COM munications
A newsletter for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the College of Management

FROM The Dean

COM Students Score High on National Test

Assessing student outcomes is a critical component of all quality improvement programs and is particularly relevant in Metropolitan State University’s Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) efforts. Results of the assessments can be compared with previous results at the same institution or they can be compared with other institutions. The assessment process requires that: 1) student outcomes are identified; 2) actual student achievement on the outcomes is measured; 3) areas for needed improvement are identified; and 4) methods for improvement are developed and implemented.

Two years ago the faculty in the College of Management (COM) identified seven program outcomes for all undergraduate majors in the college. Last year Outcomes 1 and 2 were the focus of our assessment activities. This year Outcomes 3 and 4 are being assessed. These student outcomes include:

1. Analyzes the impacts of internal/external influences on the organization.
2. Makes effective decisions using appropriate information and data.
3. Effectively communicates with multiple organizational stakeholders.
4. Possesses a mastery of the business common body of knowledge.
5. Analyzes the impact of diversity on the organization.
6. Integrates global perspectives into organization roles and activities.

To assess student achievement on Outcome 4, we contracted with Educational Testing Service (ETS) to provide us with their Major Field Test in Business. This examination covers nine different content areas of business including accounting, economics, management, quantitative business analysis, finance, marketing, legal and social environment, information systems and international issues. This past summer 72 students in the four capstone classes (Case Studies in Strategic Management) took this examination that tested their business knowledge.

Test Results

The scores of College of Management students at Metropolitan State University were compared with the scores of students at the other 181 institutions in the United States which also administered the examination this past summer. Our overall score was at the 60th percentile which means that of the 181 colleges and universities which administered this test to their students, 59 percent of those institutions scored below our student average. When one looks at each of the nine content areas of the test, it shows that our students in eight of the nine subject areas scored above the national average of the test takers. These results are shown below. Several observations seem appropriate.

- In six of the nine assessment fields, COM students scored at the 70th percentile or higher (that is, the average score of COM students was higher than the average score of the students at 69 percent of the other colleges and universities).

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In a contest sponsored by the Minnesota Economic Association, the 2007 Undergraduate Student Paper Contest second-place winner for his term paper is Jamie Wyeth, Metropolitan State University. The paper, “Veteran Status and Civilian Wages,” was written for ECON 497. Wyeth’s advisor is Allen Bellas, associate professor of economics.

The first place winner was from St. Olaf College. The third place winner was from Macalester College. Jamie is in pretty good company.

Other Measures of Program Quality

Dr. Allen Bellas reports that one of his students, Jamie Wyeth, was recently awarded second place in the term paper division of the Minnesota Economic Association’s 2007 Undergraduate Student Paper competition. The first place paper winner was from St. Olaf and the third place paper winner was from Macalester College. Wyeth is in some pretty select company. Bellas, who has taught at the University of Washington and Seattle University, congratulated Wyeth by commenting that “I consider your paper to be one of the best I have ever received.”

Another item that attests to our program quality is the scholarship award that the Minnesota Society of CPAs has given Metropolitan State University’s accounting program. For the last several years we have received at least one of these coveted scholarships that recognizes universities for their students’ achievement on the CPA examination. In the recent past, students from Metropolitan State have achieved the top score on the examination and have frequently placed in the list of “Top 10.” These rankings are no longer provided and, thus, the scholarships are the best evidence we have of student achievement.

In summary, recent performance of our students in a variety of venues speaks highly of the quality of the business degrees conferred by Metropolitan State University. The College of Management is proud of the achievements of our current students and our alumni who bring the tools and skills learned in their courses to their communities and business environments.
CIVIC Confidence Survey

Public Readiness for Strong Action on Global Warming Revealed

A n overwhelming majority of Twin Cities residents favor strong public action to address global warming, with 71 percent agreeing that “the threat to our environment requires bold and urgent action by public policy makers at all levels of government.” This is one of many revealing findings in the ninth civic survey since 1996, completed under the direction of College of Management faculty members Roger Israel, David O’Hara and Frank Schweigert. The survey measures attitudes of residents in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area regarding a number of critical issues. Specifically, the survey focuses on citizens’ views of government services and employees, ethics of elected officials, major issues facing government, the regional economy and community connections. It gives more attention than most public opinion polls to residents’ views of their local government.

Results of the 2007 survey were gathered from Feb. 19 to March 1 through telephone interviews with 500 randomly selected adults. Also, for the first time since 1999, residents’ concern about crime reemerged as the Metropolitan Area’s biggest problem (28 percent), just surpassing traffic congestion (27 percent). Crime had been the number one problem from 1996 through 1999. “Although crime reemerged in first place, the overall concern about crime in 2007 did not come close to the 72 percent level in 1996 or the 49 percent level in 1998,” said David O’Hara, professor of economics, who has led the survey work since its inception in 1996.

