

A Seat at the Table

April 2015

The 2014-15 academic year has been a banner one for diversity and inclusion related initiatives at Ferris.

- The College of Health Professions will present Monica Lypson as the Best Practices Day featured speaker on Thursday, April 2. Dr. Lypson is Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education at the University of Michigan Health System (UMHS), as well as faculty director of the Multicultural curriculum and core faculty for the Family Centered Experience and Longitudinal Cases. Dr. Lypson will speak on “Health Disparities Education in the Academy.” This event is supported by a Faculty-Staff Diversity Mini-Grant from the Diversity and Inclusion Office.
- On April 9 the Center for Latin@ Studies will celebrate “Promesa” – their “dedication to get students to and through college by building on the strengths of students' cultures and identity.” The event will feature special guest alumni Testimonios, a student panel, and free food and music.
- On April 14 the Diversity and Inclusion Office will salute the Office of International Education. The event will be from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm in the University Center Building, Room 202BC. The salute acknowledges the Office of International Education’s work in increasing the number of International students—which now exceeds 500.
- From Big Rapids to DisArt—on April 11 there will be an all-day bus trip to the DisArt Festival in Grand Rapids. The bus will leave at 10:45 am from Williams Auditorium and return around 6 pm. On that day, there will be artist performances by Kate Mahony, Simon Raven, Brian Catling, and Wendy Jacob. There will also be time to explore exhibitions: *Art of the Lived Experiment*, *Disart Local*, *Access is a Civil Right: The Photography of Tom Olin*, and Robert Andy Coombs: *New Portraits*. The bus is sponsored by the Diversity and Inclusion Office.
- The Jim Crow Museum now has extended evening hours during the week and is open every other weekend. Please check the museum calendar for available times: <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/jimcrow/location.htm> .
- FSU celebrated Women’s History Month in a variety of ways. The University welcomed Trisha Franzen on March 24. Franzen, a professor at Albion College, talked about Anna Howard Shaw with a diverse audience that included women who had led the fight to get Shaw into the National

Women's Hall of Fame, FSU faculty and students, and a group of Big Rapids middle school students.

- Also on March 24 the Ferris Museum of Sexist Objects(FMSO) held an Open House in Starr 314 to give FSU faculty and students a preview of the facility. Faculty will have the opportunity to use the collection to enhance student learning. For more information, see a video on the new facility at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KymPFOeXDL0> and an image gallery on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.832434716810202.1073741835.119012878152393&type=3>.
- Meagan Pollock, Director of Professional Development at the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity, spent an evening with students and faculty of the College of Engineering Technology, talking about opportunities for women in engineering and technology. Pollock also presented a workshop on micromessaging for faculty and staff.
- FSU Student government presented the 13th annual Women Invested in Leadership and Learning (W.I.L.L.) conference on March 19. The conference featured alumna Vivian Packard, president of the General Motors Foundation.
- Alumna Julie Hamp was named Toyota's first female, non-Japanese Senior Officer. Hamp, who holds a B.S. in Communication from Ferris, was named managing officer and chief communications officer for Toyota Motor Corporation.
- "Remembering the Holocaust" on March 24/25 was a major educational event featuring a talk by Holocaust survivor Martin Lowenberg. A large crowd packed Business 111 and the hallway outside to hear Mr. Lowenberg recount his teenage experiences in forced labor camps and remember his parents and brothers who were murdered in Auschwitz. The 2-day event also featured a display of historical banners, reading of names, and presentations by Ferris faculty. This event was supported by a Faculty-Staff Diversity Mini-Grant from the Diversity and Inclusion Office.
- On March 19 FSU students, faculty, and staff from Big Rapids and Grand Rapids joined the César E. Chávez Social Justice March and Community Gathering in Grand Rapids. The Diversity and Inclusion Office paid for a bus to take students to the march.
- "The New Normal", a series of videos that tell the stories of the LGBTQ community at Ferris, was produced by a Television and Digital Media

Production student team with participation from members of the Alliance of Ferris Employees (faculty and staff) and DSAGA (students). This activity was supported by a Faculty-Staff Diversity Mini-Grant. The videos have been posted on the Diversity and Inclusion Office YouTube site:

"The New Normal" - Faculty

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVY7Qf_wR6E

"The New Normal" - Ally Support

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agbZTXtkjT4>

"The New Normal" - Students

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3uD1OMgEu0>

- The Faculty-Staff Diversity Mini-Grant program continues to fund a variety of important activities and events throughout Ferris State University. The next application deadline is April 10. See <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/oncampus/minigrant.htm> for more information.
- Upcoming events at the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) include the annual PigNic on May 2, and the OMSS Graduate Recognition Program on May 8. These are wonderful events and are free and open to the public.
- As part of ongoing initiatives of the Diversity and Inclusion Office, please note:
 - The Jim Crow Museum welcomes volunteers to research and write the answers featured in the "Question of the Month." If you are interested, please contact David Pilgrim.
 - Special thanks to Kent Kachaterian and Media Production for helping with images for the FMSO and the Jim Crow Museum.
 - The First Lady's Attic is in need of donations of professional clothing. Please contact Patty Terryn at 231-591-3946 for more information.

Did You Know?

April is National Autism Awareness Month and
World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2015.

