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Expect Diversity

From the Diversity and Inclusion Office

1201 S. State St., CSS 312
Phone: (231) 591-3946

Email: DiversityOffice@ferris.edu
Web address: <http://www.ferris.edu/diversity/>

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The Tombstone Project Joins Take Back The Night March

By Bonnie Wright

Domestic Violence Awareness month was acknowledged at Ferris with the erection of artistic renderings of tombstones displaying stories of victims dying from domestic violence in Michigan during

tion, and the National organization for Women participated in the project. Students in the Social Work Association concluded the month with the Take Back The Night March.

A fellow sociologist at

granted drama of daily life even among dating teens, that the seriousness of it can easily be lost.

The tombstones were noticed. There were fifty-five stories illustrating the breadth of domestic vio-



the last year. This was followed by an across discipline panel presentation designed to educate people about proactive responses to domestic violence. Faculty in Education and Humans Services and Allied Health, and staff from Multicultural Student Services, Counseling Center, Department of Public Safety, and students who are members of the Social Work Associa-

Delta College, Donna Giuliani, began the Tombstone Project several years ago. I wanted to bring the project to Ferris State University because it is a graphic way to express and educate people on the seriousness of domestic violence. I know from my own life, growing up in a neighborhood where domestic violence was the common and taken for

ence: spousal-partner violence, child abuse, elder abuse, violence between siblings, and children against their parents. These stories range from the Upper Peninsula to the Southern Lower Peninsula, from small villages to big cities. People observing the tombstones often looked for those they knew who died

Dialogue Ferris

The Tombstone Project Joins Take Back The Night March

From page 1

in their area, and came to see that the victims they knew about were not alone. I only typed up stories

from one-third of the Michigan newspapers in the last year, so some looked for people who were not represented. The panel was titled

drawn and aggressive behavior in children are possible signs of domestic violence, and it is important for teachers to document signs of domestic violence in children, such as flinch responses and physical injuries, as well as reporting it to child protective services. Both Virginia Hines and Renee Douglass from Counseling Services made a distinction between child abuse and other forms of domestic violence; only child abuse is a mandatory reporting offense. Renee

speaker from WISE. She described her history as a survivor of domestic violence that almost led to her death. Kelly emphasized that it is important to recognize and take emotional abuse seriously, because it can lead to physical violence and emotional abuse

Kelly emphasized that it is important to recognize and take emotional abuse seriously, because it can lead to physical violence and emotional violence is damaging in itself.

is damaging in itself. She explained how we internalize the words of our abusers and that it is difficult to rid ourselves of

these negative conceptions.

The tombstones are down now. I hope that the lessons of the month are not forgotten. I am very grateful to Michael Wade, the Assistant Director of OMSS, because he arranged the events and resources. Cheryl Holman, a social work student, worked with student volunteers to create the tombstones. Micala Evans, a sociology student, coordinated the Tombstone Project with Jennella Rykse of the Social Work Association and represented the project in the Ferris media. We are all appreciative for the mini-grant from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion that made the Tombstone Project possible.

Douglass wanted students to understand that in all other cases consultations are confidential, so people can come and talk without fear of being found out. She explained that isolation and jealousy are the signs of an abusive partner. Susan Wancour, from the College of Allied Health, described the ways that a dental hygienist will see evidence of domestic violence among patients, by noticing physical injuries to the mouth. She encouraged reporting the situation to one's supervisor, to social services and to police.

The following week, the Take Back The Night March began at the tombstones and ended with the story of Kelly Grandchamp, a

“Stepping Up and Taking Action.” It was designed to raise awareness and promote action to protect victims of domestic violence. Nicholas Greenway of Campus Public Safety explained that no one needs to press charges in domestic violence because it is also a crime against the state. It is important for people to report domestic violence and take out personal protect orders so they may receive full police support. Virginia Hines of the College of Education and Human Services explained that both with-

Nicholas Greenway of Campus Public Safety explained that ... it (domestic violence) is a crime against the state.



