

Trisha Gott  
MA of the Year Bid  
Haymaker Hall 2005



Written by:  
Audrey Vail  
Lacey Carlson

One word can not describe Trisha Gott. Two or three words won't do it either. But a whole bunch can do the trick. Trisha Gott is a phenomenal person who puts the MA job, Haymaker Hall, and K-State above almost everything else. Trisha is dedicated, a hard worker, a volunteer and enthusiastic about everything she does, whether that be in Haymaker Hall or campus-wide.

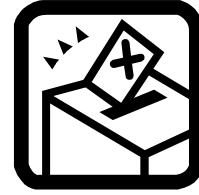
### **Dedicated**

When Trisha approaches her "job," she enjoys every minute of it. She does not "work," she has fun educating and exciting the residents about diverse topics. Trisha is dedicated to her residents, her "job," and her life within the halls.

The Diversity Action Team (DAT) was a group of residents that volunteered to work with Trisha to bring diversity to Haymaker. She worked closely with Lacey Carlson and other team members planning, hosting, and evaluating diversity programs. Carlson worked with Trisha and other staff members to plan the diversity ice cream social that took place in October. "With this being my first program, I was nervous about planning something so big," Carlson said. "Trisha took me step by step through the process and made it easy for me."

Trisha did an MA moment each week at RAMA staff meeting. She would research a topic, print out an article and then bring it to the meeting. "Trisha challenges the staff to think about their views and why," Dawn Bentz, first floor and P-building RA, said. "Her MA moments have been a great addition to our staff meeting. Sometimes they contain just fun tidbits and other times you end up really examining what and why you believe in something. She does an excellent job maintaining her personal beliefs and ideas without using her position to push them on others. She always presents both sides of the question with any debate."

Besides just being available for residents, Trisha's duties include monthly bulletin boards. Trisha's bulletin boards are guaranteed to be thought provoking, interesting to



read, and eye-appealing. The board topics have ranged from explaining the gay marriage amendment to the presidential election to women's rights. Her boards are always done on time and in a neat fashion. Even when she was asked to take over the RA job, not only were her MA boards done but also three bulletin boards on seventh floor were completed each month.

Not many people could do the MA job along with the added responsibilities of the RA job, but Trisha pulled this off without a hitch. When the RA job opened up on seventh floor, Tanya Massey, the Residence Life Coordinator of Haymaker Hall, asked Trisha to move to seventh floor for the last six weeks for the fall semester. Trisha packed up her stuff and headed to the seventh floor. She had a lot of work helping the community adjust to a new RA. The rules were somewhat different, her time schedule was different and her jobs were more demanding than just a regular RA.

Trisha never faltered when it came to doing both jobs at once. She completed both sets of bulletin boards and did three community builders with the seventh floor. "She really stepped up and took over the RA position," Amanda Brown, seventh floor resident said. "She did a lot of activities with us so we could get to know her. The girls quickly accepted her but the guys were a little withdrawn until they really got to know her."

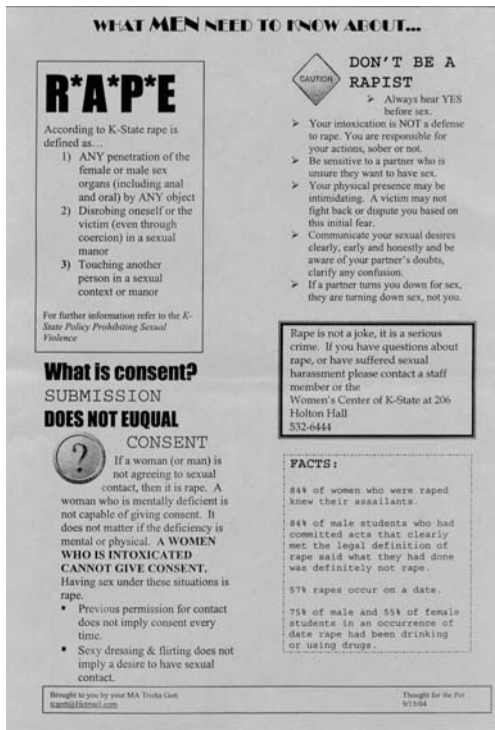
Besides being the hall MA and the seventh floor RA, Trisha kept up with her class work as well. She took 17 credit hours and maintained a 3.7 grade point average first semester.

Trisha does all of her work to the best of her ability. She is dedicated to her class work, her staff members and her job requirements.

### **Hardworking**

A requirement within Haymaker Hall is to complete four programs and four community builders each semester. Trisha has gone above and beyond these

requirements. From doing passive programming with flyers to joining forces with other RAs in Haymaker to working with the other MAs on campus, Trisha has done a wide array of programming.



Each month, Trisha researched a different topic for her “Thoughts for the Pot” and “The Toilet Papers,” her passive programming flyers. She covered topics such as rape for men and women, the history of Halloween, and information about Native American Heritage Month. A copy of the men’s flyer is pictured to the left.

