



ACADEMIC & FACULTY NEWS

E-newsletter from the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs

Message from the Provost

As we complete the Fall 2015 semester, I would like to share some news and observations from my first semester at St. Cloud State.

It was a pleasure to engage with so many of you on the subject of student success. There is no doubt in my mind that SCSU takes student success seriously and is committed to further improvements in student retention, completion, learning and career preparation. Through two well attended campus conversations, surveys and numerous other discussions, I listened to excellent suggestions on moving the dial on advising, transfer, student engagement and closing the achievement gap. Based on what you said, we will identify specific actions we will pilot this coming year and continue next fall. On a related note, I am pleased to inform you that St. Cloud State has been chosen as one of the 40 campuses selected to participate in the American Association for State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) national project, Re-Imagining the First Year of College. This three year initiative will bring together 40 AASCU campuses that will focus on increasing student success by re-thinking programs, policies and practices that affect first year students. Our work together will be ground-breaking, creating insights and understandings that can be used at all 420 AASCU institutions and beyond. Many of you will be involved in the project and I look forward to our work together on this exciting initiative.



This fall we have been engaged in discussions with our community college partners – St. Cloud Technical and Community College and North Hennepin Community College – to offer degree completion programs onsite. These strategic partnerships will be extended to other community colleges in the northern tier of the Twin Cities as we prepare to serve a growing need in that region. At the same time we are looking at a new site location for our Twin Cities Graduate Center. We are working with a real estate services firm to find a suitable location for the next St. Cloud State University Twin Cities Center (although that name may change!).

Some of my most enjoyable moments of the fall were attending various events that showcased the great work of our students and faculty – the education abroad fair, the service-learning celebration, the various cultural nights, and of course Husky Hockey!

It is fitting that we closed the fall semester with commencement. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the ceremony where we got a chance to celebrate with our students and their families and friends.

I thank you for all that you do on behalf of our students. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season with peace, joy and prosperity in the New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Ashish

Academic Affairs Reports

Research and Sponsored Programs



Dr. Marilyn Hart

The dedication of faculty and staff to creating new avenues of support is vital to our university's mission and academic objectives. Congratulations to Assistant Professor Kevin Ahlgren, Department of Geography and Planning, who received a subaward funded by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency for his work investigating a number of geophysical phenomena in Bolivia using GPS and gravimetric measurements; and to Professor Patricia Bresser, Nursing Department, who was awarded funding from the CentraCare Health Foundation to develop an interdisciplinary Advance Care Planning (ACP) certification course. Additional Research Spotlights are available through the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs' electronic newsletter [Research Now](#).

Retention



Adam Klepetar

Much energy and conversation are devoted to student success at SCSU. One common measure of student success is student retention. Nationally, retention rates are reported for first-time, full-time students persisting from their first fall into their second fall. Though fall-to-fall retention is an important measure, and considered a strong predictor of ongoing student success, we believe it is important to focus our student success efforts more broadly. A student's decision to continue at SCSU includes consideration of both academic and personal variables; thus, we must focus our outreach efforts on the individual needs of our students. In University College, Financial Aid, and the Advising Center, staff proactively call, meet with, and reach out through various channels to thousands of students to help them identify academic pathways and viable financial options. Multicultural Student Services collaborates with Athletics to identify students that are academically "at-risk," and works intrusively to help students optimize their academic experiences. First Year program staff reach out to students in our Academic Collegiate Excellence (ACE) program throughout the semester to monitor their progress and intervene as needed. Faculty across campus work daily with students to enhance their skills and to provide guidance in discipline and career exploration. Student retention is everyone's responsibility.

This year we identified and targeted outreach to two specific groups of students – first year students who did not register for classes within 24 hours of their registration windows opening up and students who registered for fewer than 15 credits for the semester. For the first year students who did not register right away, we contacted them and offered an opportunity for them to meet with an advisor. Through conversation, we also tried to determine why these students delayed their registration. The purpose of our outreach to the second group of students was to advise them toward timely graduation and better understand our students' credit-taking behavior. During Orientation, 92% of students indicated they planned on graduating in four years or less; yet, average credit taking behavior of our students does not reflect this commitment. Working together, we will enhance our students' success.

In challenging budget times, helping students to find an academic home in which they can thrive is one of the best ways we can all help. One simple way for faculty to become more involved is to use Mapworks, a tool that is focused on student success. Advising and First Year Program staff are always willing to do group or individual sessions on how to use Mapworks to help promote student success. Interested in learning more? Feel free to contact us at advising@stcloudstate.edu or call the Advising Center at 320-308-6075.

Center for International Studies



Shahzad Ahmad

New Partnerships

During the past academic year, St. Cloud State University developed new agreements which are showing growth and development, most recently with Fachhochschule Weiner Neustadt, Almaty Management University, Sunway University, Arnhem Business School at HAN University, European University of Applied Sciences, and Mary Immaculate College, along with earlier agreements with La Universidad de Guanajuato, CETYS Universidad, Autonomous University of Hidalgo, Novosibirsk State Pedagogical University, KIIT, Faith University, and Chiang Mai University. We also directed recruitment efforts toward international transfer students within the US from community colleges that have a large international student population.

