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New Master of Public Administration program admitting students for fall

The Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree is the professional degree for students seeking a career in public service or nonprofit management. MPA programs develop the skills and techniques used by managers in the public and nonprofit sectors to implement policies, projects, and programs that resolve important problems within their organization and communities. The MPA program consists of a common set of core courses and electives arranged into concentrations in: health care administration; leadership and management of city and county governments; non-profit organizations; and international development.

Program Goals and Objectives:
The primary goal or objective of the MPA program is professional education. As such, its mission, governance, and curriculum all emphasize public service values:

- Pursuit of the public interest with collaborative structures, coalitions of interests, accountability and transparency;
- Serve professionally with competence, efficiency, and objectivity;
- Act ethically to uphold the public trust necessary to have dialogue about shared values; and
- Demonstrate respect, equity, and fairness in dealings with citizens and fellow public servants.

Application Deadline for Fall Admission
International applicants: May 1
Domestic applicants: July 15

For additional information visit: stcloudstate.edu/gradadmissions/program/MPA

St. Cloud State and William Mitchell partnership creates six year law program

St. Cloud State University has entered into an exciting new collaboration with William Mitchell College of Law to allow students to pursue what is commonly called a “3+3 Program.” Under this program, qualified St. Cloud State students can forgo their senior year of college to enroll at William Mitchell as first-year law students. At the end of that year, students transfer approved law school credits back to St. Cloud State to complete their undergraduate degree. In short, this program allows students to complete college and law school in six years instead of seven! The program saves significantly on tuition and allows students to advance more quickly in their chosen career path.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for qualified students,” remarked Kathy Uradnik, Professor of Political Science and University Pre-Law Advisor. The program is not for everyone: students must complete their major and minor requirements in three years, take the LSAT (law school entrance exam), apply and be accepted to William Mitchell. Uradnik noted that the program was ideal for nontraditional students seeking to complete their undergraduate degree quickly as well as for PSEO and other advanced high school students who bring college credits with them when enrolling at St. Cloud State.

The School of Public Affairs is committed to making St. Cloud State the University of Choice for pre-law students in Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. To that end, Interim Dean King Banaian and his staff have committed significant time and resources to reach out to high school and transfer students to promote the preparatory services offered by both the Pre-Law Advising Program and the University’s Career Center. “Our law school placement rates are excellent,” observed Professor Uradnik, “and almost all of our students these days receive generous financial aid packages.” She notes that the legal job market is still recovering from the 2008 recession, but that fact “has created unprecedented opportunities in law school admissions and financial aid.”
St. Cloud State and William Mitchell create 6 year law program (continued from cover)

The next step is to work with individual academic departments to ascertain whether select William Mitchell courses can be counted in a student’s major program. Right now the courses transfer back to St. Cloud State as university electives. Counting the courses toward major requirements will make the 3+3 Program even more accessible and attractive to students.

In February, William Mitchell and Hamline School of Law announced their merger, which will become official upon approval of the American Bar Association. The new institution will be known as the “Mitchell/Hamline School of Law,” and the first set of combined classes is scheduled to start in the fall. Uradnik notes that the merger will have no effect on the 3+3 Agreement other than the name change. “The merger combines the best aspects of these institutions, and it is a smart move on their part. Ultimately law students will benefit from a single, stronger law school.”

St. Cloud State delegation meets global leaders at Nobel Peace Prize Forum

The School of Public Affairs sponsored a St. Cloud State delegation of students, staff and faculty to the annual Nobel Peace Prize Forum in March. Under the auspices of the Norwegian Nobel Institute, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum inspires peacemaking by focusing on the work of Nobel Peace Prize winners and leading international peacemakers and peace builders.


Thy Yang, St. Cloud State’s Associate Vice President for International Studies, stated, “We all felt so fortunate to have been able to spend time with such high caliber international dignitaries and leaders! It was hard to imagine that we were literally a few feet from the Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland,

Attendees left to right: Nicole Pazdernik, Mikhail Blinnikov, Thy Yang, Debra Leigh, Steven Hoover, Amy Schmiesing

Norway’s first female Prime Minister, Monica McWilliams, Signatory to the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland, President Jimmy Carter, and more!”

