One area of growth for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) is international study, research and collaboration. Here are just a few international projects that faculty and students have been involved in during the past year. The four projects described below span four continents.

**HUNGARY** Jeanne Grant (History) and Andrew Cseter (TRiO director), led a group 17 students enrolled in History 353A to Hungary for a study abroad experience during spring break 2010. Prior to traveling abroad, students learned about Hungarian history and even received some language lessons from Cseter, whose parents emigrated from Hungary. Students spent several days in Budapest, visiting museums and learning about many aspects of Hungarian history, including the experience of Hungarian Jews and the country’s history with Communism. They also took day trips to towns outside Budapest, where they visited with elementary and high school students learning English.

“We like to call this project a ‘global experience,’ not a trip,” says Grant. “The biggest benefit to students was that they actually got to visit the place, got to experience the art, geography, literature and history instead of just reading about it.” Grant hopes to lead another “global experience” next year, this time to the Czech Republic.

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UGANDA  Kris Frykman (Communication, Writing and the Arts) traveled to Uganda in summer 2009 under the auspices of the organization, Teach and Tour Sojourners (TATS). She gave presentations on design, written and visual storytelling, drawing and calligraphy to students at Ugandan senior secondary schools and universities. She was also a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at the Art of Teaching conference at Nkumba University in Entebbe.

At Busoga University in Jinja, Frykman met with 12 faculty members who discussed the challenges of teaching classes of 60–100 students, despite limited resources. She also had the opportunity to create a silk screen fabric design that was displayed in the Kyambogo College Art Gallery before being transformed into a fashionable garment. The trip, says Frykman, was full of adventure, including “camping in a monsoon-soaked tent flanked by a family of screaming warthogs.”

PAKISTAN  In February 2010, Neil Cunningham (alumnus, Writing and M.S. Technical Communication) gave a real time Web video presentation on small soil-dwelling organisms to more than 70 students and faculty members of Gulshan Middle Branch in Karachi, Pakistan. The project began when a teacher from the Pakistani middle school contacted Cunningham through Green Noise, his urban agriculture and environmental education blog. He joined the class’s social networking site to answer questions about beetles, bacteria and flies.

Cunningham was then invited by the teacher to set up the real-time video presentation, which focused on soil-dwelling decomposers such as sowbugs, beetle mites and redworms, and scavengers such as hissing cockroaches and hide beetles. The feeding of these organisms helps convert organic material from one form into another, a process which returns nutrients essential for growing food back to the soil. After Cunningham spoke, the students did their own presentations on decomposers.

Says Cunningham, “The sheer fact that this event spanned such a vast distance along with the intense curiosity that the middle school students displayed toward the lives of the decomposers has left a deep and lasting impression on me.”

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**Student and alumni news**

**Steve Brezenoff** (English Teaching) will have his first young adult novel, *The Absolute Value of -1*, published in September 2010 by Carolrhoda Books, Minneapolis.

**Juin Charnell** (alumna, Screenwriting and M.S. Technical Communication) received honorable mention in the 78th Annual Writer’s Digest Writing Competition in the category of television/movie script. Her script was for the television show “Bones.”

**Meghan Dusek** (alumna, M.S. Technical Communication) was recently hired as student communications specialist for Gateway Student Services at Metropolitan State. She is also pursuing a certificate in project management through the College of Management.

**Megan Godbold** (alumna, M.S. Technical Communication) recently completed a project for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that integrated recreational facility information in a Web-embedded Google map. Godbold is technical communications coordinator for the DNR Division of Parks and Trails.

**Emberly Hermann** (M.S. Technical Communication) was promoted to a permanent full-time position with the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) as a public affairs and marketing specialist.

**Lilita Keire**, **Jennifer Klitzke**, **Patrick Loch**, **Jill Miller** and **Scott Wolfe** (Technical Communication and Writing) redesigned Metropolitan State’s Payroll Office forms as a project for WRIT 372 Document and Information Design, taught by Fred Carpenter. Their winning design has been adopted by the Payroll Office.

