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Student Support Services Ready for Third Year

Lisa Ramsey
Staff Writer

Tensions ran high this summer as the Student Support Services' staff awaited the notification for the renewal of the program grant. SSS programs are federally funded, therefore they must be approved by Congress and the Department of Education every three years. Mars Hill's SSS grant application was one of over seven hundred in the nation submitted during the fall of 1989. Ms. Barbara McKinney, program director, was notified in late July of the grant approval.

"We knew that we had a solid grant application, and we knew that what we have done through the program for the last two years works," Ms. McKinney said. "Our students are getting assistance and they are being successful. However, competition is stiff and the grant readers are thorough. There was always the outside chance that the grant would not be approved for this year."

Student Support Services has a lot to offer. It helps students succeed by providing the needed guidance and tools they may lack. These services are available in a warm, friendly atmosphere in which students can feel comfortable.

Upon entering the SSS offices, students may immediately lose some of the anxiety that they feel. Comfortable chairs give them a place to relax while waiting for a tutoring session, counseling, or other service offered by SSS. The reception area is decorated with signs of the season, and the bulletin board keeps students informed of the various events on campus. Staff members often chat with students about areas of concern around MHC that might affect them. SSS staff members are always willing to help students sort through problems they encounter throughout the year.

Student Support Services was not al-

ways a part of the MHC community. The program began with a grant given to MHC in the fall of 1988. Services available with no charge to eligible students include academic, personal, and career counseling; individual peer tutoring; weekly help sessions for Math 107 and 111, Biology 101, and English 111; monthly workshops on topics such as handling test anxiety and communicating with faculty; graduate school advising; and assistance in filling out job applications and preparing resumes. A computer and printer are also available to assist students in preparing papers.

With all the services SSS provides, does the program work? Student Support Services closed its 1989-90 academic year with 178 MHC students enrolled in the program. One hundred and thirty of these students ended the year with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0, with thirty-nine of these earning at least 3.0. Seventy-five percent of the program students received tutoring last year, and sixty-nine percent of these passed the tutored course(s) with a C or better. Seventy student tutors gave their time and talents to help make these successes possible. Ms. McKinney states that she and her staff take only partial credit for the success of the Student Support Services program. Without strong administrative support, excellent cooperation from the faculty, and the dedication of the program tutors, a great deal of what is accomplished would not be possible.

Students who need help should apply to the program. The process takes only minutes. Students interested in working as tutors should see Lisa Wachtman, coordinator of the tutoring program. Student Support Services is located on the first floor of Marshbanks Hall. Office hours are 8:00 to 5:00 Mon-

Circle K Gets Downright Dirty with Mud Volleyball

Beatriz Melendez
Staff Writer

Mud volleyball may be a dirty job, but Circle K was proud to do it. The mud volleyball tournament was held on Saturday, September 7 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. All proceeds from the tournament will be divided between four charities.

"The tournament was a real success," said Circle K president Becky Walisa. "We were amazed with the turnout. The idea came up when school started, but the only weekend we could hold the tournament was the following weekend. People said we'd never pull it off in a week, but we managed to sign up ten teams. We even elected a Mud King and Queen: Chris Gibson and Ender Nezbitt. And the Mud Volleyball

Club members are hoping to double their membership. A large turnout of sixty-eight at the first Circle K meeting of the year was very encouraging.

"This year, we're going to try to do more social things within the club, and we are looking forward to new members," said Becky Walisa. "For me, Circle K is a way to put my Christianity into action. It's a way to serve others and serve Christ at the same time. You see results with Circle K."

Basically, Circle K is an international community-oriented service organization sponsored by the Kiwanis Club. However, some members-to-be see more than that.



The future site of the new college cafeteria was put to good use as volunteers battled it out in the mud for charity on September 7.

Tournament Championship of 1990 belongs to the Melrose Mudcats."

The mud volleyball tournament is not the only event that Circle K has taken up in the name of charity. The organization has adopted a highway, become involved in Terrific Kids, visited Madison Manor, walked in a Walk-a-thon for Multiple Sclerosis, collected canned foods for the needy, adopted the Lifeline organization, assisted with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization, led a church clean-up, and aided in campus activities.

Circle K's twenty active members are headed up by President, Becky Walisa; Vice President, Pam Stewart; Secretary, Kelly Green; Treasurer, Penny Brown; and Lieutenant Governor, David Smith.

"Circle K is an opportunity to meet people, help others, and get in touch with your Christianity. It's a way of making a difference for the better," said up-coming member Kelly Reverse. Sometimes Circle K can be a dirty job, as in the mud volleyball tournament, but somebody's gotta do it. The officers are hoping that somebody is you!

Circle K meets every other Monday at 5 p.m. in the Gold Room (upstairs) in the cafeteria. The next meeting will be Oct. 1. The organization does at least one community service project per week; club members are required to participate in two projects per month. Annual dues are \$19, and this amount includes both international and district fees.

Training Sessions Offered

The Library will give special training sessions on the new computer databases at the following times:

Periodical Abstracts (general): Thursday, Sept. 27 at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 5:00 p.m.

ERIC (education): Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Students interested in one of these training sessions should come and sign up beforehand at the reference desk of the Library.

See accompanying story, page 6.