

A Seat at the Table

October 2016

- ✓ Thirty-two Ferris students, representing 9 nations, participated in a camping trip at the Petoskey State Park, from September 9-11. Camping was a new experience for most of these students. The students were joined by several staff members and their families. This was a wonderful opportunity for the students, staff, and family members to learn about other cultures while building relationships. Video recap, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xei6OV12eTQ>.
- ✓ BEYOND is an interdisciplinary university-wide initiative created to inform, engage and inspire Ferris students to be successful in our diverse and globalized world. The Office of International Education (OIE) coordinates this collaborative initiative. BEYOND connects Ferris' general education outcomes to co-curricular experiences to bring global awareness and encourage students to study abroad. On October 6, the OIE staff used an exhibition of banners to introduce visitors to BEYOND.
- ✓ The Diversity and Inclusion Office is working with Dr. Rita Walters, Assistant Professor of Social Work, to create study abroad opportunities to Haiti.
- ✓ On September 14, 2016, the Diversity and Inclusion Office hosted a Webinar entitled, "Homeless, Food-Insecure & Foster Youth Students: Decrease Barriers to Increase Their Success, Retention and Graduation." The Office has also worked with the Wesley House to create an emergency food pantry. For information about the pantry contact 796-8315.
- ✓ The 2015-2016 Diversity Report is available for viewing: http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/pdf/DiversityReport2015-2016_Final.pdf.
- ✓ The Jim Crow Museum partnered with Logan Jaffe and the *New York Times* to collect stories of the experiences of Americans with racist objects. To learn more about this project visit http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/10/06/us/race-related-confronting-racist-objects.html?_r=0.

- ✓ From 1910 through 1928, a number of African American students attended Ferris Institute; many of them came from Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute (known today as Hampton University). They came to Ferris to take college preparatory courses. Among this collection of young African American students were men who later served as editors of national newspapers, argued cases before the United States Supreme Court and advised presidents and civil rights leaders. The Hampton-Ferris connection was discussed in an episode of *Expect Diversity*, a Ferris television show, <https://vimeo.com/184763208>. Also, a PowerPoint presentation from a recent campus-wide discussion this chapter in Ferris's history: <http://ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/pdf/HamptonFerrisFoundersDay.pdf>.
- ✓ The Center for Latin@ Studies has hosted its Summer *Promesa* program at the Holland Museum the past two summers. This museum strives to tell the story of all of the peoples of Holland, Michigan, but its exhibitions have focused almost entirely on people with Dutch heritage. For two summers *Promesa* students have worked with museum staff to re-imagine the presentation of others, especially the contributions of Latinos and African Americans in the Holland area. At the end of the summer there will be a bridging cultures reception where the students present their "installations." Tiara Burley, in the picture below, is a Holland High Junior. She is pictured with her grandmother and her teacher. On the wall behind them is a portrait of a Queen of the Netherlands. The history of African American families in the area is non-existent at the museum. Tiara is the first "*Promesa*-Holland Museum Fellow" and will work part time throughout the year assisting the museum staff to expand its stories. Ferris is supporting her with a \$500.00 per semester stipend.



- ✓ The Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) invites the University community to attend "**Conversations on Race**" – a dialogue series that will take place once a semester and will address events, issues and trends surrounding race in our society. The Fall semester discussion will be held Wednesday, October 26th at 5 p.m. in IRC 115. Topics to be covered are "Black Lives Matter, Stereotypes and Peaceful Protests." This event is open to the public.
- ✓ On October 15, OIE sponsored a student trip to Chicago. Thirty-six students from 20 different countries spent the day touring the Museum of Science and Industry and taking pictures at the Bean. They also visited a spooky haunted house. It was the first visit to the Windy City for many of these students, and they took the opportunity to expand their horizons and make good memories with their friends at Ferris State University. See photo below.



- ✓ October is Disability Month. The Liaison Committee for Students with Disabilities scheduled the following events: October 12, 2016: Student speaker: Connor Bartz "Hidden Struggles" – IRC 120 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Bartz discussed the struggles he overcame at a very young age. While dealing with persistent health issues, he simultaneously struggled in his education, social life, and bonding with peers.
- ✓ October 18, 2016: Featured Speaker: Antony Ianni "The Relentless Tour" – BUS 211 6:30 – 7:30 PM. They said he would **never** go to college, **never** play sports, would grow up to live in a group home. He was bullied because he was different. But, Anthony Ianni defied the dire predictions. He graduated from Michigan State University and became the first athlete with autism to play Division I college basketball. Now, Anthony is on a mission: to eradicate bullying and inspire everyone to "Live Your Dream."

- ✓ October 27, 2016: Featured Speaker: Arash Bayatmakou “Little Big Steps” – UC 213 – 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Arash will discuss his journey from facing negative prognoses about his condition, to committing himself to his goals and objectives, creating new connections and interests in his life and celebrating achievements like starting his own non-profit to swimming five miles around a mountain lake.

- ✓ November 7-9 2016: Allies for Inclusion Exhibit – UC 203 9 AM – 7PM. Students, Faculty and Staff are welcome to experience this interactive display designed to develop allies for people with disabilities. This exhibit is designed to build awareness about individuals with disabilities and the disability movement.

- ✓ The Fall 2016 Latin@ Heritage Celebration has been a successful lineup of collaborative programs. The events included a *Trailblazers Exhibit* of Hispanic American firsts, the screening of the documentary *Los Graduados*, the *Quinceañera* featured presentation, the *Testimonios* event with special guest performers “One Word Diversity,” and the *Latin@ Art Night*. The events had excellent attendance from the Ferris community, and were all coordinated through partnerships with OMSS, the Center for Latin@ Studies, and the Hispanic Student Organization.

- ✓ On Wednesday, November 2, from 10 AM – 2PM, the Spanish Club and Spanish faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences will host an interactive celebration of Día De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead), a Mexican holiday that honors family and friends who have passed on. The event will be in the West Campus Community Center.

- ✓ On November 3, from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM, the Circle of Tribal Nations and OMSS have scheduled a Native American Great Lakes traditional Fall harvest feast meal officiated by local Native Americans to honor those who have died. Guests are welcome to bring a dish to pass, to honor loved ones who have passed on. There will be a drum group to share songs and stories about these cultural traditions. This event is also held at the West Campus Community Center.

Did You Know?

On July 17, 1902, Booker T. Washington, the President of Tuskegee Institute, delivered a talk at the Ferris Institute. His lecture was heard by over 800 people. A Big Rapids *Pioneer* article said, “The aims of the two institutions have much in common.”