“We were surprised to learn how strongly Twin Cities residents feel about the impact of cell phone use on traffic safety,” said Roger Israel, professor of public administration and codirector of the survey. When asked to identify the worst traffic problem in the Twin Cities area, drivers using cell phones was selected 36 percent by residents, well ahead of “too much traffic.”

While continuing to be very supportive of government services and employees at all levels, this year’s survey results reflect unusually high civic concern about the honesty and responsiveness of public officials. An overwhelming majority of Twin Cities residents (77 percent) believe that public employees do as good a job or better than other employees in the region. And strong majorities of residents are satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services they receive from government, especially at state and local levels.

But for the first time in the survey’s 11-year history, the percentage of Twin Cities residents who believe elected officials are “as honest” or “more honest” compared to average Minnesotans dropped well below one-half to 42 percent; in 2005 it was 59 percent. The previous low was 49 percent in 1996, the first year the survey was conducted, and the previous high was 61 percent in 2000.

Only 44 percent of Twin Cities residents now “agree” or “somewhat agree” that most government officials are responsive to their needs and concerns. This compares with a 59 percent positive response in 2005, which was consistent with a pattern in the upper 50th percentile and low 60th percentile throughout the survey’s history. The high points were 65 percent in 2000 and 2001.

“Metropolitan State University has been committed to improving the professional and community life of the metropolitan area since the

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COM Receives Travelers Grant

COM has been notified by Travelers Insurance Company that the college has been awarded a grant to develop a “Pathways Program” in insurance and risk management. The grant of $120,000 is aimed at creating a career pathways program for students interested in careers in the insurance industry. One element of building the career pathways program includes developing a minor in risk management and insurance. An internship program and student scholarships will also be part of the pathways program.

The insurance industry is an important one in Minnesota, and there are a number of companies that have their headquarters or major offices here. There are many employment opportunities for the properly prepared graduate. Travelers is interested in assisting with this preparation and in creating greater career interest in the industry.

Dr. Ken Hess, management curriculum unit, is leading the project for COM. He has seven years’ experience working in the insurance industry, and for 10 years he led insurance education efforts in Minnesota. Hess is enthusiastic about this new opportunity for the college and plans to develop an exciting program that will include outreach programs as well as insurance education activities aimed at incumbent workers in the industry.


**CIVIC Confidence Survey continued**

University's founding in 1971,” said Frank Schweigert, assistant professor of nonprofit management, a new member of the survey team this year. “We hope policy makers, civic organizations and citizens will use the survey’s findings to improve the performance and accountability of our public institutions and to consider new ways in which Twin Cities residents can become more engaged in community affairs.”

“Other areas of citizen concern relate to voting and civic engagement. A new question in this year’s survey asked residents about their confidence that votes were properly counted in Minnesota. Only 42 percent were “very sure” and 40 percent were “somewhat sure,” which seemed surprisingly low in a state that justifiably takes pride in its high voter turnout compared with the rest of the nation. We wonder if high voter turnout can be sustained with this level of skepticism on the accuracy of voting tallies, especially in light of the substantial drop in the percentage of residents who reported being engaged in civic affairs. Only 28 percent reported being active or somewhat active in civic activities or organizations, compared to the usual response in the 40–50 percent range from most previous surveys.”

Additional highlights of the survey include:

- Twin Cities residents have a great amount of confidence in their local school districts and are satisfied with their services.
- Education is the top priority for the state of Minnesota’s projected budget surplus.
- There is strong support among Twin Cities residents for several election and campaign reform ideas, including spending limits, public media monitoring of campaign claims and time limits on campaigning.
- Almost half of Twin Cities residents believe that recent immigrants may pose a threat to our security, even though there is strong support for growing population diversity in the region.


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**UNDERGRAD Online Programs**

The following are the undergraduate online programs offered at Metropolitan State:

- B.S. in Business Administration
- B.S. in Human Resource Management
- B.S. in Management
- B.S. in Marketing

Visit the College of Management Web site, www.metrostate.edu/com, and click on Undergraduate Majors and Minors and then Online Programs; or contact the College of Management Advising Office at 612.659.7269 for more information.

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**ONLINE Learning Opportunities**

**New Online M.M.I.S. Program Track**

The M.M.I.S. (Master of Management Information Systems) program has had an interesting and exciting year 2007, and this fall continues to be busy.

