Jeanne A. Kosfeld (1997)
Phalen Wildflower One and Phalen Wildflower Two

The paintings by Jeanne A. Kosfeld (1997) were selected by the Metropolitan State Art Exhibition Committee for the 2007 Art Purchase Award. They are displayed in the University Advancement reception area, Saint Paul Campus, Founders Hall, Suite 219.

Cover photo by Tom Roster
The view from New Main is spectacular! As I begin my tenure as the sixth president of Metropolitan State University, let me share some of my initial observations.

New Main is perched atop Dayton’s Bluff, the gateway to Saint Paul’s historic East Side. The Metropolitan State President’s Office offers a striking panorama across Saint Paul. The view includes nature, history, bustling traffic, and monuments to human achievement and enterprise. It’s a complex and dynamic view, and it pulsates with activity.

Close at hand is the green expanse of Swede Hollow and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Trail. Herons and egrets pass by at eye level and the beautiful Mississippi River flows by to the south. The downtown Saint Paul skyline is stretched out before us, including the twin domes of the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the Minnesota State Capitol. Nearby streets and highways are always coursing with activity and the homes of our neighbors—from the West Side to downtown to Frogtown—span the entire vista.

Many facets of Metropolitan State’s mission are reflected in the view from New Main. The interstate highways connect us with our campuses, communities and students across the Twin Cities metroplex. The natural beauty near our campus is in harmony with Metropolitan State’s recent adoption of the “Presidents’ Climate Commitment” to undertake “green” operations and reduce our carbon footprint. The procession of corporate jets that take off from Holman Field and pass by my window signals the international economy in which our graduates pursue their professions. The historic public buildings remind me of Minnesota’s early and sustained commitments to public education, and the Capitol reminds me of the major public policy issues that the university engages with increasing frequency. Metropolitan State University sits at the hub of a vibrant region and we contribute significantly to that vibrancy.

As I take up the presidency of Metropolitan State, this view reminds me of the wonderful opportunities and responsibilities before us. Metropolitan State has a rich history, outstanding people and programs, and a strong set of partnerships and allies. We also enjoy a strategic mission and role that are uniquely well-suited to provide what is needed in today’s diverse, global economy. We are strategically located and well-positioned to meet the educational needs of this dynamic region.

I feel honored to be entrusted with the leadership of this fine institution, and I am excited about the range of opportunities before us. I am confident—as we approach the challenges that face us today—that Metropolitan State University is uniquely well positioned to bring its assets to play for the benefit of the diverse communities and professions we serve.

Universities were “learning communities” before the phrase was invented, and a key to being effective in a university setting is curiosity. I am intensely curious, and now that I am on campus, my new responsibilities give me almost limitless opportunities to continue learning about Metropolitan State and the Twin Cities metropolitan area. I look forward to learning from members of the Alumni Association about the Metropolitan State University you know—how it has shaped your life, what you want to know about new directions at Metropolitan State, and how you want to be involved in its future.

I look forward to meeting you and I welcome your support as we open a new chapter in the story of Metropolitan State University. Please feel free to share your experiences or contact me at president@metrostate.edu.

Sincerely,

President Sue K. Hammersmith
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This newsletter is available in alternative formats if requested. An equal opportunity educator.
Would you like to be a BuzzAlum?

A BuzzAlum is one of our alumni who shares information about Metropolitan State with prospective students. A BuzzAlum shares the b-z-z-z about Metropolitan State as part of a word-of-mouth marketing campaign. Join the scores of alumni who have become BuzzAlums since this program began in June!

Why be a BuzzAlum?
Word-of-mouth is the most powerful and influential form of marketing there is. Personal recommendations are persuasive and can influence potential students to enroll at Metropolitan State.

What do I do as a BuzzAlum?

Alumni Relations will send you informational materials you can share with prospective students. All you need to do is give prospective students that information and tell them about your experience at Metropolitan State. That's it. It's so easy!

Have you ever met a person you thought would benefit from studying at Metropolitan State University? Have you ever wanted to tell a friend or colleague to consider enrolling at Metropolitan State? If you have, spread the b-z-z-z about Metropolitan State University. BuzzAlums receive rewards! Share information about Metropolitan State with prospective students, and you'll receive prizes, prizes, prizes!

Contact the Alumni Relations Office about becoming a BuzzAlum: e-mail: alumni.relations@metrostate.edu phone: 651.793.1810

FROM Bob Hernz, PRESIDENT, ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD

This fall we welcome two new members to the Alumni Association Board. Our aim is to connect to the different colleges within the university, and we have invited two recent graduates to the board, Basha Shaik (2007) from the College of Management and Nancy Wolf (2007) from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Shaik received his master’s in business administration from Metropolitan State in 2007 and was selected outstanding graduate student in the College of Management. He is consulting on a variety of exciting projects including films in India. His past employment includes work at Northwest Airlines, Target and Thrivent Financial. Before coming to the United States in 1999, Shaik worked and was educated in India, his native country. His degrees from universities in India include a master of science in physics, a master of philosophy in physics, and a master of science in computer science and technology. He also has a master’s certificate in project management. He has bachelor’s degrees in mathematics, physics and chemistry. While a student and as an alumnus, he has been actively recruiting prospective students for Metropolitan State.

Wolf graduated from Metropolitan State in 2007 with a bachelor’s and a master’s of science in nursing. She was the outstanding School of Nursing graduate student and student commencement speaker in May 2007. She is a registered nurse and, in the last 10 years, has focused her career on quality improvement in the hospital setting. She is the director of evaluation and product safety at St. Francis Regional Medical Center in Shakopee.

“I am interested in joining the Metropolitan State University Alumni board to serve as an ambassador and advocate for an organization that is near and dear to my heart,” said Wolf.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS
Justin E. Anderson

An Anoka police sergeant, Justin E. Anderson, was selected as the spring 2008 outstanding student in the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Anderson, who supervises five patrol officers, has served as sergeant since 2005. He is also a firearms and use-of-force instructor for Anoka police; serves on its tactical team; hires, trains and coordinates reserve officers; and oversees field training for new officers.

Anderson is an active community volunteer. For the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Anderson teaches Sunday school, coordinates chapel cleaning and maintenance, and serves as a home teacher, making monthly visits to several families and checking on their general welfare.

Previously, Anderson served as youth advisor for the chapel, member of the outreach committee and president of the men’s organization. He also performed two years of mission service in Portugal.

Anderson, who served in the U.S. Army for two years, graduated in 1993 from North Hennepin Community College with an associate degree in law enforcement. The 1986 Anoka High School graduate is married and has three daughters.

Christine Andres

“I absolutely love nursing,” said Christine Andres, a Cambridge nurse who was the spring 2008 outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “Down the road, I really hope to leave an imprint in the field.”

Andres is a registered nurse in the family health division of the Kanabec County Public Health Department. Among other duties, she tends to the needs of disabled and special-needs children and new mothers in home visits. She also provides young children physical screenings and immunizations.

“My most rewarding work is helping families to utilize resources so they can be happier and healthier,” she said. “That’s what keeps me motivated.”

For a Metropolitan State community-based course, Andres headed an initiative on childhood obesity that involved Mora Public Schools. She said that both she and the committee of community members she worked with were passionate about reducing childhood obesity. “As a result, I think we are going to be making some changes that will benefit the community.”

Prior to her studies at Metropolitan State, Andres graduated with a biology degree in 1988 from the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh, earning academic honors. She also won academic honors from Anoka-Ramsey Community College, graduating in 2005 with an associate degree in nursing.

Lisa De Luney

Puerto Rico, Ireland and Malta are all part of Lisa De Luney’s educational journey. De Luney was the spring 2008 outstanding graduate student in the Technical Communication program. “Travel really helped me to see that there are new ways that things can be applied,” says De Luney, “and new ways to learn things, and that there are just different ways to learn things as well.”

Last winter she participated in a newly-offered learning project with the University of Puerto Rico that was coordinated by Metropolitan State Professor Suzanne Walfoort. Initially working with Puerto Rican students online, De Luney then traveled to Puerto Rico and tutored students, staying in touch with them via the Internet after she returned.

De Luney earned her degree while working as a technical writer at a Saint Cloud financial services company.

