

Student Spotlight: Melissa Delgado

Kristie Scanlon,
Assistant Director



Melissa Delgado knows that Grand Valley is the right place for her and she is making the most of every moment.

Melissa graduated from West Ottawa High School in 2007 and began her career at Grand Valley State University in the fall semester. GVSU was a familiar place for Melissa, as she has had numerous family members attend the institution.

Delgado participated in the Oliver Wilson Freshman Academy Program, a summer program with a goal to help students transition into the university. She was also hired as a student worker in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, where she still works today.

Over the years Delgado has been involved in a variety of student organizations and campus departments including the Latino Student Union, Sabrosísimo, Student Promoting Diversity and Leadership and the Multicultural Cohort Programs. She also serves as a volunteer for GVSU Women's Center and is currently a student intern for the Community Service Learning Center. She will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in sociology; she plans to apply for the Peace Corps and pursue a master's degree in social work.

"The people I have met at Grand Valley have made such a huge impact on my life," she said. "I have built long lasting friendships through the different groups I am involved with. I know GVSU has made me a better person, and that is something I didn't expect from a college degree."

Director's Corner

Connie Dang, Director

Chúc Mừng Năm Mới

(Happy New Year in Vietnamese)

새해 복 많이 받으세요

(Happy New Year in Korean)

Feliz año Nuevo

(Happy New Year in Spanish)

Happy New Year from the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA). I hope this newsletter finds you well! As we prepare for another successful semester, I would like to highlight some events and programs featured in this newsletter:

- On February 9, the Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration kicks off with the "Ūtake" performance featuring a blend of music, art, and poetry. Ūtake is a trio concert comprises of the shakuhachi flute, piano, and percussion. Distinguished Japanese-American artist Tom Nakashima offers a pre-concert presentation on art and philosophy in the Japanese culture. Throughout the concert, Grand Valley faculty and students will read some traditional Japanese poetry in Japanese and English. The program starts at 5:00 p.m. in the Cook-DeWitt Center, Allendale Campus.
- On March 23, in collaborating with the Office of Student Life, the Professionals of Color Lecture Series features "Speaking of Faith: Interreligious Dialogue in the 21st Century." A panel of distinguished religious leaders will explore religious identity and examine how family, social and political influences contribute to their religious journeys. The program begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Cook Dewitt Center
- On March 31, Juan Buriel, author and faculty of english at College of the Canyons in Valencia, California, delivers the Cesar Chávez keynote address following the Silent March at noon at the Zumberge Library, Allendale campus.
- On January 17, the new week-long commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) Jr. legacy unveils with an MLK Breakfast at 9 a.m. in the Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale campus. The Silent March begins at noon at the Zumberge Library and follows by the MLK Program featuring filmmaker and social justice activist Judy Richardson.
- On January 19, Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, professor of sociology at Georgetown University, delivers the MLK keynote address, "What's Next: Dr. King for the 21st Century" at 5 p.m. in Louis Armstrong theatre, Allendale campus.
- From February 1 through February 14, the computer station in the OMA is reserved for students to complete the "myGVSUsurvey". The OMA staff members will be available to answer any questions.
- February is dedicated to the celebrations of Black History. In collaborating with the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies, on February 1, Harriet Washington will contextualize some main topics of the book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot, at 6:00 p.m. in the Grand River Room, Kirkhof Center, Allendale Campus.

The Office of Multicultural Affairs is committed to building an inclusive campus that yields social harmony and learning vitality. Through collaboration, the OMA continues to offer programs and services that fosters an appreciation and respect for the history, tradition and culture of different ethnic groups, and empowers students to be active learners. I look forward to seeing you at our programs.

Office of Multicultural Affairs Winter 2011 Schedule of Events

- January 15–24** **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration Week**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk for complete event listing
- February 1–28** **Black History Month**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for complete event listing
- February 3–16** **Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Celebration**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for complete event listing
- February 24** **Diversity Brownbag Series**
Dr. William G. Anderson, "Living History: He Was There"
2215-2216 Kirkhof Center
12:00 – 1:00 pm
- March 16** **Diversity Brownbag Series**
Maximo Anguiano, "The Plight of Indigenous Australia"
1240 Kirkhof Center
12:00 – 1:00 pm
- March 23** **Professionals of Color Lecture Series**
"Speaking of Faith: Interreligious Dialogue in the 21st Century"
Cook DeWitt Auditorium
3:00 – 5:00 pm
- March 26** **R.I.C.E. (Realizing and Addressing Issues in our Culture and Education) Conference**
Loosemore Auditorium, Pew Campus, Grand Rapids
8:00 am–5:00 pm
Visit <http://www2.gvsu.edu/~asu/> for more information
- March 31** **César Chávez Celebration March**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for more information
- Spring Pow Wow**
Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for more information

Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma or call 616.331.2177 for complete event details.



Office of Multicultural Affairs Staff

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Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director
Danny Ha, Program Coordinator
Christina Jackson, Graduate Assistant
Oliver Aguilera, Multicultural Assistant
Linda Rettig, Database Coordinator

For the latest news and events, check us out on the Web www.gvsu.edu/oma
Archived copies of the OMA's newsletters can be accessed through our Web site address above.

Mission

To foster a climate of inclusiveness that will provide students with opportunities for intercultural awareness and appreciation.

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 Grand Valley community and the external community to better fulfill the mission of OMA.

