

Online Catalyst

A Newsletter for Students

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Metropolitan State University inaugurates sixth president



Metropolitan State University inaugurated its sixth president, Sue K. Hammersmith, in an afternoon ceremony on Friday, Oct. 2, at the Saint Paul Campus in the university's auditorium. Hammersmith assumed her duties as president of Metropolitan State on July 1, 2008. It is customary to inaugurate new presidents about a year after they start at an institution.

Besides the ceremony, the Metropolitan State University Foundation hosted a reception sponsored by Stephen D. Keating, foundation board chair, in New Main, Great Hall, and a private dinner hosted by Travelers in downtown Saint Paul. Other events in conjunction with the inaugural included an open house on the Minneapolis Campus Sept. 24, a series of breakfasts with East Side partners, the recognition of Banned Books Week Sept. 26–Oct. 3, and an interactive awareness and education event calling attention to the genocide in Sudan's Darfur region and four other areas around the world on Thursday, Oct. 8, from noon–6 p.m. in New Main, Great Hall. There will be posters of President Hammersmith's life and the university history displayed in Founders Hall Reception Area until Oct. 9.

During the university's Sept. 10 Service Day, the inaugural graphic was painted outside the Center for Community-Based Learning. This graphic, designed by Diane DeRosier Douglass, university graphic designer, was also painted on the sidewalk outside the auditorium door. The graphic was used on banners for the Saint Paul Campus, on the Web site and in the inaugural program.

The ceremony procession featured the **Tinta Wita Takoja** (Prairie Island Grandchildren) **Drum Group**, led by Al Childs, Prairie Island Community. **Jesse Bethke Gomez**, president, *Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio*, a university alumnus, served as master of ceremonies. **Chancellor James McCormick**, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, along with **Cheryl Dickson**, trustee and alumna, conducted the investiture and oath of office. Other special guests were Saint Paul **Mayor Chris Coleman**, **Maythee Kantar**, president of the Metropolitan State University Inter Faculty Organization, **Excelsior** gospel choir directed by Minnesota State Rep. Bobby Joe Champion, and **William Sederburg**, commissioner, Utah System of Higher Education and chief executive officer of its Board of Regents. Other university and college presidents, administrators, faculty, staff and Metropolitan State University Foundation trustees also participated.

Of special note are the ceremony musicians. The drum group, the Prairie Island Grandchildren Drum and Dance Group, is made up of just that—grandchildren of the Prairie Island Indian Community. Started in 2006, it serves as a way to pass on the tradition of Prairie Island culture to the young children. The group has performed for

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President continued

Career Services events

- Oct. 8—Pathways to Employment for Students with Disabilities, Saint Paul Campus, Library 308, 3–5 p.m.; see story, page 5.
- Oct. 15—Graduate and Professional School Fair, New Main, Great Hall, 3–6 p.m.; meet representatives from a variety of programs; food, too!
- Oct. 21—Job Search Strategies for Students with Disabilities, Saint Paul Campus, Library 307, 4–5:30 p.m.; see story page 5.
- Oct. 24—Resume Writing Workshop, Saint Paul Campus, Library 321, 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m.
- Oct. 26—Government Job and Internship Fair, U of M, Coffman Union, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.; registration required: www.mcucs.org/govjobfair/.
- Wednesdays through Dec. 9—Resume drop-in sessions, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Saint Paul Campus, Library 312.

many different festivals and events in its short history including the Boy Scout National Convention, Minnesota Science Museum, Minnesota Timberwolves halftime show, many area diversity festivals and other Native American gatherings. The group is a source of great pride to the community.

Excelsior, a gospel choir, was cofounded in 1978 by Rep. Champion, who represents District 58B in North Minneapolis. Excelsior's talents are in voice, writing, producing and spirit. Based in Minneapolis with 31 members, the choir has grown and matured over the years they have been together. After a number of independent releases, Excelsior made their nationally-distributed debut to much anticipation and acclaim in 2001. With their debut release, "God @ Work," this charismatic choral ensemble carved a niche for themselves in an industry full of seasoned choirs and performers, receiving the Stellar Award for "Best New Artist." Following the Stellar Award win, Excelsior returned with the studio album "Soul Interpretations," which landed them a 2003 Grammy nomination.