We are excited to announce the introduction of a new online version of the M.M.I.S. program. The initial class, Online MIS600 (MIS 600-50), was offered for summer, and officially the new program started in fall 2007. This adds an exciting new option to the existing M.M.I.S. program, which continues to serve our students, continuing to provide the Information Management (IM) and Systems Analysis (SA) tracks you already know.

The new online program is described in detail in the latest M.M.I.S. Newsletter, available on our Web site (www.metrostate.edu/com/dept/mis/newsletters.cfm). There are several important points to note:

- The online program is a bit more structured than our continuing M.M.I.S. classroom-based program. The existing tracks (IM and SA) allow students numerous electives, enabling them to customize their program considerably. The online program contains
the classes specifically listed in the sidebar. All of these classes are also regular M.M.I.S. requirements and/or electives, but the online program prescribes a specific set of courses. These courses have been chosen to meet national requirements and standards, and those we have received from our corporate and public sector advisors board.

- Students in all three tracks/programs can take either online or classroom-based versions of the courses in their tracks (as available), but the actual courses that make up the student's program must meet the requirements of the track for which the student signed up. The new Two Year Schedule, also found on the Web site, lays out the courses and tracks in detail and will show the expected availability of courses.

- The new online courses are being introduced over the next year, and reflect the highly-regarded video-rich, media-rich designs that have been so well received.

- We are working to introduce a new Virtual Advising model to be introduced sometime in 2008. This model will allow the use of a special Web site for some program information exchange, and Web cams and special software to enable face-to-face advising meetings for the students, without travel. We will also be using highly innovative new technologies for special student applied projects, which will also be introduced in 2008. Much more information on these and other innovations will soon be available.

- Contact David Bouchard, professor, management information systems, and/or Gloria Marcus, graduate program recruiter, to learn more about this program and to get application information.

**Online M.I.S. Information Assurance Certificate**

The M.M.I.S. program has received several important grants from the state Center of Excellence in IT at Metropolitan State. These grants have enabled the department to introduce a new graduate IT Security Certificate. This is an exciting new program that offers students not only an excellent education in this critical area of IT, but also gives them a head start toward moving into a master's degree. After full acceptance and application into the program, the courses in the certificate will all transfer into the M.M.I.S. program. The first class was offered summer session (MIS680-50), and the full certificate will be introduced in spring 2008, subject to the full academic review that will be completed in fall term.

The program was also detailed on the M.M.I.S. Web site in the April newsletter. Associate Professor Steve Creason and Professor David Bouchard worked on the certificate for more than a year to be sure it met a variety of needs for students based on curriculum recommendations established by National Security Agency (NSA).

Creason is currently working on renewal certification of the curriculum through the NSA. He recently stated, “With new information technologies arriving and operating at lightning speed and allowing us to share information across town, across the country, or around the world faster than ever before, the NSA’s Information Assurance Directorate is dedicated to providing information assurance solutions that will keep data and information systems safe from harm. Our national security and economic well-being depends on it.”

Continued in next column

**Online M.I.S. Assurance Certificate continued**

Metropolitan State University is committed to an initiative in Information Assurance (IA) through offering a graduate certificate in IA through the College of Management. This initiative is designed to provide students and organizations with education, information and training on how to respond to cyber threats or cyber-criminals and develop and deploy policies and other safeguards of information assets.

The Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) and The National Security Agency (NSA) certify that Metropolitan State University offers a set of courseware that has been reviewed by National Level IA Subject Matter Experts and determined to meet National Training Standards for Information Systems Security (INFOSEC) Professionals, CNSS National Standards 4011, 4013 and 4016.

For more information about these programs, contact david.bouchard@metrostate.edu.
**NEW Programs**

**International Business Minor Now Available**

From fall semester, students from a wide variety of fields can add a minor in international business to their own major program, whether it is in languages, liberal arts or business and management fields. The minor will broaden and enhance the career prospects of such students by providing a structured program in international business theory and practice, which includes the basic knowledge and skills needed by managers in companies doing business outside the USA.

The current general education list of the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum includes the Goal IX requirement that a student should have some awareness of global issues, which can be achieved by taking the international business introductory course (IBUS 311). The new minor in international business will allow students the opportunity to go well beyond such a minimum requirement in their undergraduate program by enabling them to increase their understanding of the rapidly globalizing world without having to become a specialist in the field of international business.

**CONTINUING Programs**

**Courses Continue to Be Offered in Buffalo, Minn.**

Students can take courses leading to a B.S. in business administration in the Buffalo area. Metropolitan State University has teamed up with North Hennepin Community College to offer courses for this four-year degree both evenings and weekends at Buffalo Senior High School. North Hennepin Community College is currently providing the courses for the A.A. and the A.A.S. in business, and Metropolitan State is offering courses that comprise the third and fourth year of the B.S. in business administration.