Our Contact Information

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MLK Commemoration Week “Shake the World”

Bobby Springer, Associate Director

The 2011 Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Week theme is “Shake the World” and who better to help shake things up than **Michael Eric Dyson**, professor at Georgetown University and popular author and radio show host.



On January 19, Dyson will deliver a keynote address, “What’s Next: Dr. King for the 21st Century.” Dyson was named by *Ebony* Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans. He is the author of 16 books, including *Holler if You Hear Me*, *Is Bill Cosby Right?* and *I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King Jr.*

Other events for the week include a Day of Service, honoring King and civil rights leader Ella Baker, MLK Breakfasts, Silent March and MLK Program featuring social justice activist Judy Richardson.

This year marks the creation of the MLK Executive Planning Committee. Chaired by Bobby Springer, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and Kathleen Underwood, Women and Gender Studies, the Executive Planning Committee is responsible for the development and oversight of all MLK events.

For a complete listing of MLK Commemoration Week events, visit www.gvsu.edu/mlk

Welcome Danny Ha, Program Coordinator

Greetings everyone! It is an honor and privilege to return to Grand Valley and become a member of the Office of Multicultural Affairs family.

A graduate of Niles West High School in Skokie, Illinois, I came to Grand Valley in 1997. I earned a bachelor’s degree in health sciences from GVSU but this is where I matured personally and professionally.

As a member of the Multicultural Science Education Cohort and an E-board member of the Asian Student Union, I gained the skills and confidence necessary to succeed in mentorship and leadership development. After graduation, my desire to work with students led me to a position as a faculty advisor for the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. In that role, I enjoyed my first real opportunity to educate, motivate and inspire students.

At the completion of the forum, I moved to Washington, D.C., where I was promoted to program coordinator for the National Young Leaders Conference. As a program coordinator I had access to the Supreme Court and Capitol Building, and had the opportunity step on the House floor more than 20 times and meet with U.S. senators and representatives. My role also provided me the opportunity to work and visit a number of cities, like San Francisco, Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Houston, Atlanta, Boston, Princeton and New York.

Deciding that it was time for a new challenge, I then moved back to my hometown of Chicago. For the last two years I directed a leadership conference that recruited a corps of exceptionally gifted students from socio-economically disadvantaged neighborhoods for an after-school program helping to build relationships with people who suffer from Alzheimer’s disease.

Now my journey has brought me back to Grand Valley and OMA. In my free time you may see me watching a Chicago Cubs or Bears game, coaching little league or traveling somewhere new and exciting. Stop by and share your stories with me. I look forward to meeting and working with you on your continued success.



Welcome Oliver Aguilera, Multicultural Assistant

Hola a todos! First, I would like to say that I am thrilled to be part of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. I am ready for new challenges and opportunities to grow personally and professionally. My career at Grand Valley started 10 years ago. I have found this journey to be packed with very unique learning opportunities and I am thankful and excited to be part of this new and exceptional team.

I am currently seeking a bachelor’s degree in liberal studies with an emphasis in cultural anthropology and sustainable city and regional planning. These fields of studies have allowed me to focus on the elements that interconnect them. I am very interested in people and their relationship with their environments. The Liberal Studies program at Grand Valley has allowed me to redefine my interests and affirm the focus of my vocational path.

During my free time, you will often find me spending time with my wife and two daughters as we engage in some random adventure.





Multicultural Cohort Programs Reunion

Kristie Scanlon, Assistant Director

In celebration of GVSU's 50th anniversary, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Alumni Association hosted the Multicultural Cohort Programs Reunion on November 12. Over 200 GVSU faculty and staff members, cohort alumni and current student members gathered to celebrate the many successes and achievements of the cohort programs.

The evening included a welcome reception, followed by opening remarks from Chris Barbee, director of Alumni Relations. Guests enjoyed a special video presentation that highlighted the program's history, alumni and current student members. Guest speakers included Ray Bennett, '92, alumnus of the MBEC program and senior vice president of lodging development for Marriott International, and Dean Emeritus Don Williams.

The evening included a surprise announcement from Bennett that he endowed a new scholarship in honor of Williams. The Dean Emeritus Don Williams Sr. Multicultural Business Education Scholarship was established by Bennett and will recognize and assist business majors in the MBEC Multicultural Business Education programs with the cost of education. The evening ended with entertainment provided by *Blues on the Banks of the Grand*, featuring Joyce Cobb.



Ray Bennett, '92, senior vice president of lodging development for Marriott International and Dean Emeritus Don Williams.



Dean Emeritus Don Williams shares a story with MSEC alumni Nikkia Parks and current students Marelguj Briones, Abby Gilliland and Carly Moore.

King/Chavez/Parks Future Faculty Program

Bobby J. Springer, Associate Director

The King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellowship Program is designed to increase the pool of traditionally underrepresented candidates who are pursuing faculty or administrative careers in postsecondary education. The program, which receives state funds, has been administered by the Office of Multicultural Affairs since 1987 and has consistently enrolled about four fellows per academic year. Since its inception, KCP-FF has admitted 58 fellows and 47 fellows graduated.

For the 2010–2011 academic year, KCP-FF welcomed two new fellows: Rebeca Velazquez, who is pursuing a master's degree in public administration and works as the operations coordinator for First Steps; and Anneshia Freeman, who is pursuing a master's degree in social work and works as a program coordinator/substance abuse counselor for Arbor Circle.

The recruitment and selection process is administered by OMA, in conjunction with the Graduate Studies Office. The application deadline is March 1. Visit www.gvsu.edu/oma for more information.



Rebeca Velazquez



Anneshia Freeman