St. Cloud State hosts Minnesota Heartland Economics Challenge

The Minnesota Heartland Economics Challenge (MHEC) was held on March 19 at St. Cloud State. Over 80 high school students and teachers participated in a series of microeconomics, macroeconomics, and international/current event tests.

The winning teams were:
- College Level- 1st Place- Moorhead High School,
  2nd Place – Tech High School, St. Cloud
- Large School- 1st Place- Princeton High School,
  2nd Place Cambridge High School
- Small School- 1st Pace- Albany High School,
  2nd Place- Melrose High School

The first place schools advanced to the State Competition on April 7 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. St. Cloud State Professors Ken Rebeck, Lynn MacDonald and Patricia Hughes were the judges and moderators. The MHEC is sponsored by the Minnesota Council for Economic Education and the St. Cloud State Center for Economic Education. For more information on how to get involved with next year’s challenge, contact Cindy Fitzthum at cfitzthum@stcloudstate.edu.
Criminal Justice announces Alexandria Community & Technical College articulation agreements

The Department of Criminal Justice is announcing two important articulation agreements with Alexandria Community & Technical College:

1.) The Associate of Science in Law Enforcement, and
2.) The Associate of Applied Science in Law Enforcement.

St. Cloud State University has a longstanding relationship with Alexandria Community and Technical College (ACTC) to provide criminal justice students with the necessary skills training to prepare them for the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) requirements necessary to become licensed Peace Officers in the state of Minnesota, a credential highly regarded in other states in the U.S. Minnesota has one of the highest standards of education and training for law enforcement officers in the U.S. To attain the POST licensure, students are required to achieve a two year degree, at minimum, as well as successfully complete the skills training and the POST exam.

Without question, the longstanding relationship between criminal justice faculty and faculty at ACTC has facilitated the development of this much anticipated new agreement, a true “2 plus 2” arrangement between the two programs, allowing an Alex Tech student coming from either program in law enforcement with a completed AS or AAS degree to secure 60 earned transfer credits upon arrival at St. Cloud State. This agreement will open doors for students and removes many past obstacles which too often plague transfer students in general. Anticipated benefits of the agreement include increased retention and completion rates for students seeking both associate and baccalaureate degrees, financial and time savings between admissions and graduation, and a seamless transition with a well-defined pathway for students who choose to relocate to St. Cloud State.

Students who choose to complete their final two years at St. Cloud State in the Department of Criminal Justice will benefit from an efficient, easy to follow, fully-resourced set of exciting opportunities including:

• a range of face to face or online courses,
• a choice of concentration areas within the degree program,
• opportunities for study abroad,
• internships,
• student organization participation

The Department of Criminal Justice Studies continues its legacy of finding innovative and cutting-edge ways to provide competitive opportunities for students to explore and prepare for the Minnesota marketplace and beyond.

St. Cloud State professor completes Fulbright Specialist Program in Laos

Political Science Associate Professor Shoua Yang, was selected as Fulbright scholar at Khang Khay Teacher Training College (KKTTC) in Laos this spring. Yang teaches an upper division course in Southeast Asian governments and politics. Every year, Yang accompanies a St. Cloud State student delegation to Laos, Malaysia and Thailand on a short term education abroad trip in the winter. Although Yang’s background, field trips, and teaching experiences have provided him some knowledge about Laos higher education, the Fulbright Specialist Program offered him a deeper insight on the educational system—an administrative centralization. Khang Khay Teacher Training College (KKTTC) was designated to primarily provide academic training to students in Xieng Khouang and Houaphanh Provinces.

