

# MSS Flash

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## Challenge Yourself ~ Change our World

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### Multicultural Student Services

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#### Special points of interest:

- Finals will run from May 15-May 18th. In order to see what times your finals are scheduled, please visit: [www.stthomas.edu/registrar/student/finalexam.html](http://www.stthomas.edu/registrar/student/finalexam.html)
- If you are still looking for a job post-graduation, the Career Development Center will host a summer job search. For more information, please visit [www.stthomas.edu/careerdevelopment/](http://www.stthomas.edu/careerdevelopment/)

This mantra is fitting when you consider the subject of diversity and social justice.

“For our own spiritual development, it is important that each of us come to understand that loving only those who share our own ethnic or cultural background does not adequately fulfill the challenge of Gospel,” wrote Archbishop Harry Flynn in his *Pastoral Letter on Racism*. Flynn, who was our guest this spring for a Community Dialogue on Race, reminds us that positive change in our society requires our beliefs and values be tested or questioned. We must listen to one another’s personal stories, while respecting their validity and suspending our judgment. This is what we are taught in the “peace circle” style of dialogue where the act of respectful listening allows the truth of others to penetrate us in deeper ways.

We challenge our students to change our world by creating the space for cross-cultural engagement. St. Thomas provides this by offering a minor in American Cultural Studies and courses such as Race and Ethnicity, Social Problems and Intercultural Communication. There are also co-curricular programs including but not limited to Theology on Tap and the annual Ramadan Iftar, and other events sponsored by student organizations such as Allies, BESA, GMSA, Hana, Muslim Student Association and Students for Justice and Peace.

While perpetrators of acts of hate and intolerance attempt to undermine the bridge-building efforts that are taking place, it is important to emphasize the encouraging work of those who are striving to be agents of positive change. Racism and racial prejudice is still rampant in our country. The drunken rant by actor Michael Richards; the “politically incorrect” MLK holiday parties held by students’ at Clemson University and Macalester college; and the notorious Imus statement are recent illustrations that have hit the national stage. Members of our community continue to be targets of hate as well, which provide a clear reminder that we are a microcosm of the larger society and are not immune to the systemic problems in society.

**What are we doing to improve our community?** It is easy to point the finger at our administration, blaming them for the current climate issues at UST. Clearly they share in the responsibility for providing a welcoming, respectful, and safe environment for everyone, and I believe they are acutely aware of this daunting responsibility. To understand the scope of this issue however, it is important to consider institutional racism. The concept moves us beyond highlighting the actions of a few individuals. The origins and im-

part of systemic racism is a global concern as noted in the introduction of Law, Phillips and Turney’s, *Institutional Racism in Higher Education* where they state “Our call to arms here is to highlight the urgent need to scrutinize and research the historical and contemporary processes by which racism has operated and continues to operate in higher education institutions.” Many organizational systems are inherently flawed by this system and the University of St. Thomas is not excluded. This does not excuse our administration from responsibility, but it does provide important context.

We all share responsibility for shaping the environment of St. Thomas, looking at how our attitudes, behaviors, and words contribute to the campus climate. After all, we are all affected by the unfortunate consequences of racism, and are all obligated to change our world for the better. We must have the courage to engage in the conversation.

For the purpose of affecting our individual circles and of addressing institutional racism, here are some questions we might ask ourselves: How am I trying to affect change within my personal life, in relationships with my peers in and out of class? Am I willing to speak out when someone says something derogatory about another person? If not, why not? Am I fearful that I might unintentionally offend someone because I lack knowledge about people who have a different cultural experience than my own? Am I willing to personally work to learn about other cultures to decrease intercultural impasses? How can I support others and be the change I wish to see in the world? What am I doing on a daily basis to live each day with the intention of acknowledging the privileges that I may have that others do not? Am I willing to explore the role I play in supporting a system designed to perpetuate racial conflict?

In one of his most influential works published in 1903, scholar and civil rights activist W.E.B. Dubois noted that “the problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color-line...” How far have we really come? How do we address this issue to truly change our world for future generations? Like the leaders of our university community, we are not exempt from responsibility. Cornel West suggests that “None of us alone can save the nation or world.” But each of us can make a positive difference if we commit ourselves to do so.” My prayer for our community is that we each find the courage to stay committed to learning to be the best human beings possible and use our gifts to truly advance the common good for all.

## May Cultural Events in the Twin Cities

During the month of May, there are many cultural events and festivals throughout Minnesota. We encourage you to experience and explore a new culture by attending one or a few of these events!

Each year, the District del Sol, on St. Paul's West Side, hosts the annual "Cinco de Mayo Fiesta," one of the 10 largest festivals of its kind nationwide. The fiesta runs from Friday, May 4th to Saturday, May 5th. It features live music, food, a parade, craft vendors, a salsa tasting contest, and a history area. Last year's event had more than 100,000 attendees! For more information on the Cinco de Mayo celebrations, visit: [www.districtdelsol.com](http://www.districtdelsol.com).