She also has a 2005 law degree from William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul. It was while earning her law degree that she studied in Ireland and Malta. De Luney also has a 2000
Gregory Drehmel

Gregory Drehmel, a banker and father of five including a set of triplets, was selected as spring 2008 outstanding graduate student in the College of Management.

Drehmel is senior vice president and regional credit officer for TCF National Bank. He oversees four departments and administers a commercial credit portfolio surpassing $1 billion in assets. Drehmel was also recently selected to participate in the TCF Leadership Development program.

Previously, Drehmel, a CPA and member of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, was senior vice president for Anchor Bank, Saint Paul. He has held a number of positions during 26 years in the banking industry.

Drehmel has volunteered for 13 community-based organizations over the years and is currently a Cub Scout den leader. He previously was involved with Rotary International, the Northern Dakota County Chamber of Commerce and the Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center, Burnsville, among other organizations.

He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1987 with a bachelor of science in economics. Drehmel also has three continuing education certificates from the University of Minnesota and has completed two financial services industry training programs.

At Metropolitan State, he participated in the Master of Business Administration for Certified Public Accountants program.

Ochen Kaylan

Eclectic hardly seems to do justice when describing graduate Ochen Kaylan. Consider some of his varied experiences:

- Circus juggler who has performed on stages throughout Europe;
- Public speaker and advocate for felons who’ve served their time but are prohibited from voting;
- Light and sound technician for a midnight cabaret for eclectic artists and performers;
- Digital artist whose work is featured in museums and galleries nationwide;
- Conflict mediator at the Minnesota State Fair for disputes involving fair-goers, vendors and organizations, and
- Caretaker for 30-some chickens on an island within a stone's throw of downtown Minneapolis.

Add them all up and perhaps it’s not surprising Kaylan was selected as the outstanding student in First College.

“I very much appreciate the honor,” especially coming from a student-oriented institution like Metropolitan State, said Kaylan. “It’s very rare for higher-education institutions to actually live up to that promise of being student-focused.”

Since 2003, Kaylan has been the Web producer for American Radio Works, a unit of American Public Media that produces documentaries for public radio. Previously, he was a creative director for a Saint Paul advertising agency and a senior designer for a Minneapolis regional design firm.

He taught interactive design for the Minneapolis College of Art and Design. And Kaylan, winner of a coveted Jerome Fellowship, was manager of digital design at the Walker Art Center, where one of his pieces is in the Walker’s permanent collection.

Several years ago, Kaylan was a juggler for Jonglissimo, a French circus group. “In Europe, people view juggling as a theatrical form,” he
said, “Jugglers are like professional actors.” In fact, renowned jugglers there achieve a celebrity “on par with big movie stars in Europe.”

Not surprisingly, Kaylan’s community service activities are just as varied. He regularly speaks at public schools, agencies and law firms on behalf of felons who have lost voting privileges. In some states, he explains, convicted felons automatically and permanently lose their right to vote; in Minnesota, he said, felons cannot vote while they are in jail, on parole or on probation.

Kaylan also volunteers as light and sound technician for Ball’s Cabaret, Minneapolis, which offers a performance venue for new and established artists.

The 1993 graduate of Los Angeles County High School for the Arts raises chickens on Nicollet Island, located near downtown Minneapolis. He is attending William Mitchell College of Law, Saint Paul, this fall.

Eventually, the married mother of two sons, 20 and 21, would like to teach, perhaps at the undergraduate level.

### Jason Lingard

Jason Lingard is closing in on his decade-long dream to teach in urban public schools. The downtown Target Store employee graduated in May with an elementary education degree and as an outstanding student in the College of Professional Studies.

“Becoming a teacher in an urban setting will probably be the happiest day of my life,” said Lingard, a north Minneapolis resident who has been wheelchair-bound with cerebral palsy for most of his life. “I’ve imagined it many times.” After student teaching and securing a Minnesota teaching license, Lingard will pursue an instructor’s post, most likely in Minneapolis, Saint Paul or surrounding suburbs.

“Jason is an inspiration,” said Rosa Fagundes, his Metropolitan State academic advisor. “He projects resiliency. He has a great sense of humor and creativity. He knows how to listen. There is no doubt that Jason is an excellent role model.”

Lingard, 31, had planned to graduate from a Boise, Idaho, university several years ago. But just as he was about to student-teach in his senior year, the institution’s elementary education department required him to first complete physical and speech therapy.

“They gave me an ultimatum,” said the Boise native. “But I thought it was very discriminatory. I was just being realistic. My disability comes with speech delays and that’s a problem that isn’t going to go away. The only way to deal with it is to do the very best I can. Unfortunately, they wouldn’t give me the benefit of the doubt.”

Instead, Lingard left that university and arrived in Minnesota with his wife in 2003. Three years later, he enrolled at Metropolitan State, where the Disability Services Office helped him with accommodations, including providing him extra test time, note-taking and physical assistance.

As part of his Urban Teacher Program studies at Metropolitan State, he assisted urban children improve their reading for a Minneapolis after-school program. He also volunteered as an English as a second language instructor for Hmong youth at a Minneapolis elementary school.

Lingard identifies with the challenges many inner-city kids confront.

“Some people might see urban children from communities of color and automatically label them as having a learning disability because of the lack of opportunities arising from their circumstances,” he said. “With me, some see my wheelchair first and automatically make assumptions about my learning capabilities. It’s been a challenge…so I can relate to them and the difficult challenges they might face, although these challenges might not be the same.”

Lingard is grateful friends and family refused to let him use his disability as a crutch.

“Rather than feeling sorry for myself and saying, ‘I can’t do this,’ I like to approach an obstacle and say, ‘I can do this. I may have to do it differently, but I can do it just like anybody else.’”

He graduated with honors from his Boise high school and sang in the choir. An active camper and downhill skier (he uses a mono-ski, which has a seat mounted atop one wider ski), he joined an organization whose disabled members enjoyed outdoor adventures. In fact, Lingard once testified in Washington, D.C., before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee, advocating that persons with disabilities should have equal access to Idaho wilderness camping areas.

Lingard, who works part time for the downtown Minneapolis Target Store, said he eagerly awaits an opportunity to teach in front of his first urban classroom.

“I’ve always wanted to help others and give back,” he said. “Working with young children is a great place to start. I hope they can benefit from seeing my positive attitude and outlook on life and mold themselves into good people.”

### Rebekah Jo Lewis

Rebekah Jo Lewis, promotion manager for BestBuy.com and veteran volunteer, was selected as the spring 2008 outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Management. Lewis, who majored in business administration, said she was flattered to be chosen. “I was very much surprised.”

As a Metropolitan State classroom assistant, she helped mostly immigrants and refugees learn English.

“It was incredible to watch how hard they worked to learn English,” said Lewis. “And it was really something for these students to come up to me and hug me when the class ended.”

Her volunteer efforts include four years as an officer for Eden Prairie Boosters, a parent-run organization that promotes and supports that city’s high school’s student activities. She is a former Cub Scout den leader and master. She served as a Sunday school teacher for 21 years in Columbia Heights, Maple Grove and Becker. Lewis is now a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie.
Stacey Markuson

Outstanding in more than one way, Stacey Markuson was selected as spring 2008 outstanding graduate student in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS).

“Stacey Markuson is not only an outstanding student, she is an outstanding clinician,” said Ruth Stauss, CNHS assistant professor. “Her approach to setting small, mutual, health-directed goals with reluctant patients is better than any I have seen, even in seasoned clinicians.”

While doing scholarly research for one of her classes, Markuson discovered correlations between those suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder and later accruing a variety of physical illnesses.

As part of her Metropolitan State studies, she worked at two southwestern Wisconsin clinics. She served on the parent advisory committee for both the Sparta, Wis., Family Education Resource Center and the Fort McCoy Child Development Center.

Markuson previously taught mental health and advanced medical-surgical nursing classes at Normandale Community College, where she was nominated as teacher of the year. She has also worked in the intensive care unit and interventional radiology department at Hennepin County Medical Center.

Markuson has also served as a postpartum nurse in Fort Carson, Colo.; a triage nurse and team leader at a family practice clinic at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs; a travel nurse at two other Colorado hospitals; and an intensive-care nurse at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Markuson, a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, graduated from UW–Madison with a nursing degree where she won academic honors and was an officer in a student nursing organization.

