

American Indian Center Quarterly

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY
A tradition of excellence and opportunity



Summer 2006

A Year In Review...

It has been a wonderful year at the American Indian Center. Looking back we were able to continue our supportive services to American Indian students as well as sponsor social and cultural events throughout the school year. We have also been working with the Office of the Chancellor on the new MnSCU system initiative regarding Minnesota Indian education.

It has been a very busy year. The AIC staff and students started the school year, working the first Minnesota American Indian Festival "Gathering at the River." At our annual house blessing, we had over 50 people attend. The AIC and the ATC cooked a spaghetti dinner to raise money for Hurricane Relief. We sent \$500 to the American Indian tribes in Louisiana. We were pleased to welcome students, faculty and staff to our Wednesday retention lunch gatherings, Monday cultural project nights, weekly language tables, and to the American Indian speaker series. We celebrated Indigenous Day (The Truth about Columbus), held a Harvest Festival of traditional Indian food and even had a pumpkin carving contest in October. Last December, we were able to have a special screening of the first American Indian romantic comedy called: Christmas in the Clouds. This fundraiser contributed \$1,000 to our AIC expansion fund. We had several American Indian singers/entertainers visit us this year (ie. Bill Miller, Michael Jacobs). Our annual trips included sending faculty, staff and students to Pipestone, Hawk Ridge,

and most of the 11 Minnesota Indian Reservations. The AIC also provided cultural sensitivity training for SCSU students going on the Alternative Spring Break Trip to the Lame Deer Reservation in Montana.

The AIC received advice and direction from American Indian community members through our fourth annual American Indian Advisory Board meetings. We are grateful to our board members who volunteered their time to serve in this capacity. One of the new initiatives we started this year was to bring together the tribal educators from the Minnesota Indian communities. Representatives from the Minnesota tribes gathered on campus to discuss the access and retention of American Indian students in higher education. The tribal education directors have agreed to continue meeting four times a year, with one of the meetings held at SCSU.

We sent students to various conferences in Washington D.C. (Alaska Native American Indian Nursing Association) and Denver (NIEA) as well as the annual MIEA conference held in Mahnomon, MN. The AIC provided a luncheon for the Indigenous World conference held on our campus, where George Googleye Sr. gave the blessing and Winona LaDuke was the keynote speaker.

This year students from Mahnomon, Osseo, and Robbinsdale school districts participated in our Engage Program. We were able to recruit several American Indian students from this successful early
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Good Luck Diane!

After eleven years of being the American Indian Center's Office Manager, Diane Hanson is leaving us to pursue a new position in the MnSCU system. Diane has been a constant face here at the AIC. She started the second year of the AIC's existence. We are all going to miss seeing her smiling face and wish her the best of luck at her new job!



It is my pleasure to announce that the two winners of the SIFE Outstanding Community Service Awards, sponsored by Target, are:

The Organization for the Prevention of A.I.D.S in Africa (O.P.A.A) and
The All Tribes Council

The judging committee was very impressed with all of the nominations they received and are hoping to make this an annual program. The awards will be presented at the Excellence in Leadership Banquet. Both organizations will be given \$250 to support their service projects next year.

Congratulations to all involved in the All Tribes Council!

8th Annual Student Awards Dinner

On April 18, the American Indian Center sponsored the 8th Annual Student Awards Dinner. The Awards Dinner is designed to recognize this year's American Indian student graduates as well as our campus' academically excelling American Indian students. Keynote speaker was Al Paulson, CEO of Marketplace Productions, LLC of St. Paul, MN. Al, a former SCSU hockey player and current member of the American Indian Advisory Board, spoke about persistence and determination in meeting one's goals during life. Honor songs were provided by the Little Earth Drum from the Healing Spirit Home in Minneapolis, and Patrick Tom, a first-year student, provided the opening prayer before our banquet meal. The Awards Banquet is all about recognizing the hard work and achievement of our American Indian students. *We are very proud of each one of you!*

2006 AIC Canoe Trip

written by Shanna Lowe

I had never canoed before, nor had I done any kind of extensive trip offered through state...I had a blast! I brought someone with who wasn't a student of state and he was very impressed with how well we had everything put together. We both liked the convenience of it all, Rob Watson's dinners were very filling and having them hot and ready when we got back to camp at night was really, really great. I learned all about canoeing and now have a certificate to prove it, but I didn't like the very last part of the canoe training (on the very last day) when Ed Bouffard made me turn over my canoe to learn safety in the water...a leech attached itself to our boat and I had to stare at it the entire time my canoe partner and I learned about lake and deep water safety tactics so I couldn't pay much attention. I kid. Really Ed, I remember: Reach, Throw, Oar, Go! But really, the views were scenic, we saw some eagles. The bugs are always icky but the camp was

great! Plus there was a ton of frybread for every meal...mmm.



(pictured from left to right) Shanna Lowe, Tom Andrus, Dan Jurek, and Ed Bouffard. Ed taught everyone basic canoe strokes on the first day.