**Anne Lies** (alumna, Writing) is writing two young adult nonfiction books for Red Line Editorial. One book, about Oprah Winfrey, is part of a series on media pioneers; the other is about the earthquake in Haiti.

**Andrea Neal** (alumna, Liberal Arts) was recently promoted to branch manager at TCF Bank.

**Rebecca Nicholson** (Liberal Arts) had her play, *A Loss of Sensation*, read and workshopped at the Playwright’s Center, Minneapolis.

**Lauren O’Leary Pavelka** (Writing) is now writing for the online *Examiner News* in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Claire Simonson** (M.S. Technical Communication) has a new position with the city of Saint Paul, leading the training, communications and change management efforts involved in implementing new business software for the city.

**Randy Olson** (alumnus, M.S. Technical Communication) earned his Ph.D. in Design Communications at the University of Minnesota. His dissertation examines how public art can help form a sense of community.

**Allan Staples** (alumnus, Theater) had his play, *Why Actors Can’t Love*, read and workshopped at the Playwright’s Center, Minneapolis.

**Natalie Sturdevant** (Literature and Language) will join Teach for America in southern Texas when she graduates in May. She will be teaching middle school.

**Cristopher Tibbetts** (Theater) directed *Light Up the Sky* for Starting Gate Productions at the Mounds Theatre, Saint Paul.

**Tanya Van Voorst** (Biology) has been admitted to the University of Minnesota pharmacy program and will begin work on a doctorate degree in September 2010.

**Robert Velez** (alumnus, Social Science) has been admitted to the Ph.D. programs in political science at Northern Illinois University, Southern Illinois University and the University of New Orleans.

**Ellena Widjaja** (alumna, Computer Information Systems) has been hired as a marketing technology specialist at ActiFi, Inc., a Minneapolis software and solutions firm that helps financial enterprises and advisors manage their practices. Widjaja minored in applied mathematics.

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**Sokcho in Butterfly Dust**

*by Ed Bok Lee*

Beside my father’s window hung a portrait of Sokcho—a seaside village where lather laps the morning shore like cold rice porridge. A water color adorned with butterfly pluckings: tiny fishermen on docks pulling rods of antennae, silk lines cast beneath a flaming dusk of fanned Harlequin wings.

Here in the Midwest, I’d imagine the blithe figures whistling to work in the fall. Sadly-happy Korean faces, hung over from soju, smoked squid and cards till dawn. Sometimes I’d enter the shadowy port; rock asleep inside any one of the turquoise junks as the moon’s mothly swoosh brightened a path back across the ocean.

Life should always be this easy to find. A small boy waiting for his father to return for dinner.

Meanwhile, esoteric seafarers travel back and forth between one rough, one finer world, on land, over sea and the coral trove we learn to navigate by drowning.

*Ed Bok Lee is a faculty member in creative writing*
CAS brings Camp Darfur to the university

By Jocelyn Stone

On October 8, 2009, Metropolitan State hosted Camp Darfur on the Saint Paul Campus. The traveling exhibit featured tents presenting descriptions and video testimonies of genocides throughout history. Each of the tents focused on a different genocide: Armenia, the Holocaust, Cambodia, Rwanda and Darfur. In addition, the exhibit included a display chronicling the exile and imprisonment of Tibetans by the Chinese. Speeches by genocide survivors and activists detailed real-life experiences, and several local organizations offered information and resources while urging others to join the fight.

University and community members milled through the Great Hall, and the atmosphere was sometimes subdued as individuals were exposed to details of ethnic abuse. Talks by Murray Brandys, a concentration camp survivor during the Holocaust, and Wangyal Ritzekura, a Tibetan national exiled from his home as a young boy, expressed the pain and confusion of displacement. Kumiko Borman, graduate student in technical communication at the university, shared her experiences visiting the Killing Fields of Cambodia.

Camp Darfur is a project of Stop Genocide Now, an organization dedicated to “changing the way the world responds to genocide.” The exhibit is part of the organization’s grassroots effort to present information that goes beyond the mind-numbing statistics. Participants learn how individual lives have been destroyed, wounded and displaced by genocide. With this knowledge, they are empowered to work toward ending these atrocities. At Metropolitan State’s Camp Darfur event, Stop Genocide Now representatives Gabriel Stauring and Katie-Jay Scott told of their efforts to bring help and safety to Darfuri refugees and shared videos of refugee camps from their visits to the Chad-Darfur border region.

