

## Student Spotlight: Jerika Nguyen

Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director



**J**erika Nguyen always knew she wanted to be a pharmacist; her experiences and involvement as a student at Grand Valley has helped her reach her goal.

Nguyen is a 2009 graduate of Grandville High School who has always had an interest in the health field. When arriving on campus, Nguyen knew she made

the right decision to come to Grand Valley. As a member of the Frederik Meijer Honors College, one of the first faculty members she met was Jeff Chamberlain. She said he made a lasting impression on her. "Dr. Chamberlain is so friendly and genuine," Nguyen said. "He truly does care about student success and takes a personal interest in all his students."

Nguyen is a biomedical sciences major with a French minor. She knew how important securing an internship was for her professional career, so she started working for Spectrum Health System as part of its web team.

"I never really thought about how the health field utilizes technology until I started working in this position," Nguyen said. "It really opened my eyes to new opportunities." That position led to other internship roles within Spectrum Health System, including as a pharmacy technician and informatics pharmacy intern, her current role.

Along with her strong commitment to academics, Nguyen is very involved in co-curricular activities, including Asian Student Union, Pre-Pharmacy Association and the Hmong American Student Association. She also spearheaded a new event for Grand Valley, "We Are One," in which nine student organizations collaborated to help combat stereotypes. The event was very successful and helped students engage in dialogue.

"I feel so lucky to have worked with so many great faculty, staff and students at GVSU. I know when I graduate in April 2013 that I will cross that stage with a big smile on my face. I am a Laker for a Lifetime," she said.

## Intersections

Marlene Kowalski-Braun,  
Assistant Vice Provost for Student Affairs

**O**ver the past year, Grand Valley's Office of Multicultural Affairs, LGBT Resource Center and Women's Center have enhanced our collective work through the development of "Intersections" programs and initiatives.

The purpose of "Intersections" events is to help students look at their complex world through multiple dimensions including race, gender, sexual orientation, class status, etc. By examining various identities, students come to a deeper understanding of how they differently situate people in the economic, political and social world.

The three centers are committed to creating safe spaces for students to explore their identities and to become their fullest selves. Staff members provide services to support and encourage personal development as well as opportunities for leadership development and advocacy around issues of social justice.

By working together, the three centers are creating a dynamic synergy and modeling the importance of collaboration.

### Winter 2013 Intersections Programming

**Thursday, January 31**

Tim Wise

"Beyond Diversity: Challenging Racism in an Age of Backlash"

Noon • Kirkhof Center • Grand River Room

# DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. COMMEMORATION WEEK



## Classes Canceled for MLK Day

Bobby J. Springer, Associate Director

**A** Day On, Not a Day Off" has been the historic theme for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. For many people, the theme meant becoming actively involved and supporting social justice.

Grand Valley continues to take a stand for social justice. For the first time in the university's history, classes will not be held on MLK Day, January 21.

University officials and organizers of the King Commemoration Week said canceling classes allows more people to participate in activities.

Monday's schedule of events begins at 10 a.m. with concurrent social justice activities such as Upcycling, Poverty Simulation, Marathon Reading and a Film Series. The keynote speaker, Glenda Hatchett, will speak at 1:30 p.m., following lunch and a silent march across campus. An afternoon session of

social justice activities will run from 2-3:30 p.m.

The week's other keynote speaker is Majora Carter, an urban revitalizationist. She will present, "The Fight Against Poverty in Today's World: the Food Justice Movement," on January 24 at 5 p.m.

Details about these keynote events can be found online at [www.gvsu.edu/mlk](http://www.gvsu.edu/mlk).

## New Staff Member: Allison "Alli" Roman

**A**llison "Alli" Roman joined the Office of Multicultural Affairs in September.

Originally from the Bronx, New York, Roman lived in three states before moving to Michigan. She spent most of her childhood in Jersey City, New Jersey, moving to California when she was 13. Roman attended the University of California, Berkeley and graduated in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in social welfare. She earned a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan in 2012.

Roman said her passion has always been education. While an undergraduate student, she served as a grade coordinator for an after-school program, "Break the Cycle." She also worked as an activity leader for Rosa Parks Kids Village, developing programs that



promoted positive body image, civic engagement and service learning.

