this post is of Niagara Falls taken from the U.S. side of the Niagara River. The Falls are divided by Goat Island into two sections: the American Falls in the foreground and the Canadian Falls in the background. Interestingly, the American Falls are on the north side of the river and the Canadian Falls are on the south side of the river. According to the niagara-parks.com website, the height of the Falls vary greatly with the smallest drop of 70 feet on the American side and the largest drop of 188 feet on the Canadian side. What is really impressive about the Niagara Falls is not the height but the volume of water that goes over the edge every second. Approximately 90% of the volume flows over the Canadian side and only 10% on the American side. The total volume of flow is about 3,160 tons (757,500 gallons) per second, on average, when

none of the water is diverted before it gets to the Falls. Diversion of water upstream for human and industrial uses is in accord with treaties signed between Canada and the U.S. in 1910 and 1950. I have lived in the Great Lakes region all my life. I have visited all 5 great lakes (and they are all very impressive), but I just visited the Falls for the first time this past summer. It was a humbling, overwhelming experience, making me feel very small and insignificant in comparison to the size and splendor of the Falls. I rank it right up there with the seven natural wonders of the world. The original Niagara waterway between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario formed about 12,500 years ago after the last ice age. Due to erosion of the Niagara escarpment over which the Falls flow, they are “retreating” upstream at a varying rate every year. In the past 12,500 years, the Falls have “retreated” upstream about 7 miles to their current location. If you wish to see the Niagara Falls, I suggest you visit it within the next 50,000 years.

This post is dedicated to Richard Santer, Professor Emeritus, Geography, FSU

Bob Carter, FSUEA President

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## Scholarship Endowment Update

Once again for academic year 2024-25, our Association endowment was able to fund 5 scholarships; one for each of the 5 undergraduate programs at FSU. The award amounts varied slightly depending on the financial need of each individual recipient, but the average award was about \$1,600. Information about the impact these awards have had for each of the 5 recipients can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. ***I believe that the success of this endeavor is absolutely, without a doubt, the most significant accomplishment of our Association in its entire history.***

Much of the success has been due to the Ferris Futures matching program that was set up in 2016. Unfortunately, the matching funds were exhausted in 2024. However, we will continue our fundraising efforts in the future. The Book Value of the endowment increased by \$4,800 in 2024 and currently stands at \$194,707.00. The Market Value as of December 31, 2024 was \$250,616.84. ***I want to thank all of you who have donated to this endowment for your generosity.***

Even though the matching program no longer exists, we are still going to continue our fundraising efforts. Anyone can donate to this endowment at any time during the year, but, as an Association, we are going to concentrate our efforts on two occasions during this year.

First, we will participate in the annual **“One Day for Dawgs”** day of giving event on April 9, 2025. During this 24-hour event, colleges, departments, and organizations at FSU raise funds to support various causes through an on-line giving platform that reflects real-time totals throughout the day. The event will be widely publicized, and you will receive email reminders and instructions for giving as this date approaches. More information is available at <https://ferris.edu/giving>. Watch for the link to our specific fundraising site address to be posted on the Emeriti Homepage at <https://www.ferris.edu/alumni/Emeriti/homepage.htm>.

Second, we will be conducting a “bucket campaign” later in the year specifically for our endowment. You will receive reminders about this program as well. Neither of these initiatives will prevent anyone who so desires from donating at any time during the year. If you wish to donate, simply write a check made out to the Ferris Foundation and write Emeriti Endowment in the memo line. Mail the check to: The Emeriti Office 420 Oak Street, PRK 101 Big Rapids, MI 49307. **Continued on Page 3**



### From the Social Media Coordinator

We are looking to enrich our media sites (Facebook/web page). To do that we would like Ferris emeriti to submit pictures, stories and information about things that Emeriti are doing. People that have them can email them to me or upload them onto our Facebook page. In either case a description of the activity should be included. Thanks,

MaryKay MacIver

[MaryKayMacIver@ferris.edu](mailto:MaryKayMacIver@ferris.edu)

The emeriti web page can be found here

<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/alumni/Emeriti/>

And the Facebook page can be found here

<https://www.facebook.com/FSUEA>

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## **Continued from Page 2,**

We started this endowment in 2013 under the direction of Tom Cook. Even though he is not with us today, I am sure Tom would be proud of our accomplishments. Thank all of you again for your generosity.

