

St. Cloud State University

theRepository at St. Cloud State

Chronicle

Student Publications

9-2020

University Chronicle [September 2020]

St. Cloud State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/chron>



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

St. Cloud State University, "University Chronicle [September 2020]" (2020). *Chronicle*. 4.
<https://repository.stcloudstate.edu/chron/4>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at theRepository at St. Cloud State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Chronicle by an authorized administrator of theRepository at St. Cloud State. For more information, please contact tdsteman@stcloudstate.edu.



UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

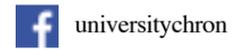
Information wants to be free

September 2020 Edition

Publication 96 Vol. 1

St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN

www.universitychronicle.com



universitychron



@UniversityChron

FALL 2020 CONVOCATION; PRESIDENT WACKER ADDRESSES SCSU'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

By Tim Speier

Asst. Managing Editor

As students and faculty prepare for the fall semester to get underway, St. Cloud State University President Robbyn Wacker presented the Fall Convocation to address SCSU plans for the future of the University. Provost Daniel Gregory and Student Government President Surkhel Yousafzai gave opening remarks to address not only the Coronavirus, but also talked about the impact of the killing of George Floyd on our community.

The Fall Convocation took place in the Ritsche Auditorium on Aug. 18 along with being simulcast in the Atwood Memorial Center Ballroom and online.

With this being the first meeting since the unexpected closure of campus due to the Coronavirus back in March, Gregory opened by thanking everyone that worked tirelessly to move a campus online.

"The way that [the faculty] approach their work with a 'find a solution' attitude was truly also very amazing," said Gregory. "It can be seen in how our faculty, in three weeks, transitioned every one of our courses [to] remote delivery and how they've worked all summer to develop a portfolio program that balances President Wacker's asking us to have a[n] in person component to our classes, with also having the flexibility to adjust to the virus."

That plan will be



SCSU President Robbyn Wacker addresses the crowd during the 2020 Convocation. Photo Credit: Tim Speier

to open their doors for the fall semester to over 8,100 students, with roughly 80% of students having some sort of in person instruction on Aug. 24, according to the Town Hall presented on August 13.

In his closing remarks, Gregory addressed the negative aspects surrounding SCSU and how the focus seems to be on programs and initiatives that are struggling, or on things that have not gone as planned.

"I don't think we spend nearly enough time paying attention to our colleagues' success, sharing our congrats with a colleague that has accomplished something positive, bragging about the programs in their colleges ... we just don't brag about each other, or hold each other up when we should," said Gregory.

In the second year of Wacker's "It Time" initiative, the plan is to redefine what it means to be a "Regional University" and to create distinctive differences from other universities in order to address the negative effects that SCSU is facing.

"It's time to focus on the changes that will take our challenges and turn them into our opportunities," said Wacker. "It's time to be bold, to push boundaries, and to take control of our future."

In order to take control of their future and redefine how SCSU is seen as a Regional Comprehensive University, Wacker laid out her five step approach to accomplish this.

The first step in the plan is to expand what it means to be regional. This means that the University will continue to recruit in Minnesota while still

recruiting from across the country and internationally, with a goal of expanding new out of state Undergraduate and Masters enrollment in the fall of 2021 by 1% each.

In regards to international student numbers, SCSU plans to maintain their Undergraduate enrollment number while increasing their Masters program numbers by 1%.

Along with maintaining and increasing their numbers, SCSU plans on establishing and redefining programs in the School for Professional and Continuing Education to reach more non-traditional students. This will be accomplished by offering three new online degrees, five new certificates or alternative credentials, and increasing non-traditional enrollment 10% by 2021.

The second step in this process is to be a distinctive comprehensive university that is recognized as a leader in holistic health and wellness, leadership, education, and engineering and applied sciences. This includes a three year plan to add Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral, and certificate programs in each of those four areas.

Current plans for holistic health and wellness are to pursue an academic partnership with the University of Minnesota. SCSU will also be looking to partner with the University of Minnesota in providing a Doctorate of Nurse Practitioner.

Along with those initiatives, SCSU will reorganize the current programs in the College of Science and Engineering (COSE) to create a Polytech Institute. This would not only help distinguish the college as a leader in this area but it would be the first of its kind in Minnesota.

The University is working with the School of Health and Human Services and the School of Education to take steps in renaming them as colleges instead of schools "to designate the fact that that college will have a significant portfolio of distinction and other masters and doctoral programs to be added in the future."

To assist in enrollment growth nationwide, Wacker wants to get national recognition for selected programs.

See CONVOCATION on Page 4



ALSO INCLUDED:

The legacy of George Torrey

Pg 4

NSIC Cancels Events

Pg 16



SCSU PROVIDES PERIODIC UPDATES THROUGH TOWN HALLS

By Anna Panek
Managing Editor

St. Cloud State held several town hall meetings throughout the summer. Speakers at the webinars included President Robbyn Wacker, Jen Furan Super, Clare Rahm, Mike Freer, Dan Gregory, Phil Thorson, Jason Woods, Brent Nielsen, Kabao Yang, Corie Beckerman, Heather Weems, Phil Moessner, La Vonne Cornell-Swanson, Shahzad Ahmad, and Tressa Ries.

University

Wacker thanked everyone for their work and all the changes they have made because of the Coronavirus.

Through the CARES Act, \$3.9 million was given to students at St. Cloud State University, every student that was enrolled as of the Friday prior to spring break received at least \$250. Some students also received need-based grants of between \$350-\$850. The government has mandated who the funds can go to. International students, for example, are not eligible for CARES funding.

The University has created the Bring Huskies Home Task Force. There are two parts: “plan to bring employees back to campus after the [Minnesota stay-at-home order] is lifted” and to create a plan for the fall semester. Safety of students and faculty is the number one priority for the University.

When going through some of the specific goals for the fall semester, Wacker commented on how classes will look in the near future.

“It will not be the way it was in February. There

is no going back to normal in this way.”

Wacker acknowledged the death of George Floyd and later sent out an email communication on May 29 and shared that as members of the community we have the opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

On July 13, Wacker shared the ruling for the Student Exchange Visitor Program. In regards to SCSU, the University will be working with international students to make sure they can stay in the U.S. and continue to take classes either in person or online.

Wacker requested four things from everyone who visits campus.

“Wear your face coverings, keep physical distancing 6’, wash/sanitize your hands and your spaces, and stay home if you are not feeling well.”

Mask Requirement

An email communication was sent out on Monday, June 22 informing students will be required to wear masks on campus this fall.

“To that end, St. Cloud State University will be requiring the use of face coverings for at least the fall semester for faculty, staff, students and visitors in all St. Cloud State buildings and includes face coverings being worn in classrooms and labs to prevent the spread of COVID-19,” read the email.

Health Matter

St. Cloud State had its first confirmed case of the Coronavirus on April 30. Personal protective equipment (PPE) has been proven difficult to secure for all staff and students.

The possibility of testing on campus is still up in the air at this time.

Nielsen gave a general reminder to answer calls and cooperate with public health officials if you become a potential case or close contact. It may take a few days to get a good answer. In the case of a positive test, you should report your case to the SCSU Medical Clinic at 320-308-3193. The Medical Clinic and Pharmacy continue to serve students.

Emergency Operations

Steps towards full and complete operations will likely be completed a year from now. The University is working with the Minnesota Department of Health to ensure that the University is prepared for bringing students back to campus safely. Offices re-opened to the public at the beginning of August.

Furan Super shared some expectations that the University has for the fall. “We will expect our huskies to practice social distancing, respect group size limitations, and do our best to protect each other.”

Faculty will prepare to offer classes remotely again if the Coronavirus situation changes, such as another spike in cases. A draft for a campus cleaning plan is in its final stages. While workers will be continuing to clean and sanitize, the University assumes that faculty, students, and visitors help by practicing social distancing and new general cleaning practices. All areas on campus being used will be cleaned at least once daily and additional cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be provided to each building.

Strategic Enrollment Management

Events that typically take place still can, just altered to follow guidelines. Signs focused on physical distancing and good health practices were posted on campus on Aug. 3. In efforts not to send too many emails, all up to date information will be posted on the Bring Huskies Home site. Commencement packages were sent to students who graduated this past spring. An in-person commencement was held on Friday, Aug. 14.

Information Technology

The IT team is continuing to work on finding more platforms to support distance working and learning. One specific site was MoveIt Securely. Microphones and video cameras will be added to classrooms so faculty can offer classes remotely or in a hybrid format if needed. Zoom will also be made accessible in each classroom.

