Metropolitan State
Past Presidents
Where are they now?

Metropolitan State
Inaugurates its
Sixth President
Sue K. Hammersmith
Oct. 2, 2009
Christina Dickman-Loew
*Bird Wealth*
Acrylic Painting

The painting by student Christina Dickman-Loew was selected by the Metropolitan State Art Exhibition Committee for a 2009 Art Purchase Award. Art Purchase Awards are given to encourage the growth and development of student and alumni studio artists and to elevate the profile of the arts on campus.
This issue of Buzz comes at a very special time for me. Over the past year, as the new president of Metropolitan State, I have enjoyed getting to know our students, alumni, faculty and staff, as well as our external supporters and the communities we serve. I have witnessed a steady and impressive stream of accomplishments and innovations. And I have seen the university community come together to move forward even in challenging economic times.

While other universities are downsizing, Metropolitan State enrollments continue to grow at a healthy pace, up about 8 percent from a year ago. Our success, I think, reflects our dual commitment to quality and affordability. Over the past year I have asked many students and alumni what they most enjoy about Metropolitan State. These comments are typical:

“I went to four different schools before coming here, and Metro’s classes are by far the most challenging.”

“It feels much warmer, more welcoming than other places I’ve been.”

“The community faculty members are dynamite! I never thought I’d have the opportunity to take a class with the vice president of Mayo Clinic!”

“At Metro State, you can take your life back.”

Over the past year I’ve been pleased to hear from so many alumni and students that their education here has been personally and professionally “transformational.” Metropolitan State University continues to pioneer innovative programs. These include a new doctoral program in nursing, a new master’s degree in nursing for individuals with bachelor’s degrees in other fields, a new degree completion program for Peace Corp volunteers, and new programs designed for the Minnesota Society of CPAs, Travelers Insurance and Schwann Co.

Metropolitan State’s academic reputation continues to grow and I’m pleased to share that, among all the universities in the MnSCU system, Metropolitan State graduates enjoy the highest pass rates on their professional certification exams.

Metropolitan State also made news nationally as we pioneered a new master’s degree program—the first of its kind in the United States—to prepare advanced dental therapists to give dental care to currently underserved populations. The Minnesota State Legislature made history in May by approving licensure for our graduates, and extensive national attention has been focused on this healthcare initiative. Other states are watching this development, and Metropolitan State is being recognized as a trailblazer.

Metropolitan State University’s future will take us on a compelling journey. With today’s changing economy, workforce, and global political and economic dynamics, adults of all ages are seeking the educational opportunities they need to thrive in a changing world. Metropolitan State University—with its commitment to quality, innovation, flexible delivery and top-notch services for busy adults—is well positioned to deliver value and meet those needs.

Although I began my work here a year ago last July, the date of my official inauguration as Metropolitan State University’s sixth president is Oct. 2. By tradition, a university presidential inauguration is held not at the very beginning of the new president’s term of office, but after the president and the university community have had some time to get to know one another. The inauguration celebrates the continuing development and destiny of the university.

This past year I have been especially grateful to come to know and appreciate the university’s close ties with our alumni. That special group knows Metropolitan State equally well from the inside and the outside and are better able than anyone else to tell others about us. Thank you for your many forms of support and continuing involvement in the life of the university.

Sincerely,

Sue K. Hammersmith, president
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In support of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, *Buzz* magazine is printed on a 30 percent recycled paper by Bolger, Minneapolis, which is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
Welcome new graduates to the respected list of Metropolitan State University alumni! And congratulations on completing your degree. To all alumni, I hope that you found time this summer to spend time with family, enjoy your favorite hobbies, and take advantage of the many activities available in your respective communities—especially those of us in Minnesota forced to cram 12 months worth of coveted outdoor time into four months!

Last spring, the Alumni Association board of directors was busy wrapping up its duties, including welcoming new members and officers. We’re pleased that George Wallin, Ph.D. (’82) has agreed to serve a second term on the board, and we welcome Tim Doherty (’94) as a new board member. Joining me on the Executive Committee for 2009–2010 are Basha Shaik (’07), vice president; Earlsworth “Baba” Letang (’05), treasurer; and Nancy Wolf (’07) secretary. Our colleagues on the board include: Bob Hernz (’93); Ana Ruby Lee (’93); Caroline Lowe (’02); James Lukaszewski (’74); Alpha Mshihiri (’02); Virginie Sanchez (’05); David Therkelsen (’74); and Lynda Zimmerman (’02).

Together, your Alumni Association board members serve as ambassadors for Metropolitan State University and advisors to the Alumni Relations staff. Our mission is as follows:

• Recognize the accomplishments and contributions of alumni and faculty.
• Inspire prospective and current students to pursue their educational journey with Metropolitan State University.
• Collaborate with the university in its efforts to build relationships with alumni and every appropriate constituency.
• Help students to foster a lifelong relationship with Metropolitan State University.

If these activities sound interesting to you, and if you desire to give back to the university, we want to hear from you. There are opportunities to attend events; volunteer at Grad Expo, commencement, and other student and alumni functions; be part of our word-of-mouth marketing campaign by becoming a BuzzAlum, or join the alumni board. Feel free to contact me (kburnham@psbpr.com) or Vicki Lofquist, alumni relations director, (vicki.lofquist@metrostate.edu) in the Alumni Relations Office for more information on how you can get involved.

For the most up-to-date event information pertinent to alumni, subscribe to our e-newsletter by sharing your e-mail address with us, or visit the alumni page on the Web site: www.metrostate.edu/alumni.

I look forward to serving as your board chair and president for the next two academic years and welcome your comments and suggestions.

Respectfully,

Kathy Burnham (’92)

Contact the Alumni Relations Office about becoming a BuzzAlum:

e-mail: alumni.relations@metrostate.edu     phone: 651.793.1810
Joseph Frederick

Joseph Frederick, chosen the spring 2009 outstanding student by the College of Professional Studies, describes himself as “Mr. Mom.” For several years while he studied for his degree, he has been the at-home parent for his three sons. He is also an ordained deacon, a musician, a former entrepreneur and a dedicated volunteer.

This past year he has volunteered at Saint Stephen’s Human Services Employment Center, Minneapolis, where he helps the homeless and unemployed obtain jobs.

One job-networking education event he recently co-coordinated served over 1,800 clients.

Last year Frederick co-coordinated a mission trip to Guatemala for Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Our Little Children), an orphanage serving 400 children. He supervised dozens of high school and college volunteers at the Guatemalan orphanage, developing projects to help the facility become self-sufficient. Frederick also previously served as a volunteer chaplain at the Hennepin County Correctional Facility.

“There is a real payoff for me in volunteering,” he said. “I just really enjoy engaging with people who are living life in a real way. Folks who have less, and are just living in a survival mode, really deal with life in a flat-footed and honest way.”

Frederick previously did outreach ministry for the Basilica of Saint Mary and Ascension Catholic Church, both in Minneapolis. Before that, he assisted youth and families for two Delano Catholic parishes and was involved in interfaith outreach with several other area denominations.

For 21 years Frederick was part owner of an 120-employee Eden Prairie company that manufactured and installed burglar and fire alarm systems. After selling his shares, he became a “Mr. Mom” while he also wrote and produced music in a home recording studio.

While attending college, he and his wife Therese packed their Toyota Corolla and moved to Miami and then Seattle for about one year. While taking a variety of classes online, the Fredericks also volunteered at homeless shelters in both cities.

In the future, Frederick intends to pursue a graduate degree in social work. A member of the Minnesota Association of Songwriters, he also plans to continue writing and recording songs, singing and playing in several Twin Cities-area bands. Ultimately, he and his wife hope to assist the disenfranchised domestically and/or abroad.

“Our five-year plan is to go out of the country and do mission work,” said the Excelsior native. “Then when our bank account runs down, we’ll come back to Minnesota, work somewhere and fill up the bank account again. When that happens, we’ll hit the road again. My wife and I both feel called to this work.”

Renee Gomez

Renee Gomez earned her degree—the first in her family to do so—while raising four children as a single parent, working full-time for a local school district, and, somehow, still finding time to advocate for disadvantaged youth in her community. She was selected as the spring 2009 outstanding student in First College.

“The challenges for Renee to succeed were many and she always dealt with them calmly, purposefully and idealistically,” said her advisor, Ping Wang. “She carefully developed her degree program based on her skills as an artist, experiences as a young single mother,
Leah Gruenke

Leah Gruenke, the spring 2009 outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, pursues her volunteer activities in an athletic way. She has participated in triathlons or races that benefit such organizations as the American Diabetes Association, the American Cancer Society and the Special Olympics. She also regularly contributes to the Minnesota Disabled American Veterans.

Gruenke works part time in the clinical lab at Medtox Laboratories, New Brighton. Before attending the university full time, she supervised a staff of 15 in Medtox’s forensics lab.

Gruenke earned a biology degree in 1999 from the University of Wisconsin–LaCrosse. In 1995, she graduated from Sheboygan (Wisconsin) North High School, where she lettered in cheerleading and tennis and was among that state’s top flutists for four consecutive years.

Misha Jameson

Misha Jameson—the first person in her family to graduate from college—was chosen the outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences for spring 2009. Prior to coming to Metropolitan State, Jameson worked as a Web seminar specialist for a local software firm, a technical editor, an independent contractor managing foreign language translation projects, a freelance editor, and she did voice-overs for radio.

Jameson says that her most interesting job was carving gravestones one summer. “You can’t help but think of your own mortality when you’re carving birth and death dates into a monument.” She said those thoughts of mortality invited greater appreciation for what she had.

What does she have? According to CAS Interim Dean Becky Omdahl, Jameson has boundless creativity, a deep interest in culture, writing skills and commitments to family and helping people. As a student, Jameson has contributed to the literary magazine, *Haute Dish*, both as a contributor of creative writing and visual art and as associate art editor, associate prose editor, and most recently, editor. She has also served as a tutor for the
French immersion school in Saint Paul, she wants to visit France sometime in the next five years. She also plans to continue her drawing, sculpting and painting. High on her list is to become a master gardener to help others learn to care for the environment, and she is considering studying curatorship and arts administration in graduate school.

**Thomas Jordan**

Macy’s director of strategic planning and capital projects, Thomas Jordan was a spring 2009 outstanding graduate student in the College of Management. He oversees 220 Macy’s East stores and a multimillion dollar budget.

Jordan has held executive and managerial positions at Macy’s and the-then Marshall Fields and Dayton’s for 21 years. He previously was director of store planning at Macy’s and manager of merchandise presentation and divisional planner for Marshall Fields. He won Fields’ Finest for outstanding performance, teamwork and community service.

He’s even been a volunteer for Macy’s. Jordan participated in a reading program for local school children in an initiative sponsored by Macy’s. His other volunteer activities include work with adolescents and teens on outdoor and crafts activities through his Anoka Seventh-day Adventist Church. He previously served on a committee that provided direction for a church-affiliated youth camp. Through his church Jordan has also participated in a project near Cancun, Mexico, that led to construction of a two-story cement-block building that triples as a worship facility, community gathering venue and hurricane safe house.

“That project was one of the highlights of what I’ve been able to accomplish so far,” said Jordan. “Whether serving local groups or those in more distant places, I continue to be humbled by the impact one can have on another’s life.”

Jordan graduated from Michigan State University in 1978 with a B.S. in resource development. As a college senior, he worked for the Michigan House of Representatives and was selected the first Legislative Aide of the Year.

The Morrice, Mich., native graduated from Owosso (Michigan) High School, where he was in the National Honor Society for two years. He served on the student council, played varsity tennis and was active in drama and marching band. Rotary International conferred Jordan with a Leader of Leaders Award, which was presented to youth deemed outstanding future leaders.