Dialogue Ferris

Noted Author Mark Mathabane Visits Ferris State

By Jeff Pollock



On Friday, September 24, Club History and History honorary society Phi Alpha Theta hosted a lecture by author Mark Mathabane. Mr. Mathabane is a well known author of several books and numerous articles in popular publications such as *USA Today* and *Newsweek*, and has also appeared on several television programs including “Oprah” and “Larry King Live.” Mr. Mathabane is well known for his bestselling book *Kaffir Boy*, the autobiographic tale of his years growing up in Apartheid South Africa, for which he received a prestigious Christopher Award, given to works which “affirm the highest value of the human

spirit.” Since the publication of *Kaffir Boy*, Mr. Mathabane has gone on to write a number of other books, including *Kaffir Boy in America* and *Miriam’s Song*.

Mr. Mathabane spoke on the importance of overcoming hatred and working for a more just society. He discussed how easy it was for individuals to turn to hatred and how it is up to in-

It is up to individuals to work against the odious trends we see every day in society, such as racism, religious prejudice, and xenophobia.

dividuals to work against the odious trends we see every day in society, such as

racism, religious prejudice, and xenophobia. A focal point of the presentation was his mother, who played the role of a savior from hatred in his own life, a role he urged the audience to take upon themselves. According to Mathabane, his mother made great sacrifices, took on extra jobs, and even endured beatings from his father in order to ensure he was able to receive an education and thereby leave the horrific circumstances into which he had been born. Before closing, he reminded all in attendance of the intrinsic value of human life and of the importance of constant critical reflection upon one’s attitudes and beliefs in relation to the world in which we live.

Quote

“The forgotten man at the bottom of the economic pyramid.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Rich Get Richer, The Poor Get Poorer

By Diversity & Inclusion Office Staff

The income gap between the richest and poorest Americans grew last year to its widest amount on record as young adults and children in particular struggled to stay afloat in the recession.

The top-earning 20 percent of Americans - those making more than

\$100,000 each year - received 49.4 percent of all income generated in the U.S., compared with the 3.4 percent earned by those below the poverty line, according to newly released census figures. That ratio of 14.5-to-1 was an increase from 13.6 in 2008 and nearly double a low of 7.69

in 1968. For the rest of the story see, http://www.salon.com/news/feature/2010/09/28/us_census_recession_s_impact_1

Dialogue Ferris

Campus Pride Reissues National Report Findings on LGBT Harassment at Colleges & Universities in light of Suicide of Rutgers University Freshman Tyler Clementi

New Brunswick, NJ, Thurs, Sept 30, 2010

More than a third of all transgender students, faculty, & staff(43%) and 13% of LGBQ respondents feared for their physical safety.

For more information visit www.campuspride.org/research.

“Every college student should have the right to a safe campus climate -- void of intimidation and harassment -- for campus learning and living,” said Shane Windmeyer, executive director and founder of Campus Pride. “The suicide of this gay young man is a terrible, unfathomable tragedy. We send our condolences to the family of Tyler Clementi and to the campus community of Rutgers University. We ask that all campuses across the country remember what happened at Rutgers and act decisively to curb anti-LGBT bias incidents, harassment and acts of violence.”

Through its Q Research Institute for Higher Education, Campus Pride released last week its "2010 State of Higher Education for LGBT People." The in-depth research study is the most comprehensive national LGBT higher educa-

tion study of its kind. Campus Pride surveyed more than 5,000 LGBT students, faculty and staff for the report. Findings demonstrate that this suicide and incidents of harassment are neither rare nor fleeting-- they are REAL.

Among the findings in the report:

- One quarter (23%) of LGBQ staff, faculty, and students reported experiencing harassment (defined as any conduct that has interfered with your ability to work or learn). Almost all identified sexual identity as the basis of the harassment (83%). An even greater percentage of transgender students, faculty, & staff reported experiencing harassment (39%) with 87% identifying their gender identity/expression as the basis for the harassment. The form of the harassment experiences by transgender people

was more overt and blatant.

