

A Seat at the Table

October Issue

- Fall 2015 numbers show that the Ferris student body continues to grow more diverse. The record enrollment of 14,715 students included 140 more Hispanic students, 97 more International students, and 27 more African American students than Fall 2014. Ferris is also retaining students at a higher rate.
- Ibis Consulting Group, Inc. and Creative Diversity Solutions performed a Diversity Audit during the 2014-15 academic year. This audit will inform the creation of a new Diversity and Inclusion Plan. The 2015 Diversity Audit Final Report and the 2015 Diversity Audit Executive Summary can be found on the Ferris web site at:
<http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/progress.htm>.
- *Sightlines*, Kendall's ArtPrize 2015 exhibition, "is a bold and timely examination of the often murky distinction between perception and reality." The eight featured artists provide very different perspectives and include four participants from outside the United States.
- *Beyond...Globalization* has taken off. September events included a screening of the documentary *Frame by Frame*, *Ice Cream for Peace* on International Peace Day, and the major event *Minds Aflame*.
- The first art exhibit of the Fall was *Project 562*, photographer Matika Wilbur's creative representations of modern Native Americans: "It is our goal, with this exhibit, to inspire change, to let go of old stereotypes, that are still in mainstream culture and to encourage a new vision of the contemporary Native American." See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7JrRBQEQr3o> for more information on Wilbur's project. This project was funded by a faculty staff diversity mini-grant.
- The Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) has added two staff members who will work on issues related to diversity and inclusion in the classroom and beyond. Olukemi (Kemi) Fadayomi is Faculty-in-Residence and works on curriculum and course design, diversity in the classroom, and inclusive classrooms; Vanessa L. Marr is a Teaching & Faculty Development Fellow, and works on critical service-learning, equity across the curriculum, learner-centered teaching, and identity and community-engaged scholarship.
- An important addition to the Office of Student Life is Kevin Carmody, the Ferris State University Title IX Coordinator and Associate Dean of Student Life. Kevin is responsible for "monitoring and the oversight of overall implementation of Title IX compliance at Ferris State University, including coordination of training, education and communication, and assisting complainants...." The 2015-2016 edition of the Title IX Newsletter can be found here: <http://www.ferris.edu/title-ix/docs/TitleIXPublicationOrientation20152016II.pdf>.

- Latin@ Heritage activities at Ferris are sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS), Center for Latin@ Studies (CLS), and the College of Arts & Sciences. The events include *Music on the Muskegon* on Saturday October 3 at Hemlock Park, *Pinata Night* on Monday October 12, and *Latin Dance Night* on Thursday October 29. See the full list at http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/archive/2015/september/latino_poster.htm.
- Ferris earned a gold level rating from the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency as a veteran-friendly school. The Veteran Resource Center has been established at the University Center, and Kognito, an online training mechanism, is available on the FCTL website. Kognito provides examples to help community members identify signs of stress, and information about how to connect those in need to support services. Kognito can be found at: <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/academics/center/kognito.htm>.
- October is Disabilities Awareness Month and this year our community will have two major events. On Saturday October 17, Wheelchair Basketball will return to Wink Arena. On Wednesday October 28 former Captain Luis Carlos Montalván will talk about and sign his book *Until Tuesday: A Wounded Warrior and the Golden Retriever Who Saved Him*.
- Fall hours for the First Lady's Attic are posted here: <http://www.ferris.edu/htmls/othersrv/flattic/>. The First Lady's Attic ensures that all Ferris students are dressed for success when they interview for jobs and internships, and make conference and class presentations.
- David Pilgrim, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion and Director of the Jim Crow Museum, was a speaker at the annual Michigan Museums Association Conference, held at the University of Michigan. Pilgrim also received a Peninsulas Prize Award. This award is presented annually by the Michigan Museums Association Board of Directors in honor of accomplishment and service in the Michigan museums community.
- The Center for Latin@ Studies and the Latino Business & Economic Development Center received a Cornerstone Award at LINC UP 7th Annual Community Spirit Awards on October 1 in Grand Rapids.
- *Diversity at Ferris 2014-15*, the annual diversity report prepared by the Diversity and Inclusion Office, is now available. Diversity reports can be found at: <http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/administration/president/DiversityOffice/reports.htm>.

A Small Step That Promotes Inclusion

If you are hosting an event that involves serving food, please consider the following: Have all food labelled, separate meat and dairy, and, please, if only serving one meat, avoid pork.