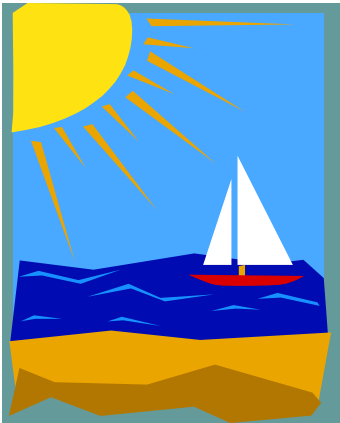


# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



## MLK Newsletter

Orientation Edition

Volume 1

Summer 2002

### Tips from a First Year Student

Martin Luther King Jr.  
Program  
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#### Important Dates

**September 2**.....Last day to enroll for Fall without incurring late enrollment fees.

**September 3**.....Fall semester classes begin.

**September 10**.....Last day to add a class without instructor's Permission.

**September 16**.....Last day to drop a class without a "W" on transcript.

#### Survival of the Fittest: The College Edition

By Linh Ngo

There are just some things in life that no one can understand until they are actually face to face with them. Personally for me, college was one of those things. I didn't understand the word 'big' until I stepped onto the campus during a normal school day. The high school I graduated from was considered big and had over three thousand students, but yet I was still blown away by the new faces I kept running into at the University of Minnesota (U of M). The first two weeks were the hardest for me, and it was during those first two weeks I started to think about how the average garbage man was not paid that badly. Luckily for me, before I threw in my towel and started looking for openings at BFI, I learned a few things that one must know in order to get through the first semester of college. These few things have been intimate enough to me for me to think of them as my personal survival code.

The first lesson of survival and probably the most important was an absolute shock to me when I came to its full realization: I had to actually work for my grade. Now that might not seem like much for someone else, but if one was in my shoes, that very thought alone would have been enough to push them over the brink and into a straightjacket. During my high school years, work was limited to doing homework five minutes before class and studying for a test during the test using the bottom of my shoe as my reference. Nowadays there is that small thing called academic dishonesty that prevents all that last minute studying. When advisors say that there must be at least three hours of study out of class per credit in class, they are not joking whatsoever. I was taking 17 credits my first semester assuming that all was fun and games. I didn't do much studying for the first week and by the second week I was

terribly behind and frustrated. My TA in chemistry simply told me to study or drop the class. At that point I saw the light and started to study like I have never studied before, ignoring all the headaches that came with it.

Secondly, there are many 'distractions' at the U that could potentially impede success in school. With about 80,000 or so students on campus there are bound to be many of the opposite sex. After the second week I learned an important lesson: keep your eyes where they belong, in your books. Also, try to stay clear of those social gatherings that contain activities that police love to know about. No sense in paying for legal matters and tuition at the same time now is there?

All in all, college can be a breeze if a person does one thing and only one thing: Take it seriously! Do not put off anything to the last minute. This is where a person needs to pay heed to that thing that high school teachers preached about day after day, good study habits. Remember to put in at least 2-3 hours of study time per credit out of class per week, or try to. Last of all, if anyone ever pulls out the, "C'mon, everyone is doing it or gonna be there," ask them how they met all 80,000 people. College is meant to be a fun experience; the only problem is how a person has their fun. I have lots of fun doing well in school and knowing full well that when I return back to that minimum wage job in the summer, I can at least think of getting to a better place than BFI.

Linh Ngo

Autobiographical Information: Currently enrolled as a freshman at the University of Minnesota double majoring in Microbiology and English and discovering the world outside of my home.

Fall 2002

Welcome to the College of Liberal Arts!

I am pleased you have decided to pursue your college education here at the University of Minnesota. We will do everything we can to ensure that the next four years are a period of profound intellectual and personal growth.

Your college years should be a time of exploration: a time to reflect on your assumptions and values; a time to learn about the world from a host of different perspectives; and a time to explore new ideas and new ways of thinking. The next four years can be some of the most challenging and rewarding years of your life. We are dedicated to guiding you through this journey.

The College of Liberal Arts provides you with a unique opportunity not only to develop a broad set of skills that will serve you no matter what kind of career you pursue, but also to learn to think critically and creatively and to communicate effectively. I urge you to sample from the broad range of courses and experiences available at the University of Minnesota. Get to know your teachers. Collaborate with them on a research project or creative activity. Enroll in an internship, study abroad, or service-learning program. Visit a gallery, attend a concert, enjoy the theatre or a dance performance—this is all part of your college experience and part of your broad liberal arts education.

If the experts are right, you will have not one, but four or five distinct careers over the course of your lifetime. And many of these careers may not even exist today. Remember, ten short years ago, no one heard of the term “webmaster.” Many of the technologies we take for granted today (the Internet, cellular phones, WebTV, palm pilots, and the like) were nothing more than fantasies a few short decades ago. These innovations, like many others, have transformed the way we communicate, the way we engage in commerce, the way we create and enjoy music and art. I want your education here at the University of Minnesota to prepare you for this increasingly complex and ever-changing world—to equip you to learn and continue to learn as you navigate through life’s adventures.

