Hello, my name is Krista Senden. I work at CSB/SJU as the Assistant Director for International Student Programs. I want to give you the knowledge of a great program my office has been working on lately. Festival of Cultures is an event that celebrates and recognizes the vast diversity on our campuses. The event highlights cultures of Bosnian and Herzegovinian, Hmong, Japanese, Kenyan, Salvadorian, Minnesotan, and more! Members of over 30 different cultures are represented, who will share food, language, unique aspects and fun facts from their cultures. This is a great opportunity to understand more about different cultures and in doing so learn about your own culture. The event is free and open to students, staff, faculty, monastic and community members from our surrounding area. There will be a fashion show with students wearing a kimono from Japan, an Austrian dress called dirndl, the Kikoy from Kenya, and a saraong which is a typical dress in Sri Lanka. There will also be a Vietnamese dance, a performance of the Chinese violin, Colombian singing, and Kong Fu demonstrations just to name of few of the exciting events that will be happening!

Don’t miss the Festival of Cultures on November 21st from 5-8 pm in the Hahen Campus Center, CSB. The First Generation program will be meeting up to attend the event as a group. To sign up to attend with the First Generation Program, send Margo an email at mthomas@csbsju.edu.

We hope to see you there!

Krista Senden, Assistant Director for International Student Programs

The First Generation program hosted its second annual Family Weekend First Generation Reception on Saturday, October 24. We were lucky to have some great sunshine on the day and enjoyed the refreshments while the Vice President of Student Development, Mary Geller, Dean of Students Jody Terhaar, and Margo Thomas, First Generation Program Coordinator mixed and mingled with family members and students. Margo gave a brief overview of the program, assisted with distributing the door prizes, and welcomed everyone to campus.

Family Weekend, First Generation Reception, October 24, 2009
Get to Know the Writing Center!

**Where we are located:**
For the ease and convenience of students, and to accommodate our two campus system, the Writing Center has two locations! Our St. Ben’s location is in the HAB, room 103. As you come in the front doors, turn left at the first hall and the WC will be on the right hand side. At St. John’s we are located on the Quad, room 263. This is the first room on the right side of the hall as you come onto the second floor.

Both locations feature multiple work spaces, comfortable couches, computers, and helpful tutors at your service. Feel free to stop by and take a look around and maybe even set up an appointment if you have a pesky paper looming overhead!

**How to Make an Appointment**
There are a few different ways to make appointments with the Writing Centers. If you want, you can just call! The number at the St. John’s Writing Center is 363-2711, and the number at St. Ben’s is 363-5499. Or, if you’re in the neighborhood, you can stop by and make an appointment in person.

If you’d rather make an appointment online, just go to the A-Z Index on the CSB/SJU homepage. Click “W,” and then click on “Writing Centers.” Once you’ve reached the Writing Center’s homepage, click on the giant green box in the middle of the screen which will then help you make your appointment. *Just a reminder—once you get to the appointment page, make sure the campus you want your appointment to be on is displayed inside the drop-down box near the top of the page.*

**What to Expect**
At the Writing Centers, it’s our job to help you, the students, to become better writers. But what exactly does that mean? It means a lot of things. At an appointment, you can expect to be working one-on-one with a tutor on your assignment. We ask that you have your paper printed before you come to the session so we can get started right away. Most of the time, the tutors will ask you about what you want to accomplish in the session, and what you want to discuss. After that, you and the tutor will work together to do what you need to so your paper can improve—from brainstorming ideas and making outlines to guide your essay to looking at a few grammar issues or helping you rewrite a sentence.

Tutors are here for you for every step of the writing process. Whether you arrive without a single word on the page, or a completed draft, don’t hesitate to come in for assistance. The tutors love to talk to you about your papers just as much as you love to feel more confident about what you have written. So it’s a win-win situation!
As a senior in high school I decided I wanted to canoe and camp in Northern Minnesota. I finally took the opportunity to do so this past October through the Peer Resource Program (PRP) at CSB/SJU.

Seventeen CSB/SJU students went up to the Boundary Water Canoe Area (BWCA) over long weekend. There were two groups; one of 9 students and one of 8 students. We planned the details of the trip and had to figure things out ourselves while the facilitators, our peers, were there as resources if needed. Before we left for the trip, we planned our route and bought and packed food and equipment.

We met challenges each day of our trip. On our departure day, Wednesday, October 7th, we had a bad tire which caused us a 2 hour delay. We would now get to our entry point at only 2am! One of the participants hospitably offered his home in Virginia as a resting place for the night, an idea which all of us strongly agreed to.

The next morning came quickly. As we drove up to our entry point there were fewer and fewer people and more and more rocks and trees. Country roads changed from tar to gravel. My group of 8 students put our canoes in our entry point late morning. From then on, time was only measured by hunger and the sun. Thursday was a warm fall day with little breeze as we began to explore the untouched wilderness. We taught each other how to row, steer, and portage the canoes. We stopped at a rapid called Devil’s Cascade to experience the awe and danger of deep cut rocks created by running water. The first night of setting up camp was a very slow process because we didn’t know what everyone’s abilities were.

Friday morning I stepped out of the tent into the cold and on a thin blanket of snow! There was fog hanging over the lake as we ate our oatmeal and granola bars. Little did we know this brisk day would present us with a huge physical and mental challenge. We had two of our longest portages and the weather was getting colder. We finished our first portage with noticeable exhaustion. As we neared the next portage it was getting much later into the day, but we were ready to conquer it. On our 2nd long portage some of the path was flooded with debris thanks to a beaver dam upstream. We devised a way in which our canoes and luggage would safely cross the swamp, and no one would get their feet wet. When we finally reached camp and had eaten, we could rest for another day with more life threatening challenges.

On Saturday morning we woke up to ½ inch of snow and strong winds. To reach our next portage would require paddling into the wind which could capsize us. When we finally found the portage and were safely on land, we all embraced. As the day progressed, the sun came out and the wind died down. As we thought all the hard times were over, one of our members had a slight asthma attack with her inhaler ½ mile up stream. We camped one last night in the coldest weather we had the whole trip and all slept close to stay warm.

Sunday morning was an easy paddle to the exit point. Our group hug was filled with enthusiasm and accomplishment. We had made it out alive and well. We loaded up our equipment and were on our way back to civilization with eight new friends.

Being in the BWCA for four days taught me a lot of survival and outdoors skills. I also experienced how quickly trust can be formed with strangers, the importance of clean drinking water, effective group decision making, and the necessity of team work. The Boundary Waters was the trip of a lifetime.

By Katie Scepaniak, Sophomore

Katie Scepaniak, Sophomore

Katie used some of the out of the classroom first generation funds to support this trip.
Upcoming First Generation events!

Mark your calendar for these upcoming First Generation Events!

First Year Workshop:
Stress Management
Wednesday, November 4 4 pm to 5 pm
Gorecki 204C
Presenter: Jenny Miller, Counseling and Health Services

Performing Arts: You Can't Take It With You
Thursday, November 12 7:30 pm
BAC, Gorecki Theater

Sophomore Workshop:
You Want to Study Abroad?
Tuesday, November 17, 4 pm to 5 pm
Gorecki 204B
Presenter: Study Abroad Staff member

Social: Festival of Cultures
Saturday, November 21, 5 pm to 8 pm
HCC

Upcoming Campus Events and Activities

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