Student of the Month—Madin Dula

Interview by Pauline Danforth

Madin Dula is a soft-spoken woman made of steel. She is of the Oromo tribe and was born in east Africa in Ethiopia. Due to civil strife in her country, she migrated to Kenya where she lived with her husband and children. She worked in the Social Work field to empower women, feed the destitute and help people with disabilities receive help. In 2000, sponsors invited her to relocate to St. Paul. She came with only some of her children. She said, “I was very lonely and sad. It was hard to part from my children and from my people in Kenya.” She immediately began attending City Academy where she earned an American high school diploma. In 2003, she enrolled in classes at Metropolitan State University.

Here in Minnesota, Madin continues to work for her people. She is Vice-President of the local Oromo organization, Busa Goonafaa, a name that refers to her clan’s practice of helping community members. Her volunteerism goes way beyond simply baking cookies for an event; along with others, she demonstrates when, back home, Ethiopian university students are killed or detained. She raises money to send back to Oromo people who are suffering from droughts or to support struggling schools.

Madin is very proud of the Oromo and their lands. “The Oromo people are naturally good people. They are farmers and nomads tending livestock. The Oromia region is fertile with lots of natural resources including coffee, vegetables, spices and fruit.”

However, Madin explained due to inequality in Ethiopia the Oromo people are the most disadvantaged group. They have been ruled by a minority class for a long time; many have left and are nomads around the globe, Oromo children have been denied the right to attend school. They have been pressured to give up their identities as Oromo people. With passion in her voice, Madin says, “I love my people and I will do anything I can to help them.”

Madin is a junior in the Social Work Program. This semester she is interning at LaFamilia Guidance Center where she is learning the American system and how help people of all cultures. Thinking back to when she arrived, Madin said seeing all the different people from so many cultures was one of the things that most surprised her about Minnesota...the first being the snow and cold!

Madin, who is especially close to her mother who remains back in Africa, has always been committed to helping women, both here in the Twin Cities and back when she lived in Kenya. Her eyes shine and words tumble out when explaining that here in the United States, women’s rights are protected and they are not being violated by anyone. She says, “Women are safer here compared to any other place in the world. We need to elect women to leadership positions so they can decide for us. Only women know how it is to bear and care for children. Women need to be elected to talk on our behalf.”

Madin is a regular at both the Math and Writing Centers and in the TRIO/SSS office. She has been active in Women Empowered; last year she served as their vice-president. She feels Metropolitan State is a good place for people of all ages to learn. She applauds the University for helping refugees like herself, get an education.

Plan your time wisely: Every class will have a some sort of final project. Prepare a schedule allowing you to prioritize in terms of due dates. If you have more than one final on the same day, consider speaking to your instructor to reschedule.

Use University Resources: Visit the Math and Writing Centers if you have papers and problems due before the end of term.

Organize content of study: Make a comprehensive list of topics that are likely to be tested on.

Learning Strategy: Attend a TRIO workshop to discover the learning strategy that works best for you, and employ this to test your knowledge as it will be examined by instructor.

Keep a good cheer: A positive attitude will help you to relax.
**TRIO Grant Aid**

*Freshman or sophomore* TRIO students who are active TRIO students in good academic standing (2.5 or higher GPA) and Pell eligible may apply for Grant Aid for summer semester.

Recipients must type a one-page, double-spaced essay on how this grant will impact their education at Metropolitan State University.

**Deadline: Monday, May 1, 2006**

Stop by the TRIO office today for application material.

---

**Music Concert**

Calliope Women’s Chorus Presents:

*Healing Women*

Giving voice to connections among women, music and healing.

Saturday, April 22, 2006
8 p.m. Founders Hall Auditorium
FREE!

---

**Legal Awareness Education Program (LEAP)**

courages undergraduate students of color to consider a career in law.

Enjoy pizza and learn about law school,

Thursday, April 20, 2006,
4:30-7:30 p.m.

U of M Law School.
For more information, call Dana at 612-625-3487.

---

**Summer Bridge Program**

**Writing 131**

May 9, 2006 to August 15, 2006
Tuesdays 6—8 p.m.

♦ Fulfills GELS requirement
♦ No tuition cost to TRIO/SSS students
♦ Supported by **mandatory** Supplemental Instruction Tutoring
♦ Academic and personal support

Placement at the Writing 131 level is **required** and will be confirmed by TRIO staff.

This program is available to TRIO students. Please stop by the TRIO office and fill out an application.

---

**TRIO Workshops**

**Time Management**

Goal Setting
Task Management.
Thursday, April 13, 2006
4 - 5:30 p.m. FH L118

---

**Discover Your Learning Style**

Eve Nichols—TRIO Counselor
Learn how you can get better grades by understanding how you learn best.
Thursday, April 20, 2006
4-6 p.m. FH L118

---

**TRIO Workshops**

**Voting for TRIO Student Union**

offsiers will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2006 in the TRIO office FH 221

---

**VOTING for TRIO Student Union**

**May Day Celebration and Reception**

TRIO honors its 2006 graduates and students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher

Monday, May 1, 2006
New Main Great Hall
5-7 p.m.