When it comes to active programming, Trisha likes to team up with other staff members. Neal Friesen, sixth floor RA, and Audrey Vail, third floor RA, are her favorite

people to program with. As a group, they planned, executed, and evaluated the diversity ice cream social and the B-wing Bash, both all-hall programs.

She has also teamed up with Alyssa Vining to put on a program called “Salsamole.” They had the program participants make guacamole, play with a piñata, make a Day of the Dead alter and play a Mexican trivia game.



Alyssa Vining holds the piñata up so Sean Conner can swing at it while other residents look on.

When Trisha did programming by herself, she used a wide range of topics. Her first program was called “You’re Not in Kansas Anymore.” She made and handed out a packet that contained information about all the multi-cultural clubs and groups on campus.

A few of her other programs included taking the DAT around campus to chalk inspirational quotes on the sidewalks, posting signs for National Coming Out Day, polling the residents on the presidential election, and taking residents to the Martin Luther King Jr. Walk and Vigil that was hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and



Trisha takes time out of putting up flags to pose for the camera. With a group of about 20, it took about 2.5 hours to put up more than 7,500 flags.

Leadership Studies House. During December, Trisha assigned a different winter holiday to each RA and had them do a bulletin board about it. Trisha headed the program “Field of Flags” in conjunction with “Writing on the Wall.”

Trisha counted the flags, got people to help put them up, and helped stand guard during the week.

Another one of Trisha’s accomplishments is starting the position of Multi-cultural chair on Haymaker’s Hall Governing Board. Lacey Carlson stepped into the position after it was created. After having a trial run first semester, it was added to the Haymaker constitution as an elected position.

Trisha was a hard worker. She worked hard at her MA job, the RA job when she was filling in and lead the Diversity Action Team. Trisha never let anyone down; always striving to make herself and the others around her better.

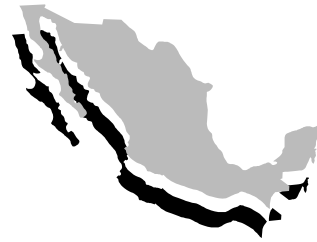
## **Volunteer**

Volunteering was a huge part of Trisha’s life. While holding down the MA job, the RA job for six weeks, and working as an Academic Resource Assistant in the Derby and Kramer Academic Resource Centers, she volunteered at the Women’s Center in

Holton Hall. While working at the shelter, she spent time setting up the Safe Zone and Peers program. Her duties included doing all the advertising for Safe Zone, making posters and flyers along with setting up displays around campus.

This summer, she will be headed south to Izamal, Mexico, to do a community service project for the summer.

Her and three other students will travel to Mexico, live in a house together and work from May 30 to August 10. Their



job will consist mostly of teaching classes in Spanish to children 6-15 years old during day camps along with teaching English as a second language. The four students will work for Foundation Izamal which is similar to a Rotary Club in the United States. All of the fundraising to pay for the cost of the trip and living expenses have been raised through projects the group has done. Trisha must also take a class that prepares her and the others for the summer project. Drives at local grade schools have helped the four collect school supplies so they can take them down and use them in Mexico.

Besides just doing community service, Trisha is one of the first people on staff to volunteer to help with a program, head a committee or swap duty nights. She picked up extra duty nights when the staff member left, on top of doing the RA job. Trisha has helped pick up extra work when Jeff Olin, the Assistant Coordinator of Haymaker Hall left. Olin had picked up the duties of the first floor RA when Dawn was moved to P-building in Jardine. Trisha volunteered to make the second round of door decorations for the first floor residents and has helped the Community Assistants by covering a 4-6 a.m. shift for the rest of the year when no one else would take it.

Trisha's work as a volunteer for the Haymaker Hall RAMA and CA staffs, the Women's Center, and community service board can not go unnoticed. She's always busy; constantly giving back more than she receives.

## Enthusiastic

Pulling suicide weekends is not a fun task for anyone. What about pulling every other Thursday night along with a long weekend of duty? That's exactly what Trisha did first semester. Being on duty is a chore, but Trisha made the most of it. She not only worked on homework, relaxed, and did rounds, but she got to know her fellow staff members along with the residents in the hall, especially on third floor.



When Trisha did rounds, she constantly had a smile on her face. She took her time and talked to the residents as she walked the halls and lobbies. She walked into their rooms, called greetings from the hallway and did her best to smile at everyone.

She used this time to get to know her fellow staff members, too. "She is really easy to talk to about stuff," Aaron Price, second floor RA, said. "We can talk about our personal lives, our jobs or any other topic that might come up."

Audrey Vail agrees. "She really lets you see what her life is like at home and at school. You can tell how much her mom, dad and sisters mean to her along with all of her in- and out-of-hall friends here at K-State."

"The smile that she wears everyday brightens people's day," Bentz said.

Trisha was upbeat and very talkative with the residents, the staff and other visitors that came to Haymaker Hall. She was enthusiastic about her bulletin boards, her programming and her life in general at K-State.