The traveling show was brought to the university through the efforts of three CAS faculty members: Jeanne Grant, assistant professor, history; Laura McCartan, assistant professor, writing and the arts; and Adela Peskorz, associate professor, library services. The team also included Becky Omdahl, CAS dean, and social science student, Sarah Nelson. Metropolitan State had tried to bring Camp Darfur to campus in the past, but it wasn’t until fall 2009 that the perfect opportunity presented itself. “The time was right,” said Grant, who teaches a class on the Holocaust.

Peskorz spoke of how much people voicing their opinions can make a difference. She pointed out that in March 2009 the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Omar Hassan al-Bashir, the president of Sudan. This is the first time in history that a sitting president has ever been indicted by this body. “What more powerful role can we have than to be a part of this?” asked Peskorz.

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Faculty and advisor news

Jennifer Bindner (CAS Advising) performed in the play, Fantasy Island Honeymoon...From Hell! for the Lakeshore Players Theatre in White Bear Lake in February 2010. She also had a role in the Lakeshore Players’ show, Working, based on the work of Studs Terkel.

James Byrne (Communication, Writing and the Arts) had his early video art works selected for an international traveling exhibition, “Vital Signs: Japanese and American Video Art of the 1970s.” Seminal video art works from 10 Japanese and 10 American artists are included in the show. In addition, Byrne’s short videos will be screened at a number of museums in the U.S. and Japan, including the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Millennium Film Workshop, New York City; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Hiroshima Museum of Contemporary Art, Hiroshima; and Hokkaido Museum of Modern Art, Sapporo.

Elizabeth Burr (Ethnic and Religious Studies) received a professional development grant from Metropolitan State last June for fieldwork in Jerusalem, where she interviewed several Muslims about their attitudes toward (Christian) Palestinian liberation theology. She presented a paper on this research at the regional meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature (AAR/SBL), Luther Seminary, April 2010.


Pauline Danforth (Ethnic and Religious Studies, Literature and Language, CAS Advising) received a Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Community Partnership Grant this summer to work with Dreams of Wild Health, an American Indian nonprofit working with youth.


Michelle Filkins (Communication, Writing and the Arts) was a presenter on the panel, “Public Spaces—Disappearing or Transforming?” at The Bookhouse in Minneapolis, February 2010. The panel was moderated by Monte Bute (Social Science).

Greta Gaard (Gender Studies) taught a seminar on ecofeminist literary criticism at Tamkang University in Taiwan in July 2009 and gave a plenary presentation, “Global Warming Narratives: An Ecofeminist Perspective” at “The Future of Ecocriticism,” an international conference in Ankara, Turkey, November 2009. She is currently coediting a volume on feminist ecocriticism.


Kristin Johnson (Communication, Writing and the Arts) will have her poem, “Learning to Believe in Solid Things,” published in The Talking Stick journal, in September 2010. The poem is about the 35W bridge collapse.

pattrice jones (Gender Studies) has written a journal article, “Harbingers of (Silent) Spring: Archetypal Avians, Avian Archetypes, and the Truly Collective Unconscious” that will appear in the forthcoming issue of Spring: A Journal of Archetype and Culture. Another article, “Roosters, Hawks and Dawgs: Toward an Inclusive, Embodied Eco/ Feminist Psychology,” will be published in a special issue of Feminism & Psychology in summer 2010.

Carol Lacey (Communication, Writing and the Arts) interviewed residents of CommonBond Parkview Villa, Columbia Heights, in a collaboration with visual artist Tom Wilder. Their work will be featured at the “American Stories” concert in Columbia Heights in June. CommonBond is a nonprofit providing affordable housing.

