

A Seat at the Table

February 2017

- ✓ A thousand handclaps for the Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Planning Committee, the Office of Multicultural Students Services (OMSS) and everyone who helped with this year's events, including the Faculty/Staff In-Service Readings, a Freedom March and Student Tribute, and a campus-wide lecture delivered by Bakari Sellers—who, by the way, did an excellent job. Here is a link to the videos of readings.
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL28K7NXcVLWLRBUzzuqDVoqLxA82Efw6P>. And, here is a link to photos from the Freedom March:
https://www.facebook.com/119012878152393/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1270561292997540.
- ✓ Three members of the Ferris community received this year's Martin Luther King Jr. Social Justice Award. Wesley House Pastor Devon Harrell received the award for her work to build and sustain a student emergency food pantry at the Wesley House near our campus. Jackie Hughes, instructional technology coordinator in the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning and Franklin Hughes, multi-media specialist in the Diversity and Inclusion Office, were honored for their support of homeless and needy students on campus. The OMSS awarded the Martin Luther King Legacy Award to Olivia Johnson, a 2016 Criminal Justice graduate, for her leadership role with the Wesley student food pantry.
- ✓ Ferris State University welcomed in the 2017 Lunar New Year on January 27th with a literal bang! A live Taiko Drum performance and hands on demonstration filled the IRC connector for a crowd of nearly 200 staff, faculty, students, and community members. Local restaurants and students from the Asian Student Organization provided Asian delicacies, ranging from spring rolls to pad thai to sesame chicken. In addition to cooking, students also gave a presentation on the history and significance of the Lunar New Year festival and tutorials on origami and Chinese knot tying. The Lunar New Year Festival was hosted and organized by the Office of International Education and the Asian Student Organization, and funded by the Diversity and Inclusion Office. To view pictures, see
https://www.facebook.com/119012878152393/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1283839018336434.
- ✓ Deirdre Fagan had a poem, "And then you can't breathe," accepted for publication in the winter issue of *Corvus Review*. Her poem is a sad and powerful piece.
- ✓ Daniel Rivera, a student in the Center for Latin@ Studies Promise Partners Mentoring Collaborative, has been accepted to the [Españolisch](#) Program to teach English to students in primary school who live in Trujillo, Peru from May-June. Daniel was encouraged by his mentor to apply his love of traveling to his studies as a Spanish Major. Congratulations Daniel on your acceptance into this program.

- ✓ The Center for Latin@ Studies has again received a grant from the Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation B2B Summer Learning Program to continue the Promesa Summer Success program this summer.
- ✓ Martin Lowenberg, a Michigan native who lost his parents and younger twin brothers, in the Holocaust, lectured on January 31, as part of Ferris State University's Arts and Lecture Committee's Performing Artist Series. His family fled Germany hoping to live in freedom as refugees in a Latvian ghetto. The Nazis captured them. Lowenberg and an older sister were sent to labor camps; the rest of the family was taken to the Auschwitz concentration camp, where they were killed. He was a 76-pound, 17-year old when he was liberated, in 1945.
- ✓ The College Republicans at Ferris State University, a registered student organization, are sponsoring a talk by Ben Shapiro, a syndicated columnist and talk show host, on Monday, February 6 at 7 p.m. in the University Center ballroom.
- ✓ The Political Engagement Project wants to inspire active involvement in the processes that help create a more just and humane society. They want to support a wide variety of political events, curricula, and research from all political perspectives and they want your help. Join them for an opportunity to share your ideas at Brainstorm Over Brew, Monday, February 6 and Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 10:30am – 2:30pm, UCB 116. Free Starbucks for all attendees.

A Poem to take wIth us

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
 They send me to eat in the kitchen
 When company comes,
 But I laugh,
 And eat well,
 And grow strong.
 Tomorrow,
 I'll be at the table
 When company comes.
 Nobody'll dare
 Say to me,
 "Eat in the kitchen,"
 Then.
 Besides,
 They'll see how beautiful I am
 And be ashamed—
 I, too, am America.

--Langston Hughes