

# A Seat at the Table

March 2017

- Author Lawrence Ross gave a lecture based on his book, *“Blackballed: The Black & White Politics of Race on America's Campuses.”* The lecture explored responses for dealing with racism on college campuses. The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) sponsored the event.
- Syed Umar Warsi, spoken word artist and motivational speaker, performed his show, *“Growing up Muslim in America,”* on campus on February 13.
- Educational Counseling & Disabilities Services hosted a screening of the documentary, *“Invitation to Dance.”* The film detailed the journey of Simi Linton, injured while hitchhiking to Washington to protest the Vietnam War. Suddenly a young disabled college student, she confronted insidious forms of discrimination. Over time, she joined forces with a vibrant disability community and realized political engagement, love and dance could again be central to her life. To learn more see <http://invitationtodancedoc.com>.
- Rita Walters, assistant professor of Social Work, and Angela Guy-Lee, instructor of Sociology, facilitated a discussion regarding a Black Faculty/Student Mentoring Project.
- March 3, 2017, was a sad day for the Jim Crow Museum. For more than a decade, Traci Easley Williams, a professor at Kent State University, has brought classes from that institution to visit the museum. During that time, both she and KSU became partners with the museum on several projects. Unfortunately, this semester represents the last time she will bring students to the museum. Photos of their recent visit can be viewed at [https://www.facebook.com/pg/JimCrowMuseum/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=1380638018664421](https://www.facebook.com/pg/JimCrowMuseum/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1380638018664421).
- The Office of International Education, with the World Affairs Council of Western Michigan, invites the Ferris community to join them for a frank discussion on American foreign policy with Ronald E. Neumann, former United States Ambassador to Afghanistan and President of the American

Academy of Diplomacy. He is on a listening tour to hear the concerns Americans have regarding world affairs. With decades of diplomatic experience, he will also give the real scoop on working on the front lines in the Foreign Service. Complementing the discussion will be a screening of *America's Diplomats*, which highlights the stories, sacrifices, and triumphs of diplomats. The event is scheduled for March 14 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in Business 111.

- The BEYOND Initiative's Advisory Council has selected *BEYOND: Conflict* as the theme for the 2017-18 academic year. To facilitate theme implementation, they are hosting an Unconference to inform, engage, and inspire faculty and staff to seek innovative approaches to integrate the theme. Those interested in a particular pitch or approach will have an opportunity to explore and develop the theme and possible approaches. Please join them March 24, 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the IRC Connector.
- Testimonios: ¡Si Se Puede! Will take place on Wednesday, March 15 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in IRC 109. Join the Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) as they host a panel discussion on the importance of higher education. The theme for the conversation will be Si Se Puede (Yes We Can!); panelists and attendees will share their testimonies and experiences in regards to access to higher education and the impact of CLS programs. Panelist will include participants from the Promesa 2012-2016 cohort.
- The annual Cesar Chavez March in Grand Rapids is March 16. The schedule is 9:00 a.m. – Bus leaves campus outside CLS; 10:00 a.m. – March & Gathering; 2:00 p.m. – Drive back to campus; and, 3:00 p.m. –Arrive at Ferris. If you interested please contact the Center for Latin@ Studies.
- *Barbie Nation* is a powerful documentary about the origins and significance of the Barbie Doll. There is a screening of the documentary in the Fine Art Gallery on March 13 from 1:00-2:30 p.m. and 5:00-6:30 p.m. The film is shown as a part of Women's History Month.
- The College of Engineering and Technology is hosting a STEM Workshop for Middle School students accompanied by a Parent/Mentor on Saturday March 18. Leigha Compson, a University Career Programs Specialist, leads this work. This is one of the many successful initiatives funded with a Faculty/Staff Diversity Mini-grant program.

- The Fine Art Gallery is currently hosting “Strong Is the New Pretty,” a photography exhibit by Kate T. Parker. The mother of two young girls, Parker wanted to portray her daughters as they are: dirty, spirited, silly, feisty, angry, funny, loud and fun loving. Through the portrayals of her children, Parker sought to combat the messages the media sends to girls and women. The show runs through March 31. Parker will visit the Fine Art Gallery for an artist talk and book signing on March 23 at 6:00 p.m. in University Center 205. Thank you to Carrie Weis Stermer for bringing this exhibition to Ferris.
- The National Organization for Women is leading a month-long drive to collect feminine hygiene products and money for these products to donate to Degage Ministries in Grand Rapids. This initiative will help people who are struggling with homelessness. Donation boxes are located in OMSS, CLACS, the Greek Life Office and the Student Recreation Center. When we support this and similar efforts we make real our founder’s charge to “make the world better.”
- Kathryn Woods, assistant professor of Social Work, will facilitate a session regarding sexism in print advertising on March 21, from 6:00-7:00 p.m., in UCB 203. The sponsors are OMSS and the Ferris Museum for Sexist Objects.
- Debby Irving, the author of “*Waking Up White*,” will facilitate a workshop on Monday, March 20 in MCO 212 from 4:00-6:00 p.m., followed by dinner. The workshop title is “Leveling the Playing Field: Interrupting Patterns of Privilege.” RSVP to FCTL (ext. 3826 or [fctl@ferris.edu](mailto:fctl@ferris.edu)) by March 13.
- Debby Irving will also deliver a keynote address on March 21 from 11:00-11:50 a.m. in UCB 202A & B, followed by Q & A and a light lunch. Faculty, staff and students are invited. Debby’s keynote is titled “Radical Curiosity: The Unexplained Pathway to Human Potential.” The Academic Senate, OMSS, Diversity and Inclusion Office, and Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning are sponsors for this event. Here is Irving’s TED Talk from July 20, 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD5Ox5XNEpg>.
- The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning will host the following events:
  - The *Institute on Inclusion and Inclusive Classrooms* June 5-9 in FLITE 405. For more information and to register, please contact FCTL at ext. 3826 or [fctl@ferris.edu](mailto:fctl@ferris.edu).

- A viewing and discussion of the film *“Dysfunctional Societies: Why Inequality Matters”* on March 29 in UCB 202A from 5:00-7:00 p.m. This is an event is part of the Economic Inequality Initiative.
- Kim Dickman and Marie Yowitz of Educational Counseling and Disability Services will facilitate a session titled *“50 Shades of Inclusivity: Designing Courses for Everyone”* on March 24 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in FLITE 405.
- Jessica Ledesma, Center for Latin@ Studies Program coordinator, was chosen to be part of the highly competitive HIP Next Generation Latino Leadership Program. The yearlong fellowship provides an opportunity for emerging Latino leaders to gain the skills needed to excel as a diverse social sector leaders in order to strengthen the nation’s representation of Latino leadership. The cohort will comprise of emerging philanthropic and social sector leaders from across the nation in the nonprofit, philanthropic and government sectors.
- Mathematician and social justice advocate Dave Kung will run a workshop on realizing social justice in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Women and under-represented minorities are more likely to fall out of the STEM pipeline at every stage from middle school on. What can we do in our classrooms, departments and institutions to ensure everyone has an opportunity to succeed? Research suggests interactive teaching methods, in contrast to passive lectures, might help us successfully address issues of diversity. The workshop is March 15, 4:30-5:45 p.m., in Starr 136.
- Franklin Hughes, videographer/multi-media specialist, has written several pieces about the lives and careers of those Hampton Institute students who also attended Ferris Institute between 1910 and 1928. His research is helping to rewrite Ferris State University’s history. Here is a short article, <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/jimcrow/question/mar17/index.htm>.

### A Quote to Remember

“We realize the importance of our voices only when we are silenced.”  
— Malala Yousafzai