- One-third of LGBQ (33%) and transgender (38%) students, faculty, and staff have seriously considered leaving their institution due to the challenging climate.

- More than half of all faculty, students, & staff hide their sexual identity (43%) or gender identity (63%) to avoid intimidation.

- More than a third of all transgender students, faculty, & staff(43%) and 13% of LGBQ respondents feared for their physical safety. This finding was more salient for LGBQ students and for LGBQ and/or Transgender People of Color.

For more information about Campus Pride's "2010 State of Higher Education for LGBT People" report, visit www.campuspride.org/research.

Quote

“Harrassment is the antithesis of a truly diverse and inclusive University”

David Pilgrim
Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

Dialogue Ferris

You Beautiful Black Woman

By Ashley Davis

You Beautiful Black Woman (Y.B.B.W) was founded by Terry Huston et al. on October 15th 1990, for the purpose of address-

ing issues faced by black women. In the spring of 1991, Y.B.B.W. expanded the organization to include all students regardless of race or gender. We wanted an open and diverse membership. Due to the popularity and wide recognition of the annual conference, the ladies of Y.B.B.W. decided to become a registered student organization. The mission and organizational goals were to culturally enhance Ferris' cam-

pus and to increase societal awareness of the contributions of black women. Y.B.B.W is very committed to making a positive impact port us. Our organization's name should not suggest that we support exclusion. The name honors our history, but it does not limit our future or our membership. The strong name signifies the strong people that are a part of the organization.

Some events that we are all looking forward to include, "Mayhem Poets" in collaboration with Entertainment Unlimited; this event will be on December 8th 2010. Our Poetry Jam will take place in February of the 2011 semester. Our spring semester activities include our Women's Lock in, the annual Fashion Show, as well as our annual Women's Conference.

For twenty years, Y.B.B.W has been a very active organization on campus, and we'd like to thank the Diversity and Inclusion Office, The Office of Multi-Cultural Student Services, Residential Life, Student Government, The Finance Division, all of our advisors, sponsors, other organizations that have supported us, all of our past and current members, and most of all the students who work with us. Peace.



In the spring of 1991, Y.B.B.W. expanded the committee to include all students regardless of race or gender to ensure an open and diverse membership.

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on the Ferris State culture. Our goals include becoming a more diverse group as well as bringing new and appealing events and activities to campus. We hope to get the message out that our organization is not only for woman of African American descent. We would personally like to invite members of different cultural backgrounds to join us, and this invitation is not limited to females. Yes, men can join and sup-

For more than 15 years, FSU has been celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month.

Dialogue Ferris

Hispanic Heritage Month

By Ana Davila-Howard

For more than 15 years, Ferris State University has been celebrating **Hispanic Heritage Month**. This year, the activities were spread from **September 16th to September 30th**. Each summer, the Office of Multicultural Student Services, represented by Mike Wade, in conjunction with the Recruiter Officer, Natalia Caravahlo-Pinto, and the Coordinator of International Recruitment and Admission, Luzia Tartari,

ers, theater productions and reenactments of important Hispanic celebrities, as well as art and craft exhibitions, and panels that discuss current issues dealing with Hispanic people and culture.

The kick off activity during the last 8 years has been the Hispanic Festival at the Quad where students can stop to taste Mexican food, make crafts, and listen to Hispanic music. Unfortunately, the weather this year did not cooperate, so we had

to change the location at the last minute to the fourth floor in FLITE. Even though the location changed, we did have many participants who enjoyed the food, crafts, and

tor of International Recruitment and Admission, Luzia Tartari. The first panel discussion prepared students for guest speaker West Cosgrove who discussed topics relevant to Immigration and Border issues. This year we featured a play that showcased the lives of several Latinos who have made vital contributions to the United States culture and society.

