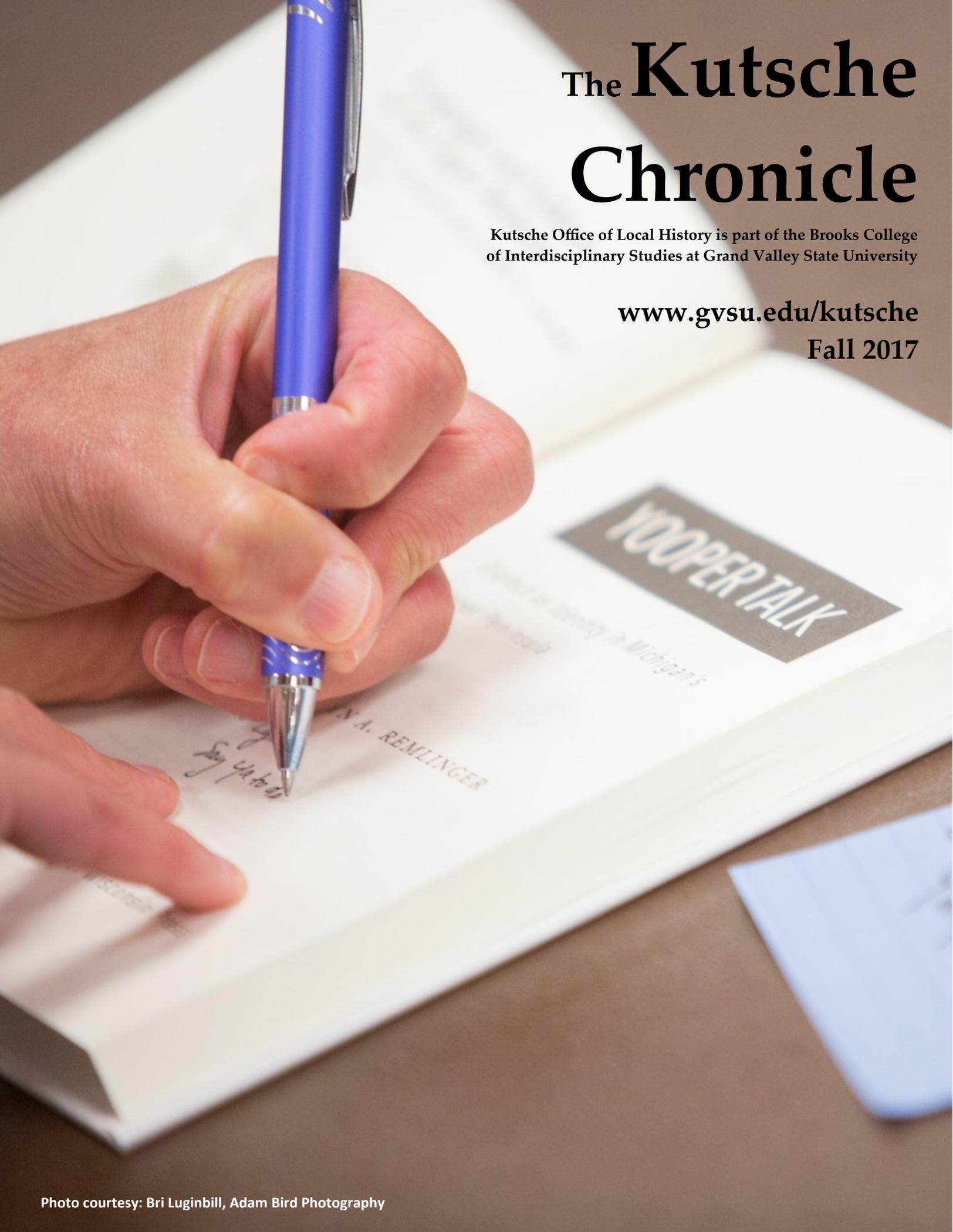


The Kutsche Chronicle

Kutsche Office of Local History is part of the Brooks College
of Interdisciplinary Studies at Grand Valley State University

www.gvsu.edu/kutsche

Fall 2017





Remembering Paul Kutsche, Founder of the Kutsche Office of Local History *excerpt from GVNOW, May 2017*

Paul Kutsche, whose gift established Grand Valley's Kutsche Office of Local History, died May 18 after several weeks in hospice care. He was 90. Kutsche, a Grand Rapids native, retired as professor emeritus of anthropology from Colorado College. He returned to Michigan and, in 2008, worked with Grand Valley leaders to establish an office that would support local historians and cultural heritage organizations, and give voice to diverse communities.