AIC STUDENT OF THE YEAR (2005-2006)

Our American Indian student of the year is Rebekah Fineday. She was chosen because she demonstrated leadership ability by her participation in numerous campus and community activities. Among the many accomplishments cited are executive board member of the All Tribes Council student organization and team leader for the spring break trip to Lame Deer, MT. In addition, Rebekah has maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher while in school. Rebekah is a senior-year student majoring in nursing.

Rebekah Fineday and her father Leonard F. Fineday at the AIC Awards Banquet held April 18, 2006



Graduates

Fall 2005 and Spring 2006

Undergraduate Students

Lorell Davis ~ *Literature and Writing*

Jacquelyn Didier ~ *Child and Family Studies*

Krystal Hermann ~ *Psychology, Community Psychology minor*

Jennifer Oxborough ~ *Finance*

Robert Rosten ~ *Sociology, Human Relations & Ethnic Studies minors*

Jana Shepard ~ *English Creative Writing, Art minor*

Lance Thompson ~ *Finance*

Gregory Trunk ~ *History*

Scholarship Award Winners:

Scholarship is an important aspect of campus life. Four students will receive scholarships next academic year to help with their educational expenses. Scholarship monies are derived from endowed gifts to SCSU and the American Indian Center as well as monetary gifts from alumni & friends.

Timothy Taggart, Jr. (incoming freshman)	Holmgren Scholarship for Native Americans
Rhiannon Johnson (sophomore)	Meyer/Heltemes Endowed Memorial Scholarship
Daniel Jurek (junior)	American Indian Center Scholarship
Timothy Talbert (incoming freshman)	American Indian Education Scholarship

Student Honor Award Recipients:

Another form of scholarship acknowledgement includes recognizing student honor award recipients--students who have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 honor points or higher (this is A or B work folks!) during their academic semesters at SCSU. We applaud these twenty-six students who achieved this distinction:

Jacqueline Brooks	Jennifer Marker
Joshua Corcoran	Jenna Maschino
Lorell Davis	Sarah Mathison
David DeGreeff	Peter Nayquonabe
Cassandra Eberhardt	Jennifer Oxborough
Rebekah Fineday	Robert Rosten
Brody Fuchs	Geralynn Ryckman
Bruce Halvorson	Jana Shepard
Krystal Hermann	Traci Sorenson
Casey Jaeger	Quinn Sullivan
Timothy Kindel	Andrea Tholkes
Stephanie Lanier	Amanda Wilkens
Mathias Lorsung	Kayla Wolf

Spring Break Trip to Lame Deer, MT Boys & Girls Club of the Northern Cheyenne Nation

By Rebekah J. Fineday

The trip to Lame Deer, MT was an experience I shall not soon forget. We worked hard, we played hard, we did a lot of driving and we had lots of fun. I tried to get other Native students from campus to participate with me, and Amy Harris was able to attend last minute! Our first night of travel, we stayed overnight in Rapid City, SD. We visited Mount Rushmore and the Crazy Horse Monument before completing our trip to Montana. That evening we were welcomed by the Boys & Girls Club staff with a wonderful dinner, historical background, orientation and a hand drum performance – a perfect beginning! After dinner, the students jumped right in with the Teen Basketball Night.

Each morning we traveled 20 miles to Lame Deer from Ashland where we were staying at the St Labre Indian School dorms. We would assist the Boys and Girls Club with maintenance and clean up. Arlee, one of the staff, kept us busy with projects that included cleaning and painting locker room floors, moving items for storage, cleaning vents in the gymnasium, selecting and hauling flat rock, putting up fencing, assisting in their hand made clay projects, and assisting in a two-day family photo project within the community. Arlee was fun to work with and he showed us around the Reservation and enlightened us about the Cheyenne people and the Reservation. He is a very interesting person to be around and talk to! Two of our students were able to get the computer lab operational by fixing the computers and printers. Educational programs and some games were installed for the children. We were informed that the computer lab had not been operational for about a year prior to our arrival. It was a great feeling that we could contribute something so tangible that would benefit the community.

When the children arrived in the afternoon, we would assist with the arts and crafts and snacks. We would participate with the children in their activities in the gymnasium and outdoors. This was a time we were able to really interact with the children by getting to know them through constructive activities. I will never forget Arlee's four-year old daughter,

Serene, who often accompanied us during our various work projects. She was always smiling, laughing and interested in everything we did and wanted to go with us everywhere we went. She was very energetic and kept us all entertained and on our feet, as did most of the children there. The children loved to have someone run with them, race them, and try to catch them. They kept us going! A lot of young children were very creative in their arts and it was fun to see them express their creativity. They were also interested in us, where we came from, what we were doing, and how long we were staying. We would talk to the children about the importance of staying in school, their grades, and staying out of trouble. They were so open and willing to talk and accept you. We also returned in the evening after dinner to participate in the Teen Nights playing games, basketball and talking with the teens. The teens were also fun and always asked us to come back to play basketball every evening. We were also invited to participate in one of their sweat lodges in the community. It was a very memorable experience!

