

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
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Newsworthy....



In recognition of the significant contributions and guidance to the Kutsche Office of Local History, on March 28, 2017, President Thomas J. Haas signed a Presidential Proclamation honoring Paul Kutsche for his work and on behalf of the staff, students and community members who will benefit from his efforts long into the future, expressing the university's utmost gratitude.

Upcoming Events....

May 16, 9am-3pm

Strategies and Skills to Build an Online Presence

Honors College, GVSU Allendale Campus

July 25, 6-8pm

Riot, Race, and Reconciliation Documentary Film Screening

Loosemore Auditorium, GVSU Pew Campus

September 14, 2:30-3:45pm

Kathryn A. Remlinger's Yooper Talk: Dialect as Identity in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

2270 Kirkhof Center, GVSU Allendale Campus

October 4, 12:30-2:30pm

Newsletters and Email Marketing

GVSU Meijer Campus in Holland

November 8, 11:30am-2pm

Lunch with the Kutsche Office

GVSU Allendale Campus

On The Cover....



The Kutsche Office of Local History presented two local historians with the Gordon Olson Award at the Local History Roundtable on March 23.

Wallace "Wally" Ewing and Margaret (Peg) Finkelstein each received the award that recognizes individuals for using history to give voice to diverse communities. It is named for Olson, former Grand Rapids historian.

Ewing has dedicated more than 20 years to researching and writing about the history of West Michigan, particularly the area between Holland and Muskegon and east to Coopersville and Grand Rapids. He has written 14 books and continues a bi-weekly column in the Grand Haven Tribune. Ewing joined the board of the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in 1994 and was appointed its curator of education.

Finkelstein is the keeper of her family history, which can be traced to the New France settlement of Quebec. She is the director of the Peg & Mort Finkelstein Archives at Temple Emanuel in Grand Rapids, with a goal to preserve the Jewish history within the Grand Rapids communities. Finkelstein was invited by the director of the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan to work on its current project, Michigan Women Who Have Made A Difference, Jewish Voices Project.



Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Community Collaboration Grant Recipient Announced



Kathryn Remlinger received the inaugural Community Collaboration Grant to support her project, "How Much Dutch? The Linguistic Landscape of Holland, Michigan." This research examines the intersection of language use,

language attitudes, identity, and tourism in public spaces to understand their effects on what it means to be "local" and on shaping the identity of the city. More specifically, this ethnography explores how people create meaning through and with language in the multimodal linguistic landscape of Holland, Michigan, a small city and tourist destination on the shore of Lake Michigan. The community partner associated with this project is Herrick District Library.

Supporting Youth Leadership at Black River School

As part of our commitment to support youth leadership and develop high school students' interest in local history, Kimberly McKee visited students in AP Language and AP Sociology classes at Black River Public School to discuss how the Community Reading Project selection, *The True American*, and representations of Asian Americans in popular culture, respectively, are linked to the local community of Holland, MI.

National conversations concerning Islamophobia and anti-Asian sentiment remain relevant in West Michigan, a region with a growing Arab American and Asian American population. Locating these larger conversations in the local context allows students to see how their neighbors, friends, and classmates are affected and examine the histories of the arrival of diverse communities to their hometown.

Highlights from the 8th Annual Local History Roundtable



Photos (from upper left and clockwise): Julie Tabberer, Head of the Local History Department and Special Collections at Grand Rapids Public Library, Students from Black River School in Holland with Bridget Pyle and Beth Nguyen, Nathan Nietering, Director of Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, and Oceana County panelists: Andrew Schlewitz, Melanie Shell-Weiss, and Walter Urick. Photo credit: Kristina Bird, Adam Bird Photography.

Michigan Humanities Council Grants

Throughout this past academic year (2016-2017), the Kutsche Office had the pleasure of serving as a partner on two projects sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council. Nuestra Comunidad Hispana documented the Latino voices of Holland, MI. Over forty oral histories were collected. On February 28, 2017, we held the unveiling of the portraits at Herrick District Library. Roberto Jara, Executive Director of LAUP, notes, "The history of Latinos in the greater Holland area is Holland's history. To know it will not be forgotten brings value to our presence and contributions to this community we love so much." This project represents a partnership with LAUP (Latin Americans United for Progress), GVSU Meijer Campus in Holland, Herrick District Library, Holland Museum, and St. Frances de Sales Church.



Roberto Jara, Executive Director of LAUP, Photo credit: Kristina Bird, Adam Bird Photography.

The Kutsche Office also had the pleasure to serve as a project partner on the documentary *Newcomer Legacy: A Vietnamese-American Story*, which captures the voices of nine Vietnamese American community members. *Newcomer Legacy* underscores the impact of the War in Vietnam and the subsequent refugee migration that occurred to the United States. On April 19, the Kutsche Office and Office of Multicultural Affairs hosted a screening of the documentary that resulted in over seventy attendees viewing the screening and participating in a dialogue with Connie Dang (Director, Office of Multicultural Affairs) and Phillip Nguyen (President, Vietnamese Association of West Michigan).



Riot, Race, and Reconciliation Documentary Film Screening Tuesday, July 27, 2017, 6-8pm Loosemore Auditorium

The Kutsche Office of Local History partners with the Grand Rapids African American Museum and Archives (GRAAMA) as part of their three-part project, "Riot, Race, and Reconciliation." The project includes a mini-documentary, a panel discussion, and a photography exhibition on the 1967 Grand Rapids race riot, commemorating the 50th anniversary of that tumultuous period.

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*

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