**Kirsten Kortesma**

Kirsten Kortesma brought a history of courageous acts to her studies in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Kortesma, an RN and certified nurse, was chosen as that college’s spring 2009 outstanding graduate student.

In 2005, Kortesma served as a nurse while deployed at a U.S. military hospital near Baghdad, Iraq. Several years earlier, the National Guard captain served in Kuwait as an emergency medical technician (EMT).

“From my experience in Iraq, I got a lot of trauma nursing experience, learning how to work effectively in a stressful environment,” she said. “You’re constantly being fired upon while trying to work.”

In 2006, Kortesma received the Minnesota Medal of Valor for her actions during an ice-storm accident in Blaine. She assisted the injured at the freeway accident scene, performing CPR on one man.

Kortesma is a member of the Association of Perioperative Nurses Northern Lights Chapter 2407, where she has delivered a speech on responding to terrorist attacks.

She is also a member of the National Guard Association of the United States.

Kortesma is now an operating-room nurse for the Air National Guard, for which she also does staff development. For the past six years Kortesma has been a nurse in the operating room at Saint Luke’s Hospital in Duluth.

Previously, Kortesma was a licensed practical nurse at Saint Luke’s while volunteering as an EMT for Two Harbors Ambulance. Before that, she was a nursing assistant at Saint Mary’s Medical Center, Duluth.

Kortesma plans to pursue a doctorate in nursing at Metropolitan State.
Nathan Kruckeberg

Nathan Kruckeberg, the spring 2009 outstanding student in the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, has developed an unusual way to help children in need. It’s called Project Pillows, which is a community-based volunteer program that gives a specially-configured pillow in the shape of a T-shirt to impoverished and terminally ill children throughout the country.

“I discovered that working to help those less advantaged is, without a doubt, one of the most fulfilling experiences one can have,” said Kruckeberg. Calling the initiative “a simple idea that evolved into something unexpectedly great,” he said the pillows offer children compassion, tenderness and hope.

Kruckeberg founded Project Pillows while enrolled at Metropolitan State full time and working full time. He works as a community justice case manager at Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau, a Forest Lake nonprofit that assists youth who have committed low-level offenses. He previously served as a case worker for the organization.

Kruckeberg received two degrees from Century College in 2007—an associate in arts and an associate in science. He was vice president and president of the school’s honor society and was selected for a national distinguished officer award for his academic work, campus leadership and community service. While attending Century, Kruckeberg was also chosen for the All-Minnesota Academic Team.

The North Branch High School graduate will soon attend Hamline University, where he will pursue two graduate degrees simultaneously. Eventually, he said, he intends to launch his own nonprofit to assist disadvantaged families.

Lydia Newlin Terwey

Lydia Newlin Terwey’s job is to help victims, families and communities recover from the impacts of crime. She is the program director for the Minnesota Department of Corrections’ Victim Services and Restorative Justice office and was selected a spring outstanding graduate student in the College of Management. Newlin Terwey earned a Master of Public and Nonprofit Administration, and was chosen to be the spring 2009 student commencement speaker.

“I love my job because it provides an opportunity for victims to continue to have a voice after a sentence has been handed down,” she said. “Every day I have an opportunity to help a victim heal.”

As Victim Services and Restorative Justice program director, she oversees a staff that responds to about 3,000 crime victims annually. Newlin Terwey was a key contributor to passage of Minnesota’s Community Notification Act, which provides residents information about predatory offenders living in their communities.

As part of her duties, Newlin Terwey works closely with the Minnesota Department of Public Safety and the Statewide Victim Assistance Academy which trains victim advocates. She is a member of the Statewide Restorative Justice Advisory Board and the National Association of Victim Service Providers in Corrections.

Newlin Terwey’s achievements have been widely recognized. The state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Department of Corrections, the Minnesota Network for the Supervision and Treatment of Sex Offenders and the Minnesota Sex Crimes Investigators Association have all honored her for her contributions.

Newlin Terwey earlier received an A.A. from Normandale Community College and a B.A. in criminal justice from the University of Saint Thomas. After being out of school for almost 15 years, she started the M.P.N.A. program the same year her daughter began high school and her son was preparing to enter junior high.

For the past three years Newlin Terwey’s busy life has included being a community faculty member in the School of Law Enforcement at Metropolitan State. She has also been active in community service and is on the board of directors of Skit Outreach Services, a nonprofit traveling troupe of teen actors who educate youth in western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. In addition she has coordinated community service projects at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater.

She says her plans for the future may include becoming a national criminal justice training consultant, a licensed family marriage counselor and a full-time college professor.
In the beginning, Metropolitan State University was just a novel idea. The then-named Minnesota Metropolitan State College needed someone in 1971 to oversee the launch of what was essentially an experiment in higher education: an upper-division-only institution that relied extensively on community faculty, abandoned grades and graduation requirements, encouraged self-directed lifelong learning and involvement in the community, and offered students credit for experiential learning.

It was a tall order for David E. Sweet, who presided as Metropolitan State’s first president from 1971 to 1977. Sweet, who previously served as the Minnesota State College System vice chancellor of academic affairs, died in 1984. Arlene Sweet, the founding president’s widow, describes her late husband as an enthusiastic champion for the “university without walls.”

“David was exhilarated by the prospect of bringing together a group of interested staff who would be able to create a new institution for the many adult Minnesota citizens from all ethnic backgrounds and who had not been able to finish a college degree in the traditional track,” said Arlene Sweet.

Founding faculty members, including Robert Fox, were equally thrilled to serve with Dr. Sweet. Fox, recently selected Metropolitan State professor emeritus, recalled how Sweet would often formulate ideas for the fledgling university and then seek feedback. Fox and other faculty members often worked on their responses until the wee hours and then slipped their comments under Sweet’s door.

“It was an exhilarating time,” said Fox, “because we were all so committed in our mission to change higher education.”

In a relatively short period, Sweet oversaw a university that was recognized as a revolutionary model in higher education, not just in Minnesota but nationally and even internationally. The university was a national leader in developing and applying policies and procedures for the assessment of experienced-based learning. It offered quality education for a cost lower than any other Minnesota university. The Carnegie Commission on Policy Studies in Higher Education hailed Metropolitan State for sporting one of 25 curriculum innovations for the 20th century. UNESCO cited the university as a model for urban higher education and for meeting the educational needs of an emerging population.

Just two years after its launch, Metropolitan State granted 12 degrees to its first class. When Sweet left in 1977, almost 1,000 students had graduated; more than 2,000 were enrolled in programs at the university.

While the university has always struggled with gaining visibility, that was especially so during the early years. Nonetheless, Arlene Sweet said her husband loved touting the merits of Metropolitan State to a variety of Twin Cities area community constituencies. She said David himself particularly identified with the university’s promotion of lifelong learning.

“David never felt he was ‘finished,’” she said. “He considered himself a work in progress.”

The university’s first president was under no illusion that Metropolitan State would always remain an upper division-only institution. In fact, he knew “exciting work” lay ahead as the university evolved with new presidents, faculty, staff and allies.
What a scenario for Reatha Clark King: Metropolitan State was known far and wide by higher education officials for its innovativeness during her 1977 to 1988 tenure as president. But as for the university’s familiarity within Minnesota, it was more like “Metro what?”

“When I arrived, Metropolitan State was considered a star in national higher education circles because, among other things, it was a ‘university without walls’ and it offered credit for prior learning,” said Dr. King, then one of only a handful of women nationally leading public colleges and universities. “But within the state, we really weren’t that well known.”

The mild-mannered but forthright King cemented a reputation as an outspoken advocate for the university. In the end, the university’s second president believes her endless outreach touting Metropolitan State—to community organizations, businesses, higher education institutions, policy makers and others in Minnesota, nationally and even internationally—made a significant difference.

“I reached out to anyone who would hear our story but especially state legislators, because they controlled funding. They needed to understand us. All of those experiences helped me grow tremendously in developing my people skills and as a strategist.”

In one sense King considered herself fortunate. Since Metropolitan State had no residence halls, athletic teams and other symbolic hallmarks of traditional higher education, she could concentrate on promoting the university, then just offering upper-division courses, as an accessible institution for many. That dovetailed nicely with her long-time higher education philosophy.

“All citizens deserve a quality education and, while I’m not an argumentative person, I was ready to refute anyone who disagreed with that notion,” said King. “So from the outset, I embraced, with passion, energy and confidence, the mission of the university to provide educational opportunities for underserved students, particularly working adults, women and minorities.”

In part, that’s because she fit into all those categories herself. As a young African-American woman growing up in rural, segregated Georgia in the 1940s and 1950s, the implied message was she didn’t deserve an education. But the daughter of sharecroppers overcame that barrier and graduated from Clark College in Atlanta, later earning advanced degrees from the University of Chicago and Columbia University.

“An education can open doors and provide additional opportunities to improve your circumstances and enjoy life,” said King, a working mother who raised two young sons with her husband, Judge, when she headed Metropolitan State. “Education increases chances you can participate in society, particularly offering you a variety of ways to serve society.”

King worked diligently to build and energize a variety of constituencies. She spent much time motivating faculty, administrators and students. And King rallied support from multiple sources, including alumni, the university foundation and others.

“I enjoyed the opportunity to do a considerable amount of fund-raising and friend-raising for the university,” she said.

From her downtown Saint Paul office at the corner of Seventh and Robert streets, King shepherded the university to several significant milestones: stabilizing the university’s finances; adding more undergraduate degree programs and Metropolitan State’s first master’s program—the master of management and administration; and earning the institution’s first national degree program accreditation in nursing.

“I’ll never forget when the National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission approved it. I was in California attending a higher education meeting at the time. The Twins had just won the 1987 World Series and someone said that Minneapolis was going crazy with people celebrating and spilling out into the streets. Meanwhile, I was also celebrating, but for two reasons—for the Twins and for our program accreditation.”

King played a pivotal role in enhancing Metropolitan State’s visibility. She spearheaded the critical decision to acquire the old Saint John’s Hospital site and locate Metropolitan State’s administrative headquarters there. She vividly recalls a meeting at a landmark Saint Paul restaurant that helped persuade her.
“It was a breakfast meeting at Mancini’s restaurant,” she said. “When I walked in, you could feel the excitement of the more than 200 people attending, all of whom wanted us to situate on the East Side.”

After departing Metropolitan State, King served on a number of prestigious corporate and nonprofit boards. She worked for 14 years as president of the General Mills Foundation and vice president of General Mills, Inc. For one year, she was the foundation’s board chair.

Throughout the intervening years, she has kept in touch with the university. A signature scholarship, awarded to academically promising, community-minded and financially struggling students, was created and named in her honor. She and her husband continue contributing to that scholarship and offer other significant philanthropic support to Metropolitan State.

King, who lives in Minneapolis, has met several times with President Sue K. Hammersmith. She is convinced the current president is the right choice at the right time for the university.

“President Hammersmith is such a remarkable woman,” said King. “I know she will carve out a path and take the university to new heights.”

Tobin Barrozo

Tobin G. Barrozo could not have asked for a grander setting for delivering his inaugural remarks: the high-ceilinged, marble-floored rotunda at the Minnesota State Capitol. On hand to celebrate were Metropolitan State faculty, staff, foundation and trustee members and dignitaries, including the governor’s staff and higher education officials.

“It was a magnificent location,” recalls Dr. Barrozo, who assumed the university presidency in 1989 and served three years.

The contrast was stark between the capitol, a symbol of solidity rooted in history, and the fledgling Metropolitan State, which at the time was operating out of leased, makeshift quarters in downtown Saint Paul. In his inaugural comments, Barrozo observed that the “university without walls” was at a critical crossroad. To underscore the point, the native Montanan referenced a Bob Dylan song, “The Times They Are A-Changin.”

