Welcome from the Director

The American Indian Center (AIC) had another eventful school year in 2013-2014! First and foremost, the AIC staff would like to congratulate all of our 22 American Indian graduates! We are proud of both undergraduate and graduate students for a job well done. Good luck in all of your future endeavors; please stay connected with us and SCSU, and remember you are always welcome to come back to visit us anytime.

We began the New Year by participating in the Power-in-Diversity Conference. The AIC sponsored the Dakota Red Tree drum group from Morton, MN and held an “Idle No More” round dance to start the second day of the conference. Ojibwe elder William Wilson was on hand to give the blessing.

During the spring semester, we were honored to have three guests for the American Indian Speakers Series: George Goggleye spoke on the End-of-Life Issues for American Indians; Gina Miranda Kingsley gave a presentation on the Mayan Calendar; and Jim Northrup spoke about Stories From the Rez and Beyond. All three presentations were well attend and received excellent reviews. In March, the AIC co-sponsored with the Department of Campus Involvement our 18th annual service trip to the Northern Cheyenne reservation. On this trip, 13 students joined the AIC director in learning about Indian culture, history and providing service to the Montana Boys & Girls Club. The snow stopped falling in April just in time to have nice weather for our 21st Annual Spring Pow Wow. We had an increase in attendance, but our dancers, drum groups and vendor attendance was down slightly. Overall, the Pow Wow went smoothly and everyone enjoyed the traditional meal of buffalo. Plans are being made for next year’s Pow Wow.

This year, the AIC created an internship position which was filled by Justin Harvey, a graduate student from the Cultural Resource Management program. Justin worked all semester on a very special project for the AIC. His project was to develop a document or fact sheet that provides details regarding the original inhabitants that occupied the land where St. Cloud State University was built. This historical knowledge is valuable for Native and non-Natives to know and honor the people who came before us. The brochure Justin has created is in its final draft and will be available this fall.

The AIC strives to do its best to help American Indian students in all academic and non-academic issues as they occur. We are here to listen and to help students with the necessary steps to solve problems and overcome barriers. We did receive help this year from our American Indian Advisory Board (AIAB).
This advisory board membership includes a tribal chair, tribal business people, elders and educators from American Indian communities from Minnesota. Several of our board members are SCSU alumni. In 2013, the American Indian Advisory Board gave the Vice President of Student Life & Development negative feedback on the issue of the AIC director reporting to the MSS director; that issue was never discussed further. The purpose of the AIAB is to provide advice to the SCSU President on American Indian education matters and this was a clear example of how helpful and valuable they are. The AIC director and staff are thankful for having an American Indian Advisory Board in place.

This summer, we will be having our 8th Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators (NSSWE) on the Fond du Lac reservation in Cloquet, MN. This is our third summer of sponsoring the two-day Native Skywatchers program at Fond du Lac and the AIC at St. Cloud State University. So, our summer will be busy providing Native history, language and culture to educators as well as planning for the next school year. See you in the fall!

Sincerely,
Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, Director

New Employee

The American Indian Center welcomed a new employee to its team this fall! Stop by and say hello to student employee Mariah O’Brien!

Mariah O’Brien is a freshman at St. Cloud State University where she will be majoring in nursing. She began working at the AIC in January, 2014. Mariah is from Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe. Some of her goals are to study abroad and eventually join the Peace Corps. She has volunteered and participated in many events for the AIC. Mariah said “I love the people I work with and look forward to staying involved with the American Indian Center.”

Alumni Corner

Rebecca Fineday graduated from the nursing program at St. Cloud State University in 2009. She currently works as a full time RN, BSN at Red Lake.
On April 22, 2014, Jim Northrup spoke in front of St. Cloud State students sharing “Stories from the Rez and Beyond.” Jim is an Anishinaabeg newspaper columnist, poet, performer and political commentator from the Fond du Lac Indian Reservation in Minnesota. Jim writes a syndicated column, Fond du Lac Follies, which is distributed in The Circle, The Native American Press, and News From Indian Country. Fond du Lac Follies was named Best Column at the 1999 Native American Journalists Association convention. From 1990-1992, Jim worked as a roster artist for the COMPAS Writer in the Schools Program. He has been a Mentor in the Loft Inroads Program, a Judge for the Lake Superior Contemporary Writers Series and The Jerome Fellowship, and a Member of the Minnesota State Arts Board Prose Panel. Jim also has given radio commentaries on the Superior Radio Network, National Public Radio, Fresh Air Radio, and the BBC-Scotland.