On May 12th and 13th, Maya Angelou will be giving a speech at St. Kate's. Both performance will take place at 3 p.m. For more information on the speeches, please visit: <http://oshaughnessy.stkate.edu/allevnts.html>.

On May 20th, The Preservation Hall Jazz Band will present a "New Orleans Roots" concert at the Minnesota Orchestra Hall. The show will showcase the rich heritage of music from New Orleans. For more information, please visit: [http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/season/event\\_detail.cfm?id\\_event=6029](http://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/season/event_detail.cfm?id_event=6029).



Fort Snelling will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the freedom of Dred Scott on May 26th, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Author Gwen Swain, author of "The Struggle for Freedom: the Dred Scott Story," will tell the story of Dred Scott, his family, and his fight for freedom. For more information, please visit: <http://events.mnhs.org/media/Kits/events.cfm?siteID=12>.

## Congratulations to 2007-2008 Club Boards

Congratulations to the new '07-'08 boards of HANA, BESA, RHA, USG, STAR, and GMSA. We look forward to another year of great leadership, programming, and mentoring! Thank you to the student leaders of the '06-'07 academic year. We truly appreciate all you have done!

The new executive board members of BESA are: Yolanda Rogers, Malik Watkins, Reese Collins, Nayila Yaro, Aquanette Earley, Reginald Evans, and Daria Caldwell.

The E-board members of HANA are: Fabian DeLoach, Kibra Paulos, Hyunhi Chong, Yewah Kargobi, and Thu Phan.

RHA E-board members are: Gavin Grivna, Kari Elsen, Thomas

Gjervold, Danielle Johnson, Caitlyn Thompson, Jackie St. Deniss, and Brittany Thelemann.

USG E-board members are: Carl Mickman, Matt Des Marais, Courtney Sekevitch, Ryan Weyandt, Katie Berry, and Dan Erickson.

GMSA E-board members are: Felipe Jaque-Pino, Jose Hernandez, Britanni Price, and Pasu Chu.

STAR board members are: Ericka Leahy, Kyle Rude, Christine Rude, Luke Gregory, Chris Hansen, Kira Fielding, Brian Allen, Kelsey Hinkel, Kelsey Larson, Eileen Ward, Dan Miles, Angela Stegeman, Danal Anderson, Will Besser, and Staci Hamilton.

## MSS Flash Cash

**Unmet Need Scholarship**– This scholarship is open to families with a combined income of \$30,000 or less. It is open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents who are accepted or enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at approved, accredited institutions. Students must have a minimum 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale to be eligible to apply. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$3,800. Deadline is May 31st, 2007. For more information, please visit: [www.thesalliemaefund.org/smfnew/scholarship/Unmet\\_need.html](http://www.thesalliemaefund.org/smfnew/scholarship/Unmet_need.html).

**The American Chemical Society Scholarship**– Open to students of color who want to enter the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, or chemical engineering, and students seeking a two-year degree in chemical technology. Individual awards will depend on financial need. Students must have strong academic records and show an interest in careers in the chemical sciences. Students intending to pursue careers in medicine are not eligible for scholarship awards. For more information, please visit: [www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acsdisplay.html?DOC=minorityaffairs\scholars.html](http://www.chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/acsdisplay.html?DOC=minorityaffairs\scholars.html).

## Finals Meltdown Schedule

The end of the academic year is almost here! To help celebrate the end of the year and to alleviate the stress of finals, many departments and groups at St. Thomas are working together to bring you a filled "Finals Meltdown" schedule.

On Wednesday, May 9th, STAR will host a movie and ice cream in the quad. "Life is Beautiful" will be showing at 9 p.m.

On Friday, May 11th, STAR will have inflatables in the quad! There will be a big slide, a Velcro wall, and Dance Dance Revolution.

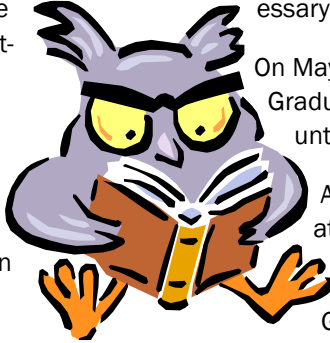
On Monday, May 14th, the Division of Student Affairs will sponsor the Late Night Breakfast, where university staff and

administration cook and serve a free breakfast to UST students. The breakfast starts at 10 p.m. An UST ID is necessary for entrance.

On May 17th, the Commuter Center will be hosting a Graduation Party. The celebration will run from Noon until 1 p.m.

A commencement mass will be held on May 18th, at the Cathedral of St. Paul (289 Selby Ave) at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome

Graduation commencement will be held on May 19th. The Graduate student ceremony will start at 10 a.m. at the Schoenecker Area. The undergraduate ceremony is at 2 p.m. in the O'Shaughnessy Stadium.



