

DIECUT

digest

NEWSLETTER FOR COMMUNITY ADVISORS

office hours



HANNAH SWIFT
STEARNS HALL

Shoemaker Hall
Wednesday 1:00–4:00pm

W.W. Holes Hall
Monday 1:00–3:00pm

email:
swha0701@stcloudstate.edu

HANNAH POST
COBORN PLAZA APTS

W.W. Holes Hall
Monday 2:00–4:00pm

W.W. Holes Hall
Thursday 2:00–6:00pm

email:
poha0801@stcloudstate.edu

Contact us or stop by our office
if you have any questions or
suggestions

HERE IT IS!

Your last Diecut Digest for the 2010-2011 academic year! We can't believe the year is already wrapping up. Seems like just yesterday we were walking in 90° of pure heat to get to CA training. We hope all of you met all the goals you set for yourselves so that you can wrap up your year nicely. Speaking of wrapping up the year, look at the programming ideas we put together so that you can help your floor create closure. Lastly, we just want to say thank you for such a wonderful year, it has been great working for each and every one of you. Have a great summer, and best of luck in what ever journey your path takes you down. Treat the Resource Room coordinator well next year!

For those of you returning next year, good luck and remember most importantly to take time for yourself and have fun!

CREATING CLOSURE

You may have heard this a few times this year, and been wondering why it is so important. Creating closure on your floor is important because your floor is the place your students have known as home for the past nine months. Some of your residents may be staying in St. Cloud for the summer, with limited family interaction. While others may be moving back home and for some, especially freshman, this transition back home can be harder than the transition they made in the beginning of the year, because they have been on their own for the past few months with no curfew or anyone asking where they have been. Other residents may have made a few best friends here and are afraid of losing contact with those individuals.

The transitions made at the end of the year are typically harder than at the beginning, but with careful planning on your part you can create programming that allows for an easy transition to get residents talking and thinking about the next step. As mentioned in a previous Diecut Digest, I used Hand cut outs and had everyone write on them at our last floor meeting – we wrote things on them like, where we would be living next year, favorite memories from this year etc... then I posted those in the bathroom all around the mirrors so everyone could make connections between the people on the floor and themselves. Creating closure on your floor is important not only for your residents, but you as well. Please make an effort to create floor closure this year.

Closure Programming

- Volunteer to work at an Earth day event on campus
- Plant seeds in small pots and decorate them together
- Have a farewell barbecue
- Create a “yearbook” with photos from the year for each resident
- Create t-shirts and have a t-shirt signing party
- Cook dinner together as a floor – don't forget dessert!

Bulletin Board & Door Decs

- How to make the best of your last weeks here
- Create mini Grad caps - for those graduating, or enjoy your sophomore, junior, senior year door decs
- Make little underwear – residents can write “wear” they’ll be next year on each
- Summer themed BBs and DDs
- Summer sports (tennis/swimming/soccer)
- Spring Cleaning bulletin board

Digest THIS!

2011-2012 Resource Room Coordinator

The Department of Residential Life will be looking for a new resource room coordinator, and a Social Justice and Diversity Advocates, if you are interested in either position please don't hesitate to ask Hannah, Hannah, Chantelle, or “T” about the positions. Applications available now- see Jen M. in Carol Hall.

Digest This! Paper challenge

Paper challenge of 2011, you should enter, the odds are in your favor ;) and the prize will be sweet. The challenge will end on Earth Day, April 22nd

What you need to do to participate in the paper challenge for a chance to win an awesome prize, for you and your floor!

- Show up at the Hannah's office hours and tell them you want to participate in the paper challenge.
- You will receive some supplies from your resource room coordinators that you must incorporate into your door decs some how, you can receive any type of supply, so be prepared with an idea of a door dec you would like to make, and can modify, and don't forget to put your creative pants on
- Use those supplies to create ALL of your door decs, don't forget to make one for the Hannah's, as that will be your ticket for the prize drawing! –Include your name, first and last, hall, and room# on the backside.
- Easy as Pie enter for a chance to win a sweet prize!

(see your Resource Room Coordinators Hannah Post and Hannah Swift in their office hours for more details, and to compete in the challenge.)

Notes from the Resource Room Coordinators

Thanks for an awesome year everyone! It has be fun helping you create door decs, planning events and serving as a resource for you. This is my last year living on campus, next year I will be at home, commuting to SCSU between my classes and student teaching. I plan on graduating next spring, EEK how scary and exciting! If you're staying in St. Cloud this summer look for me cruising around town on my new motorcycle. Take care everyone, and thanks again for a great year.

-Hannah Post

Hello my fellow CAs!

