

FDC HAPPENINGS

IN THIS ISSUE

Page 2

- Campus Highlights: Undergraduate Symposium

Page 3

- Upcoming Events

Page 4

- Upcoming Events (cont.)
- Partnership Spotlight: Dr. Marshall Thomsen & Hannah Popofski

Page 5 & 6

- Teaching Blog: The Importance of Intercultural Competence in Today's Workforce

Click [here](#) to visit the webpage with more information and the application.

Click [here](#) to read the full Call for Proposals.



*Two individuals stand in front of a green background, looking at a book

Faculty-Student Research Fellowships

The Faculty Development Center, with the generous support of GameAbove, is looking for proposals for our Faculty-Student Research Fellowships. Essentially, we are seeking partnerships to study partnerships! Fellowship proposals could concentrate on areas such as the value of partnerships, overcoming barriers in forming them, the transformative potential of partnerships, or other such topics.

We are pleased to offer up to four grants for projects to take place during the 2024-25 academic year. Each project team must have at least one faculty member or lecturer and at least one student member on it. We will award up to \$3,000 for each funded application, with continued funding possible for successful partnerships in the following year. Applications are due on April 12th.

We anticipate that these projects will be data-driven, and will engage the relevant literature to help reach informed conclusions. Our hope is that these projects can lead to (1) publishable work within academic disciplines and/or in general higher education journals; and/or (2) policy papers that will inform future work and planning at EMU.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

2

The 44th annual Undergraduate Symposium is being held on March 22nd, 2024 in the University's Student Center. This event is hosted by the College of Arts & Sciences and GameAbove to celebrate the exceptional academic work of EMU's undergraduate students.

The symposium is a one-day event filled with scholarly and creative projects completed by undergraduate students, with help from their respective faculty mentors. The presentations, posters, performances, and exhibits illustrate an impressive level of research and accomplishment as a result of these academic mentorships.

We are excited to note that two FDC employees, Liv Overbee and Trinity Perkins, will be presenting at 1:30 PM at the Symposium! They will be discussing Flipping the Script, the FDC's student-led teaching conference, and the successes that came from the event. To learn more about Flipping the Script, visit our [webpage](#).

To view the Symposium webpage, [click here](#).

To view the Symposium schedule, [click here](#)

From the College of Arts and Sciences & GameAbove



We encourage you to attend this event to support your peers and colleagues and to see some exceptional work is being presented.

upcoming

EVENTS

3

OPENING DAY

*Thursday, March 28th from 3-5 PM
109 Halle Library*

Join us at the FDC to celebrate our most important national holiday, Opening Day of Baseball Season! Spend the early afternoon celebrating the 175th Birthday of EMU in the Student Center, and then join us from 2:30 - 5:00 PM at the FDC to watch some baseball, share some refreshments, and enjoy each other's company. If the Mets win, everyone who attends will get extra credit!

Our lives and jobs can be difficult- sometimes, we just need to kick back, watch baseball, and enjoy each other's company. Come join us to put life on hold for nine innings.

#LetsGoMets #YaGottaBelieve #LGM

THANK-AN-EAGLE

*To nominate someone, click [here](#).
Please share this link!*

The Faculty Development Center hosts a university-wide annual event called Thank-An-Eagle, where EMU community members have a chance to thank an instructor, staff member, coach, GA, or mentor who has helped them during their time at EMU. For many instructors and mentors, an unsolicited "thank you" from a student is a highlight of their semester's experience. The instructor or staff member you thank receives a formal Thank-An-Eagle letter of recognition from the Faculty Development Center that includes the nominator's remarks. We hope you will nominate a deserving Eagle! Please share this link with your students.

2024-2025 DEI Faculty Fellow

*Applications for this position are due by April 2nd at 5 PM
Submit complete applications to Jeffrey Bernstein, FDC
Director, at jbernstei@emich.edu.*

The Bruce K. Nelson Faculty Development Center and the Office of the Interim Associate Provost and Associate Vice President of Academic Programs and Initiatives are seeking applications for a quarter-time release Faculty Fellow to play a leading role in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programming for the FDC during the 2024-25 academic year. Click [here](#) to view examples of work completed by our previous Faculty Fellows, Uttara Maonhar and Audrey Farrugia. To read the call for applications, click [here](#). We'd love to hear your vision for this important position.



CAREERS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY FAIR

April 4 from 3:45 - 5 PM
Student Center Ballroom
Click [here](#) to register

Did you know that intercultural competence is ranked fourth of the top ten work skills needed for the future according to Future Work Skills 2020? Do you know how to develop multicultural competence? Be sure to attend the Careers and Cultural Diversity Fair, a campus-wide event that will gather professionals from Southeast Michigan from a variety of fields including business, healthcare, social sciences, and humanities. Students, faculty, administrators, and advisers are encouraged to attend this interactive event that will highlight the relevance of multicultural and multilingual competence in today's professional fields.

Invited guests will interact with participants and share with them their professional background, and their experiences and opportunities linked to working in a diverse workplace. The focus is to cultivate awareness on how broadening the understanding of languages and multicultural competence can help today's professionals to overcome challenges and advance in their careers.

