

# A Seat at the Table

- Ferris celebrated Women's History Month in March. Events included:
  - The 2016 WILL Conference was held on March 21. A presentation by Ashley Hixson, founder and director of *The Collegiate Voice*, was organized by OMSS and NAACP and was featured as a breakout session for the conference.
  - *It's A Girl*, a powerful documentary on systemic violence against women, was shown on March 31. The accompanying discussion was led by Professors Teresa Bailey, Sharon Colley, and Tracy Busch. This event was supported by a Faculty Staff Diversity Mini-Grant.
  - Tracy Busch also lectured on the Ferris Museum of Sexist Objects on March 28.
  - "Unsung Stories, the 2016 Women in History Student Tribute" and "A League of Their Own: Becoming a Success Woman for the Workplace" were other opportunities for learning and reflection.
  - The final event for Women's History Monday was the 2016 Women's Expo, "Woman to Woman." Harriet Cammock, writer and online radio host, gave the concluding remarks.
  
- Several Ferris faculty members spoke at the 2016 Equity Within the Classroom Conference on March 13-15 at Oakland University. Presentations included:
  - "Our Identities, Ourselves: Modeling De-privileged Teaching and Learning Practices in Faculty Development," Anuli Njoku, Assistant Professor of Public Health; Vanessa Marr, Teaching and Faculty Development Fellow; Fathima Wakeel, Assistant Professor of Public Health and Program Coordinator, Public Health.
  - "LGBTQQ Students and Inclusion on Campus," Teah Waterman, Family Counselor; Jessica Gladden, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Master of Social Work Program Coordinator.
  - "Black Faculty-Student Mentorship Program at a Predominately White University," Rita Walters, Assistant Professor of Social Work; Angela Guy-Lee, Adjunct Faculty in Social Sciences; London Johnson and Kira Aiken, undergraduate Social Work students.

- Ferris was well represented at the Cesar E. Chavez Social Justice March in Grand Rapids, held on March 17. A salute to The Center for Latina Studies for coordinating this event which included 40 Ferris students and staff.
- Ferris students work to make the world a better place in many ways. The Big Event, hosted by the Student Government Association (SGA) is scheduled for April 16 in Big Rapids. This is the largest student-run philanthropic project in Michigan. The SGA also hosted a spaghetti dinner on March 2, raising over \$600 to send to the United Way of Genesee County Flint Water Fund.
- The Ferris Big Rapids campus hosted the “Conference on Aging – Meeting the Challenges of an Aging Population” on April 7 and 8. The conference featured keynote speaker Robyn Stone, executive director of Leading Age: Center for Applied Research in Washington DC. There were many breakout sessions, plus a juried poster board competition for students.
- Queer Monologues kicked off D-Saga’s annual spring pride week on Monday April 11. This year Queer Monologues was a 5 Star event, and included an appearance by Ferris alumnus Zack Brewer, who shared his coming out story and offered advice for LGBTIQIA+ youth and allies.
- The Ferris Media Festival began on Thursday evening, April 14, with a special test showing of the documentary *Creating4Change* at 7pm in Business 111, featuring filmmaker Sophia Cruz. *Creating4Change* profiles women who have found innovative ways to use art to tackle pressing issues facing women. Cruz welcomes comments and suggestions about the documentary—and this input may be incorporated into the final version of the film.
- The Faculty Center of Teaching and Learning (FCTL) awarded \$5000 Engaged Department grants to the Social Work program and to the Public Health program. Social work will use the funds to help faculty determine how they might implement service learning across the curriculum. The Public Health program will strive to offer experiential learning, and, according to Margaret Wan, “will be expanding our rural health focus with support from this initiative.”
- Ferris State University was recognized with the Beacon Award at the sixth annual conference for the Michigan College Access Network (MCAN). The Beacon Award recognizes strengthening success through partnerships. Ferris works with AdviseMI, which places trained near-peer college advisors in high schools that serve a significant number of low-income and first-generation students. This is so cool.
- The Ferris Youth Initiative Mentoring Team won the 2016 Distinguished Team Award. This award honors “extraordinary contributions and commitment by our staff to the university.” Congratulations to Janette Ward and all the FYI mentors.
- OMSS will host its 2016 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebration on Tuesday April 19 at 6 pm in UC202A. Phil Yu, founder and editor of the “Angry Asian Man” blog, will share his story of citizenship, identity, and voice. There will also be authentic food and craft tables, and student presentations.
- Ferris State University launched the StepUp program in April 2016. Posters and other materials are on display all over campus. StepUp is a bystander intervention program that educates students to be proactive in helping others. The StepUp program will run through the 2016-17

academic year. Students can sign the StepUp pledge wall in the University Center, just outside the CLACS office.

- The Economic Inequality Initiative presented “Economic Inequality and Education Access,” a community forum, on April 13 from 4:00 to 5:30 in UC202A. The event included a panel with Grand Rapids School Superintendent Teresa Weatherall Neal and Big Rapids School Superintendent Tim Haist. Professor Tony Baker moderated the discussion.
- 2016 is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of OMSS. Student leaders will facilitate a discussion: “OMSS: Our Students, Their Stories of Success” on April 26 at 11 am in UC203. Annual OMSS events include the OMSS PIGNIC on April 30 on the Campus Quad in front of the University Center, and the annual OMSS Graduate Recognition Program on May 6, at 11 am in the University Center.
- A Recognition Banquet, the first annual celebration of the women in the College of Engineering Technology, will be held at the University Center on April 19. Recognition will be given to outstanding students and instructors. Please RSVP to [Leighcompson@ferris.edu](mailto:Leighcompson@ferris.edu).

#### A Toast to Phillip Middleton

Professor Phillip Middleton is retiring. A reception will be held in his honor on April 22, from 2:00-4:00 pm, in FLITE 442/446. Regrettably, the Diversity and Inclusion Office staff will be in Indiana at the time of the reception. Were we there we would say these words:

“Brother Phil, we will miss your wit, warmth, and nuanced articulation of things big and small. May the best of your past be the worst of your future. Peace to you.”