

MSS

Multicultural Student Services

NEWSLETTER

Hello from all at Multicultural Student Services (MSS),

We in the office of MSS provide for the particular needs of students of color as well as the university community at SCSU. Our goal is to provide comprehensive services by giving academic assistance, encouraging personal development and offering multicultural programming. Within our department are three offices located in three different locations across campus: Multicultural Activities Center (Atwood Memorial Center 154), Multicultural Support Center (Centennial Hall 221), and the Dr. Richard R. Green House (827 4th Ave. S.).

The Multicultural Activities Center works with several student cultural organizations to plan a variety of social and co-curricular programs. Some of our familiar events are: Black History Month, Dia De Los Muertos and Rec Nights. These events add a multicultural outlook to students and staff who attend.

The Multicultural Academic Support Center located in Centennial Hall provides academic services for students to help them build the skills needed to successfully complete college. A computer lab and study space is available for students.

The Multicultural Tutoring Program and Athletes for Success in the Classroom Program, located in the Dr. Richard R. Green House across from the Education Building provides tutoring services for students. Students can sign up for individualized tutoring for most general education classes.

Other programs offered through MSS are the Advanced Preparation Program and College Transition Institute which are summer academic scholarships offered to incoming first year students, and a mentoring program that provides students with a faculty or staff mentor who offers support and guidance to their mentees so they can become successful in their college careers.

Also, in collaboration with other university departments, MSS encourages students to take advantage of the many study-abroad opportunities that are offered. The programs connect students to global opportunities contributing to students' personal development. South Africa, Laos and Thailand, Mexico and China are favorite locations. These trips are short term study abroad programs lasting from 10 days to 3 weeks. Students travelled to Laos and Thailand over winter break and there is still time for students to sign up for the South Africa trip over spring break. The Mexico and China programs are offered during summer intercession. These trips involve students taking a semester long class in Ethnic Studies and traveling with professors.

We truly want students of SCSU to feel connected to campus and each other while gaining knowledge about themselves and their multicultural surroundings, their field of study as well as the global world. Please stop in to any of our locations for more information or visit the MSS website. We are here to help and serve students and would love to see you involved.

South Africa | Short Term Study Abroad

Students must register for Ethnic Studies 305. This course offers an opportunity to study and compare race relations in South Africa and the United States. It includes a spring break visit to South Africa. The course and travel program provides a unique opportunity to study and observe the social transformation of a society, as well as the experience of visiting Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, and comparing social developments in two societies.

Ethnic Studies 305 (Course ID 003822 - M W 3 - 4:15)

Travel Dates: March 3rd - March 15th

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Academic Support Center

The Multicultural Academic Support Center is one of three locations of Multicultural Student Services (MSS) and we can be found in Centennial Hall room 221 and as the name states our focus is academic support. Through this office we offer a Mentoring Program, a Community Luncheon, and monitor academic progress of students as well as provide a computer lab and assist with individualized student needs.

The Mentoring Program is intended to connect students to faculty or staff who can offer personalized career planning, life planning, or advice regarding their education.

To have a mentor is to have someone devoted to you and helping you meet your goals or strategize your life in a way that is supportive and encouraging. We hold the Community Luncheon as an opportunity for mentors and their students to come together at least once a month. A second feature of the luncheon is to provide our campus community with an opportunity to come together as well. We encourage everyone to attend regardless of whether or not they are participating in the Mentoring Program. It also allows us to talk about upcoming or current events, and provide support for one another simply by being together.

In the end, it is our goal to make connections with students that can impact and support their success as college students of St. Cloud State University and as emerging professionals to the world. We urge you to contact any one of our three locations should you have any questions or concerns. We wish you the best always and want you to know we are here to support you in any way that we can. Dream big...let us help.

Richard R. Green House | 827 4th Avenue South

The Dr. Richard R. Green House is named in recognition of the life and service of Dr. Richard R. Green, a nationally recognized leader in the field of education who served as superintendent of Minneapolis and New York City public schools. He also received his master's degree in Special Education from SCSU. The primary goal of the Green House is to aid in the development of athletes and students of color at SCSU while providing academic support services in a flexible and supportive environment.