Academic Affairs

Fall semester will have a full schedule on campus regardless of how many of them can take place on campus due to the Coronavirus situation and regulations. D2L Brightspace will be used for every course for the 2020-2021 academic year. Faculty are encouraged to develop those pages so classes can be offered successfully in either format. Course offerings will be adaptive in case another stay-at-home order is put in place.

Classrooms were assessed for how they may be utilized such that social distancing can still occur and properly cleaning can be practiced. Classes that were

designed to be online or hybrid for fall will continue in that format. On the other hand, classes that were designed to be in person will be offered in person as long as it can be offered in a safe manner. Students and faculty who need technology assistance can always reach out to HuskyTech for help.

Courses will be offered on a spectrum from completely in-person, blended/hybrid, and online options. The format of the course will be shown on students’ plans in e-services. Gregory commented on tuition prices on July 13. “Undergraduate Fall 2020 tuition rates remain the same as Spring 2020.

Undergraduate Spring 2021 tuition rate is anticipated to increase 3% as previously planned ... online differential fee will NOT be applied to those courses that were converted to online or hybrid.”

For classes that were originally planned to be online, the online differential fee will still apply.

Facilities

All spaces have been cleaned and sanitized; spaces are continuing to be cleaned after every use. Moessner shared the expectations that the University has for everyone who comes to campus.

“[The University] assumes everyone follows basic personal health practices: 6-foot physical distancing, wash hands frequently, wear face cover, cover coughs and sneezes, and stay home when sick.”

See TOWN HALL on Page 6

“PLEASE, I CAN’T BREATHE” MEMORIAL AT LAKE GEORGE

By Tim Speier
Asst. Managing Editor

St. Cloud came together on Friday, May 29 to pay respects and voice their frustration at Lake George over the murder of George

Floyd on May 25.

As the country voices their anger in what has been a violent and devastating week, the memorial and protest in St. Cloud was peaceful while still showing their disdain of the system that is set in place

to protect everyone. That protection has been on a sliding scale based on where you live and the color of your skin.

Around 250 people of all races, religions, and ages were seen paying their

respects. There were multiple ministers of different religions providing support, families that brought flowers, nurses and other workers still in uniform, along with a few veterans who brought medical supplies to treat

the injured. All of whom came together to voice their concerns and pay respects.

See PHOTO GALLERY on Page 3

“PLEASE, I CAN’T BREATHE”



The protest moving along Lake George. “No Justice, No Peace.” Photo credit: Tim Speier



No caption needed. Photo credit: Tim Speier



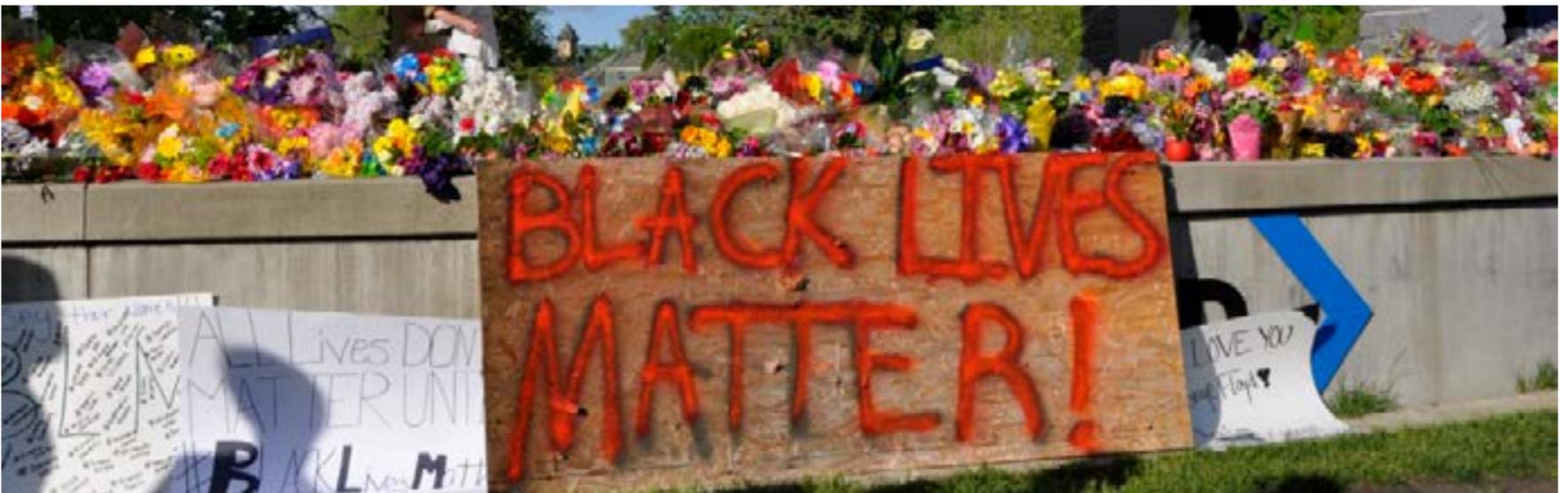
Protesters making their way through St. Cloud. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Protesters chant in unison on the steps of the Stearns County Courthouse. Photo credit: Tim Speier



The protest moving along Lake George. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Flowers and signs were placed at the pavilion to be transported to Minneapolis at a later time. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Protesters of all ages gathered in St. Cloud to voice their concerns. Photo credit: Tim Speier



The protesters moving back to Lake George. Photo credit: Tim Speier



Emotions ran high throughout the march. Photo credit: Tim Speier

ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY PLANS FOR BRINGING STUDENTS BACK TO CAMPUS

By Sarah Bunich
Staff Writer

Recently, St. Cloud State was one of the Minnesota State colleges to announce their plans and strategies for students and staff returning for the fall semester.

The University, with the help of multiple departments, has formed a program called Bring Huskies Home, which focuses on all areas of campus to make sure they are taking as much precaution as possible to bring students and staff back to campus. SCSU's University Communications (UCOMM) stated the safety of our Husky Community is their number one priority. They are following CDC and Minnesota Department of Health safety recommendations such as smaller class sizes, going online if needed, physical distancing, and requiring face masks.

The Bring Huskies

Home program has a section working on how classes may proceed for fall semester. Classes will be offered on a spectrum of in person (where students will be completely on campus for classes), online (students and staff will be completely online never having to meet together in person), or hybrid (a spectrum of many options that include some time on campus and some time online). Many professors are choosing to offer their course online or in a hybrid format.

"The University has been going to classrooms to see how many students can be in there while having physical distancing," said SCSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dan Gregory. "We are then comparing this to how many students are registered for these classes to see if it will work or if they need to be fully online or hybrid classes."

For classes that may be held online in any form,



St. Cloud State University prepares to open campus for classes this fall. Photo credit: Tim Speier

professors have been taking these possible changes as consideration for planning their classes for fall semester, so they know what to change to have their classes for the move from classroom to online or hybrid.

"Classes this fall are going to be tricky," said Professor Sarah Gibson. "I am planning on most classes being taught mostly online, so as to protect student

health as well as my own."

SCSU announced along with the Bring Huskies Home program, that cloth face coverings will be required on campus during the fall semester.

"Face masks do not have to be worn if you are in a room alone, such as a dorm or office room or if there is room of physical distancing," said Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Management

Jason Woods.

Students should still wear masks when in large groups or in University buildings.

With the help of Bring Huskies Home and the changes faculty and staff are making to have campus being safe for the return of students, SCSU is looking forward to students coming back on Aug. 24.

CONVOCATION from Page 1

The first round of programs selected for national advertising are Applied Behavior Analysis, Co-Teaching Academy, Environmental Engineering, Mass Comm-Broadcasting, Masters of Engineering Management, Meteorology, Nursing, and Software Engineering.

Wacker laid out her plan for adding Esports to the University by working to identify programs and needed curriculum with a deadline of Oct. 1, with a goal of offering an Esports certificate for current students.

"[We] believe that it is more than just gaming," said Wacker. "It's really about an industry that needs leadership, management, and other skills associated with that [industry]. Again, [will be] one of the first in the state to move forward in that [field]."

With the "It's Time" initiative, the University has committed to strengthening the College of Liberal Arts and the integration of Liberal Arts education.

"It's really critical that we double down on our commitment to strengthen humanities, arts, and social science programs," said Wacker.

The University will also begin work on a new Honors College.

In the third part of the "It's Time" initiative, Wacker wants SCSU to be a University of Teacher Scholars and to implement the "It's Time" initiative by preparing expectations for each reassignment in the spring semester.

