



## GREETINGS FROM THE DEAN

In this fall edition of our newsletter, you will read about the excellence of our students, faculty, staff and community partners. We are all exceptionally busy living our mission “to prepare our students to be leaders, scholars and professionals in promoting and providing life-long health and well-being.”

When we think about universities and our purpose to help students “learn who they are, to search for a larger purpose for their lives and to leave college as better human being” (Lewis, 2002), I think you can see that all of us in SHHS are committed in our teaching, scholarship and service to provide and support those transformative experiences for our students.

I hope you enjoy reading about all of our exciting work. In addition to our newsletter, we are sending a weekly news update via email. If you wish to receive these updates, please contact Emily Simon at [eesimon@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:eesimon@stcloudstate.edu).

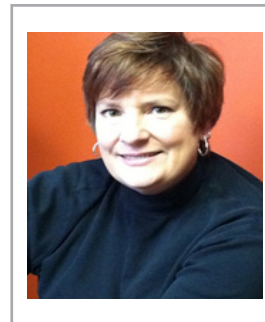
Monica Devers  
Dean

## REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM AWARDED \$1 MILLION

Dr. Amy Knopf, Assistant Professor in the Community Psychology, Counseling and Family Therapy program, has been awarded a federal grant of one million dollars, with \$200,000 being available each year for 5 years.

The award is from the Rehabilitation Service Administration (RSA) and will fund graduate students that are preparing to work in state vocational rehabilitation programs. This funding is part of a federal initiative to increase the number of Rehabilitation Counselors due to the lack of service providers in the field.

The award to SCSU will fund eight 1st year students and eight 2nd year students each year. Students may apply to the program and, if awarded, must agree to work for the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for two years for every one year of traineeship received, mainly in workforce centers, state agencies, and department of economic development programs.



According to Dr. Knopf, “students who receive scholarship support under Long-Term Training program grants (referred to as RSA scholars) are expected to “pay back” their support through paid employment within the public rehabilitation system or with other nonprofit rehabilitation agencies or related agencies.”

The project goal is to provide tuition assistance to students seeking a Master’s degree in Rehabilitation Counselor Education.

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## INTERDISCIPLINARY DISABILITY AWARENESS EVENT

On October 3rd, the Rehabilitation Counseling program, along with the Communication Sciences & Disorders and Nursing departments, held an Interdisciplinary Disability Event in the Atwood Memorial Center. The goal of this event was to increase awareness of persons with disabilities. This was a student led and coordinated event, for students, by students. The event consisted of a simulation experience, lunch, and a panel discussion with persons who each have a disability.

The simulation experience was the heart of this event. Stations were set-up by disability category and students traveled from station to station and simulated what it "might" feel like to have a disability. For example, the Cerebral Palsy simulation had a simple hand drawn picture of a house, tree and sun on the wall. Students were asked to recreate this picture. Strings were put around the wrist of students and as they began to draw, the string was pulled to simulate involuntary muscle spasms.

There were 8 simulation stations: deaf/hard-of-hearing, blind, cerebral palsy, autism, ADD/ADHD, mental health, dysphagia, and spinal cord injury. Each simulation challenged students to think about experiencing life from the perspective of someone with a disability.

After students completed all of the simulations, there was a debriefing session led by graduate rehabilitation counseling students.

Dr. Amy Knopf (Rehabilitation Counseling faculty) and Rachel Briant (GA) coordinated this event along with Kendra Meers (another GA) and countless volunteers that made the event possible. Approximately 200 people attended this event. The fundraising efforts were led by Angela Amic (Rehabilitation Counseling student and the Center for Continuing Studies provided generous financial support.



Rehabilitation Counseling faculty  
Amy Knopf and Graduate  
Assistant, Rachel Briant



Emily Simon and Kim Scardino  
participating in this simulation

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## RN TO BSN TO LAUNCH IN JANUARY 2015

The Nursing Science Department will launch the RN to BSN program in spring semester 2015. The RN Baccalaureate Completion Program, also termed "RN to BSN" program, is a program for individuals who are licensed registered nurses and wish to earn a baccalaureate degree.

The RN to BSN will serve Associate and Diploma Degree RN's who would like an online option for continuing their education at St. Cloud State University. Students who start in January 2015 will complete the nursing credits by May 2016.