From the outset, Barrozo was convinced Metropolitan State needed to enhance its visibility; even though the university offered classes at more than 30 scattered sites in the Twin Cities, it remained a secret to many. Moreover, Barrozo was certain Metropolitan State needed to increase accessibility by offering more than just a single individualized baccalaureate degree and two master’s degrees—in business and nursing.

While a quality education was offered with the individualized degree, he said, it just didn’t make sense to companies, for example, that sought graduates with economics or business degrees. Similarly, traditional graduate schools were often perplexed by the individualized degree.

Barrozo’s vision involved maintaining the university’s singular teaching and learning culture while spearheading the adoption of more-accessible traditional degree programs.

But he encountered resistance among a number of long-time faculty members who favored preserving Metropolitan State’s unique role as an upper-division university that targeted adult students. Institutions like the University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas and some state universities and community colleges also questioned Barrozo’s proposal to add traditional degree programs, in part because of fears their own expansion plans would be curtailed.

Said Barrozo, “If Metro State hadn’t developed comprehensively, adding degree programs and becoming more visible, it probably would have become marginalized in the Twin Cities. Another institution would have developed that additional capacity.

“It was important to assure the other institutions that we could work together as partners and that Metro State wasn’t out to be a rival. I think they began to understand that the university’s trustees, the legislature and others were committed to developing Metro State. I think they also saw a president who was determined to make that happen.”

In the end, the university’s adoption of traditional degree programs under Barrozo set the stage for Metropolitan State’s emergence as a comprehensive urban institution and affordable public alternative to the University of Minnesota.

Barrozo enhanced Metropolitan State’s visibility by serving as an incessant drum-beater for the university to legislators, higher education officials, community leaders and others. The university’s exposure also rose after he established a consolidated site in downtown Minneapolis and oversaw the relocation to the old Saint John’s Hospital facilities, which consolidated sites in Saint Paul. Barrozo played a critical role.
with New Main, Metropolitan State’s signature building, by approving design and construction plans and securing state funding for the facility.

“When you think of Saint Paul, there are three major architectural landmarks that form kind of a triangle—the Minnesota State Capitol, Cathedral of Saint Paul and, now, New Main on the Dayton’s Bluff site,” he said. “I’ve often thought of them as the three most outstanding buildings in Saint Paul.”

Barrozo said he matured while serving as Metropolitan State’s president.

“Professionally, I learned that great accomplishments occur while working with others,” said Barrozo, who particularly paid tribute to former vice presidents Dan Kirk and Leah Harvey for their contributions. “Leadership is not about the leader, it’s about the community.”

When asked what he missed about his tenure at the university, Barrozo was succinct: “Everything.” As evidence of that attachment, he observed that six years ago his suburban San Diego house was destroyed in a southern California wildfire.

“Everything was lost,” he said. “The possession I prized the most that was lost was the original rendering of New Main.”

Barrozo still strongly identifies with the university’s commitment to civic engagement and lifelong learning. As such, he noted that at 68, he is still actively involved in the community. He teaches philosophy part time at a local university; he’s a docent for the Tijuana Estuary and the San Diego Natural History Museum, leading nature walks through wetlands, public parks, canyons and mountains; and Barrozo is a hospice volunteer and offers lectures on living and dying well.

Would Barrozo, Metropolitan State’s third president, care to offer any friendly advice for Sue Hammersmith, the sixth president? Initially, Barrozo declined the invitation.

“But after thinking about the question more, here is what I would say: With pride, tell Metropolitan State’s story to its many constituencies and express every day to the faculty and staff your appreciation for their accomplishments.”

### Susan Cole

Susan A. Cole grew up in New York City and was accustomed to sharp elbows and equally sharp tongues. So when Cole freshly arrived in the Twin Cities in 1993 as Metropolitan State’s fourth president, it was a revelation.

“Coming from the more rough-and-tumble and certainly large and more impersonal New York City region, there was a very human scale of life at Metropolitan State and the Twin Cities that I hadn’t experienced before,” said Dr. Cole, now in her 11th year as president of Montclair State University, Montclair, N. J. “One could know everyone in the university, know both cities and cultural institutions, know business and government leaders and still have time for lunch. There was also this openness and generosity in the Twin Cities community that really, really surprised me.”

While many cringe at Minnesota’s frosty temperatures, Cole reveled in them.

“I appreciated the vast blue skies and the crystal clarity of the air,” she said. “The cold was exciting, even exhilarating.”

Also thrilling for Cole was her first day on the job as Metropolitan State president. She clearly recalls basking in the moment in her office. “On the first morning I walked into my office, every bone in my body shouted, ‘Yes!’” she said. “From the very first minute, I strongly felt my character and abilities were somehow shaped for that leadership position.”

“I love being a university president. I’ve always felt comfortable and natural in that role. In a sense, it feels like what I was meant to do.”

When Cole delivered her inaugural remarks, she had clear expectations to expand Metropolitan State, which until then was only offering upper-division credits, limited science and math instruction,
a small resident faculty contingent and inadequate physical facilities. Her vision was for Metropolitan State to emerge as a comprehensive, urban, well-equipped university with a full complement of high-quality undergraduate and graduate programs serving an increasingly diverse student population that included both traditional-age students and working adults.

That vision coincided with her higher education philosophy. “An educated population is the cornerstone of American democracy,” said Cole. “If people are to have a real hand in determining their destiny and the shape and nature of society, if they are to be able to contribute productively and creatively to society, then they must be educated. Today, access to public higher education is very important and has much the same meaning that access to free public schools had a century ago.”

Cole oversaw completion of the first edifice ever constructed for the university—New Main, Metropolitan State’s signature building that overlooks downtown Saint Paul. The transformation of old Saint John’s Hospital facilities into what are now called Founders Hall and Saint John’s Hall also occurred under her watch, as did planning and design for the university’s library.

Other achievements during Cole’s tenure: Offering full four-year undergraduate programs for the first time in the university’s history, including significantly more arts and science courses; and enhancing Metropolitan State’s visibility and stature through many visits to corporate boardrooms, government and nonprofit agencies and educational venues.

Along the way, Cole confronted major challenges, including a newly-fashioned Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, whose “somewhat changing and uncertain leadership” at the time made it difficult to get Metropolitan State’s needs adequately recognized.

Another problem Cole—and all university presidents—confronted was insufficient state funding. “As a consequence, every initiative we put forward required some ingenuity,” she said. “The best concrete example of that involved the library, which the university desperately needed. The East Side also didn’t have a library. So we, rather ingeniously, combined those two needs. The result was that we had multiple sources of advocacy and support when we went to the legislature and other sources for funding.”

She is grateful for her Metropolitan State experience because it required a full range of her professional and personal skills. Cole witnessed first-hand that presidential power could be wielded effectively to advance a public purpose.

While she declined to offer President Hammersmith specific advice, Cole broadly suggested higher-education chief administrators keep the following in mind:

“Just do your best and never underestimate what a determined president can achieve.”

It’s been almost two years since Dr. Wilson G. Bradshaw departed Metropolitan State to become president at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Fla. Yet Bradshaw still refers to the university by “we,” “us” and “our.”

Call it force of habit. But it’s also likely Bradshaw, or “Brad” as he was known by many, still uses the personal pronouns because he remains passionate about the university he presided over from 2000 to 2007.

Bradshaw’s inaugural address was noteworthy because he almost didn’t deliver it. It was late September 2001, in the aftermath of 9/11, and many Americans, including some inaugural guests, refused to fly because they feared more airplane attacks. The president of Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa., who planned to introduce Bradshaw, bowed out because of that concern.

Bradshaw recalls one inaugural remark in Founders Hall Auditorium drew “audible gasps”—when he forecast the university would mushroom from about 6,000 students to approach 10,000 within a relatively short period. As it turned out, Bradshaw was prescient: 9,115 students were enrolled when he left.

The skyrocketing student enrollment was one of Bradshaw’s major accomplishments and part of his plan to improve access to higher education in the Twin Cities area.

“For people to be functioning, contributing citizens in a strong democracy,” said Bradshaw, “it’s become very clear and important that they have some level of education or training beyond high school.”

He noted some resistance to the student growth rate and expansion of academic programs among some faculty members. But Metropolitan State’s fourth president was unapologetic about the direction in which he steered the university.
"A public university—not just Metropolitan State—doesn’t exist just to meet the needs of faculty and staff," he said. "We are there to serve the students and we need to always keep that in mind. If that requires us to change to meet students’ needs, then we should do that."

Serving students was the impetus behind other Bradshaw accomplishments: Restructuring of some academic units early in his tenure; expansion of baccalaureate and master’s programs and setting the stage for doctoral programs; enhancing partnerships between Metropolitan State and metro area community and technical colleges so students could more easily enroll at the university; and opening the new library.

"The library was critical to our growth, because Metropolitan State couldn’t become the comprehensive urban university the Twin Cities deserved without it," he said.

And through our partnership with the Saint Paul Public Library, we were able to have a public library presence on the East Side, one of the most diverse and underserved neighborhoods in the Twin Cities."

Bradshaw observed that Metropolitan State boosted student enrollment despite steep state budget cutbacks. When he started, he said, more than 60 percent of Metropolitan State’s operating budget came from the state, compared to about 40 percent when he left. That experience proved valuable at Bradshaw’s new institution, Florida Gulf Coast University, where state appropriations have recently been dramatically cut.

He said he particularly identified with Metropolitan State’s commitment to serving diverse populations. And indeed the percentage of students of color jumped appreciably during Bradshaw’s tenure; when he departed, about one-fourth of the student population was from communities of color, the highest at any four-year Minnesota higher education institution.

But it was another Metropolitan State commitment—civic engagement and service learning—that left a major imprint on Bradshaw personally. He became active in Twin Cities–area nonprofits and foundations. He chaired the Minnesota Campus Compact, an organization that leverages higher education assets in partnership with communities to expand civic engagement; recently he was elected to the national Campus Compact board.

While Bradshaw said he misses many friends at Metropolitan State and the Twin Cities’ quality of life, he believes the university is in good hands with President Sue K. Hammersmith. He recently had dinner with Metropolitan State’s sixth president and came away an admirer.

"President Hammersmith is an accomplished academician and academic administrator," he said. "I think Metropolitan State has a winner in Dr. Hammersmith. She’s going to do very well and be a wonderful leader for the university."

"The library was critical to our growth, because Metropolitan State couldn’t become the comprehensive urban university the Twin Cities deserved without it.”

**Metropolitan State University Presidents**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>David E. Sweet</td>
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<td>Reatha Clark King</td>
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<td>Wilson G. Bradshaw</td>
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<td>Sue K. Hammersmith</td>
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On Oct. 2, Sue K. Hammersmith will be inaugurated as the sixth president of Metropolitan State University. In addition to the Inaugural Cermony, there will be many events and activities throughout the university community.

For more information, visit www.metrostate.edu.
Margaret Lovejoy is the founder and executive director of The Family Place—Ramsey County’s only day shelter for homeless families with children.

Lovejoy began the project with her own money and was then able to secure funding and support from Ramsey County and numerous other agencies to open The Family Place in October 2001. Since that time, The Family Place has functioned as a central hub for homeless families needing services in Ramsey County.

She earned a bachelor of arts in communication from Metropolitan State University, a master of arts, religion and theology from the United Theological Seminary and is a doctoral student at the University of St. Thomas studying educational leadership.

Lovejoy is an innovator, a visionary and an advocate, and was named a General Mills “Local Legend” in January 2009 for her active involvement in the community. She spoke with John Hendrickson, communications and marketing director at Metropolitan State.

How did you become interested in the issue of homelessness?

