CSI: Metropolitan State

A new bachelor’s program will bring students into the exciting world of computer forensics.

A world-famous novelist lies dead in his luxurious mansion. Paramedics are rushed to the scene, and police arrive to rule out foul play. However, the author was under contract to deliver a novel by the end of the year, and when investigators search his hard drive, they find copious notes, drafts and outlines. Questions arise. How much of this information is related to the author’s book? What documents are private, and which ones should be released to the publishing company?

These are some of the many questions that fall under the rapidly-growing field of computer forensics, which also happens to be a new degree program at Metropolitan State University. The Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Forensics, which will be offered starting fall semester 2005, blends the areas of computing and law to deal with such issues as computer incident investigation and cyber-terrorism.

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Increase in computer-related crimes

There is a growing need for specialists in this field as the number of computer-related crimes grows. For instance, computer forensics came into play in the investigation of the recent Red Lake school shootings. A number of e-mails and instant message conversations between the shooter and another student were obtained from their computer hard drives.

The field of computer forensics is necessary not only because of tragedies such as the Red Lake incident but also because widespread use of the Internet and various computer programs causes legal issues that have no precedent. While programmers rush to create new versions of their software and new ways to explore cyberspace, new laws must also be established to govern these areas. According to Jigang Liu, associate professor of information and computer sciences at Metropolitan State, “Computer forensics is basically about evidence.”

Such collection of evidence is necessary because, while computer programs can perform amazing tasks, they are only as good as the people who design them. Unfortunately, people make mistakes. And there are other people, such as hackers or corporate spies, who want to exploit these mistakes. When an incident occurs, the computer “forensicists” move in to deal with the aftermath.

There are many possible situations that fall under the jurisdiction of computer forensics. As in the above example, intellectual property is a very critical issue in dealing with electronic information. Other issues might include tracing harassing e-mails within a company’s computer system or identifying forged documents in a commercial litigation case. A computer forensics specialist might even have to examine wills or trusts to determine the intent of a deceased person.

Metropolitan State’s computer forensics program

The types of situations that apply to computer forensics is quite varied, and when new technology is created, new problems arise with it. However, at its heart, computer forensics combines a knowledge of computer systems with an understanding of legal issues. This blending of two fields creates the need for new classes, such as Computer Law, in which students learn about legal policies concerning cyberspace privacy, patents and antitrust laws.

Another new class, called Computer Crime Scene Investigation, helps students to assist law enforcement in retrieving evidence for forensics analysis and presenting the evidence in court as expert eyewitnesses. The class will discuss real cases that have occurred, as well as hypothetical ones that the students will have to solve themselves. Although students in the program will have to learn the basics of computer programming, computer forensics deals more with the operation of information systems than with actual programming language. As such, only basic computer programming classes deal with programming, and upper-level courses cover more system-related issues.

The program culminates in a computer forensics internship or capstone project in which students demonstrate their knowledge of the subject by working at a company that deals with computer forensics or by completing a project that they develop on their own.

There is also a possibility that a workshop will be created for people in other study areas to learn about the field, so this new program has opportunities both for those who are merely curious and for those who want to make a career of exploring the world of computer forensics.

For more information, contact Jigang Liu at jigang.liu@metrostate.edu.

Mike Larson is majoring in screenwriting.
Student and Alumni News

Adarsh Rao (M.S. Technical Communication) was inducted into Sigma Tau Chi, the honor society for students in technical communication. She is only one of five students throughout the country to receive this honor.

Neil Cunningham (M.S. Technical Communication) presented his paper, “Beyond APA: In Search of a Meaningful Writing Struggle,” as part of a panel presentation titled “Opening the Doors: Building a Mobile Writing Center for an Open-access Online University” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, San Francisco, in March.

Patty Gavnik and Kristin Johnson (M.S. Technical Communication) attended the “Inside the Times” conference at the New York Times offices in New York City in April. Conference participants submitted essays on the role of a newspaper in a democracy, and all essays were included in a book for participants. Johnson was also one of four selected by random drawing from the approximately 200 attendees to participate in the daily editors’ meeting for the Times.

Reggie Phoenix (alumnus, Theatre) is the only directing student accepted this year in the M.F.A. program at the University of New Orleans. He has received full financial support from the university.

Library receives funds for books on Japan

Thanks to a grant from the Japan Foundation Library Support Program, Metropolitan State’s Library and Learning Center will now house a substantial collection of books about Japan. Sumiko Otsubo, who is an assistant professor in the History Department and who teaches courses in Japanese history, wrote the grant application.

Sumiko’s proposal stated: “Our goal is to support and enhance Japan-related resources for both the university and the broader community. We wish to accomplish this goal by acquiring the most essential Japanese studies titles first, and then building the collection with special emphasis on books that analyze Japanese popular culture. This emphasis reflects our close working relationship with the public library, and its strength in Japan-related materials including Japanese films and Anime.” The materials awarded to Metropolitan State include a set of books considered most essential by a panel of Japan specialists and librarians.