While at U-M, Roman served in several leadership roles with student organizations. She was the operations co-chair for the Latino/a Social Work Coalition and president of Students

of Color of Rackham. She also was an intern for the university's GEAR UP program and developed its "Future Leaderz" program.

As assistant director for OMA, Roman said she is most excited to connect with students at both the high school and college levels. She serves as a coordinator for the Multicultural Cohort Program and the Wade H. McCree Program. Roman is also a co-advisor for Black Student Union and will coordinate OMA's Hispanic Heritage Month activities.

"I am so thrilled to be part of the Grand Valley community," Roman said, "and I am looking forward to connecting with students and help promote inclusion and diversity within the greater community."

# Multicultural Business Education Cohort Alum to Serve as Conference Keynote

Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director

Grand Valley will host the Student to Professional Conference on Friday, January 25. This conference will give participants a better understanding on how to make a smooth transition into the professional world, and provide great networking opportunities with university departments and local employers.

The conference is a collaborative effort of Career Services, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Future Alumni Association and the Hauenstein Center's Cook Leadership Academy. It is sponsored by Herman Miller.

The conference schedule includes many educational sessions, like

"How to Get LinkedIn," "Confessions of a Young Professional," and "Understanding the Job Offer."

The afternoon keynote speaker is Brandon Solano, '94, vice president for franchise development at Domino's Pizza. As a Grand Valley student, Solano was an active member of the Multicultural Business Education Cohort, Student Senate and a founding member of the Latino Student Union. He also played a vital role in bringing Cesar Chavez to campus.

The Student to Professional Conference is free and open to all students. Registration will begin on January 7. For more information on this program, visit [www.gvsu.edu/stp](http://www.gvsu.edu/stp).

## SAVE THE DATE

### Native American Student Association Spring Pow Wow

The Native American Student Association at Grand Valley will host its 14th annual Spring Pow Wow on April 20-21.

This two-day celebration will feature drummers, dancers and traditional vendors from across the region. Please join us as we celebrate Native American culture, tradition and heritage.

If you are interested in being involved in the program, contact NASA at [gvsu\\_nasa@yahoo.com](mailto:gvsu_nasa@yahoo.com).



# Winter 2013 Schedule of Events



January 20–26	<b>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week</b> Visit <a href="http://www.gvsu.edu/mlk">www.gvsu.edu/mlk</a> for complete details.
January 31	<b>Intersections</b> <b>Beyond Diversity: Challenging Racism in an Age of Backlash</b> Tim Wise 2250 Russel H. Kirkhof Center Noon–1 p.m.
February	<b>Black History Month</b> Visit <a href="http://www.gvsu.edu/oma">www.gvsu.edu/oma</a> for complete details.
February	<b>Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration</b> Visit <a href="http://www.gvsu.edu/oma">www.gvsu.edu/oma</a> for complete details.
February 5	<b>Diversity Brownbag Series: Historically Black Fraternities and Sororities: Recognizing Their Histories and Impact on College Outcomes</b> 2263 Russel H. Kirkhof Center Noon–1 p.m.
February 12	<b>Diversity Brownbag Series: Asian Representation in the Media</b> 2263 Russel H. Kirkhof Center Noon–1 p.m.
February 19	<b>Professionals of Color Lecture Series: Patrick Miles Jr. Effective Leadership and Service</b> 2204 Russel H. Kirkhof Center 4–5:30 p.m.
March 20	<b>César E. Chávez Celebration Silent March</b> James H. Zumberge Library 1:30–2 p.m.
March 20	<b>Professionals of Color Lecture Series</b> 2204 Russel H. Kirkhof Center 2–3 p.m.
March 23	<b>R.I.C.E. Conference</b> Richard M. DeVos Center, Loosemore Auditorium, Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids Campus 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Visit [www.gvsu.edu/oma](http://www.gvsu.edu/oma) or call 616.331-2177 for details.

## Office of Multicultural Affairs Staff

Connie Dang, Director  
Bobby J. Springer, Associate Director  
Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director  
Ali Roman, Assistant Director  
Doris Penn, Graduate Assistant  
Oliver Aguilera, Multicultural Assistant  
Linda Ray, Office Coordinator

For the latest news and events, check us out on the Web [www.gvsu.edu/oma](http://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

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