Every year, we try to expose students on campus to a taste of Hispanic food that is more authentic than what they find around town. The Rock Café and Westview cafeterias on campus prepared authentic menus for students to taste on two occasions, one from 4 – 7 p.m. and the other from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. There was also a Latin Night dance that took place at the Rankin Student Center Dome Room in the evening.

Our objective is to introduce Ferris students and the Big Rapids community to as many activities as possible where they can enjoy and learn more about Hispanic culture and become aware of the important contributions that this diverse group has made to our country.



and myself, Ana Dávila-Howard, Associate Professor of Spanish, get together to plan for the activities we will offer on campus at Ferris.

The planning committee tries to vary the activities from year to year. Some of the activities we have presented in the past have been motivational speak-

camaraderie.

Other activities this year included panel discussions: **Immigration and Border issues**, and another, **Hispanic Culture and its Influence on the US**. Participants included three Spanish professors Eric Warner, Gustavo Rodríguez-Morán and myself in conjunction with the Coordina-

Dialogue Ferris

Dr. Gottfried Oosterwal, Relating to and Caring for People from Diverse Cultures

By Diversity & Inclusion Office Staff

Dr. Oosterwal's take home message was that awareness, sensitivity, and suspension of judgment and biases from both sides will likely lead to optimal patient care.

Using funds provided by the Diversity and Inclusion Office's mini-grant, the College of Pharmacy hosted Dr. Gottfried Oosterwal, the Director of the Center for International Relations in Berrien Springs, Michigan, and a professor of Medical Anthropology and Multicultural Education at Western Michigan University. Dr. Oosterwal spoke passionately to a group of Ferris students, faculty, and staff regarding the importance of being aware and sensitive to patients' beliefs and cultural practices.

Because of the growth of diversity in the United States, Dr. Oosterwal suggested that doctors and hospitals need to modify their methods and procedures to best treat their patients. For example, he presented numerous cases where patients have benefited from the optimal care hospitals provide when they improve communication with their patients by providing directional and informational signage in the languages spoken in the communities they serve.

In addition to having interpreters and/or attempt-



Dr. Oosterwal held up an example of a sign that was hung in hospitals to provide patients with additional guidance and information.

ing to speak the language of their patients, Dr. Oosterwal recommended that doctors familiarize themselves with and be aware of their patients' beliefs and cultural practices. This might lead hospital staff to be flexible in allowing patients to make minor modifications to their rooms. Furthermore, doctors should be aware that their own personal views and habits might impact their patients' responses to the care they provide. However, Dr. Oosterwal stated that the

application of these practices could be even more effective if patients also suspend their personal views and beliefs to allow their doctors to treat them. Specifically, awareness, sensitivity, and suspension of judgment and biases from both sides will likely lead to optimal patient care.

Dr. Oosterwal ended the talk with an answer and question session for students, faculty, and staff.

Dialogue Ferris

The Black Jew Dialogues February 19th at Williams Auditorium

By Bruce Dilg

As part of the 2011 Festival of the Arts, we are bringing in a comedy group from the east coast to per-

form the Black Jew Dialogues at Williams Auditorium on February 19th. **There is no admission charge.**

their people, and why there has been a growing riff between the two groups since the early 70's. Through their dialogue the audience gains insight about the true nature of prejudice and how our inability to face our own biases separate us in ways that we may not be aware.

The comic journey begins in the Egypt of the Pharaohs and then travels through Africa, colonial times, to present-day America.

