

# A Seat at the Table



- On April 12, hundreds of Ferris students, faculty, staff and community members helped the Office of International Education celebrate its 27<sup>th</sup> annual International Festival of Cultures. The festival celebrated many cultures with performances, exhibits, and cuisine from around the world. To view pictures of the event, see *Week in Pictures*, pictures 1-18, <http://www.ferris.edu/news/week/archives/2015/apr1715/>.
- The University exceeded 500 International students in Spring 2015. This represents a 300 percent increase from Fall 2012. This increase resulted from the hard work of many people. To celebrate this enrollment success, the Office of the President and the Diversity and Inclusion Office saluted the staff, faculty, and students of the Office of International Education on April 14. To view a video of the program, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VEYuuMMbrw&feature=youtu.be>.
- You Beautiful Black Woman (YBBW) presented its 25<sup>th</sup> annual Fashion Show on April 18. The show, “The Evolution of Fashion: Urban Elegance,” featured the urban and couture sides of fashion—showcasing stylish clothing from the 1970s to contemporary designs. Congratulations to YBBW for presenting an elegant and sophisticated program.
- The Asian Student Organization, the Diversity and Inclusion Office, the Office of Multicultural Student Services, and Student Government

sponsored the 2015 Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration. On April 22, motivational speaker Hoan Do, who was featured on the television show “American Ninja Warrior,” visited FSU and presented a keynote address. The event also featured student performances and Asian food dishes.

- The Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS) celebrated the Promesa program with an event on April 9, 2015. “Testimonios: Celebrating Promesa” featured two CLS founding alumni, Maria Hernandez and Kaylee Moreno. See the photo album at:  
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.841227895930884.1073741836.119012878152393&type=3>
- Two Russian chemistry professors are visiting Ferris State University during the week of April 27. Events include a panel discussion on Russian higher education on April 27, at 6 pm in IRC 115, and a presentation on Women in Science in Russia on April 28, in UCB 217. The two faculty visited Ferris classes and worked with chemistry professors to develop practical plans for future joint projects. This exciting collaborative opportunity was supported by a Faculty Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.
- Queer Monologues kicked off a week of Pride activities on April 6, as Ferris students and faculty presented a challenging and entertaining selection of personal stories and informative readings. The Diverse Sexuality and Gender Alliance (DSAGA) also hosted tables on campus with useful information. The annual Drag-Off, held at The Gate, drew a packed crowd.
- The *Beyond: Diversity* initiative wrapped up in April with a panel discussion on Literature and Diversity; it was led by Tracy Webb. The *Beyond: Diversity* initiative also featured a genealogy panel featuring students, faculty, and staff sharing discoveries about their genetic backgrounds.
- Ferris State students do an incredible job of giving back to the campus and the community. The Big Event – the largest one-day student run philanthropic event in Michigan – was a huge success on April 18, with new highs in volunteer hours (1620) and houses visited (260).

- Michigan Campus Compact celebrated 19 years of Outstanding Student Service Awards, on April 18. James Young, a Ferris student, was one of 6 students statewide to win the Outstanding Community Impact Award; Ferris student Logan England was one of 31 students statewide to win the Commitment to Service Award, and 15 Ferris students received the Heart and Soul award. #toocool.
- The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) will host its annual PigNoc on May 2, from 12-4 p.m. on the North Campus Quad near the University Center (rain location is the IRC Connector). The barbeque is outstanding. The OMSS Graduate Recognition Program will be held on May 8, starting at 11 a.m. in University Center, room 217.
- Thanks to all of you who completed the Diversity and Inclusion Climate Survey, conducted March 16-April 3. The data from the survey —along with data gathered from one-to-one interviews and focus groups—will be analyzed by IBIS Consulting. Representatives from IBIS will return to Ferris on June 4 to discuss their findings and recommendations. This is an important step as the University develops a new diversity and inclusion plan.
- The following people were the winners of the survey prizes:  
Ipad Mini: Jacee Potts, Margaret Brown, and Krystal Davis;  
Beats by Dre: Deborah Griffiths, Deborah Rockman, and Kelly Teska; and,  
Ferris Shirt: James Woolen, Scott Herron, and Ruben Medrano.
- Heads-up! Diversity reports are due to the Diversity and Inclusion Office by August 1.

## **Did You Know?**

The Q in LGBTQA stands for queer or questioning. *Queer* is an umbrella term sometimes used by LGBTQA people to refer to the entire LGBTQ community. It is an alternative that some people use to "queer" the idea of the labels and categories such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, etc. It is important to note that the word queer is an in-group term—and, as such, often a term of empowerment. However, it can be considered offensive to some people, depending on their generation, geographic location, and relationship with the word.