Improving the teaching quality of English at KKTTC, Yang assumed three broad divisions of labor. He participated in a series of classroom observations and provided feedback to teachers. Yang also conducted a series of teacher-training seminars in grant writing, business writing, methods and procedures of conducting professional research papers, and how to search for scholarships. Yang also participated in an internship in which student teachers were sent to teach in remote villages in both Xieng Khouang and Houaphanh Provinces.

Yang was born in Xieng Khouang Province, Laos. The Secret War in Laos during the Vietnam War (1964-1973) allowed Yang among other Indochinese political refugees to migrate to the United States. In 2006, he earned his Ph.D. in Political Science in the Department of Political Science at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.
School of Public Affairs Research Institute update

The School of Public Affairs Research Institute (SOPARI) has had an active year in pursuing external support for the applied research projects of School of Public Affairs faculty. A sample of these activities includes:

- A major National Science Foundation grant proposal submitted by Criminal Justice professors Dr. Mary Clifford and Dr. Lindsey Vigesaa (in collaboration with Dr. Mark Schmidt, Professor of Information Systems) is currently under review.
- A “Central Minnesota Economic Outreach” proposal developed by Cindy Fitzthum, Director of the St. Cloud State Center for Economic Education, was submitted to the Otto Bremer Foundation. Bremer Foundation officials joined us for a SOPARI site visit in February.
- SOPARI has submitted a proposal to the City of Waite Park to conduct a land use study over the next twelve months.
- Dr. Luis Estevez Jimenez from St. Cloud State’s Department of Geography and Planning is currently conducting research (funded by the United Way of Central Minnesota) on improving access to services in St. Cloud for those experiencing homelessness.
- A study designed to measure the economic impact of CentraCare Health System in Central Minnesota and the six communities in which CentraCare hospitals are located began mid-April.
- Dr. King Banaian, Interim Dean, School of Public Affairs and Dr. Rich MacDonald, Interim Director, SOPARI continue to collaborate with the Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State in contractual research to produce quarterly economic and business conditions reports across Minnesota’s six planning areas. Banaian and MacDonald are also partnering with the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation and Times Media in the publication of the St. Cloud Area Quarterly Business Report—now in its seventeenth year.

For more information about the applied research services offered by SOPARI, please contact Rich MacDonald at 320-308-4781 or ramacdonald@stcloudstate.edu.

SCSU Survey Immigration Report

More than 60 percent of Minnesotans agree that immigration has a positive impact in the United States, according to findings of the St. Cloud State University Survey.

The annual fall statewide survey took a look at Minnesotans’ views on immigration. The topic of immigration is being debated on the national stage as a Texas judge recently blocked President Barack Obama’s Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents executive action. The action was designed to grant work permits and extend deferred deportations for the undocumented parents of American citizens or lawful permanent residents as well as extend deferrals for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children.

The survey asked respondents about their views on the impact of immigration to the state, their views on Mexican and Somali immigrants and their thoughts on pathways to legalization for undocumented immigrants.

Respondents saw the top positive effect of immigration to be cultural diversity, while the top negative effect was the burden immigrants represent to government welfare.

The SCSU Survey also asked respondents about their views on pathways to legalization for undocumented immigrants. This topic has become relevant in recent months with an executive action by President Obama.

SCSU Survey asked respondents whether immigrants living in the United States illegally and meet certain requirements should have a way to reside in the country legally.

Almost 60 percent of respondents supported finding a way to legalization for immigrants living illegally in the United States. Each fall the SCSU Survey conducts a survey of adult Minnesotans about their perspectives on relevant political and social issues.

The 34-year-old SCSU Survey is led by an interdisciplinary team of St. Cloud State faculty and student directors who design the survey and analyze results. Students enrolled in related social science classes call respondents. The survey sample came from a statewide random sample of Minnesota adults. Responses were gathered from 551 randomly-selected landline (60 percent of sample) and cellphone users (40 percent of sample) Oct. 13-22 at the St. Cloud State University Survey Lab. The questionnaire consisted of about 40 questions.