To the students:

In order to be successful while in college, there are two keys that you need to put on your "key chain" of life. The first is time management. It is imperative that you successfully balance the main aspects of your life while in college. Secondly, you must communicate. It is essential that you communicate with those who can help in order that they you need assistance. The Green House is a tool that can be used to help you succeed in the classroom, and life. Finally, take the necessary steps to be more than just a "name on a piece of paper". Get to know your professors, along with other personnel on campus, begin to network, and develop relationships early. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Richard R. Green House Hours:

Monday – Wednesday 8:00am – 8:00pm.

Thursday 8:00 am – 5:00 p.m.

Friday 8:00 am – 4:00 p.m.

Contact Information:

Phone: (320) 308-5392

E-mail: sakakuk@stcloudstate.edu

or stop in and talk with us directly at
827 4th Avenue South.

In The Community | Dr. Robert Johnson

Robert Johnson, professor at SCSU, was recently awarded a \$2.2 million grant from the Minnesota State College and Universities (MnSCU). The primary goal of the grant is to target students of color in the St. Cloud school district and provide them with academic counseling, tutoring and mentoring, along with financial aid and college admissions preparation.

The grant will also allow Johnson to create the Access and Opportunity Center which is part of a partnership between SCSU, St. Cloud Technical College and the St. Cloud school district. The center will address the various needs Johnson has identified as barriers to student of color success, such as test scores, graduation rates and achievement disparities. Of the more than 4,000 students in the St. Cloud school district, 22 percent are students of color. The graduation rates among this



group is 20 percent lower for African Americans, 15 percent lower for Latino(a)s, and 6 percent lower for Asian students when compared to their White counterparts.

Johnson says, "The fact that this is a MnSCU funded grant shows that the state is beginning to recognize the need to address the changing demographics and prepare the younger generations for the challenges of the future. And that's a good sign." Johnson hopes to employ, in addition to the team of eight academic advisors, a number of SCSU students to work as mentors and tutors to provide the students with help with homework, companionship, "or just being mentors in the sense of giving them peer guidance," he said.

Johnson said he hopes the grant will give students a heads up on getting into college. "If you come to SCSU, that's great. If not and you go somewhere else, that's great. And if you finish, that's even better."

Athletic Spotlight | Kenny Patrick

What comes first, football or school? That is the question every student-athlete faces when they come to play college football. For Kenny Patrick, that was an easy question to answer coming from Waldorf Junior College. Football comes first. At least, then it did.

In his first semester at St. Cloud State University, Kenny struggled in a few of his general education courses, and on the field was splitting time at the running back position. With school being a burden on Kenny and football not that far behind, he started to come to his senses and looked at the big picture of what his future might hold.

That is when Kenny started to take his school seriously and got involved with MSS at the Richard R. Green House. The Richard Green House hosts the "Athletes for Success in the Classroom" program, which not only provides academic services for student-athletes, but also for any student of color who needs tutoring help. Since that time,

Kenny has been a huge asset at the Green House through his ability to help students in the area of Computer Science.



Name: Kenny Patrick "KP"
Hometown: Milwaukee, WI
Major/Minor: Computer Networking/
 Networking Systems
Biggest Role Model: Minnie Patrick
 (KP's Grandma)

Through his work at the Green House, combined with an increased focus on his own studies, Kenny got his major GPA to a 3.0 and was presented with the Student-Athlete of Color of the Year award by MSS.

With his final year approaching for both football and school, Kenny decided before the season that he would switch positions to play on the defensive side of the ball, where he has earned the starting cornerback position on the #2 ranked defense in the NSIC. "He is quiet, and goes about his business," says Coach Lewis, Defensive Coordinator at SCSU. "I like him."

Kenny plans to graduate with an undergraduate major in Computer Networking and a minor in Networking Systems.