For Metropolitan State courses in Buffalo, call Natalia Fedorova at 612.659.7233. For more information on North Hennepin Community College courses in Buffalo, call 763.424.0730, or check their Web site www.nhcc.edu/buffalo. For more information on upper-division business courses from Metropolitan State, contact Ken. Hess, associate professor, management, at ken.hess@metrostate.edu or call 612.659.7265.

**B.S. in Business Administration Offered as Day Program**

COM will continue offering all courses required to complete the B.A.S. in business administration during the day at the Midway Center, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Saint Paul. These day courses are designed to meet the needs of younger students, evening workers, and/or students seeking a more traditional classroom experience. The courses are offered two days a week for one hour and 40 minutes each day. The class schedule is designed to be flexible so that students are able to take a single course or be a full-time day student.
COM Prerequisites

The following foundation courses are required to be completed before declaring majors in the College of Management:

- MATH 115: College Algebra, or higher-level math
- STAT 201: Statistics
- ACCT 210: Financial Accounting
- ECON 201: Macroeconomics
- ECON 202: Microeconomics
- MIS 100: Fundamentals of Information Technology in Organizations

These requirements can be met in several ways:
1) by completing Metropolitan State courses;
2) through transfer courses approved as equivalent by the College of Management, or
3) by passing free waiver exams offered by the College of Management (available for the accounting, economics and M.I.S. courses listed above).

This new requirement applies to all students admitted to Metropolitan State University for fall 2007 or later and to students admitted before fall 2007 who submitted a major declaration form after July 1, 2007. This requirement is in addition to any other requirements for admission to a College of Management major.

Important Notes

- Submit a major declaration form only after completing all foundation courses.
- The M.I.S. major and all B.A.S. majors have additional requirements that must be met before admission to the major.
- The economics major and some B.A.S. major programs have foundation course requirements different from the list above. To see specific foundation courses for a particular major, go to the College of Management Web site: www.metrostate.edu/com and click on the name of the major you wish to explore. At the top of the major Web page, click on the link for “major checklist” and you will find the list of foundation courses for that major. You can also click on the link to the “major flowchart” to discover the sequencing of the courses.

For further information, contact your academic advisor or the College of Management Advising Center at 612.659.7269.

ANNOUNCEMENTS And Awards

Center for Online Learning Wins NACADA Award

The National Academic Advising Association, NACADA, has notified Metropolitan State’s Center for Online Learning (COL) that they have been selected to receive the Outstanding Advising Award as part of the 2007 National Awards Program for Academic Advising. Metropolitan State University Online Orientation Program is the Outstanding Advising Technology Innovation winner. To view the portal go to www.metrostate.edu/orientation/portal.

The technology was developed by the College of Management IT unit and nominated by Phyllis Webster, online program advisor.

COL was honored at the awards reception on Thursday, Oct. 18, during the annual NACADA Conference in Baltimore, Md. In 2006, Metropolitan State received one of the “10 Best Practices Awards” for creating a model for orientation to online learning and was selected as the models for other institutions to emulate. The online orientation is available for all College of Management students, not just those taking online courses.

ADVISING Information

There have been several noteworthy changes in the prerequisites for key College of Management courses.

- FIN 390 Principles of Finance: STAT 201 or an equivalent course is now a prerequisite, in addition to college algebra, microeconomics and financial accounting. Students not completing all prerequisites for this class will be dropped from the course.
- DSCI 434 Operations Management: MGMT 310 or an equivalent course is a prerequisite, but MIS 310 is not an equivalent course.
- ACCT 340 Accounting Information Systems: ACCT 310, ACCT 320 and MIS 310 are all prerequisites. ACCT 510 and ACCT 520 are no longer prerequisites for ACCT 340.

All College of Management and College of Arts and Sciences upper-division courses (numbered 300 or higher) require completion of at least 30 credits before registration. The registration system enforces this prerequisite.

To help students plan sequencing of courses, the College of Management Advising Center provides major flowcharts showing course prerequisites. Prerequisites can change! To check for the current flowchart for your major, go to: www.metrostate.edu/com/advising/majors.html.
Barbara Keinath, professor of management in the College of Management, was appointed vice provost and dean of graduate studies, (to fill a new position that was established in Academic Affairs), effective July 1. In this position, Keinath will work with the college deans, graduate program faculty and the Graduate Programs Committee of the Faculty Association to insure that processes and policies are in place to support the academic quality and continuing development of graduate study that will firmly establish Metropolitan State’s presence in the Twin Cities and throughout Minnesota as a leader in responsive, innovative graduate programming.