This also includes creating a Center for Innovation and Partnerships to assist with the culture of innovation, creativity, and

to assist with the culture of innovation, creativity, and adaptability. This will give faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to design new approaches to teaching and learning. There will also be applied research, scholarship centers, and institutes to create a positive change in our region, across the country, and throughout the world.

The fourth step in the "It's Time" initiative is to individualize the approach to student learning and success at SCSU by launching new programs and expanding the use of programs already in place. The University will launch both Huskies Advance and Huskies Coaches programs.

Huskies Advance will give students five to six goal areas to choose from that will include curricular, co curricular, and extra

curricular choices as a companion to their degree that will provide a certificate when completed to set them apart from other university's graduates.

The Huskies Coaches program will provide students with a "coach" after they are admitted that will stick with them throughout their time at SCSU. The coaches will help students navigate issues, problem solve, get connected to resources, and be a guide for them.

The use of Navigate is also set for a 50% increase throughout the semester. Navigate is a program that can help track and support students in different aspects of their time here at SCSU by connecting them with their advisors.

Prioritizing diversity, equality, and inclusion (DEI) at SCSU is the fifth step in

the "It's Time" initiative. This will include creating a University Equity 2030 team to begin implementation of goals set for 2020 such as broadening participation in the President's Diversity Advisory Council, implementing DEI education for leadership, and identifying action steps that advance DEI.

"It is my commitment to you and to this campus community, that we're going to make good on this promise to implement the 'It's Time' [initiative]," said Wacker. "This is the work that we need to do to ensure our future is safe and solid, no matter what happens. It's a commitment that all of us will be working together to make this a reality for our institution, for our students, and for [the faculty]."

STUDENTS RECEIVE CARES ACT FUNDING TO OFFSET ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF COVID-19

By Anna Panek
Managing Editor

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed at the end of March. The act provided St. Cloud State University with \$7,821,764 according to an email from University Communications to the *University Chronicle*. Half of that money would be given directly to students.

Students who have direct deposit set up through the University received their funds at the beginning of May. Everyone else received their funds the following week in the mail.

An email from the President's Office sent on the same day the funds were deposited explained the act in a little more detail.

"CARES Act is a federal law that provides money to students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn," read the email from the President's Office. "The



SCSU Administration hands out CARES funding per federal guidelines. Photo credit: Anna Panek

CARES Act requires that the money distributed to eligible students is used to cover their expenses related to the disruption of campus operations due to coronavirus. Eligible expenses can include a student's cost of attendance, food, housing, course materials, technology, health care, and child care. We know that these have been challenging times, and we hope that these funds will assist you in your ability to continue and finish your

degree and graduate."

Some students were unsure what this money was exactly, some money from the federal government is given as loans; however, CARES funding is a grant and does not need to be repaid.

Not every student received the same amount of funds. The email from University Communications furthered explained that based on these guidelines the school was given they awarded all eligible students a \$250 grant award and

additional awards were based on need based criteria such as being Pell Eligible.

"Grants ranged from \$250 to \$1,100 (only 4 students received this amount). The various levels were \$250 (2,264), \$600 (2,514), \$700 (1,413), \$800 (495) and \$1,100 (4)," read the email from University Communications.

Any student who was eligible for the original grant is available to apply for more funds from the CARES Act Emergency Grant on

Huskies Connect.

Some students were not eligible for CARES funds, including international students, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, and students who attend entirely online (before the alternative format).

Those students are eligible to apply for funds through the University Foundation. SCSU's Student Life and Development page explains how to apply for those funds:

How to Apply:

- Log into HuskiesConnect: <https://huskiesconnect.stcloudstate.edu/>
- Enter StarID and password
- Locate and click the 2021 Academic Year COVID-19 Emergency Fund application form (can either search for it or scroll through to find it)

THE LEGACY OF GEORGE TORREY

By Anna Panek
Managing Editor

A legend 87 years in the making died on June 10. George Torrey was a well respected philanthropist to St. Cloud State University and central Minnesota as a whole. Besides his generous donations, Torrey was known for being the CEO of Herberger's.

Vice President of University Advancement Matt Andrew, who worked closely with Torrey on the SCSU Foundation's Board of Directors, spoke about the decades of aid and assistance that Torrey and his wife poured into St. Cloud State. Andrew described Torrey as a mentor and leader,

although commented how difficult it was to sum up a legend in just a few words.

"If communities are fortunate, there are people like George Torrey who see their success and sort of our call to come forth to really do good things for our community" said Andrew. They are leaders of civil progress, and George was that kind of guy."

Some notable accomplishments by the University that Torrey had a hand in include the renovation of Centennial Hall in the mid 2000's, the expansion of the Hockey Center in 2012-2013, and perhaps most significantly moving hockey to Division I in the 1980's.

"Nobody does it just because it's a good business decision," said Andrew. "He had a very warm and giving heart. He cared about people."

Torrey made an impact on almost every aspect of Huskies Athletics, Head Wrestling Coach Steve Costanzo reflects on the recent loss.

"The legacy of George Torrey will never be forgotten," wrote Costanzo in an email to the *University Chronicle*, "His impact financially for Huskies Athletics has enabled significant growth in our department and athletic programs."

See GEORGE on Page 9



George Torrey made a tremendous impact on St. Cloud State University and central Minnesota throughout his life. Photo courtesy of St. Cloud State University Archives



SCSU ADOPTS NEW PROCTORING TOOLS FOR ONLINE ASSESSMENTS

By Anna Panek
Managing Editor

While some courses will take place in person this fall, many courses are moving to a partially online or completely online format. Academic honesty and integrity are in the core of every course and some worry that cheating will be more prone to happen in an

online course. In efforts to get ahead of the potential cheating, the University has integrated two online test integrity tools by Respondus into D2L Brightspace.

Respondus' website shares how commonly used the program is at the university level.

"Respondus Monitor is proctoring more online exams in higher education

than any other proctoring system or service."

The first tool is the Respondus Lockdown Browser. Essentially, it only allows the student to access the quiz, while temporarily preventing access to other programs on their computer until they submit the quiz. The second tool is the Respondus Monitor, which is essentially the same as

the first tool, except adds the extra requirement of recording video and audio to ensure cheating cannot take place.

SCSU provided a quick-start-guide for students on their website. The guide walks students through how to use the programs if or when their professors require them for online assessments.

The University only recently integrated these tools into D2L according to an email from HuskyTech to the *University Chronicle*.

"Since July 6th, the online test integrity tools Respondus Lockdown Browser and Respondus monitor are available in all D2L Brightspace courses."

TOWN HALL from Page 2

The cleaners and disinfectants being used are in accordance with the CDC and EPA and provide ongoing protection for up to 72 hours. All highly used areas will be cleaned at least two times per day. Hand sanitizer will be made available at the main doors of every building. There are many other precautions that will be actively taken everyday. Residence Halls will have specific guidelines for residents to help keep all residents safe and healthy.

Student Life

Students who are living on campus will have a single room, but only be charged the price of a double room. The Huskies Food Pantry is still operating and looking for donations. Check out their website to see what items they currently need and current hours of operation. The Pantry moved to Hill Hall on July 20. Each campus housing contract includes a

free campus recreation membership for this school year.

Counseling and Psychological Services is still serving students. For more information contact (320) 308-3171. The student emergency grants are still available and will reset at the beginning of the second summer session.

International Student Update

Currently all U.S. embassies are closed. Students outside of the U.S. and who are able to get a visa, will be able to return to campus. However, students who are unable to get a visa will have to attend courses online. The CIS is holding multiple orientations to support students in all situations. All recruitment efforts are online now, and have received satisfactory participation.

Education Abroad is on hold due to travel restrictions. CIS is working

on bringing a global perspective to campus in the meantime. As mentioned above, international students will be allowed to take online classes; however, Ahmad explains that one caveat, "Students may not enroll in an entirely online course load." St. Cloud State is able to enroll all international students who were previously enrolled.

HR Update

For faculty and staff who need to file for a leave, the process is the same and to simply contact HR. In order to work from home, staff must have a recommendation from a doctor, your role must be possible to be done from home, and it depends on how the individual office is run.

More information was shared during the town halls. Check out universitychron.com for all the updates.

SCSU ASSISTS INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS THROUGH POTENTIAL ICE POLICY

By Sarah Bunich
Staff Writer

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released a policy in the beginning of July that would force international students to return to their home countries if classes were to go completely online again. The policy was later overturned.