Submit your ideas

School of Public Affairs is always looking to add speakers and events to the Colloquia. Submit your ideas for speakers and events to Kristy Modrow, experiential learning and outreach director at kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu or (320) 308-6080.
National parks veteran speaks on campus

Robert Stanton, former director of the National Park Service (NPS) and visiting executive professor at Texas A & M University in College Station, presented February 10 and February 11 in the theater in Atwood Memorial Center.

Stanton’s remarks focused on the park system’s status and future. His presentation addressed diversity in the workplace.

A career civil service administrator, Stanton served nearly four decades with the NPS, the federal agency that manages 59 national parks and hundreds of other properties and facilities. His career included stints as a park ranger, NPS director (1997-2001) and deputy assistant secretary of the interior for policy, management and budget.

Stanton is credited with increasing NPS staff diversity and developing programs that recognized the cultural and historic contributions of minority peoples. The first African-American director of NPS, Stanton improved the agency’s public programs to better serve minority populations.

Event sponsors included these St. Cloud State entities: School of Public Affairs, History Department and Multicultural Student Services.

Annual events held at St. Cloud State

The 53rd Winter Institute took place on February 18 and 19, 2015. The Institute featured University of Minnesota professor, David Levinson’s, presentation on “The Transportation Experience: From Steamboats to Streetcars.” Levinson’s research focuses on understanding the process of network growth, evaluating transportation technology and policy, and modeling travel behavior. He teaches courses in Transportation Policy, Planning, and Deployment, Transportation Systems Analysis, Transportation and Land Use, Transportation Economics and Transportation Engineering.

Interim Dean King Banaian facilitated the Economic Outlook session, focusing on the local, state and national economic forecasting. The Institute included a series of sessions encompassing three different concentrations; K-12 Teaching, Public Policy Research and Community Engagement. St. Cloud State professors Ming Lo and Luis Estevez both presented and the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce hosted a “Central Minnesota Job Creators” panel.

On March 27, St. Cloud State hosted 100 Minnesota students for the annual Minnesota National Geographic Bee. Students competed in a preliminary competition to determine the 10 finalists. Sixteen students correctly answered all eight questions in the preliminary competition and advanced to the final round. The Department of Geography and Planning served as judges and students in Social Studies Education served as time keepers, door monitors and score keepers.

Shreyas Varathn, student from Shakopee Area Catholic Schools, was the winner of the competition and will compete in Washington D. C. at the national championship. Christian Omoruyi, student at Westwood Intermediate School in Blaine placed second. Shreyas won by correctly identifying Australia as the country that includes the islands of Melville, Mornington and Bathurst.
School of Public Affairs sponsors Global Goes Local Conference

In its sixth year, the April 6-7 Global Goes Local conference featured keynote lectures by Siyad Abdullahi, co-founder of The Language Banc, a Minneapolis-based provider of translation and interpreting services to medical and human-service organizations and Veronica Mendez Moore, a low-wage workers organizer for Centro de Trabajadores en Lucha, Minneapolis.

Panels, presentations and performances shed light on conditions for Minnesota’s immigrant workers. Discussions included the economics of immigration, resources for undocumented students, the campaign for immigrant driver’s licenses and the recent maintenance workers’ union victory at Target.

Undergraduate students Ahmed Ali and Alisha Williams, organizers at the Greater Minnesota Worker Center, served on a panel examining parallel problems facing African Americans and recent refugees. Featured performances included, The Teatro del Pueblo play “Help Wanted” and The Mixed Blood Theatre play “Hijab Tube.”

The Conference organizer is the Faculty Research Group on Immigrant Workers in Minnesota, directed by Stephen Philion, sociology professor. Campus sponsors included School of Public Affairs, School of Public Affairs Research Institute, Office of the President, Herberger Business School, Multicultural Resource Center, Theatre and Film Studies Department, Learning Resources Services and Latin American Studies Program.