On February 20, 2014, George Goggleye spoke to St. Cloud State students on Native Perspective on the End-of-Life topic. The American Indian Center Speaker Series was proud to present George Goggleye, former Head of Security at the Palace on the Leech Lake reservation. Goggleye spoke on his experiences as a member of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe as well as his relationship as an elder, advisor and consultant for the SCSU American Indian Center.

On April 9, 2014, Gina Miranda Kingsley presented at SCSU. She talked about the Mayan Calendar and how this ancestral knowledge could be beneficial to your life. Gina is a Minnesotan grandmother, mother and calendar keeper. Born in Mesoamerica, she graduated as a computer analyst and programmer in Central America. She came to Minnesota and studied archeology at Hamline University. This helped her to unravel events that got triggered by an old shaman or spiritual guide she had encountered in Central America. This spiritual guide taught a young Gina about the Mayan calendar and told her that her destiny was to teach, understand, and keep track of the days. In her presentation, Gina related how turns on the river brought her to Minnesota to begin a mission as a messenger for the ancestral time, and how that knowledge unlocks the mysteries of times and how it affects our lives.

Iyekiyapiwin (Darlene St. Clair) is an assistant professor at St. Cloud State University, teaching American Indian Studies, and is the director of the Multicultural Resource Center. Her career has focused on the education of Native peoples—from early childhood to college. Much of her work has concerned the integration of Native cultures, histories and languages into curricula, and the arts and cultural expressions of Native peoples. She is Bdewakantunwan Dakota and an enrolled member of the Lower Sioux Indian Community in Minnesota. On April 10, 2014 Darlene presented Pow Wows 101 in Atwood Theatre.
Outstanding American Indian Student Awards

On April 24, 2014 two students were recognized with the Outstanding American Indian Student Award. The undergraduate student presented with this award for the second year in a row was Rachel Fairbanks, enrolled member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe. Rachel just finished her last semester of classes, pursuing a double major in Community Psychology and Chemical Dependancy, and will complete her internship in the fall of 2014. When asked what her future plans were, it was clear that she is determined to go to law school, with Harvard as her goal. Rachel also shared her story in the following:

“A professor once told me that I would never attain the level of education of my peers. He explained that my parent’s education level and where I am from indicate how successful I will be. Luckily for me, I am not defined by personal opinion/bias, society or statistics. I determine what I will achieve and I teach my children that as well. I show them that as a non-traditional student, it is never too late to accomplish our goals. Life is not a race; rather a journey, one that has beautiful scenery along the way. My LSAT books are here, and I am preparing for the new adventure that my children and I will soon experience. So, to my children I would like to say, do not let people define you, define yourselves. Do not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of this fast paced world. Know who you are as Indigenous people and lead by example for you are our future, and with hard work & dedication, you can achieve whatever you set your minds to.”

It is evident that Rachel’s summer will be filled with continued community involvement and studying for the LSAT that she plans to take in September. Rachel stated “This year has been an emotional rollercoaster. With the support of the AIC, Harry Jackson from Richard Green House, my advisor and friends, I was able to work through and get things done. I could not have done it without all of their support. I feel fortunate to have made strong connections during my time here at SCSU. My children and I came here alone, but are forever changed by the friendships made that we will hold dear to our hearts.”

The graduate student presented with this award was Aaron Nordrum, descendant of the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa. He graduated from SCSU with a double major in Psychology and Community Psychology. He is currently in the Marriage and Family Therapy graduate program at SCSU. Since moving to St. Cloud in 2010, Aaron has worked hard towards obtaining an education while contributing to the university and community. He is currently a member of All Tribes Council, American Indian Advisory Board, and is the Graduate Assistant at the American Indian Center. He was involved with and contributed to Main Street, the House Blessing, Native Leadership Retreat, the Real Columbus Day, and other AIC events. As the Graduate Assistant, Aaron coordinates the Engage Program which promotes SCSU and the AIC to the indigenous population throughout Minnesota. Aaron was a student leader on the Lame Deer service trip and assisted in the selection of participants.
Aaron is very involved with the St. Cloud community, having volunteered at Anna Marie’s Women’s Shelter as a mentor for male teens, Habitat for Humanity ReStore, and the St. Cloud Children’s Home Experiential Learning Program. Aaron is also employed at REM Central Lakes working with individuals who have disabilities and as a Youth Counselor at the St. Cloud Children’s Home. He coaches kickboxing in the community at Downtown Gym and Fitness. He is involved with Excel Dog Training in St. Cloud and is working towards becoming a certified therapy team with his dog Thor.