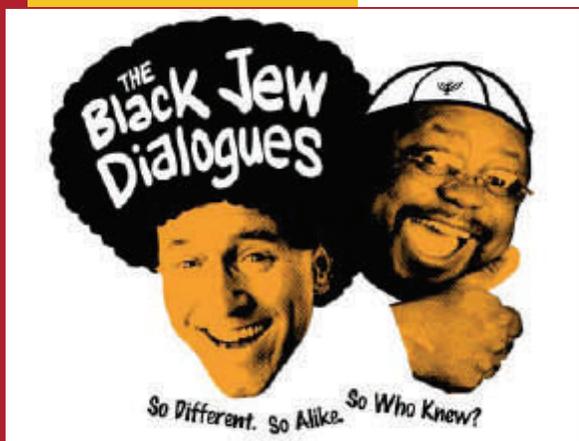
They find humor in everything from the Jewish involvement in the Dutch slave trade to two rednecks on a joy ride of hate. From a bar mitzvah boy explaining the cash kick-start his manhood receives, to octogenarian grandmothers singing and dancing about the joys of soul food and Jewish food, the Black Jew Dialogues is an exhilarating and insightful look at the state of race and cultural relations in America. You learn as much as you laugh.

It has been my experience that one of the strongest reasons that bias of any kind exists is a lack of familiarity. As we all grow up in our individual communities, we often think that anything beyond that community is out of our comfort zone and therefore bad.

We would anticipate that not only will the humor of this presentation allow an unusual insight into these

two groups, but the after show discussion will present an opportunity to explore these issues at a deeper level. We hope that professors will take these discussions back into their classrooms to expand on the issues raised. In addition, part of what they do is prepare pre and post performance material for use by professors interested in tying the issues they address into classroom work. These materials are available for interested professors.

Ankita Rakhe, Assistant Director for Intercultural and Diversity Issues at Trinity University, said after seeing this show, "What I found most rewarding however, was the educational value and experience of the performance. Not only did it address issues about diversity, tolerance and acceptance, but it went beyond those traditional ideas to actually engage viewers in dialogue and discourse about the complexities of race and religion and how those intertwine." We would hope that a similar statement can be made after the performance at Ferris. For more information on the group, visit: www.theblackjewdialogues.com/index.php



To view a video segment, visit:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4fpH4cgAJk>

Contact Bruce Dilg for pre and post performance material.

This is partially funded through the assistance of the Diversity and Inclusion Office's mini grant.

The show premiered at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland in August of 2006. In September 2007, it was the only American play performed at the Leeds Jewish Performing Arts Festival in England. The Black Jew Dialogues have toured in universities, high schools, synagogues, and theatres throughout the U.S. with great success. I was first exposed to them when they appeared on CNN.

In The Black Jew Dialogues, Larry Jay Tish and Ron Jones take the audience on a hysterical and poignant ride through three days they spent together in a cheap hotel room discussing their own experiences, the history of

Dialogue Ferris

Diverse Workforce Task Force

By Karen Strasser

Exposure to a variety of perspectives on issues can enhance a student's educational experience, and this is something we strive to achieve both in and out of the classroom. These different perspectives sometimes stem from basic diversity markers such as gender, race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, or sexual orientation. Seeing your world differently can be easier when you dialogue with people that are not like you.

While we make substantial efforts to recruit students from under-represented groups, the real challenge may come in retaining them. People at Ferris, strewn among a number of University offices and departments, have been working hard to make Ferris a welcoming environment for diverse students. However, this challenge is greater when those staffing the offices, appear on the surface to be very similar.

The diversity of the Ferris workforce may reflect the general West Michigan population we are situated in, but it is not at the levels many would hope to see for a comprehensive public institution; especially one that aims to prepare students for successful careers in the global society. Our condition is not new, or perhaps even unexpected,

but it is a problem that needs to be addressed. Recognition of this deficiency was formalized when the need to diversify the Ferris workforce was listed as a goal in the first Ferris Diversity plan.

This past April, President Eisler authorized the creation of a taskforce to study the issue, and make recommendations that could foster improvement. The Diverse Workforce Taskforce, chaired by Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion David Pilgrim, and Provost Fritz Erickson, is composed of faculty, staff and administrators from across the University.