That’s an interesting question because you never know exactly when an interest begins. My grandmother and my mother would always cook extra potatoes in the pot just in case somebody came. Not that the guests would be homeless, but there was hospitality so you could feed extra people. There was always an extra chair that could be pulled up to the table; there was always a fold-out bed just in case someone needed to stay. It was just how we were.

I really started working with homeless families when I was hired by the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches to run an overnight program called Project Home—the families would spend the night at a church, and they would go off to wherever during the day. The volunteers started asking me what the families were doing during the day. I told them I didn’t know, but I started to ask around.

I asked one mom what she did during the day, and she said that after she put her two girls on the school bus, she got on a city bus and rode around all day long so she’d be safe. Another mom who was at Dorothy Day had a two-year-old. She said she had to hold the child’s hand all day long so he wouldn’t run away, wouldn’t bump into somebody, wouldn’t get into trouble, wouldn’t run into someone’s cigarette, or wouldn’t be hurt by someone.

When I started hearing these stories, I knew something had to be done.
change. Metro State taught me to be a lifelong learner, so I had to learn what to do. I said to my peers that we need a day center for the families. They all agreed that’s what was needed, but no one was willing to step up to the plate. So I stepped out and started to make the change happen.

Once I realized that children were homeless, I had to do something.

**What kinds of services does The Family Place provide?**

We have people who help to place families in transitional housing programs and/or our own housing program, which is rapid entry housing—permanent housing with supportive services.

If families move into housing, we have items for them—sheets, towels, dishes, pots and pans, those kinds of things. There are county workers you can meet with for your financial issues.

We provide two cold meals—a cold breakfast and a cold snack.

We provide hot lunch and hot dinner.

We have a program for the children. We also have a children’s coordinator who helps the parents with parenting skills and provides activities for children. We are at capacity right now at 40 people. Of that group of 40, 19 of them are under the age of five.

**Have you seen changes in the situations of those who come to The Family Place since the economic turn down in the past year?**

Last fall, we realized that we just didn’t have the capacity to support the number of people who needed shelter. We are expanding our space so that we can take in an additional 20 people. That is part of what we’ve been seeing happening; more people are seeking shelter. They are seeking it because of the economic issues, the foreclosures that you hear so much about. But what we see aren’t the homeowners, they are renters. What we see are families that come to us who have been living in a duplex, or a four-plex, or in an apartment unit, and they learn about the foreclosure when the sheriff knocks on the door and says, “You’ve got to be out in 24 hours.”

The renters don’t know that the foreclosure is going to happen. They don’t have enough money or time to save up for a truck to move their things or to get a storage unit. They just know that in 24 hours the water will be turned off, the power will be turned off, the building will be boarded up, and they need to be out.

That’s when they come here. We get people who come here who are in shock, angry, hurt and depressed. They haven’t a clue how this has happened. They pay their rent. Those are changes that we hadn’t seen before.

And the other thing that we know is happening is that children who have grown too old for foster care don’t have a place to go. I was talking to a woman down at the Dorothy Day Center, and she said that if those 18-year-olds show up at Dorothy Day with their belongings, they need to get them into a different program and different place within a week to 10 days—then there’s a chance for that child.

If they stay at Dorothy Day more than two weeks, they are into prostitution, into drugs, into alcohol. And it’s the boys and girls; it’s not just the girls going into prostitution. It’s also the boys.

**What did you study at Metropolitan State, and did your studies impact the kind of work you do?**

My degree is in communication with an emphasis in writing, so I’ve written a lot of grants. That writing skill helped.

And, as happens to most students, your horizons are broadened. Using the Socratic method of learning in groups was good for me because you hear other people’s voices—not just the professor, but you hear other students. In that kind of learning, I know that I can learn from you, and that I don’t just have to listen to “the voice” of the professor; I can learn from everyone. I learn from the families I work with all the time.

What Metro State did was whet my appetite for more learning. I went on for a master’s degree and now I’m in a doctoral studies program at the University of St. Thomas.

**What do you think people should know about homelessness?**

It is destructive. It’s the worst thing. I think, that can happen in the life of a child, to have the stability of home taken away.

It is also, on the other side—for some of the families—one of the better things that has happened to them. In here, they find that there are people who care for them, that they are in an organized place. It’s clean; meals are orderly and on time. It shows them what can happen if you work within the system to help your family.

As a community, I think homelessness is just not talked about enough. It’s disappointing that in a community in which there is so much wealth—even when we are in a downturn in the economy—that we haven’t solved this issue. I’m not such a Pollyanna that I think we will never have homelessness; we’ll always have it. But I think we have to develop a system in which if a family becomes homeless, they come out of it quickly. Right now, if they become homeless, they are staying homeless for six or seven months, far too long.

**It’s interesting that you said homelessness is destructive, the worst thing that can happen to a family; but you also said there’s a positive side to it, that homelessness can turn into hopefulness.**

I found a saying, and I think it is what I’ve been looking for as I think about how I’m doing my work here; and it’s anonymous, I don’t know who wrote it:

‘Hope is like a bird that senses the dawn and carefully starts to sing while it is still dark.’
Sierra Leone Vice President Sam-Sumana (’02) Visits Metropolitan State

By Julia Nekeesa Opoti

The vice president of Sierra Leone, Samuel Sam-Sumana (’02), visited Metropolitan State last June and met with President Sue K. Hammersmith and others at the university. He was in Minnesota to attend his daughter’s high school graduation and also met with Gov. Tim Pawlenty. Sam-Sumana, who grew up in Sierra Leone, lived in Minnesota for several years working in information technology. Earlier this decade, he returned to his home country and was elected vice president in 2007.

When the rest of the world thinks about Sierra Leone, they are likely thinking of a country torn apart by civil war and entrenched in poverty. Others might remember the cause of the civil war: a fight to control the country’s valuable mineral resources, known throughout the rest of the world as blood diamonds. It was control over this tiny West African nation’s diamond mines that brought these fleeting images of child soldiers with guns.

Samuel Sam-Sumana shakes his head vigorously at the mention of blood diamonds and war. “No, this is not Sierra Leone. Not anymore. We decided to make a turnaround.” The 47-year-old Sam-Sumana says the country’s leaders have recognized that “you can have development only in peace.”

A visible sadness comes over him as he talks about the strife the civil war caused. “We suffered total destruction of infrastructure and the loss of thousands of lives.” It is almost beyond faith that a country that is still rated the poorest country in the world, and that had one of the highest mortality rates, could rise back to its feet; such are the odds stacked against Sierra Leone. But faith is in no short supply here, and Sam-Sumana, who left his home in 1991 right before war broke out, is confident that the country can pick itself up—if its leaders and people can practice tolerance.

International investors seek not just economic potential, but also political stability. Sam-Sumana knows that Sierra Leone has to rebrand itself to attract both its diaspora and other individuals who might be interested in doing business with the country. In December 2008, The Economist magazine reported signs that the country was making an economic recovery. International aid such as the British government’s structural development assistance and its efforts at vocational training for hundreds of young men, who were only a few years ago fighting in Freetown, helped shore up the government’s effort to bring on board the foreign investment that will be crucial for Sierra Leone’s future.

Sam-Sumana, who studied management information systems at Metropolitan State, is drawing on his professional background to help develop the country. While in the United States, Sam-Sumana worked as a network systems administrator for both Prudential Financial Group and Allina Health Services, where he learned skills that he now uses as the chair of the Information and Technology Task Force (sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund). Although computer literacy and access in Sierra Leone are low, Sam-Sumana believes that building a strong network and a far-reaching e-government facility will allow for transparency, efficiency and expediency—processes vital for state-building which are yet to take root. Two areas he picks out as important are micro-finance and the Internet. He considers micro-financing as vital to securing sustainable
economic development. He regards the embrace of the Internet and technology as instrumental, not just for economic growth and interconnectedness with the world, but also for civic engagement.

“For university students in particular,” said Sam-Sumana recalling his time at Metropolitan State, “we need to put systems in place that will reveal to them their working capacity.” Building an education hub online, Sam-Sumana argues, will allow students to compete with the rest of the world. They’ll be able to take advantage of opportunities unavailable offline and will be exposed to global standards and achievements.

The vice president explains Sierra Leone’s steady progress from war to peace, highlighting that projects on rehabilitation and reconciliation are built by preaching tolerance and encouraging interaction between different religions and tribes. News reports show that Sierra Leoneans are still recovering from the trauma of the war, as victims and perpetrators of war crimes continue to live side by side with little or no access to counseling or therapy. Local forums known as Fambul Tok (Family Talk) have risen in their stead. In these forums, villagers sit around camp fires and speak about their experiences during the war. Perpetrators sitting in on the Fambul Tok seek forgiveness from their victims, and later community leaders hold traditional cleansing rituals.

Sam-Sumana invites the world and particularly Minnesotans to visit his country and to invest in its future. Sierra Leone is a country that is yearning for development. Its people have been through more trouble in decades than many other countries have had in centuries, but their resilient, indefatiguable spirit persists.

**Sierra Leone** is located on the African west coast and is slightly smaller than South Carolina. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, Guinea and Liberia. Its largest natural resource is diamonds, but it also has deposits of titanium ore, bauxite, iron ore, gold and chromite. The biggest challenge for this country is developing infrastructure to harness these minerals and other agricultural produce such as cocoa and timber. Its shores present an opportunity for the country to develop a fishery industry.

At the turn of the 18th century, Freetown—Sierra Leone’s capital—was one of several settlements for freed black slaves from North America. The first of these former slaves traveled from Nova Scotia in Canada to Freetown in 1791. Other settlers were from London: African Americans who had joined the British army following promises of freedom. In the 20th century, the British colonized the country until its independence in 1961.

Julia Nekesa Opoti is a freelance reporter based in the Twin Cities who writes primarily on immigration and gender issues. She has written for Mshale, and an African newspaper based in Minneapolis. She is a regular contributor to the Twin Cities Daily Planet. She is the publisher and cofounder of kenyaimagine.com, a Kenyan online news, analysis and opinion magazine.

Opoti studied international business, business administration and economics at Metropolitan State. She won several awards for her student activism and worked on issues such as lowering textbook prices, tuition affordability, and diversity on university faculty and curriculum. She served with distinction as the Student Senate president in her senior year.
Several High-powered Faculty Retire

By Harvey Meyer

Retiring faculty members Martha Sofio, Denis Daly, and Sharon Rice Vaughan attended a reception in their honor on April 28.

Faculty members who retired last spring include a founding faculty member of Metropolitan State, an expert on process-based management, a leader in antiviolence programs, and a pioneer in the field of holistic nursing. Together they touched the lives of thousands of alumni.

Dennis Daly

An internationally recognized expert on process-based management, Dennis Daly retired from Metropolitan State last spring. Daly served 16 years as professor in the College of Management’s accounting program.

Daly, who chaired the Metropolitan State accounting program for 12 years, was designated professor emeritus by the university this past spring. He taught accounting and management classes for 46 years at Metropolitan State and three other universities. He has contributed dozens of monographs, book reviews, articles and case studies on accounting, management and finance to professional publications and coauthored two books on process-based management.

Daly oversaw the Accounting Department at a time when its students consistently produced some of the top scores on the Minnesota Certified Public Accountant Exam.

“The accounting program’s success is directly attributable to the excellent resident and community faculty members who are committed to the students and the accounting profession,” said Daly.

“Moreover,” he added, “Metropolitan State students have a real thirst for learning.
They come to the university because they want to increase their personal knowledge and to aid the organizations with which they’re affiliated. The good students I’ve had at Metropolitan State are as good as any of the undergraduate and graduate students I taught at other universities.”

Before arriving at Metropolitan State in 1993, Daly taught accounting at Michigan State University. Previously, he was an accounting professor for 12 years at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management, where accounting students twice selected him best accounting instructor. (In 1985, he was also chosen one of five U of M employees making outstanding contributions to that institution.) Before that, he was a business administration professor at Saint Mary’s College, Winona, chairing that department for 16 years.