When talking with Aaron about his goals after graduation he had this to say: “I have always had a love for dogs and I believe the use of animal assisted therapy has been underutilized by professionals in the field of family therapy. I was able to see firsthand how big of an impact a dog can have on an individual’s treatment progress while working at the St. Cloud Children’s Home. The reactions and behaviors of the children around the animal motivated me to get further training in this area. I believe Animal-Assisted Therapy is beneficial for clients as well as the animals. The more working dogs we have, the less that will be put down or be in shelters.”

Aaron had a message for everyone at the AIC. “I am so grateful for Jim and everyone at the AIC who gives me support and encouragement on a daily basis. I have a piece of my culture back that I lost for many years. The opportunities given to me at the AIC have enhanced my education and professional experiences. Thank you so much for everything you have done for me!”

Student Spotlight

Dylan DeCoteau has proven to be a fantastic American Indian student here at St. Cloud State University. Dylan is an enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Tribe in Belcourt, North Dakota. Dylan has been a student employee at the AIC for the past three years. He got involved with the AIC when attending the Lame Deer Spring Break Service Trip in 2011. He stated, “I enjoy the atmosphere, the people that I meet and work with, as well as the events we get to put on such as the Native Leadership Retreat, Mainstreet Days, speaker series, house blessing, the dare to dream conference, the annual SCSU Powwow, and the retention luncheons.”

Dylan is also a member of All Tribes Council which he says “has helped me gain a better understanding of my culture, allowed me to become more involved, and be a part of something bigger than myself. The AIC is where I feel comfortable.” Dylan is in his fourth year at SCSU. He intends to pursue graduate school in California and is looking for internships in the film studies department. He enjoys writing, directing, critiquing films and says his dream is “to be a part of a film that is widely praised.”

Hear what Dylan had to say about his experience at SCSU here:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XOHQmB7iA8
On April 12, 2014 the American Indian Center (AIC) and the All Tribes Council (ATC) hosted St. Cloud State University’s (SCSU) 21st Annual Pow Wow. The entire week leading up to the powwow was the celebration of American Indian Awareness Week (AIAW). AIAW is designed to bring awareness to the community about American Indian issues, history, and perspectives. Each day during the week, the AIC invited a guest speaker, or hosted a film that promoted awareness to those eager to learn. Beginning on Monday, the AIC presented on its Lame Deer Spring Break Service Trip. Tuesday provided an American Indian Movie Screening of Dakota 38. Gina Miranda Kingsley shared her Mayan knowledge with SCSU students on Wednesday. Darlene St. Clair’s Pow Wows 101 presentation was held on Thursday. Friday evening was the building of the traditional arbor. The arbor could not have been completed without the amazing help of all the volunteers who took the time out of their busy schedules to come and make the arbor building a success. A big thank you to all who helped!

Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m., the 21st Annual Pow Wow officially began! Participation was high with nearly 100 dancers, 10 vendors, and 5 drum groups. The Pow Wow was a great success thanks to Mickey Hodges who performed as the Master of Ceremonies and Tom Mason as Arena Director. Walter “Super” Labatte and Crystal Stempson did a wonderful job as the Pow Wow’s head dancers. The Red Tree Drum Group was host drum this year with invited drum groups Hoka-Hey, Buck Lake, and Prairie Thunder. This year’s Pow Wow had a hand drum contest as well as a potato dance contest with Grand entries at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and the community meal at 5:00 p.m. A great thank you goes out to all who participated and volunteered with this year’s Pow Wow!!
ENGAGE Program

The ENGAGE Program provides opportunities for individuals and groups of American Indian students to sample the university experience at SCSU, and enables them to fully explore campus life through a one or two day visit.

This Spring the AIC had one participant in the ENGAGE Program which was a group from Turtle Mountain lead by Shelby Couch. The group toured St. Cloud State University campus and the American Indian Center on April 26, 2014.

