

MSS Flash

Inside this issue:

MSS Annual Retreat	2
Upcoming Events	2
Get Involved	3
Importance of Dialogue	3
MSS Information	4

May the door to this house be wide enough to receive all who hunger for love, all who are lonely for friendship.

May I welcome all who have cares to unburden, thanks to express, hopes to nurture.

May the door of this house be narrow enough to shut out pettiness and pride, envy and enmity.

May the threshold be no stumbling block to young and strained feet.

May it be too high to admit complacency, selfishness and harshness.

May this home be for all who enter, the doorway to richness and a more meaningful life.

~The Siddur of Shir Chadash



Welcome New and Returning Students!

Multicultural Student Services (MSS) welcomes you to the 2005-2006 academic year at the University of St. Thomas (UST). MSS supports the UST mission through programs and services that encourage the development of students within the Catholic tradition. Specifically, staff members provide personal attention and opportunities for students to foster their personal growth while gaining cultural awareness. Our aim is to prepare students to think critically and act wisely when confronted with the myriad diverse and changing needs of their local community and the world at large.

MSS provides advocacy and support services for all students at UST. Our mission involves providing the necessary support and services to improve the quality of life and educational experience for U.S. students of color and immigrant students.

You are encouraged to attend our programs and events emphasizing multicultural education and awareness. MSS is also

available to serve as a liaison and referral for many community and campus departments including, but not limited to, Commuter Center & Off-Campus Services, Campus and Residence Life, Personal Counseling, Career Development Center, Academic Counseling, Athletics, Campus Ministry, Student Financial Services, Dean of Students and the Office of International Student Services

We want your experience at UST to be positive and educational and hope that you will take full advantage of the many opportunities that await you. Whether you are a new or continuing student you are an important part of the UST community. Our goal is to see each student be successful in their journey. UST offers many resources for you to explore.

Stop by MSS in 106 Murray-Herrick Campus Center to meet us and see what we have to offer!

Bienvenido

MSS Staff

Our staff is available to address your questions or concerns about diversity, personal identity and academic support as well as to provide any other assistance you may need. We have several new and returning staff to MSS this year and wanted to take this opportunity to introduce everyone. To contact an MSS staff member stop into MHC 106 or call 651.962.6460.

Director: Denise Dieffenbach
Assistant Director: Lisa Mueller
Administrative Assistant: Amanda Forero
Graduate Assistants: Deanna Langton and Raytosha O'Neal
Student Assistants: Kathy Hartnett, Daphne Ho, Zan Lano, Brad Pulles, and Eileen Ward

We hope to see you soon!

Annual Retreat: September 24-25

Join us for the Annual MSS Retreat! This is a great opportunity to get to know other students at UST or to reconnect with friends. Here are some answers to some frequently asked questions regarding this amazing opportunity:



Who can attend? The retreat is open to ALL UST students.
Where is it at? The retreat will be held at the YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI.
How much does it cost? Nothing. The retreat is FREE to UST students. Transportation, housing and meals will be covered. We do

require a \$60.00 refundable deposit to hold your place. This will be returned to students at the retreat.

Sounds fun! How do I sign up? Sign up will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Friday, September 9th in Multicultural Student Services (MHC 106). Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis so sign up early as space will fill. We have 50 spaces available for students.

What is the registration deadline? Registration deadline is Friday, September 16th or until space is full.

A camp? Do I have to sleep in a tent? No tents. Students and staff will stay in modern heated cabins.

What about restrooms? Are they in the woods? Bathrooms are modern and newly renovated with private showers. No hiking required.

Will there be bugs? Well...there are bugs everywhere and we are in the woods so we may encounter a mosquito or two. Bug spray will be provided.

What will we eat? Sticks and berries? Well if you want to...go ahead. But for the less adventurous eaters the wonderful staff at Camp St. Croix will be cooking all our meals.

Okay, Okay...so what do I need to bring? You should bring clothing appropriate for outdoors and the weather. We will be inside for most activities but if the weather is nice we will DEFINITELY venture outdoors. You should also bring bedding (pillow, sleeping bag/blanket, toiletries, sunscreen, etc.).

What if I have other questions? You can contact Multicultural Student Services at multicultural@stthomas.edu or 651.962.6460.



YMCA Camp St. Croix



Upcoming Events: Mark Your Calendars

September 15-October 15	Hispanic Heritage Month	Every Tuesday	Tommy Tuesdays
Friday, Sept. 16th	MSS Open House (MHC 106) 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.		Every Tuesday wear purple and gray to win prizes and show school spirit!
Friday, Sept. 16th	MSS Fun Night (MHC 304) 8:00 p.m.-midnight	Thursday, Oct. 6	Hispanic Heritage Event (OEC Auditorium) Details coming soon.
Tuesday, Sept. 20th	Fall Activities Fair (Foley Plaza) 11:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Oct. 18th	LINKAGES: Stereotypes at UST (MHC 160) 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 24th-25th	MSS Annual Retreat (See above article for details)	Monday, Oct. 24th	Film: The Letter (OEC Auditorium) 7:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 27th	Mentor Network (MHC Fireside) 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.	Monday, Oct. 24th	Community Dialogues: Multicultural Services at a Catholic University: An Oxymoron? 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (Commuter Center)

Get Involved and Get Ahead of the Game!