She will also assume other responsibilities in Academic Affairs, including reporting relationships with the Center for Online Learning, Institutional Research and the Center of Excellence for Strategic Information Technology and Security. Keinath will also coordinate continuing improvement activities and the university’s participation in the Academic Quality Improvement Program of the Higher Learning Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENTS Continued

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Recognition Award

Carol Bormann Young, professor, has received the Department Chair Extraordinaire Award, from the College of Management. Carol was nominated by her colleagues for her leadership style and high standard of performance. She has exceptional facilitation skills and skillfully organizes the COM faculty meetings. She is a world-class listener and is always patient and respectful.

Changing Chairs

College of Management’s professors Carol Bormann Young and Kenneth Zapp changed chairs as of May 7. Bormann Young is now the director of COM graduate programs, and Zapp is the new COM department chair.

FACULTY Achievements

Recently Published

Jennifer Dosch and Michael Wilson, assistant professors of accounting, coauthored an article, “Are You Satisfied with Your Company’s ABC System?” The article was published by the Cost Management Journal, March-April issue, and reports the results of a survey that examines the critical success factors when implementing Activity Based Accounting (ABC).

Allen Bellas, Ph.D., associate professor of economics, coauthored an article with Ian Lange, “Did State Regulation of Power Plants Cause an Increase in Pollution Exportation?” published by The Economics Letters Journal. The paper examines the popularly held belief that state level regulation of power plants leads to taller smoke stacks that effectively shipped emissions to other states. Lange is a researcher at the Environmental Protection Agency and lives in Washington, D.C.
FACULTY Awarded Tenure

COM Faculty Members Awarded Tenure

College of Management associate professors Allen Bellas, economics; Kenneth Hess, management; Nancy Nentl, marketing; and Roger Prestwich, marketing and international business, were all awarded tenure last spring. Congratulations!


This article, written in a case study format, discusses a cross-cultural negotiation process between a new Japanese university and an established American university to create a joint business venture—a dual-degree program. The parties failed to sign a contract, and there were indicators during negotiations pointing to the likelihood of a failed outcome. Negotiation style convergence was evident, with the Japanese adopting an erabi (‘either-or’) style and the Americans an awase (‘more-or-less’) style. The seven-step framework used to structure the negotiation discussion may be better suited to analyzing Japanese negotiation processes than American. The implications will be of value to Japanese and American/Western business people or educational administrators involved in joint venture-type negotiations.


FACULTY Achievements continued

Additionally Allen Bellas and Ian Lange have coauthored “The 1990 Clean Air Act and the Implicit Price of Sulfur in Coal,” which has been accepted for publication in the Topics tier of The Berkeley Electronic Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy. This paper examines the question of whether the inherent price of sulfur in coal changed as a result of the adoption of tradable permits for sulfur dioxide under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 and arrives at the conclusion that the price of sulfur inherent in coal contracts did a better job of predicting permit prices prior to the onset of trading than did a number of expert industry analyses.

Hameed Nezhad, Ph.D., professor of decision sciences, was involved in a project evaluation as a field team leader. This 10-year-long project is called the Smart Development Initiative (SDI). It is sponsored by USAID and is being implemented by the Center for Energy Economics at the University of Texas, Houston. The primary objective of this project is capacity building for West African Natural Gas Network and Power Pool. The initial phase of the project was in Ghana where the project evaluation took place.

Professor Hameed’s book, Software Tools for Managing Project Risk, published this year, is an easy-to-use tool kit for practitioners and students in project risk management. It provides systematic approaches to risk identification, risk modeling, risk impact assessment, response planning and reporting. The proven methodologies and software tools presented are designed to immediately help improve project efficiency and effectiveness. This book is available for purchase from Management Concepts. For more information see www.managementconcepts.com/pubs.

Ken Hess, James Falkofskie and Carol Bormann Young have developed a syllabus Template for Online Course Success. The article will appear in the fall issue of The Online Classroom. This article discusses practical design recommendations for the creation of an online syllabus. Issues addressed include communications, expectations, technology requirements and resources. An outline of sections and topics are provided as a baseline for developing a new online syllabus. The article contains a link to a free online resource with a sample syllabus using the article’s format.

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FELLOWS Award
The Bush Foundation awarded the Leadership Fellowship Grant to Joyce A. Okara-Aduda, Brooklyn Park, who is a COM accounting graduate. She will use her fellowship to pursue a master’s degree in accounting. She hopes to improve her skills in strategic planning and accounting, and apply them in the service of nonprofit organizations. For information see: www.bushfoundation.org/news/pdf_files/06042007_blf.pdf.