Can you feel it? Spring is in the air and classes will be over before we know it. I hope everyone had a successful year and will be sad to say goodbye to the community you've spent a year building up. Each year, a unique group of people are brought together on every floor (or wing!) and on staff in every hall. Remember all of the things you've learned from the people you've worked with over the last year. Your residents will remember you – so try your best to finish off the year on a positive note. I wish you the best of luck and I will be seeing some of you again this fall for CA training!

of the RRCs,

Hannah Swift

Learning to Serve, Serving to Learn: Making the Connection Between Students and Community

Community Advisors have opportunities to help guide and shape students' experience at the University and help them to feel more connected - both on and off campus. Engaging in service is just one way for students to make a connection to the community. The Volunteer Connection program is here to assist you in connecting students to the community. We are a program within the Center for Student Organizations & Leadership Development. You can set up an appointment for a consultation with one of our staff to learn more about volunteer opportunities, schedule us for a presentation, discuss group activities, and more. Our office is located in Atwood Center, Rm. 160. We can be reached at volunteer@stcloudstate.edu or call us at 320-308-3058 to speak with one of our staff directly.

Whether you are interested in getting involved in the community through volunteering because of personal values, a class assignment, a group/team-building activity, or for another purpose -- there are some important things to keep in mind. The suggestions that follow are based on almost a decade of professional and personal interactions with students and community related to service and social justice work.

Figuring it Out:

- Assess your purpose/motivation -- be honest about it with yourself and anyone you involve.
- Decide what you like to do or what you want to learn more about (i.e. a cause/issue area, passion, population of people, age-range, location/setting, etc.).
- Determine how committed you are to this involvement/issue/cause -- how much time do you have, etc.
- Research opportunities available -- using the online tool through the Central MN United Way at www.unitedwayhelps.org. This is a wonderful resource that allows you to search by issue or interest area, how far you wish to travel to volunteer, or a key word. There are generally hundred of opportunities online. It also gives you direct links to the agency, directions, an email you can send to the agency and more.
- Realize that you can learn many new skills, develop relationships, and network through volunteering. Service in your community should be viewed with the same respect and seriousness as a paid job. There are infinite benefits to you as well as your community through engaging in service.

Connecting with a Community Partner:

- Non-profit staff are generally overworked and underpaid -- so keep this in mind as you plan your activity. You should allow plenty of time to establish the project, get to know the agency and the staff, and find out what their mission and needs really are (versus what you think they may need). They may not be able to accommodate your/your group's need the same week that you contact them.
- Be professional, explain who you are, what it is you are calling about, and inquire as to whether or not they have a need for you/your group to assist with a project -- or to work with them over the course of the year (even better).
- Discuss the size of your group, the time you can devote to volunteering, etc.
- Maintain good communication with the organization throughout your relationship, be on time, be respectful, etc.
- Show interest in them as people and as co-educators that can share wisdom and knowledge -- as well as be potential references and resources in the future.

Considerations for Volunteers:

- Some organizations require criminal background checks (some at your expense - \$20+).
- Some organizations require a length of time that you must put in -- in order to volunteer. Any organization that works with children, elderly, or vulnerable populations of people will likely want consistent volunteers -- versus just one time volunteers. The exception to this is for special events and programs that they may have -- in which you can assist for the day/night.
- Many organizations in this area have difficulty accommodating more than 10-20 people at one time for most volunteer projects. Please check to see what their capacity is for you/your group.
- You may be required to engage in formal or informal training to do certain activities.

Service Benefits/Outcomes for Undergraduate Students:

- Skills Development: gain leadership experience and skills; put your learning into practice; find out hidden talents and interests; show a commitment to civic and social responsibility; gain a well-rounded perspective of your community; gain confidence and understanding of issues that affect your community, develop critical thinking skills; learn conflict resolution skills, and more...
- Personal Development: feel good about yourself and the work you are doing; develop rewarding relationships; share your talents/skills with others; make a difference in your community; develop a commitment to promote racial understanding; influence social values, and more...
- Academic Development: positively affects knowledge gained; grades earned; degrees sought after; time devoted to academic endeavors; and more...
- Career Development: build experience for your resume; learn how to work in a professional environment; network with employers; test out organizations before applying for an internship; get your foot in the door; learn valuable skills that employers need; learn about yourself, and more...

The Volunteer Connection program is "at your service" -- and wants to hear from you about ideas you have for working with community -- especially more than one-time events. We can help you make connections to organizations that may wish to partner with you, your floor, or hall. Partnering with an organization is similar to developing any other relationship -- you ease into it, listen a lot to one another, and make adjustments as you go -- always respecting the other's needs. There is much to be learned and gained through service. We hope you will consider getting involved this year!

THE TAPESTRY

April/May 2011

The Tapestry

The United States is a diverse country. Rather than being a melting pot where assimilation destroys diversity and uniqueness, the US is like a tapestry. "A tapestry is a hand-woven textile. When examined from the back, it may simply appear to be a motley group of threads. But when reversed, the threads work together to depict a picture of structure and beauty" (Sandra Nieto, 2006). We are those threads and the diversity we each bring makes the tapestry, this country, what it is.