Kathleen Laughlin (History) coedited a collection, Breaking the Wave: Women, Their Organizations, and Feminism, 1945–1985, with Jacqueline Castledine, Routledge, November 2010. Her article, “‘Our Defense Against Despair’: The Progressive Politics of the National Council of Jewish Women in Cold War America,” will appear in the anthology, Jewish Feminine Mystique?: Jewish Women’s Public Activism in Postwar America, to be published by Rutgers University Press in October 2010. Laughlin has also been appointed the project director for an oral history project documenting Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign in New England. The project is sponsored by the Center for Women in Politics and Public Policy, John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy Studies, University of Massachusetts–Boston.

Ed Bok Lee (Communication, Writing and the Arts) received a 2010 Minnesota State Arts Board Grant and a 2009 Joshua Tree Highlands Artist Residency Award, Joshua Tree, Calif. His poems have appeared recently in the journals Cimarron Review and Mobius, as well as in the anthology, The Wind Blows, the Ice Breaks, Nodin Press, 2010. In 2009 he read his work at the Center for continued on page 6
Victims of Torture Annual Fundraiser, the Transracial Adoptee Film Festival and the American Library Association annual conference.


Lawrence Moe (Literature and Language) has been elected president of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature, which is based at Michigan State University. The society publishes two journals (MidAmerica and Midwestern Miscellany), holds an annual symposium attracting scholars and writers from around the country, and for nearly 20 years has been compiling the definitive Dictionary of Midwestern Literature (Indiana University Press).


Brian Nerney (Communication, Writing and the Arts) recently published “Stories from Down Cellar” in the New Hibernia Review: A Quarterly Record of Irish Studies. The memoir concerns the murder of his grandmother’s sister—Mamie Murphy, an immigrant’s daughter—in New York City in 1891.

Susan Perry (Communication, Writing and the Arts) writes a daily health blog entitled “Second Opinion” for MinnPost.

Erica Rasmussen (Communication, Writing and the Arts) contributed her work to the following 2009–2010 exhibitions: “Residua,” Elaine Erickson Gallery, Milwaukee; “Hanji Fashion Show,” Jeonju, South Korea; “Paper Jewels,” Museo della Carta di Fabriano, Fabriano, Italy; and “A Selection of Handmade Paper Art,” Oji Paper Museum, Tokyo. Her “Mail Order Bride” (a gown made of canceled postage stamps) was recently purchased by Ripley’s Believe It or Not.

Nancy Sather (Natural Sciences) was the opening plenary speaker at the Ninth Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference, Winnipeg, October 2009. The conference brings together academics from the disciplines of ecology, anthropology and environmental history with conservation biologists, managers and restorationists. Sather’s talk was drawn from her research on historical narratives, focusing on the Aspen Parkland.

NICARAGUA Helen Korengold and Kathryn Kelley (Communication, Writing and the Arts) led a study abroad trip to Granada, Nicaragua during winter break, 2009–2010. Professor Kelley and seven students spent two weeks doing service learning projects in the morning and studying Spanish in the afternoon. Local community leaders were guest speakers at dinner and provided rich background on Nicaraguan politics, student life at the university and community activism.

For their service learning projects, students worked in the first lending library in Nicaragua, a veterinary clinic, tutoring centers and after school/vacation activity centers for children. Recreational activities included a hike up a volcano and a moonlit swim in a laguna.

One of the highlights of the trip was a journey to the countryside outside of Granada. Says Kelley, “We enjoyed a morning with several families that live off the land doing subsistence farming and making rocking chairs and caskets to support an extended family that spans four generations.” Students earned two credits for the experience. Kelley notes that this affordable study abroad opportunity will be offered next year as well.

Faculty and advisor news continued from page 5

CAS around the globe continued from page 2

Taylor Malone, one of seven students on Metropolitan State’s first annual service learning and study abroad trip to Nicaragua, works with a student at Casa Xalteva, a childcare center in Granada.
Becky L. Omdahl was appointed dean of CAS by President Sue K. Hammersmith on Feb. 17, 2010. Omdahl holds a B.S. in psychology and speech communication from Minnesota State University Moorhead, an M.A. in communications from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a Ph.D. in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo and at the University of Minnesota.