President Hammersmith had been provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay since 2002. She was UW-Green Bay's chief academic officer,

chief operating officer and was responsible for the overall quality of the educational program. Her administrative responsibilities included academic affairs, student services and information services. She reported to the chancellor and served as the university's senior administrative officer in the absence of the chancellor. More information about her is available at the inauguration link on the university's Web site under "Spotlight."

Hammersmith has three degrees from Indiana University, including a bachelor's degree in anthropology, and master's and Ph.D. degrees in sociology. Her groundbreaking research in conjunction with the Alfred C. Kinsey Institute for Sex Research, Indiana University, produced major scientific breakthroughs in the study of sexual orientation, homosexual identity and related topics. A number of her published works in this area have been reprinted and translated into foreign languages. Her academic research and scholarship also led to numerous national media appearances and interviews, including appearances on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, *Good Morning America* and the *Today Show*.

She has received numerous awards for her contributions in the areas of leadership, service, scholarship and civil rights.

Dancing staff commissioned for inaugural ceremony



President Sue K. Hammersmith's inauguration features a unique dancing staff that she and her husband, Allyn Uniacke, commissioned for this occasion.

The staff was made by Wisconsin artist Dick Mindykowski, a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles tribe. Mindykowski testifies that all of his works represent earth's four orders: physical, plant, animal and human. The inaugural dancing staff is made of hand-carved alder wood adorned with deer leather and antler, turkey feathers, French beads, horse hair, and beaver and muskrat fur. To the Ojibwa, these media have special meanings that fit well with Metropolitan State's culture. According to the artist, the muskrat is industrious and a critical thinker, and the beaver is industrious, intelligent and hard-working. The dancing staff

features exquisite wood carvings in groups of six; three groups of six feathers; and a delicate and original dreamcatcher.

Following the inauguration, President Hammersmith and Dr. Uniacke presented the dancing staff to Metropolitan State, where it will become part of the school's permanent collection and will be used in future university ceremonies, such as commencement.

Psychology Club meeting schedule

The Psychology Club will meet on the first Monday of each month throughout the year at the Midway Center at 4:30 p.m. Officers will present reports on monthly activities and committee chairs and members will provide updates. All members (students, staff and

faculty) are welcome to attend. Notify President Bonnie Bouché in advance about topics you want added to each agenda.

Upcoming meeting dates are Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1, April 5, May 3 and June 7.

Five instructors and advisors honored

View the inaugural Web site

Be sure to check out the following Web sites for photos and the biography of President Sue K. Hammersmith:
<http://www.metrostate.edu/inauguration/sue.html/>.
http://www.metrostate.edu/inauguration/sue_gallery/.

Five Metropolitan State University instructors and advisors were honored at the Sept. 12 Fall Faculty Conference for their exemplary instruction and advice to students.

Joel Wilson, Lakeville, assistant professor in accounting in the College of Management, received the 2008–2009 Outstanding Teaching Award. Last year, Wilson was presented an Excellence in Teaching Award.

Receiving 2008–2009 Excellence in Teaching Awards were Rikki Wagstrom, Saint Paul, assistant

professor in mathematics in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Brenden Schaaf, Brooklyn Park, community faculty member teaching accounting in the College of Management.

Susan Hilal, Plymouth, School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice assistant professor and academic advisor, and Siew Wong, Saint Paul, College of Management academic advisor, were selected recipients of 2008–2009 Carol C. Ryan Excellence in Advising Awards.

Want to help with College for Kids?

Assist in making college a reality for local elementary students by participating in College for Kids on the Saint Paul Campus. Fourth, fifth and sixth graders have the chance to experience a college environment and dream about the future when they visit Metropolitan State. The students arrive in the morning, register and attend fun classes, and participate in a special graduation ceremony.

