

Student Spotlight: Molly Matson

Molly Matson is a junior majoring in nursing and has a strong connection to her hometown community. Born and raised in the Upper Peninsula, Matson graduated from Munising High School in 2013 with a class of 32 students. "Growing up in a small town means you really do know your neighbors, and I like that". This small town experience is what initially made her interested in Grand Valley. "Allendale has that small town feel, but also has Grand Rapids and all it's opportunities so close by."



In addition to the location, Matson said the opportunity to play on the Women's Hockey Team and joining the Native American Student Association were key factors in her selection of Grand Valley. "It was important for me to go to a university that recognized and celebrated their Native American students. As a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Tribe, I am very active in my community and culture and I needed that to continue during my college years."

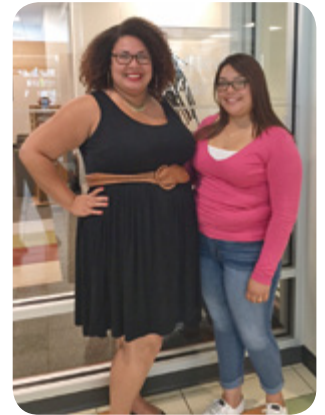
Matson has served as the President of the Native American Student Association since April 2014. In this role she coordinates weekly meetings and events, as well as large campus programs including Re-Thinking Columbus Day and the annual Celebrating All Walks of Life Pow Wow. "The native community in Grand Rapids has been wonderful in their support of our student group."

Matson was accepted into the Kirkhof College of Nursing program and will begin her classes this semester. "I have always wanted to be a nurse since I was a little girl. My hope is to work as a traveling nurse around the country to assist those most in need."

In her free time, Matson enjoys swimming, hiking, skiing and biking. In addition, she spends her summers working at her family's commercial fishing business in Munising. "I really enjoy helping my family and learning the business. Spending summers at home on Lake Superior is so peaceful and rejuvenating. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Supporting Our Leaders (SOL) Hispanic Center Intern: Rosa Favian

For the third year in a row, the Office of Multicultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan, has hosted a high school student intern over the summer. Rosa Favian is a rising junior at Innovation High School. Her career aspirations are to either be an ultrasound technician or kindergarten teacher, or social worker. Rosa has shared how her family and teachers have really encouraged and motivated her to strive for her goals. Rosa spent her summer in the Office of Multicultural Affairs as part of the Supporting our Leaders (SOL) Program. Prior to interning in the office, Rosa did not know much about OMA but quickly learned about various resources and services our office offered.



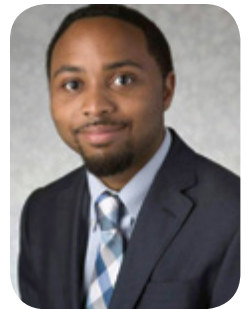
As part of the SOL program, Rosa also got to experience various field trips such as camping in Muskegon and attending an Etiquette Luncheon at Amway Headquarters. Her supervisor, Alli Montaie said, "Rosa was an amazing asset and immediately felt like part of the OMA team. It is so great that she had an opportunity like this to work in an office and learn about resources available on campus". The partnership between GVSU and the Hispanic Center provided students with real life work experience that will prepare them for their future.

OMA Graduate Assistant Spotlight: ReChard Peel

I am at Grand Valley to obtain a masters of education in the College Student Affairs and Leadership Program.

I am originally from Gary Indiana, about 20 minutes outside of Chicago. I grew up in Gary and most of my family has been there for many years. After high school in Gary, I attended Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. I earned a bachelor's degree in African American Studies and Entrepreneurship. My goal is to finish my master's degree and take a position at a university working on multicultural or diversity related programming, and eventually move into a director position. I came to Grand Valley because I knew it would provide me an opportunity to move toward my career goals.

I am actively involved in many organizations including the NAACP West Lafayette Indiana Chapter, American College Personnel Association (ACPA), Haraka Writers Poetry Collective, and Habitat for Humanity in Gary, Indiana to name a few. One of the unique fact about me is that I write and perform poetry. I have performed in locations all over the United States. I also love graphic design, and visual arts. I taught myself how to use Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Premiere (video editing).





GEAR UP Students Explore the Upper Peninsula

By Bobby Springer, Associate Director

Twenty-one GEAR UP students and staff traveled over 1,100 miles to explore Michigan's wonderful Upper Peninsula.