You can always donate to any program at FSU through a planned gift in your will. Also, be aware of any required minimum distributions (RMD's) you must take from your retirement accounts, and the option to use qualified charitable distributions (QCD's) to make donations that might minimize your tax liabilities. QCD amounts can be counted toward your RMD requirement, but flow directly to the charity and therefore are not federally taxable to you. There is an annual cap on the total amount of funds that can be transferred via QCD's. Please consult your financial advisor about your giving plans, as we do not provide tax advice. For additional information, see <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/give-more-tax-free-eligible-ira-owners-can-donate-up-to-105000-to-charity-in-2024>.

### **Election of Directors at Annual Meeting**

One of our important agenda items in the upcoming Annual Meeting of the Association is to elect directors to 2-year terms expiring May, 2027. The following current directors whose terms expire at this meeting have indicated they would accept nomination for a new term: MaryKay MacIver, Tom Kirinovic, Doug Haneline, and Chuck Drake. The following current directors have one year remaining on their terms which expire in May, 2026: John Kane, Jeff Nagelbush, Randy Vance, Jerena Keys.

We are not in competition for any preset number of seats. Our bylaws require a minimum of 7 directors, but it is preferable to have an "odd" number of directors in order to avoid tie votes on any matters before the board. So we would certainly welcome interested members to join the Board of Directors. The Board meets every other month during the year, and a Zoom connection is always available if you are beyond a convenient commuting distance to attend in person, or otherwise wish to attend remotely.

If you are ready to assist in the leadership responsibilities of your Association, or would like to find out more about it, please reach out to our liaison Ruth Ridderman at 231.591.2373 or email [RuthRidderman@ferris.edu](mailto:RuthRidderman@ferris.edu) with your contact information, and a board member will get back to you.

### **FSU UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN**



35 emeriti members donated a total of \$5,765.00 joining the Ferris family in a campaign to raise funds for our local United Way. The University goal was \$40,000. Emeriti members alone provided 14.4% of that goal.

Way to go Emeriti -- THANK YOU to all who contributed.

## Meet our 2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients

### **Aaleah Brubaker, Sophomore, Elementary Education, College of Arts, Sciences, and Education**



“During my time at Ferris I hope to continue doing well in my academics as well as I hope to make a positive impact in my sorority and continue to raise money and support local families in need. After I complete my Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, I will be qualified to teach preschool through sixth grade. I am hoping to end up teaching third grade, but I will be happy to make a positive difference in the life of every child I come in contact with.

To me, this scholarship means my tuition will be covered more, so I will hopefully not have to work three jobs to keep on top of the costs of schooling, housing and food. This scholarship means I can even get an on campus meal plan. This will help lower my responsibilities and stress a lot. Thank you so much for your generosity!”

### **Daisy Englund, Senior, Medical Laboratory Science, College of Health Professions**

“After Ferris, I plan to work in a hospital lab setting, preferably a bigger hospital so I get the most out of my experiences, more cases, more lives to save. After I graduate I have hopes and dreams that I can start off in Ann Arbor for a couple years and then make my way to Chicago.

Thank you so much for this incredible scholarship that gets me one step closer to my career in Medical Laboratory Sciences. This generous scholarship will help me immensely because it lowers the cost of tuition. I am very appreciative of you and your thoughtfulness. Again, I cannot thank you enough!”



### **Casey Koops, Senior, Collaborative Design, Kendall College of Art & Design**



After school, I plan to work in UI/UX, which encompasses skills from both my major and minor.

Thank you so much for your generous support! I appreciate it from the bottom of my heart. This financial assistance lets me be able to focus on my studies and pursue my goals without more stress of tuition costs. Your generosity has immensely helped, and I am deeply grateful. I am committed to making the most of this opportunity and giving back to the community in the future. Thank you!”

### **Denvy Mccord, Sophomore, Surveying Engineering, College of Engineering Technology**

“After I graduate, I plan to move home to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, work for the US Army Corps of Engineers and be a survey and engineering technician. My goal is to graduate early so I am able to start working and building my career as soon as possible.

Receiving this scholarship is a blessing not only to me but also to my family. Without the tremendous help from donors like you, I would be unable to attend college and work towards a career I love and am proud to work in. The scholarship allows me to further my education and will help me be able to support my family through a better paying job and higher education. Thank you for your generous donation.”

