Welcome to another year!

Aniin,

Welcome all new American Indian students as well as all the returning Indian students to Fall Semester 2006 at SCSU! I hope you had a fun, relaxing, successful, etc. summer and are excited about the many opportunities for growth this year at the American Indian Center. As the Director of the American Indian Center on campus, I look forward to continuing the excellent support services for American Indian students, families and communities. I welcome everyone to stop by the center to visit with us and see what the Center has to offer.

Theresa Miller has been hired as our new full-time office manager at the American Indian Center. Theresa has worked for us last year as the Assistant to the Director and during the summer months, as the interim office manager. Theresa brings fifteen years of office manager experience and in addition she does a wonderful job facilitating our language table. Diane Hanson after 11 years at the AIC resigned to take another position within MnSCU system. Diane found it hard to leave, but was excited to start her new position as an on-line student advisor for several MnSCU community colleges. Tom is currently on sabbatical and plans on returning in November. Dana Bultema, our AIC graduate assistant, will be working another year at the AIC as well as completing her internship in the Advising Center. We are very happy that Janelle Leblanc has agreed to continue to offer advising services on site at the American Indian Center and that she will spend an additional extra day each week with us. Stop by the AIC to welcome and meet the staff.

Our entire AIC staff is excited about two new initiatives we are developing this year. This fall, we are welcoming over thirty new first year students and The Native Leadership Retreat is an opportunity for American Indian students to increase their sense of belonging to the AIC as well as the campus. Our second project involves the development of the American Indian Studies Summer Institute, which will be designed to bring sensitivity and awareness of American Indian history, culture and language to faculty, staff and administrators. We would like to invite everyone to stop by the center to join our community!

Please contact me anytime with questions, concerns, or ideas you have.
I wish all of you a happy, healthy, productive year at SCSU!
Miigwech,

Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, Director
American Indian Center
320-308-5449
jkolodzne@stcloudstate.edu

Would you like to learn how to speak Ojibwe?

Join us at our Ojibwe Language tables held every Wednesday at 6:30 pm until 8 pm. Theresa Miller and Patrick Tom will be facilitating the group. It is a wonderful way to meet new people and learn a new language. All levels of fluency are welcome whether you are just beginning, want to brush up, or perhaps you would like a place to talk with others in Ojibwe.
Student Spotlight: Patrick Tom (Ojibwe)

Born: Rain River Ontario, and raised on Big Grassy Reservation
Received his Carpentry Degree from Bemidji Technical College, MN
Patrick started at SCSU spring semester 2006. He is looking to earn his degree in Community Psychology.

As long as he can remember friends and family have come to him when something needed to be talked over; he is a born listener. He would like to get his degree so that he can become a professional counselor and work in a profession he enjoys and finds very true to his personality and nature.

Patrick volunteers much of his time at the American Indian Center. He is co-facilitating this years Ojibwe Language Table that takes place on Wednesday nights at 6:30. He helps out at the Cultural Project Nights. He is a great asset to the center in that he helps and attends many of the events held throughout the year. Did we mention that Patrick is also co-chair of the All Tribes Council? We don’t know how he does it, but we sure do appreciate it!

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Faculty Spotlight: Theresa Miller (Cherokee)

Theresa is the new full time office manager at the American Indian Center. She says “it’s not just a great job, but being here is a passion.” She loves working with the Native students and community members, planning events, and giving tours of the house. “The American Indian Center is technically an office, and it is also ‘home’ for many of the people who walk through these doors,” Theresa asserts.

This year, she is working with Patrick Tom on developing the Ojibwe Language Table. While it will remain informal as in past years, it will contain more curriculum type learning tools. Other activities being planned at the AIC are just as exciting- this will be the first year the Center has put on a retreat for incoming Native students. “We’re very excited about the potential of this retreat,” states Theresa. She hopes the retreat will help new students feel more comfortable becoming involved in the activities at AIC. “That would be a very nice change here at the American Indian Center, to see people really using the resources that are available here.”

Change is something that Theresa handles easily. Not only has she taken on new responsibilities for her job, she recently moved from Waite Park to the Southeast side of St. Cloud. Her family is enjoying their new home. Theresa’s two children, eleven and fifteen, occasionally stop by the AIC to see mom “in action” and say they are proud she “works at such a cool place”. Theresa’s partner Devyn, frequently visits the Center and also feels the American Indian Center is like a home away from home.