For more information on the Japanese collection, contact Jennifer DeJonghe, reference librarian (jennifer.dejonghe@metrostate.edu).
How to Submit to 
Haute Dish

Submissions for the Fall 2005 issue of Haute Dish will be accepted from June 1 through Aug. 10. Length limits are as follows:

- 1500 words for fiction and nonfiction prose
- 40 lines for poetry
- 10 pages for screenplays

Artwork should be submitted as jpg files. E-mail submissions to haute-dish@lists.metrostate.edu are accepted. In order to give your work the best opportunity of being selected, please remember to thoroughly edit your work.

Check out Haute Dish’s Web site, www.hautedish.metrostate.edu, to enjoy work by fellow students or to find out more information about submission guidelines.

Arts and literary magazine
Haute Dish returns

The revived magazine serves up a feast of student creative work

By Erin Hoffman

It’s a stew of poetry and prose, a one-dish meal of verbal and visual imagery, a casserole of sweet and spicy words. It’s Haute Dish (pronounced “hot dish” by those in the know). It’s Metropolitan State’s very own student-run online arts and literary magazine, published three times a year.

Haute Dish originated in 1998 as an annual publication in print form. After the 2000 issue was published, the magazine was forced to stop the presses because of budget cuts. Despite its limited three-year run, the quality and talent appearing in the magazine were remarkable. In both 2000 and 2001, the Society of Professional Journalists presented Haute Dish with the Regional Mark of Excellence Award for best student magazine published annually.

For the four years following the original Haute Dish’s brief but successful run, Metropolitan State was without an outlet for student literary and artistic work. That changed in the spring of 2004 when First College student Clint Weathers approached the writing and literature faculty to express his interest in editing an online magazine. Associate Professor Alison McGhee was instrumental in finding other interested students and recruiting community faculty member Suzanne Nielsen to serve as the advisor. Budget problems were alleviated by the online format, which would avoid the heavy printing costs of a glossy publication.

Although Haute Dish is now an online magazine, the staff continues to strive for the highest quality. The flexibility of being online allows Haute Dish to include artwork and screenplays without worrying about additional printing costs. The “e-zine” format also allows the publication to reach a wide audience inside and outside the university.

Managing editor Clint Weathers believes that Haute Dish should be a forum for all students at the university to express their voices; it’s not just for creative writing majors. He says the magazine staff “will do our damndest to present student work in the most professional, easily accessible and artistically supportive forum we can.” Those who have published in the magazine are pleased with the results. “It was an awesome experience to work with the staff from Haute Dish,” says Josiah
Titus, whose short story “Rapture Leaves Rome’s Cats Unfed” appeared in the spring edition of the magazine. “I was so excited to get the chance to have a piece of my work published. I think it’s a great opportunity for anyone interested in writing to submit work to *Haute Dish.*”

In addition to Weathers, a number of diversely talented students work with advisor Suzanne Nielsen to create the three issues published each year. Kristin Johnson and Eric Miklasevics serve as literary editors; Diane Bennion is art editor; and Sara McDonald is the Web designer. Nielsen says that her role is to “get out of the way as much as possible.” The magazine is truly a student enterprise.

The success of *Haute Dish* depends on the continuing participation of Metropolitan State students and staff. The issue published in spring 2005 takes the extra step of including the work of alumni, staff and faculty. Weathers is particularly interested in publishing the work of faculty: “I want students to see the work of the faculty, to see the standards to which we hold our faculty, to see the mastery the students themselves can achieve and to see that those who teach can also do.”

The revival of *Haute Dish* enriches the Metropolitan State community by providing a connection for students, faculty and alumni to enjoy the wonderfully rich work being produced at the university. Pull up a chair and enjoy!

*Erin Hoffman is majoring in writing.*

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**The Spunky Trout**

by Lawrence Moe

Two brothers, twins identical were often piscatorial, for nothing more could either wish than world enough and time to fish. But though both twins were skilled and plucky, it seems just one was ever lucky: he’d fill his bucket, pail, or string; his brother never caught a thing. They’d cast together, side-by-side, but only one brought goggle-eyed aquatic, scaly, craniate, gilled, water-breathing, vertebrate, broadly vertical caudal-finned, cold-blooded, tapered, finny-limbed creatures ashore. His twin caught none. So tired of being thus undone that ever-luckless fisherman one day devised a desperate plan: In deepest secret night he rose and donned his brother’s fishing clothes; he took his twin’s automobile, his bait and tackle, rod and reel, and went to fish that very spot where yesterday his twin had caught some dozens of the finest trout. He let his line play slowly out; the bait with tempting twitches slid—he fished just as his brother did. Yet hours went by, the whole of night, without the slightest, nibbling bite. At last as morning’s sky shone bright his hopes arose as he caught sight of movement, of a wake and spray: a spunky trout now swam his way. But hook did not that trophy snare! Instead it leapt, it speared the air, to use its voice, unlike all other, crying out, “Hey bud, where’s your brother?”