New Professor | Andrew Jilani



Multicultural Student Services is proud to welcome Andrew Jilani, Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies, to St. Cloud State University. Before coming to SCSU, Dr. Jilani was a professor at Smith College located in North Hampton, Mass. This fall Dr. Jilani taught Introduction to Ethnic Studies courses and in the spring will be teaching a seminar on Research Methods. He received his PhD in Non-formal and Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in 1998.

Over the course of his teaching career, Dr. Jilani has worked in twelve different countries and speaks seven languages including Spanish, German, Penjabi and Hindi. Dr. Jilani has said he looks forward to learning more about the SCSU community and his main goal is to engage students in such a way that they accept that the U.S. is changing and the importance of the study of multiculturalism.

Making A Difference | Mumbi Mwangi



Every person has within them the ability to make a difference in the lives of others; one only has to look at SCSU assistant professor of Women's Studies, Mumbi Mwangi to see this in progress.

Three years ago, Mwangi had a vision. At the time, she says she did not know how she would see it through, only that she would work hard to make it happen. The vision was to make a difference in the lives of women and children of Africa. Her goal was to start an orphanage for children in her home country of Kenya.

She set out, along with two of her friends and colleagues, to start the National, Global Association for Thrift and Humanitarian Aid (NGATHA) International. The organization has had humble beginnings, but with the perseverance and dedication of Mwangi, it has begun to see the fruits of its hard work and labor.

Currently the orphanage houses 60 students and has a school serving grade levels 1-8. The organization depends on the generous donations of everyday people, but Mwangi admits that sometimes the donations are not enough and has sent her monthly salary in order to make sure the kids in the orphanage are able to survive. She says "I can't let them go one month." She hopes one day a benefactor will come along and provide support for the orphanage but until that day, she continues to work hard. She knows the children of NGATHA International are depending on it. For more information or to contribute to NGATHA International, you can visit the website at <http://www.ngathainternational.org>.

Student Cultural Organizations

Organization

General Meeting

African Student Association (ASA)	Thursdays 5 p.m. - Atwood Glacier North
Asian Students in Action (ASIA)	Mondays 5 p.m. - Atwood Union Room
All Tribes Council (ATC)	
Council of African American Students (CAAS)	Wednesdays 6 p.m. - Atwood Voyageurs South
Hmong Student Organization (HSO)	Tuesdays 5 p.m. - Atwood
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA)	Fridays 2 p.m. - Atwood Voyageurs South
Organization for the Prevention of AIDS in Africa (OPAA)	Tuesdays 5 p.m. - Atwood Voyageurs South
Somali Student Association (SSA)	
Today's Women	Wednesdays 5 p.m. - Atwood Oak Room
Vietnamese Student Association (VSA)	Wednesdays 4 p.m. - Atwood Oak Room

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 20th - MSS Community Gathering- Presidential Inauguration Celebration
(Atwood Ballroom 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.)
- Jan. 22nd - Rec Night (Atwood Underground 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.)
- Jan. 21st - Mixed Blood Theatre Dr. King's Dream (Atwood Theatre 7:30 p.m.)
- Jan. 24th - Somali Night
- Jan. 29th - Dudley Edmondson "Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places (Atwood Theatre 2 p.m.)
- Feb. 4th - Diversity Job Fair (Atwood Ballroom 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)
- Feb. 7th - Ebony Night- (Atwood Ballroom 6 p.m.)
- Feb. 10th - Black History Trivia Contest (Atwood Main Lobby 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.)
- Feb. 17th - Community Luncheon (Garvey Commons 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
- Feb. 18th - Black History Trivia Contest (Atwood Main Lobby 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.)
- Feb. 24 - A Walk through (Black) History (Atwood Mississippi Room 10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m.)
- Mar. 17th- Community Luncheon ((Garvey Commons 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)
- Mar. 21st - Hmong Night
- Mar. 4th - Angela Davis (Ritsche Auditorium 7 p.m.)
- Apr. 21st - Community Luncheon (Garvey Commons 11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