Theresa is working toward her degree in English, and plans to write professionally for “some obscure social justice publication” in the future.

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Indian Taco Stand

Wednesday, October 18th, 2006
11 am - 2 pm at the American Indian Center
All proceeds will help support All Tribes Council!

Annual Pipestone Trip

Join the AIC on the annual trip to Pipestone, MN
October 13th, 2006
We will be departing the American Indian Center at 8 am.
We wish to thank everyone who sat on the American Indian Advisory Board last year and look forward to seeing many of you again this year. We especially would like to thank Phil Little Thunder for his participation. We wish him the best on his relocation; he will be missed this year.

left to right: Jim Knutson-Kolodzne, Francis Keyona, and Phil Little Thunder

**AIC Native Leadership Retreat**

The American Indian Center at St. Cloud State University is pleased to announce the first annual Native Leadership Retreat on September 29th – October 1st, 2006. This weekend getaway is designed for new students at St. Cloud State University who would benefit from expanding their support network within the St. Cloud Native community.

The benefits of attending the retreat are to develop relationships, build a cohort of students to study with, and to be eligible for prize drawings such as textbook gift cards and many other useful prizes. Located in a wooded setting on a lake, culturally relevant activities will revolve around having fun, relaxation, and creating a strong community. We will have a campfire both Friday and Saturday nights, team building activities, open gym time, movie night, a Talking Circle, and of course food and refreshments.

The Native Leadership Retreat was developed from a presentation called “Rites of Passage” at the MnSCU Students of Color conference. For the last thirteen years, Carleton College has provided a Women of Color Leadership Retreat with a measured persistence rate of 98%. According to Dean of Students at Carleton College, Hudlin Wagner, the emphasis of the retreat is validation of the whole student, creating a support network, and addressing feelings of isolation that students of color often experience at a mainstream college.

While modeled after the retreat at Carleton College, St. Cloud State University’s Native Leadership Retreat is unique. Serving all incoming Native Freshmen at SCSU, our focus is to serve individual student needs from a Native perspective. In the future, students who attend the retreat will serve in leadership roles and/or mentoring at subsequent retreats.

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**Harvest Festival**

October 26, 2006
5 pm at the American Indian Center
Join us at the AIC for a supper celebrating native foods.
There will be a speaker following supper at 7:00 pm.

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**Annual AIC House Blessing**

The Annual AIC House Blessing was held on Wednesday, September 13th. Once again we were able to hold the event outdoors with gorgeous weather. We want to thank all who participated in the house blessing, especially, George Gogglye Sr., who was the spiritual leader again this year. Little Otter was the drum group with Pete Gahbow being lead singer. Thank you again for making the blessing such a wonderful and successful way to start the school year.
Events:

OJIBWE LANGUAGE TABLE:
Takes place every Wednesday at 6:30 pm
(unless SCSU is on a holiday or break)

CULTURAL PROJECT NIGHT: (some events may change) Mondays from 5:30 pm - 8 pm at the American Indian Center unless otherwise noted.
Sept. 23, 2006 - Saturday: Moccasin Sewing
Oct. 14, 2006 - Saturday: Pipestone Carving
Nov. 6, 2006 - Monday: Loom Beading

SPEAKER SERIES: 7 pm at the American Indian Center.
Sept. 21, 2006 - Thursday: Charles Black Lance
Oct. 9, 2006 - Monday: Sandy White Hawk
Oct. 26, 2006 - Thursday: Rachel King

Additional Events:

September (2006)
13th, Wednesday: American Indian Center House Blessing (4 pm, AIC)
20th, Wednesday: Indian Taco Stand (11 am - 2 pm, AIC)
29th - 1st, Friday (4 pm) until Sunday (1 pm): American Indian Student Retreat (Camp Friendship)

October (2006)
9th, Monday: Indigenous Day - The Truth About Columbus (Atwood)
11th - 12th, Wed - Thursday: MN Indian Education Assoc. Convention (Mahnomen, MN)
13th, Friday: American Indian Center Pipestone Trip (depart from AIC at 8 am)
18th, Wednesday: Indian Taco Stand (11-2 pm, AIC)
19th - 22nd, Thursday - Sunday: National Indian Education Assoc. Conference (Alaska)
23rd, Monday: Pumpkin Carving Contest (all day at AIC)
26th, Thursday: AIC Harvest Fest (5 pm, AIC)