



*This is a series of monthly newsletters from the Division of Student Life and Development to all employees aimed at improving communications with campus including information, announcements, updates and services offered.*

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## **From the Desk of the Vice President**

What is the Dean of Students' role?

The Dean of Students position is a key position in the University's efforts to provide individualized student support as outlined in It's Time. Ms. Jennifer Sell Matzke, who is the Dean of Students, is responsible for coordinating the University's response to individual students who are experiencing a crisis related to mental health, physical health, a safety concern and/or a dramatic change in family circumstances. In order to provide comprehensive support in such cases, the Dean of Students meets regularly with a team of campus professionals from Academic Affairs, the individual colleges and schools, Student Financial Aid and Student Life and Development, who serve on the Behavior Intervention Team [BIT]. If you become aware of a student in crisis, you are asked to contact Dean Matzke directly at [jsmatzke@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:jsmatzke@stcloudstate.edu) or 320.308.6290.

Often times, when working with faculty and staff to support students, we encourage a "warm handoff", which can provide the benefit of making the outreach more potent and meaningful. The faculty or staff member can facilitate a "warm handoff" by making the student aware of their concern and explaining that they'd like to connect the student to someone who can provide additional support and assistance with navigating the concern.

The Dean of Students' role does not include collecting or seeking documentation on a student's class absence. However, the Student Life and Development Office at [sld@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:sld@stcloudstate.edu) does accept messages from students if they are absent or will be. A courtesy alert is provided to the student's instructors upon a student's request. It's important to note that there is no verification process applied to such requests.

The Dean of Students works in close consultation with the various resources available to faculty and staff who are concerned about a student's attendance and/or academic progress. A primary point of contact for students, faculty and staff are the professional advisors and staff who serve as Student Relations Directors in the colleges and schools. Below is a list of the current resources:

- Advising and Student Transitions, CH 366, (320) 308-6075, [advising@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:advising@stcloudstate.edu)
- Business Advising Center, CH 229, (320) 308-3214, [busadvising@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:busadvising@stcloudstate.edu)
- College of Liberal Arts (CLA) & School of the Arts (SOTA), Hien Studniski
- College of Science & Engineering (COSE) & School of Computing, Engineering & Environment (SCEE), Kelsey Stacken
- School of Health & Human Services (SHHS), Russell Waisanen
- School of Public Affairs (SOPA), Kristy Modrow
- School of Education (SOE), Katie Kustritz

*Clare Rahm*

*Interim Vice President, Student Life and Development*

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## Multicultural Student Services



### Black History Month 2021

[Blackity Black Black: Blackness is More Than Skin Deep – A Healing Moment](#)

February 25, 2021 @ 6 pm

**Speaker:** Sequoia Range

**Format:** Virtual, Zoom Meeting ID: 932 9822 1377 Password: MSS

**Description:** Sequoia Range wants to create a presentation/seminar-style conversation that creates a dialogue about the importance and value of Africans and Black Americans' mental health and that highlights the similarities between the different cultural groups. The event will explore the differences in African and Black American ways of thinking and draw the similarities between them, so that people watching might go home and be able to more deeply understand what it means to think black. There can be no sense of justice without soundness of mind, and so it is important to take the time to acknowledge and address the trauma those who possess blackness face in our everyday lives.

[CAAS Movie Night](#)

February 26, 2021 from 6:30 - 10 pm

**Host:** Council of African American Students

**Format:** In-person, Theatre, Atwood Memorial Center

**Description:** Come chill with CAAS for a relaxing evening of some good flicks in honor of Black History Month.

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## Campus Involvement



### Event Planning During COVID

Reminder: All in-person events/gatherings must have an approved event safety plan prior to your event, program, gathering, etc. The Department of Campus Involvement Staff have worked with the Bring Huskies Home team to make the [event safety plan form](#) available online via Huskies Connect.

Additional event guidance can be found on the [Bring Huskies Home webpage](#).