Acceptance is based on RN license, AD or diploma RN degree and work/school references. Upon admission, students will be required to meet St. Cloud State University's liberal education requirements for graduation, including 10 upper division (support) credits

(300-400 level) in area(s) of choice and 30 credits of upper division nursing. The nursing credits include cross cultural nursing, public health, care coordination and population health, leadership, health policy and finance, research/evidence based practice and pathopharmacology. These courses were developed based on our successful generic BSN curriculum and a community needs assessment. Our CCNE accredited program will be continuing the strong leadership and quality focus in the nursing program.

**For more information on the RN Baccalaureate Program (RN to BSN), please contact Roxanne Wilson at [rwwilson@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:rwwilson@stcloudstate.edu) or (320) 308-4136.**

## HOMECARE ROOM

The homecare room located on the 3rd floor of Brown Hall has been repurposed to include functionality for the Nursing and Social Work departments. This project stemmed from a Provost Action grant written by Gary Whitford (Social Work) and a partnership with Nursing to share space. Paula Watts (Social Work) and Kathy Koepke (Nursing) worked together on planning what to purchase.

According to Kathy Koepke, "It is important to work interdepartmentally whenever possible because it gives students a richer learning experience."

The room is equipped with a full kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, and living room. The room also has cameras installed which have the capability to stream video to the social work and nursing classrooms. The homecare room can be used for:

- Debriefing from nursing simulations
- Various homecare, pediatrics, and delegation simulations
- Simulated community experiences
- Meeting room/conference room.
- Interdisciplinary simulations with the Gerontology and CSD programs



## SHHS STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

MATTHEW YANG, MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE

**Where are you from and where did you go to High School?**

I'm from Cherryville, North Carolina. I went to Forest Lake Senior High School.

**Tell us why you decided to come to the MLS program at SCSU?**

I came to SCSU because I had changed my major from Kinesiology to MLS. Since I missed the deadline for the University of Minnesota MLS program, my last option was to find a school that offered the MLS program. Besides coming here for the program, I also came here to get away from home to learn to live on my own.

**What is it that interests you about this major?**

I chose the MLS program because I love hands on learning. I would prefer to work in a room with a team finding treatment for a disease.

**What is the most surprising thing that has happened while you have been a student in this program?**

My undergraduate research opportunity! I have to move in order to learn. With this project, it will help me with my future courses. My undergraduate team and I are working through Yale University, identifying microorganisms that produce bioactive compounds (antibiotics) to test them against escape pathogens.

**Is there a faculty member who has been instrumental in your education?**

Yes! Professor Millis has been a big help and inspiration to me. She has provided me with this research opportunity and guidance to prepare me for my future career. Finding undergraduate research is competitive, so I'm very thankful for the opportunity to engage in this work.

**What is the one thing you would want a prospective student considering coming to SCSU to know about the MLS program?**

I had to change my study habits and take school more seriously. My advice for future MLS students is to study everyday (even on weekends) and take this learning experience seriously.

**What do you hope to do after graduation?**

After completing my B.S., I hope to go graduate school and pursue further work in cancer research.

**What was the last book you read?**

Last book I've read and currently reading is "Organic Chemistry for Dummies".



## MAKING STRIDES FOR BREAST CANCER WALK

This year, the Making Strides walk in St. Cloud raised more than \$80,000 and united more than 1,200 people at St. Cloud State University. SCSU had over 200 students volunteer.

Kim Orn (American Cancer Society Representative) said, "It has been my honor to work with you this year. Each one of you played a significant role for this overall event; not only for the DAY OF but also prior to this event and after. Your energy and CAN DO approach is outstanding and caught the eyes of my supervisor and more! You are a terrific group of volunteers!! Never forget this!"

Corie Beckerman (Director of Student Health Services) said, "We have outstanding students, staff and community partners who make this a great experience. I attended an ACS gala last weekend and was thanked multiple times by the supervisor Kim mentioned, as well as other ACS staff members, St. Cloud community members and event participants. This is truly an event that SCSU can be proud to play a major role in - thank you to Teresa Heck, (Kinesiology) and her outstanding students for their commitment to this partnership."

The American Cancer Society is accepting donations until December 31st at [www.MakingStridesWalk.org/CentralMN](http://www.MakingStridesWalk.org/CentralMN) or by mailing them to the American Cancer Society (950 Blue Gentian Road, Suite 100, Eagan, MN 55121).



## LAUREL RICHIE- THE WNBA: SHOWING THE WORLD WHAT IS POSSIBLE



On October 29th, Laurel Richie, President of the Women's National Basketball Association, was the keynote speaker for the SHHS Fall Colloquium, hosted by the Kinesiology department.

