



# MSS FLASH

Volume 7, Issue 2

October, 2006

## Multicultural Student Services

## Dr. Pedro Cordova and Hispanic Heritage Month

### Inside this issue:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Civic Duty            | 2 |
| Job Openings          | 2 |
| Volunteer Opportunity | 2 |
| Flash Cash            | 3 |
| Community Week        | 4 |
| India.arie            | 5 |
| Upcoming Events       | 6 |

Featured on the cover of *Vice Versa* magazine as one of the 25 new faces of Latino leadership in Minnesota, Dr. Pedro Cordova, an assistant professor of Spanish at UST, is no stranger to Hispanic culture.

about Hispanic culture. "It is very important to make this aware to the Hispanic and larger community. The more education we have, the better."

Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Cordova moved to the United States as a teenager. He transitioned easily into American culture but admits that the English language was difficult to master.

And that, Cordova points out, is exactly what the month long celebration does. It allows society to become aware of diversity. It allows society to realize that there are many diverse cultures and groups under the label of Hispanic. For instance, Cordova notes that while his name is Pedro it doesn't mean he is Mexican, though many make that assumption.

"My English was terrible," recalls Cordova. "I remember one time the school counselor had a meeting with me. I thought she was telling me to run for the student council. I later realized she was just telling me she was my counselor."

With this national holiday celebration in mind, Cordova says, "We need to eliminate ignorance and learn to celebrate different ways of doing things. "

Cordova didn't let this instance stop him. He continued his study of language at Arizona State University and later University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

To see this come true, Cordova advocates that schools need to make a conscious effort to integrate diversity and international viewpoints into the daily curriculum.

Through his teaching of the Spanish language, Cordova says that he celebrates his Hispanic heritage daily. Because he lives Hispanic culture and celebrates it every day, he personally doesn't feel the need to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month.

As well as teaching, Cordova is involved in multiple Hispanic organizations where he can celebrate his heritage, including: El Fondo de Nuestra Comunidad; the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and *Le Prensa de Minnesota*, a bilingual weekly newspaper serving the Latino community.

However, Cordova does stress the importance of the holiday for people who don't know much

### Did You Know?

- The most common Hispanic last name is Garcia, with Martinez and Rodriguez following in 2nd and 3rd.
- September 15 was chosen as the starting point for the celebration because it is the anniversary of independence of five Latin American countries. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively.

### Flash Submissions

Love to write poems, short stories, articles, or draw pictures? Want to have your art and writings published? Send you work to the MSS Flash!

Have an comments or suggestions? Have something you'd like to see included in the Flash or any ideas on potential stories?

Let the Flash know!

Submissions are due the 25th of each month. Submissions can be sent to [multicultural@stthomas.edu](mailto:multicultural@stthomas.edu) or can be dropped off in the MSS office (MHC 106).



## Importance of Your Civic Duty

On November 7th, 2006, you will have a chance to directly affect the life of every U.S. citizen. On this day, you will have the ability to vote in the 2006 elections, deciding who will be governor, senator, and house representative.

Why should you vote?

Well, tuition costs are skyrocketing. Rockthevote.com points out that "in 1976-1977, Pell Grants covered 72 percent of the average price of attending a 4-year college. Today, the average Pell Grant covers only 34 percent. As a result, young adults are finishing post-secondary education with significant amounts of debt with more than 1 in 4 students using credit cards to help finance their education."

Credit card debts have risen 104% in the last decade. 10% of adults under 25 are jobless and looking. Almost 13 million young adults lack health insurance. 80% of the 14,000 troops in Iraq are under the age of 35.

These issues directly affect youths' lives. They affect you **right now**. Mike Hardcastle says in his article "The Top 5 Reasons Why YOUth Should Vote," "A government by the people, for the people just can't work without the people. This is a simple fact... While it is easy to say "one vote doesn't make a difference" the

reality is that every vote counts... have you heard of Florida? Also you have to remember that as an individual your vote may seem to be little more than a whisper but when your vote is combined with the votes of others who share your views it becomes a voice and the more like-voters there are the louder that voice grows. So get out there and make the youth vote be heard."

