



# MSS FLASH

Volume 7, Issue I

September, 2006

## Multicultural Student Services

## Welcome New and Returning Students!

### Inside this issue:

MSS FLASH Cash	3
Dialogues	3
CommUNITY Week	3
REAL Project	4
"A Real Experience"	4
Annual Fall Retreat	5
Upcoming Events	5

Multicultural Student Services (MSS) would like to welcome you to the University of St. Thomas' 2006-2007 academic year! We are very excited for this upcoming year and look forward to all the experiences that lie before us.

MSS, consistent with St. Thomas' Catholic tradition, is concerned with providing a comprehensive system of advocacy and support for all UST students, though MSS works specifically to provide the necessary support and services to improve the quality of life and educational experience for U.S. students of color and immigrant students.

MSS strives to provide opportunities for ALL students to gain cultural awareness, thus fostering personal growth and we encourage you to attend our programs and events that emphasize multicultural education and awareness. Our aim is to prepare students to think critically and act wisely when confronted with the diverse and changing needs of their local community and the world at

large.

This year, we will have many programs that we hope you will participate in. LINKAGES and Community Dialogues are programs designed to foster an open communication system. MSS' annual retreat (September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>), is a great opportunity to befriend students of all cultural backgrounds and discuss important issues, like diversity, race, gender, and discrimination with peers. MSS also sponsors speakers and entertainment acts that deal with multiculturalism, and provides scholarship resources for students of color and/or immigrants.

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.

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

### Did You Know?

- MSS always has free candy for visitors! So, stop into the MSS office, visit with our friendly staff and enjoy a piece of candy!
- The MSS Flash wants YOUR input. If you have a photograph, short story, poem, drawing, or article that you would like to have included in the Flash, please email MSS at multicultural@stthomas.edu

## 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 a MSS staff member, stop into MHC 106 or call 651.962.6460.

**Director:** Denise Dieffenbach

**Assistant Director:** Tara LaFerla

**Coordinator:** Peggy Jerabek

**Graduate Assistant:** Linda Coleman

**Student Assistants:** Fuschia Hoover, Zan Lano, Phil Nguyen, Brad Pulles, Andrea Jauli, and Eileen Ward

## FLASH CA\$H

### Hispanic Scholarship Fund-

This scholarship is open to students of Hispanic heritage, who are legal permanent residents of the U.S. or U.S. citizens. Applicants must also complete the FAFSA and have a minimum 3.0 cumulative G.P.A. Awards range from \$1,000- \$3,000. Scholarship deadline is October 15, 2006. Website: [www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net).

### Xerox's Technical Minority Scholarship-

Xerox is offering scholarships to minority students in the amount of \$1,000- \$10,000 (depending on tuition balance, academic excellence, and classification). Applicants must have a 3.0 G.P.A. or higher, be a full-time student, be a legal resident of the U.S. or a U.S. citizen, and must be pursuing a technical degree.

Application deadline is September 15, 2006. Website: [www.xerox.com/go/xrx/template/009.jspview=Feature&Xcntry=USA&Xlang=en\\_US&ed\\_name=Careers\\_Technical\\_Scholarship](http://www.xerox.com/go/xrx/template/009.jspview=Feature&Xcntry=USA&Xlang=en_US&ed_name=Careers_Technical_Scholarship).

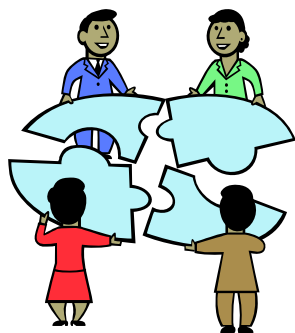
### The StraightForward Media Minority Scholarship-

Scholarships are open to current and prospective students at community colleges, universities, technical/vocational schools, and continuing education programs. Applications are due September 30, 2006. For more information, please visit: [www.straightforwardmedia.com/minority/](http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/minority/)

For more information, visit Student Financial Services (651.962.6550) [www.stthomas.edu/financialservices/](http://www.stthomas.edu/financialservices/).

## 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 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, with a goal of finding common ground. Dialogue is not the same as debate, in which winning is the goal.

MSS will sponsor two dialogue series

throughout 2006-2007. 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 Flash or contact MSS at 2-6460.

## CommUNITY Week – October 1–6th, 2006

In the spirit of unity, students, staff, faculty, alumni, and supporters of St. Thomas are joining efforts to embrace the dignity of all men and women, and to celebrate the human and cultural diversity on our campus. October 1-6, 2006 will kick-off a week-long campus celebration filled with events aimed to promote civil discourse, cultivate community, celebrate our cultural diversity, and elevate our collective consciousness and humanity.

Organized by Dr. Lawrence Potter, Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, and several diversity work-groups, CommUNITY Week will provide the presence of intellectual cultural activities both in and out of the classroom, that are consistent with and

central to the University's broader mission.

During the week, participants can plan to enjoy: a theatrical presentation by Mixed Blood Theater; Café Cultural—an afternoon of celebrating diverse voices through music, poetry, and song; films, forums, panels, fashion, food, speakers, and, several other collaborative events.

The CommUNITY Week Steering Committee welcomes your participation. Volunteers are needed; if you would like to be involved, please contact Sherrie Maze ([slmaze@stthomas.edu](mailto:slmaze@stthomas.edu)).

## Real Project And Summer Academy '06

This past summer, 30 incoming freshman participated in the six-week REAL Project and Summer Academy programs sponsored by Peregrine Capital Management, the National Science Foundation and the University of St. Thomas. The programs were organized by the MSS Office and are designed to simulate a "typical" semester at St. Thomas, familiarize students with resources and opportunities (including student life and employment), increase skill levels and establish relationships between students, faculty and staff.