From *Hudibrastic Shaggy Herrings from the Cerf*
Faculty and advisor news

Susan Boecher (Communication, Writing and the Arts) had her photographs exhibited at the Jen Bekman Gallery in New York City during summer 2004. Her work was also on display in March 2005 at the Minneapolis Foundation as part of an exhibition highlighting art instructors and their art. She also completed an election-themed photography project this fall that partnered Minneapolis College of Art and Design students with nonprofits. The project, “Get Out the Vote,” included the display of lawn signs in public sites throughout the Twin Cities.

Helen Correll and Kathryn Kelley (Communication, Writing and the Arts) will be attending the International Conference on Civic Engagement and Service Learning in Galway, Ireland in June. This conference addresses the civic mission of higher education, focusing on the links between universities, students and the wider society.

Larry Gottschalk and Jerry Heath (Information and Computer Sciences) presented a paper, “Are We Teaching What They Need?” at the Midwest Instruction and Computing Symposium in Eau Claire, Wis., April 2005. The paper will be published in the proceedings of that conference.


Alison McGhee (Communication, Writing and the Arts) Her novel, All Rivers Flow to the Sea, Candlewick Press, will be published in October. Her young adult novel, Snap, Candlewick Press, and her picture book (with Harry Bliss), Mrs. Watson Wants Your Teeth, Harcourt, were both finalists for Minnesota Book Awards in 2005.


John Reimringer (Communication, Writing and the Arts) was the runner-up for 2004 James Jones First Novel Fellowship. His novel, Vestments, finished second among 593 entries.

Ron Salzberger (Practical Philosophy and Ethics) returned this year after a 10-year absence to the team that produces the newsletter, Connection to the Americas. The Connection was the 2004 recipient of the Utne Reader Award for General Excellence in Newsletters. The bimonthly newsletter, published by the Minneapolis-based Resource Center of the Americas, covers essential issues facing Latin America.

Shannon Skarphol Kaml (Communication, Writing and the Arts) was elected to a two-year term as a paper reviewer by the Public Relations Division of the National Communication Association. This spring she also served as a paper reviewer for the Public Relations Division of the Association for Education in Mass Communication and Journalism.
Google has big plans to help students, scholars and teachers

Google, the emperor of search engines, recently announced that it had joined five major research libraries in a project to digitize millions of books. The books will all be searchable, and they will be available to people who do not typically have access to these materials.

Users seeking information with the regular Google search engine will see links in their search results page when there are books relevant to their query. Clicking on a title delivers a Google page where users can browse the full text of public domain works. The catch is that only brief “snippets” of copyrighted works will be available.

For examples of what the process will look like, check out the prototype on the Google Web site: http://print.google.com/googleprint/screenshots.html/

A number of concerns have been raised about the digitizing project. Mark Y. Herring, dean of library services at Winthrop University, has pointed out that the digitizing process can damage books. He also notes that the cost of copyright permissions necessary for scanning books can be substantial, and that Google may need to splash advertising in the margins to pay for the costs of digitization. According to The Chronicle of Higher Education, the head of the National Library of France is concerned that the project will be dominated by English-language books.

One more Google development is worth noting. The company has recently unveiled a new search engine called Google Scholar. Unlike the regular Google search engine, the new product yields search results consisting only of peer-reviewed, scholarly literature. Try out Google Scholar, at http://scholar.google.com.

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It’s a lovely house

by Michelle Livingston

Amanda, please forgive your oldest friend who envied once your genius; black or white, your finer ethic always knew the right. The day we met I felt the fates portend immensity. Now dairy cows make end of cherished dreams; this farm sucked out your fight. With crosses o’er the beds, and vigil light, naught left but God: to Master’s will you bend.

Abruptly dusk and homeward now to tread; the city waits. I make my dark descent and think about what could have been your life, not: Husband, children, banging for their bread. Your choice is made to be that farmer’s wife— Mine; in my gloom, to howl at the crescent.

Michelle Livingston is majoring in writing.
BOOK NOTES

The book and video collection at the Metropolitan State Library and Learning Center is expanding all the time. The library has now made it easy to find out what the latest acquisitions are. Just go to the main library Web site—www.metrostate.edu/library/—and click on “New Books and Videos.” A few examples of recent additions to the collection:

**Blink:** *The Power of Thinking Without Thinking*, Malcolm Gladwell, 2005.

**You Have Power:** *Choosing Courage in a Culture of Fear*, Frances Moore Lappe, 2004.


**Dancing Girls, Loose Ladies, and Women of the Cloth:**
  *The Women in Jesus’ Life*, Scott F. Spencer, 2004


**Smarest Guys in the Room:** *The Amazing Rise and Scandalous Fall of Enron*, Bethany McLeean, 2003.

**Sex and the Slayer:** *A Gender Studies Primer for the Buffy Fan*, Lorna Jowett, 2005.