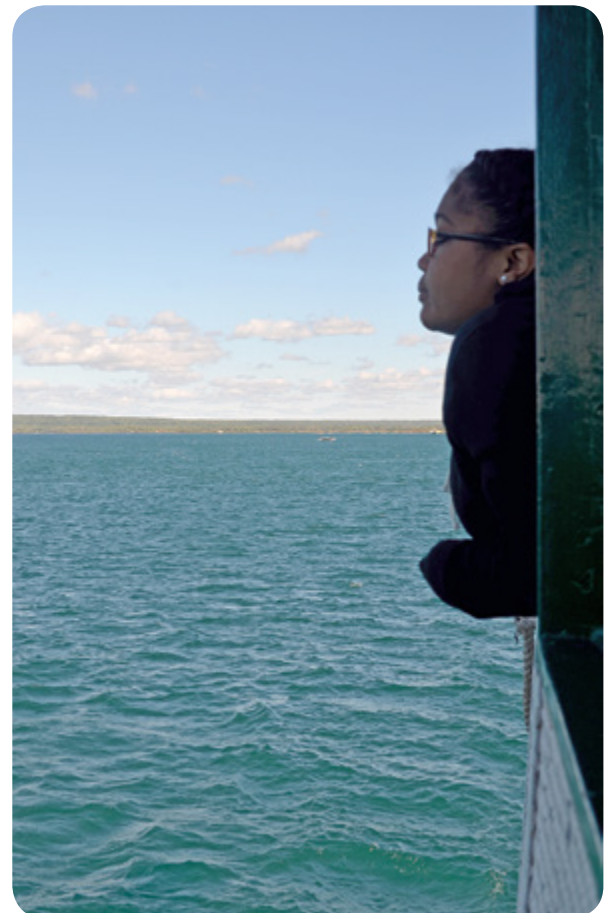
The premier focus of the summer GEAR UP college tour was for the students to explore various academic programs offered at the universities in the Upper Peninsula. The trip included visits to Lake Superior State University, Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technological University. Each University highlighted its specific, distinctive college experience throughout the student tours and college staff presentations.

The Upper Peninsula afforded the students a memorable academic enrichment that many students had not experienced before arriving to this great part of Michigan. One of Michigan's most breathtaking adventures to experience is the ride across the Mackinaw Bridge. The five-mile ride across the bridge was as breathtaking for the students as the stretch of water that flowed as far as the eyes could see.

All of the students' experienced first time excursions on the SOO Locks Boat Tours across the GREAT Lakes and the Quincy Mine Underground Mine Tour.

A two-hour boat ride traveled across the beautiful Lake Superior waters into Canada leaving an impressionable group of students thinking about their newly found view of endless possibilities in life. The Quincy Mine tour took the group deep in the earth, exploring a 2,400 foot section of the seventh level to see what life was like for mine workers and to learn about the changes in mining processes throughout history.

College visits like the one to the Upper Peninsula offers a broaden experience of life and what college options are beyond and throughout Michigan. The students commented about the beauty of the trip, but also learned about academic majors in the culinary arts, aviation, engineering, computer science, physical therapy, education, sports medicine and business. I am certain these students have a new perspective about the pathway to college.



The Wade H. McCree Jr. Summer Camp Experience

By Allison Montaie

This summer, thirty rising seniors began a two day journey that would greatly impact their lives. Hailing from Muskegon, Holland, and Grand Rapids, this diverse group of high school students had the opportunity to see what Grand Valley State University had to offer. The annual overnight experience has been offered to Wade H. McCree Jr. participants the summer prior to their senior year. For some, this is their first experience on Grand Valley's campus. Over the span of two intensive days, the students participated in various workshops and activities. The goal of the camp is to better equip the students with the skills to apply to college and have a better understanding of what is to come.

Their day began with an overview of the next two days and some ice breakers to help the students better connect with one another. The following activity was one that many of the students found very beneficial. Carolyn McLean, CSAL Graduate Assistant in housing and former college advisor, provided insights and tips on what makes an excellent college application. Students were instructed to



think about their college essays as stories. One student shared how this process allowed them to feel more confident about writing college admission essays.

Following their workshop, students got to go rock climbing, eat at Fresh Food Co. and partake in a Zumba and dance class. In addition to participating in a multitude of workshops, they also got to do a lot of self-reflection. Students were asked to write letters to their future college self. In less than a year, these students would be embarking on their college journey and this activity served as a way to engage them around what fears, feelings,

and excitement they had about their next journey. The closing activity encouraged students to share their letters to their peers. While the time together was brief, the students shared how impactful the experience was. As one student shared, "Thanks to this experience, I now know, not only do I want to go to college, but I want to go to GVSU. I feel more confident and prepared." An impactful experience and exceptional opportunity to prepare our next group of young people for college and the future.