APRIL/MAY UPDATE

Welcome to the last edition to the tapestry for the 2010-2011 school year! As you may know the advocate position is centered on being a resource for issues of social identity and social justice in the form of an educator, role model, programmer and student advocate. The main way in which this resource will be applied to a greater use is through you, the CA. It is up to you to utilize these tools for not only your own advancement but the advancement of residents and everyone in your life. Keep us in mind for programming/bulletin board ideas, referrals, or just someone to talk to about social justice and diversity issues. As always this position is meant to be dynamic, just as issues of social justice and diversity are. We value your input so please do not hesitate to share your questions and comments.



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Join Us

If you would like to get involved in the Social Justice and Diversity committee feel free to contact Tatenda or Chantelle With any questions or concerns. Also keep an eye out for applications for the advocate position for the 2011-2012 academic year. Office hours from 3-5 on Thursday in the holes hall resource room.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month

The month of April has been designated Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) in the United States. The goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness about sexual violence and to educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual violence. Each day, people witness a continuum of behaviors that range from being respectful and safe, to sexually abusive and violent.

The 2011 national Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) campaign explores common, everyday behaviors and offers individuals viable, responsible ways to intervene. This primary prevention approach helps to create environments where people are safe in their relationships, families, neighborhoods, schools, work places and communities. This year's SAAM brings together resources and information, thus offering everyone the opportunity to address behaviors before sexual violence occurs.

Freedom day (South Africa)

Freedom day is a South African public holiday celebrated on April 27. It celebrates freedom and commemorates the first post-apartheid elections held on that day in 1994. The elections were the first non-racial national elections where everyone of voting age of over 18 from any race group including non-citizens were allowed to vote, no voters roll was used. Previously, under the apartheid regime, non-whites had only limited rights to vote. Some groups and social movements celebrate a version of Freedom Day called UnFreedom Day in which they mourn the unfreedom still experienced by the poor

What is Xican@ ??

Xican@ is a more recent modification of the traditional term Chican@. Based on an indigenous worldview and identity this self-identification uses Nahuatl (the language or related dialect of the many indigenous groups in what is now Mexico, Central America, and the U.S. Southwest) spelling and pronunciation to validate and embrace the indigenous heritage of the Xican@.

****April is Xican@ history month! For more information on programming go to the St.Cloud State Mecha website.



Event Calendar April/May

Event Calendar April/May

This list of events is by no means complete, keep an eye out for other events on campus. For more information on specific vents visit the campus event calendar at <http://www.stcloudstate.edu/events/default.asp>

Celebrations/awareness days in April

Arbor day- April 5th
World Health Day- April 7th
Buddah's birthday-April 8th
Thai new year-April 13th
Good Friday-April 22
Patriots' day – April 21st
Earth day- April 22nd
Freedom day (south Africa)- April 22nd
Xican@ history month

Celebrations/awareness days in May

May Day-May 1st
Europe Day- May 9th
International Awareness Day for Chronic Immunological and Neurological Diseases (CIND) - May 12th
Start of Tourette Syndrome awareness month-May 15th
Bike to work day-May 19th
Mental Health Awareness Month
South Asian Heritage month
Jewish American Heritage Month

April Events

April 2nd Nepal Night Ritchie Auditorium 5:00-8:00
April 4th Life straws fundraiser Atwood Main Lounge 11:00-1:30
April 4th No Hate week campaign 11:00-3:00
April 4th Opening ceremony Chicano month Ballroom and components 12:00-1:00
April 5th One day without shoes Mall East Stuart side 10:00-3:00
April 4th Race in America Panel Mississippi 2:00-4:00
April 6th Movies with meaning tapped Little theater 6:00-10:00
April 6th Relax and stress day Cascade 8:00-11:00
April 7th Out loud Annual drag show Ballroom 7:00-12:00
April 9th Japan Night Cascade 6:00-9:00
16th April Hmong Night 6:00-9:00
April 11th Understanding Racism and Anti racism workshops Glacier South 4:00-8:00
April 20th Sexual Assault meeting Lotus 9:00-10:00

May Events

Gender Equity committee meeting Thursday May 5th 11:30-2:30 Granite.
Finals and semester end of year celebration on Friday May 6th in the Cascade

Fixed weekly events in April:

Gender Violence meetings Mondays Granite room 2-3
We are one meetings Mondays Granite room 2-3
Hmong student Assoc meetings Wednesdays Voyageurs 3-6
Queer people of color meetings Monday 5-6 Columbine
Muslim students assoc meeting 3-4 alumni room Monday
Students for a free Palestine meeting Oak room 4-5:30 Wednesday
Out loud meeting 4-5 union meeting Wednesday
Today's women meeting Mississippi Thursday 3-5
Youth between boarders meeting Apocalypse room Thursday 4-5
African students association meeting Glacier Thursday 5-6
Liberian students meeting Monday 5-7 Mississippi

This is the last tapestry this year good luck with finals !!!!!!!!!!!