

A photograph of three hands of different skin tones holding a heart-shaped loom bracelet. The bracelet is made of colorful rubber bands (red, yellow, green, blue, purple) and white string. The hands are positioned around the bracelet, with two hands at the top and one at the bottom. The background is a light, textured surface.

The Kutsche Chronicle

www.gvsu.edu/kutsche

Spring 2014

In this Issue

Youth Leadership Initiative

Fifth Annual Local History Roundtable

Upcoming Events

Grand Day in Grand Rapids

Membership Campaign

Welcome and New Staffing

Office Coordinator



In February 2014, the Kutsche Office of Local History welcomed Courtney Sherwood as the new office coordinator. A Grand Haven native, Courtney began working at GVSU in 2002. She has worked in the Dean's Office of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for eight years, wearing many hats including

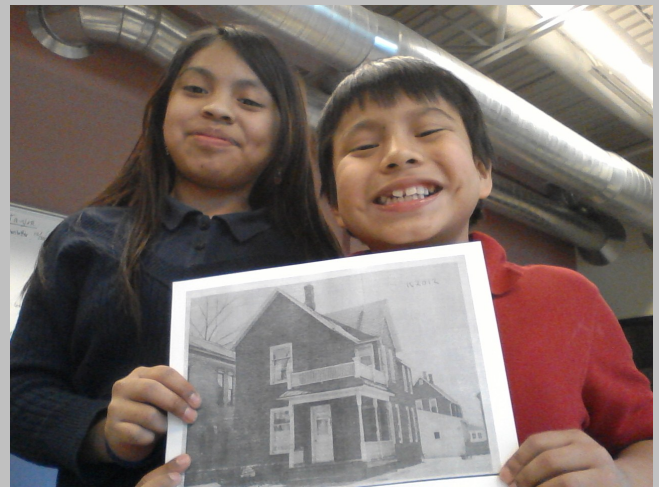
providing grant support. As an extension of desire to advocate for the elderly she co-facilitates a support group on campus for Alzheimer's caregivers. Courtney holds a B.A. in Writing from Vermont College of Norwich University. She continues to write in her spare moments she finds while raising two daughters. Her family recently moved to Allendale and spends their time together traveling and learning. Courtney began her work with the Kutsche Office in February 2014.

Special Projects Graduate Assistant



We are also very pleased to welcome Special Projects Graduate Assistant Jakia Fuller to the Kutsche Office staff for the 2014-2015 academic year. Jakia is a bundle of pure awesomeness, and is really excited to work with us. Jakia

was born and raised in Muskegon, MI. She graduated from Muskegon High School in 2009, and came to GVSU in the fall of 2009. Jakia graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis in Religion, Culture, and Nonprofit Leadership in 2013. While an undergrad, Jakia was a part of many students organizations and campus activities. "I am excited to come back to GV this fall. I am even more excited for this assistantship and the opportunity to not only get professional experience, but also work with a team that will help me academically also", Fuller said. After finishing her year-term as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Jakia will be starting the College Student Affairs Leadership program.



Youth Leadership Initiative

In May, the Kutsche Office of Local History wrapped the first academic year of programming through the Youth Leadership Initiative. Launched as a partnership with Grandville Avenue Arts & Humanities (GAAH) and the Grand Rapids Public Library in Fall 2013, the Initiative uses local history to enhance academic skills and empower young people to document, write, and tell their own families' and neighborhood histories.

A group of 30 K-8 students, all of whom are members in GAAH's Cook Library Scholars Program, participated in this year-long effort, collecting stories, memories, and untold histories. Students mapped their neighborhood. They took photographs and interviewed each other, family members, business owners, teachers, religious leaders, and others from across their community. Several GVSU undergraduate interns, including Chardé Johnson (Liberal Studies), Jasmine Wells (Liberal Studies), Ashley Fisher (Honors College), and Brianna Babbitt (Liberal Studies), have also been participating in this project. Dr. Joel Wendland (Assistant Professor of Liberal Studies) and Dr. Melanie Shell-Weiss (Kutsche Office Director) have also been working directly with students throughout this project.

After a short break during the month of June, the students will reconvene for summer session. Through July and early August they will finish their collecting/documentation and move toward creating a documentary film and exhibition that showcases their findings. These will premier at a special event in the Cook Library Center, 1100 Grandville Ave. SW in downtown Grand Rapids on September 18, 2014.

Immigration and Civil Rights: Past and Present

The Kutsche Office of Local History Annual Local History Roundtable (2014)

The Fifth Annual Local History Roundtable was held April 10-11, 2014 in the Holland Museum's Armory in downtown Holland, Michigan. The two-day event attracted nearly 100 people including representative from museums, libraries, historical societies, local schools and universities, interested community members, as well as GVSU faculty, staff, and students.



