Generation You!
A Newsletter for First Generation Students

GREETINGS FROM V.P. OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Dear CSB First Generation Student:
Welcome to our first edition of this newsletter for College of Saint Benedict First Generation students. We are pleased to let you know about a new initiative that will offer programs, support and resources to first year CSB students who are “First Generation.”

We define “First Generation” students as those who parents did not complete a four-year degree. We know that at the College of Saint Benedict approximately 150 students in our first year class would meet this definition.

Our First Generation program is intended to provide programs and support services to students and their families so each student can enjoy and take full advantage of all the opportunities available to them at the College of Saint Benedict.

We believe this program is important to help first generation students as they navigate the often complex processes of higher education today.

Our goal is to partner with you in keeping you abreast of campus news, important dates etc… via this newsletter and our website so that we can help you navigate your way through college. It is our hope that as our program grows we will turn to our upper-class students to help mentor our first year students through the experiences such as choosing classes, going through room selection, deciding if or where to study abroad. This would not take the place of college faculty and staff mentoring and assistance, rather it would add a personal perspective from someone who comes from a similar background. In essence we are hoping to create a first generation network of students who can turn to each other for support, and understanding.

We are here to answer any questions and to direct you to the right resources. Please do not hesitate to call my staff any time.

It is my every hope that you will receive the support you need to take the ultimate advantage of your years at CSB/SJU.

Happy New Year!
Mary A. Geller

Meet the First Generation Program Coordinator

Greetings! My name is Margo Thomas and I am the First Generation Student Program Coordinator. I am thrilled to have joined the staff at CSB and develop a program for First Generation students. I am a First Generation student and I did my undergraduate and graduate work at Minnesota State University, Mankato. I have worked at Drexel University and St. Cloud State University in student activities for over 10 years. Since I joined the staff in Nov. I have been organizing some events for the Spring Semester for First Generation students to meet each other and learn about all the opportunities college has to offer you. Our first event is a social on Tuesday, January 27 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in Mary Commons Lounge. Please join us.

We will be having our first workshop on February 11 to discuss how your first semester at college went. More information will be in the February newsletter.

My position is part-time and I am on campus Monday-Thursday and encourage you to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Vice President of Student Development, Mary A. Geller

Meet the First Generation Program Coordinator

Mango J. Thomas
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mthomas@csbsju.edu
Dear First Generation Student,

Congratulations on completing your first semester of college! By now hopefully you have become acquainted with the Department of Residential Life. We are the department in charge of maintaining and assigning housing on campus. We also have a great Resident Assistant (RA) staff who work in our campus housing. It is our hope that you have met the RAs who work in your building and have been invited to and attended some of the programs they have organized.

What you may not know is the many functions and services the Department of Residential Life provides beyond housing, RAs, and programming!

Besides employing 38 student staff members as RAs (Resident Assistants) in the Residence Halls and CAs (Community Advisors) in the Campus Apartments, the Department of Residential Life also employs approximately 27 students who staff the Mary Commons Information Desk, the campus mailroom, and the Student Development reception desk. In addition, two students work as advisors to our Health and Wellness intentional living communities. With eight Master’s level professional staff members supervising these students, the department employs a combined total of approximately 75 employees.

The student workers at the Mary Commons Information Desk field all general incoming calls to campus and operate as the campus’ switchboard. They also provide directions for the many visitors traveling through Mary Commons. In addition, these student workers check out board games, pool sticks, foosballs, etc. to students hanging out in the large lounge area of Mary Commons. The Campus Mailroom workers provide another important service to our students—the sorting and distribution of all CSB students’ mail and packages—which is no small task! Finally, both these student employees and the staff of the Student Development Reception Desk located in Upper Mary Commons work on various administrative tasks vital to the functioning of the Department of Residential Life.

The Department of Residential Life also supports Intentional Living Communities in our campus housing. Currently there are three Intentional Living Communities on campus: Health and Wellness Community, Eco.Haus (Environmental Living Community) and the Sustainable Living Community. The first year cohort involved in Health and Wellness lives together in Aurora Hall. Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors involved in the Health and Wellness Community also live together in both Margretta Hall and Schumacher Apartment building. Upper class women, such as those involved with Eco.Haus and the Sustainably Living Community, are also able to submit proposals for intentional living communities at the beginning of each room selection process.

Helpful Information by Month
January: Thinking about becoming a RA for next year? The application process kicks-off in full swing at the start of spring semester. You can find application information on our website at: http://www.csbsju.edu/csbreslife/ra_application/
February: Watch for information (signs, emails, our website) about the room selection process. Information about sophomore housing will be available so you can prepare prior to selection night in March. A $100 Advance Payment is due on March 12th.
April: Information will be available (via signs, emails, our website) about our limited summer housing. First availability goes to those students who are taking summer classes or working at CSB/SJU.