Jennifer Pennington

Jennifer Pennington personifies the liberally educated person. That’s the opinion of Tom O’Connell, Metropolitan State professor and Pennington’s academic advisor. Pennington was selected as the spring 2008 outstanding undergraduate student in the College of Arts and Sciences. “She is an engaging and thoughtful writer…She is willing to think critically about her own positions and those of others. This is a quality of mind, but as importantly I think, it is a quality of spirit,” said O’Connell.

Pennington, a social science major, works part time as the office administrator for the American Civil Liberties Union in Saint Paul. Her work doesn’t stop there. She played an important fund-raising role for the Soap Factory, a Minneapolis nonprofit art gallery. She is a member of Metropolitan State’s African American Student Association and a discussion leader for a university civic engagement conference. She’s interned at Jewish Community Action and served on the organizing committee for Campus Camp Wellstone.

In 2004 she was interim state volunteer coordinator for Music for America, a national organization that educates and engages young voters on issues and registers them to vote. Pennington also helped mentor youths at North High School, Minneapolis.

Future plans include pursuing a Ph.D. and continuing to work in public service. Eventually, she’d like to teach in a college.
The idea for the organization Honoring Women Worldwide came to Nancy Stephan as she toured the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta, Ga. When she heard King's resonant voice in a tape recording of his historic “I Have a Dream” speech, she began to tremble and waves of emotion overtook her. She says it reminded her of growing up while women and girls were treated as second-class citizens.

The following weekend, she took her grandson to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Football Hall of Fame in Ohio. She found very few women in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and no women in the Football Hall of Fame. It was then that she decided that she would help women take their place in the world as leaders.

The trips which sparked this idea were in June 2005. A year later she went to Egypt and the idea took further shape. When she saw the Egyptian tombs of ancient queens called the Valley of the

Alumni Keeping the World in Mind

Nancy Stephan (1987)
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HONORING WOMEN WORLDWIDE

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“I’M GRATEFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITIES I’VE HAD AT METRO STATE AND THE GLOBAL MARKET.”

—Earlsworth “Baba” Letang
Queens, she says she realized that women had an historic role in that culture that was much more profound than it is today. She decided she wanted to do what she could so that women would feel equal and valued. While in Egypt, she kept waking up with the idea that she had to pursue her dream.

When she returned from Egypt, she organized the group called Honoring Women Worldwide. Based in Saint Paul, she included “worldwide” in the name because, she says, “We are in a global world. We are not here in Minnesota by ourselves. If we can’t learn from each other, we can’t create peace and harmony in this world.”

The kick-off event for the organization was in January 2007. It featured the widely-acclaimed author and Jungian analyst Jean Shinoda Bolen, and it was called “Urgent Message from Mother, Gather the Women, Save the World.” Since then there have been monthly events that focus on three things: leveraging women’s leadership; educating across cultures through dance, through music and dialogue; and building community across cultures. Stephan’s desire is that, through these events, women can look at their role in the world and see how to change as individuals as well as change collectively.

Last winter, Stephan was able to attend the 52nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York. She says that experience was both joyful and painful—“the joy was seeing people from all over the world, the pain was that women have not come very far. I am so determined that we are going to do something here to make this happen.”

Eventually she hopes to build what she calls a center of honor. She envisions that this would be a place where people worldwide will come to collaborate, listen to speakers and see performances. It would have a hall of honor of women from different cultures. In addition to that, there would be places to imagine the future.

“It will cost a lot of money,” she says. “On the other hand, there are sports domes and football stadiums.” She adds brightly, “Where there’s a will, there’s a way.”

Stephan studied business, training and development in college. She attended the College of St. Catherine’s Weekend College, and then she attended and graduated from Metropolitan State.

Several Honoring Women Worldwide events have taken place in New Main’s Great Hall on the Saint Paul Campus this past year. Stephan chooses to have them at Metropolitan State because she finds it to be a supportive environment, and one that honors many cultures.

“I have great admiration and respect for Metro State,” she says. “It is focused on diversity, focused on people of all ages and stages. It’s a welcoming community.”

You can find out more about Honoring Women Worldwide online at www.honoringwomenworldwide.org.

Earlsworth “Baba” Letang (2005)
DEPUTY MANAGER, MIDTOWN GLOBAL MARKET

“When people shop here, we want them to get an international experience,” says Earlsworth “Baba” Letang, deputy manager of the Global Market located at Chicago Avenue and Lake Street in Minneapolis. “Although you know you’re in Minnesota, you get to feel like you are in different parts of the world—you go to one location and you feel like you’re in Mexico; you go to another part, and you feel like you’re in China.” The Global Market has food and crafts from 50 different countries.

Letang began working at the Global Market just before it opened in June 2006. This was right after he had graduated from Metropolitan State. “It’s been a great experience—especially coming straight from Metro State—to see the construction happen and stalls emerge and see the beautiful colors. It was a great thing to be here at the beginning. I was able to see the whole project develop.”

His initial job was to schedule the Market’s entertainment, and he chose musical groups from all over the world: salsa dancing, Greek music, steel bands from the Caribbean, and Irish music. Letang now works closely with tenants and is helping to develop a farmer’s market program.

“My favorite part of my work is to fulfill the market’s mission,” said Letang. The Global Market was developed by the Neighborhood Development Center (NDC) whose mission is to build communities from within. The NDC works in low-income communities to help emerging entrepreneurs develop successful businesses.

“To me the greatest part of the Global Market is working with business owners who take risks—just to see the way that the NDC is giving an opportunity to people who otherwise would not get into business, to see their lives improve.”

There are also other contributions. Letang says there is a beneficial economic impact from the business owners who employ about 200 people. He also cites the declining crime rate in the surrounding area that has decreased 25 percent: “We think that the Global Market has contributed to that.”

Letang is proud that the Global Market has received considerable recognition. Earlier this year, City Pages newspaper named it the “Best Mall” and tenants have been cited for everything from “best burrito” to “best soul food” to “best flan” to “best middle east
“I bring international experience to this work,” says Letang. He is originally from the Caribbean island of Dominica, and came to the United States in 2000. “A lot of the people who work in the market are from other countries, so, being an immigrant myself, I understand where they are coming from, the struggles that they go through, the hurdles they must climb.”

“Yesterday I came across a teacher from Wisconsin,” said Letang. “He told me that he wants his students to be exposed to the multicultural environment of the Global Market. That’s the real world in America right now, and he wants his kids to be able to work with many cultures.”

Letang says it’s important to understand that every culture is unique, has different practices, and, sometimes, different ways of thinking.

“At the Global Market, I go up to people and ask them, ‘Why do you do this like that? Why do you keep things like this?’ And then, as you begin to work with them, you begin to understand the reasons why they do certain things, the reasons why they speak in certain ways; and you feel more comfortable with them, and it makes working with them much easier. It really makes you a better person because you learn to appreciate people, it makes you an internationally smart person.”

To find out more about the international experience of the Midtown Global Market, you can go to its Web site: www.midtownglobalmarket.org.

Shahnaz Yousuf (2000)
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, ADHUNIKA

Shahnaz Yousuf is the president of Adhunika, a volunteer organization that has trained hundreds of Bangladeshi women to use computers and created a blog that attracts thousands of users and viewers. “I think it was just building inside,” says Yousuf about why she founded Adhunika. What was building inside her grew from a life lived in two countries, social commitment and a keen interest in computers.

Originally from Bangladesh, Yousuf concentrated on women’s studies as part of her major in social work for her undergraduate degree at Winona State University. “When I first started taking classes, I realized there were so many opportunities that I could pursue that would not only change my life, but would give back and impact other women in Bangladesh.”

As part of her studies she worked for an international organization based in Minneapolis, which was then called Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. Through that connection, she received a fellowship that let her return to Bangladesh to work at the Grameen Bank, which provides credit to the poorest of the poor.

When she returned to Minnesota, she decided that she could do even more if she had a master’s degree, and she chose to study at Metropolitan State: “I was glad to find Metro State because it was affordable and, by that time I was 28, and I didn’t feel out of place to be part of that program.” She received a master’s of business administration in 2000. Then she and her husband moved to New York.

