



FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

Charles Vannette
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January 16, 2015

Members of the Diversity Mini-Grant Committee
Diversity and Inclusion Office
1201 S. State Street – CSS 312
Big Rapids, MI 49307

Dear Members of the Diversity Mini-Grant Committee:

Thank you for your consideration of the enclosed application for a Diversity Mini-Grant at Ferris State University. The program, for which financial support is sought, is entitled “Remembering the Holocaust.” “Remembering the Holocaust” is a three-day event planned for March 23-25, 2015 on Ferris State’s Big Rapids campus. The event seeks to bring awareness to the genocide of European Jews during the Second World War. Planned activities include an evening film screening on March 23, two academic lectures by Ferris faculty members on March 24, and an all-day awareness event on March 25 that includes informational posters, biographical banners, Holocaust poetry and art, and a student-led reading of names. “Remembering the Holocaust” concludes on the evening of March 25 with a guest lecture by a Holocaust survivor. This guest speaker will also visit Big Rapids High School on the morning of March 26 to speak to students there.

The event is open to all Ferris students and faculty, as well as to the Big Rapids community. Funding of \$450 has already been obtained from the Department of Languages and Literature, and this application seeks support in the amount of \$1309.00, in order to cover the projected shortfall outlined in the included budget. Thank you very much for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Charles Vannette

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Ferris State University
Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant Application

I. Identification

Name of Primary Applicant: Charles Vannette
Members of Team: Debra Courtright-Nash, Barry Mehler, Pasquale Di Raddo
Department or Unit: Languages and Literature
Campus Address: ASC 3032
Telephone: X2543 (campus), 614-260-1925 (cell)
E-mail address: vannetc@ferris.edu

II. Event Title (25 words or less)

Remembering the Holocaust

III. Specific core value, strategic initiative, or goal related to diversity that the event will address. (See the University Strategic Plan and the Diversity Plan)

University strategic plan:

Diversity (Cultural and Global Engagement)
Excellence (High-quality Academic Programming)
Learning (Experiential and Holistic Learning)

Diversity Plan:

Create a university that is welcoming to diverse populations (1C)
Create environments for student learning that are inclusive of and sensitive to a diverse student population (4B, 4E)

IV. Abstract (150-200 word, use additional paper if necessary). If the application is approved the abstract will be posted on the Diversity and Inclusion Office website.

“Remembering the Holocaust” is a three day Holocaust awareness event scheduled for March 23-25, 2015. It is designed to raise awareness of, pay tribute to, and to educate the campus and Big Rapids community on the Nazi genocide of European Jews. The event begins on the evening of the 23rd with a Holocaust film screening open to all students. The 24th will include academic lectures by Dr. Barry Mehler of Humanities and Dr. Pasquale Di Raddo of Physical Sciences. Wednesday the 25th will be an all-day event in the University Center and includes informational posters designed by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, biographical banners designed by a Ferris State student, a public reading of names by Ferris students, and projected images of Holocaust art and poetry. The event concludes with a 90 minute evening guest lecture by Holocaust survivor Mr. Martin Lowenberg. Mr. Lowenberg will also be speaking at Big Rapids High School on the following day.

V. Event Narrative (up to 4 pages single-spaced)

- a. The conceptual framework that explains how the event will augment Ferris's long-term commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Support of the University's Strategic Plan: The University's strategic plan calls for a learning environment for "cultural and global exposure, understanding, and opportunity" (*Diversity*). This environment must be committed to "high academic standards and responsive programs" (*Excellence*), whereby "theory meets practice inside and outside the classroom" (*Learning*).

With the goal of furthering the University's efforts towards *global exposure and understanding*, "Remembering the Holocaust" seeks to expose students to a variety of issues pertaining to the genocide of European Jews during the Second World War. Issues addressed will be ethnic cleansing, scientific racism, and collective responsibility.

The *academic standards* of the event will be very high. Exhibits will be rooted in research undertaken by the world's two foremost Holocaust research institutions (Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum). The event is designed in large part by Charles Vannette, Associate Professor of German and instructor of the course "Representations of the Holocaust." Dr. Barry Mehler of Humanities and Dr. Pasquale Di Raddo of Physical Sciences will also be holding academic talks.