Dr. David Todd Lawrence, an associate professor of English here at UST agrees it is important to vote. He says, "like a lot of people in this country, I have felt disenfranchised by events that have taken place during recent elections, including the systematic harassment, intimidation, and disqualification of voters from minority communities. But the fact that I know there is an organized effort to squash my vote and the votes of my fellow citizens makes me even more insistent on fulfilling my right and responsibility. We owe a debt to those who have fought for the rights of all Americans to participate in the political process and I take it seriously. We all should. The voting booth is the one place where for a second, we all have equal power to decide the makeup of our government -- a government whose behavior we are all ultimately implicated in."

Please, be active. Take part in your community. Vote and take a stand for what you believe in. If you don't, who will?

## Job Openings

The Northwest Suburban Integration School District is seeking qualified Career Specialist(s) for its Jobs for Minnesota Graduates program located within Fridley High school. The JMNG program is a school-to-career transition program for students in grades 9-12.

Qualified individuals must be able to provide basic career development and job readiness skills, self-management and life skills development; must be able to perform in a diverse environment, communicate and build relationships with students of all different abilities and backgrounds; provide mentoring to students in the role of Advisor in a student-led career association, and maintain effective communication with-school staff, community organizations and businesses. Valid MN secondary teaching license in school counseling, work-based learning or eligible for licensure required.

Northwest Suburban Integration School District is also looking for a Project ENRICH Program Specialist responsible for carrying out the goals of the program designed to support students and families to improve students' learning

readiness and understanding of cultural diversity as well as to develop and promote opportunities for integration across school district boundaries. Must have after-school coordinating and programming exp. Bachelors Degree in Education, Social Science, Counseling, or related field; minimum of 2 years

experience in areas of youth and adult; cultural and ethnic pop; multicultural education; and educational integration.

Please send cover letter and resume to: NWSISD, Attn: HR, 6860 Shingle Creek Pkwy #208, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430 or fax to 763-450-1350. For more information visit our website at [www.nws.k12.mn.us](http://www.nws.k12.mn.us).



## Volunteer Opportunity– Mary’s Place

Interested in working with children? If so, volunteer with the Mary’s Place Tutoring Program. Mary’s Place (also known as Sharing and Caring Hands) houses around 400 children with their families until they can find permanent housing.

Because of frustrations and struggles in school, many homeless children are at least one grade level behind their classmates. Volunteers would work directly with the children on their schoolwork and help them catch up with their studies.

Located behind the Target Center on the edge of downtown Minneapolis, Mary’s Place welcomes weekly volunteers, as well as volunteers who are only able to come periodically.

Tutoring hours are Monday-Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. and Thursday from 3-4:30 p.m.

If you are interested in volunteering with Mary’s Place, please contact Kathy at 612-328-0988 or Charlotte at 612-328-4384, or simply stop by during Mary’s Place’s open hours.

## Fla\$h Ca\$h

### The StraightForward Media Minority Scholarship–

Scholarships are open to current and prospective students at community colleges, universities, technical/vocational schools, and continuing education programs. Applications are due September 30, 2006. For more information, please visit: [www.straightforwardmedia.com/minority/](http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/minority/)

**The Accenture Scholarship Program For Minorities–** created to encourage minorities to pursue degrees in engineering, computer science, and a variety of programs related to informa-

tion systems and decision or management sciences. Scholarship awards of \$2,000 are awarded to outstanding students for undergraduate study. Recipients must be enrolled as full-time students in at least two semesters of the school year to receive the full award. For more information, please visit:

[http://careers3.accenture.com/Careers/US/Diversity/Inclusion/Scholarships/scholarships\\_Minorities.htm](http://careers3.accenture.com/Careers/US/Diversity/Inclusion/Scholarships/scholarships_Minorities.htm).

For more information on financial aid, visit Student Financial Services (651.962.6550) [www.stthomas.edu/](http://www.stthomas.edu/)

## Community Week

### Sunday, October 1st

- \*Interfaith Prayer for Reconciliation and Pre-Reception Ice Cream Social- 5:30-6:30 p.m., OEC Lobby
- \*Mixed Blood Theater’s “Dr. King’s Dream”- 7-8:30 p.m., OEC Auditorium

### Monday, October 2nd

- \*Café Cultural– 11:30-1 p.m., Scooter’s Lounge
- \*Hate Free Zone workshop– 6-7:30 p.m., MHC 155
- \*Salsa Dancing– 8-9 p.m.