Facility/Staff/Department Highlights

Patricia Bodelson (political science) dedicated her spring sabbatical researching in Greece to determine the country’s disaster relief preparedness. She is currently coordinating an E.U. hazard mitigation grant in collaboration with other E.U. countries and throughout various communities in Greece. Bodelson plans to continue the various research in Greece as well as continue to strengthen partnerships between St. Cloud State and the University of Athens.

Mikhail Blinnikov (geography and planning) gave invited guest lectures on the subject of phytolith analysis at Moscow State University Geobotany department in Moscow, Russia and on the subject of Earth’s sustainability at two Kazakh universities of Turan and KIMEP in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Cindy Fitzthum ’07 (geography and planning) was accepted into the Economic Education and Entrepreneurship graduate program at the University of Delaware.

Ron Hustvedt Jr. (geography and planning) received the MN Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award from the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. He teaches at Salk Middle School in Elk River and is a cooperating teacher for St. Cloud State student teachers.

Kristy Modrow ’03 ’05 (school of public affairs) presented, “The Dymistification of Experiential Pedagogy,” at the University of Athens, Greece in March.


Kyle Ward ’98 (geography and planning) was featured in the February news story, “Who Should Decide How Students Learn About America’s Past?” in The Atlantic. The article addressed controversy regarding the new advanced placement history course.

The Department of Geography and Planning and the Global Studies program (college of liberal arts) hosted two exchange scholars from Biysk, Russia for one month in February. Altay State Academy of Education is a partner institution for St. Cloud State and is open for hosting our scholars and students in the scenic Altaysky Kray region of Russia.
Alumni/Student Highlights

Daniel Bennett (geography and planning) received the Mark M Welter World Citizen Award. This award is designated for students who most exemplify the thoughts, words and actions demanded by a 21st century world citizen.

Pierre Callies (geography and planning) presented a cross sectional economic impact of highway interchanges: A case study of Rogers, Minnesota at the Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geography in Chicago in April.

Damon Delton (geography and planning) presented on veteran homebuying behavior as it relates to homework commuting at the Association of American Geography annual meeting in Chicago in April.

Dan Ekrem (geography and planning) and Kyle Johnson (geography and planning) were awarded a scholarship by the Society of Land Surveyors of Iowa (SLSI) at their annual meeting in March.

Tarra Grammenos (criminal justice) created a training video to create understanding between deaf people and law enforcement. View the training video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtbDQwwePWk

Kyle Inddieke (geography and planning) received a highly competitive scholarship to attend the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute in July. The institute allows students/practitioners to work collaboratively with Colonial Williamsburg staff and Master Teachers to examine interactive teaching techniques and develop instructional materials that bring history to life in the classroom.

Dan Kvaal (geography and planning) and Manking Lee ’11 (geography and planning) were awarded a travel grant from the Minnesota Society of Professional Surveyors (MSPS) to attend the National Surveying, Mapping and Geospatial Conference in Arlington, Virginia in April.

Lisa Lovering ’13 (criminal justice) was promoted to Isanti County Chief Deputy. Lovering first joined the Sheriff’s Office as a dispatcher in 1991. Three years later she was promoted to deputy in which she was the first and only female to reach that position. In 2004, Lovering was promoted to investigations and became patrol sergeant in 2013.

Major Josh Mangas ’04 (criminal justice) is the recipient of the 2015 St. Cloud State Graduate of the Last Decade Alumni Association Award. After Mangas completed his degree, he was commissioned in the U.S. Army. He has served with distinction in Iraq and in Afghanistan; awarded three Bronze Stars; promoted through the ranks to his current grade of Major; and completed numerous specialized military training programs. He is currently attending the Naval Post Graduate School.

Tim McLean ’76 ’03 (geography and planning) received the MN Social Studies Teacher of the Year Award from the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies. He teaches at St. Francis High School.

Jeremy Miller ’11 (geography and planning) received a graduate degree from the Economic Education and Entrepreneurship graduate program at the University of Delaware.

Martin Mollenhauer (geography and planning) presented a geographical explanation of Minnesota’s status as the United States leading Turkey producer at the Association of American Geography annual meeting in Chicago in April. Mollenhauer was also a student panelist during St. Cloud State’s internship week in March.