Did you know that St. Thomas has over 70 clubs & organizations to get involved in? Clubs and organizations are an integral part of student life at UST. They exist to provide you with an opportunity to continue your education outside of the classroom. Choosing to be involved is a great way to enhance social, interpersonal, problem solving and many other important skills. With approximately 70 clubs and organizations you are bound to find some groups which meet your interest. Can't find a club you are interested in? Think about starting your own. Check out <http://www.stthomas.edu/clubs/> for a list of current clubs and organizations and information on

how to start your own. Studies show consistently that students involved in co-curriculum programs not only are more likely to graduate, they have higher GPA's and are more marketable upon graduation.



Take full advantage, nurture your creativity, and develop strong leadership skills by getting involved. Two of the organizations that that we work very closely with in MSS are BESA and Hana. For more information see below. If you have any questions, stop in to the Campus Life Office in Murray-Herrick Campus Center, Room 110 (MHC 110).

BESA

The Black Empowerment Student Alliance (BESA) strives to promote an atmosphere of awareness in which race and diversity can be embraced, celebrated and integrated into each student's collegiate experience here at St. Thomas. The first meeting is September 15th from 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. in MHC 160.

For more information contact BESA President, Christina Henry at clhenry@stthomas.edu

Hana

The Hana organization is an agent for positive change regarding issues at UST. Hana cultivates awareness, communication, and understanding through activities and community outreach. Meetings are open to all UST students regardless of their background. First meeting is September 13th 12:00 p.m.-1:00 p.m. in MHC 160.

For more information contact Hana President, Daphne Ho at dzho@stthomas.edu

The Importance of Dialogue

*"Together we can be wiser than any of us can be alone.
We need to know how to tap that wisdom."*

-Anonymous



This quote captures the importance and essence of dialogue as a communication tool for tapping into the wisdom of others. It is important to recognize that not all communication is dialogue. Dialogue is shared exploration towards greater understanding, connection, or possibility. Dialogue is not the same as debate. In debate, winning is the goal. *In dialogue, the goals are finding common ground and advancing understanding.*

This year MSS will be sponsoring two dialogue series that

we hope you will attend.

Community Dialogues is a new series at UST. The intent is to challenge members of the UST community to engage in honest and meaningful dialogue centering on topics consistent with the core Convictions of the University.

LINKAGES is a student only dialogue series where students, through mutual sharing, learn more about themselves and others in a safe, informal and educational setting. Topics are selected through student input and the only staff present will be a moderator.

For more information watch the MSS Flash or contact MSS at 2-6460.

Multicultural Student Services

2115 Summit Avenue
Mail #5006
St. Paul, MN 55105

Phone: 651.962.6460
Fax: 651.962.6655
Email: multicultural@stthomas.edu

Office Hours
M-F 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

University of St. Thomas

We're on the Web!

www.stthomas.edu/multicultural_services

We welcome comment, suggestions or submissions to the MSS.

Submission deadline is the 20th of each month.

Submissions can be sent to multicultural@stthomas.edu

MSS Mission

Multicultural Student Services (MSS), consistent with the St. Thomas Catholic tradition, is concerned with providing a comprehensive system of advocacy and support for U.S. students of color and immigrants. Our goal is to improve retention and the quality of the St. Thomas experience. We strive to prepare all students to think and act responsibly when confronted with the myriad diverse and changing needs of the local community and the world at large.

Multicultural Student Services initiatives are designed to:

- Provide advocacy and mediation services for all students.
- Increase retention of U.S. Students of color and immigrant students.
- Provide selected scholarships for undergraduate U.S. students of color and immigrant students (permanent resident, asylee and refugee).

- Identify and honor students, faculty and staff whose actions support the creation and maintenance of an inclusive, civil and welcoming campus community.
- Create partnerships with academic and administrative departments to serve students.
- Promote multicultural awareness through personal interaction, training opportunities, educational programs and dissemination of information.
- Monitor student perceptions of the St. Thomas climate for diversity.
- Provide support to the multicultural student organizations and related ethnic peer associations.



WANTED: YOUR FEEDBACK

Do you have a suggestions for MSS? Is there a program or service you would like to see offered? Have a great idea? What do you enjoy about MSS?



Please stop into MSS (MHC 106) to complete a survey and be registered to win some great prizes!