After an initial organizational meeting and brainstorming session, the group was divided into two subcommittees; one focused on issues related to faculty and the other on staff and administrative positions. Although these sub-groups have much in common, the larger taskforce concluded processes related to recruitment and retention vary enough to benefit from a more focused examination. Best practices from other institutions were examined in relation to perceived root causes present at Ferris. Each group met through the summer to develop a series of recommendations which will be included in the final report next year. Recommended changes

varied between the groups, but they targeted three general areas for improvement:

- 1) Strategies to enhance the size and scope of applicant pools. Recommendations include direct recruitment strategies such as visiting HBCUs, and more generalized approaches such as production of a video that highlights the welcoming attributes of the Ferris community.
- 2) Methods to assist in the recruitment of new faculty. For example, a network of contacts could assist search committees in linking candidates to the community contacts that could make them feel more welcome.
- 3) Retention systems that can help us keep the diverse employees once they arrive. Concierge-like services to assist in the early transition and more developed mentoring programs were suggested as methods to make Ferris a better place to stay.

Co-chair David Pilgrim is evaluating subcommittee recommendations and will convene a smaller working group to assist in establishing implementation plans for priority items this winter.

Three general areas for improvement are: direct recruitment strategies, methods to assist in the recruitment of new faculty, and retention systems.

VIDEO SPOTLIGHT:

One Love/
Playing For
Change/Song
Around the
World

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4xjPODksIo8>

Faculty and administrators want to give each student the foundational knowledge they will need to be conscientious and thoughtful global citizens.

Going Global

Global Women's Activism

By Tracy Nichols Busch

This semester the students of History 259 (Global Women's Activism) produced activism projects that are presently on display in FLITE 408. These projects address issues that lead to the psychological damage and death of millions of women worldwide each year. They investigated a number of serious international problems, including Human Traffick-

ing, Female Genital Mutilation, Dowry Deaths, Honor Killings, and Domestic Violence. Please come by FLITE 408 to learn more about these important issues. There will also be a number of groundbreaking books available to read, including *I Am Nujood: Age 10 and Divorced* by Nujood Ali, *Possessing the Secret of Joy* by Alice Walker, *Sold* by Patricia McCormick, *The*

Slave Across the Street by Theresa Flores, *Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, and *Half the Sky* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. The successful completion of these projects was made possible by impressive teamwork of the History 259 students and support from the Political Engagement Project (PEP).

Globalization in the Classroom

By Tracy Nichols Busch

This past summer, Steve Cox and I interviewed 35 faculty and administrators from every college on campus in order to produce a 40 minute documentary called "Globalization in the Classroom." The purpose of the project is to stimulate a University-wide discussion on how globalization has affected everything from manufacturing, engineering, scientific research, human rights, health care, and business practices. Globalization is one of the most powerful forces at work in the world today. We are hopeful that the documentary will encourage the University community to re-think the Ferris curriculum in terms of the challenges and opportunities that globalization presents.

In the process of con-

ducting the interviews, we discovered that most colleges on campus are already engaged in lively debate about the pros and cons of globalization and how it will impact our graduates, not only in terms of their careers, but also in terms of their life choices. Faculty and administrators indicated that, yes, they want Ferris students to be successful in their careers, but they are also interested in giving each student the foundational knowledge they need to be conscientious and thoughtful global citizens. Some of the themes addressed included the impacts of outsourcing on U.S. manufacturing (Chuck Drake and Rick Griffin), communication across cultures (Sandy Alspach), global scientific research (Piram Prakasam

and Karen Strasser), comparative health care systems (Sandy Burns, Greg Wellman, and Marilyn Skrocki), global inequities (David Pilgrim), the dangers of provincialism (Dan Noren), and managing a global workforce (Shirish Grover). Many thanks to the faculty and administrators who made time this summer to be interviewed.

Steve and I are still plowing through more than 10 hours of footage and plan to have the film ready by the beginning of 2011. This project was made possible through the support of Dr. David Pilgrim of the Diversity and Inclusion Office, Dr. Todd Stanislav of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, and Dr. Piram Prakasam of the Office of International Education.

