

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
Winter 2017

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm very excited to serve as the Kutsche Office of Local History's director. During this summer, I had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Melanie Shell-Weiss as we underwent the leadership transition. Part of this work included participating in the Oceana County Community History Harvest in June.



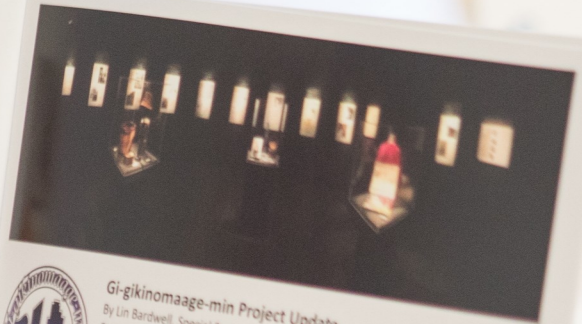
It was a pleasure to get to know the local community and witness the digitization of artifacts, papers, and memorabilia and participate in the oral history collection.

Additionally, I spent the summer and fall months meeting with various individuals and community partners. I look forward to getting to know all of you as I continue in this role.

To give you a sense of who I am, I am sharing the three core values that inform my vision for the Kutsche Office:

1. Commitment to supporting community partners based on their interests and investments in order to strengthen their existing work and values.
2. Amplify the voices of diverse communities in order to honor the lived experiences of underrepresented groups to ensure they tell their stories.
3. Cultivate and engage in honest, thoughtful discussions and exchange of new ideas and perspectives through programming that accurately reflects who members of the greater West Michigan community are and how their life stories intersect with the lives of the GVSU community.

Since its inception, the Kutsche Office of Local History has developed a strong reputation and focus that unearths and highlights the voices of diverse communities in West Michigan. It is my goal to continue this impactful work. I look forward to seeing you at events throughout the year.



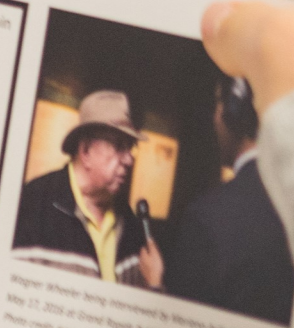
Gi-gikinomaage-min Project Update

By Lin Bardwell, Special Projects Graduate Assistant and Gi-gikinomaage-min Project Coordinator

Boozhoo (Hello in Anishinaabemowin). This has been an exciting year for the Gi-gikinomaage-min Oral History project and an even more exciting one is planned for the academic year 2016-2017. We brought our "Walking Beyond Our Ancestors' Foot Steps" traveling exhibit to a close with a wonderful event that took place at the Grand Rapids Public Museum on May 17th. Wagner Wheeler, former executive director for the Grand Rapids Intertribal Council, and June Mamawgon-Fletcher, former GVSU TRIC advisor, shared their urban experience with Levi Rickert and I. In addition being hosted at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, the traveling exhibit began at the Mary Idema Pew Library during the month of November before heading to the Grand Rapids Public Library. We began this academic year with the formal creation of an Advisory Council that will manage and direct the project as we move forward. Simone Jonaitis and Levi Rickert, members of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians and the Pottawatomi Nation, respectively, serve as Chair and Vice Chair. The project appreciates their willingness to serve in this capacity and would like to thank the other members who give of their time and creativity towards this project.

To learn more about the Gi-gikinomaage-min Project, please check out our new website: www.gvsu.edu/nativeamericangr/. We are actively planning events and this is a great place to learn about how to be involved.

There you will find information regarding our goals and objectives, a full list of our Advisory Council members, photos, and more. We encourage all to visit our website and stay informed of our progress.



Wagner Wheeler being interviewed by Simone Jonaitis and Levi Rickert
May 17, 2016 at Grand Rapids Public Museum
Photo credit: Simone Jonaitis, Adam Bird Photography



GRAND VALLEY
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LOCAL HISTORY

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Photo courtesy: Bri Luginbill, Adam Bird Photography

Upcoming Events....

January 28, 2017, 9:30am-3:45pm

History Detectives

Grand Rapids Public Library

February 1, 2017, 12:00-1:15pm

Grand Rapids and Social Activism in Today's Political Climate: Connecting the Broader Movement to the Local Experiment

Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

February 3-23, 2017

Voices from GVSU: Activism throughout the Decades

Mary Idema Pew Library Exhibit Space

February 9, 2017, 12:30-1:45pm

Contemporary Examples of Activism: Student Perspectives

Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

February 28, 2017

Nuestra Comunidad Hispana 2.0 Exhibit

Herrick District Library

March 23, 2017

8th Annual Local History Roundtable

Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

Kutsche Office Announces Community Collaboration Grant

The Community Collaboration grant program is designed to provide meaningful opportunities for faculty working with students and communities in West Michigan. The program focuses on engaging faculty in the humanities and social sciences working with a community partner and mentoring a student on celebrating, documenting, and preserving the voices of West Michigan's diverse communities. Mentored research opportunities facilitate students' ability to experience the transformative nature of research, as well as develop professional skills.