Before it was overturned, international students had a lot of worry, anger, and other emotions when they heard about this policy. Students were faced with a lot of things to think about, such as some of the countries the students are from have closed travel from

the United States. There are others that are dealing with a rise in cases of COVID-19 making it unsafe to go back.

"This whole idea caused a lot of stress and fear among all international students including myself," said former Student Government President Kridish Uprety.

SCSU's Center for International Studies (CIS) had help from the Bring Huskies Home program to keep international students in the U.S. for school. The CIS wanted to have classes in hybrid or in person as much as possible.

See ICE on Page 9

UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

St Cloud State University

ADDRESS 13 Stewart Hall St. Cloud,
Minnesota 56301-4498

WEB www.universitychron.com

E-MAIL universitychronicle1924@gmail.com

PHONE (320)-308-4086

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Matt Auvil

MANAGING EDITOR: Anna Panek

ASST. MANAGING EDITOR: Tim Speier

SPORTS EDITOR: Sam Goetzinger

VARIETY EDITOR: Sequoia Range

NEWS EDITOR: Brendan Janostin

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Parker Buske

FACULTY ADVISOR: Tim Hennagir

University Chronicle was founded Sept. 19, 1924. It has been published under various names. It is written, edited, and published by St. Cloud State University students. The paper is published monthly during school semesters. There are schedule exceptions during final periods and academic breaks.

University Chronicle holds meetings every Monday and Thursday at 10 am in 13B Stewart Hall. If you are interested in writing for us or have a story idea, please come visit us.

The newspaper is funded with student activity fees through the Student Government Finance Committee. Editorial, production, and office facilities are in 13 Stewart Hall, SCSU.

WiFi PARKING LOT AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS WITHOUT ACCESS



Students utilize WiFi parking lot outside of the Miller Center. Photo credit: Anna Panek

By Anna Panek
Managing Editor

With the Coronavirus (COVID-19) forcing the University to shift to an alternative method for class instruction and limiting the access to many of the buildings, some students were left without a reliable source of WiFi.

In efforts to support

students, the University has created a “WiFi parking lot.” Details of the access can be found on the Information Technology Services website.

Miller Center pay lot has coverage of the following WiFi networks in select spaces:

- HuskyNet Secure (students, faculty and staff)

- SCSU Public (visitors)
- eduroam (any eduroam user)

For best connection, use spaces 261-287, the row nearest the main entrance doors and the Wired Café.

Parking is free while vehicles are occupied.

The SCSU Public WiFi network works really well in the WiFi parking lot. Connecting to and

using the Director of IT Information Systems Dave HuskyNet Secure WiFi is only available to students and staff. Hjalquist shared the future plans of the WiFi parking lot in an email to the *University Chronicle*.

“We expect the WiFi parking lot to be available throughout the summer,” wrote Hjalquist. “In addition, we are looking to

extend this availability into more open spaces around campus as a way of providing more coverage for everyone.”

Because of the nature of the network, the University is unable to track the number of students this WiFi parking lot is truly serving.

GOVERNOR WALZ ISSUES STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE

By Connie Knipe
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, July 22, Governor Tim Walz announced a statewide mandate effective on Saturday, July 25 that requires people to wear face masks while inside a public space or businesses, such as restaurants and grocery stores. The mandate also includes wearing masks when riding any public transportation and for workers who are unable to maintain social distancing.

During the Wednesday press conference, Walz backed his decision, saying that “this is the way- the cheapest, the most effective way for us to open up our businesses, ... get our kids back in school, ... keep our grandparents healthy, and for us to get back that life that we all miss so much.” Face coverings can be anything from scarves to a homemade cloth mask, but must cover the nose and mouth.

The mandate was

set to expire thirty days from July 25, but it was renewed. Individuals who do not comply with the state mandate may be fined up to \$100, whereas businesses could face a fine of up to \$1000. Those who are exempt from following the mandate include children under the age five and people who have health conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask. Other exemptions and rules regarding the state mandate can be found on the Minnesota Department of Health’s website.

The order comes two days after the St. Cloud City Council passed an emergency ordinance that requires residents and visitors of the city to wear face coverings while in public indoor areas effective immediately. Although both orders contain similar clauses, one key difference between them is the fine for noncompliance. If an

individual does not comply with the St. Cloud ordinance, they can be fined up to \$250. To avoid any confusion as to what rules to follow, the Minnesota Department of Health has specified that, if your local government has already established regulations for protective coverings, you must follow those regulations. The state of Minnesota has only provided the minimum face mask requirements that Minnesotans should follow. St. Cloud officials have expressed that they will only cite an individual if they refuse to cooperate after being asked to comply with the ordinance.

Mask mandates are being enforced throughout Minnesota and the U.S. with the goal of slowing the spread of COVID-19 as the country sees a record number of hospitalizations. With some schools scheduled to reopen shortly, the debate over what



Governor Walz issued a mask mandate on Wednesday, July 22. Photo courtesy of mn.gov

to do is intensifying and the decision may hinge on how these mask laws affect virus cases in the upcoming weeks. People continue to remain hopeful though with these mandates.

“I think it is very possible for us to not have the darker days behind us,” said

Walz. “But for us to start moving forward if we can a 90 to 95 percent compliance, which we have seen the science shows, we can reduce the infection rates dramatically which slows that spread and breaks that chain.”

GOVERNOR WALZ UNVEILS HIS PLAN FOR K-12 PUBLIC EDUCATION

By Connie Knipe
Staff Writer

On July 30, Governor Tim Walz announced his K-12 “Safe Learning Plan” for re-opening public schools across the state of Minnesota. The plan authorizes each school district to choose what learning model schools will follow as COVID-19 continues to spread around the nation.

Re-opening schools may take the forms of in-person classes, distance learning online, or a hybrid between the two. It will allow a great deal of flexibility for the unique situations faced by local areas. The localized planning relies on local COVID-19 data.

“Not all schools look the same,” said Walz. “Not all parts of our state look the same and we need to take those considerations in.”



Governor Walz announced his plan for schools on July 30. Photo courtesy of mn.gov

Although many families voiced concern of sending their children back to school this fall amidst the pandemic, Walz tried to reassure them that the state is doing everything it can to keep families safe.

“To [the] parents, my pledge to you is to surround and have the best people, the best minds [and] the best data to make sure that those localized decisions are being driven in the best interest of

your child,” said Walz.

Once the information is received, the Department of Education will partner with school districts to help decide which route is best for them. It’s not just the school district that can decide on how students should attend school. In order to accommodate everyone’s situations, both students and faculty may also choose whether they work online or in-person.

No matter what method is used, the state continues to emphasize its number one goal: to prioritize the safety of students and staff.

“We know how important this decision is,” said Walz. “We know how included you as parents must be in this and we know that you are counting on us – both us as a state, ... as neighbors in your school districts and in your school boards – to take

care of your children and do the right thing for them.”

Schools are continuing to modify their plans as COVID-19 surges throughout the country and, for Walz and the state of Minnesota, one thing remains clear: “This is going to be a first day of school unlike anyone that we’ve seen.”

Schools in the state will be given a supply of masks and even though not required, the state highly recommends guidelines such as six foot of social distancing to be followed in the classroom. All of the reopening recommendations and guidelines can be found on the Minnesota COVID-19 Response website along with the full 21-page Safe Learning Plan document.

PREPARED TO FIGHT FOR SMALL BUSINESS



Shady's Hometown Tavern had lines forming before 11 a.m. Photo credit: Tim Speier

By Tim Speier

Asst. Managing Editor

On May 18, more than 100 people came to Shady's Hometown Tavern in Albany, Minn. (MN) to support the bar and restaurant that had planned on opening in defiance of Governor Tim Walz's Stay-at-Home order that was issued on March 25.

Just before noon, owner Kris Schiffler announced that Minnesota Attorney General Keith

Ellison had obtained a temporary restraining order to stop the establishment from opening. Schiffler owns six bars in the area, with locations in New Munich, Rice, Burtrum, Cold Spring, St. Martin, and Albany.

“The Attorney General has just called and they have shut us down,” said Schiffler. “[Ellison] brought it to the court. ... They granted them the order to close us down [and] our attorney has advised us ‘Do

not open the doors.’”

While Shady's Hometown Tavern did not open for dine-in, they did stay open for curbside pickup and many of the supporters did wait in line to pick up food and drinks. About two dozen people gathered across the street at the Legion Memorial Park and could be seen drinking and hanging out well after the announcement.