Contact Information and Location
The Department of Residential Life is housed in Upper Mary Commons, above the Campus Bookstore. The department office is located next to the offices of the Dean of Students and the Vice President for Student Development. Phone: x5580 Email: housinginfo@csbsju.edu

Did You Know?
Mary Commons was built in 1956, the same year Aurora was built. Regina was the second of the three buildings connected to Mary Commons to be built. Regina was completed in 1963 and Corona was completed in 1969. The three buildings connected to Mary Commons were given names that are titles for the Virgin Mary. Here are the definitions for the First Year Residence Hall names:
Aurora = Dawn (or luminous bands of light)
Regina = Queen
Corona = Crown (or luminous ring surrounding a celestial body)
Advice from a Senior: What I Wish I Had Known:

• To save more money I made over the summer, it goes fast.

• Go abroad either for a semester or may term, I didn’t go and I regret it. My friends talk about their trips and loved them.

• Go on an alternative spring break trip, or winter break

• Rate my professor.com

• Do not spread yourself to thin. First year I had so much going on that I didn’t have a lot of time for sleep. Now I learned to manage my time, and I get at least 8 hours every night, and it sure does make a difference.

• Moving out. After my first year of college going back home for the summer was very hard for me. My parents were still treating me like I was in High School. However, I was a different person. I just did things a little differently, and lived my life a little differently. I know a major argument I got with my parents was a curfew. My first year of college I could stay out as late as I wanted and do what I want when I want. When I moved back home for the summer, this changed.

My parents tried to tell me that I had to be home by a certain hour and that I had to tell them where I was going and when I would be home. It was very hard for me to change back to be how my parents wanted me to be.

• Living with others. Living with other people can sometimes be a really hard thing. Roommates can get in your way and can sometimes cramp your life. However, there are many tricks that I did to help me get along with my roommates. Set up a chore chart. My roommates do this and we rotate chores and no one fights about who should clean what, and since we take turns doing different things its fair. DO NOT SHARE FOOD. Everyone eats different types of food and different amounts. Going to the grocery store together than splitting the bill isn’t always fair. Just have everyone buy their own food and keep it on different shelves. Conflict can sometimes be hard to deal with its with a roommate.

• Join a club- Once again I gained so many friends from The clubs that I was in. My first 3 years I was apart of the dance team. I will never forget the memories I have made with those girls. I had to quit for my senior year, because of Student Teaching. I truly miss the team and everything that goes with it.

• Friends for Life— I will always have my friends from College. As the years go by, I am constantly making new friends. However, the first friends I mad her were those that lived on my floor first year. I became friends with 3 girls that lived on my floor first year, Corona K, and these girls have been some of my closest friends through all of my time here. In fact, for the last 2 years I have lived with 2 of them. Keep your doors open, and invite people into your room. You never know who you will meet and who will be come a new friend.

Things I Love About CSB/SJU:

• Get a Job- I work at Student Activities and Leadership Development. I learned so much from that job, and gained so many friends that I wouldn’t have. Plus, I really appreciate my bosses. I really got to know them, and connect with them. I have grained great relationships with my bosses and co-workers.

Written by:
Jessica Baxter, Senior
Edited by:
Laura Adams, Senior
As you reflect on your first semester at the College of Saint Benedict how did you spend your time? Did you get the grades you wanted? Did you participate in everything you wanted do? Did you get enough sleep?

Here are some key points to help you set a better study schedule from the Academic Advising web site.

- Plan a schedule of balanced activities. Know what aspects of your day are flexible and what is not. For example:

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<td>Classes</td>
<td>Study</td>
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- Trade time—don’t steal it. When you need to make changes in your study schedule, make sure you reschedule the missed time.

- Study at a regular time and place. Know what you are going to study and where saves time.

For more information visit www.csbsju.edu/academicadvising/

### Upcoming Campus Events and Activities

#### February 2009

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<td>Careers in Science</td>
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<td>Sophomore halls Open house Careers for the Common Good: Careers that make a difference</td>
<td>First Generation Workshop</td>
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<td>Sadie Hawkins Hoe Down</td>
<td>Film Dinner &amp; Movie</td>
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<td>Careers in Publishing Law Careers</td>
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<td>Harlem Gospel Choir</td>
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<td>Recreation &amp; Leisure Careers</td>
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<td>Film Showing</td>
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