

A Seat at the Table

Updates from the Diversity and Inclusion Office
October 2014

- ✚ A major *Beyond: Diversity* event will occur on October 19, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the IRC Connector. This Five-Star event will be the unveiling of more than 50 banners, each dealing with some aspect of diversity. Students and community members are invited to interact with the creators of the banners. *Beyond* panels and discussions are scheduled throughout the month.

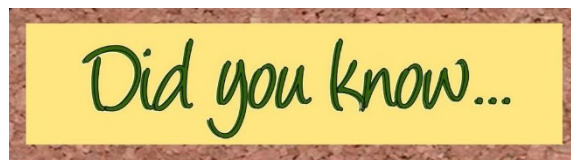
- ✚ October is Disabilities Awareness Month. On October 10 The Grand Rapids Pacers Wheelchair Basketball Team will be at Wink Arena from 7-9 pm; other events include a *Beyond Diversity* panel on October 9, a Disability Awareness Month speaker, Bill Deering on October 15 at 6 p.m. in IRC 120, and a presentation on Working with Students with Disabilities in the Classroom for faculty on October 30 at 11 a.m. in FLITE 133.

- ✚ Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated at Ferris every year. This year the first event was on Sept. 23, and the final event will be on November 3. On October 28, the musical group Las Cafeteras will present a workshop at 7 p.m. in COB 111 followed by a performance at 8:30 at the IRC. On November 3, a “Dia de los Muertos” event featuring guest artist Alma Suarez will take place at the West Campus Community Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Here are pictures from the Heritage Celebration Mixer, http://www.slate.com/articles/life/inside_higher_ed/2014/10/bryn_mawr_confederate_flag_race_relations_questioned_when_students_display.html.

- ✚ There was a great turnout for the Saudi National Day Celebration. To see pictures, <http://www.ferris.edu/news/week/archives/2014/oct1014.htm>.

- ✚ Ferris was visited by Erin Davies, who in 2007, discovered that her Volkswagen Beetle had been vandalized with the word “fag” and other crude anti-gay graffiti painted across the exterior. Refusing to be a victim, Erin, then a graduate school student in Albany, New York, took to the road with her “Fagbug,” beginning a journey that would span the nation in her effort to raise awareness in the ongoing battle against hate crimes. On September 18, 2014, Erin brought her message to Big Rapids. She showed a documentary and led a discussion about her experiences. To view the film, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z249yBerSrU>.

- ✚ On October 1, the Office of Multicultural Student Services (OMSS) brought the Michigan Secretary of State's mobile office to campus in an effort to register college students for the upcoming elections.
- ✚ *America at Work*, an exhibit of paintings by Paul Collins, will be on display at Artworks in downtown Big Rapids from October 7 to November 29. This is an opportunity to view the work of a major American artist who is well-known for painting pictures that show the shared humanity of all of us. You can learn more about Paul Collins at <http://collinsart.org/>, and more about the exhibit at http://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/othersrv/art_gallery/current.htm.
- ✚ David Pilgrim was the keynote speaker at the 140th Annual Meeting and State History Conference of the Historical Society of Michigan, held in Big Rapids September 26-28. Other Ferris faculty presenting at the conference, included Melinda Isler ("Woodbridge N. Ferris: An Enduring Legacy"), Scott Herron ("Exploring the Imprint of Native-American Culture on Michigan Names, Landmarks, and History"), and Doug Haneline ("Teaching a Tombstone to Talk: Cemetery Art in West Michigan").
- ✚ October 7, Myra Hindus and Shilpa Pherwani, the two consultants leading the upcoming diversity audit, met with about two dozen Ferris employees. This four-hour meeting served as the first planning session for the audit. We reviewed the assessment process, clarified goals and desired outcomes, discussed a timeline, and considered a communication plan.



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A Quote to Ponder

"I remember one night at Muzdalifa with nothing but the sky overhead I lay awake amid sleeping Muslim brothers and I learned that pilgrims from every land--every color, and class, and rank; high officials and the beggar alike--all snored in the same language."
— Malcolm X, *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*