Throughout much of his academic career, Daly has been an active participant on the management accounting committee of the U.S. Institute of Management Accountants. He chairs the Consortium for Advanced Management-International’s (CAM-I) Futures Forum, a group of leading management and accounting academicians and international experts who evaluate research proposals. He won CAM-I’s prestigious Bonsack Award for exemplary contributions to management accounting.

Additionally, Daly has long been active with the Society of Management Accountants (SMA) in Canada. He serves on a SMA expert panel that offers recommendations on U.S., Canadian and United Kingdom management accounting guidelines.

Daly wrote six extensive case studies on process-based management involving some of the larger public and private entities in the world. Among the organizations he examined were Bell Canada, the U.S. Marine Corps and Boeing.

A lifetime member of the American Accounting Association, Daly became interested in the accounting profession by mistake. He planned to major in economics, but his college advisor told him, erroneously, that he needed to take an accounting course. It turned out he thrived in that class.

“My advisor said I liked the accounting course only because I got an ‘A,’” said Daly, chuckling. “That probably had something to do with it.”

Daly received his B.S. in accounting from Saint Mary’s College and his M.B.A. in accounting and finance from the University of Detroit. He is a certified management accountant.

At one time the Chicago native planned to become a priest; he attended a seminary for four years. Daly changed his mind and married his wife Sheila in 1961. They have three adult children and two grandchildren.

In retirement, Daly plans to remain active with CAM-I. He also hopes to continue writing about process-based management and remain active in his church.

Bob Fox

Robert Fox, a founding faculty member of Metropolitan State University who retired last spring, helped shape what was then a revolutionary model for higher education.

Fox was instrumental in fashioning the fledgling university into what he called a “functioning critique of higher education.” Among other things, that meant abandoning student grades and graduation requirements, encouraging self-directed lifelong learning and university and student involvement in the community, and offering students credit for experiential learning.

While Metropolitan State has adopted many core elements of traditional higher education in the ensuing years, Fox—selected professor emeritus—remains proud of the institution and the fingerprints he and his early colleagues left upon it.

“I’ve spent 37 years working at a place that is almost completely consistent with my personal and professional values and ideals,” said Fox, who was a professor in the university’s First College. “I have been incredibly blessed to be in that position, and I’m incredibly proud of what Minnesota Metropolitan State College started and what Metropolitan State University has become.”

Fox recalls Metropolitan State’s early years as thrilling, even though that meant chucking a high-paying job as a lawyer for a Saint Paul law firm and confronting constant challenges by the traditional higher
education system. He traded a well-appointed office replete with credenza and an arresting vista of the state capitol for windowless, 10 x 10 quarters with a left-over drafting table that he used for a desk.

“What would often happen is Dr. Sweet (the university’s first president) would come up with ideas for the university in a memo that would be passed around,” said Fox. “Many of us would stay up half the night commenting on those ideas and then slip our responses to him under his door. It was an exhilarating time, because we were all so committed in our mission to change higher education. Some probably called us radical idealists.”

And fatigued ones at that. Fox kept track of how much time he and the other four founding faculty members spent working with students, materials, developing the curriculum and generally shaping the university’s tenets and philosophy. The total: 110 hours weekly.

Along with welcoming many of the first 50 students, sometimes meeting them in their homes, Fox was pivotal in developing the Individualized Educational Planning class, now known as Perspectives, which remains the university’s signature course. Among other things, Perspectives instructors pose this seminal question to students: What does it mean to be educated?

“I’ve spent 37 years working at a place that is almost completely consistent with my personal and professional values and ideals,” said Fox, who was a professor in the university’s First College. “I have been incredibly blessed to be in that position, and I’m incredibly proud of what Minnesota Metropolitan State College started and what Metropolitan State University has become.”

Fox, who was active for years in developing the faculty union, took on several leadership roles at the university and beyond. He was selected by the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning to train others nationally in how to identify and assess experiential learning.

He helped launch and advise what is now known as the Student Senate. He started a university program that assessed the competency of those doing chemical dependency counseling and helped launch a similar program for police officers. Both programs are now integrated into other university academic offerings.

Fox taught a range of courses involving the humanities, human services, chemical dependency, civil rights and civil liberties, and constitutional law. Along with the First College capstone course, the class he most enjoyed was one he co-taught with retired Metropolitan State advisor Chuck McDew—The History of the Civil Rights Movement.

“Students learned more about the history of the Civil Rights Movement in that class than they possibly could have from just reading a bunch of books. And that was because of McDew, who was one of the leaders of Civil Rights Movement in the early 60s,” said Fox. Fox regularly participated in civil rights and other campus protests at the University of Minnesota, where he earned a B.A. in political science, and Duke University Law School, where he obtained a law degree in 1968.

Beyond his teaching, Fox’s interests and accomplishments are wide-ranging.

For four summer Olympics, Fox—a nationally ranked senior table tennis player—served as team leader of the U.S. Olympic table tennis team. That led to four White House trips and meetings with three presidents, former boxer Mohammad Ali and other notables.

Fox is a wine connoisseur with a 400-bottle wine cellar who occasionally offers wine classes, arranges tastings and takes people on tours of vineyards.

Fox intends to continue to pursue those interests in retirement. He also plans on regularly visiting Spain, his favorite foreign country, reading, attending theater and watching movies.
Martha Sofio

Martha Sofio, who retired in May, was a long-time professor in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and helped craft the university’s pioneering holistic nursing program.

For 21 years, Sofio, who was selected as professor emerita, taught graduate and undergraduate theory, family and leadership courses at Metropolitan State. She was instrumental in developing the master of science in nursing and the doctorate in nursing practice, the first doctorate offered at the university.

Sofio’s contributions were key to establishing the nursing program’s emphasis on holism. When that framework was developed in the late 1980s, few nursing programs nationally had such a concentration. Today, Metropolitan State offers one of only a few accredited holistic programs in Minnesota.

“With a holistic framework, nursing students move from a task orientation to one that encourages a deeper understanding of personhood,” said Sofio, who chaired the program’s curriculum committee and served on the university’s faculty governing council.

“Students aren’t just seeing a patient with a gall bladder problem, for example, who needs X, Y and Z medications or treatments. They assess the whole person’s needs, physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.”

Sofio said she especially enjoyed teaching Metropolitan State students.

“They are very well motivated,” she said, and receptive to innovative and wide-ranging nursing theories and concepts. “Many are adult learners returning to school, as I was.”

Before joining the Metropolitan State faculty in 1987, Sofio worked as a corporate product manager for Fairview Community Hospital, Minneapolis, and as the clinical director for Fairview’s maternal/child health nursing service. Previously, she served as a maternal child health instructor, an operating room staff nurse, and an obstetric nurse in Minnesota and New Jersey.

A certified nurse practitioner and hypnotherapist who has served on many professional nursing organizations, Sofio received her B.S. and master’s degrees in nursing from the University of Minnesota.

In retirement, Sofio plans to remain active in nursing. She also plans to continue her involvement with the Hastings Council of Restorative Justice.

Sharon Rice Vaughan

Professor Sharon Rice Vaughan, who cofounded Minnesota’s first battered women’s shelter and spearheaded the university’s pioneering community antiviolence programs, retired last spring.

Vaughan, who has been selected professor emerita, has been engaged in violence prevention efforts since the early 1970s. Since there were no women’s shelters in those days, the long-time Saint Paul resident used her own home to temporarily safeguard many abused women and their children. That led to Vaughan cofounding Women’s Advocates in Saint Paul in 1974, the state’s first battered women’s shelter. It was one of the earliest shelters in the country.

Vaughan’s pioneering spirit continued at Metropolitan State, where she taught classes almost since the university’s founding in 1971. She retired as a professor in the College of Professional Studies.

Vaughan developed the university’s community violence prevention curriculum starting in 1993 with the Community Violence Prevention minor, then believed to be the nation’s first such academic minor. Several years later the Community Violence Prevention major was offered.

“It really helped that Metropolitan State created the opportunity to conceptualize a community-based approach to violence intervention and prevention as an academic program,” said Vaughan. "I was one lucky person to get to think hard about ways that violence can be understood through social structures of race, class and gender."
think hard about ways that violence can be understood through social structures of race, class and gender.”

She also directed the university’s Community Violence Prevention Institute, founded in 2000. With one CVPI initiative, a university-wide team developed a university policy addressing domestic violence in the workplace. With another initiative, discussions centered on how area employers could contribute to reducing domestic violence.

In recent years, Vaughan facilitated a seminar examining violence against women for Metropolitan State faculty, who then included the topic in their class syllabi. She also taught a student theory seminar on the subject.

“It’s a very simple but radical idea: Violence against women is an enormously serious issue that damages not only women individually but families, locally and globally,” said Vaughan. “It is estimated that at least one woman in three around the world has been abused in her lifetime. And yet until the 1980s, the problem was invisible in the spectrum of serious social issues. And it’s only recently beginning to have a place as a proper academic field.”

A single mother of three whose children spent a couple of years sharing their home with battered women and their youngsters, Vaughan has used different venues to deliver her antiviolence message. She has offered presentations, trainings and workshops both nationally and internationally. Vaughan lectured in England and helped lead a workshop in Albania that trained women from the Balkan Peninsula on domestic violence.

She visited Sweden to study whether that country’s law against spanking children extended to a ban on striking wives. (It didn’t.) She independently produced a 30-minute radio program on spanking. Vaughan also coproduced a film about children and domestic violence and hosted a local cable TV program called Battered Women.

One series of 10 independently-produced radio programs in the mid-1980s called “Breaking the Silence” earned Vaughan several prestigious local and national awards. She won a Minnesota Governor’s Award touting Marvelous Minnesota Women for the series on battered women. She also scored top honors for the series from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Program and the American Women in Radio and Television.

“I interviewed about a hundred people, including battered women, abusers, children and police,” said Vaughan. “It was the women’s and children’s stories that made the series special.”

Additionally, Vaughan has served on several Twin Cities nonprofits that worked to thwart domestic violence. She was the first director of Women’s Advocates; executive director of the Harriet Tubman Women’s Shelter; and the first training coordinator and fund-raiser for the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women.

Vaughan has also contributed to several books and a professional journal about domestic abuse. She recently wrote the first chapter for an anthology about the nascent battered women’s movement.

She received her B.A. in sociology and her M.A. in American studies, both from the University of Minnesota. Vaughan earned her Ph.D.—her dissertation explored how battered women’s stories were major contributors to launching the movement against domestic violence—from the University of Manchester, England.

When asked what she will miss about teaching full time at Metropolitan State, Vaughan doesn’t hesitate: “I know it sounds corny, but I was inspired and educated by the students. I feel privileged to learn about the lives they lead and humbled by how hard they work and their struggle to be educated.”

In retirement, Vaughan plans to return to her roots, teaching as a Metropolitan State community faculty member. She plans to remain active in working to prevent domestic violence. And she hopes to travel, fine-tune her Cajun and Zydeco dancing, research and write a book, and straighten out a “vicious” left curve in bowling.
Dr. Sue K. Hammersmith has been president of Metropolitan State University since July 1, 2008. The date of her inauguration as president is Oct. 2.

Prior to coming to Metropolitan State, she was provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay, a post she held since 2002. She was also a professor of social change and development and sociology at that university. Previously, Dr. Hammersmith was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Ferris State University, with several campuses in west central Michigan; dean of University College at Ball State University at Muncie, Ind.; and assistant dean of the School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis.

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in southern Indiana, near Louisville, Ky. I was born and raised on Dutch Creek. My grandmother and grandfather were our closest neighbors, and they lived across two fields, up the creek.