Schiffler started a GoFundMe page to help pay for the attorney fees to fight

the order in Minnesota's supreme court. The GoFundMe account that was set up on Sunday, May 17, after Ellison advised Schiffler that opening would result in a \$25,000 fine per location, per day has raised over \$215,000 from more than 2,000 donors as of May 19. The original goal of the GoFundMe was to raise \$100,000 to bring a case to the Minnesota Supreme Court, which was met in the first 24 hours after the page was created. Any money not used for legal purposes will be given to small businesses in Minnesota to keep them afloat.

When asked how Schiffler would pay for the fines he said, “The same way I'm gonna pay my mortgage. We're not. I can't.”

The crowd that gathered had small business owners and many locals to show support of Schiffler.

“He's putting himself out there for a lot of

small business people,” said Kitty Eickhoff who owns Albany Country Floral located just down the street from Shady's Hometown Tavern. “This small town has backed each other up immensely.”

Shady's Hometown Tavern had prepared to open by removing tables to comply with the social distancing guidelines, providing hand sanitizer, free masks for patrons, along with disposable utensils and menus.

Some supporters of Schiffler and other small businesses have shown their support on social media, by adding a temporary profile picture frame on Facebook created by Daniel Irving. The frame says “I stand with Shady's Bar & Grill”.

Anna Panek contributed to this article.

JOE BIDEN

ANNOUNCES HIS

VICE PRESIDENTIAL

CANDIDATE

By Connie Knipe
Staff Writer

The wait ended Aug. 11 as Democratic candidate Joe Biden announced his running mate for the upcoming presidential election. California Senator and former candidate during the Democratic primaries, Kamala Harris, will be joining Biden in his campaign for the presidency. The decision comes 84 days before the election on Nov. 3. Biden screened numerous candidates such as Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, California Rep. Karen Bass, and former Obama national security advisor Susan Rice for months after previously announcing in March that his running-mate would be a woman. Choosing Kamala Harris is a historic move as she is not only the first Black woman to be on a major party ticket, but she is also the first South-Asian American to do so as well.

The day after the announcement, both Biden and Harris had their first appearance together as a team at a Wilmington high school in Biden's home state of Delaware. Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the event was not open to the public, however, it was live streamed through several media outlets. Those who were allowed to attend wore face masks and adhered to strict social distancing guidelines. Biden gave a speech addressing the issues faced by families during the pandemic as well as what the Biden-Harris administration would do if elected. He also focused the speech on Harris herself and why he chose her.

"Kamala, as you all

know, is smart," said Biden. "She's tough, she's experienced, [and] she's a proven fighter for the backbone of this country."

Harris also got the opportunity to speak after Biden and what she said drew massive attention across the nation. The California Senator criticized President Donald Trump and his administration on many things including how they are handling the pandemic, racism, and the economic fallout. "We're reeling from the worst public health crisis in a century," said Harris. "The president's mismanagement of the pandemic has plunged us into the worst economic crisis since the great depression and we're experiencing a moral reckoning with racism and systemic injustice that has brought a new coalition of conscience to the streets of our country demanding change. America is crying out for leadership, yet we have a president who cares more about himself than the people who elected him."

Biden and Harris will be met on the ballot by Trump and his Vice President Mike Pence as they run for a second term in the Oval Office. If the Democratic party wins the election, Kamala Harris will become the first woman, African American, and Asian American in the county's history to become the Vice President of the United States. "I am incredibly honored by this responsibility and I am ready to get to work. ... As Joe always points out, this election is about more than politics. It's about who we are as a country."



Joe Biden picks California Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate for the 2020 election. Photo courtesy of JoeBiden.com

GEORGE from Page 5

"George knew the value of athletics and took great pride in helping student-athletes."

While football may have been in the center of Torrey's heart, he was a proud supporter of all sports, and other programs on campus. Director of Athletics Heather Weems shares the impact Torrey has had on the University.

"George Torrey has provided significant support to St. Cloud State Athletics over many decades. As the department's largest comprehensive donor across a number of projects and

initiatives, he was an advocate for the importance of athletics as a community

unifier. As former CEO of Herberger's, George was of a generation who believed philanthropy was integral to stewardship of place – he felt a responsibility to invest in the community in which his family and employees made a life. You can see he and Shirley's impact throughout St. Cloud and Central Minnesota." wrote Weems in an email to the *University Chronicle*, "George believed in Huskies Athletics, the student-athletes who

developed in our programs, and the coaches who led them. He was committed to St. Cloud State Athletics as a pillar for family entertainment and community pride. We are grateful for his impact and for the legacy he leaves as a community leader."

In addition to his service to St. Cloud State, Torrey also positively impacted many local organizations such as United Way of Central Minnesota, CentraCare Health System, and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Minnesota.

ICE from Page 6

"From the very beginning, these hybrid and online modes of perception has allowed us to serve our international students without having to put any unnecessary burden on them," said Shahzad Ahmad, the Interim Associate Vice President for International Studies.

If new international students are not able to make it into the United States because of travel restrictions that are still being in place, the CIS has made arrangements to make it possible for students to take their classes online. Ahmad stated that even if students are not able to come over to the U.S. because of COVID-19, they hope their

plan will help and that students will be able to come to campus for the spring semester if things get better.

International students had more than just classes to worry about when they first heard of the possibility of them being sent back home. They had to worry about the finances required to do that and other needs they had.

"We have not received any sort of aid during the whole crisis," said Uprety.

International students were not able to get the stimulus checks or unemployment benefits the United States gave to citizens at the beginning of the pandemic because they can only work on-campus jobs

and did not qualify for those benefits because of their visa type.

The CIS has offered scholarships even before the pandemic to help international students pay for school. These scholarships have become a lifesaver for those students who did not receive any of the benefits.

Now that ICE's policy has been overturned international students have less to worry about and can focus on classes starting again. The Bring Huskies Home program worked hard to keep international students on campus as they continue to be a part of the campus community.



UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE COMBATING RACISM

By Editorial Board

The *University Chronicle* wants to be proactive in the efforts towards an equitable campus and community.

The *University Chronicle*:

- will give every student

equal opportunity to cover and report on any stories.

- will uphold the principles and values of equal and fair treatment for all people.
- promotes mutual respect with the humane and compassionate impartial fair guidelines to ensure a unifying presence.

- actively works towards covering news from every community on campus and St. Cloud to ensure that all voices have a chance to be heard and valued.

The *University Chronicle* will not tolerate:

- hateful language, words of a racist nature, and

words that can be construed or taken in a way that would lead

- to them being racist or derogatory.
- language that is insulting or derogatory in any sense whether written or spoken.

The *University Chronicle* understands that this work is an ongoing

progress and will continue to evolve with equitable practices.

If you have any questions or concerns, email us at universitychronicle1924@gmail.com

DEAR READERS, SAME DREAM NEW BEGINNINGS

By Matt Auvil
Editor-in-Chief

Writing has always been a fundamental part of my life; I have always loved writing stories, creating worlds and people with the paper and pen. This same idea has continued as I moved through my education, as a writer and later an editor for the high school newspaper, and writer for the yearbook. Now, in my higher education I have continued to write and that same passion led me to the *University Chronicle*.

Joining the team my freshman year, I never envisioned the journey I would take, becoming the lifestyle section editor (now the variety section) and now I am taking on the amazing opportunity of Editor-in-Chief.

Everyday since I have taken this role I have found myself formulating ideas and thoughts on what can make the *University Chronicle* become bigger and better during my time as Editor-in-Chief. I can't wait to share them with all the writers and readers along the way.

I have found there is so much passion in writing, a writer can take a reader to the news happening in city hall, to the happenings in downtown, or even down on the ice to recap a hockey game. No matter where you are or where you are going, a

story can take you somewhere you might not have ever found yourself before.

I think the best part of it all is that anyone can do it, no matter your major, your interests, or your skill. You can write, you can tell a story by simply putting your mind to it and a few sentences later, boom. You have a story in front of you.

What a wild ride 2020 has already been, saying goodbye to my former colleagues over Zoom with my Wifi out of a tin-can at home and having to learn the hard parts of this job over phone, learning how to master this position has not been an easy one, though I wouldn't have it any other way. It wouldn't be life if there weren't a few roadblocks in the path.

As the world continues to change, it can be difficult to see what is coming, but once you get to that light at the end of the tunnel, wouldn't it be fun just to look back and read about all the things that took place to get there?