Focused on the theme, "Immigration and Civil Rights: Past and Present," the meeting opened with a reception and keynote address by Bing Goei, Director of the Michigan Office for New Americans and a welcome by Anne Hiskes, Dean of GVSU's Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies. This marked one of the first public speeches Director Goei had given since being appointed Director by Gov. Snyder in January 2014. Live mariachi music, provided by Gabriel Estrada, III followed along with light refreshments.

Friday's events began at 9 a.m. with a welcome from Jon Jellema, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs (GVSU) and opening lecture by Nora Salas (History and Chicano/Latino Studies, Michigan State University) on "Chicano Civil Rights in Michigan, 1960-1970s." Additional highlights of the day-long events included two panel discussions – one focused on "Immigrant Experiences" and the other on "Civil Rights in Western Michigan – and two 30-minute "peer-to-peer networking sessions" focused on eight separate topics including oral history, genealogy, researching and publishing local history, grant writing, collections and archiving, using social media to promote your organization, Michigan History Day, and researching local ethnic, women's, and LGBTQ histories.

Planning for this year's meeting was spearheaded by a committee of volunteers, many of whom have been involved in the Local History Roundtable since its inception. They included: Peg Padnos (Kutsche Office Advisory Council), Taylor Wise-Harthorn (Holland Museum), Mary Vander Kooy (Herrick District Library), Daniel Yakes (Muskegon Community College, retired), Tom Mejeur (community member), and M. Christine Byron (Grand Rapids Public Library, retired).

The 2015 meeting will be held March 26-27 in the Grand Rapids Public Library. The theme for next year's meeting is "Food, Farm, and Table."

Gordon Olson Lifetime Contribution to Local History Award

In Spring 2014, The Kutsche Office of Local History awarded the first annual Lifetime Contribution to Local History Award. The first recipient was Gordon Olson, chair of the Kutsche Office Advisory Council's Executive Committee. At Paul Kutsche's request, the award will subsequently be called "The Gordon Olson Lifetime Contribution to Local History Award." Recipients will be chosen by a committee, appointed by the Advisory Council, and recognized for their scholarly contributions and advancement of local history in West Michigan. The award is presented at the Local History Roundtable each year.



Upcoming Events

- **September 18—GAAH Exhibit at Cook Library Center**
- **October 21—Preserving your Family History at Holland Museum**
- **November 13 (tentative)—History Harvest at Steepletown**
- **November 18—Campus Dialogue: Urban Native American Experience**
- **March 26-27 Local History Roundtable at Grand Rapids Public Museum**



Membership Campaign

Grand Valley State University is Proud to Announce the Kutsche Office Membership Campaign!

A Grand Day in Grand Rapids

On October 5, 2013, scores of African American visual artists, performers, musicians, and writers gathered to be interviewed and have a group photo taken at the Grand Rapids Ellington Academy of Arts and Technology (GREAAAT). Called "A Grand Day In Grand Rapids," this recreation of an iconic Harlem jazz era photo marked the first time that the local African American art community has been brought together with the goal of documenting their work.

The project was directed by George Bayard, III, and is a tribute to Bayard's own creativity and community leadership. Photography was provided by Adam Bird. Design and videography were completed by GVSU undergraduate interns Amanda Northrop (Studio Art) and Katie White (Liberal Studies).

Bayard, an art historian and owner of Bayard Art, Consulting and Frame Shop at 1213 Kalamazoo Ave. SE, is also a member of the Kutsche Office of Local History's Advisory Council. He conceived of this project as a way to not only bring local artists together but to build an ongoing set of collaborations and mentoring relationships among African American artists from across the larger metropolitan area.

The photograph was released as a poster in March 2014. Artists pictured in the work, speakers and entertainers were invited to a signing party and panel discussion about the arts in Western Michigan. That event was held on March 8, 2014 at GREAAAT.

Collaborative efforts were made by the artists to support one another and use GREAAAT as a resource for arts related projects. Artists have volunteered to donate time at the Academy and seek employment there. The video documentary will be released later this year.

The Kutsche Office of Local History is home to the Local History Roundtable as well as different projects helping local groups and people preserve, protect and retain history that is important to them. This is accomplished through oral histories, supervised internships and fellowships, faculty directed projects and the work of experts in their specific fields.

Together these programs support the mission of the Kutsche Office in fostering an appreciation of the common challenges, common destiny, and common humanity of all of us. This is accomplished in part by bringing members of the West Michigan community, students and faculty together to share knowledge and resources about topics of common interest, building an understanding of history that is both exciting and relevant in today's challenging times.

You can be a part of this exciting initiative by becoming a Friend of the Kutsche Office of Local History by making a gift of \$45. Your gift will allow you discounts to future programs (see [previous page for upcoming events]).

To make your gift online, please go to www.gvsu.edu/giving/givenow. Or you may mail a check to:

**Grand Valley State University,
Kutsche Office of Local History
PO Box 2005
Grand Rapids MI 49501-2005**

You will receive an acknowledgement and receipt for your gift as your gift helps to preserve local history in our communities.

