

Division of General Studies



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Letter from the Directors- Adam Klepetar & Geoffrey Tabakin Greetings from DGS at St. Cloud State University!

We are excited to be working with over 530 new students this fall. Already having a series of wonderful successes, we look forward to continuing our positive momentum throughout the year. We welcomed our students at orientation and began working with students in the classroom, through social events and in one on one sessions. Many of our students have become involved across campus and have begun the process of leaving their unique mark here at SCSU. The early part of fall has been highlighted by two exciting events.

First, we tailgated before the Huskies football game with DGS students, friends and families. We then joined with our friends in the University Honors Program

*DGS Administrative
Director
Adam Klepetar*



*DGS Faculty Director,
Dr. Geoffrey Tabakin*



for the second annual *Movie on the Mall*. We are looking forward to our first DGS essay contest this Spring using the content of the book, Sherman Alexie's, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*, and allowing for students to reflect on their own adventures that have lead them to SCSU. Both of us are rewarded daily by the

experiences we have with our students and we encourage friends of DGS to stay in touch with us as we all work together to create a caring and positive environment for our students, campus, and community.

Warm Regards,
-A. Klepetar & G. Tabakin



*DGS Summer Program:
Working the in Community
Garden*



DGS Summer Program

This summer, 28 students gave up their last few weeks of vacation to begin their college journey at SCSU early. The students took 7 credits which included COLL 150; COLL

110, and CMST 192.

The program also included serving over 150 hours with the St. Cloud Community, focusing on recycling and sustainable resources. The Students also adventured

into the great outdoors on educational canoeing, and backpacking trips. All of the students successfully completed the program and were able to begin the fall semester fulfilling all DGS requirements. *

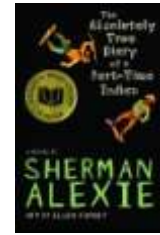
DGS & Honors Common Reading Program

This fall St. Cloud State University DGS & Honors Programs participated in their second Common Reading program. All of the students in DGS and Honors read Sherman Alexie's, *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. The novel is a coming of age story chronicling Arnold 'Junior' Spirit's transition from Wellpinit Reservation High School into Reardon High

school across town, a theme which parallels the first year transition of many SCSU first year students.

Narrated in the first person point of view, Junior struggles with issues such as racism, poverty, alcoholism, developing friendships and the importance of being true to oneself while creating your own path and ideas of success.

To enhance the book, Honors and DGS hosted their second annual *Movie on the Mall* event, which featured the award winning film *Into the Wild*. *



'The smell of popcorn filled the air and before long, the little hill between Centennial and Stewart Hall was filled with the sight of students with blankets.'



Actor Emile Hirsch in the film: *Into the Wild*

2nd Annual *Movie on the Mall*

As the sun set on a crisp October day, DGS and Honors' students slowly began to arrive for the second annual *Movie on the Mall* event. The smell of popcorn filled the air and before long, the little hill between Centennial and Stewart Hall was filled with the sight of students with blankets. The featured movie for this year was "*Into the Wild*", a film directed by

Sean Penn based on a non-fiction book with the same title.

The movie depicts the journey of Christopher McCandles who decides to experience life in the wilderness post graduation from a university; leaving behind family, friends and material items such as his house and money. In this journey of self-discovery, he

comes to his personal realization of the meaning of life and happiness. Despite the cinematic somberness of this movie, going to college can certainly be considered a paralleled journey of self-discovery and Christopher McCandles could be an inspiration to all. *

SCSU Family Weekend Tailgating

September 25 was a lovely autumn day for a family weekend football game. Seizing the opportunity to unite family and friends, DGS took advantage of the weather by tailgating before SCSU's game versus the University of St. Mary. At

two o'clock we staked out a spot in the K- parking lot fired up the grills and started cooking. The sun was shining and the grill was sizzling as students and families began to arrive. Food was in abundance with a variety of hotdogs, burgers,

veggie burgers, cookies, and chips, all rounded with a keg of refreshing root beer. To top the day off the Huskies won 30- 14. What more could you ask of a great cook-out? *

HOME MADE DGS TAILGATING SIGN



Student Service Highlight- Math Skills Center

This month's highlight is the Math Skills Center.

The Math Skills Center was designed to assist students in preparing for beginning college mathematics courses by offering Math 070: *Basic Math Concepts* and Math 072: *Intermediate Algebra*. The Center provides assistance to students through the Skills Center a computer lab / study area located within Centennial Hall equipped with

instructors and peer tutors available to help students work on assignments, review homework or receive immediate assistance when needed. One on one tutoring is also provided for students who are struggling with Math 070 concepts and for further assistance Supplemental Instruction is offered in regularly scheduled one-hour sessions per week. *

Learn more about the Skills Center services at:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/mathskills/>

The Math Skills Center



Traveling to Nepal with DGS Student Molly English



Teachers have never described me as the "typical student." To some elementary teachers, I imagine I was their worst nightmare; I was an ADHD-hyperactive child,

ridiculously talkative and focus-challenged. However, now in college, I find many professors appreciate my creativeness, social skills, intelligence and strong will.

Unlike a typical student, I traveled to third-world Nepal (between China and India) for six weeks this summer to volunteer and do a small journalism internship. I am now a copy editor,

photographer and writer on the SCSU newspaper. I have great plans for myself in the future (that is if I survive with homework and workload). Thank God for those teachers who have had a saint's patience with me. They and the SCSU DGS program understand that even if I didn't get great grades, I still have unlimited potential for success. *

"However, now in college, I find many professors appreciate my social skills, creativeness, intelligence and my strong will"

*COLL 150 Instructor
Brad Grabham*



DGS Instructor of the Year - Brad Grabham

Howdy, my name is Brad Grabham. I am a husband, father, son, brother, teacher, athlete, traveler, & the technology training coordinator at SCSU. Before working at SCSU, I taught high school social studies & special education for eight

years & coached athletic teams for fourteen years. My position at SCSU focuses on teaching faculty, staff, students, & central MN businesses how to use computer applications efficiently & safely. I teach over 200 hands on

workshops focused on applicable technologies each semester and I'm lucky enough to teach COLL 150 & ACCT 490/590. I'm all about experimenting with new tools, finding a deeper understanding, & building communities. *

To learn more or attend one of the technology events register at <http://husky.net.stcloudstate.edu/help/training/default.asp>

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The Journey Begins...

Upcoming Events for the DGS

- **DGS Spring Banquet:**
When: Friday, February 25, 2010
Time: 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Where: Radisson Hotel, St. Cloud, MN
Cost: \$5.00 per ticket
- **Essay Question:** The *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* chronicles Arnold 'Junior' Spirit's journey from Wellpinit Reservation High School to the all white Reardan High School. During this transition Jr. faces challenges and must reconsider his own identity. Drawing upon the novel, discuss your own adventure in making the transition from home to St. Cloud State University.

Essays may be submitted in written composition, visual interpretation or other various creative ways. Questions? Contact us in Centennial Hall 216

* Tickets available through DGS Office: Centennial Hall 216 or send in check through mail to:

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We're on the Web!
www.stcloudstate.edu/dgs

Reminder: Email is the official communication tool on campus, be sure to check your email over break to receive up to date information and announcements!