I can't thank Tony Langfellow and Bethanie Barrios enough for entrusting the gold that is the *University Chronicle* to me. It is a real honor to be here and to be a part of such an amazing team. While it won't be a normal fall semester, it doesn't mean it can't be a fun one either.

REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING WHEN BACK ON CAMPUS:



WEAR A MASK



WASH YOUR HANDS



SOCIAL DISTANCE

JOB OPENINGS

2020-21

SCHOOL YEAR

UNIVERSITY CHRONICLE

- COPY EDITORS
- WRITERS
- NEWS EDITOR

PLEASE CONTACT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AT
UNIVERSITYCHRONICLE1924@GMAIL.COM



ANNA'S DECLASSIFIED COLLEGE SURVIVAL GUIDE: TIP #8 GIVE GRACE TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS

By Anna Panek
Managing Editor

My dearest reader,

Welcome back to school! Whether that is in-person or online, I hope you find as much joy from classes resuming as I do. For those of you who read my column last year, feel free to skip the next few paragraphs. However, for those who are finding this column for the first time, please let me introduce myself so we can be friends and you'll wave back on campus.

My name is Anna Panek and I am a third year student as this fine institution that I call one of my many homes. I am double majoring in Math Education and Spanish Education, with a minor in Special Education. So yes, I love school and plan to spend the rest of my life at one. When I am not in class, you'll likely see me in my role as a learning assistant or tutor for the math department. In my free time, I try to engage and involve students in some of the organizations I am involved in: the Future Educators Club, the National Society of Leadership and Success, and the Council for Exceptional Children.

The *University Chronicle* welcomed me into the family in the fall of 2018

as a young writer for the variety section. My second semester on campus, the Editor-in-Chief (EIC) took a chance on Matt (the current EIC) and I and let us run the variety section. And the rest has been history in the making. For our peers who scoffed at the variety section (you know who you are), well now we are running the entire *University Chronicle* with pride and big goals for the future.

This column came to be last fall when I realized that I had learned a lot during my freshman year of college and I really wished someone would have told me some of those lessons like I watched in *Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide* that got me through middle school. After a few columns, word got around and I was getting asked when my next tip would be posted. Hopefully these tips are helping some or at least making a few eyes roll with my bad jokes and puns.

Anyway, down to business. Tip #8 for the column and the first for this school year is to give grace to yourself and others, and in that order. Grace has lots of definitions, but in general means goodwill and kindness.

When was the last

time you were extra kind to yourself? When was the last time you were extra kind to others?

If you are like most people I know, it is much easier to answer the second question. Most people are kind to others; we share a smile, we open a door, we pick up slack when someone else needs it. However, sometimes we put ourselves on the figurative back burner when it comes to being kind.

When we get stressed, full of anxiety, or heightened emotions of any kind, it can feel more natural to put grace to the side. Usually, when this happens, 20/20 vision gives us a little kick in the backside.

Let's start with a short story of when I got a slight kick my sophomore year of high school. I was taking a business class and working on a presentation with a classmate of mine. We had a full week to prepare and I had felt like I had done a lot of the work. On the last day, we got a full class period to work on it. She didn't show up. I let my emotions get the best of me and got upset. Halfway into the class period, my teacher got a phone call. She answered it, nodded a few times, hung up, and walked over to me. My partner had gotten into a

car accident. Thankfully she only had a few scrapes, but her car was pretty badly damaged. Anyway, it was a very humbling moment when I should have extended grace until I knew the whole story.

This story is just one of many examples where we can be humbled by our quick reactions to something. It's amazing how much smoother one's life can be when we extend grace to others first and ask questions later.

Now for a story where grace was extended. A few semesters ago, I was working on a project and needed help from a friend to complete it. My friend had graciously agreed to help me and then I hadn't heard back from them for a few days, which was out of character for them. Anyway, I extended grace, assumed they probably had a good reason for not responding, and pushed my project off to the side as it was a self-made deadline anyways. A week and a half later, I finally heard back from my friend, with the favor I needed done, and apologizing for the delay. The person had a stressful household for a while due to a parent being in between jobs.

Extending grace first always builds a better bond

between you and the person you are extending it to. While it is easier to extend grace when we know the reason, we can't always know. It is much better to assume there is a good reason and understand that we aren't always entitled to knowing it.

I would share stories of when I haven't extended grace to myself, but all my friends and family reading this will get on my case for biting off more than I can chew. So just take my word for it. Deal?

For the times that I do extend myself grace, I know that I am much more at peace and people are almost always understanding of it. More often than not, we have much higher expectations for ourselves than others do and we put a lot of imaginary rules and deadlines on ourselves.

Especially in this unprecedented time (though I do hope we can stop saying this phrase soon), it is even more imperative that we act with grace and offer a helping hand or a smile when we can.

Until next time, take care!

If you enjoyed this tip, check out my other tips on universitychron.com

RESPONSE FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT TO THE MURDER OF GEORGE FLOYD

By SCSU Student
Government

May 25 was a day of grief for America. A black man, George Floyd, was lynched in broad daylight by police officers in uniform for the mere accusation of check fraud.

George Floyd did not resist arrest nor threaten

a police officer. It is outrageous to see innocent lives lost and see property have more value than human life. This act of racism was captured on camera, but there are many acts of racial discrimination that are left uncaptured.

Institutional racism has been engraved in this country for ages and has targeted and demeaned black

people for decades. The system has failed to serve justice to people of color, and especially black people, not just today but over the previous decades. The Student Government took this news with a heavy heart and we would like to give our condolences to the black community of our campus.

We believe pressing

charges against the police officers responsible for Floyd's murder is the least we can do to show that black lives do in fact have value in this country. We need to do more than just offer prayers and demand for instant change.

The death of George Floyd should be a wake-up call for all of us, it is time

we all become active anti-racists and demand justice for the innocent lives lost due to police brutality and institutional racism.

Black Lives Matter.



CORN DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

By Tim Speier

Asst. Managing Editor

As fairs around the country are canceled due to concerns surrounding COVID-19, Miller Concessions is adapting to the recent changes to bring some of the fair to St. Cloud.

The owner of Miller Concessions, Rob Miller, along with many other businesses this year found themselves closed for an extended period of time or having their seasons destroyed altogether. The cancellation of the Minnesota State Fair and the Benton County Fair are just some of the bigger events that were scheduled to take place over the summer season.

"We do over 70 events in the summer and



As fairs cancel around the country, you can still scratch that fair food itch. Photo credit: Tim Speier

right now 65 of them have been canceled. We're just trying to salvage our season a little bit," said Miller.

Of those 65, SCSU's own 2020 Lemonade Concert and Art Fair was

canceled on May 1 and Miller would have at least 6 stands at the fair originally scheduled for June 25. To salvage their season Miller Concessions set up shop in the parking lot of Crossroads

Center mall in St. Cloud.

The concessions at Crossroads Center opened on June 4. Originally open Thursday to Sunday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. they have decided to stay open seven

days a week due to the popularity.

"A lot of positive feedback from the customers thanking us for getting out doing that kind of stuff," said Miller. "It was very strange to us to have them say that, it feels good that they're so appreciative that we're actually out there with the cheese curds and corn dogs."

Although there won't be any cheese steaks on a stick, Miller said that they will serve the staples of the fair and their best sellers. Cheese curds, corn dogs, and donuts can all be washed down with a fresh squeezed lemonade seven days a week from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., though they often stay open until 9 p.m. or later depending on the lines.

THE "LAST OF US PART II" BOTH DISAPPOINTS AND DEPRESSES AT THE SAME TIME

By Myles Heglund
Staff Writer

Warning: Story spoilers will be featured in this review.

Naughty Dog has been one of the top developers in video games ever since their PlayStation debut with "Crash Bandicoot" in 1996, from the fantastical sandbox of the "Jak and Daxter" series to the swashbuckling adventure of the "Uncharted" series. Naughty Dog knows how to make some stellar games. But jump to June 14, 2013 and a brand-new title would be released for the PlayStation 3, that being "The Last of Us". "The Last of Us" is an action-survival horror game which follows Joel and Ellie on a cross-country journey in a violent and deadly zombie-like apocalypse, while also being a more cinematic and character-driven game



The "Last of Us Part II" maybe should have ended with part 1. Photo courtesy of Naughty Dog

compared to other games at the time.