AIC Luncheons

Every other Wednesday the American Indian Center hosts a luncheon for all staff and students at St. Cloud State University. The luncheons are a time to share and hear other people’s stories, make new friends, and enjoy a good meal. Join us for a luncheon and get to know the American Indian Center’s staff and students!

Scholarship Recipients

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<td>Jonah Isham</td>
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<td>Megan JoAnn Phillips</td>
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<td>BrieAnna Lindquist</td>
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Congratulations Graduates!!

Congratulations to the following Spring 2014 American Indian Graduates! We wish you good luck and great success with your future endeavors!

Undergraduates

Shannon Miller
Vanessa Albright
Nickolas Peterson
Cyndi Freilinger
Michael DeNucci
Ne’Angela Scott
Victoria Eliszewski
Casey Hardie
Griffin Trevino
Trista Linn
Samantha Marchik
Macy Olson
Comrade Tripp
Becky Blackorbay

Undergraduates

Rebecca Walz
Ashley Kalkbrenner
Eric Poggenburg
Kristina McCoy
Ryan Fitzgerald
Lensa Ahmed
Dylan Maitland

Masters

Nicholas Taylor
Christina Hazen
Lindsey Reiners
Samantha Johnson
Jeffrey Guest
Amber Kent

SCSU Academic Calendar
Summer 2014

May 19
Classes Begin Summer Block 1

May 26
Memorial Day Holiday-No Classes, Offices Closed

June 26
Last Day of Summer Block 1

June 30
Classes Begin Summer Block 2

July 3
Deadline for Reporting Grades Summer Block 1

July 4
Independence Day Holiday-No Classes, Offices Closed

August 7
Last Day of Summer Block 2

August 13
Deadline for Reporting Grades Summer Block 2

May 19
Classes Begin Summer Block 1

May 26
Memorial Day Holiday-No Classes, Offices Closed

June 26
Last Day of Summer Block 1

June 30
Classes Begin Summer Block 2

July 3
Deadline for Reporting Grades Summer Block 1

July 4
Independence Day Holiday-No Classes, Offices Closed

August 7
Last Day of Summer Block 2

August 13
Deadline for Reporting Grades Summer Block 2
Support Services

The American Indian Center offers a number of support services to American Indian students on the St. Cloud University campus. All Indian students are encouraged to utilize these services.

Discussion and assistance in:

- Admission process
- Financial Aid
- Personal concerns
- Academic concerns
- Tutoring
- Advising
- Housing
- Career development

Referrals to appropriate SCSU agencies when necessary.

Native Leadership Retreat for all students helping them to become comfortable in their new campus and communities.

Services to Indian student organizations to enable students to become involved in student activities and meet other Indian students.

Social activities are offered throughout the academic year to help students make connections.

Speaker Series events bring American Indian presenters to the SCSU campus. The presenter speaks on a variety of Indian topics.

Student Retention Luncheons are every other Wednesday at noon. These gatherings are a great opportunity to share your story, hear others, and enjoy good food.

Computer lab is available for students to access e-mail and complete coursework.

American Indian Resource Center is a source of educational material relevant to the American Indian.

A quiet place to read a book, write a paper, or study is available.

Are you Native but haven’t stopped by the AIC?

Do you want to learn more about what the AIC has to offer you?

*NEW STUDENTS*

If you are a student who has never visited the AIC, stop by and meet the Director, Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, to get a tour and learn about our services!

All Tribes Council

Another opportunity for students to get involved is joining All Tribes Council. ATC is a student organization which supports the social and academic needs of American Indian Students at St. Cloud State University.

For more information contact
Jonah Isham (President) at isijo1301@stcloudstate.edu
or
Dylan Decoteau (Vice President) at dedy0901@stcloudstate.edu

ATC Office located at
Atwood Memorial Center 117
Native Skywatchers - Ojibwe & D(L)akota Star Knowledge
Educator & Community Workshop - Everyone Welcome.
Fond du Lac Tribal & Community College, Mon & Tues, June 23 & 24, 2014
St. Cloud State University Planetarium, Wed & Thurs, June 26 & 27, 2014
Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators

(NSSWE)
June 16 - 20, 2014
Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College
Cloquet, MN

The Native Studies Summer Workshop for Educators is designed to increase the knowledge, sensitivity and awareness of Minnesota educators on the histories, cultures and languages of the federally recognized tribes and bands in Minnesota in order to increase their effectiveness in working with American Indian students and teaching American Indian content to all students.