Education Abroad

Our commitment to Generation Study Abroad and our goal to double the number of SCSU students with an education abroad experience provides an opportunity to enhance interest in and expand education abroad program offerings. We can offer programs beyond our traditional semester long, exchange or short term programs, and add internships and other types of programs in the emerging areas of the world. The SCSU International Advisory Council will seek and review education abroad proposals twice a year to further support the interest of our faculty and staff in education abroad programs and create more opportunities for student participation. Currently, SCSU students may study in 29 countries across the world, in both short and long-term programs, including 18 faculty-led programs. This coming year about 130 SCSU students will be traveling to many interesting places. When they return, these students will share their international experience with others and contribute their new perspectives within the classroom.

Our programs and partnerships have successfully garnered participation from a wide range of academic departments on campus and the Provost is working closely with the deans to develop a comprehensive internationalization plan for every college and school which will allow us to meet the needs of students as well as our commitment to Generation Study Abroad. Meanwhile, St. Cloud State University continues to encourage opportunities for our faculty and staff to exchange information, ideas and to promote relationships with institutions worldwide. The Center for International Studies facilitates these opportunities by providing invitation letters and the documents necessary for visa acquisition to all short-term and long-term international visitors on campus. For more information on short-term international visitors, please see:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationalstudents/scholars/visitors.asp>. For more information

on long-term international visitors, please see:

<http://www.stcloudstate.edu/internationalstudents/scholars/default.asp>.

International Students & Recruitment

Staff at Center for International Studies, in cooperation with campus departments, are planning a

robust orientation program to welcome new international undergraduate, graduate, exchange, sponsored and Intensive English Center students to campus on January 4, 2016.

As we realign international recruitment and admissions with our University-wide Admissions Office, much work has happened in the international recruitment arena to diversify our recruitment strategy with participation in recruitment fairs in Southeast Asia and the United Arab Emirates. We are also leveraging student, staff and faculty relationships to improve recruitment across the globe.

Recruitment and Admissions



Dr. Amber Schultz

New student recruitment for Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 is underway. The Admissions Team has already:

- traveled to 324 high schools and 24 community colleges
- participated in 85 college fairs including the National College Fair, the Minneapolis National Visual and Performing Arts Fair, and the National Latino College Fairs
- hosted nearly 10,000 campus visitors

We started our recruitment cycle with 74,000 prospects and are building our prospect pool daily. We are on track to meet our Fall 2016 new student enrollment goals of 2000 NEF (new entering freshman) and 1100 NET (new entering transfers).

International student recruitment was also very busy this fall and included strategic participation in college fairs in Southeast Asia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia, the Middle East, and Seattle area Community Colleges. We have experienced an increase in inquiries from these efforts.

Spring will continue to keep the Admissions Team working hard. We will be visiting 100+ high schools, attending 30+ college fairs, and hosting community college recruitment events. Internationally, we are continuing our strategic efforts in Mexico, Vietnam, Malaysia, Kazakhstan and the Middle East.

Academic Spotlights

As a community, we'd like to celebrate the great work done every day by faculty and staff! Read about [Ken Miller's](#) experience of teaching abroad in Shanghai, China.

We've also made it easier to share your accomplishments with the Provost's Office! The

Academic Affairs website homepage now includes a “Share your Accomplishment” feature that allows you to share accomplishments, awards, and achievements with us. Click on the button on the homepage or use this [survey](#) to let us know what you’re doing!

Additionally, if you would like to nominate a faculty member or student to be featured in an academic spotlight, please email acadaffairsw@stcloudstate.edu.

Kudos! Grants and Awards

- Congratulations to Vicky Williams! Williams was rewarded the Robert Griffin Award for long and outstanding service by the College Reading and Learning Association at their Annual Conference in Portland, OR in early November, 2015.
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Updates and Announcements

- The College of Liberal Arts and School of the Arts has published their inaugural edition of "The Letter," a newsletter featuring the writing of students, faculty, and staff.
- Saint Cloud State has updated the [policies](#) and [procedures](#) regarding hosting international visitors and guests.
- Important Calendars: Please review the [2015-2016 Academic Calendar](#) and check out the new [Faculty Duty Day Calendar](#) for 2015-2016.
- Information and timelines for [PDP/PDR processes](#) are available. For more information, visit the Faculty Resource Guide [website](#).
- Have you heard about St. Cloud State’s Digital Repository? [The Repository](#) at St. Cloud State University provides open access to a diverse collection of academic, scholarly, scientific, and creative content produced by faculty, students, and staff at the University. The Repository collects, organizes, distributes, and preserves the scholarly and cultural record to promote interdisciplinary research, maximize research impact, and support local, regional, and global development and interests.
- All previous Provost Newsletters are now available on the Academic Affairs website! Check out the [Newsletter Archive](#).

Please email academicaffairs@stcloudstate.edu if you have any comments, questions, or concerns about this newsletter or the Academic Affairs website.
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