

One Colorful  
MA

Jessica St. Andrews  
MA Of the Year Candidate  
Ford Hall  
2005

The smell of wax, the crisp new box, but most importantly 24 colors in all of their shiny new glory. This what is experienced the first time one opens up a new box of crayons. The colors evoke feelings of excitement and joy. The places one can travel through the tip of a crayon. Every color represents something new and different. Like magic they show us how to bring our world to life on paper.

Jessica St. Andrews' life is full of many different colors. She is the box that holds them all together, but brings them out to help make Ford Hall a wonderful place. Each color in Jessica's box represents a different aspect of her life as Ford's Multicultural Assistant.

## Yellow

Ford has gotten to know Jessica as it's Multicultural Assistant. We have seen her personality come out in full force. Jessica tends to be cheerful and willing to help others out. Like the color yellow her personality can be used to brighten up Ford Hall. She can be pale and quiet and stand back or be neon and make the world wake up and take notice.

"Jessica is one of the warmest people that I know. I remember when I first moved to Ford Hall at the beginning of the semester she was one of the first people to greet me and actually want to know more about me. She even met my parents and still asked about them today. She is a determined person who always follows her dreams and encourages others to do the same."- Dena Dourisseau, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Resident

## Blue

Jessica is not only Ford's Multicultural Assistant, but also Ford's resident cop. Blue represents her as it represents the police field. She can be light and easy but also get tough when she needs to. She wears her volunteer police uniform with pride, whether she is headed for traffic directing or off to patrol the streets. She has used the skills she has learned as a police officer to handle the ladies of Ford. Being a Multicultural Assistant has helped Jessica practice for her future in the criminology field. She doesn't police Ford Hall, but she knows how to take care when dealing with diversity issues. She also represents Kansas State as the Vice President of the Criminology Club. She has had no problem keeping active with her major while also being active in Ford Hall.

## Red

Jessica has shown a lot of passion this year as Multicultural Assistant of Ford. Red is the perfect color to represent her programming because it is the color of passion. She spent the year incorporating a variety of themes into her programming. She covered everything from cultures, "Hispanic Heritage Fiesta" and "Dance Week" and holidays, "Chinese New Year" and "Tour de Winter Holidays" to helping with fellow staff's programs like "Quick and Dirty in the Dark". Jessica isn't afraid to pull from the people she knows for programs and loves bringing in guest speakers. For "Breast Cancer Awareness" she brought her grandmother to come and speak with the women of Ford about the importance of early detection. One weeklong program Jessica did was "Disability Awareness Week". She had two different nights of activities covering disabilities. One night included a woman who interprets on campus in sign language. She

stressed how important it is for all students on campus to feel like they have equal rights to an education. Jessica used the International Student Center for one program, “Taste of Asia”. She took residents to the center to learn about the Asian culture.

“As a first year MA, she had a lot to learn and a lot to experience. She impressed me with the level of involvement that sought and the relationships she built with various women within Ford Hall. Jessica truly desires to educate those around her about various issues pertaining to diversity. I thoroughly enjoyed the programs that she organized. Bringing in her grandmother, her mother, and a friend from her hometown really allowed a personal touch to her programming from which I learned quite a bit.” –Cassie Luke, Lower Terrace Resident Assistant

"Jessica has been a stellar staff member! I believe that it takes a truly dedicated and passionate person to fulfill the role of the MA. Jessica has met, and exceeded, her expectations and has made a strong impact on our residents. She has sought to educate our residents through a wide array of programs, and meaningful interactions with our residents! Jessica is the MA of the Year in my eyes!" –Shannon Cross, Assistant Residence Life Coordinator

## **Purple**

Purple is the best color to represent Jessica’s Ford Hall Diversity Team. Purple being the color of Kansas State, it represents the Diversity Team well because they have pride for their school and want to make Kansas State a better place. About every two weeks the team meets to discuss diversity. They do educational activities to learn about other cultures and people. Jessica’s team has volunteered to help her with one of her

bulletin boards. Each month they make Ford residents aware of different holidays or important months around the world. Her team supports her by attending her programs and helping plan some of their own.

“Jessica is truly devoted to educating Ford Hall on diverse issues and shows a genuine concern for everyone around her. She is tons of fun to be around, and she is a great role model for all of us.” –Andrea Stover, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Resident

“Because I am on her diversity team, Jessica has helped me to be more sensitive and informed about diversity and multicultural information.” –Janel Bowersox, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Resident

## Green

Pea green, hunter green, lime green, sea foam green, and kelly green. There is a color of green to go with just about everything. Jessica is a lot like this when working with staff. Though she doesn't always share the same values or lifestyle with other staff members she always remembers that she is the Multicultural Assistant and tries to work well with everyone. She is always willing to help out and serve as backup when a fellow staff member needs it. Jessica tries to also support her staff by attending their programs and being willing to talk to residents, especially if their problems involve diversity or discrimination. Jessica strives to be professional in her actions and serves as a role model to the Ford staff. She tries hard not to let her personal views compromise how she does her job. Jessica has encouraged staff members to get to know people and see issues from both sides before judging.

“Jessica is great to work with. Even when we disagree, we always work out our different perspectives on diversity issues. She has done a great job with programming

and getting to know the staff.” - Ana Pyzhov, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Resident Assistant

## **The Whole Box**

Ford Hall feels that these five colors are just a few reasons why Jessica is such a wonderful Multicultural Assistant. She strives for excellence in her job and always sees the big picture in life. Jessica is truly an inspiration in Ford Hall. The residents have grown because of Jessica and are more aware of the cultures around them and all the differences in their lives.