### Tuesday, October 3rd

- \*Respecting, Affirming, and Valuing Human Dignity Unity Forum– 11:30-1 p.m., Foley Plaza
- \*“Nickel and Dime” Panel and Catholic Social Teachings– 3:30-5 p.m., MHC 304
- \*Charles H. Houston and the Crusade for Human Rights– 7-9 p.m., JRC 126
- \*Walmart: The High Cost of Low Price– 7-9 p.m., OWS 150

### Wednesday, October 4th

- \* Reading “Nickel and Dime”: An Interdisciplinary Perspective– 12:15-1:15 p.m., MHC 304
- \* Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremony– 3:30-5 p.m.
- \*Ramadan Iftar– 6-8 p.m., Rogge-Leyden
- \*Bread and Roses– 7-9 p.m., OWS 150

### Thursday, October 5th

- \*International Fair and Earth Balloon Tour– 11:30-1:30 p.m., Coughlan Fieldhouse
- \*Bringing It Back Home– UST and “Nickel and Dime” Panel– Noon-1:15 p.m., MHC 304
- \*Diversity Issues Facing Graduate and Professional Students of Color Panel– 5-6:30 p.m., Law School
- \*Global Fashion Show and Liturgical Choir Performance– 7-8:30 p.m., MHC 2nd floor atrium

### Friday, October 6th

- \*Understanding Other People’s Power– 9:30-Noon, New McNeely Hall, Room 100
- \*International Potluck– Noon-1 p.m., OISS
- \*Play “Somewhere Else Mother”– 7:30 p.m., Foley Theater

## Multicultural Student Services

2115 Summit Avenue  
Mail #5006

Phone: 651.962.6460  
Fax: 651.962.6655

Email: multicultural@stthomas.edu

### Office Hours

M-F 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

[www.stthomas.edu/  
multicultural\\_services](http://www.stthomas.edu/multicultural_services)

CHALLENGE YOURSELF  
CHANGE OUR WORLD



## India.Arie Concert

**October 14th, 2006; 6:30-10:00 p.m.**

**Join students, faculty and staff for an evening of inspiring, powerful and meaningful music that will encourage students to change our world. This event is co-sponsored by Multicultural Student Services, Office of Institutional Diversity, and Dean of Students.**

**Tickets are only \$10 each (a \$55 value)! Only 45 tickets are available, so hurry in and buy a ticket. Only one ticket per student. Students must have a UST I.D. Stop in the MSS Office (MHC 106) for more details.**

## Save the Date!

### CommUNITY Week Celebration

October 1st-6th  
\*Details on page 3!

### MSS Monday's

Monday, October 2nd from noon to 1 p.m.  
Commuter Center

**STAR Outdoor Movie in Foley Plaza**  
"Pirates of the Caribbean Dead Man's Chest"  
Tuesday, October 3rd at 9 p.m.

**Family Weekend Reception**  
Friday, October 6th from 5-7 p.m.  
MHC Fireside

**Scott Hamilton Lecture**  
Saturday, October 7th at 8 p.m.  
OEC Auditorium

**Fruity Tuesdays**  
Tuesday, October 10th from 10-11 a.m.  
Commuter Center

### Homecoming Parade

Saturday, October 14th from 10:15- 12 p.m.  
Summit Ave

**Homecoming Multicultural Hospitality Tent**  
Saturday, October 14th from 11:00 a.m.-1 p.m.

**India.Arie Live Concert**  
Sunday, October 14th from 7-10 p.m.

**Bagel Wednesday**  
Wednesday, October 18th from 8-10 a.m.  
Commuter Center

**Free Legal Advice**  
October 4th, 11th, 18th from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Commuter Center

**MSS Mentor Network**  
Friday, November 3rd from 3:30-5 p.m.  
MHC Fireside