While living in New York—away from her friends in Minnesota and Bangladesh—she decided to expand her technology skills.

“I thought, why don’t I connect with all the girls I used to know in Minnesota and all the friends I have who have access to the Internet?” says Yousuf. “Why don’t we have our own Web site? Why don’t I start doing it, and, maybe if this works, we can build a virtual community over the Net.” These musings were the start of Adhunika.

Adhunika was launched on the Web on March 8, 2002—International Women’s Day. Yousuf encouraged others to contribute to the Web site: “I told people, ‘If you can take pictures, take pictures and be a photographer. You don’t have to be renowned to be published. If you are a stay-at-home mom, take pictures of the garden or something and send it in.’ That was the idea. You can be anyone.”

“Things we take for granted don’t happen in Bangladesh,” says Yousuf. For instance, Yousuf says that in Bangladesh it is only elite and privileged women who can afford computers. She and others involved with Adhunika sought to address this disparity by providing classes for technology training. “Access to information, that was our big thing,” says Yousuf.

In 2005, the Adhunika Bangladesh Society, a Bangladeshi-based nongovernmental organization, was formed; and the New York-based Adhunika Foundation was established to support ongoing projects.

In 2006, an Adhunika member who worked at Microsoft suggested the organization start an interactive section. A blog was suggested. “I had absolutely no idea what a blog was,” says Yousuf, but she thought, “Okay. We’ll find out. It’s not a problem! We’ll just do it!” When the blog first launched, it attracted around 500 viewers a month, which grew to 6,000 per month.

More than 300 girls have now graduated from the Adhunika-sponsored Information Technology for Women Project in Bangladesh. Since 2007 in New York, there have been several Adhunika events on health issues and domestic violence. Looking to the future, Adhunika is planning to launch a Women’s Leadership and Professional Development Initiative.

Yousuf credits her education for inspiring her work. “There’s no limit to it,” she says. “You see the world in a different way.”

For more information, you can contact Yousuf at shahnaz@adhunika.org.
“WHEN I FIRST STARTED TAKING CLASSES, I REALIZED THERE WERE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT I COULD PURSUE.”

—Shahnaz Yousuf

Learn more about Adhunika at www.adhunika.org.
Q&A

What did you study at Metropolitan State?

I was in the first class of the brand new master of management and administration program. I chose Metropolitan State University because of the values it has had a long-time commitment to: lifelong learning, critical thinking, and that it takes people beyond theory and into real-world decision making.
How would your education influence or enhance your work?
Metropolitan State University was an awesome educational experience, and I fully took advantage of it. I’d chosen to focus on strategic leadership and strategic planning—this was an emerging area of one of my mentors, Dr. Allen Yelsey who was the director of strategic planning worldwide for Honeywell Avionics. My educational experience gave me mentors who played a significant role. There was also a gentleman named Richard Diercks who was the director of personnel worldwide for International Multifoods who taught the organizational behavior class. How that helped me was that I gained not only education and knowledge, but mentoring that helped me to go forward pretty quickly in my chosen career area. And I felt that it kept me on the edge in terms of what I could offer in developing to my fullest potential.

Where did you grow up?
I grew up in New Hope. It was, at that time, a village in the west metropolitan area. And it had a good school, and I knew I was going to go to college, and I always wanted to go to graduate school. After I had graduated from the University of Minnesota with a baccalaureate degree, I had looked at other master’s programs, and I was actually accepted into another M.B.A. program, and I declined to pursue that in favor of going to Metropolitan State.

At the time you got your master’s degree, were you working in a nonprofit?
I was at United Way, and then I was recruited to become a senior business consultant with the Metropolitan Economic Development Association. This led me to an opportunity to study directly with Dr. Edwards W. Deming, who helped rebuild Japan after World War II, and was one of the fathers of the quality movement worldwide. I studied a body of knowledge with him that he developed called his system of profound knowledge and that has been the basis of my leadership framework.

How have you seen the Latino community change and grow?
We know from our own research that the Latino community in Minnesota is really comprised not only of people like myself with a heritage such as my grandparents who came from Mexico on my mother’s side, but it is growing in richness and diversity. We know that there are—significantly and distinctively—11 groups of Latinos in terms of the countries of origin. That’s a broader range of diversity in Minnesota’s Latino community than in California. We understand that California has four predominant groups, and here we are in Minnesota, with a population of about 200,000 Latinos, with 11 distinctive groups. At CLUES, we have seen this emergence for many, many years.

What I see is a vitality that the Latinos bring, and add to the vibrancy of a wonderfully diverse Minnesota that we are becoming more and more.

What things do you do outside of work?
Well, I have a full life in that regard. I’ve been a performing artist in many areas. Most recently I have finished composing and arranging for orchestra a brand new work called *Mi Vida Amor*, which is composed for chamber orchestra. I’m very excited about it. As a Latino as well as a composer, I think this is a new contribution that brings in classical music and music of five different continents spanning 300 years, so I’m excited about that.

What do you do outside of work?
I think one of the key values that I found so pleasant at Metropolitan State University was this notion of lifelong learning. My mother—Irene Gomez Bethke, a human rights commissioner for the state of Minnesota—had gotten her baccalaureate degree from Metropolitan State. And, for me, what I really appreciated was this sense that you always are in a learning process. I think Metropolitan State tended to, and it still does, nurture an intellectual curiosity about the world. I just find, overall, there’s a curiosity that naturally leads me to study more and more.

Where did you grow up?
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I understand you have been invited to speak at a conference in South Africa. What’s the conference?
The World Productivity Congress. I met Tor Dahl—who is a chairman of the conference—while he was working with the country of Mexico on quality activities. And it turned out we both had studied and trained with Dr. Edwards Deming. Tor Dahl is just an amazing and profound leader, and I’m honored and humbled to meet somebody who’s having such great worldwide impact. He’s known what our experiences have been at CLUES, and he kindly has invited me to speak at the World Productivity Congress and some cities in South Africa with the hope that CLUES, as a nongovernmental organization, can be an example to other NGOs throughout the world.

Is there anything more you’d like to say?
I’m just deeply grateful and indebted to the wonderful graduate school experience that I had at Metropolitan State. And I’m so honored to see Metropolitan State grow. I was actually brought in as a volunteer consultant to help Metropolitan State many years ago with its first strategic plan. And it is wonderful to see how this fine institution has come of age at a time when we are more diverse, we are more urban, and we have more working adults than ever before. This insures that Metropolitan State University has a great role to play in adding to the quality of life of Minnesota for many years to come.
Ace Reporter
ON THE
Crime Beat

By Harvey Meyer

Caroline Lowe says she's lucky her first day working for WCCO-TV—March 15, 1977—wasn't her last. As a news clerk, her boss asked her to deliver some magazines to a cameraman shooting a fatal fire in south Minneapolis.

"I thought that was kind of strange," said Lowe, "but I didn't question it. So I scooped up a *Time* and *Newsweek* and handed them to the photographer. He looked at me like, 'You are soooo stupid.' It turns out my boss meant film magazines, not publications.

Lowe chuckles now as she recalls speeding back to the newsroom and retrieving the film canisters so the photographer could capture key fire footage. "I've since learned to ask questions to clarify," she said. "I tell that story as an example of how you can overcome things."

For Lowe, that incident was a mere blip on a distinguished 31-year career at WCCO, almost all as a reporter. Considered one of the deans of Twin Cities television, she has covered the crime beat for 28 years, longer than any other local TV reporter.


Lowe has won a bevy of prestigious national, regional and local awards for her reporting. The alumna of Metropolitan State’s School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice has also garnered attention for another reason: She’s a cop, perhaps the only person in the country who doubles as both reporter and police officer.

Every year at the Minnesota State Fair, Lowe dons a two-toned blue uniform and badge and patrols the fairgrounds. That role has proven controversial among some who wonder whether she can turn around and do hard-hitting stories on law enforcement.

But Lowe, a Metropolitan State Alumni Board member who is also a community faculty member, stands by her career-long balanced reporting. Moreover, she said, the dual roles offer an unique—and beneficial—perspective.

"My argument is, once you've walked a mile in their shoes, as small as the fair might be, it gives you additional insight into covering law enforcement," she said. "I believe I ask much better informed questions as a reporter because of the police training I have."