The *academic theory of the event meets practice* in the form of student engagement outside of the classroom. Students are involved in the design and planning of the exhibits. Additionally, every German course on campus in Spring 2015 has a germane unit dedicated to the Holocaust, and all students enrolled in Spring German courses will be attending and participating in the events during the week of March. "Remembering the Holocaust" is part of the course structures and is designed to transform classroom discussions into a public recognition event.

Support of the University's Diversity Plan: The University's diversity plan calls for a learning environment that is welcoming to diverse populations, a goal supported by the *Dialogue Ferris* initiative. The plan also calls for learning environments that "are inclusive of and sensitive to a diverse student population." This is to be achieved in part through the "Diversity Across the Curriculum" initiative and through "culturally-sensitive and inclusive learning environments."

"Remembering the Holocaust" hopes to partake in the diversity dialogues supported by the *Dialogue Ferris* initiative. The academic lectures and student discussions, both within the classroom and during the event itself, will promote honest discussion and reflection on the Nazi crimes.

By linking the campus event to Spring 2015 German classes, this dialogue will be brought into the curricula of the courses themselves, in this manner supporting the goals of the *Diversity Across the Curriculum* initiative. The events of the Holocaust will be studied from within the context of the individual courses. Example: German 100 focusses on German Professional Culture. Students in this course will read multiple articles discussing the relationship between German businesses and the prison camp system. After this course module, students will actively participate in the campus event itself.

Culturally sensitive learning environments are created through exposing students to challenging ideas and open discussion. This event seeks to promote a better understanding of the experiences of one particular population represented both within our state and on our campus.

b. The goals and intended outcome(s) of the event.

The goal of “Remembering the Holocaust” is to raise awareness on campus of the events of the Nazi Holocaust of European Jews. The event will illustrate not only the atrocities of camps like Auschwitz-Birkenau, but also the events that made this particular genocide possible (ie: the race laws that systematized the dehumanization of Jews in Nazi controlled areas). The event will also attempt to portray the humanity and individuality of victims, placing faces and names to abstract statistics. Finally, the event will strive to create an opportunity for connection to the Big Rapids community, through collaboration with the public library and with Big Rapids High School. Assessment measures are outlined below.

<u>Objective</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
a. Raise awareness of the events among campus community.	a. Questionnaires distributed at events.
b. Raise awareness of the systemization of racism in Nazi Germany.	b. Questionnaires distributed at events.
c. Emphasize the humanity and individual identity of victims.	c. Questionnaires and comment book at events.
d. Build bridges to the community.	d. High school specific questionnaire. Record keeping of community visitors.
e. Relevance of the Holocaust in individual GERM-prefix course curricula.	e. In class discussions, readings, and testing.

- c. A statement on how the event relates to the curriculum or a specific discipline, if appropriate.

The Holocaust is the defining modern event in German history, culture, and identity. Today, seventy years after the liberation of the final camps, these crimes remain topics of discussion and evaluation on a daily basis, and in almost every aspect of German culture. "All Germans today are the children of the Nazis . . . Hitler's terrible crimes will have an impact on Germans for generations," said former Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer. Or, as Germany's longest serving Chancellor Helmut Kohl put it:

When a French person comes out of the airport in Israel, he simply speaks French. When a German comes out of the airport in Israel and gets into a taxi, it is possible that the driver's family was murdered in Auschwitz. That's the difference. No point in spelling it out for you. You have to live with it – like with the weather.

The Holocaust is ubiquitous in German culture and the country cannot be understood, and a German program cannot sufficiently contribute to a university campus, without addressing these crimes.

- d. A timeline.