What were your professional aspirations as a child?
A. nurse  C. university president
B. lawyer  D. other
Other. I never knew any women who worked. I didn’t have any professional aspirations.

What did you study in college?
My undergraduate major was anthropology and I had a minor in sociology. In graduate school I studied sociology, and the specialty for my Ph.D. was deviance and social control. I had scholarships as an undergraduate and in graduate school. I had one scholarship from the National Institute of Mental Health that was called a traineeship in deviant behavior. I remember telling my grandmother that I had a traineeship in deviant behavior, and she said she didn’t know that there needed to be training for that.

How many children do you have?
Five.

What tips can you share about how to combine career and family?
Pace yourself. I think you can have pretty much everything, but you cannot have everything all at once. There’s a time for your family, a time for your education, a time for a career in administration. I think it’s important that you pace yourself, or you’ll end up totally exhausted, especially if you are female.

The other thing I tell young women is that I think a lot of us don’t suffer from a lack of role models; we suffer from too many role models. You have to be willing to give up some things. I learned the hard way that I couldn’t be the kind of mom that my mom was. Once you get past that idea, then you’re not going to be up at two o’clock in the morning making cookies for your kids to take to daycare the next day. You buy cookies, put them on a plate with Saran Wrap around them—your children don’t know the difference.

Whom do you admire the most?
A. Eleanor Roosevelt  C. Walt Whitman
B. C. Wright Mills  D. other
Eleanor Roosevelt is a real hero of mine; another real hero is Helen Keller. They were both powerful women who worked on behalf of humanity. I think we need more people like that. Helen Keller was interested in disabilities, of course, but she was a social activist far beyond that. She was a feminist—she was very active on behalf of women and children.

What are your favorite activities outside of work?
I love the outdoors. I love hiking, canoeing, motorcycling, almost anything that’s outdoors. I like music, I play the piano and go to the opera, things like that.
I also like to read.

What are three of your favorite books?
Beloved by Toni Morrison;
Absalom, Absalom! by William Faulkner; and
The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman.

Do you have a hidden talent?
I do. I make about the best pie crust in the western world. I make a drop-dead, wonderful pie crust with Crisco.
Regula Russelle (’92) Expresses Her Artistry through Books

By Harvey Meyer

Growing up in Zurich, Switzerland, Regula Russelle was regularly enchanted by centuries-old architecture, paintings, sculptures and the like. Not yet on her radar screen were books that featured painstakingly-crafted hand lettering, typography and drawings. Years later, however, she couldn’t imagine life without these books.

“I was surrounded by beautifully made objects that stood the test of time,” said Russelle. “That’s part of what I love about the book arts, something that’s very carefully made—and made to last—in the fast-paced age we live in.”

In recent years, Russelle has garnered notoriety among Minnesota book artists. The 1992 Metropolitan State alumna collaborated with another artist to win the 2007 Minnesota Book Awards in the Fine Press category. The Saint Paul resident also collaborated to win second place in a Society of Bookbinders International Competition in 2007. Moreover, she recently won a coveted Minnesota State Arts Board grant and a Jerome Book Arts Fellowship.

Russelle teaches book arts at Augsburg College and at the Minnesota Center for the Book Arts. Her work appears locally, nationally and even internationally in libraries’ special collections, including the British Library, London; the Minnesota Historical Society; and Brown University’s John Hay Library, Providence, R.I.

It wasn’t until she attended Metropolitan State that Russelle was awakened to contemporary book arts. She recalls taking an art class from faculty member Susan McDonald, who had produced an elongated, accordion-style book with hand-painted drawings and text.

“I was instantly captivated,” said Russelle, a First College graduate who credits the university for its supportive atmosphere and preparing her for graduate school. “I knew someday I would do that.”

In her first book about her grandchild Anika, she partnered with husband Michael. He wrote a poem while Russelle did the lettering and illustrations by hand. She likens the text and drawings to the pairing of lyrics and music.

“When I was making it, I fell in love with the power of the book,” she said. “When you make a book, you are deciding what is worthy of being remembered.”

Russelle served for awhile as print artist-in-residence at the Minnesota Center for the Book Arts. She was one of 23 cofounders of the Laurel Poetry Collective, comprised of poets and artists who publish affordable books and prints. She is current cofounder of Accordion Press Collaborations, a small publisher that produces fine-press artists’ books. And Russelle is the sole proprietor of Cedar Fence Press, where her own fine-press artists’ books are published.

A recent public arts project she collaborated on—5,000 hand-printed folios that contained portraits and poems that emphasized kinship and community—drew a “wonderful response” among those receiving the free keepsakes at farmers’ markets, light rail centers and bus stops and other urban venues. Buoyed by that reception, she plans on continuing to reach broader audiences with future works.

Whatever future book project she chooses, Russelle hopes it, like much hand-crafted art, will leave a lasting impression.

“I think anything that is carefully hand-made carries with it the spirit with which it was made,” she said. “You can still feel that spirit centuries later. And a carefully made book signals the value of what it contains.”
**Books in Brief**

**Singal Maadar**

**Samarat Sooyaan ('07)**

*Singal Maadar (Single Mother)* is a novel by Samatar Sooyaan ('07). It tells a compelling story of a young Somali refugee who struggles as a single parent with four children living in Minneapolis.

**The Arrogance of Nations**

**Neil Elliott**

Neil Elliott is the author of *The Arrogance of Nations: Reading Romans in the Shadow of Empire*. Elliott interprets Paul’s biblical letter to the Romans in the context of Roman imperial ideology, bringing to the text insights from classical studies, rhetorical criticism, postcolonial criticism and people’s history. *The Arrogance of Nations* was published in 2008 by Fortress Press. Elliott is a community faculty member in ethnic and religious studies.

**Welcome to Flyover Country**

**Ben Seigel ('00)**


**The House in the Night**

**Susan Marie Swanson**

The 2009 Caldecott Medal award-winning picture book, *The House in the Night*, was written by Susan Marie Swanson. Her words illuminate the dark in this bedtime book for young children. *The House in the Night* was published last year by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. Swanson is a community faculty member in communication, writing and the arts.

**To and From**

**G.E. Patterson**

Poet G. E. Patterson is the author of *To and From* published by Ahsahta Press. One reviewer wrote, “In this wonderful book, perception’s ecstatic transit is lovingly engaged, and the distance between to and from opens into endless possibility.” Patterson is a community faculty member in communication, writing and the arts.

Patterson will be speaking on African-American nature poetry at the 2010 conference of The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP). AWP is a national, nonprofit literary organization for teachers and writers.
Student Samuel Verdeja Joins the Foundation Board
in war-time he prayed to become an educated man

By Harvey Meyer

Some veterans talked about living day-to-day in a war zone. When Samuel Verdeja was searching for arms and ammunition in pitch-black Vietcong tunnels, he survived minute-to-minute, even breath to breath, second to second.

Some of his combat buddies never made it. Their ghosts followed him, punishing him with survivor guilt. During some highly charged moments inside the sweltering tunnels, Verdeja made a prayer to himself: If he ever made it out alive, he would become an educated man.

As it turned out, Verdeja survived one year in Vietnam’s jungles. Like many Vietnam veterans, his transition to civilian life was problematic. Images haunted him. He wasn’t prepared for the stinging reception veterans received when they arrived home; many were spat upon and harassed as “baby killers.”

“I was in a combat war,” said Verdeja, who combines a simmering intensity with an easy-going manner, “and I went right into a cultural war.”

Verdeja tried to keep the ghosts at bay while busyng himself for years as a community activist on Saint Paul’s West Side, where he was reared. He served on several governor-appointed committees and organizations assessing the needs of the state’s Latinos and disadvantaged. He chaired the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department and the city’s Winter Carnival foundation and served as founder or cofounder of four nonprofit groups promoting Latinos and West Side businesses. He is serving as a Crime Stoppers of Minnesota board member and is on the Saint Paul-Colima, Mexico, sister city committee and the mayor’s council on cultural relations.

Perhaps Verdeja’s crowning achievement was transforming from a vocal community critic into director and founder of the then-Concord Street Business Association, which helped revitalize the West Side. He spearheaded the launch of the Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, which now attracts thousands and is one of the nation’s largest.

“I put my life into that celebration,” he said. “Everything I had.”

While outwardly portraying himself as a successful, military-style leader of the nonprofits, Verdeja was psychologically still gripped by Vietnam and incensed by social injustices to Latinos and others. Finally, 35 years after his Marine Corps service, for which he received a combat-action honor, he was diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The ensuing therapy enabled Verdeja, 60, to confront his demons. The PTSD diagnosis also helped him become eligible for higher education funds through a military vocational rehabilitation program. The Saint Paul resident enrolled at Metropolitan State a few years ago and is planning to graduate after fall semester.
Verdeja is pursuing a self-designed major—public policy in veterans’ affairs—in the university’s First College. He selected Metropolitan State in part because of friends’ recommendations and the university’s reputation for community involvement.

“The university has helped me to look at how I can continue to be a public servant,” said Verdeja. “Being active in the community has always been part of me; it’s who I am. It’s important to participate because there is a lot of need in communities, much of which has been overshadowed by other priorities.”

He was recently selected to serve on the university’s foundation board, becoming the only student to hold that position. Verdeja views it as another opportunity to broadly serve the community while specifically promoting students’ and veterans’ interests.

“Metropolitan State is still young,” he said, “but it needs to continue becoming even more involved in the community and providing access to a wider range of students. That includes women, people of color, veterans and older folks—late bloomers like myself.”

Unlike the Vietnam era when many veterans masked their service background, these days Verdeja is a walking billboard for the military. Every day on campus, he proudly wears one of eight Marine Corps visored hats, seven black and one red. He was instrumental in launching the university’s Veterans Student Services office.

His transition to the classroom posed its own challenges. Surrounded mostly by students less than half his age, Verdeja acknowledged he earlier tended to dominate classroom discussions with long-winded oratory. Some students were intimidated.

“Fortunately, in talking with my advisor and other students,” he said, “I learned how to become a better student. I now have more interaction with, and consideration for them.”

He’s also learned techniques and strategies enabling him to become a better teacher, a profession he intends to pursue upon graduation. First, though, he plans on earning a master’s degree. Ultimately, he hopes to teach veterans’ issues as a university educator, a role that combines community service with remembering his fallen comrades.

Verdeja often imagines the day he will receive his baccalaureate degree at Metropolitan State’s commencement. He figures his war-time prayer and “dream” of becoming an educated man will have been answered. He expects his mother and several of his 11 siblings and veteran friends to be in attendance.

“As I walk across the stage,” said Verdeja, “I’ll be thinking my diploma will be a way of paying tribute to my buddies who didn’t come back from Vietnam.”

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Metropolitan State’s enrollment is up about eight percent over a year ago. As we grow, we need your help! Please consider giving to the Annual Fund to support the programs and scholarships that support deserving students, enhance the university’s academic effectiveness and advance the university’s mission.

Metropolitan State students—just as you did—return to college in order to improve their lives. Today’s students are tomorrow’s accountants, artists, nurses, peace officers, nonprofit managers, social workers and teachers. Metropolitan State is preparing a new workforce of leaders for many of the most critically needed areas of our society.

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Eight Faculty Excellence Award winners selected by their peers, in conjunction with the 2009 Recognizing Excellence dinner, were 
Ronald Salzberger, philosophy professor, and Fred Bacon, community faculty, both from the College of Arts and Sciences. Two chosen from the College of Management were Kenneth Zapp, economics professor, and Nancy Bryant, community faculty. Three selected from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences were Ruth Staus, assistant professor and Doctor of Nursing Practice alumna ('09); Joyce Bredesen, assistant professor; and Kristen Ehresmann, community faculty.