Ms. Richie spoke about what led her to become the President of the WNBA and the obstacles she encountered along the way. She spoke on the importances of positive influences in ones life and always staying true to your values: honesty, respect toward others, and making contributions to the world. When opportunities to engage in new experiences are presented, you must take advantage of them. Ms. Richie said, "If you follow your dreams and do what you love, success with follow".

Students in attendance reflected on Ms. Richie's inspirations talk

by sending thank you cards to express their gratitude.

- It was great to hear your advice and suggestions for students breaking into their respective fields.
- You inspired me to push myself to my full potential and never settle for less than I deserve.
- Your passion for the future of the WNBA is contagious.
- Thank you for coming to St Cloud State. You are a wonderful leader and a true inspiration to us as future leaders. It was a pleasure to learn from you.
- Thank you for emphasizing the role of networking and mentoring for careers in sport. The WNBA is in good hands.

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## STUDENT RELATIONS COORDINATOR UPDATE

It's been over two months since I started as the Student Relations Coordinator in the School of Health and Human Services, and I have been keeping busy.

October was filled with many opportunities to meet with prospective students. At the beginning of the month, I spent two days at the National College Fair in Minneapolis, meeting high school students from all over the state wanting to learn more about SCSU. On October 16-18, SCSU hosted "Discover Red and Black Days", the largest on-campus open house. Over 2,000 students and guests attended and were able to meet with many SHHS faculty, tour Brown Hall, visit the Nursing simulation lab, learn about the Speech Language and Hearing Clinic, and participate in a demonstration led by Gerontology graduate assistants.

In November, I'll be meeting with more prospective students at our Preview Days for incoming first year and transfer students. I'm excited about how many students are interested in the programs that the School of Health and Human Services has to offer. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions about our programs.

Kim Scardino

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## REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM AWARDED \$1 MILLION

CONTINUED

"We're hoping this will attract a more diverse student group and those that are unable to fund their education. I hope it will also attract those students who want to work in state or government settings," said Dr. Brad Kuhlman, Professor in the Rehabilitation Counseling program.

Dr. Knopf reports that we "are thrilled to have the opportunity to bolster our program by securing the Long-Term Training Grant which allows us to attract and recruit highly qualified students from underserved and underrepresented populations who otherwise may not have the means to attend. We believe the strength of the Rehabilitation Counselor Education (RCE) Program at St. Cloud State University is in its longevity and sustainability. We were a great program without the grant, but now we're even better. The reputation of graduating counselors, who are competent and who deliver effective services with state agencies and rehabilitation facilities, has made SCSU a strong competitor in recruiting highly capable potential scholars. With this grant we will be able to recruit the best and brightest graduates to pursue a degree in Rehabilitation Counseling."

For more information on this program and the grant, please contact Dr. Knopf at 320-308-3209 or [ahknopf@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:ahknopf@stcloudstate.edu)

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## LAUREL RICHIE- THE WNBA: SHOWING THE WORLD WHAT IS POSSIBLE

CONTINUED

In attendance was Glenda Burgeson a writer and editor at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University who wrote an opinion piece "TWG: Politicians, take a lesson from WNBA leader which was published in the St. Cloud Times Newspaper on November 13, 2014. The story is available at <http://www.sctimes.com/story/opinion/2014/11/13/twg-politicians-take-lesson-wnba-leader/19006249/>

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## RETIREMENTS AND DEPARTURES

Thank you to David Bacharach (Faculty in Kinesiology and Director of the Human Performance Lab) for his 27 years of service at SCSU. We wish him the best in his retirement.

Best wishes to Nona Wilson (Community Psychology, Counseling, and Family Therapy) who has accepted a position at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

## SUBMIT YOUR IDEAS

The School of Health and Human Services wants to hear from our alumni and friends, through newsletters like this and emails. If you would like to receive information or you wish to contribute a story or update, please contact Emily Simon, Experiential Learning and Outreach Coordinator at [eesimon@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:eesimon@stcloudstate.edu) or 308-4238.

## FALL EVENTS

**Community Engagement Celebration**  
December 4th,  
9:00-11:00 am  
Atwood Ballroom

**SHHS Undergraduate Recognition  
and Master's Hooding Ceremony**  
December 21st,  
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Atwood Glacier

**2014 Fall Commencement**  
December 21st,  
2:00pm  
Halenbeck Hall

School of Health and Human  
Services  
Brown Hall 215  
720 4th Ave S.  
St. Cloud, MN 56301  
Website: [www.stcloudstate.edu/shhs](http://www.stcloudstate.edu/shhs)  
Email: [shhs@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:shhs@stcloudstate.edu)



Additional contact information:



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