December 1, 2014	Make all arrangements for speakers, including hotel reservations Reserve all necessary facilities on campus Make arrangements at local high school
January 22, 2015	Meet with design student to begin work on banners Contact all FSUS instructors Contact faculty teaching courses that have overlapping content with the event.
February 1, 2015	Make all arrangements for cooperation with FLITE Library and with Big Rapids Library. Make arrangements with ROCK Dining Hall for promotion.
February 11, 2015	Submit all materials for printing (posters, banners, and promotional materials.)
March 1, 2015	Complete questionnaires for campus and high school
March 16, 2015	Distribution of promotional materials around campus Begin Holocaust modules in GERM classes
March 23, 2015	Evening film screening (7:30pm - UCB 202C)
March 24, 2015	Dr. Barry Mehler's lecture (11:00am – IRC 109) Dr. Pasquale Di Raddo (evening, room TBA)

March 25, 2015	“Remembering the Holocaust” all day in the University Center. (UCB Quad View) Evening guest talk by Holocaust survivor Martin Lowenberg. (7:30 pm - BUS 111)
March 26, 2015	Mr. Lowenberg visits Big Rapids High School (8:30 am)
March 30, 2015	Follow-up discussions with event participants.

e. Description of the target audience, including the estimated number of participants.

The target audience for the event is the Ferris State University community as a whole. The event will take place in the University Center so as to reach as many students and staff as possible. Connections will also be made with the local library and high schools to include the community. Roughly 100 history students at Big Rapids High School will attend Mr. Lowenberg’s talk on the morning of the 26th. 60 guests are estimated for the film screening on the 23rd, 40 guests are estimated for Dr. Mehler’s talk, and 200+ guests are expected at Mr. Lowenberg’s on campus talk on the evening of March 25.

f. The expected impact that the event will have on Ferris.

“Remembering the Holocaust” will first and foremost promote the goals of the University’s Strategic Plan outlined above, as well as those of the University’s Diversity Plan. It will bring a discussion to campus of one of the most influential events in recent European history and in international race relations. Secondly, the event will allow German students an opportunity for service learning on campus through their active participation on the 25th of March. And Mr. Lowenberg’s talk will be a significant and meaningful addition to guest lectures on campus. It is particularly critical to invite survivors to campus now, as opportunities to hear these stories first-hand are increasingly rare. Finally, the connections that have already been made with Big Rapids institutions will create learning relationships between the University and the local community, thereby supporting one of the key functions of a state university.

g. A specific plan to assess the impact of the event on the University.

Plans to assess the efficacy of the event are described above in part B, and include questionnaires, comment books, post-event quality evaluations with participating staff, and in-class discussions and evaluation for all Spring 2015 GERM-courses.

VI. Budget

a. Anticipated expenses (itemize and briefly explain).

Anticipated total cost is \$1759.00. Itemization below:

	PROJECT TASKS	Cost per item
On campus costs	Room reservations	0.0
	Biographical banners (8 pieces / \$20 each)	160.0
	Banner bases (donated by FSU Office of International Education)	0.0
	Informational posters (20 pieces / \$13.31 each)	266.2
	Advertisement posters (200 pieces / \$.75 each)	150.0
	Comment book	40.0
	Subtotal	616.2

Guest Speaker Martin Lowenberg	Mileage costs (400 miles @ 20 gal/mil - \$3.00 per gallon)	60.0
	Honorarium (two speaking engagements)	700.0
	Hotel booking	82.8
	Food/entertainment (speaker and accompanying wife, lunches and dinner with participating staff)	300.0
		0.0
	Subtotal	1,142.8

- Biographical banners will be designed as a student project by Courtney Lauer, a student in the FSU Graphic Design program.
- Informational posters are designed and provided by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- Mr. Martin Lowenberg lives in the Detroit area and will be driving his own vehicle to Big Rapids for the event. Mileage will be reimbursed.
- The honorarium is calculated for Mr. Lowenberg’s talk on the FSU campus as well as for his talk at the Big Rapids High School. The sum is taken from the honorarium amount for a Holocaust survivor suggested by the Dallas Holocaust Museum (\$500) and adjusted for the two speaking engagements and distance travelled.
- The hotel room is booked at the Country Inns and Suites in Big Rapids.
- Food costs include an estimated \$15 per person for breakfast and lunch, and \$30 per person for dinner. Breakfast and lunch on March 25, as well as lunch on March 26 is calculated for Mr. Lowenberg and his wife. Dinner on March 25 is calculated for Mr. Lowenberg, his wife, and five participating staff members. Potential dinner guests include Dr. Debra Courtright-Nash, Dr. Barry Mehler, Dr. Charles Vannette, Dr. Pasquale Di Raddo.