Omdahl came to Metropolitan State in 1999 as associate professor of communication. Her leadership experience at the university includes service as Communication Department chair, vice president and president of the local association of the Inter-Faculty Organization, as well as interim dean of CAS.

Omdahl authored the book, *Cognitive Appraisal, Emotion and Empathy*, and coedited the anthology, *Problematic Relationships in the Workplace* with Janie Harden Fritz. She enjoys running and has completed the Twin Cities Marathon five times. She is a world traveler who can tell you about her trips to Ethiopia, Egypt, and Ely, Minn., where she recently went on a dogsledding expedition.

“I am delighted to be serving CAS in the role of dean. The highlight is the people—the great faculty, staff and students—who are the heartbeat of the college.”

Faculty and community efforts to raise awareness about genocide have had an impact on students. In summer 2009, Nelson took a research class, taught by Peskorz and McCartan, that focused on the Holocaust and genocide. After watching a guest presentation by Ellen Kennedy of the University of Minnesota Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, Nelson felt she could no longer stand by and do nothing. She created a Metropolitan State University chapter of STAND, the student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network.

STAND motivates students to educate the public about genocide, to advocate for action by elected officials and to raise funds for aid and support of refugees. Metropolitan State’s STAND Facebook page explains the organization’s mission: “We believe that the only way to end genocide forever is to build a permanent anti-genocide constituency that holds leaders accountable for taking action to stop genocide. We are the anti-genocide generation.”

Camp Darfur appeared to be a great success. The speakers, tents, pictures and videos transformed genocide from a concept to a reality. There was a steady flow of attendees throughout the day, and many of them thanked the speakers and those responsible for bringing them here. Nelson said after the event, “Camp Darfur reaffirmed for me the reason why we need groups like STAND. So many people don’t know about all these different genocides. And here we are again with Darfur—it’s still happening. We need to do something to stop it.”

For more information on genocide-related courses and activities on campus, contact Jeanne Grant, jeanne.grant@metrostate.edu.

**Jocelyn Stone, who is majoring in writing, is the editor of The Metropolitan student newspaper. She is also an intern at Minnesota Monthly magazine.**

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The Haughty Horse

Two steeds of lofty pedigree were fretting quite impatiently with bantering pre-race animus between their stalls propinquitous:

“You might as well expect defeat and save your effort to compete; I know that I shall win the cup—I’ve got this derby all sewed up!”

With haughty toss of noble head, so spoke one limber Thoroughbred, for whom the champ in-stalled beside conceived foul scorn and thus replied:

“Says you! I think you’ll eat my dust! What breeds your confidence unjust?”

The first horse tapped his sculpted hoof and offered back this telling proof:

“Just now you saw my owner here. You saw him whispering in my ear. He said that if I win today, he’ll bring me extra bales of hay. And leave aside our acrimony—all that hay! Brother, that ain’t money!”

From Hudibrastic Shaggy Herrings from the Cerf by Lawrence Moe, professor of literature and language
New program in gender studies

Starting Spring 2010, the College of Arts and Sciences began offering a new major and minor in gender studies. This program replaces the major and minor in women’s studies. The program features a core set of courses:

- GNDR 201 Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies
- GNDR 270 Gender, Race and Popular Culture
- GNDR 345 Global Perspectives on Gender
- GNDR 365/PHIL 365 Cultural Politics of GLBT Sexuality
- GNDR 501 Research and Theory in Gender Studies

In completing the major or minor, students also choose from more than 35 electives from across the university. These include courses in psychology, literature, communication, economics, political science and criminal justice, among others.

“Gender studies can be an excellent complement to many other programs at Metropolitan State,” says Janet Enke, co-coordinator of the program. One advantage of the program is that many of the core and elective classes meet general education/liberal studies (GELS) goal areas. “Students can actually construct a minor with courses that all meet GELS requirements,” says Enke.

While the program replaces women’s studies, it does not lose focus on the experiences, struggles and accomplishments of women. Rather, the program has expanded to include a focus on GLBT communities and identities as well as masculinity studies.

For more information on the new gender studies program, contact co-coordinators Anne Aronson (anne.aronson@metrostate.edu) or Janet Enke (janet.enke@metrostate.edu).