Going Global

Globalization Reflection: An Open Dialogue

By Diversity and Inclusion Staff

As part of the Globalization Initiative, the Globalization Reflection has taken on a new direction since its inception in the fall of 2009. Instead of hosting evening panel discussions, the *Globalization Reflection: An Open Dialogue* has been sponsoring weekly student group discussions to get students engaged. Its main focus is to have students discuss a topic related to a theme the Globalization Initiative chooses at the beginning of the semester. This year's topic is general education and globalization. Our goal is to provide various topics of discussions related to the theme but the discussions may include current events about which students are interested in holding a dialogue. At each session, two professors will lead the discussion and at their discretion, they will provide reading materials and questions to enhance

the dialogues. These discussions are held on the fourth floor of FLITE in the Office of International Education at 11:00-11:50 A.M., on Thursdays. For all participants, pizza and drinks will be provided.

The *Globalization Reflection: An Open Dialogue* has held six discussions thus far with one last discussion to be held on December 2nd at 11:00 in FLITE 408. The last discussion topic for fall semester is, *Ranking Education Globally: U.S. versus other Countries*. The discussion leaders will be Lisa Ing, Director of School of Education, and Michelle Johnston, Dean of College of Education and Human Services. The first six discussion topics were: *Hallowed Ground? The New York Mosque Controversy, Hispanic Culture and Its Influence on the United States, Global Workforce, Student Fulbright Discus-*

sion, Why Learn a Second Language?, and What Does General Education Have to do with Being a Responsible Citizen?

The *Globalization Reflection: An Open Dialogue* committee members wish to thank Dr. Piram Prakasham, Director of the Office of International Education, and Spencer Saxton, a student intern for the Office of International Education, for overseeing the logistics of the discussions. Spencer Saxton's assistance has been invaluable to us and we appreciate all that she does to ensure the weekly discussions run smoothly. As the semester winds down, the committee will meet in early December to determine globalization topics for spring 2011 discussions. For additional information, contact Spencer Saxton in the Office of International Education.

The last discussion is on December 2nd, 2010, *Ranking Education Globally: U.S. versus other Countries*.

Quote

“Education is a kind of continuing dialogue, and a dialogue assumes different points of view.”

Robert M. Hutchins
American Educator and Writer

International Corner

Interview With Dr. Piram Prakasam, Director of Office of International Education

By Diversity & Inclusion Office Staff



What do you hope to accomplish as the Director of the Office of International Education?

- 1) Seek and expand meaningful educational opportunities (that includes global experiential learning opportunities) for Ferris Students that prepare them to be successful in a diverse and globalized world by:
 - providing intentionally designed programs that allow International students to interact with local students;
 - expanding global study abroad, internship and job opportunities;
 - increasing awareness about globalization and global workforce issues; and,
 - supporting curricular changes and creating new courses.

- 2) Engage the larger community by creating partnerships that will bring awareness and understanding of global issues.

What exciting projects are you planning?

- Creating Internship opportunities for our Students abroad;
- seeking job opportunities for our students abroad;
- working with Political Engagement Project;
- working with the Globalization Initiative;
- continue strong relationship with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion;
- providing international educational and cultural opportunities for local area schools;
- seeking International Partners;
- seeking ways to improve quality of our Study Abroad programs; and,

- increasing the number of international students at Ferris.

What drew you to Ferris?

- the mix of liberal arts and career-oriented focus;
- state school with a faculty union; and,
- it is a welcoming and friendly place.

What are your views of Ferris?

- a place that values collaboration, diversity; an institution that takes prides in its mission of lifelong learning, and a university that creates opportunities for students, especially first-generation students.

What can people do to help you accomplish your goals?

- challenge, support and work with the Office of International Education in its mission to prepare our students for a diverse and globalized world.

“Vision without action is a dream.
Action without vision is simply
passing the time. Action with vision
is making a positive difference.”