"The Last of Us" was heavily praised for its characters, story, visuals and gameplay, not to mention selling over 17 million copies by July 2018 (which was helped by a PlayStation 4 port that was released in July 2014). Now personally, I really enjoyed "The Last of

Us", while I don't think it's a 10/10 as many gaming outlets say, I can't say I don't see why. The story wasn't entirely original (just think "The Walking Dead" and "Children of Men") and the gameplay left more to be desired, but it was elevated by the characters of Joel and Ellie and the performances of Troy Baker and Ashley

Johnson and the musical score by Gustavo Santaolalla. Now after the critical and financial success and releasing "Uncharted 4" in 2016, fans had to wait nearly 7 years for the sequel. Does that long gap in waiting become justified? Let's find out.

Because of the near 21 hours it took me to

complete the game, there is a LOT to talk about so let's get started with the positives. Visually, the game is absolutely gorgeous. The first game was released relatively late in the PS3's life cycle, so it really took advantage of the graphical capabilities and the same goes for the sequel. With the PlayStation 5 on the close horizon, the developers and animators REALLY elevated this game to look stunning on the PS4 and it shows. From the light shimmering through an open garage door, the flow of the grass in the wind, the strong currents of water and even the facial animations and character movements are near identical to real life without having any uncanny valley qualities.

See GAME on Page 14

COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND STAY-AT-HOME ORDER HAVE BEEN AFFECTING PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH

By Sarah Bunich
Staff Writer

With many states having their own Stay-at-Home orders for the past three months, people have had their lives take on major changes. Job losses and social distancing have been the major changes happening that are affecting people's mental health.

Individuals who have a history of mental health issues are more likely to be affected during the Stay-at-Home orders.

"Being in self isolation people who have a history of cycles of depressive episodes can face more of them during this time," said St. Cloud State's Director of Counseling and Psychological Services John Eggers, PhD LP. "Besides just depressive episodes people have more anxiety due to the unknown of what is going on."

Stay-at-home orders and job loss because of the pandemic have changed a lot of people's everyday life

which can cause people to have a different mentality. Eggers suggests people make a schedule for their days, like getting up at a certain time and set times to work or do activities around the house in order to keep a sense of a schedule people are used to having. That helps keep anxiety and depression lower. Eggers also stated people should try keeping in contact with friends and family by calling or video chatting with them to help everyone not feel as isolated or alone.

SCSU's Healthy Huskies program is a health resource on campus that connects students in order to help each other have a healthy life and bring awareness to health and wellness. Before COVID-19, Healthy Huskies did activities around campus that incorporated fun activities and learning about different topics from mental health to learning about alcohol.

Healthy Huskies program and Health Services at SCSU have been taking



Counseling and Psychological Services are located in Eastman Hall. Photo credit: Tim Speier

precautions in order to still meet the needs of the University's students with social distancing recommendations and closing of gathering places.

"Our peer wellness coaches are hosting meetings on zoom twice a week on Mondays at 2:30 and Wednesdays at 10:30 for students to go on to check base and talk with people

about what is going on and how they are doing," said Assistant Director of Health Promotion and Marketing, Erica Karger-Gatzow.

Karger-Gatzow also stated the clinic on campus is taking calls from students before they come in to decrease contact with people.

The CDC has not released a statement saying during the Coronavirus

(COVID-19) pandemic and Stay-at-Home orders that there has been any increase of suicide rates. They have made a web page with information and helpful tips for people to read in order for them to help them as well as others with their mental health.

PERSEID METEOR SHOWER LIGHTS UP THE NIGHT

By Connie Knipe
Staff Writer

As the summer months begin to wind down and events continue to be canceled due to the Coronavirus outbreak, there is one light show that will go on no matter what. The Perseid meteor shower streaks across the night sky every year starting in the middle of July and going until the middle of August. It is one of the greatest meteor showers of the year with 50 to 100 meteors visible to night sky watchers per hour. But what's so special about Perseid meteors? Every year,

thousands of broken asteroids and leftover comet particles enter the Earth's atmosphere and are so small that they usually disintegrate before reaching the Earth's surface. The particles burning tend to leave a trail of light behind them and have led people to labeling them "shooting stars."

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), one of the biggest differences between Perseid meteors and regular meteors is that the Perseid meteor shower contains more "fireballs." These fireballs are created by larger particles

that explode and create brighter and longer streaks of light, making it quite the display of beauty in our universe.

There are roughly 30 meteor showers each year that are visible to the naked eye. NASA states on their website that meteoroids "are pieces of other, larger bodies that have been broken or blasted off. Some come from comets, others from asteroids, and some even come from the Moon and other planets. Some meteoroids are rocky, while others are metallic, or combinations of rock and metal." When entering the Earth's atmosphere,

meteoroids are called "meteors" and their colors vary based on composition of the rock as it burns.

"Don't expect to find meteorites after a meteor shower [though]," NASA warns. Like many beautiful things, meteors don't last very long as their fragile material burns up as they fall towards Earth. It's very rare for a space rock to survive all the way to ground level.

The Perseid meteor shower is best viewed in the Northern Hemisphere right before dawn, but for families who have little ones with bedtimes, one can sometimes spot the meteors right

after dark as well. Try to find an area that is far away from light pollution of cities and a broad expansion of sky to gaze for optimal viewing. The moon will be out around midnight during peak time and its light will cause viewing to be a little difficult; however, there will still be plenty shooting stars to see. The peak times to watch were Aug. 11 and 12 of this year. If you can't get out during the peak time, don't worry. The shower will continue throughout the month of August, so grab your popcorn and bug spray and enjoy the show!

GAME from Page 12

The gameplay has been notably improved compared to the first, while also retaining the action/stealth elements the original had.

There's not only newer enemy types that have different behaviors and weapons depending if they've found you or not, but there's also more variety of how you can approach them. Some areas you could use tall grass and indoor corners to hide and silently deal with them, others have vertical obstacles that give you more of a high ground rush of a gunfight, some can even have the human enemies and the zombie-like infected fight against each other, and you can use the chaos as a distraction as you escape or gather supplies. There's also better enemy A.I this time around. Not to hate on the first game but there would be several situations where Ellie or other companions would behave erratically while somehow not gaining the attention of your enemies and the slightest mistake you would make will get their attention. However, in my playthrough, I never experienced that level of comically bad enemies of the first game. The acting for the most part was on par with the first game, specifically Troy Baker's Joel and Ashley Johnson's Ellie.

While Joel doesn't get as much screen time compared to Ellie (we'll get to that when we get to that), both have some standout moments that really elevated specific moments in the story (again we'll get to that). The upgrades from the previous game make a more fleshed out return, not only giving a more logical layout but also caters to different kinds of playstyles. Some upgrade areas have a stealth focus, gunplay, health and combat. While some upgrades were more helpful and interesting than others, I never really felt cheated for taking one area of upgrades and another. Like how the visuals dramatically improved over the first game, so did the sound design. From a shotgun blasting a head open, the screeching of

the infected through an echoey hallway, and even the nails on chalkboard-like sound of pulling an arrow out of a body. All the sound effects have a gritty but impactful punch and are best appreciated with a good pair of headphones.

While these positives are noticeable and are improvements over the first game, they're honestly pretty minor compared to the biggest flaw of the entire game, the story. Not only is it one of the more polarizing aspects to the entire game, but it's what many people (myself included) were looking forward to the most. Many people love it and many people hate it and unfortunately, I'm in the latter. The problems start right in the first few hours, Ellie is berated because of her kissing her now girlfriend Dina last night, but do we get any context as to why or how this happened? Yes, but only after nearly 17 hours of gameplay. This extends further when Joel is killed by a new character, Abby and this not only kickstarts the main plot of the story, but it creates many problems. We don't get the reason why Abby did what she did until roughly 3/4th into the game (that's still hours and hours of play) and while it's an understandable motivation, Not only didn't I care or connect with Abby, but it's never explained how she was able to find out Joel's last name or what he even looks like, so it's really a wild coincidence she and her group were able to find him the way they did.

Not only is Joel's death more shocking than heartbreaking because it happens in the first hour of the game, but there was no real emotional shift afterwards, there's no scene of Ellie getting to Joel's body, burying him, having a funeral or anything like that. The scene just happens and then immediately after, Ellie and Dina are at his grave talking about going after Abby and getting revenge.

Despite Ashley Johnson's performance, I

never really connected with his death and it's made even more difficult to care for it when there's constant flashbacks after the events of the first game. Going back to Abby, we not only figure out her motivation after hours and hours, but we also get to PLAY as her for hours and hours. Not only is her gameplay not that different compared to Ellie's, but her design as well doesn't really make you care.

You have a scarred and frail 19 year-old Ellie meanwhile you have a tall and muscular Abby who has a constant scowling facial expression.