- b. Funds anticipated from other sources (please list).

\$450 has been made available from the Department of Languages and Literature. An application for a College of Arts and Sciences Special Event grant will also be submitted, but no funding is guaranteed.

- c. Total amount requested from Faculty and Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.

To help ensure that the event can take place, \$1309 is requested to cover the current shortfall. Additional funding from the College of Arts and Sciences would result in a recalculation of the funding used from the Diversity Mini-Grant.

VII. Final Report

A final report is required and it will appear on the Diversity Office's website. That report is due no later than three months after the funded activity. The final report should address:

- a: A self-evaluation
- b: Results of the event assessment
- c: Attendance figures
- d: Final budget

Applicants' Signatures:

Submission Date: _____

Submit applications to Patty Terryn, Diversity and Inclusion Office, CSS 312. Review of applications will begin upon receipt and continue contingent on available funds. **At the committee's discretion, applicants may be asked to participate in a brief interview to better explain their proposal.**

Budget Overview

	Requested Grant Funds	Funding from other sources	TOTAL BUDGET
STIPEND	0		0
HONORARIA	250	450	700
TRAVEL	142.8		142.8
FOOD	300		300
RENTALS	0		0
PRINTING & DUPLICATING	426.2		426.2
PROMOTION	150		150
SUPPLIES & POSTAGE	0		0
RESOURCE MATERIALS	0		0
ASSESSMENT TOOLS	40		40
OTHER	0		0
TOTAL	\$1309	\$450	\$1759

Criteria	Points Possible	Points Received
<p>Need For Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The activity/program/event has a strong conceptual framework that can be identified as strengthening Ferris' long-term commitment to diversity. (5pts) ❑ The activity/program/event reflects the mission and core values of Ferris as expressed in the University's Strategic Plan. (5pts) ❑ The activity/program/event has a direct impact upon a significant portion of the University community or targets an under-represented or under-served group at the University and has broad visibility. (5pts) ❑ The activity/program/event brings clear and valuable benefits to the FSU community (5 points) ❑ The activity/program/event is new and/or innovative to the Ferris community (10pts) <p><u>Comments:</u></p>	30 points	
<p>Quality of Project Design (The activity/program/event is clearly defined with easily identified starting and ending points, specific activities, specific goals, and measurable outcomes, and a plan for assessing learning.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes Specified (4 pt) ❑ Goals, Objectives, and Outcomes Measurable (4 pt) ❑ Clear description of activities (3 pt) ❑ Clearly defined project leader and project team with roles specified and information about qualifications. (5 pt) ❑ Clearly specifies the audience and, if different, the beneficiaries of the project (5 pt) ❑ Has a clear project timeline, specifying what events will occur, when, and in what order (3 pt) ❑ The project design makes use of specific and relevant data (1pt) <p><u>Comments:</u></p>	25 points	
<p>Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Itemized budget indicates all funding required for the project with a clear delineation of what funding is being requested in this application (10 pt) <p><u>Comments:</u></p>	10 points	

<p>Quality of Evaluation Plan (The activity/program/event is clearly defined with easily identified starting and ending points, specific activities, specific goals, and measurable outcomes, and a plan for assessing learning.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Goals, objectives, and outcomes produce quantitative or qualitative data (5 pt) ❑ Assessment has a clear time-frame, with a schedule for completion, and itemized activities that assess the impact of the activity/program/event. (22 pt) ❑ Assesses impact on Ferris and surrounding community (3 pt) ❑ Indicates how assessment results will be used to develop future activities and plans (3 pt) ❑ Indicates how information will be disseminated (2 pt) <p><u>Comments:</u></p>	35 points	
Total	100 points	