Basic Registration Cost: $495

This workshop can be taken for undergraduate or graduate credit. CEUs are also available.

Registration & information available online:
http://www.stcloudstate.edu/aic/workshops.aspx

Sponsored by

SCSU Multicultural Resource Center * SCSU Ethnic Studies Department * SCSU History Department

St. Cloud State University
The American Indian Center (AIC) and the Department of Campus Involvement (DCI) sponsored a Spring Break Service Trip to the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation in March 2014. Thirteen St. Cloud State University (SCSU) students and Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, AIC Director, participated in this annual trip. The necessity for this trip is multi-dimensional. From a University perspective, this provides students, faculty and staff with a first-hand opportunity to experience a different culture, customs, and community while relating to issues about which they may not have otherwise learned. The trip impacts student’s college and life experience in a way that increases the likelihood that they will remain in school and continue to engage in service throughout their lives. From a community perspective, the trip facilitates much needed cultural exchange and dialogue as well as service that strengthens the infrastructure of under served, marginalized communities across the country.

Trip recruitment began in the fall of 2013, resulting with six American Indian students participating. Trip participants engaged in service activities which typically include educating or mentoring youth, assisting older persons, household/building/environmental trail repair and maintenance and community building projects. Students who engage in these types of service-learning experiences report having stronger relationships with faculty and are more likely to be happy with their college experience; thus they exhibit higher retention rates and greater likelihood of graduating than students who do not have exposure to service learning.

We will be going back to the Northern Cheyenne reservation in March 2015, and it would be great to have some of our new entering American Indian students go with us.

Below are reflections from some of the participants:

“\textit{It’s difficult to put my experiences at Lame Deer into words, but one thing I can confidently state is that I personally find it almost impossible to define it as a “service trip,” since I feel like the Northern Cheyenne community (and the individuals at the Boys & Girls Club especially) did far more service for me as their guest than I could ever have hoped to do for them. From their willingness to offer profound insight into their culture and traditions to strangers to their constant acts of generosity, I came away from this trip wishing I could get to know these people better (and hope to actually do so in the near future). Not only that, but the individuals that accompanied me to the reservation from SCSU were a true pleasure to become better acquainted with, and I hope to see them more often in the future, as well. If anyone is uncertain of whether or not they should apply for this trip next year, they shouldn’t be. I know I’m putting in my application.}” - Sam Trivette

- Lame Deer Con’t on next page
“This year’s trip was once again a unique experience. It was exciting to watch a group of individuals that barely knew each other come together, through the team building exercises and projects performed at the boys and girls club. It is always amazing to see the transformation in individuals throughout the week as they become comfortable with the staff and children at the boys and girls club. Although it is a service trip I believe the participants benefit far more than they are able to give, by engaging in cultural activities that they are unfamiliar with and learning a small piece of information about a culture they know very little about. I believe it is of utmost importance for one to personally experience firsthand what it is like in a world away from the one they are familiar with vs. reading out of a textbook or listening to someone talk about a culture. Once again the Cheyenne Nation were warm and welcoming, sharing their culture, stories, food and way of life to people they do not know. I am truly thankful for the boys and girls club and all that they do for their community and children as well as their friendship, kindness and generosity.” - Rachel Fairbanks

Back: L to R: Lee Moua, Nick Neuman, Brennen Grinnel, Jack Nieters, Aaron Nordrum, Sam Trivette
Front: L to R: Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, Rachel Fairbanks, Eyrun Johannsdottir, Anne Jensen, Tammara Dejesus, Miranda Simmons, Dylan DeCoteau

“The trip to Lame Deer was an experience I will always remember. This was not just a service trip but a much enjoyed Spring Break. I only hope I contributed to the community of Lame Deer as much as I feel I got in return. Everyone involved was so welcoming and thankful it really made the trip inspiring and encouraged me to return. Throughout the week I was able to make new friends, interact with youth doing different activities, and also learn about the Cheyenne culture. I am deeply grateful for the Lame Deer community welcoming us in such a respectful way and everyone who was involved in making this trip happen.” - Aaron Nordrum

SCSU students playing with children at the Boys and Girls Club.