For someone who covers some of the most horrific and ghastly crimes imaginable, Lowe's demeanor is pleasant and open. While she occasionally indulges in gallows humor, no hard-edged cynicism is apparent in person or in her news stories.

Just beneath the surface, however, is a simmering intensity that kicks into overdrive when Lowe covers certain stories, especially those involving rape and murder victims. Her immersion into these and selected investigative and community-service pieces sometimes reaches the point where her husband tells her he can "hear me thinking in the middle of the night." Next to her desk in downtown Minneapolis is a wall of photographs of "cold case" crime victims who silently plea for her continued attention.

"I tell family members of crime victims that the photos remind me of them and drive me to maybe make one more call or do more digging to find out what's new on a crime," she said. "It's satisfying when you can work on a story and be a voice for a family. Those are the kinds of stories where you feel you've made a difference."

Occasionally stories are personally heart rending. She offers her observations and other behind-the-scenes accounts of her reporting in Caroline's Crime Scene Blog. (www.wcco.com/crimesceneblog).

Several years ago one of her regular sources was Sgt. Gerald Vick, who was slain outside a Saint Paul bar.

"It was the first time someone I actually knew had been murdered. It was horrible," said Lowe. "As I was getting ready for work, I was crying in the shower. In between live shots in front of the Saint Paul Police Department, I was crying and my mascara was running. That was very tough."

As challenging as those types of assignments are, Lowe is glad she isn't numbed by them. Quoting Edna Buchanan, a famous Miami crime reporter, Lowe said, "I don't want to develop calluses on my heart."

Sometimes her stories have spilled over into community-service advocacy. She helped spearhead creation of a private waiting room at the Minneapolis Police Department for child abuse and sexual assault victims. She also assisted in establishing a reading room for children whose parents are incarcerated in the Hennepin County jail.

Lowe won the Minnesota Association of Crime Victims Media Attention Service Award, the first ever offered to a newsperson.
“It’s satisfying when you can work on a story and be a voice for a family. Those are the kinds of stories where you feel you’ve made a difference.”

Caroline Lowe
“I do think being a police reporter is a calling for me,” said Lowe. That’s ironic, she acknowledges, since she had no such career aspirations as a kid.

Growing up in Washington, D.C., the center of the political universe, Lowe was intent on running for Congress. In fact, she majored in political science (but didn’t finish at Trinity College) and volunteered, interned and worked full-time on Capitol Hill.

But when she migrated to the Twin Cities in early 1977, she opted to try news reporting. She started at WCCO as a newsroom clerk for $125 per week and learned the basics of journalism—she never took a journalism class—from legendary WCCO anchormen Dave Moore and Don Shelby, among others. After serving as a news researcher, she won a job as full-time reporter in 1981.

Soon Lowe was covering a crime beat that was chockablock with headline-grabbing cases such as chloroform murders and a six-year-old girl who was abducted from a Saint Paul public restroom and later discovered in a dumpster. She soon made history—and captured considerable attention—as the first WCCO reporter to continue doing on-air stories while pregnant; photographers in 1984 shot her from the shoulders up.

The stories that garnered the most recognition were her I-Team investigative pieces. In 1994, she went undercover, wearing a wig and fake glasses, and reported on several downtown Minneapolis patrol officers who slept on the job in a movie theater, hung out in strip joints and played pinball while elderly women were being hassled at bus stops. The stories prompted a wholesale reorganization of the downtown patrol unit. Lowe won the Alfred I. DuPont Columbia Award for those pieces, among the most prestigious honors in TV journalism, and two regional Emmy Awards and a Sweepstakes Award from the Society of Professional Journalists. She appeared on “Oprah” to discuss the stories, one of several times she’s appeared on national network shows.

Other Lowe stories about a possible suspect in the disappearance of Mason City, Iowa, anchorwoman Jodi Huisentruit helped investigators link that man to two unrelated unsolved cases through DNA tests. She appeared on ABC’s 20/20 to discuss her exhaustive work to find Huisentruit’s killer.

“The best reporters I know are very similar to the best law enforcement investigators,” said Lowe, who has sometimes imagined herself as a state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agent. “They have the digging instincts, the relationship-building skills, and they want to get justice and serve the community.”

The next week she signed up for a criminal justice class at Metropolitan State, which motivated her to attain a B.S. in law enforcement.

The honors graduate was chosen the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice’s spring 2002 outstanding student and student speaker. Sitting in the audience as she delivered the student commencement speech were her mother and 80-year-old father, who died just a few months later.

“The degree was big for my dad. He was very proud,” said Lowe, who has since obtained her master’s degree. “I was the only one of four daughters who didn’t have one.”

Lowe went on to attend eight weeks of “cop school,” where she learned how to fire a gun and other hands-on skills. She takes 48 hours of credit and training every three years to keep up her police license. Separately, she has been Tasered and, while wearing a bulky padded suit, been attacked by police K-9s. During her six years at the state fair, she has assisted with arrests and taken people into custody.

“A lot of times people at the fair will ask me, ‘Why do I know you?’” she laughed. “Or they will recognize me and ask if I’m working undercover.”

Lowe has debated her role as state fair patrol officer, as well as media and law enforcement generally, in local and national speeches and conferences. She has written about those topics in several media and academic journals. And she discusses the subject in a Metropolitan State class she teaches called, “Criminal Justice and the Media.”

“I love being back in the classroom,” said Lowe. “When you’re covering crime day to day, you get caught up in the immediacy of things. I like looking at the big picture and using more critical-thinking skills.”

Because of her affinity for the university, she had little reservation accepting an invitation to serve on Metropolitan State’s Alumni Association Board.

“If Metropolitan State hadn’t been there, I probably wouldn’t have gone back to school,” said Lowe. Like so many nontraditional adults, it accommodated her busy family (she has four children) and work schedule. She especially cherishes the university’s quality instructors, many of whom are well-known law enforcement practitioners.

“I’m constantly telling people that it’s never too late to go to college and to consider Metropolitan State. A degree offers you so many opportunities, some of which you may not even be aware of.”
What is your favorite Metropolitan State story?
It’s hard to think of one favorite story…Okay, I think I just thought of one. As a faculty person, I worked with the GLBT student group, and there was an incident in which Anne Phibbs had sent out a message inviting people to one of the things that we were doing, and somebody sent back a message through the interoffice mail saying, you know, “Quit sending me your stuff. You guys are weirdos…” And I think President Bradshaw’s response—and the overall university response—just made me really proud to be here. Just saying that this kind of intolerance is not okay here at our Metropolitan State family, and we’re not going to accept it.

Choose a favorite giant in the field of medicine: Albert Schweitzer, Florence Nightingale or Jonas Salk.
That would, of course, have to be Florence Nightingale.

Why did you choose Florence Nightingale?
Because of what she did for the development of nursing as a science and an art, and moving nursing forward as a profession. That really changed it for the entire world. Even though she didn’t push the envelope—or couldn’t push the envelope as much as she would have liked—she was really a feminist as well. That’s one of the reasons she would be one of my favorites.

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Anne Aronson, professor, Communication, Writing and the Arts Department, College of Arts and Sciences, is the recipient of the Elizabeth Shippee Award, given by the university’s Women’s Commission to a member of the university community who has demonstrated outstanding service to women and girls. Aronson has long had an interest in, and has taught courses in, women’s studies. She has a special interest in feminist theory as it relates to gender and sports. She has done research nationally and internationally on women’s baseball and has published articles such as “Girls Deserve an Equal Shot at the Great American Pastime,” which appeared in the Minneapolis Star Tribune; and “Leveling the Playing Field at the Springvale Baseball Club” for the Elysian Fields Quarterly: The Baseball Review. She presented a paper entitled “Not Just a Hit and a Giggle: Women’s Baseball in Australia” at the 2007 spring meeting of the Society for American Baseball Research.

Allen Bellas, associate professor, College of Management, has coauthored an article with Ian Lange, Environmental Protection Agency researcher, that was published in the April 2008 issue of Energy Journal titled “Policy Innovation Impacts on Scrubber Electricity Usage.”