Director Kimberly McKee said Kutsche's passion for preserving the voices of underrepresented communities was evident in his discussions with her. "He inspired me and my commitment to creating community amongst those invested in local history and documenting histories of those who often find themselves on the margins," McKee said. "His loss will be felt by the community as he was a vibrant and steadfast proponent of local history."

Anne Hiskes, dean of the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, said housing the Kutsche Office of Local History within Brooks College has helped expand the college's collaborative work with community partners while providing high-impact learning opportunities for students. "The Kutsche Office is a fitting legacy for Paul, who was a cultural anthropologist, educator, local historian, and truly engaged citizen of West Michigan and the world," Hiskes said. "The people of West Michigan and Grand Valley's students, faculty, and staff will continue to benefit from the generosity of Paul and his family for generations to come."



Do you know someone who has made outstanding contributions to local history? Someone who has used history to give voice to diverse communities? Please consider [nominating](#) them for the Kutsche Office of Local History's 2018 Gordon Olson Award. Nominations will be accepted through **February 16, 2018**. The award is announced at the Annual Local History Roundtable. Recipients are given a commemorative plaque and are recognized through Kutsche Office publicity and local news media.

For more information, or to make a nomination, visit our website at: www.gvsu.edu/kutsche or contact us at: kutsche@gvsu.edu or 616-331-8099.

Upcoming Events....

- October 15, 3-5pm
Film Screening: Adam Khalil's INAAT/SE/
Wealthy Street Theater
- October 16, 1:40 pm
Adam Khalil Visiting Artist Lecture
132 Lake Huron Hall
- November 8, 10:30am-2:30pm
Lunch with the Kutsche Office
Guest Speaker M. Christine Byron
2270 Kirkhof Center, GVSU Allendale Campus
- March 29, 2018
9th Annual Local History Roundtable
GVSU Allendale Campus

Race, Riot, and Reconciliation

Documentary Screening and Panel Discussion

Wednesday October 11, 2017, 4:30-5:45pm

Cook DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus

In late July 1967, while Detroit experienced a vast social rebellion, Grand Rapids saw its own uprising that threatened lives, homes, and businesses throughout the city.

Produced by Grand Rapids' African American Museum and Archives (GRAAMA), this documentary highlights individuals and the history of the three-day uprising and touches upon impressions of the event that continue today. Screened initially at GVSU's Pew campus on July 26, 2017, the Kutsche Office of Local History and GRAMMA are excited to share the documentary on GVSU's Allendale campus.

Role of Dialect on U.P. Culture



On September 14, Kathryn Remlinger spoke to over 150 faculty, staff, students, and community members about her recent monograph *Yooper Talk*. Exploring the cultural and linguistic norms of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, *Yooper Talk*

draws on sixteen years of fieldwork, including interviews with seventy-five lifelong residents of the UP. Struggles over land, labor, and language during the last 150 years have shaped the variety of English spoken by resident Yoopers, as well as how they are viewed by outsiders.

During her talk Remlinger shared examples of how a Yooper identity arose as the Upper Peninsula was settled in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Tracing the emergence of a UP identity, she noted how the tourism industry replaced copper and mining industries. And, as a result, how tourism gave rise to the marketing of this distinct Yooper identity.

Remlinger is a professor of English at GVSU and inaugural recipient of the Kutsche Office Community Collaboration grant.



2017 Kutsche Office Interns



Sam Bloom is a fifth-year senior graduating in spring, though if he could afford it, he'd probably stay forever. His area of focus in Liberal Studies is the philosophy of hate speech, with his particular interest being the language of white supremacy. Sam likes film theory and reading boring psychology books in the hopes that he, too, can someday take something enjoyable and make it unrecognizably esoteric. In 2015, he studied abroad in Ghana and hopes to return following his graduation.



Kendra Garcia is a native of Grand Rapids and is currently a sophomore majoring in History with a minor in Latin American and Latino/a Studies. Kendra's interested in identity and race relations among Latinos in the United States alongside their counterparts in Latin America, she is particularly interested in Afro-Mexican populations and the aftermath of colonialism on identity. Kendra hopes to pursue a PhD. in Latin American studies after her graduation from Grand Valley.