For more information about this grant and how to apply, contact the Kutsche Office of Local History at 616-331-8099 or kutsche@gvsu.edu.

Gordon Olson Award: Recognizing Outstanding Contributions to Local History



Gordon Olson Award

Contributions to Local History

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 2017 Gordon Olson Award. Nominations will be accepted through February 19, 2017. Visit www.gvsu.edu/kutsche to nominate.

Established in 2014, the Gordon Olson Award will be given to one individual each year. Named in honor of Gordon Olson, former Grand Rapids City Historian, whose books, leadership, programming, mentorship, and advocacy have inspired generations of West Michigan residents. The award is announced at the Annual Local History Roundtable. This year's Roundtable will take place March 23, 2017 in GVSU's Mary Idema Pew Library on the Allendale Campus.

Call 616-331-8099 or email kutsche@gvsu.edu with any questions.



Telling Your Story at Holland High School

On November 9, 2016 Dr. Kimberly McKee, Director of Kutsche Office of Local History, facilitated a "Telling Your Story" workshop for Holland

High School seniors. She discussed the importance of oral history and storytelling traditions as a method to preserve personal and community histories. Students reflected on how social media is a twenty-first century archive.



Local History Roundtable

Join us for our Annual Local History Roundtable on March 23, 2017. This year's theme "Reconstructing Home" examines the history of diverse communities coming to and settling in West Michigan from the earliest settlers to newcomers. We will explore the reasons that spurred these families to come to the region. We also will discuss how these individuals and communities reconstructed traditions of home upon arrival, considering the roles of assimilation and cultural preservation in this process. We are looking forward to vibrant day-long conversations on historical and contemporary examples of how place becomes home.

Thursday, March 23, 2017

9:00am — 4:30pm

Mary Idema Pew Library

Multipurpose Room

GVSU's Allendale campus

TO REGISTER:

www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/

Call us at: 616-331-8099

Email: kutsche@gvsu.edu

Cost for the day is \$25 per person, and includes a light breakfast and lunch.

Friends of the Kutsche Office (\$45 annual membership fee) receive free admission to the day. To become a Friend of the Office, visit:

<http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/membership-2.htm>



Our morning keynote is Bich (Beth) Minh Nguyen, who directs and teaches in the MFA in Writing Program at the University of San Francisco. She is the author of three books, including *Stealing Buddha's Dinner*, a memoir of coming of age as a Vietnamese girl in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Julie Tabberer, Head of Grand Rapids History & Special Collections at Grand Rapids Public Library will speak about her research on women in the furniture industry in West Michigan during the early 1900's.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY

- ◆ The Value of History Harvests: Oceana County
- ◆ Gordon Olson Award Winner
- ◆ Community Collaboration Grant Awardees

Check back at the beginning of February for a full schedule:

www.gvsu.edu/kutsche

This year's roundtable is sponsored by Grand Valley State University's Office of Inclusion and Equity, Office of Multicultural Affairs, Frederick Meijer Honors College, Writing Department, Writers Series, English Department, and History Department.

Histories of Student Activism at GVSU

Voices of GVSU: Activism through the Decades

February 4-22, 2017, Mary Idema Pew Library Exhibit Space

Sponsored by the Kutsche Office of Local History, Special Collections & Archives, and the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, this exhibit shines a light on early activism at GVSU from its founding until 1979, featuring university photographs of student protests and articles in *The Lanthorn* highlighting students' social justice efforts. The exhibit also includes more recent examples of student activism on campus and invites viewers to participate in the exhibit by submitting their definition to the question, "How do you define activism?"

Grand Rapids and Social Activism in Today's Political Climate: Connecting the Broader Movement to the Local Experiment

February 1, 2017, 12:00 – 1:15pm

Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

A resurgence in social activism occurred within the last five years. Nationally, protests and boycotts reflect a desire and movement for change that addresses societal inequalities. Dr. Louis Moore will give a presentation examining how the national movement and actions towards social justice impacts the local experience of those living in West Michigan. He will highlight the origins, evolution, and deeper meaning of the movement and how activism in today's political climate interacts with higher education.

Contemporary Examples of Activism: Student Perspectives

February 9, 2017, 12:30 – 1:45pm

Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

Join a panel of undergraduate students discussing their experiences organizing on campus and how they view their social justice work. They will reflect on what propelled their advocacy and work in various campus organizations.



Photo credit: GVSU University Archives

Become a friend of the Kutsche Office of Local History....

\$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*

\$250 Annual Supporting Partner, includes four free admissions to one annual Roundtable, one-year subscription to the *Kutsche Chronicle*, plus special invitation to Office events throughout the year

\$500 Sustaining Partner, includes four free admissions to the annual Roundtable through 2019, three year subscription to the *Kutsche Chronicle*, plus special invitation to Office events throughout the year

\$1,000 Lifetime Membership, include all benefits listed above for life

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

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