Mary Brekke, professor, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, officially retired at the end of spring semester 2008, and is now a professor emerita. During her 26 years teaching at Metropolitan State, Brekke witnessed the program germinate, flower and recently, burst into full bloom. Today the program enrolls more than 300 students and has nine resident faculty and 20-some community faculty. In addition to the bachelor’s and master’s of science programs, the college recently launched a Doctorate of Nursing Practice, the first doctorate in the university’s 37-year history.

Brekke had much to do with the nursing program’s maturation. She was department coordinator in the early 1990s. She left her most indelible mark with the holistic nursing principles taught in many of the undergraduate and graduate courses. Those principles, which take into account body, mind and spirit and are receptive to alternative healing treatments like yoga, acupuncture, healing touch and energy therapies, helped distinguish the Metropolitan State program from other Minnesota colleges and universities. These holistic tenets prompted the American Holistic Nurses Association Certification Corporation to endorse the undergraduate program, likely offering students a competitive advantage.

Alison McGhee, associate professor, Communication, Writing and the Arts Department, College of Arts and Sciences, was selected as a finalist for the 20th Annual Minnesota Book Awards. She was nominated in the Young Adult Literature category for her novel, Falling Boy.

Nancy Nentl, associate professor of marketing, College of Management (CM), and Roger Prestwich, associate professor of international business, CM, have been presented Certificates of Appreciation by the U.S. Commercial Service (USCS) for their contributions of insight and opinion to one of only four focus groups nationwide dealing with USCS branding. They were asked to provide input regarding their perceptions of the USCS as an organization promoting international sales, its brand identification and value, and the competitiveness of the brand services when compared with similar international trade service organizations. This was a great opportunity for Nentl and Prestwich to provide their honest evaluations of the USCS, and they look forward to seeing the results of their endeavor when the USCS unveils its rebranding as a more customer-focused organization later this year.

Narasimha Paravastu, assistant professor, College of Management, has coauthored an article with Dr. David Gefen and Dr. Nitza Geri, “Vive la Difference: The Cross-Culture Differences Within Us” published in volume 3, issue 3, of the Internal Journal of e-Collaboration (IjeC). The article was selected by the Editorial Review Board as the best article published in IjeC during the year 2007.

Daryl Parks, associate professor of literature and language for the Urban Teacher Program, College of Arts and Sciences, was named Century College’s 2008 Alum of the Year. After his start at Century College in 1989, he transferred to the University of Minnesota and earned his B.A. in English summa cum laude in 1994, his master of education in 1998 and his Ph.D. in education in 2005. His focus has been on social class, race and public education. He has recently coauthored a book, High School Students’ Competing Social Worlds, which has been nominated for a national prize in reading research.


Erica Spitzer Rasmussen, associate professor, Communication, Writing and the Arts Department, College of Arts and Sciences, is this year’s juror at Fiberworks 2008, the top juried show for fiber artists, now celebrating its 30th anniversary. Fiberworks 2008 took place in downtown Oklahoma City, showcasing the best work from fiber artists across Oklahoma, including weaving, needlework, basketry, art quilting, felted work, paper and other works primarily constructed of fiber. Rasmussen teaches studio art. For more information, go to www.fiberartistsok.org.

HISTORY NEWS NETWORK CHOOSES FACULTY MEMBER DOUG ROSSINOW AS A "TOP YOUNG HISTORIAN"

“Top Young Historians” profiled on George Mason University’s History News Network Web site are considered to have made outstanding contributions through their commitment and achievement in scholarship and teaching. They are also considered to be highly regarded outside academia for their expertise. Doug Rossinow was profiled on the Web site in March 2008.

Visions of Progress is an ambitious and brilliant book.
Doug Rossinow interprets a broad swath of political and intellectual history in a wonderfully provocative fashion. The book should inspire debates among activists and politicians, as well as among his fellow historians. —MICHAEL KAZIN, PROFESSOR, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, ON VISIONS OF PROGRESS

“A beautifully, elegantly written work, which will change the writing of U.S. history textbooks and the content of lectures in the U.S. history surveys.” —DANIEL HOROWITZ, PROFESSOR, SMITH COLLEGE, ON THE POLITICS OF AUTHENTICITY

“Brilliant....The most persuasive interpretation yet of this particular vision of authenticity, democracy, and individual freedom.” —SARA EVANS, REGENT’S PROFESSOR (RETIRED), UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, ON THE POLITICS OF AUTHENTICITY

“This instructor epitomized what a good teacher is. He focuses his teaching on the encouragement of critical thinking.... He is very respectful of his students and...very humble.”... “The instructor helped you learn and was very passionate about the subject. Mr. Rossinow made you learn, I don’t think anyone could fail with his teaching methods.”... “Doug Rossinow is a master at his subject....He stimulated the class by providing thought provoking questions. His perceptions and thoughts on this class caused a personal awakening in me and helped me to ‘open’ some of the lost memories transpiring during this important period of history. I respect and admire his opinions regarding the period.” —STUDENTS

See more online at http://hnn.us/roundup/entries/48193.html.
LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR HISTORY

Faculty member Sandra Becker with students Donna Lundquist, Michael Port and Gloria Walker in a writing class, Oct. 24, 1978

Community faculty member Carla Messman with a student at Mount Zion Temple

1971
Above Walgreens, 421 Wabasha Street, Saint Paul

1973
Metro Square
121 Seventh Street, Saint Paul

1975
Minneapolis Center
IDS Center, 717 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis

1979
Minneapolis Center
Hennepin Center for the Arts
528 Hennepin Avenue, Suite 404, Minneapolis

1980
Career-Life Planning Office
Riverwood School, 7150 East River Road, Fridley

Sabathani Community Center
310 East 38th Street, Minneapolis
Coretta Scott King (center) in the library at Sabathani Community Center, Oct. 1, 1985. Metropolitan State sponsored a public lecture by her.

Metropolitan State students gather for an orientation session at a high school gym

Faculty member Ron Salzberger teaching a class in the upper lounge at the old Science Museum of Minnesota

1983
More than 100 Metropolitan State classroom sites throughout the Twin Cities

1990
Minneapolis Campus
730 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis

1992
Saint Paul Campus
700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul

1994
Midway Center
1450 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul

2005
Minneapolis Campus
co-located with Minneapolis Community and Technical College, 1501 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis
Ways to Give: Planned Gifts

There are almost as many variations on ways to make a donation as there are needs to be met. Check out the Metropolitan State Foundation Web site and discover new ways to make a gift that also takes into consideration your personal circumstances and the needs of your heirs.

You’ll find the information you need on the Metropolitan State Web site: www.metrostate.edu/foundation/Planned_Giving.html.

Or contact Development Director Rob Larson at 651.793.1813 or info.giving@metrostate.edu.

Explore the value of charitable gifts that require a little thought, but pay off in big benefits to you, your family and Metropolitan State University Foundation.

Todd Nicholson: Donor of the Year

Todd Nicholson wants you to know about Metropolitan State. If Nicholson had his way, Metropolitan State’s popularity would surpass that of A-list Hollywood celebrities. As it is, he’s been promoting the university whenever and wherever he can.

Nicholson has served on the university’s Foundation Board for nine years and has just finished a two-year term as chair of the board. He has also served as chair of the Annual Fund Campaign, as well as serving on the Foundation’s executive, nominating, finance, audit and development committees. He has also served on the Reatha Clark King/Reginald and Francis Coakley-Ames Scholarship and Kopp Presidential/Sit Academic Scholarship committees, and established the Ad Hoc Scholarship and Investment Evaluation committees during his tenure.

Nicholson was honored as Donor of the Year at the President’s Recognition Dinner on June 5. He was chosen for the honor as he has been instrumental in fortifying fund-raising, financial reporting, investment strategies and scholarship administration. Nicholson has championed the support of legislators, alumni and other key stakeholders on behalf of the university. And, through his family foundation, he presented the largest individual gift to Metropolitan State, designating it for the library endowment. The Nicholson Information Commons in the library stands in tribute to his contributions.

In accepting the Donor of the Year award, Nicholson outlined five reasons why he supports Metropolitan State and considers it a treasure concealed from too many Minnesotans:

1) The university’s unique niche. Nicholson is proud that many nontraditional adults and students from communities of color are attracted to the school. He noted that more than 26 percent of the students are from underrepresented populations, the highest percentage among the state’s universities. “That’s a very good thing,” said Nicholson. “There is a lot of need out there.”