Annual Fall Lunch with the Kutsche Office

featuring M. Christine Byron

Wednesday, November 8, 2017 10:00am-2:30pm

2270 Kirkhof Center, GVSU's Allendale Campus



Please join the us and your colleagues from around West Michigan for lunch and an opportunity to network and connect.

Promoting Michigan for 100 Years: A History of the West Michigan Tourist Association

The West Michigan Tourist Association (WMTA) was founded in Grand Rapids in 1917. Established as a non-profit organization based on membership, it was the first grassroots tourist association in the country. At the time, the tourist industry was in its infancy.

Although railroad lines, steamship companies and various hotels and resorts promoted the region they served, there was no concerted effort to boost the tourism advantages of the state. With strong leadership and committed members of WMTA, tourism has grown into one of Michigan's leading industries. Byron will feature some of the noteworthy efforts to advertise and promote our state over the last 100 years.

M. Christine Byron retired from her position as the local history librarian for the Grand Rapids Public Library. Byron and her husband, Thomas R. Wilson, have written five books focusing on the history of Michigan tourism. She has been collecting postcards and Michigan tourist and travel ephemera for over 30 years.

RSVP: Please respond by Monday, October 30 to kutsche@gvsu.edu or 616-331-8099.



SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, March 29, 2018

9th Annual Local History Roundtable

"Returning to our Roots: Explorations of Western Michigan's Diverse Communities"

This year's roundtable theme reflects the Kutsche Office's mission to give voice to diverse communities through history and Paul Kutsche's legacy and deep commitment to support local historians and cultural heritage organizations. We look forward to celebrating those whose history is sometimes unwritten, paying special attention to the dynamic individuals that call West Michigan home.

We're really excited about our opportunity to bring Ronald J. Stephens to campus as our keynote speaker. Dr. Stephens will discuss his work on the African American resort community, Idlewild, MI. His research focuses on African American rural and urban communities, as well as 20th century African American culture, identity, history, and political thought. He is the author of *Idlewild: The Rise, Decline and Rebirth of a Unique African American Resort Town* (University of Michigan Press, 2013); *Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan* (Arcadia Publishing, 2001) as well as the co-author of *African Americans of Denver* (Arcadia Publishing 2008). Dr. Stephens also serves as a media consultant on Idlewild and other topics in African American Studies and is co-curator of *Welcome to Idlewild*, a Michigan State University Museum traveling photographic exhibition (2003-present). He is currently an associate professor and chair of African American Studies at Purdue University.

Additional speakers at the roundtable include the Kutsche Office's inaugural Community Collaboration Grant recipient Dr. Kathryn Remlinger, whose current work examines linguistic patterns of residents of Holland, MI, and Dr. Andrea Riley-Mukavetz, whose research focuses on multigenerational experiences of Native American women in Michigan. We look forward to ending the day reflecting on the impact of Paul Kutsche on the greater West Michigan community. His steadfast commitment to supporting the preservation of histories from underrepresented communities is unparalleled.



**"We the 7th"
Documentary
Screening and
Panel Discussion**

On the evening of September 26, more than 140 faculty, staff, students, and community members came together to view the Emmy-nominated documentary *We the 7th*. Rising from generations of oppression, the Anishnaabek of today are fulfilling prophecies of the past and fighting to protect their future. WGUV's Mutually Inclusive, in partnership with GVSU's Native American Advisory Board and the Kutsche Office of Local History, presents a story of West Michigan's urban Native community and a journey to stand at the greatest Native gathering since Wounded Knee. Directed by Mariano Avila (WGUV), the film underscores the connections of Native American advocacy at the national level to the local Michigan context. Immediately following the screening, a panel discussion was held featuring Belinda Bardwell (GVSU NAAB) and Seth Sutton (Montcalm Community College). Levi Rickert, editor of Native News Online, moderated the discussion.

For more information visit:

www.gvsu.edu/nativeamericangr/

Become a friend of the Kutsche Office....

\$45 Annual Membership (Individual)

Provides free admission to the annual Roundtable and a one-year subscription to the *Kutsche Chronicle*.

\$100 Annual Family/Institutional Membership

Provides the same benefits, up to four free admissions to one Annual Roundtable plus a one-year subscription to the *Kutsche Chronicle*.

To make your gift online, please go to:

www.gvsu.edu/giving/givenow.

Or you may mail a check to:

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KUTSCHE OFFICE OF
LOCAL HISTORY