We were also able to take a day trip for sight-seeing. A couple of the staff accompanied us on a trip to Sheridan, WY. Along the way we stopped at historical sites. We visited the visitor's center and the National American Indian, Alaskan & Hawaiian Educational Development Center. We also stopped at Buffalo Bill's hotel. The night before our departure, there was a dance held at the Boys & Girls Club that we participated in. It was so much fun to see all the children together getting their groove on and dancing with them. It was very hard for us to leave the Club that evening. I think we were the last ones out! Our five days spent there was not nearly enough time, it passed by too quickly.

It was exciting for me to hear the other students reactions and conversations amongst themselves on how much fun they were having and what they were learning. Two of our students were from Korea and their first trip out of St Cloud was to Lame Deer, MT. They made comments on how some traditions, ceremonies, and songs reminded them of their
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Year in Review cont.

college visitation program for the upcoming school year. The feedback from students indicated they enjoyed talking with our American Indian students the most!

We were successful in bringing back the American Indian Awareness Week which led up to the All Tribes Council Spring Pow wow. Al Paulson was our honored speaker at the annual American Indian Student Awards Banquet, where we were able to give out five American Indian scholarships and the outstanding American Indian student award. We finished the month of April with the visiting Zuni artists from New Mexico, sharing their culture and art murals and having Anton Treuer speak at the AIC on the revitalization of indigenous languages.

Our last event of the school year was the annual canoe trip down the Mississippi. Again 22 brave faculty, staff, and students navigated their way down the beginning sections of the mighty Mississippi! This year we had great canoes and excellent food!

We are looking forward with excitement to the upcoming year. As well as continuing our support services and programming we will be starting some new initiatives. We have scheduled an American Indian Student Retreat to be held at Camp Friendship. This new event will provide students with an opportunity

to come together as a community to address concerns as they start their college career. Social and cultural events are planned throughout the weekend.

The AIC has received a MnSCU grant to plan and implement an American Indian Studies Summer Institute in June of 2007. The SCSU College of Education and the College of Social Sciences will collaborate with the AIC in offering professional development on sensitivity and awareness of American Indian history, culture, and language to K-16 faculty, staff, and administrators.

The AIC will co-sponsor the Alternative Spring Break Trip to the Lame Deer Reservation in Montana. In 2007, we will continue to build the relationship between Lame Deer and the American Indian Center. I want to thank the American Indian students, faculty and staff who helped out at the AIC all year long. Without everyone's help we wouldn't have been able to do all the things we did. Our AIC community continues to grow each year. Everyone is invited to share in our activities, events, work, meals, study sessions, lessons and our laughter. If you find yourself on the SCSU campus this summer or anytime, please stop by for a visit. We would like to hear your stories.

Miigwech,
Jim

Lame Deer cont.

own culture. We made friends and learned about a new culture and history we had never heard before. The children and the staff made such a strong impression on me, I still cannot stop talking and thinking of them! The students had such positive interactions with the children and the teens and we talk of what we have learned about ourselves, and others. I choose to participate as a leader because I love interacting with children and I loved the opportunity to visit another Indian Reservation other than my own. As an Indigenous person who aspires to work within the Indigenous communities upon completion of college, I feel it was more than worth it to spend the Spring Break time to meet other Indigenous communities.

I'm grateful for the opportunity I had to take this trip through the SCSU Volunteer Connection's Alternative Spring Break Service Learning Trip. I hope to see you there with me next year!

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Tom Andrus is on sabbatical all summer. He will be working on a research project for recruitment and retention of American Indian students. Tom will be back with us in time for the fall semester.

~

SCSU Ethnic Studies Summer Pre-College Programs

June 17, 2006 - July 13, 2006

Math-Science-Computer Camp (MSC): This program is designed for students currently in 3rd through the 8th grade. The program exposes students from underrepresented groups to science, math, and computers in fun and innovative ways.

July 23, 2006 - August 19, 2006

Scientific Discovery Program (SDP): This program is for students currently in 9th and 10th grades is designed for high ability, high potential students who demonstrate a strong interest in science and mathematics.

July 30, 2006 - August 19, 2006

Advanced Program in Technology and Science (APTS): This program is designed for students currently in 11th and 12th grades. This is a special program for high ability, high potential students who are seriously interested in a future in technology and science.

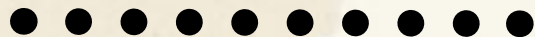
For further information and application contact:

Dr. Robert C. Johnson

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Telephone (320) 308-4928

<http://pipeline.stcloudstate.edu/applications.html>



Summer 2006 Calendar



July

4th, Tuesday	No classes, offices closed
14th, Friday	First summer session of classes ends
17th, Monday	Second summer session of classes begins

August

17th, Thursday	Second summer session classes ends
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