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**Tara Seth, Junior, Graphic Communication, College of Business**

“I plan to work in the printing industry after I graduate. I’m not sure what avenue I would like to go. Our industry is huge and has a large variety of opportunities. I would like to end up in management and work my way up. Eventually it is a goal of mine to own my own business.

Receiving scholarships is huge for me. I love my time at Ferris, and it provides me with amazing opportunities that I wouldn't have otherwise. College is expensive, and I debated only doing the two years because of the cost, and I don't want to have to take out loans or ask anyone for help, so receiving scholarships helps me enjoy my education and opportunities without burdening myself or others. I decided to continue my education and do the four years. I appreciate that I was chosen for this scholarship more than I can express. It truly means a lot.”

**Granting of Emeriti Status by the FSU Board of Trustees**

**As of 2/28/2025**

Denise Mondor – Administrative Assistant to Academic Affairs, KCAD Admin/Support, September 5, 2024

Kathryn Lake – Associate Dean of Enrollment Services, Student Affairs - Enrollment Services, September 10, 2024

Sonya Knoll - Assistant Professor, College of Health Professions, October 19, 2024

**In Memoriam: Current Faculty/Staff and Emeriti Deaths reported since last issue**

**Emeriti:**

Marilyn Gillette – February 2, 2025

Karolyn Otto – January 12, 2025

Bette Hartig – November 9, 2024

Robert Southwood – October 16, 2024

**Associate Emeriti:**

Robin Dilg – January 30, 2025

**Current Faculty & Staff:**

Edward Shepard – December 14, 2024

# Events Calendar



## Upcoming Events: March 2025 — August 2025

April 7 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 114, Zoom

May 12 — Annual Business Meeting and Spring Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m., David Eisler Center Ballroom A (Zoom will be available for Business Meeting portion)

June 2 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 114, Zoom

August 4 — Board meeting, 10:00 a.m.—11:30 a.m., PRK 114, Zoom

August 13 — Annual Picnic, Northend Riverside Park Pavilion, Big Rapids, 11:30 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

All FSUEA Board meetings are scheduled for 10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. and held in Prakken 114 unless otherwise indicated.

## FSUEA Board

### 2024-2025

University Advancement & Marketing    FSU Emeriti Association  
420 Oak Street, PRK 101                    Office: PRK 114  
Big Rapids, MI 49307                        Phone: 231.591.2373



Ruth Ridderman, UA&M Liaison to FSU Emeriti Association  
Email: [RuthRidderman@ferris.edu](mailto:RuthRidderman@ferris.edu)

#### Officers

President	Bob Carter
Vice-President	Chuck Drake
Secretary	Jeff Nagelbush
Treasurer	Randy Vance
Past President	Doug Haneline

#### Committee Chairs and Directors

Newsletter Editor	Randy Vance
Membership	John Kane
Social Media Coordinator	MaryKay MacIver
Publicity	Ruth Ridderman
Service	Chuck Drake
Events	Jane Pole
Fundraising Committee	Bob Carter
Director	Jerena Keys
Director	Tom Kirinovic

## Helen's Garden

The Garden is currently slumbering, but soon it will be spring. Volunteers are welcome and appreciated even if it's just an hour here and there. Spring cleanup will take place in April, aided by the brothers of Sigma Pi. Planting takes place in early June with weeding, pruning and watering throughout the summer and into fall. Contact MaryKay MacIver at [marykaymaciver@ferris.edu](mailto:marykaymaciver@ferris.edu) for more information.



### SPRING LUNCHEON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025 Reservation Form

The Spring Luncheon will be held in conjunction with the Annual Business Meeting of the Association on Monday, May 12th, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the David Eisler Center Ballroom A, on campus. The cost is \$25.00 per person. **Reservations and checks due not later than May 1st.**

***PLEASE complete and return with your check***

Name(s):
Address:
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like a ride to the luncheon; please contact me at _____ (phone)

	Number participating	Total cost
Luncheon fee (\$25.00 per person)		
<b>Total amount enclosed</b>		

Please make checks payable to **Ferris State University** with **FSUEA Luncheon** in the memo line. Mail check and reservation form to arrive by **May 1, 2025** to:

**The Emeriti Office  
PRK 101  
420 Oak Street  
Big Rapids, MI 49307**

Questions? Ruth Ridderman 231-591-2373 [ruthridderman@ferris.edu](mailto:ruthridderman@ferris.edu)

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Big Rapids, MI 49307

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