To tell you the truth, I never planned on being a college dean. I certainly did not run around as a kid hoping that I’d grow up and be a dean. I’m not sure I even knew what a dean was! And I didn’t take a single course in college that had anything to do with higher education administration. But when I became dean of this college five years ago, I was prepared for the job because I could draw upon all that I had learned as a liberal arts student way back when. Every day I need to understand the world from different generational, geographic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and intellectual perspectives. I need to think analytically about a broad range of curricular, research, and fiscal issues and to think through how those pieces fit together to make for a powerful educational experience for our students. I need to work as part of a team that pulls together faculty, students and staff. I need to communicate effectively with broad and diverse communities. And I need to listen carefully, and with empathy, to what people have to say.

Regardless of what you do after graduation, you will face many of the same challenges. Whether you lead an arts organization, a professional sports team, a multinational corporation, an advocacy group, or a governmental agency, you too will need to draw upon your broad, liberal arts education for the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to get the job done.

Have a marvelous year.

Best wishes,

Steven J. Rosenstone  
Dean

## MEET THE MLK STAFF

### Jose Beruvides

Associate Director

Jose' has been the Associate Director of MLK since November 1998 -- and also Acting Director since August 1999. In that time he has presided over significant changes and new initiatives in the MLK Program, most notably the switch to a four-year office, the move to full-time advisers, and the collaboration with the SEAM Program. He's looking forward to seeing more and more students become MLK graduates.

Jberu@class.cla.umn.edu

### Jann Davis

Principal Administrative Specialist

Jann has been with the MLK office for 29 years. She does the data processing and she does appointments for second language petitions, in addition to other administrative responsibilities.

Jdavis@class.cla.umn.edu

### Jaime Vargas

Office Specialist

Jaime has been working with the MLK office for a couple of years now. He is also a student here at the U of MN.

Most of the time, you will see his friendly face at the front desk. Jaime also does the decorating and all the creative crafts for MLK office.

Jvargas@class.cla.umn.edu

### Michelle Steiner

Academic Advisor

Michelle is the newest face around the MLK office these days... and she is very excited to be here! She is the senior advisor on the staff, and has traveled from New York to partake in this wonderful opportunity. She completed her undergraduate and graduate degree in psychology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. She will (hopefully!!) have completed her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology in the

next few months. Michelle looks forward to meeting the students who utilize the MLK office, and to working closely with them as they progress through their programs. Michelle will be working with Computer Science and pre-IT majors.

Msteiner@class.cla.umn.edu

### Jeannie Stumne

Academic Adviser (pre-business, pre-law, political science, sociology, geography, urban studies, art, art history, anthropology, theatre arts, music and undecided students)

Jeannie is excited to start her second year as an academic advisor in the MLK program. Before working at MLK, she completed her Master's degree in Counseling and Student personnel from Minnesota State University, Mankato. She has enjoyed being back in the Twin Cities area where she completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at Hamline University in St. Paul. Jeannie enjoys being part of the MLK community and is excited to continue advising and meeting new MLK students during orientation!

Jstumne@class.cla.umn.edu

### Ellen Sunshine

Academic Advisor

Ellen Sunshine has enjoyed working with our students from the minute she got here. She comes to us from The University of Iowa where she earned her Master's Degree in Student Development in Post-Secondary Education. At Iowa, Ellen worked in Athletic Student Services where she was able to perform many duties such as academic advising, career counseling, and working with first-years students. Ellen will be working with half of the health science and pre-education. She will also be working with Speech Communication, Journalism, Global Studies, Women's Studies, all language majors,

and interdisciplinary studies (ex. Chicano, American Indian studies).

Esunshine@class.cla.umn.edu

### Keli Lerdal

Academic Advisor (Psychological Sciences, English, History, Philosophy, Health Sciences and Education)

Keli has been with the MLK program for six months. She has really enjoyed working with the students and staff in the MLK program. Keli is a graduate of the University of Minnesota with a BA in Spanish Studies. She is very excited to meet all the new students that will be joining the MLK program.

Klerdal@class.cla.umn.edu

### PJ Agarwala

Peer Advisor

PJ is working in the MLK office for the summer to help out with Orientation. She graduated from the "U" in May with a B.A. in Psychology and Physiology. She has also spent the last three years working in the CLA Honors Office. PJ will be advising some students and helping out in the computer lab with registration. She is excited to be working in the MLK office and looks forward to meeting the new students.

Pagarwala@class.cla.umn.edu

### Maria Lee

Peer Adviser

Maria has been working with the MLK program for a year now. She is also a MLK student. This year is her second year at the U of MN. She is planning to major in Economics with a Business Management minor. As the peer adviser, Maria does walk-in appointments and helps out with orientation and registration. She also does projects for the MLK office, such as the MLK Newsletter. She has an internship this summer so she will not be here but she will return in the fall.