---

**Calliope Women’s Chorus Presents:**

*Healing Women*

Giving voice to connections among women, music and healing.

Saturday, April 22, 2006
8 p.m. Founders Hall Auditorium
FREE!

---

**TRIO Workshops**

**TUTORS NEEDED!**

**Running Start Program**

Dayton’s Bluff Elementary 1st Graders

Days: April 10th to April 21st

Hours: 9:20 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Please contact bill.wischstadt@metrostate.edu

---

**Metro 101**

Your Academic Journey

Fall Semester 2006

Wednesdays, 6 — 8:30 p.m.

August 30, 2006 — December 6, 2006

Midway Campus

This course introduces students to university programs and services; it helps students self-assess their abilities and strengths, learn study and critical thinking skills.

**Required** for all students with 0-16 credits.
Recommended for all TRIO students.

**TRIO STUDENTS DO NOT PAY TUITION FOR THIS COURSE!**
At the beginning of March, I went to the national’s conference for what has turned out to be one of my most profound experiences in government. Metropolitan State University, along with the other state universities, is a member of the Minnesota State University Student Association (MSUSA), which is funded by a per-credit student fee. Over the years, MSUSA has been a strong advocate on many student issues: including the fight for affordable tuition and fair financial aid programs, increase work study wages, improve campus awareness crime, promote cultural diversity and public service and assure effective student representation within higher education agencies and systems.

Last year, MSUSA’s campaigned for a tuition freeze. As students across the system are continually faced with high tuition increases, the student leadership at MSUSA decided to ask state legislators to increase funding to higher education. After much campaigning, a bi-partisan bill was introduced. While this bill did not pass after hours of hearings in which students testified, state legislators were allowed an opportunity to listen to the adverse effects of tuition hikes. MSUSA also presented its proposal to the MnSCU board of trustees, which after much consideration, capped tuition increases to ten per cent across the university and community college system. While MSUSA and other student advocates do not call for a decrease to services offered to students, they ask university administrators to try and do the best with the funding that they receive.

In his 2006 budget request, President Bush cut two TRiO Programs: Talent Search and Upward Bound which are both programs funded to assist high school students from low-income families prepare for college. MSUSA students decided to take issue with this, and planned a lobbying trip to nation’s capital.

With the Pell Grant maximum being reduced, Senators Kennedy and Menendez introduced an amendment to a bill in the senate that would allow the Pell Grant maximum to increase to $4500. The amendment, which would have allowed students to take less loans when they qualified for grants, was really close and failed with a tie. This same amendment would have restored funding for TRIO, GEAR UP, and LEAP programs and job training.

Bills and amendments aside, Washington D.C was a great trip! Not only was the weather wonderful, but I also had an opportunity to visit the different monuments from the National Archives to the WWII Memorial to the different state buildings.

As I walked the streets of the nation’s capital, I marveled at the beauty and essence of life that surrounded me. I watched as a group of young men played great jazz on the streets, and passers-by danced or listened in silent fascination. As I walked in Georgetown, a town with great shopping and cultural attractions, a young woman pulled my friends and I aside inviting us to the 1st Church of Scientology. And that is a story for another day.

---

### Education Lobbying in Washington DC
By Julia Opoti

### Career Services Workshops

Once again we are at the end of the semester. Whether you are a graduating student or returning student, the following workshops are great tools as you continue to build your professional career.

**Resume Workshop**
Thursday, April 13, 10:00-11:00 am, St. Paul Library 310
Tuesday, April 18, 12:00-1:00 pm, St. Paul Library 310
Tuesday, April 18, 12:00-1:00 pm, Minneapolis T5140

**Job Search Strategies**
Wednesday, April 19, 12:00-1:30 pm, St. Paul Library 301

**Interview Techniques**
Monday, April 24, 12:00-1:30 pm, Minneapolis H1600
Thursday, April 27, 12:00-1:30 pm, St. Paul Library 310

**How to Get Unstuck in Your Career**
Wednesday, April 19, 5:00-6:00 pm, St. Paul Library 218
Tuesday, April 25, 12:00-1:00 pm, Minneapolis T2500
Tuesday, May 9, 12:00-1:00 pm, Minneapolis T2500
Wednesday, May 17, 5:00-6:00 pm, St. Paul Library 218

For more information please contact Bill Baldus, Career Counselor at 612 659 7314 or william.baldus@metrostate.edu

---

### Giving Back to the Community

Every so often we are presented with an opportunity where we can give back something to our community. People volunteer for different reasons. When Krystal Holman, a TRIO student worker, heard about the Running Start Program, she thought that exposing herself to working with children would present a wonderful opportunity to the practical aspect of the education system. An Early Childhood Education major in the Urban Teacher Program, Krystal spends about 4 hours a week with 1st graders as they read their assigned books at the Dayton’s Bluff Elementary School. The most rewarding aspect of working with the children has been the relationship that Krystal has developed with them. The most challenging facet has been maintaining the children’s concentration. Krystal encourages them by reading along with them, and this has worked well for her.