New Resource Webpage

We are excited to announce a new resource webpage on the Faculty Development Center website. This page is titled "[Resource Guide for Faculty, Lecturers, Graduate Assistants, and Doctoral Fellows](#)." In partnership with the Graduate School, we have compiled a list of helpful on-campus resources for new faculty, lecturers, teaching graduate assistants, and doctoral fellows. We hope that this list helps familiarize you with the offices around campus that can make your transition to Eastern as smooth as possible, and that it will remind veteran EMU folks of these resources. Click [here](#) to view the page.

Partnership Spotlight



Dr. Marshall Thomsen and Hannah Popofski

**Department of
Physics & Astronomy**

In this partnership spotlight, Dr. Marshall Thomsen (L) and Hannah Popofski discuss two projects they have collaborated on. They share how mutually beneficial their partnership is and offer advice for working in partnerships. Click [here](#) to read the full spotlight.

The Importance of Intercultural Competence in Today's Workforce

By Michael Foster

“It's in Apple's DNA that technology alone is not enough – it's technology married with liberal arts, married with the humanities, that yields us the results that make our heart sing. To Steve Jobs, combining the arts with technology was the key to making Apple so successful.”

--Stephen Rosenbaum, [excerpted from an article written for Fast Company \(2011\)](#)

With the ever-shrinking world and globalized workforce, thanks in part to technology at our fingertips, those of us teaching and doing research in the field of world languages work tirelessly to prepare students to be future global citizens who are prepared to enter this multicultural and multilingual labor force. As suggested by the quote above alluding to Steve Job's view on the workforce – which is one made stronger by the humanities – we must ensure that we are preparing our students to master the new requirements of this global market.

One essential component of these requirements is to possess intercultural competence, which [Deardorff \(2006\)](#) defines thusly:

“Intercultural competence is a lifelong process that includes the development of the attitudes (respect and valuing of other cultures, openness, curiosity), knowledge (of self, culture, sociolinguistic issues) skills (listen, observe, interpret, analyze, evaluate, and relate), and qualities (adaptability, flexibility, empathy, and cultural decentering) in order to behave and communicate effectively and appropriately to achieve one's goals to some degree” (254).

When students learn a new language, they also learn about the culture in which that language is spoken, and they acquire this intercultural competence along with their language skills. Even if a student is no longer currently studying the language, they have learned the necessary skill set of understanding a new culture and how to interact “effectively” with others from that culture, as Deardorff describes above.

“Is such a skill set really necessary for success in the modern world?” is a common question one might hear when looking for a job after college. The answer to this question is a resounding “Yes,” as possessing intercultural competence was ranked fourth in the top 10 work skills sought by companies according to [Future Work Skills 2020](#). With such an important and fundamental skill set in demand these days, students need the opportunity to converse and interact with multicultural and multilingual professionals from a variety of career sectors to help them see that such careers are right in their own backyard. The upcoming Careers and Cultural Diversity Fair, which will take place in the Ballroom of the EMU Student Center on April 4th from 3:45-5PM, will be such an opportunity for students, staff, administrators, and others in the EMU

Submit a blog post!

We welcome blog posts from faculty, lecturers, staff, and students on teaching and learning topics. Email us at faculty_development@emich.edu with your blog post idea for the opportunity to be featured in future newsletters!

community to see firsthand how multicultural and multilingual professionals use their intercultural competence and language skills in their careers.

Specifically, invited guests will interact with participants and share with them their professional background, and their experiences and opportunities linked to working in a diverse workplace. The focus is to cultivate awareness of how broadening their understanding of languages and multicultural competence can help today's professionals to overcome challenges and to advance in their careers.

One of the best examples of a career providing someone with the skillset of lifelong intercultural competency is when the person is immersed in a new culture and language for a duration of time while they are working. Such an opportunity came around for me over 20 years ago when I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Madagascar and taught English. During my Peace Corps service, I had to live with a Malagasy host family for several months to learn the language and the culture before moving to my site, where I then used my newly-acquired language and intercultural competence to settle into life there. All these years later I still credit the Peace Corps for teaching me these important professional skills that I still use in my career today as a teacher educator helping mentor and train future world languages teachers.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCVs) go into a variety of careers such as healthcare, government, education, law, business, and others, where they continue to use these valuable skills that they honed and perfected during their time of service. The local Detroit area recruiter from the Peace Corps will be one of the invited participants to the upcoming Careers and Cultural Diversity Fair to speak to members of the EMU community

about how they can further develop and utilize their own intercultural competence in such a career path that will undoubtedly serve them throughout their careers.

Several professionals from different career backgrounds in southeast Michigan, including in healthcare and engineering, will be in attendance to speak with EMU students and community members about these important skills. We hope that you will spread the word to your students so that they can take advantage of this unique event!

Click [here](#) to view the webpage for the Careers and Cultural Diversity Fair.

Click [here](#) to register.

The event will take place on Thursday, April 4th, from 3:45 - 5pm in the Student Center Ballroom.

Refreshments will be served.

About the Author



Dr. Michael Foster is an Assistant Professor of French and Bilingual Education in the Department of World Languages. He helps coordinate the PK-12 program for future teachers in the department. He teaches courses in French, ESL, and world languages pedagogy.