Michelle Filkins, associate professor and reference and instruction librarian, was chosen from the Library and Learning Center.

Nadine Haley, associate professor, Urban Teacher Program, College of Professional Studies, coauthored a monograph, Teacher Preparation through the Lens of Two African-American Teacher Educators: Interactive Inquiry, Collaborative Discovery and Barriers to Connectivity, which was presented in a panel discussion at the Association of Independent Liberal Arts Colleges for Teacher Education in Chicago.

Roger Israel, professor of public administration, College of Management, was a guest on the Don Shelby Show on WCCO Radio in June. Among the many subjects covered was the latest Metropolitan State Civic Confidence Survey taken earlier this year. Respondents expressed greater concern about the economy than in prior surveys. This is the first time in the survey’s history that respondents considered the economy to be the metropolitan area’s biggest problem. However, they also expressed optimism about the country’s ability to meet the challenges. On the subject of voting and election reform, respondents expressed much greater uncertainty about the accuracy of vote counting.

Metropolitan State University was awarded $25,514 for “Using Social and Environmental Issues to Increase Student Success in Mathematics,” a project led by Cindy Kaus, mathematics associate professor, and Rikki Wagstrom, mathematics assistant professor, both in the College of Arts and Sciences. The project seeks to increase student retention in introductory mathematics through the development and implementation of two innovative courses and adaptation of tutoring practices and services to better meet the needs of students enrolled in the new courses. The award from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system office was to advance faculty-led teaching and learning initiatives in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics courses, known also as STEM courses.

Santos Martinez, Chicano/Latino student services director, Student Affairs, was a guest on Encuentro, a program on KFAI Radio: Radio without Boundaries in May. The entire 90 minutes was devoted to the music of Esteban “Steve” Jordan. Martinez presented a sampling of Jordan’s music and discussed the importance of Jordan’s groundbreaking innovations and contributions to south Texas conjunto music. In June, National Public Radio profiled Jordan in a piece entitled “The Corrido of the ‘World’s Best Accordionist’.”

Nancy Miller, human services assistant professor, College of Professional Studies, published an article, “A Web-enhanced Course with Attendance Options” in the Academic Exchange Quarterly journal, winter 2008, vol. 12, issue 4. This article examines a Web-enhanced course with attendance options that combine both online course work and personal contact as important learning elements. A human services course is described that illustrates this approach. It is proposed that by providing a combination of Web-based learning tools and attendance options, students will overcome the anxiety of first-time use of online learning, have increased flexibility and enhance their time-management skills through attendance choices. This Web-enhanced course with attendance options exemplifies learner-focused instruction.

“Opinions and Expectations about Continuous Improvement Programs: Survey Research,” an article coauthored by Nancy Nentl, associate professor, College of Management, and Rick Burnett, was accepted by the Journal of Quality and Participation—a practical business journal.

Robert O’Connor, assistant professor, social work, College of Professional Studies, was quoted in ABC News Internet Ventures, “Black Babies: Hollywood’s Hottest Accessory?” highlighting the current trend of Hollywood celebrities who adopt black babies, especially those from African nations, while adoptions of African-American children lag behind. O’Connor is an African-American adopted by white parents and now studies transracial adoptions. The complete story can be found at http://abcnews.go.com/print?id=7218470.

College of Management professor of economics, David O’Hara, was on the Your Money program this spring on WCCO radio as Bruce Helmer’s guest. O’Hara participated in a roundtable discussion centered on today’s economy including the federal government stimulus plan plus the current state of the stock and real estate markets. He was also a guest on the Midday Live show on WCCO Radio in May. The discussion topics were the state of the housing market and the U.S. government bank stress test.

Daryl Parks, associate professor, Urban Teacher Program, has a new publication out, “Homeless to Harvard, Etcetera...” in J. Van Galen (ed.) Trajectories: The Education and Social Mobility of Education Scholars from the Poor and Working Class. Rotterdam, the Netherlands: Sense Publishing. Parks was also accepted into the 2009 Holocaust and Jewish Resistance Teachers’ Program. With the support of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, he studied for three weeks in Krakow, Poland, and Jerusalem, Israel, in July.

Roger Prestwich, professor, international business, College of Management, has coauthored an article with Thu-Mai Ho-Kim, senior economic analyst, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. “Practical Skills in International Business: Training Needs for Workforce Competence by Minnesota Companies” was published in the Journal of Teaching in International Business. Prestwich was quoted in a June opinion piece online, “GM message to Minnesota business, government: middle class too big to fail,” on Twin Cities Daily Planet.
Susan Shumer, director, community outreach, civic engagement and the Center for Community-Based Learning, wrote a chapter for the book, *Partnerships for Service-Learning Impacts on Communities and Students*, published by Jossey-Bass, 2009. The chapter, “Metropolitan State University: Connecting with Community through a University-Public Library Partnership,” was a collaborative effort by Shumer along with several others. The chapter describes the university’s unique relationship with the community, particularly highlighting the partnership with the Saint Paul Public Library. Shumer’s collaborators included: Robert Shumer, a pioneer of service-learning who is now teaching at the University of Minnesota; Rebecca Ryan, former library-community outreach coordinator at Metropolitan State who now works for the Saint Paul Public Library; Joanna Brookes, former director of the Dayton’s Bluff Branch of the Saint Paul Public Library who now directs the St. Anthony Park Branch; M. Alejandra Reyes Cejudo who is the former manager of the Latino Learning Institute at Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES); and Karin DuPaul, community organizer for the Dayton’s Bluff District Four Community Council.

Glen Spielmans, psychology assistant professor, College of Professional Studies, authored a paper, “The promotion of olanzapine in primary care: an examination of internal industry documents,” posted ahead of publication on the *Social Science & Medicine* journal Web site discussing the marketing of Zyprexa. He replies on internal company papers released through legal action to document the marketing scheme pursued by Eli Lilly in trying to get physicians to prescribe Zyprexa (olanzapine) liberally and far in excess of the labeled indications. He pointed out that these off-label marketing schemes eventually netted Lilly a $1.4B fine, the largest corporate criminal fine in U.S. history.

Minh Vo, assistant professor, finance, College of Management, has been informed that his paper, “Regime Switching Stochastic Volatility: Evidence from the Crude Oil Market,” which was presented at the college’s faculty seminar last semester, has been accepted to publish in the *Energy Economics Journal*.

Metropolitan State plans to commemorate the renowned artist Gordon Parks by renaming the university art gallery in his honor.

Parks was one of America’s foremost 20th century photojournalists and an acclaimed writer, filmmaker and composer. To help preserve Parks’ legacy, the university has launched a fund-raising campaign to raise $250,000, which will be used for an art gallery program fund for years to come. The Katherine B. Andersen Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation has issued a $75,000 challenge grant in support of the project. To date, more than $110,000 has been raised for the project.

This project is a partnership with Parks’ great-niece, Robin Hickman, executive producer of SoulTouch Productions. For more information, contact Rob Larson, development director, university advancement, at robert.larson@metrostate.edu (651-793-1813); or Erica Rasmussen, associate professor and gallery director, at erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu (651-999-5942).

When the fund-raising campaign concludes in April 2010, the gallery’s new name will be unveiled along with an exhibition of Parks’ work.
By Linda L. Johnson ('96)

Note: All towns are in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.

Jason Beckman ('02), Duluth, was hired by SOAR Career Solutions as a disabilities career specialist. He has more than 15 years’ experience in the human services field with expertise in counseling, nursing and housing. Most recently Beckman was the case manager for the Salvation Army’s Family Transitional Housing Program.

Judy Blasko-Popowski ('94), Barron, Wis., wrote a book of poetry. The poems relate to her ex-husband’s death from pancreatic cancer in 1994 on Christmas Eve and her own battle with a rare cancer.

Mary Bailey Bustos ('06, '08), Saint Paul, has been working as a resident assistant at the Salvation Army Booth Brown House for five years. She works with teens and young adults who are transitioning from homelessness to independence. Bailey Bustos also works as a TRiO mentor at Metropolitan State University.

Amy Leahy Clark ('04), Saint Paul, hosted an art show and sale at the AZ Gallery in Saint Paul last June, and she participated in the 2009 Saint Paul Art Crawl. In 2007, she painted a four foot by six foot mural for the 100th episode of the Extreme Makeover: Home Edition television show, which featured the Svenson-Lee family of Minnetonka. (See back cover of Buzz magazine.) Several of her paintings are displayed in the Career Services Office in Room 147, Founders Hall.

Anne Clark ('80), Tucson, Ariz., is the fund-development coordinator for Sunstone Cancer Support Centers. Prior to obtaining this position, she served as executive director for Advocates, an organization that works to prevent domestic violence.

Cheryl Dickson ('76), Saint Paul, was reappointed to a six-year-term on the board of trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. She served a previous six-year-term as an appointee of Gov. Jesse Ventura. Dickson is a graduate of the Stanford Executive Program, the Humphrey Leadership Program and the Management of Lifelong Education Program at Harvard. She was the president and chief executive officer of the Minnesota Humanities Commission for 25 years.

Patrick Flahaven ('99), Saint Paul, received a Legislative Staff Achievement Award at the National Conference of State Legislatures in July. Flahaven retired as the Secretary of the Minnesota Senate in January this year after serving 36 years, making him the longest serving person in that position.


Polly Grose ('83), Wayzata, received an honorable mention from Reader Views in their annual literary awards for her recently published memoir entitled A London Scrapbook. The memoir spans the last 25 years and tells the story of her midlife romance that drew her from Minnesota to England. Judges described it as a very entertaining and warm memoir.

Patricia Henderson ('76), Bloomington, was inducted into the 2009 USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame and received the Lifetime Achievement Award. She has been active in gymnastics since 1968 and has been a trampoline and tumbling judge from 1971 through the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece and beyond. Henderson has coached, judged and/or taught all of the gymnastic disciplines throughout the United States and in almost 30 countries. She is a recipient of the Women in Sports Award, the Master of Sport Award, the International Gymnastics Federation Silver Recognition, and she is a three-time recipient of the Outstanding Coach of the Year Award (1977, 1989 and 1995).

Mark Hickman ('08), Bloomington, was named Dakota County Technical College’s Outstanding Instructor of 2009. An automotive technology instructor in the General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program, he started teaching at Dakota County Technical College in 1988. Hickman has 11 years’ experience as a General Motors master technician and two years as an independent technician.

Kerrington Hing ('02), Eagle, Colo., was appointed general manager of the Ritz-Carlton Club, Aspen. He is responsible for overseeing the private membership club, which rests at the base of the Aspen Highlands ski area. Hing is a 21-year veteran with Marriott International, Inc. and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Company.

Paul Hoppe ('01), Stillwater, is the chief of police for the city of Wyoming. Hoppe has 18 years experience as a police officer.

Daniel Hughes ('76), Burnsville, retired from his position as chief of police in Shakopee in April. In retirement, Hughes plans to spend his extra time traveling with his wife and enjoying their grandchildren.

Sara Irvine ('98), Mound, is an assistant administrator for the city of Afton. She has a bachelor’s degree in public administration from Metropolitan State and is working on a master’s degree in organizational management from Concordia University.

Andrea Jenkins ('99), Minneapolis, received the 2009 Power of One Award from Pfund, the Minnesota foundation dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality. She is a policy aide to Minneapolis City Council Member Elizabeth Glidden. Jenkins serves on the OutFront Minnesota board of directors and the University of Minnesota All Gender Health community advisory board. Her writings of fiction, nonfiction and poetry on gender and sexuality have been published in the Women’s Press and the International Journal of Transgenderism.