Reflections of Care: Carolyn McLean's Summer Experience

Carolyn McLean, better known as Care, is a second year College Student Affairs and Leadership (CSAL) graduate student in the College of Education. After an exciting and eventful summer, I was able to catch up with Care and ask her about the lessons she learned this summer.

"This summer was a series of excitement, challenges, exploration, enjoyment, failures, and victories. I spent the early part of my summer completing an internship in the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) at GVSU. This was an experience that gave me the opportunity to challenge and explore my professional independence, leadership, as well as use my previous work experience in a new fashion. I spent the latter part of my summer in South Africa on a study abroad trip which forced me to face my identity, values, and my future goals. Both of these experiences have helped me to grow, reflect, and learn in a short period of time.

My experiences in OMA this summer were much different than what I initially expected, and I honestly enjoyed it. I began my time in OMA a little worried about my lack of knowledge about the interworking of the office as well as some of the initiatives the office has to offer. I came into the office with the expectation that I would engage in social justice work/programming and initiatives. As I reflect on my experience I did engage in social justice, just not in a traditional way many others would. I had the opportunity and responsibility of helping facilitate a college access program as well as collect data for a mentorship program for woman of color. These two experiences gave me new insight to how many different initiatives intermingle with multicultural affairs.

As I spent time in Africa I grew personally as well as pushed myself beyond many limits. I was engaged, criticized,



rewarded, and impacted in so many areas. I decided to spend time in South Africa to explore the country and be able to add "international" to my resume, when in actuality this experience caused me to explore who I am, what I need, and how I affect the community and world around me. I traveled with a group of graduate students from another institution which was a learning experience in itself. I was able to not only reach a goal by studying abroad, but I was able to better connect myself with my future professional goals as well as my personal identity."



FALL 2015 Schedule of Events



Friday, August 28	Intercultural Student Reception 4:00–6:00 pm Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center
Tuesday, September 15	Café Con Leche - Networking Reception 3–5 pm Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center
Monday, September 28	Photographing Latino Life: Jose Galvez Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center
Thursday, October 8	A Story of Latina Excellence: Marylou Olivarez Mason Noon–1:30 pm Cook DeWitt Auditorium
Saturday, September 26	Native American Student Association (NASA) Day of Service 9 am–4 pm Norton Mound National Historic Landmark
Monday, October 12	Re-Thinking Columbus 5:30–7:30 pm Loosemore Auditorium
Wednesday, November 4	Intersections Presents Black Girl Dangerous: Mia McKenzie 6:00–8:00pm
Tuesday, November 17	Professional of Color Lecture Series Presents: A Conversation with Dr. Adrienne Keene 11:30 am–12:45 pm Cook DeWitt Auditorium
Tuesday, November 3– Thursday, November 19	Gi-gikino'amaage-min: Defend Our History, Unlock Your Spirit Native American Urban History Project Exhibit 6–8 pm Mary Idema Pew Library Exhibition Space

Find us on:



Office of Multicultural
Affairs at GVSU



@gvsuOMA



Office of Multicultural Affairs Staff

Connie Dang, Director
Bobby J. Springer, Associate Director
Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director
Oliver Aguilera, Multicultural Assistant
Linda Ray, Office Coordinator
ReChard Peel, Graduate Assistant

For the latest news and events, check us out online at www.gvsu.edu/oma
Archived copies of OMAs newsletters can be accessed via the above website.

Mission:

The Office of Multicultural Affairs mission is to support efforts in recruiting and retaining diverse students; to educate, engage and empower all students to live in a multicultural world; and to advocate for a socially just campus environment.

Vision:

By collaborating with campus and community partners, the Office of Multicultural Affairs will create an educational environment that cultivates the rich contributions of all cultures and also provides a place where students can achieve academic, social, and cultural success.

Guiding Principles:

- Empower students to be active participants in the Grand Valley community.
- Promote academic, social, personal, cultural, leadership, and professional growth of students from traditionally underrepresented groups.
- Advocate for a campus climate that respects and appreciates the history, culture, and traditions of different ethnic groups.
- Stimulate and encourage opportunities for intentional intercultural dialogue and engagement among university members.
- Assist with efforts to promote access and equity in higher education through recruitment and retention of a diverse student body.
- Offer diversity and cultural learning opportunities to improve intercultural understanding and competency.
- Collaborate with the campus, as well as external communities to better fulfill the mission of OMA.

Our Contact Information

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