2) Metropolitan State offers “good bang for the buck.” “We continue to be the most affordable public university in Minnesota,” said Nicholson. “It’s still a very good deal for those attending school here.”

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”
—WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

WHO Lit YOUR FiRE?

Was there a certain teacher who allowed you to see the world in a different way? Did someone mentor you and ignite your passion for a specific career? Was your life or career transformed by your Metropolitan State experience?

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

Help us today to blaze Metropolitan State's future by giving a gift of support to the 2008–2009 Annual Fund:

• Give online at www.metrostate.edu/foundation
• Mail your gift using the form inserted in this magazine
• Call the Annual Fund hotline at 651.793.1810.

24 BUZZ Metropolitan State University
3) Several innovative university collaborative ventures and programs. Nicholson hailed several alliances the university has forged in recent years: The library’s partnership with the Saint Paul Public Library system, the only such collaboration in Minnesota; the colocation with the Minneapolis Community and Technical College; teaming up with Hennepin Technical College to offer the Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Center; the HealthPartners Simulation Center for Patient Safety, which enables health professionals to practice medical procedures and enhance patient safety; and the Travelers Pathways Program, a partnership with Travelers Insurance that establishes a minor in risk management and offers scholarships to students pursuing an insurance career.

“These partnerships help the university to become more efficient and creative in how it uses resources,” said Nicholson. This is now more important for public universities, he noted, because of the decline in state funding.

He singled out two particularly innovative programs at Metropolitan State: The Urban Teacher Program, which trains teachers to effectively teach in the often-challenging urban public schools; and the Power of YOU, a scholarship program that offers Minneapolis and Saint Paul high school graduates free tuition for their first two years of postsecondary education.

4) A dedicated Foundation board and executive committee.

“There is no doubt their hearts are in their work,” he said. “They are trying to make a difference.”

5) A committed administration, staff and faculty. “Most have a deep passion for Metropolitan State and its mission,” said Nicholson. “I enjoyed my interaction with all of them during my board tenure.” In particular, he cited the Foundation staff as being a “real joy to work with…We’ve been through thick and thin times together.”

Nicholson is the former president, CEO and owner of Litho Express Inc., a Saint Paul media printing and packaging company. He is one of the original limited partners of the Minnesota Wild NHL hockey team, a founding board member of Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning LLC, a promising renewable energy firm in Honolulu and presides over his family foundation.

Nicholson has also been active in Twin Cities area community service for years. He has participated in the Rotary Club of Saint Paul since 1993, serving on the board, and was a board member for the American Red Cross, Saint Paul Chapter; District Energy, Saint Paul; Family Service, Inc.; the Minnesota Independent School Forum, Inc.; and served as president of the Saint Paul Academy/Summit School Alumni Council.

Nicholson’s term as Foundation Board chair ended April 15, and he will continue serving on the board for one more year as past chair. Even after he leaves the Foundation Board, Nicholson plans to stay in contact with Metropolitan State.

“I plan on keeping in touch with this special university,” he said, “and to support it for years to come.”

“We continue to be the most affordable public university in Minnesota”
Susan M. Arneson (1987), Titusville, Fla., was recently awarded the “Spiritual Volunteer of the Year” at Parris Medical Center (PMC) in Titusville. Now retired, Arneson enjoys volunteering as a spiritual worker at the center, and her work involves providing emotional and spiritual support for seriously and chronically ill patients as part of a certified palliative care program at PMC.

Creig Andreasen (1997), Minneapolis, joined Messerli & Kramer P.A.'s Corporate Finance and Securities Group. Andreasen focuses his practice on business law, real estate, and corporate matters and services. He received his juris doctor from William Mitchell College of Law. He is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association, Hennepin County Bar Association and Minnesota Shopping Center Association.

Mildred M. Bynum (2001), Denton, Texas, works as the coordinator of new student programs at the University of North Texas.

Kevin Cedergren (1976), Chaska, has been promoted to manager of the juvenile division of the Carver County Attorney staff. He has served as an assistant Carver County attorney since 1997. The division is responsible for prosecuting juvenile delinquents and protecting abused and neglected children. Cedergren helped pioneer some of the first disease-model, adolescent chemical dependency programs in Minnesota and the country.

Millie Chandler (1998), Rockford, Ill., was featured in the Rockford Register Star. Chandler, who graduated from Metropolitan State at the age of 71, is putting the writing classes she took to good use and helping other senior citizens pen their life stories. She is the author of A Mother’s Story of Changing Times: Pages of Life, A Memoir.

Doreen Clark (2006), Eden Prairie, is the senior communication specialist for Northwest pilots within the Air Line Pilots Association, International. She handles all internal and external communication to both the media and the pilots. Clark is studying for her M.B.A. in marketing from the University of Phoenix while working full time.

Ramona L. Dohman (1998), Maple Grove, was reappointed to the Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board) by Gov. Tim Pawlenty. The POST Board establishes minimum qualifications and standards of conduct and regulates professional peace officer education and continuing education programs. Dohman has been the Maple Grove police chief since 2001 and has held a number of positions with the Maple Grove Police Department since 1984. She is also currently the second vice president of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association.

Helen Federline (1994), Buffalo, has been elected to the position of region II director for the National Federation of Paralegal Associations’ 2007–2008 term. She has more than 14 years of experience in probate, estate planning and real estate. She is the owner of HMS Paralegal, providing freelance/contract paralegal services to area attorneys.

Richard Franson (1976), Minneapolis, was certified to be a member of the American Legion in good standing continuously for 50 years and was cited as an outstanding contributor to the programs of that organization.

Jamaal A. Hamid (2008), Salt Lake City, Utah, works as an office manager/accountant at Asian Association of Utah.

Jennifer Hays (1998), Berlin, Germany, graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a master’s degree in software systems.

Scott Henkel (1980), Victoria, was promoted to senior vice president, operations and chief information officer, at Capella Education Company.

Elise Hernandez (1996), Pine River, was recognized as an outstanding business owner in the June special edition of Minneapolis/Saint Paul Business Journal recognizing minority business owners. Hernandez is the CEO and president of Ideal System Solutions, Inc.

Gil Huie (1998), Brooklyn Park, was awarded the 2008 President’s Award for Outstanding Service by the University of Minnesota. This award is presented each year to faculty and staff of the University of Minnesota who have demonstrated an unusual commitment to the community beyond their regular duties. Huie works as a tool and die maker and lab machine specialist at the University of Minnesota's Civil Engineering Department.

Martin Jensen (2006), Hudson, Wis., has been appointed police chief for the city of Hudson.

Kristi Kamish-Bushinski (2005), Woodbury, has opened a new counseling office in Woodbury. Her areas of focus are marital and parental concerns, life stage transitions, and relational conflicts.

Tom Kleich (1993), Oakdale, has been promoted to director of sales—trucks at Horton, Inc. He has worked in the heavy-duty engine components market for more than 20 years.

Joe Manthei (2007), Mora, works at Mille Lacs Health System as a staff nurse in acute care. He is also part of a software building team and designs PowerPoint presentations used for training and supporting staff.

Susan E. Marsh (2001), Lakeville, joined Hellmuth & Johnson, PLLC, as chief operating officer. She oversees all aspects of the firm’s financial, administrative and logistical operations. Marsh, a certified public accountant, has an extensive background in law firm accounting, operations and technology.

Chris Martin (2007), Woodbury, is a police officer in the Duluth area.

Kathleen Meyer (1996), Forest Lake, was recognized as an outstanding business owner in the June special edition.
of Minneapolis/Saint Paul Business Journal recognizing minority business owners. Meyer is the CEO of Meyer Contracting.

**H. Dan Mitchell** (1985), Hastings, has been selected to serve as director of mortgage examinations. This new position was created by the state legislature to oversee licensed residential mortgage companies.

**Adam Moen** (2007), Vadnais Heights, is a police officer for the city of Brooklyn Park.

**Scott Nadeau** (1998, 2004), St. Michael, is the police chief of Columbia Heights. Prior to becoming the police chief, Nadeau worked for the Brooklyn Center Police Department as a community service officer, police officer, beat officer, detective, sergeant and commander. He has also taught law enforcement and criminal justice courses at Metropolitan State for the past four years.