New Faculty Appointed

Kathleen Chalekian, Eden Prairie, was appointed as the fixed-term faculty member for marketing. She teaches undergraduate and graduate marketing courses.

Chalekian has a strong professional background in a variety of marketing capacities with large companies in the Twin Cities and also has her own marketing research consulting firm. She holds an M.B.A. from the Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota. Additional degrees are M.S.J. from Northwestern University and B.A.J. from the University of Wisconsin. Chalekian has been a community faculty member in the COM since 2006.

Narasimha Paravastu, Ph.D., Plymouth, was appointed assistant professor of management information systems (MIS). He teaches undergraduate and graduate MIS courses, information technology, and telecommunications and applications development.

Prior to coming to the College of Management, Paravastu was an assistant professor of information systems with Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio. Additionally from 2001–2005, he served as adjunct instructor and doctoral student at LeBow College of Business, Drexel University, Philadelphia. Paravastu holds a Ph.D. in MIS from Drexel University, Philadelphia, and also holds a bachelor of commerce degree from Andhra University, Waltair, India.

Minh Vo, Ph.D., Morris, Minn., was appointed assistant professor of finance. He teaches courses in finance, including two advanced courses. Previously he taught at the University of Minnesota, Morris, where he was assistant professor of finance and economics. Earlier he served in a position as adjunct instructor at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. Vo holds a Ph.D. in financial economics from McGill University. Additional degrees are an M.B.A. from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand; and a bachelor of engineering from HCMC University of Technology, Vietnam.

CSITS Adds New Personnel

Don Lewis, South Saint Paul, was appointed in November as director of employer relations. Lewis brings over 21 years of telecommunications experience to the Center of Strategic Information Technology and Security program at Metropolitan State. With 13 years of operational experience with the Pillsbury Company and eight years of account management sales, his broad background brings valuable knowledge to his new position. Lewis’ role as the director of employer relations is to interface with the business community relating to converged IP information technology direction and planning.

He is located on the fourth floor of the Management Education Center. To contact him call 612.659.7226, or e-mail don.lewis@metrostate.edu.

Sharon Hanson, Maplewood, was appointed as marketing communications specialist in the
**FACULTY/Staff Updates continued**

Center of Strategic Information Technology and Security Program, at Metropolitan State. Hanson is responsible for producing promotional products that support the center’s programs and activities, with a special emphasis on using Internet-based communication tools. Hanson comes to Metropolitan State from Quayside Publishing/Creative Publishing International, where she worked as development editor. She previously served as marketing and communications consultant with Hamline University Law School and SHE Communications. In other positions held, Hanson worked for Imation Corporation, as marketing communications manager and Web Evangelist at Verif, Inc. She holds a B.A. from Metropolitan State, focusing in writing with a concentration in organizational communications, and an M.F.A. in creative writing from Hamline University.

The Center for Strategic Information Technology and Security is pleased to announce the promotion of Brenda L. Austin to office manager. Austin was the first employee of the center, and in addition to keeping the office running smoothly and efficiently, she oversees events, created the IT Fun section of the Web site, handles finances and keeps the office smiling.

The center is pleased to announce the recent promotion of Laikun “Helen” Tang from graduate assistant to project manager. Tang manages the numerous and diverse projects developed by the center and is also the Web developer. In addition, she oversees the open source project and delights everyone with her cooking.

**SCHOLARSHIP Winner**

Jean Jech, Eden Prairie, a student in the Master of Public and Nonprofit Administration program, was awarded a $2,200 Marilyn T. Bryant Scholarship for fall 2007 and spring 2008. After working in the corporate world for 35 years, Jean’s position was eliminated. She is using the transition period to pursue her master’s degree with the ultimate goal of teaching in the community college system.

**Advising Changes**

The COM advising area has recently gone through a number of changes and has added new staff. They are pictured here from left to right:

- **Clayton Helmer** was hired as OAS staff to fill the receptionist vacancy in the COM advising area.
- **Nina Fuhrman** is a student worker hired in the spring to support COM advising.
- **Shauntina Beatty**, a new student worker, has been hired to support COM advising.
- **Eleanor Stone** was added to COM advising as a transcript specialist.

**MNCPA Scholarship Award**

Metropolitan State University was awarded a scholarship by the MNCPA for $1,000. A recipient will be selected by the end of December to receive the award.
Announcement

The new academic year has brought some new faces to the College of Management (COM) graduate programs. I would like to introduce myself; I am Dr. Carol Bormann Young and I became director of graduate programs in the College of Management during the summer. Prior to this position, I was the COM department chair for the last five years. Ken Zapp, the former director of COM graduate programs, and I did a “switching of chairs” [so to speak] in that Dr. Zapp is now the COM department chair. I am a professor of management and primarily teach the Phase III course Management:

Strategy and Policy in the M.B.A. Program. Roger Israel and David Bouchard continue to coordinate the graduate programs in public and nonprofit administration and management information systems, respectively.