### Huskies Showcase 2021

The [2021 Huskies Showcase](#) will return as a virtual event through Zoom. Undergraduate and graduate students can choose from a variety of formats to present and highlight their engaged academics or co-curricular activities.

Registration Window: December 1, 2020-March 5, 2021

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## Residential Life



### Living at SCSU During a Global Pandemic

*Written by Residence Hall Director Tamarah Jo Frank*

Living on campus during a global pandemic is not how students hoped to spend their college years, to say the least. The Department of Residential Life at SCSU has had to work to pivot and navigate this challenge, just as our students have done and we all continue to do. [Click here to read the full article.](#)

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## Arrivals and Departures

### Arrivals

**Sarah Meisinger** is excited to return to the full-time role as Case Management Director with Counseling and Psychological Services. Sarah developed the position in 2009 at SCSU and is grateful to return to the important work of serving students and the campus community in the case management role. Sarah is a proud undergraduate alum from the Social Work program at St. Cloud State and for the past 25 years, she has worked in the mental health field, serving families, Veterans and college students. Sarah has taught as an adjunct instructor in the BSW and MSW Programs at St. Cloud State and Augsburg and welcomes opportunities to teach and mentor new social workers in the field.

**Joyce Zwack** began her position in Student Accessibility Services this month. She started with St. Cloud State in 2005 as a part time temporary employee in Business Services, then moved to the Whitney House in the dean's office for the College of Social Sciences. Her first permanent full time job was in 2006 with Residential Life in Carol Hall. After one year, she accepted a promotion administering placement testing, working with the programs of Division of General Studies and Honors. After some reorganization, she landed in Advising and Student Transitions for the last 8 years. Joyce is excited to work with and learn more about the students that visit the Student Accessibility Services office.

**Amy Biniek** is joining the team at St. Cloud State and is excited to develop meaningful relationships with the staff and students at the American Indian Center and the Veterans Resource Center. She has many years of administrative duties as well as extensive time helping others through volunteering and customer service. Amy has worked in healthcare and has served the homeless youth in the St. Cloud community working at a non-profit organization. She enjoys contributing her time and compassion to others. In the past, Amy has volunteered for the Boy Scouts of Central Minnesota Council, Girl Scouts Lakes and Pines, Big Brother Big Sisters of Central Minnesota and numerous hours at local schools.

**Katelyn Bennett** is thrilled to return to the St. Cloud State Women's Center in the role of Office Manager. She previously served the Women's Center as a graduate assistant and programming and outreach assistant. Her academic background is multidisciplinary, spanning First Nations Studies, Women's Studies, Sociology, Human Relations, and Democracy and Justice Studies. Her professional background is equally diverse within the public service sector, including serving in a public library, St. Cloud State's Office for Institutional Equity and Access, and in the ticketing/information/reservation office of her undergraduate alma matter, UW-Green Bay. She's looking forward to collaboration and growing community in her new position.

**Bruce MacBeth** is pleased to join the Division of Student Life and Development as a clinician in Counseling and Psychological Services. He brings to St. Cloud State

University experience working as a counselor helping adolescents, adults and families to realize their natural strengths to overcome patterns of anxiety, depression, grief, addiction and trauma. Board certified, Bruce is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, he is looking forward to helping the students of St. Cloud State to achieve success in their academic experience and in their lives.

**Kristina Gross** has accepted the nurse practitioner role in the Medical Clinic on campus. Kristina obtained her undergrad through Minnesota State Mankato and her graduate degree through Graceland University in Independence MO. She is certified as a Family Nurse Practitioner and has been practicing for 9 years. She has experience in Family and Internal medicine, and is looking forward to providing healthcare to the students of St. Cloud State University.

## Departures

**Jane Echhoff**, Student Accessibility Services administrative support, accepted a position with the Department of Special Education. Good luck in your new position Jane.

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St. Cloud State University is committed to legal affirmative action, equal opportunity, access and diversity of its campus community ([Full Statement](#)).



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