Lisa Knapp ('07), Grand Rapids, has joined Meridian Medical Clinic as a certified nurse practitioner. She has a broad background with an emphasis in women’s health, internal medicine, diabetes management and family practice. Knapp enjoys building partnerships with her patients and facing the challenges of family practice medicine.

Donald W. Kohler ('91), White Bear Lake, practices law in the areas of personal injury, workers’ compensation and estate planning. He is a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 638, the Minnesota Association for Justice, the Minnesota State Bar Association and Ramsey County Bar Association.

Carrie May ('09), Burton, Mich., is a graduate student in the masters of college counseling program at Eastern Michigan University. Last spring May was the first person to graduate from the Metropolitan State Peace Corps Baccalaureate Program. She was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Uganda.

Aaron Nelson ('03), Litchfield, joined the Litchfield Police Department in 2004 and has served as Litchfield’s canine officer since 2006. He has trained his German shepherd companion dog in drug-sniffing procedures. They are both certified by the U.S. Police Canine Association and the National Police Canine Association.

Derek T. Nelson ('05), Ham Lake, was honored as the 2008 Officer of the Year by the Anoka Police Department. He began his career in 2002 as a security officer and volunteered his services as a reserve officer. After completing his B.A., he was hired as a patrol officer in 2006. Nelson teaches the DARE program at Franklin Elementary School.

Halle O’Falvey ('00), Saint Paul, is a staff member at Advocating Change Together, a disability rights organization run by and for people with developmental and other disabilities. She works with its program called Remembering with Dignity, honoring people who lived and died in Minnesota’s state institutions.

Sandy Pappas ('86), Saint Paul, was among nine Classic Lake Conference alumni honored for outstanding achievements last April. Minnesota State Senator Pappas was recognized as the distinguished female alumna in Robbinsdale District 281.

Genevieve Peterson ('78), Coon Rapids, volunteers her time with the Good Neighbors program at the Coon Rapids Civic Center assisting the local food shelf.

Christine Pulkrabek ('97), Inver Grove Heights, joined the National Alliance for Thrombosis and Thrombophilia as the Minnesota chapter director.

Mark Seifert ('08), Shakopee, joined Riverland Bank in Jordan as senior vice president of commercial lending. Seifert has more than 16 years experience in the financial services industry. He began his career in leasing and fleet sales for GE Capital. Most recently, he served as vice president of business banking at M & I Marshall & Ilsley Bank in Chanhassen.
Judy Sherwood ('01), Hugo, was appointed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty to the Minnesota Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy. She works in private practice as a licensed professional counselor and family therapist. Sherwood is a member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

Rei Sudo ('02), Minneapolis, was in the Japanese production of an Australian play, Windmill Baby, by Aboriginal playwright David Milroy. She also translated the play and worked as the dramaturge.

Bob Thelen ('89), Cold Spring, serves on the Cold Spring City Council. He shares that he reached a place in his life where he had a chance to give back to the city and people who had given to him. In addition to serving on the Cold Spring City Council, he is building a new CPA practice specializing in helping small businesses with their tax and financial planning needs. Thelen says he is also trying to spoil his new granddaughter.

IN MEMORIAM

Tillie Anderson ('80), Minneapolis, died on May 1 in Kingsport, Tenn., at age 91. She earned a master of science in nursing when she was 61 years old, then, taught nursing at Metropolitan State for 10 years. Anderson served on the board of directors at Maranatha Nursing Home and volunteered at the Hospitality House.

Nicola Buchanan ('89), Glenville, died March 11. She was a supervising registered nurse for Morning Star Home Health in Albert Lea for eight years. Buchanan and her husband Brent led the music/worship at their church from 2000-2008.

Charles W. Buchholz ('88), Minneapolis, died April 20. He was a vice president with Kraus-Anderson for 26 years and had a second career as a financial advisor.

Juanita Collins ('76), Richfield, died on Feb. 7. She was the first woman elected to the Richfield City Council in 1979. Later she worked for the Minnesota Senate for 15 years. Buchanan was active in the Friendship Force Exchange Program and toured China, Hungary, Turkey and New Guinea with her husband, Jim.

Juli Ann McDaniel ('84), Chicago, Ill., died on May 19. During her career she lived in Kansas City, Manhattan Beach and Chicago. McDaniel attained the position of chief procurement officer for Sarah Lee Corporation. In 2002, she left the corporate world to travel the globe.

Mary Nierengarten ('96), Northfield, died Feb. 22. She worked as an operating room nurse at Northfield and Fairview Southdale Hospitals. In addition, she was a consultant for a medical software company, a clinical educator at Fairview Southdale and a nurse manager at Children’s West in Minnetonka. For four years, she lived and worked in Taipei, Taiwan. Nierengarten was named one of Metropolitan State’s Outstanding Undergraduate Students in 1996.

William Robbins Priedeman, Minnetonka, died Nov. 3, 2008. He was a graduate of Yale University and the Harvard Business School. Priedeman ran several companies during his career; the last before starting his own business was Sci-Med. His company set up and managed field sales organizations in the areas of industrial processing and medical equipment. Priedeman served on the Metropolitan State Alumni Board from 1976-1978 in an advisory capacity as a friend of the university.

Theresa Wadlund ('88), Saint Paul, died July 9. She was a retired employee of 3M and a graduate of Saint Joseph’s Academy.

Carlos Wilcox ('08), Cottage Grove, died July 16 from a missile strike while serving in Iraq with the Minnesota National Guard’s 34th Red Bull Infantry Division. He had been deployed to Iraq on March 2, 2009. He was born in Golden Valley, graduated from Tartan High School in Oakdale and attended Arizona State University and Inver Hills Community College before earning a degree in biology at Metropolitan State.

"In many ways, Carlos was the stereotypical "nontraditional" Metro student," said Bruce Holzschuh, veterans affairs coordinator at Metropolitan State. "He was working, had been out of high school for several years, and he had earned a significant number of credits attending a couple of other colleges and from his military training."

"I recall meeting and talking with Carlos and being impressed by his desire to complete a biology degree with the goal of applying for medical school," said Holzschuh. "I admired his dedication to serving others in his role as a combat medic and for his interest in learning and experiencing other cultures. He had studied abroad in Spain, becoming fluent in the language."

"It was a privilege for me to work with Carlos," said Holzschuh. "His family, his community, and his country have lost a very fine young man."
My Metropolitan State University Decision

By Josh Fischer ('07)

Maybe you can relate. I was 24 years old and had accumulated 60 total credits at a community college. That was my situation—yes, I, Josh—and I wanted out of my predicament and fast.

During my second speech class meeting, students had to stand in front and give a quick introductory speech. (Most importantly, the introduction needed to include a silly, spontaneous personal detail from the predetermined suggested questions the instructor had shown to us the day before.)

“If I had to put anything into a time capsule, I’d put an iPod with Brittany Spears’ new song, ‘Oops, I did it again,’ because it’s timeless,” a 19-year-old female said.

“Yes, I can speak a foreign language, because I’m taking computer classes and I know Java,” an 18-year-old male said.

“A interesting fact about me is I’m 14-years-old.”

Was I in a time-dimension or a warp-zone sucking field? Every student enrolled was getting progressively younger, while I, at 24-years old, was getting older. I didn’t and still don’t harbor any ill feelings or regrets against the community college (except the mile-long walk from the parking lot to class), but I wanted out at that moment.

Okay, maybe you cannot relate directly to this scenario, but we have all been in a time and place where we needed a change.

Yes, I, Josh, often dreamed of attending a utopian place to expand my writing discipline, and I wanted to make this dream into reality. I decided to take solo command of my life and put every ounce I had into starting a saucy investigation to find my utopia and transfer to it.

Mayhem, I thought, pure mayhem would ensue if my quirky mother got involved.

(To avoid any such bloody mayhem, I tiptoed and placed the application packets where my mother or any other family member would not dare ever look—the bookshelf.) Nevertheless, mayhem ensued when I arrived home from my night class and found application pieces ripped, cut and shredded atop the carpet. My mother sat on a green leather love seat, no longer mesmerized by commercial television images. She turned to me and said:

“It’s time we talk, Josh. I did this for a very important reason.”
    “Why?”
    “The numbers are out of balance.”
    “Money? Is that the reason?”
    “No, I ripped up most of your applications because of the figures. Josh, I want you to think about your future. Here take this,” she passed Metropolitan State University’s packet toward me. “Open it and read.”

“Metropolitan State University’s motto is ‘the place where life and learning meet.’ I smiled.

“No, read the average age.”
    “A student’s average age is older than I am; what’s your point?”
    “Josh, I want only the best for you. At Metro State, you can find a potential wife who’s more your age.”

With fierce, animated, superficial determination, my mother went on describing her idea of college life—to attend college only for marriage and if you did not achieve a potential spouse, then you failed. Oddly, my mother’s decision-making processes may not seem too bizarre, at least to me, because other people can be superficial also.

Maybe you can relate to a scenario where someone may have been so superficial as to base their college selection solely on its name brand.

I believe that it is superficial for some people to embrace a name-brand college’s crazy shenanigans, wacky morals and harsh demands. With that said, I looked for a college with class.

Ah, the conundrum “class” will always make me smile.

As much as I had a keen sense of humor, I didn’t particularly enjoy pranks by any fraternity, whose idea of fun was enrolling their mascot dog into classes (especially if any student was forced off the last-minute class list). As much as I would have embraced enrolling in a college solely for females, I knew St. Kate’s would not allow males to take undergraduate courses. Finally, as much as I enjoyed my college life and classmates, it’s preposterous demanding I live on campus to enroll (like a particular Northfield college).

I decided on my mother’s choice (I’ll admit she was right all along), and I discovered her, my soul mate. After all, Metro State’s grandest gifts—integrity, inclusiveness and motto, the place where life and learning meet—were always and are still a utopia, a calling and an everlasting bond for my soul.

Josh Fischer earned his bachelor of arts in writing with a minor in English from Metropolitan State University (’07). While attending the university, he cherished his time as an associate editor for Haute Dish: The Arts & Literature Magazine of Metropolitan State University. He also enjoyed helping out in the Dayton’s Bluff Branch of the Saint Paul Public Library whose location is shared with the Metropolitan State library. Fischer was recently accepted into the Intermedia Arts’ fiction mentorship program. He hopes to finish a collection of short stories soon.
Through Oct. 16, The Diva Project: Minneapolis Community and Technical College’s Annual Fashion Competition, Saint Paul Campus Library, Third Floor Gallery. Gallery hours are Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Oct. 2, Metropolitan State inaugurates its sixth president, Sue K. Hammersmith.

Oct. 15, The College of Arts and Sciences invites its alumni to a celebration of lifelong learning. 6 p.m.—reception and opportunity to tour the Third Floor Gallery, Library and Learning Center, Saint Paul Campus. 7 p.m.—three faculty members will give short talks: Professor Virginia Card, Natural Sciences Department chair will speak on how climate change is impacting Minnesota’s aquatic resources; Professor Doug Rossinow, History Department chair will explore arms control by taking a look at the Reagan Presidency; and Professor Nancy Black, Social Science Department chair, will speak about social transformations among the Maya of Guatemala.

Oct. 30–Dec. 11, City Behavior by Grace MN, Saint Paul Campus Library, Third Floor Gallery. Gallery hours are Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Nov. 11, Veterans Day Observance

Dec. 15, Fall Commencement Ceremony, 6–6:30 p.m. reception, 7–9 p.m. ceremony, Minneapolis Convention Center, Auditorium. If you would like to volunteer, contact Sue Arnos Palmer, commencement coordinator, at 651-793-1823 or e-mail her at sueamos.palmer@metrostate.edu.

For more information about events, sign up for the alumni e-newsletter at alumni.relations@metrostate.edu.
Amy Clark ('04)
For You Paris

Clark's painting was created for the ABC television series *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition.*