As many graduate students know, Gloria Marcus and Shana VonRuden do a remarkable job of providing support for the graduate students, but unfortunately they are each not willing to work 80 hours a week. To this note, I am pleased to announce that we have hired Anongsri “Aud” Wengronowitz as a recruiter whose primary responsibility is to increase our visibility in the local market. Aud comes to us from the University of St. Thomas where she was an M.B.A. program recruiter. The COM graduate program personnel are pictured below.

Master’s Programs

As COM starts this new year, the primary goal is to increase enrollments and maintain the quality and flexibility of the graduate programs. We plan to achieve this through the offering of all three of our master’s programs in multiple formats (completely in the classroom, fully online and Web-enhanced or hybrid courses), additional partnerships, and increased recruiting and superior customer service activities. In addition to offering quality programs, we realize the need to increase our visibility in order to recruit potential applicants to our programs. In addition to increasing our recruiting efforts with the hiring of Aud, we are in the process of revamping the marketing plan by creating new brochures, giving existing brochures a new look and using new marketing mediums. An example of a new medium is in the skyways in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. As you take that stroll through the skyways during the frigid Minnesota days to come, look for the new CityLites panels that highlight the graduate programs.

You might like to put a face to that person you talk to on the phone. Left to right: Carol Bormann Young, Shana VonRuden, Roger Israel, Gloria Marcus, David Bouchard and Aud Wengronowitz.
GRADUATE Corner continued

Online M.B.A.

While a bit later than we anticipated, we are proud to announce that students will begin the first Online M.B.A. offering in January 2008. This unique cohort program joins people with professional backgrounds and aspiring career goals together to complete a 40-credit M.B.A. program in approximately an 18-month period. Three required residencies (two in person and one online) provide an opportunity for students to interact with each other and faculty members. The cohort model provides students the opportunity to progress through the program with the same group, allowing them to build meaningful relationships with fellow classmates and faculty while developing a supportive learning community. The completion rate for cohort models within the College of Management is over 90 percent. Like our classroom-based programs, online M.B.A. courses will be taught by experienced faculty with considerable business experience.

If you think this program fits your work, travel and family commitments, contact Aud Wengronowitz at 612.659.7306 or e-mail her at anongsri.wengronowitz@metrostate.edu.

M.B.A. Cohort Program

The College of Management has several partnerships that are thriving. The partnership with St. Cloud State University to offer the Master of Engineering Management graduated its first cohort at the end of summer and the second cohort is underway with 19 students enrolled. In spring 2008, the seventh M.B.A. cohort group with the Minnesota Society of CPAs will complete their degree program. The eighth cohort with the Minnesota Society of CPAs is scheduled to begin in fall 2008. We start the third cohort of M.B.A. students with our partner China University of Technology in Taiwan in the fall. We are exploring additional cooperative arrangements with universities in China, India and Poland in an effort to replicate the success we have had with the Taiwan programs.

Invitation to GSAC

The Graduate Student Advisory Committee (GSAC) continues to flourish. With new officers and students representing each of the graduate programs, we look forward to an exciting year. GSAC meetings take place at 4 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month in the Graduate Student Resource Center on the second floor of the Management Education Center. All graduate students are welcome—feel free to attend. Upcoming GSAC events include a spring semester sponsored break, partnerships with alumni and a redesign of the GSAC Web site (http://gsac.metrostate.edu). If you have any ideas for events that you would like to see GSAC sponsor, contact Gloria Marcus at gloria.marcus@metrostate.edu.

INVITATION to the Master’s Programs

Graduating seniors, if you just don’t know what you are going to do with all that free time after you graduate, you may want to consider a master’s degree. The College of Management offers three master’s degrees: The M.B.A. (Master of Business Administration), M.P.N.A. (Master of Public and Nonprofit Administration) and the M.M.I.S. (Master of Management Information Systems) as well as graduate certificates in M.I.S. and Project Management. For more information visit the Web site at www.metrostate.edu/com/ or call 612.659.7290. Program information sessions take place at various times, days and locations throughout each month. Specific information can be found on the Web site.
Meet the Vice President of Sierra Leone

The Honourable Vice President of Sierra Leone, Chief Sahr Samuel Sam-Sumana is a native of Kono District in the Eastern Province of the Republic of Sierra Leone, West Africa. He is the fourth son of the late Chief Sam-Sumana and Haja Sia Hawa Sam-Sumana. He was born on the April 7, 1962, in Koidu Town, Kono District. He is married with three children.