**Betty Brandt Passick** (1996), Oakdale, has started a communications business, Betty Brandt Passick Communications, offering services that include Web site content/design, grant writing, newsletters and annual reports. She previously worked for 3M for 10 years.

**Danielle Pryor** (2005), Minneapolis, is a community organizer with Workers Interfaith Network, a nonprofit organization that works with low-wage workers for better working conditions in the Twin Cities.

**William Ray** (1984), Plainfield, N.J., has been enjoying travel and other community activities since his retirement from AT&T.

**Scott Ristine** (2003), Blaine, is a police officer for the city of Brooklyn Park.

**Ramraj Singh** (1976), Burnsville, has retired after 14 years as community education director for the Rosemount–Apple Valley–Eagan School District. He said that it was part of his work philosophy that every person, no matter his or her title, is equally essential to carrying out the community education mission: to provide quality lifelong learning opportunities for all residents of the district.

**John Sipe** (1991), Cottage Grove, retired on July 1 as a senior corporate security officer from Securian Financial Group.

**Jessica Stumpf** (1998), Saint Paul, is the vice president of academic affairs at Minnesota State College–Southeast Technical in Red Wing. During her career, she has held positions in customized training, enrollment services, and as a dean at several state institutions, including Hennepin Technical College, Dakota Technical College and Century College.

**Muriel L. Ganje** (1977), Plymouth, died May 28. Ganje worked as a nursing home administrator for many years. She was a member of Sweet Adelines and was deeply involved in her church and was a lover of music, art, travel, food and people. She is survived by daughters, sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Eda L. Lancaster** (1977), Mendota Heights, died Nov. 10, 2007, after a courageous battle with breast cancer. She had a professional career in business and marketing. She is survived by her husband, children, grandchildren, her mother, sisters and brother.

**Philip K. Spohn, Jr.** (1994), Eagan, died Jan. 12. He was employed by Northwest Airlines. He is survived by his wife, daughter, mother and siblings.

**Sim Edward Varner**, Saint Louis Park, died Feb. 28 from cancer. He spent over 30 years as a teacher at Fred Moore Junior High School in Anoka and also taught theater for 20 years as community faculty at Metropolitan State. He is survived by three children and four grandchildren.

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**Here’s my card**

*Alumni business cards can be viewed online at www.metrostate.edu/alumni. Network and support your alumni community by checking out the business cards—find out who works where.*

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**Books in Brief**

**Sundogs**

**SILAS ROGERS** (1993)

*Sundogs* is a collection of poems written by James Silas Rogers (1993). Rogers is the managing director of the Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas and editor of the journal *New Hibernia Review*. *Sundogs* is published by the Parallel Press.

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**Bloody Halls**

**CARL BROOKINS**

Carl Brookins’ new murder mystery, *Bloody Halls*, takes place at an urban college that caters to working adults. Brookins is a retired Metropolitan State admissions counselor and community faculty member. *Bloody Halls* is published by Echelon Press, LLC.

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**Gender and Information Technology**

**MARY KIRK**

*Gender and Information Technology: Moving Beyond Access to Co-Create Global Partnership* is a new book by Mary Kirk, associate professor, First College. The book offers an interdisciplinary, social systems perspective on how to move towards partnership in order to co-create a worldwide digital revolution. The book is published by IGI Global and more information about it is available at www.igi-global.com.

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**IN MEMORIAM**

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From Poverty to Prosperity to Poverty and Then a Career


Becoming a single mother with no college education and minimal work experience thrust me into poverty at an early age. Then I found a job with a large manufacturing company that paid well, and soon I became a prosperous single mother. However, I knew that factory work was not going to be the best work for me, nor was it very fulfilling, so I began furthering my college education.

My dream was, and still is, to develop staff to their fullest potential in order to promote them within a business. I chose a major in organizational communication with a minor in adult training and development at Metropolitan State, and my life looked to be on track.

As I continued my college education, I was promoted within the company. Unfortunately, my dream to develop the talent within the company was not overly popular with my employer. Then, due to an injury I had, the company did not feel they were able to accommodate me any longer. I found myself unemployed. Thus, my launch back into poverty. It was extremely difficult to have the company I put so much energy and passion into, turn its back on me. This was just after 9/11 and the U.S. economy began to take a downward spin. Without a full-time job, I thought I would not make it.

Had it not been for my family and friends’ continued support and belief in me, I’m not sure where I’d be today. Then I landed a part-time job with the Washington County Historic Courthouse. I had an excellent supervisor who gave me encouragement to keep working on my degree. I also had an exceptional advisor at Metropolitan State, Professor Becky Omdahl, who kept me on track and thinking about my outcome.

I chose an internship at the Lake Benton Minnesota Chamber because it gave me public relations and marketing work experience for my communication major. To gain work experience towards my adult training and development minor, I took another internship with Goodwill Easter Seals.

Also, as luck would have it, my financial aid letter said I qualified for work study and the university was in need of someone to help develop a way for students and supervisors to connect online. This was a perfect job for me! To see what I was working on, check out Metropolitan State University’s student employment page at http://www.metrostate.edu/studentjobs/index.html.

It took me three years to complete my education while working several part-time jobs, a full-time job and surgery to correct my injury—but I did it!

I graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in 2004. Having a degree gives me confidence that I can pursue my dream. I know I have skills that employers need and want so I will have a successful career. Since graduation I’ve landed three professional jobs including my current position with MinnesotaWorks.net, which is a free online job bank for employers and job seekers. This position is the closest I’ve ever been to my dream, and it would not have been possible without my completion of college and the strategic positions I chose during the process.

So what does this all mean for you and why should you care?

Today in the job bank we see many jobs that require a college education. As we look at the projected job growth and replacement occupations to 2016, over 52 percent will require college education. Plain and simple—encourage others to get their degree and also consider furthering your own college education. Also, make sure you focus your internships, volunteer positions, graduate, part-time and full-time work in areas that give you an edge into the career you desire, because this is the type of experience you can put on your resume to convince employers to hire you.

An education worked for me and brought me the work I dreamt about. I encourage you to tell your friends and colleagues to jump back in school, get a degree and one day join us in the alumni community!

Karen Underhill is a marketer for MinnesotaWorks.net, a job bank free for employers and job seekers from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

We welcome submissions for the column “From You,” but we publish only one submission per issue. Submissions may be sent to Alumni Relations at alumni.relations@metrostate.edu.
Oct. 9–Oct. 31  State of Grace by Ursula Burke: a North Star Production, Saint Paul Campus Library, Third Floor Gallery. Reception: Oct. 9, 4–7 p.m. Exhibit continues through Oct. 31. Gallery hours are Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m.

Oct. 17–Nov. 21  Strange Attractors 19 will feature experimental music and intermedia artworks, Saint Paul Campus, Fine Arts Studio, 677 East Seventh Street. For more information, contact David Means, associate professor, College of Arts and Sciences, at 651-793-1434 or e-mail david.means@metrostate.edu.

Oct. 21, 2008 Scholarship Luncheon to take place in the Jackson Room at Travelers corporate headquarters. For more information and to r.s.v.p, please contact Chesay Colson, development office staff, at 651-793-1816 or chesay.colson@metrostate.edu.

Oct. 24, 7 p.m., Minnesota Sinfonia Concert, Great Winter Festival I, Saint Paul Campus, Auditorium, Metropolitan State University. Anna Polonsky, piano, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 1. The concert is free and no reservations are required, but seating is first come, first served. For more concert information, visit the Minnesota Sinfonia Web site at www.mnsinfonia.org.


Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Minnesota Sinfonia Concert, Holiday Pops, Metropolitan State University, Saint Paul Campus, Auditorium. The concert is free and no reservations are required, but seating is first come, first served. For more concert information, visit the Minnesota Sinfonia Web site at www.mnsinfonia.org.

Dec. 16, 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 Amos Palmer, commencement coordinator, at 651-793-1823 or e-mail her at sueamos.palmer@metrostate.edu.
*Split Rock Sunrise*, Minnesota
Zimmer's photos have been included in several exhibits this past year, including Chanhassen and Waconia libraries.