## Diverse

The common stereotype for K-State is that it is full of backwoods, hick people who have no culture, very closed minds and no sense of worldly topics. Trisha blows this stereotype out of the water. She is from Crystal



Lake, Illinois, and she grew up going into Chicago and traveling around the state of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Trisha is a cultured person. She makes it her job to know what is going on in the world and to get to know people, especially those of different races, ethnicities, and



Most of the group who helped put up the Field of Flags across from Haymaker

sexual preferences. She opens her mind to others and tries to teach the residents about what diversity means and strives to give out interesting and educational material to help turn the stereotype of K-State around.

Trisha showed her diversity by presenting programs such as the diversity ice cream social, “You’re Not in Kansas Anymore,” “Field of Flags,” holiday

bulletin boards, and having residents attend the campus-wide MLK Walk and Vigil.

During the ice cream social, Trisha, Friesen, Vail, Carlson and DAT served ice cream sundaes with a catch to them. Each resident was given a dye-cut and then went through the line. Based on their dye-cut, their ice cream, topping and utensil choice were all pre-determined. There were dye-cuts for being African American, not speaking English, being handicapped and being of Middle Eastern decent. Haymaker resident Mike Riley said, “I was so confused when she first started the line. I was mad that I couldn’t get any ice cream because of my dye-cut.”



After everyone was served, Trisha lead the discussion about how the residents felt about the treatment they have received. “After Trisha explained what was going on, I totally understood what she was getting at,” Riley said.

Carlson learned a lot from this program. “It was my favorite program to help plan because it made a physical impact on the students and you could tell they walked away with something,” Carlson said.

There are not enough words to describe Trisha Gott. She was an all-around caring person who was very dedicated to her work. She worked hard, she’s enthusiastic, she volunteers, and she is a very diverse person. Trisha has gone above and beyond the requirements of being a K-State MA. She was available to residents, open-minded, full of advice, and she enjoyed everything she did.

March 31, 2005

Dear OTY Selection Committee:

Diversity is a difficult topic. It's something that not everyone wants to talk about on a daily basis. Trisha Gott is someone who believes in the importance of diversity education. Between the activities she has gotten involved with and the positions she holds on campus, it is clear that she is passionate about diversity. Ms. Gott is an excellent candidate for the K-State Multicultural Assistant of the Year and it is a pleasure to write this letter of recommendation.

I have known Ms. Gott for about the last year. During her first year at K-State she immediately became involved with the diversity team in Moore Hall which was/is facilitated by the multicultural assistant (MA). Moore Hall is a unique hall in that it houses most of the international students living at K-State. As the advisor to the MAs, I heard about Ms. Gott and eventually met her at a program. The caring and passion for all people that I saw in her left no doubt in my mind that when it came time to hire MAs for the 2004-2005 academic year, she was an ideal choice. I was very excited when Haymaker Hall hired Ms. Gott as their MA.

The most important quality that I look for in a MA is someone who is open to learning more about diversity. No one is an expert on multiculturalism, we can all learn more. The MAs are a group of student staff members who are responsible for the diversity education within their hall. They serve as an advocate for underrepresented populations within the hall and facilitate programs for the residents and staff on issues of diversity. Since there is only one MA per building, the MAs met as a group weekly with me. At those meetings they continue their education as well as plan larger programs together.

Ms. Gott has proven herself to be a team player. Last year as a part of her diversity team she collaborated with the other team members on facilitating week-long diversity workshops. She assisted with such events as the Disability Awareness Week and the End Discrimination Week. As an involved individual, Ms. Gott considers the impact of her actions on the greater community and realizes that she learns as she participates in these events. As a MA she has co-facilitated programs already this year with other MAs to great success and is busy assisting in the planning of the End Discrimination Week for 2005. She has proven herself to be responsible, resourceful and flexible. Within Haymaker Hall Ms. Gott is a part of the larger staff team. Being able to handle crisis situations, conflict and intolerance is often a daily reality for her. She strives to maintain balance in her life.

Whether in the classes she takes or in her out-of-class research, Ms. Gott is always looking to learn more. She is not afraid to ask the tough questions or to challenge people. It is difficult as an

MA to so often be the one with the views that are not popular. There are times when the MAs feel as though they are fighting an uphill battle that is too difficult. Whenever the road ahead looked to be filled with bigotry and hatred – Ms. Gott did not give up. She changed her angle and was not afraid to see the view from the other side.

Ms. Gott also works as an academic resource assistant (ARA) in the Derby Academic Resource Center (DARC). We often have conversations about those things that she is passionate about like politics, women's issues, service and diversity. She is always looking for new ways to give back to her community.

Trisha Gott has been an outstanding MA this year – working hard both in Haymaker and on the MA Team. She is a leader who is not afraid to work hard. The MA team is lucky to have her as a part of their group. The sad part is that next year she will be studying abroad so cannot return to her position. ☺ I highly recommend Trisha Gott for MA of the Year!! ☺

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this recommendation. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me at [sdecke@k-state.edu](mailto:sdecke@k-state.edu) or 785.532.2233.

Sincerely,

Sarah L. Decke  
Coordinator for Leadership Development  
MA Advisor