## MSS Ally Award Recipients

Congratulations to the winners of the 2006-2007 Student of Color Ally Award. Award recipients were: Dr. Christopher Puto, Dr. Sara Schmalenberger, Dr. Buffy Smith, Leah Spinosa de Vega, Audrea Bellard, and Adriane Powell.

Student of Color Allies are UST students, staff and faculty who provide emotional support and encouragement to students of color. MSS Allies challenge students to be their best, offering sound advice and holding them to high standards. They also inspire students to remain focused on goals and support them in being their most authentic self.

## MSS Graduation Celebrations

Please join Multicultural Student Services and the Office of International Student Services at our 2007 Graduation Reception on May 19, 2007! Open to all graduating Graduate and Undergraduate students, it will run from 4-5:30 p.m. Free food will be provided, so please feel free to bring family and friends!

**\*\*ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS- If you are graduating this spring and ordered a MSS graduation stole, please pick up your stole from the MSS office anytime after May 9th.**

## A special congratulations to our 2007 May Graduates!

This outstanding accomplishment is a result of years of dedication.

We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and we hope you will stay in touch!

We will truly miss you but are excited for your adventure ahead!

\*\*Please participate in the MSS Graduating Student Survey, which can be accessed at the MSS website: [www.stthomas.edu/multicultural](http://www.stthomas.edu/multicultural).



\*\*If you are interested in staying contacted with other Tommies, please join "The Quad," a new free website for Alumni, which provides a lifetime e-mail, a business directory, and an alumni directory. "The Quad" can be accessed at [www.stthomas.edu/alumni](http://www.stthomas.edu/alumni).

## 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/multicultural\\_services](http://www.stthomas.edu/multicultural_services)

CHALLENGE YOURSELF  
CHANGE OUR WORLD



## May Events

### Free Legal Advice

Wednesday, May 2, 9, 16  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Commuter Center

### 'Stop the Hate! Building Community After Violence' forum

Thursday, May 3 from Noon-1 p.m.  
OEC 203

### RHA's "South of the Border" Cinco de Mayo celebration

May 3  
South Campus between Cretin and Grace Hall

### RHA's Mexican Fiesta

May 5th

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

### Multicultural Monday

Monday, May 7 from Noon -1 p.m.  
MHC Commuter Center

### Late Night Breakfast

Monday, May 14 from 10 p.m. to midnight  
MHC Cafeteria

### Fruity Tuesday

Tuesday, May 15 from 10-11 a.m.  
Wellness Center

### Bagel Wednesday

Wednesday, May 16 from 8-10 a.m.  
Commuter Center

### Commencement Mass

Friday, May 18th at 7:30  
Cathedral of St. Paul

### MSS and OISS Graduation Reception

Saturday, May 19 from 4-5:30  
MHC Fireside

### Graduation Commencement

Saturday, May 19  
Shoenecker Arena

\* If you have not yet filed your FAFSA, please remember to submit it ASAP!

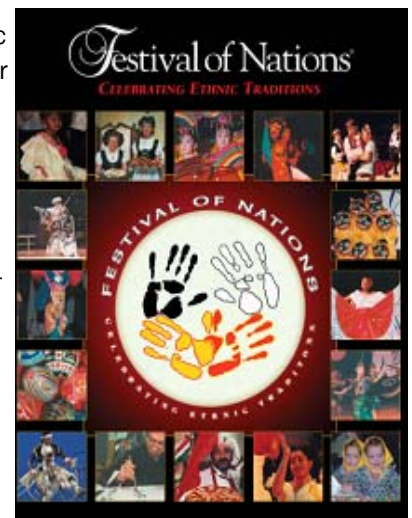
## Festival of Nations

The 2007 Festival of Nations is just around the corner. The Festival of Nations is a four-day celebration of the various ethnic and multicultural identities present in the world. Over 97 different ethnic groups will come together at the Festival of Nations, where foods, crafts, and traditions are celebrated. Over 37 authentic ethnic cafés will be present, featuring over 300 food items from around the world. There will be over 60 cultural exhibits, 75 folk dance ensembles, 35 folk art demonstrations, 55 international bazaar booths, and many shopping opportunities available.

The festival, which is sponsored by the International Institute of Minnesota, has come a long way in its 75 years of celebrations. It first began in 1932, with fewer than 20 nationalities present and audiences of 5,000 people. Today, the Festival of Nations draws crowds of over 85,000 and has exhibits on and features over 90 nationalities.

While the numbers may have changed over the years, the main goal of the celebrations has remained the same. The Festival of Nations website says, " From its conception, the Festival of Nations has been an event of the people, created

as a celebration of ethnic diversity and a vehicle for preserving culture and family values. Its underlying philosophy is to bring Americans of all backgrounds together - native citizens and naturalized citizens alike - to share experiences and differences. As a result, differences ultimately become less significant because barriers to understanding are removed."



General public hours are: 4-10 p.m. Friday, May 4; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, May 5; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, May 6. STAR will provide transportation to the Festival of Nations. Please check the Bulletin for more information.