Joel A. Barker
Independent Scholar
& Futurist

International Corner

Ramadan

By Nabila Taufiq

In 2009, the Muslim Student Organization and the International Student Organization started organizing a dinner to celebrate Ramadan with Ferris stu-

God revealed the Quran to humankind; the month in which the first verses of The Quran were revealed to Prophet Muhammad. This month, Muslims refrain

guidance and help refraining from daily evils; during this time, Muslims try to purify themselves through self-restraint and good deeds.

This year, the MSO and the ISO hosted a dinner where the Muslim students at Ferris broke their fasts with fellow Ferris students at 7:30 p.m. in the West Campus Community Center. Before breaking the fast, Ahmed Abbas, the president of MSO gave a short informational speech about Ramadan. He spoke about the historical, religious and cultural aspect of Ramadan. Then after the Muslims broke their fasts with water and dates, the students and faculty witnessed the Muslim students pray their night prayer. Ahmed Abbas, who led the prayer, recited verses from the Quran while the rest of the Muslims followed him. After the prayer, all the attending guests ate dinner and socialized. It was a beautiful experience where the students at Ferris came together to celebrate and learn about Ramadan.



Muslims believe Ramadan is the month when God revealed the Quran to humankind.

dents. Ramadan is a special month of the year for over one billion Muslims throughout the world. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. For this reason, the time varies and moves backward about eleven days each year depending on the moon.

Muslims believe Ramadan is the month when

from eating, drinking, and sexual relations from dawn until sunset. It is a training month for Muslims where they learn about patience, humility and spirituality. It is a time for Muslims to fast for the sake of God, and to offer more prayer and read more Quran and offer more charity than usual. During Ramadan, Muslims ask for forgiveness for sins, pray for

Upcoming Events

Cultural Competence for Your Career

Career Services invites you to be a part of our Career Advantage Series. Being culturally aware and being able to work with a diverse population is an important skill in any profession. Join us to learn about opportunities to develop your cultural experiences.

Date: Tuesday, November 30, 2010

Time: 6:00 - 6:50 PM

Contact: Angela Roman

Telephone: 231-591-2685

Location: FLITE 135

Email: Careerservices@ferris.edu

Mayhem Poets

Having been dubbed "an amazing ride" by the **New York Times**, this mind boggling performance has been described as "**The Simpsons meets Malcolm X at a Notorious B.I.G. concert**". These theatre trained, comedically gifted, lyrical virtuosos seamlessly blend raw elements of hip hop, theatre, improv and stand up comedy to tell gut wrenching truths that leave audiences forever changed.

Date: Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Time: 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Contact: Entertainment Unlimited

Telephone: 231-591-2610

Location: Rankin Student Center Dome Room

Email: EU@ferris.edu

Martin Luther King Day

Date: Monday, January 17, 2011

Contact: Michael Wade

Telephone: 231-591-2617

Email: michaelwade@ferris.edu

Vagina Monologues

The Vagina Monologues is a global activist movement to stop violence against women and girls. It is a catalyst that promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations. The Vagina Monologues generates broader attention for the fight to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sex slavery. Admission is \$6 for students and \$10 for all others. Proceeds will go to WISE and Women and Girls of Haiti.

Date: Friday, February 18, 2011

Time 7:30 pm

Contact Kate Schwartz

Group/Organization: Student Leadership and Activities

Location Williams Auditorium

Email: schwark3@ferris.edu

Jeremy Kittel Band

The U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion and winner of six Detroit Music Awards leads an exceptional band whose musical roots transverse the world. With the drive of Celtic fiddling, the spontaneity of jazz, soul of bluegrass, rhythms of Africa and Latin America, layered melodies of Eastern Europe and the intricacies of chamber music, the Jeremy Kittel Band consistently captivates audiences. Jeremy is joined by versatile guitarist Kyle Sanna, World Music award-winning percussionist Bodek Janke, award-winning bassist Andrew Kratzat and cellist Tristan Clarridge, a four-time National Fiddle Champion.

Date: Thursday, February 24, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Contact: Williams Auditorium

Telephone: 231-591-3676

Location: Williams Auditorium

Email: williams_auditorium@ferris.edu

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