Mlee@class.cla.umn.edu

## Tips from Advisors

- \* Go to class! Arrive on time!
  - \* Go to professor and TA office hours!
  - \* Multiply the number of credits you are taking by two. This is the number of hours you should be reading, reviewing, and working on assignments outside of class each week!
  - \* Use the time in between classes to study!
  - \* Meet with your MLK advisor at least once each semester!
  - \* Keep track of important registration deadlines!
  - \* Make sure to follow the syllabus for each class! The readings and assignments should be completed by the assigned date!
  - \* Use the Gopher Guide to help keep track of important dates, i.e. test, due dates.
  - \* Use resources on campus, such as the Career and Community Learning Center, the Learning Resource Centers, and the Student Cultural Centers.
  - \* Don't be afraid to ask questions!
  - \* Check your University of MN e-mail account **at least** twice each week!
  - \* Turn off cell phones and pagers before class!
  - \* Form study groups!
  - \* Use Onestop ([www.onestop.umn.edu](http://www.onestop.umn.edu)) or the MLK website ([www.class.umn.edu/mlk](http://www.class.umn.edu/mlk)) to find answers to quick questions.
  - \* Use the MLK Computer Lab for assignments, papers, etc.
  - \* Get involved with student groups on campus!
-

## Useful Numbers

### Learning Resource Centers (LRC)

For counseling, tutoring, job postings, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

African American.....612/625-1363  
 Asian Pacific American.....612/624-2317  
 Chicano/Latino.....612/625-6013  
 315 Science Classroom Building

American Indian.....612/624- 2555  
 125 Fraser Hall

### Student Cultural Centers

For educational and cultural workshops, seminars, events, and conferences. They also sponsor social activities throughout the year.

Africana.....612/627-7679  
 825 Washington Ave S.E., room #108

American Indian.....612/624-0243  
 104 Jones Hall

Asian American.....612/627-7618  
 825 Washington Ave. S.E., room #103

La Raza.....612/625-2995  
 825 Washington Ave S.E

### Campus Involvement Center—Office for Student Development

612/626-6919  
 825 Washington Ave S.E., room 202  
 For more information about student groups and getting involved on campus.

### Career & Community Learning Center (CCLC)

612/624-7577  
 135 Johnston Hall & 345 Fraser Hall  
 Information on volunteer and internship opportunities, resume writing, national student exchange, and career exploration.

### University Student Legal Service

612/624-1001  
 160 West Bank Skyway

### U of M Job Center

612/624-5554  
 170 Donhowe Building

### Boynton Health Service

612/625-8400  
 410 Church St. S.E

### Office of Multicultural & Academic Affairs

612/624-0594  
 432 Morrill Hall

### Financial Aid

612/624-1665  
 200 Fraser Hall  
 Assistance with scholarships, Financial Aid, billing, and tuition.

### Admissions

612/625-2008  
 240 Williamson Hall  
 For questions relating to AP credits, transfer credits, and high school transcripts.

### Global Campus

612/624-4525  
 230 Heller Hall  
 For information on study abroad.

### Minnesota Women's Center

612/625-2324  
 112 Klaeber Court  
 Provide special opportunities for women, such as scholarships.

### University Counseling & Consulting Service

612/624-3323  
 Eddy Hall  
 Counseling for academic skills and career development. Also offers support groups and workshops.

### Disability Services

612/626-1333  
 230 MacNamara Center  
 Provide accommodations for students with disabilities.

### Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender (GLBT) Program Office

612/626-2324  
 138 Klaeber Court

### The Aurora Center/Program Against Sexual Violence

612/626-2929  
 407 Boynton  
 Support and advocacy for survivors of sexual violence.

### E-mail/Internet/Computer Help Line

612/626-4276

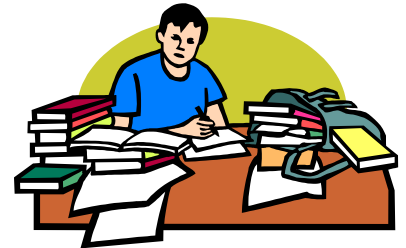
### Student Writing Center

612/625-1893  
 306B Lind Hall  
 For assistance in writing papers and assignments.

## Cool Places to Study



- ◆ European Grind—815 Washington Ave, SE
- ◆ Nolte Center Lounge
- ◆ Espresso Royale—411 14th Ave SE
- ◆ Purple Onion—326 14th Ave SE
- ◆ D'amico & Sons—MacNamara Center
- ◆ On the Mall
- ◆ Carlson School of Management Cafeteria
- ◆ Walter Library
- ◆ Johnston Hall Basement Lounge
- ◆ MLK Office



## Martin Luther King Jr. Program

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We're on the Web!  
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