

Student Spotlight: Ingrid Gallegos

Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director

Ingrid Gallegos has worked hard to achieve her goals, and she is just getting started.

Gallegos is a 2010 graduate of West Ottawa High School in Holland. She enrolled at Grand Valley that fall with a goal of achieving academic success, giving back to the community and meeting new friends. In less than two years, she has already achieved those goals.

Gallegos participated in the Wade H. McCree, Jr. Incentive Program, administered by the Office of Multicultural Affairs. She started the program in ninth grade and said she has really enjoyed attending the monthly workshops. "I knew right away that this was a good thing to be involved in," she said. "The workshops helped me prepare for the ACT and to learn more about the college admissions process."

Gallegos is a pre-business major and hopes to work as an event planner. She became interested in that field through an event she planned called "Pink Out", where her team donated \$15,000 to the American Cancer Society.

In October, Gallegos received the Cesar E. Chavez Youth Award for her academic achievements, community service and her commitment to the legacy of Chavez. Gallegos has been involved in a variety of student organizations, including the Multicultural Cohort Program, Latino Student Union, Young Life and Campus Ministry. She maintains a 3.6 GPA. "I know I have a great opportunity here at GVSU and I plan to make the most of it," she said.



Multicultural Cohort Program

Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director
Danny Ha, Program Coordinator

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is proud to offer the Multicultural Cohort Program (MCP) to students. MCP offers students a support system by connecting them with peers who have similar majors and providing 1-to-1 professional guidance throughout their time at Grand Valley. MCP also offers students leadership opportunities.

Foundation of MCP

MCP meetings focus on five areas of student development: academic skills, leadership development, professional development, intercultural development and community service. These weekly meetings give students time to connect with each other and learn about professional communication, time management skills, networking opportunities, job search strategies and personal responsibility.

Emphasis on academics

MCP coordinates monthly study groups and provides a quiet space for students to study. Students have created their own study groups through common classes and assignments; this helps in developing a strong support system within the group. In addition, students are connected with academic departments early on in order to prepare them for career success.

Gaining professional development

A main focus of MCP is to help enhance students' educational experiences by connecting them with professionals. We work closely with local and regional employers to provide mentorship and networking opportunities. Last year, students visited Steelcase Inc., Mercantile Bank of West Michigan, St. Mary's Health Care and WOOD-TV 8 studios. We have received very positive remarks from these site visits, and one student was even offered an internship while on a tour.

Diversity and inclusion

We work to empower our students to be active learners. Through a variety of diversity awareness programs offered by OMA, students are able to learn about different cultures and ethnic groups to develop intercultural competency. MCP students have been active participants in community celebrations like the Grand Rapids Hispanic Festival and the Martin Luther King Jr. citywide celebration.

Opportunities for upperclass students

For upperclass students, MCP offers students opportunities to enhance their leadership skills by developing and implementing workshops. Students meet 1-to-1 with a MCP coordinator to research and prepare workshop materials, then later present the workshop. This is a great opportunity for upperclass students to take command of their learning, as well as to serve as role models and mentor for new students. In addition to facilitating workshops, upperclass students receive guidance on internships opportunities, professional networking and job search strategies. MCP supports students in their study abroad efforts through a scholarship program.

All students are invited to join MCP. For more information, contact the Office of Multicultural Affairs at (616) 331-2177.

Moving Dreams to Reality: An Important Conversation in 2012

Bobby J. Springer, Associate Director

Last year Grand Valley celebrated Martin Luther King Commemoration Week with the theme "Shake the World." The theme for the 2012 celebration is "*Shake the World: Moving Dreams to Reality.*" The reality is that King's August 28, 1963, "I Have A Dream" speech continues to remain as relevant today as it did 48 years ago.

To kick off Commemoration Week, Bakari Kitwana, author of "The Hip-Hop Generation," will give a keynote presentation, "The King Legacy and the Next Generation," on Monday, January 16. Kitwana's book is a call to action for young political organizers. His message to young people is about how important it is for this generation to become literate about the civil rights era.

Two generations of young people were not even born when King gave his powerful call to action. Generation X and Y each has its own spin on moving King's dream to reality, but the conversation among all generations must continue.

Kitwana will also address the Grand Rapids community on January 16 during an evening program at Grand Rapids



Community College. The event will include a special performance by Marvin L. Sapp, Grammy nominated gospel recording artist and minister. The event will begin 6:30 p.m. at the GRCC Gerald R. Ford Fieldhouse.