I had no real connection with Abby's character or the people she comes across, even more so when you play as Ellie and kill Abby's accomplices, the game forces you to care about these people and it just doesn't work. And it's even more frustrating because when you play as Abby, you experience some of the best combat sequences in the game like climbing through tall skyscrapers and feeling Abby's vertigo or riding on horseback through a burning village.

The game is riddled with flashbacks on both storylines and it really damages the game's pacing. It honestly feels like you're playing two games in one. Not only are the side characters in Abby's story uninteresting and dull, but the same can be said for Ellie's story as well. Dina is fine when she's interacting with Ellie and working off of each other, but as her own character she's not that engaging. The same can be said for Dina's ex-boyfriend Jesse who gets wrapped up in the action. Not only does he die in a very anticlimactic way, but he's pretty bland in comparison to Ellie and Dina.

The story also has unanswered questions that don't really get explained like: Why did the two factions, the WLF and the Scars start fighting each other in the first place? If the Scars had their own island to live on with no infected in

sight, why didn't they just stay there? When Joel's brother Tommy gives Ellie new information on where Abby is near the end of the game, why doesn't he come with her? Especially when he went after Abby before Ellie did in the first place. When Ellie doesn't get her revenge and instead let's Abby go, why did Dina leave? Did she die? Did she go back with Tommy, or somewhere else?

The last few questions in particular really stick out in the story. Throughout the game, it's made clear that Ellie is not emotionally and physically ready for this revenge. In fact, she pukes and falls to the ground after killing one of Abby's friends. By the end, Ellie tries to have a normal life with Dina, but Ellie tries again to kill Abby. She almost has Abby drowned but a quick flashback to Joel makes her give up and let's Abby go on, even after Abby bit two of her fingers during a fistfight. By the very end, Ellie comes back, but Dina is gone, and Ellie is left with absolutely nothing.

I understand that the flashbacks and letting the player play as Abby is supposed to humanize her and try to have the audience relate to her in some way, but it's rather depressing and strange that the person who killed Ellie's father figure is left with freedom and a child companion named Lev and Ellie lost her girlfriend, the child they raised together due to Jesse impregnating Dina beforehand and her ability to play the guitar that Joel gave her. I'm not saying there are good moments in the story because there are. Most of them are flashbacks with Ellie and Joel or even in the present day where the player experiences Ellie's PTSD through her hands shaking or hallucinations, but they're either very minor and don't last long or are unfitting in the overall pacing.

The story isn't the only problem with this game; there are certain aspects to the gameplay that make it especially tedious and boring. When scavenging

for supplies, you have to open individual drawers, closets, or lockers to look for them and while it's not especially tedious in the first couple of hours, it gets tedious afterwards especially when opening a drawer in particular. For example, I'm in a room and have to open a desk drawer to look for ammo, I open the drawer and the character I'm playing looks inside the drawer for 1 and a 1/2 seconds before actually giving you the option to press a button and grab the ammo. I know this doesn't sound like much but when you scavenge for nearly 21 hours, it can get really tedious.

Overall, "The Last of Us Part II" is a major disappointment and a letdown from the previous game. I can't say I fully regret playing because the positive aspects I mentioned did stick out and some were improvements over the first. However, the messy story, pacing and uninteresting characters make this quite a letdown. I am aware that major critics and even casual fans still really enjoy this game and I'm glad they do but I am not one of those people. I give "The Last of Us Part II" a score of 2 out of 5 huskies.

RATING:



2/5 Huskies

BASEBALL RETURNS TO THE GRANITE CITY

By Sam Goetzinger
Sports Editor

There have been a lot of questions over the past few months about whether or not the game of baseball would make an appearance in the year 2020. Soon, America's pastime will return to the Granite City! With restaurants and many other businesses beginning to open again, The St. Cloud Rox and The Northwoods League (NWL) have announced another "pod" of NWL teams will begin play at the beginning of July. In a press release sent out by the Rox organization and the NWL on Monday, it was revealed St. Cloud would join Rochester, Mankato, Waterloo and Willmar in starting up play on July 1. The season for these five teams, spread across Minnesota and Iowa, will last until August

20 and the team with the best winning percentage will be deemed the winner of the region.

Each team in the pod has developed plans for safe operations during the COVID-19 Pandemic in their respective areas. St. Cloud will be implementing cashless transactions at the ballpark, social distant seating, ballpark sanitation protocols and more precautionary measures to ensure a safe environment for all involved. The safety of the players, staff and fans will be a top priority of the Northwoods League throughout the season. In the press release Northwoods League President and Commissioner Gary Hoover stated, "This regional pod will bring the special brand of Northwoods League baseball back to those communities, but in a way that is consistent with everyone's goal of doing



Fans may not be able to pack the stands, but America's pastime is back. Photo courtesy of northwoodsleague.com/st-cloud-rox

so in a safe manner." A pod in Bismarck, North Dakota has been running strong for the past couple of weeks without any health issues.

Several players will be returning to the Rox from last season with one of them being St. Cloud State's very own, Trevor Koenig. Koenig, a left-handed pitcher, threw seven complete innings for

the Huskies in the shortened 2020 season allowing ten earned runs with 11 strikeouts. Last season, Koenig started 10 games for the Rox and finished with a 7-1 mark on the mound tying the organizations single season wins record and was named to the NWL all-star game in 2019.

The St. Cloud Rox

began the season on July 1 on the road against the Willmar Stingers. They make their long-awaited return to the "Rock Pile", or Joe Faber Field as others know it, on July 2 against the Rochester Honkers.

The St. Cloud Rox finished their season on Aug. 20 with a record of 27-13.

NSIC CANCELS ALL ATHLETIC EVENTS FOR THE REST OF 2020

By Sam Goetzinger
Sports Editor

In the midst of National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I conferences coming out with their decisions to allow athletic events to take place in the fall, the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) will follow in the footsteps of the Big Ten and Pac-12 and have decided to cancel all fall competition for the remainder of 2020 due to COVID-19. The NSIC is home to 16 Division II universities, one of them being the Huskies from St. Cloud State. In a release sent out by the conference they state the safety and health of the student athletes is one of the key factors in making this decision to cancel all athletic events this coming season.

"The league's initial decision to delay the start

of fall sports was made with the rationale to allow campuses the ability to focus solely on reopening safely for their broader university communities," said NSIC Commissioner Erin Lind in a recent press release. "In light of the recent decisions made by the NCAA Board of Governors, it is no longer feasible to conduct outside competition this fall semester. Our student-athletes deserve a competitive experience that provides a greater degree of safety and certainty than current conditions would allow. We believe now is the right time to provide clarity to our student-athletes so we can turn our efforts towards helping institutions reopen and ensuring a safe return to campus to start the academic year."

SCSU volleyball, women's soccer, and

women's cross country will not be allowed to compete until the next calendar year. Winter programs such as men's and women's basketball, wrestling, men's and women's swim and dive, and women's indoor track will not be able to compete until Jan. 1, 2021 pending anymore cancellations from the conference. The newly acquired men's soccer team at SCSU will also follow the NSIC's guidelines even though they are not affiliated with a conference as of yet. The men's and women's hockey teams are the only two Division I programs at St. Cloud State and both the National Collegiate Hockey Conference and Western Collegiate Hockey Association have not made an official decision on the ability to compete in the upcoming season. The Huskies on the ice are expected to start in October, which overlaps with the typical fall schedule for NSIC athletics.

"The events of the past six months are unprecedented, and really, far beyond what most of us could have imagined," said



NSIC cancels all sporting events for the upcoming fall season. Photo courtesy of the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference

St. Cloud State University Director of Athletics Heather Weems. "Our student-athletes have spent years practicing and honing their skills in preparation for their college careers, and we are sad to see their seasons canceled and reduced by the COVID-19 pandemic. I am grateful for the dialogue and decision-making process led by Commissioner (Erin) Lind and my colleagues across the NSIC. The travel and testing protocols required to safely support our student-athletes in competing this fall were daunting, and in some cases, unattainable given the current environment. We remain hopeful that we will be able to compete later

this year and are committed to providing our student-athletes a meaningful, although adapted, experience across all of our programs. Our students and programs continue to need your support, and we look forward to cheering them on when we are able."

Fortunately, the NCAA has granted athletes will not lose a year of eligibility if they compete in fewer than 50% of the maximum number of games in their sport. The NSIC will not move their fall athletics to the spring, but SCSU will explore meaningful opportunities and experiences for their athletes in the spring.