Nicholas Neuman (geography and planning/political science) received St. Cloud State’s Excellence in Leadership Award. This award recognizes seniors who have made outstanding contributions through leadership, service and scholarship to the university and St. Cloud communities.

Alfredo A. De Oliveira ’14 (political science), was the recipient of St. Cloud State’s President’s Student Leadership Award, which is given to a student who models a deep commitment to civic responsibility and leadership. Oliveira is highly engaged in campus and community for years and is currently a graduate student in the Higher Education Administration Master’s program.

Karuna Paudel (geography and planning) presented, The Assessment of Mechanism of Payment for Ecosystem Services in Phewa watershed, Nepal at the Association of American Geography annual meeting in Chicago in April. Paudel also attended the Clinton Global Initiative University meeting in March where she attended leadership workshops, received mentorship to make her commitment to training Nepali farmers on the use of herbs for commercial production to help alleviate poverty a reality.

Katrina Pelzel ’12 (geography and planning) was accepted into the Economic Education and Entrepreneurship graduate program at the University of Delaware.

Kevin Sparks ’14 (geography and planning) is a bell service dispatch cast member for The Walt Disney Company. While he was a student, Sparks interned at The Walt Disney Company.

Scott Vosen ’14 (geography and planning) traveled to Laos for three weeks after graduating in the fall. He completed an 11 day bicycle tour, biking an average of 40 miles a day. While Vosen was a student he studied abroad in Laos, Thailand and Malaysia.

Samuel Wanous ’14 (political science/economics) assisted Professor Bodelson with research in Greece this spring to determine the country’s disaster relief preparedness. He is working on an E.U. hazard mitigation grant and has been offered a technical support advisor position to continue working on the grant project.
Organizing a way forward: Discussions of race and law enforcement

The School of Public Affairs and the Department of Criminal Justice Studies hosted a panel discussion titled “Race and Law Enforcement: Organizing a Way Forward.” Intended to be a review of FBI Director James B. Comey’s presentation titled “Hard Truths,” and an opportunity to solicit issues of concern from the community, the panel included Chief William Blair Anderson, Director Kevin Whitlock, Mitch Weinzetl (Chief, ret.), Judge Roger Klaphake, and Mary Clifford. The event was moderated by Professor Debra Leigh, lead organizer of the Community Anti-Racism Education (CARE) Initiative on the St. Cloud State campus. In his remarks, Comey suggested law enforcement officers and people from the communities need to be reminded of the simple fact that relationships are complicated; they require work. He suggested at least four basic issues:

1.) The history of racial tensions in the U.S. was not pretty. 2.) Everyone suffers from unconscious bias. 3.) Officers, and others, take ‘lazy mental shortcuts.’ 4.) A solution will take more than training.

The panel offered brief comments, and then questions and comments were solicited from the audience of approximately 200 people. Some issues raised by the audience included:

- History matters. What do we need to know in the present day?
- Everyone is biased and bias is different from systemic racism; what does this mean for members of the community, law enforcement, and others in the criminal justice system?
- What is the role of white people/privilege in creating change?
- Grand juries; How can we best inform the public about the role of Grand Juries in the justice system process?
- What is the historical connection between slave patrols, the convict lease system, and Ferguson judicial ‘structure’ (systematic ‘legal’ exploitation of poor communities by people in power)?
- Why don’t people of color want to be police officers?
- What more can we learn about implicit bias?

The Department will be continuing these conversations into the next school year. If you have a preference for any of the preceding issues as our next focus for these ongoing conversations, please be in contact with Mary Clifford, Chair, Department of Criminal Justice mcclifford@stcloudstate.edu or call her at 320.308.4051.

The School of Public Affairs wants to hear from our alumni and friends, through newsletters like this and emails. If you would like to receive information, or you wish to contribute a story or update, contact us at (320) 308-6080 or kkmodrow@stcloudstate.edu.

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