The Financial Aid Office has a new employee…and she has a great smile!

Last fall, Rosalvo Hernandez and her family moved from a small town in Texas. Before moving here, she did research on universities in the Twin Cities and found Metropolitan State to be the best fit. The tuition was competitive and classes were offered at varied times which, Rosalvo knew, would come in handy with a schedule as busy as hers. Rosalvo soon found out that MSU was the perfect school for her. She enrolled in January and got to know her instructors because they took the time to know her.

Discussions in class, especially those in ethnic studies, were very intense allowing her and other students to bring their life experiences into the classroom incorporating that with lectures and instructors. Metropolitan State University, she discover was unique. The culture was diverse here, not only in terms of race, but also in the skills and abilities of the different students. She was also impressed that the university had different cultural directors for the different ethnic groups, and other groups of students such as GLBT and students with disabilities. She feels that this is a great outreach and retention tool that will allow the university to maintain its diversity.

Rosalvo began working at the Financial Aid office as a student worker, and then she was hired as a full-time employee. The feeling of community continues to grow as she has now made friends with her co-workers and with student workers on campus.

As a student, Rosalvo was elected as President of the Latin Student Organization. As a member of this organization one of her goals is to bring more awareness to the role immigrants play within the U.S. economy and to broaden people’s perspectives in moving towards a multi cultural community.

Rosalvo is considering a major akin to rural development so that she can go back home and revitalize the town where she grew up. While, her dreams are nothing short of ambitious, Rosalva is determined that with an education garnered from Metropolitan State University, she can work together with the city and other entities to improve the standard of living in this town that is mostly inhabited by first generation immigrants. While there are good parts in the town, there are areas in dire need of renovation. Rosalvo finds it unacceptable that there are people living in such slum-like conditions, and hopes to develop enough skills to uplift this community.

Rosalvo, who works full-time and is also a full-time student, finds that her biggest challenge is time management. I asked her, in jest, to attend one of Eve’s time management workshops. Between her husband, children, school and work, Rosalvo needs all the discipline and commitment to all the things that matter to her to remain successful. In a meeting with Pauline, they discussed how she could best manage her time. So far, she has managed to maintain a balance, she says with a smile.

Rosalvo and her family found out that Minnesota has only three months of good weather! Although it is Spring, Rosalvo loves being outdoor so much, that as soon as the sun began to come out, she will be using her yard more often. You will find her sitting outside in her yard reading while her three little ones run around enjoying the beauty of nature.
THE ARTICLE
By Julia Opoti

It had been a long week and I was looking forward to my last day of the week on campus. I ran into someone who asked me if I had seen the latest issue of the school paper. Well I had, but I had really not read it. As I ran all over campus looking for a copy, I found it odd that I could not find a copy anywhere. I decided to read the online version and what I saw appalled me to say the least.

The Article, as we began referring to it, created major controversy at the university. It has since been removed from the online newspaper due to its “sensitive and offensive nature.” A white student describes her journey of transformation through an article she titled, “The Evolution of Prejudice.” Growing up in the 70’s during segregation had an overwhelming impact on the writer of the article, creating in her a deep resentment of the minority population that had moved into her neighborhood. While her account could be true of events of violence between blacks and whites in the 70’s, the author used very strong language (the n word to be specific) in reference to the African-American community.

In an attempt not to make this a political commentary, I will only highlight the events of the last couple of months. While many have argued for the freedom of speech, others have called to question the sense of responsibility of the editorial board of The Metropolitan, the University paper. It is not hard to see why the article was offensive—the author referred to African Americans using the derogatory n term. At a time when racial tension was high with minority students feeling isolated, the African American students stepped up to the occasion. They organized a town hall meeting bringing together members of university and the community to discuss the issue and they also gathered students together to develop a list of demands on what the school paper should be and how it should serve its students. Amidst a lot of resistance from the editorial board, the school paper was pulled off the stands and the online article was edited in its entirety. Needless to say, the university community reaffirmed the need for anti-racism discussions to be continued. It is important that individuals continue to learn from each other.

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead (1901 –1978)

CONGRATULATIONS!
The following TRIO students have been elected to the Student Senate:
♦ Chad Hendrix
♦ Amy Keenan
♦ LeRoyce Walker-Fields
♦ Clare Ware

Empowering Women Seminar
“Education and Career in Relation to Life’s Journey”
Sponsored by Women Empowered
Date: May 13th, 2006
Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Guest Speakers: Mary Kirk, PhD
(associate professor, Metropolitan State), Barb Greenberg (Twin Cities author)
RSVP to 651-793-1524

Spoken Word Event
Vibrant voices of different cultures
Sponsored by TRIO Student Group
Tou Saiko Lee (MC)
Spoken Word generally refers to poetry that is read out loud. It has been described as a movement where individuals not only express their inner most feelings, but where also one talks about society and effects on their lives. Spoken word is closely associated with Hip-Hop and Jazz. As I listened to the poets take to the mic, I kept saying, “how deep.” Each time, I kept thinking that indeed this was the best piece. In the end, I found that each of the authors had a different story to tell, a different way of telling their story. What struck me the most, however, was the cultural thread that resonated throughout all the pieces. Each of the eight poets told a unique story of their life, and how their different cultures made them who they were. Three of the poets spoke of the experience as recent American immigrants and how they were torn between two worlds. Yet another poet of mixed heritage within the American culture, spoke of her desire to be identified with both cultures and the complexities of finding one’s identity.