The programs are offered every summer for admitted St. Thomas students of color, women, asylees, refugees and permanent residents. Both programs provide free room, board, off-campus outings, classes and workshops. Interested students had to apply and be accepted.

Fifteen students took part in the 2006 REAL Project, taking college-level courses in English, math and computer literacy. Students were also assigned on-campus jobs and received an hourly wage equivalent to \$1,500 for successful completion of the program.

The Summer Academy also admitted 15 students. Requirements included an interest in the fields of science, technology or engi-

neering and placement at the pre-calculus math level. Summer Academy students completed college-level coursework with a focus on research activities in science and engineering while earning four credits for the St. Thomas course, Math 108.

All 30 students lived in residence halls during the six-week program; they attended classes and workshops taught and/or led by St. Thomas professors and staff. Both groups gathered for off-campus trips to the Minnesota Science Museum, Valley Fair and downtown Minneapolis, including the new Block E movie and shopping complex. A joint banquet held in August concluded the two programs. Parents, siblings, professors, staff and students enjoyed dinner and entertainment provided by the students.

This fall, MSS will organize events to help these students reconnect. REAL Project and Summer Academy participants will also have the chance to mentor future participants. Many have already begun to participate in clubs and organizations on campus and apply for work study positions.

For more information on how to get involved in these or other MSS programs, contact MSS at 651-962-6460, view the web site at [www.stthomas.edu/multiculturalservices](http://www.stthomas.edu/multiculturalservices).

## A Real Experience

By: Chris Bradford, 2006 Real Project Participant

Nervousness at the start  
Sheltered by a front  
Pierced by corny icebreakers  
Reinforced by common  
interests

Fresh in the beginning  
Faces, places, 'n routes  
Early morning requisites  
Intriguing night interactions

Middy activities  
Classes, jobs, 'n such  
Preview what's to come  
Crash down in September

Full-fledged orientation  
We must survive  
Continue all day  
Through the torment

More than suffering exists  
On-Campus attractions  
Pit stop, 'n grill  
Tommie night live



**Front Row** (L to R): Lucas Dugan, Chris Bradford, Mai Cha Vang, Natalia Peuschold, Marieme Ndiaye  
**2nd Row:** Caitlyn Thompson, Ben DuPont, Cierra (Cece) Alston, Aquanette (Aqua) Early, Ayanthi Ratnayake, Amy Westmoreland, Tristan (TJ) Cohen, Cathy Reeves, Andrea Jauli, Ambreen Punjwani, Hyunhi Chong, Thuy (Amy) Nguyen, Nathalia (Nat) Roberts  
**3rd Row:** Matt Zoe, Kelly Rodriguez, Gustave Mutombo, Brendan Kelly, Omari Hoover, Reggie Evans, Clemon Dabney, Danielle Matthias, Hoang Van, Megan Brown, Kelly Kraemer

Excursion galore  
Block-E  
Valleyfair  
Bind us together

From one another  
Communication flew  
Much has been taught  
Even more so learned

Benefited us greatly  
Wisdom, credit, dolla'  
No one complaining  
Definitely a lie

Not every moment perfect  
Is it even possible  
Could it ever happen  
Maybe in a fairytale

Not fact however  
What is here  
Truth 'n honesty  
REAL experience

## Multicultural Student Services

2115 Summit Avenue  
Mail #5006

Phone: 651.962.6460

Fax: 651.962.6655

Email: multicultural@stthomas.edu

### Office Hours

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

We're on the Web!  
[www.stthomas.edu/multiculturalservices](http://www.stthomas.edu/multiculturalservices)

CHALLENGE YOURSELF  
CHANGE OUR WORLD



## It's time again for MSS's Annual Fall Retreat!

This year's retreat will take place September 30<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup> at Camp Friendship on Clearwater Lake. Retreat goers will enjoy beautiful scenery, meet new people and discuss important topics like diversity and cultural awareness.

The Retreat is FREE and open to all UST students. Transportation, lodging and food will be provided by MSS, however, a \$60 refundable deposit is required to sign-up. The \$60 deposit will be refunded to you at the end of the trip.

Only 40 spaces are available so sign-up ASAP! Sign-up begins at 8:00am on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup> in the MSS Office (MHC 106). Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. The last day to sign up is September 18, 2006.

For more information, contact Linda Coleman or Tara LaFerla in the MSS Office (MHC 106) or call 651.962.6461.

## Save the Date!

### STAR's Quad Kickoff

Monday, September 4th

\*For more information, please check the bulletin for more details

### New Commuter and Transfer Student Social

Wednesday, September 6th from 12 p.m.-1 p.m.  
Commuter Center, Lower Level MHC

### MSS Open House

Friday, September 8th from 3 p.m.-5 p.m.  
MHC 106

### "Who Wants to Be a Dot...Dot...Dot?" Game Show

Friday, September 8th from 6:30 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Scooters, Lower Level MHC

### Tommie Football vs. Loras with a BBQ sponsored by STAR

Saturday, September 9th

### MSS Monday's

Monday, September 11th from 12 p.m.-2 p.m.  
Commuter Center, Lower Level MHC

### Eat Right, Feel Good, Look Great- Deanna Latson

Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m.  
OEC Auditorium

### Fruity Tuesdays

Tuesday, September 19th from 10 a.m.-11 a.m.  
Commuter Center, Lower Level MHC

### Bagel Wednesday

Wednesday, September 27th from 8-10 a.m.  
Commuter Center, Lower Level MHC

### MSS Annual Retreat

Saturday, September 30 to Sunday, October 1  
Camp Friendship

### CommUNITY Week Celebration

October 1st-6th

\*Please check the Bulletin for more details about events during this week.

\*\* MHC—Murray Herrick Student Center