Grand Valley's celebration will continue with two presentations from civil rights advocate and attorney Michelle Alexander, scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday (January 18 at 5 p.m. in the Kirkhof Center; and January 19 at 10 a.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center). Alexander, like Kitwana, will share her views on why she believes that time has merely redesigned

King's message of society not judging his children by the color of their skin. In her book, "The New Jim Crow," Alexander said that the justice system continues to find opportunities to specifically target people of color.

I hope that this generation will accept the call to action for "Moving the Dreams to Reality," a message that is just as important today as King eloquently spoke it in 1963. For more information about Grand Valley's Martin Luther King Commemoration Week, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk.

OMA Welcomes New GEAR-UP Class of 2017

Bobby J. Springer, Associate Director

The Michigan GEAR-UP Program (Gaining Early Awareness & Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) received another cycle of funding from the federal government and the State of Michigan. The new award cycle began on September 26, and allows a new GEAR-UP class of 2017.

Two significant enhancements in this round of funding will greatly benefit incoming students. The new grant is for seven years, and it allows OMA staff members to work with GEAR-UP students during their first year of college.

Gerald R. Ford Middle School is the newest school to join the program. The

four current schools are Alger Middle, Burton Middle, Riverside Middle and Westwood Middle. Additionally, OMA continues to support students from all four Grand Rapids public high schools (Central, Creston, Ottawa and Union).

OMA celebrates its first GEAR-UP graduates, the cohort class of 2012 who are now seniors in high school. GEAR-UP students experience the importance and accessibility of a college education through academic support and guidance. Participants also receive information to take home for their families to better understand financial aid and college admissions processes.



Corp. Samuel Sandoval: Navajo Code Talker

Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director

Grand Valley celebrated Native American Heritage Month by welcoming Navajo Code Talker Samuel F. Sandoval on November 10. His presentation was co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Division of Inclusion and Equity, the U.S. Attorney's Office, Marine Corps League Detachment 151 and American Indian tribes in West Michigan.

Sandoval spoke to more than 400 people, and it didn't take long for the 88-year-old to captivate the audience with his stories, as he shared memories of his childhood, his family members and his experiences during World War II.

Sandoval was born in New Mexico and joined the Marine Corps in 1943 at age 18. Sandoval said he was initially rejected by the Marines because of his Native American background. Then he learned that the Marines wanted to recruit Navajo members for a special wartime project. At the time, he was not aware of the enormous impact it would have.

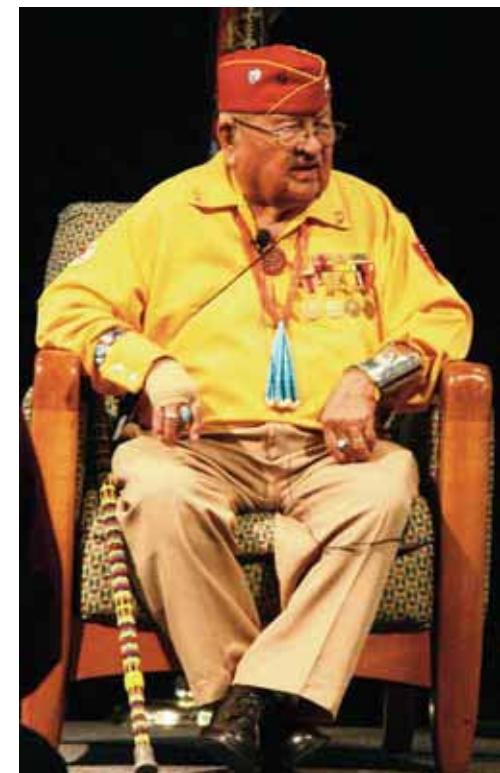
Sandoval soon was admitted into the corps and trained at Camp Pendleton to

learn the Navajo code. He was in familiar company, as some of the other Marines were school friends from New Mexico. They have remained lifelong friends.

He said that the Navajo language does not contain words used by the military. To develop the code, the Navajo and Marine Corps created more than 800 words to be used during World War II. There was not a dictionary; the code had to be memorized.

Sandoval participated in five combat missions in the South Pacific: Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Pelelui, Guam and Okinawa. He was the only Navajo code talker to join the 3rd Marine Division's Amphibious Corps, landing at Guam's Agat beach. Already a highly decorated soldier for his contributions during World War II, Sandoval and other Navajo code talkers received Congressional Silver Medals.

During the war, his brother Merrill also served as a code talker. They never spoke about their experiences, even after the Pentagon unclassified the Navajo code in 1969.



Following the program, several audience members brought personal tokens and gifts for Sandoval to thank him for his service.

Internship Provides Learning Experience

Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director

Latrice Jones is a current member of the Multicultural Higher Education Cohort upperclass program. Latrice is gaining valuable experience and training in social work through her internship at Women's Resource Center of Grand Rapids.