Metro 101
Your Academic Journey
Fall Semester 2006
Wednesdays, 6:00 pm— 8:30 pm
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!

Tuition for this course!

TRIO/SSS TO DO LIST!!
Have you done your year-long plan?
Meet with a mentor?
Need a tutor?
Complete the Study Behavior Inventory?
If not, call 651-793-1525 to schedule.

WE Presents:
1st Annual Multicultural Showcase of Beauty
Friday June 2, 2006
Founders Hall Reception/Auditorium
Hands on presentations with food and beverage 6-7 p.m.
Dancing and modeling cultural fashion from 7-9 PM.
*Please contact one of the following people if you have further questions.
Ciana Cullens cullenci@go.metrostate.edu
Krystal Holman holmankr@go.metrostate.edu

TUITION FOR THIS COURSE!
Recommended for all TRIO students.
Every year the university recognizes student leaders, organizations and student organizations, and their advisors who have exhibited exemplary leadership. The following are awards:

Darcel Hill was recognized as the Student Organization Advisor of the Year for her outstanding service, contributions and commitment to the African American student organization.

The Student Group of the Year was awarded to the African American Student Association for their exceptional programming, activities and community service which included, Gospel Fest, the Soul Food Dinner (co-sponsored by the TRIO Student Union), and panel discussions with members of the community.

If you attended the Soul Food Dinner, then you will agree with the judges that it was the student program of the year. More than 300 students attended this Black History event. The speakers spoke of matters that were relevant to the community while the extraordinary entertainment made it a full and fun family event.

Rochelle Hayes, a TRIO student, won the Female Student Leader of the Year Award. (read separate story).

The most competitive award was for the Male Student Leader of the Year. This award was given to Jason Sole for his dedication to leadership both in and outside of Metropolitan State University. He served as the Vice President of the African American Student Association—recruiting and teaching students the value of getting involved. He has also volunteered at Dayton’s Bluff Elementary, Freedom School and with Project Sunshine where he has worked with families on parent empowerment. He has also worked with immigrants helping them improve their English. Jason is also a TRIO student.

Sometime last year, I interviewed Rochelle Hayes, and what struck me most about her was her resilience in all that she did. “Leaders are made, not born” is her favorite quote. She would never have matured to the leader that she became had TRIO counselors Eve and Pauline not believed in her. Everyone has a leadership trait in them, and only needs to be nurtured to become successful in that respect. Eve and Pauline took time to understand her passion and beliefs while directing her towards her dreams.

On graduating, Rochelle says she is looking forward to making something of herself. However, she will miss the university community and the friends that she has made while here. Her experience at Metropolitan State has been nothing but phenomenal. Metropolitan State has a very diverse population, allowing for great discussions and learning experiences in the classroom. The small classroom setting was instrumental in the one-on-one interaction that she developed with administrators and faculty across the university.

As a mother and a student, Rochelle realized that to succeed in her academic career she would have to supplement her income. So she applied for as many scholarships as she could, and was successful as Rochelle was a recipient of several scholarships. She encourages other students to do the same.

Commenting on her award, Rochelle said she appreciates everyone who believed in her. She is quick to mention that all the other nominees were equally deserving. It is important, she says, for an institution to recognize its leadership for this challenges everyone to do their best.

Julia Opoti, editor

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Female Student Leader of the Year

Helen Hayes (1900 – 1993)

Blazin’ The TRIO trail

On May 1st, TRIO held a dinner to honor graduating students. High Achievers, students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 and above were also recognized. It was a great fanfare with a meal and certificates of recognition to the students. The guest speaker from Student Life and Leadership Development, Philip Fuehrer spoke of the challenges he faced when going to college. Many TRIO students will identify with him, as the adversities faced by non-traditional first-generation students are universal. Phil spoke of the survival tactics that one has to create to achieve one success. While he was not a TRIO student, Phil faced similar challenges. There were about 30 students who were recognized that evening.

My mother drew a distinction between achievement and success. She said that ‘achievement is the knowledge that you have studied and worked hard and done the best that is in you. Success is being praised by others, and that’s nice, too, but not as important or satisfying. Always aim for achievement and forget about success’

Helen Hayes (1900 – 1993)