Honourable Vice President Samuel Sam-Sumana holds a Bachelor of Science in management information systems from Metropolitan State University. He also holds two diplomas (Diamond Rough Grading, Sorting and Polishing) from the America Institution of Diamond Cutting and Polishing, Deerfield Beach, Fla., and a diploma (Computer Network Support Specialist) from Knollwood Computer and Business School, St. Louis Park, Minn.

Before becoming the vice president of Sierra Leone, Sam-Sumana was the chief executive officer of Aries Rehabilitation Construction and Supplies (ARCS) SL Ltd., incorporated under the laws of Sierra Leone. As chief executive officer, Sam-Sumana showed his leadership and management skills when dealing with people in his employ. He is a motivator and a good listener who seeks solutions to company problems using innovative methods developed while serving as vice chairman, Kono-Union Chapter, Minnesota. For more information about his accomplishments see: http://sierraye.blogspot.com/2007/09/meet-new-vice-president-of-sierra-leone.html.

ALUMNI Profile

Laurie Ahrens, 2004 M.P.N.A. Graduate

Laurie Ahrens is a 2004 M.P.N.A. graduate of Metropolitan State and the city manager of Plymouth, Minn.

Q: What was your previous job?
A: I was the assistant city manager in Plymouth and city clerk in three different communities.

Q: What is your highest level of education?
A: I have an undergraduate degree from Metropolitan State and a graduate M.P.N.A. degree, also from Metropolitan State. I obtained both degrees while working full time and made career moves with each degree.

Q: Do you have a family?
A: Yes, my husband Jens and my nine-year-old son Vaughan (named after Stevie Ray Vaughan).

Q: What are your hobbies?

COM Workshops

Metropolitan State University College of Management offers customized continuing education via workshops and seminars for professionals and communities using experts in the specific fields.

For a list of workshops and seminars, look to the COM Web site for more information about the special programs at: www.metrostate.edu/com/sp/workshop.html#lists.

ALUMNI Highlights

Samuel Sam-Sumana

Institution of Diamond Cutting and Polishing, Deerfield Beach, Fla., and a diploma (Computer Network Support Specialist) from Knollwood Computer and Business School, St. Louis Park, Minn.
ALUMNI Profile continued

A: Reading leadership books, murder mysteries and biographies. Also quilting and playing piano.
Q: What piece of advice can you give us?
A: Work hard—it will open many opportunities. Don’t be afraid to stretch and try new things.
Q: What was your biggest career accomplishment?
A: Putting together a great management team through planning, selection and development.
Q: Other than your current position, what would be your dream job?
A: Teaching swimming lessons at the local pool.
Q: Why do you do what you do? How did you choose the line of work you are in?
A: After many years in a demanding public setting, owning a quiet bookstore sounds appealing.
Q: Why do you do what you do? How did you choose the line of work you are in?
A: I was attracted to the concept of working for the public good by balancing interests and needs and impacting public policy. Public service is all about enhancing quality of life.
Q: What was the last book you read?
Q: In what other career-related activities are you involved?
A: I belong to several professional organizations and serve on nonprofit and foundation boards. Also I have membership in two leadership book clubs.
Q: What are others surprised to know about you?
A: I’m a hard-core hockey mom. I’ve been a faithful viewer of All My Children for more than three decades!

UNIVERSITY Assigned E-mail

Protecting Your Privacy

To protect students’ privacy and to safeguard confidential student information, university advisors, offices, and staff send student e-mail to the student’s university-assigned e-mail address (for example, johnsoja@go.metrostate.edu). This e-mail address is the university’s official method for communicating with students. Use your university e-mail address when contacting university staff and faculty. Effective Jan. 1, 2007, College of Management advisors have been sending e-mail regarding a student’s situation and records only to the student’s university-assigned e-mail address.

TESTING Center

The telephone number for the Testing Center for Saint Paul/Minneapolis is 651.793.1460.
It is necessary to schedule testing with the Saint Paul Office before coming to the College of Management Testing Center, except for the M.I.S. waiver exam. The M.I.S. waiver exam can be scheduled through Aretha Hicks at 612.659.7252. Testing information can be found at www.metrostate.edu/testingcenter.

TUTORING Services

The schedule for tutoring services for College of Management courses is available online at www.metrostate.edu/academic/tutor.html.
Room Locations

Be sure to check the Metropolitan State Web schedule before you go to your classes. Room locations for all classes are listed on the online Class Schedule one week before the first class session.

Employment

Watch the College of Management Web site for employment, internships and scholarship opportunities.