Metropolitan State University students are being sought to design and teach classes.

Participants are also needed to assist classroom

teachers and to guide students throughout the day. College for Kids is a great opportunity to fulfill community-based/service-learning requirements and explore interests in working with elementary students. **Fall College for Kids dates are Nov. 6 and 20, and Dec. 4 and 18.**

If you are interested in participating in College for Kids or would like to learn more about the program, contact Yolonda Rogers, youth outreach coordinator, at 651-793-1288 or e-mail yolonda.rogers@metrostate.edu.

Future Educators Club visits Metropolitan State

Future Educators Club high school students have the chance to experience a college environment and dream about opportunities to become educators when they visit Metropolitan State. The students arrive in the morning, participate in a campus tour, register and attend classes geared toward exploring teaching as a career.

Metropolitan State students are needed to design and teach classes. Participants are also needed to assist classroom teachers and guide

students throughout the day. Future Educators Club Visits are a great opportunity to fulfill community-based/service-learning requirements and explore interests in working with high school students. **Future Educators Club Visit dates are Nov. 13 and Dec. 11.**

If you are interested in participating or would like to learn more about the program, contact Yolonda Rogers, youth outreach coordinator, at 651-793-1288 or via e-mail yolonda.rogers@metrostate.edu.

Reminder: Kaplan/M.B.A. Forum is Oct. 10

Are you prepared to weather the economic and financial crisis? Take part in the perfect opportunity to learn more about the GMAT and the Metropolitan State M.B.A. program.

A free Kaplan GMAT/Metropolitan State M.B.A. Forum takes place on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Minneapolis Campus, College of Management, Room M1100, from 10 a.m.–noon. Space is limited, so RSVP to COM.graduateprograms@metrostate.edu or call 612-659-7290 to reserve a spot.

This is what you can expect at the forum:

- Get tips on how to score well on the GMAT

from a Kaplan Test preparation instructor;

- Hear from the College of Management dean, current M.B.A. students and alumni about their experiences and the value of an M.B.A. degree;
- Meet with M.B.A. admissions counselors;
- Network with other professionals;
- Receive free parking in the MCTC ramp;
- Have a chance to win door prizes, including a Kaplan GMAT test preparation course valued at \$1,400.

For directions, visit

www.metrostate.edu/bldgservices/location.html.

Are you ready to start a new chapter?

Internship opportunities

Visit the following Web sites for internship opportunities:

- Career Link: metrostate.edu/career
- Center for Community-Based Learning: metrostate.edu/ccbl/. Click on "Academic Internships," "Internship Resources."

Fall is typically a high-recruitment season for companies to competitively seek candidates for summer internships. Current openings for Travelers' leadership development programs, development programs, graduate programs and internship opportunities are posted at www.travelers.com/howtoapply. You can also view job postings through the "Search Opportunities" link.

To learn more about Travelers and where your major fits, visit www.travelers.com/corporate-info/careers/studentsAndNewGrads/whatsYourMajor.

In addition to the majors typical for an insurance company, Travelers also understands that liberal arts majors have a wide range of skills resulting in a diverse educational background.

Take a look at opportunities you may not have considered before, such as actuarial, financial management, human resources, information technology and insurance operations.

The Metropolitan State University's Travelers Pathways Program exists to enhance educational and career development opportunities for students and alumni interested in the insurance industry. If you would like to receive updates and announcements about experiential learning opportunities with Travelers, as well as career 'coaching' tips, send an e-mail as soon as possible to jill.sondergaard@metrostate.edu and visit the Web page, www.metrostate.edu/msweb/pathway/academic_success/counselcareer/career_services/travelers_pathways.html.

Latinos in Higher Education hold summit Oct. 9–10

Metropolitan State is cohosting the third annual summit of the Minnesota Network of Latinos in Higher Education on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 9–10 at the Saint Paul Campus. The theme for this year is *Voces Latinas: Becoming Visible in the Academy*. The program

includes keynote speakers and has several panels addressing a broad range of topics affecting Chicanos and Latinos in higher education.