Jones, a senior majoring in social work, has a deep passion and interest in working in the field of women's issues, and was fortunate to be placed as the only student intern at the Women's Resource Center for 2011–2012.

WRC is a social service agency with a mission to improve women's workplace and economic opportunities. It provides mentoring services, resume-writing support, career planning, job search resources, skill-building classes and a clothing closet to help women who are seeking employment.

Jones works with the Job Education Training (JET) Program, which helps clients obtain employable skills to assist during job searches. It includes the Working Women's Closet, a program that helps clients find professional clothing, as well as help with resumes and computer skills.

Jones spends her time working with both clients and employers. She contacts employers to ensure they have the correct job information. She also meets with clients to make sure they are following job leads and other opportunities. Jones often hears about the many struggles the women face. "This is where my experience and training in counseling comes in to play," she said. "I



sit and listen and offer any guidance they require."

Jones currently works 20 hours a week at WRC. In addition to her internship, she maintains a 3.6 GPA, serves as a resident advisor in Laker Village and Ravine Apartments, works in the Women's Center, and participates in the Multicultural Cohort Program, OMA Ambassadors and Omicron Delta Kappa. She is also participating in the first "That Takes Ovaries" production, set for February 9–10.

Jones is scheduled to graduate in April. She hopes to work for AmeriCorps and eventually pursue a master's degree, perhaps a doctorate, in social work.



Winter 2012 Schedule of Events

January 16–21 **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk for complete event listing

January 20 **CinemAwareness: Daisy Bates - First Lady of Little Rock**
1240 Kirkhof Center
2:00–3:15 p.m.

January 30 **Diversity Brownbag Series: First Person Plural**
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center
12:00–1:00 pm

January 31 **Diversity Brownbag Series: In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee**
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center
12:00–1:00 pm

February **Black History Month**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for complete event listing

February **Asian Pacific American Heritage Celebration**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for complete event listing

February 2 **Intersections: Never Just a Game: Politics and Power in American Sports**
John Carlos and Dave Zirin
Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center
4:00 pm–5:30 pm

February 17 **CinemAwareness: More Than a Month**
1240 Kirkhof Center
2:00–3:00 p.m.

February 23 **Diversity Brownbag Series: From Where I Stand**
2204 Kirkhof Center
12:00–1:00 pm

February 28 **Professionals of Color Lecture Series: Diane Nash**
"1961, the Freedom Riders & Our Struggle for Racial Justice"
2204 Kirkhof Center
12:00–1:00 pm

March **Cesar Chavez Celebration**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for more information

March 17 **CinemAwareness: The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers' Struggle**
1240 Kirkhof Center
2:00–4:00 p.m.

March 31 **R.I.C.E. Conference**
(Realizing and Addressing Issues in our Culture and Education)
Loosemore Auditorium, Pew Campus, Grand Rapids
8:00 am–5:00 pm
Visit <http://www2.gvsu.edu/~asu/> for more information

Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma or call 616-331-2177 for complete event details.

Office of Multicultural Affairs Staff

Connie Dang, Director
Bobby J. Springer, Associate Director
Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director
Danny Ha, Program Coordinator
Doris Penn, Graduate Assistant
Oliver Aguilera, Multicultural Assistant
Vacant – Office Coordinator

For the latest news and events, check us out on the Web www.gvsu.edu/oma

Archived copies of the OMA's newsletters can be accessed through our Web site address above.

About Us

The Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) fosters a respect for and an appreciation of the history, tradition, and culture of different ethnic groups and empowers ethnic minority students to be active participants in Grand Valley's community through programs that promote academic, social, and cultural development for students.

OMA's vision is to promote acceptance and appreciation of an inclusive campus community that values the diversity of people, backgrounds, and perspectives of each individual.

Guiding Principles:

- Fosters a campus climate that respects and appreciates the history, culture, and traditions of various ethnic groups.
- Empowers students to be active participants in the Grand Valley community.
- Stimulates and encourages intercultural awareness and dialogue among university members.
- Takes an active role in promoting academic, social, cultural, leadership and professional development for students.

The OMA staff serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff on issues of inclusion, diversity, multiculturalism, and interculturalism.

Our Contact Information

Office of Multicultural Affairs
Grand Valley State University
1240 Kirkhof Center
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49301-9403

Phone: 616-331-2177
Fax: 616-331-3195
E-mail: oma@gvsu.edu

OMA News is a bi-yearly publication of the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

Project Manager/Editor: Kristie Scanlon

Design and Production: Ruth Oldenburg, Rainstick Studio