For more information go to www.mnlatinosinhighered.org.

View *Brincando el Charco* on Oct. 15

The film *Brincando el Charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican* will be shown on Thursday, Oct. 15, in the Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. It tells the story of Claudia Marin, a middle-class light-skinned Puerto Rican photographer/videographer who is attempting to construct a sense of community in

the United States. The film is a meditation on class, race and sexuality—it blends fiction, archival footage, processed interviews and soap opera convention to tell the story.

Following the film, Assistant Professor Aureliano DeSoto will lead a short discussion.

Penny Fellowship Program deadline is Nov. 1

Podcasts feature MnSCU experts

Today's Business Radio, a new hybrid online radio show produced in the Twin Cities and aired on KSTP radio, is providing information about the education and training provided through MnSCU's colleges and universities. The audience is business owners, entrepreneurs and anyone else interested in the business world. Check out the customized training on the Web site at www.todaybusinessradio.com.

The Penny Fellowship, named in honor of Timothy J. Penny, a former MSUSA officer and U.S. Congressman, was established in 1987. Penny represented voters of Minnesota's First Congressional District from 1982 to 1994 and was consistently a strong voice in advocating on behalf of students. His commitment to public service, community involvement and higher education prompted the creation of the Penny Fellowship to further promote student involvement in community and public service-orientated internships.

The **Penny Fellowship** awards semester stipends of up to \$2,500 for internships in Minnesota and \$5,000 for internships in Washington, D.C. They are awarded to Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) students participating in service-related internships that offer little or no pay to

offset the cost of living. For an application go to: http://www.msusa.net/index.asp?Type=B_LIST&SEC=%7BD55F0978-7C72-42E5-B605-AB995C2B649E%7D.

The application deadline is Nov. 1.

The purpose of the **Barbara J. Penny Community Service Scholarship** is to recognize MnSCU students who have demonstrated a commitment to community service and to promote their growth as community leaders. This scholarship monetarily awards two students a year with up to \$1,500 each. Additional information, including a list of possible internship sites, photos and quotes from previous Penny award recipients and applicant guidelines can be found at http://www.msusa.org/index.asp?Type=B_BASIC&SEC=%7B984FEF E1-D5EB-49CE-B645-7B46CD4BB162%7D.

October is National Disability Awareness Month

National Depression Screening Week

Counseling Services is hosting anonymous in-person depression screenings on the Saint Paul Campus during the week of Oct. 5–9. There are daytime and some early evening times available. Call Lindsey Wetterhahn, the receptionist, at 651-793-1558 for more information about days and hours available for screenings. You are welcome to reserve a time to meet with one of the counselors.

Other upcoming workshops:

- Assertiveness—Wednesday, Oct. 7, noon–1 p.m.
- Life Balance—Tuesday, Oct. 20, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
- International Students—Monday, Nov. 2 (tentative, time to be determined.)

In recognition of National Disability Awareness Month, the following events have been scheduled. All are free and open to the public. RSVP your attendance to cultural.events@metrostate.edu or call 651-793-1270.

Tuesday, Oct. 6—In the Blink of an Eye with Marcus Engel. Engel speaks about overcoming unimaginable obstacles after being blinded and injured by a drunk driver; New Main, Great Hall, 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 8—Pathways to Employment for Students with Disabilities. Career counselor Bill Baldus facilitates a panel of experts who share their ideas, insights and information; Library and Learning Center, Room 308, 3–5 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 14—Assistive Technology: There Is No Magic Wand. Learn about the types of assistive technology used by students to access the Web, read class materials and hear lectures, and talk about how these technologies challenge students and faculty equally; Library and Learning Center,

Ecolab 302, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 21—Job Search Strategies for Students with Disabilities. Bill Baldus, career counselor, facilitates a workshop regarding disclosure issues, developing effective interviewing skills and resources for people with disabilities; Library and Learning Center, Room 307, 4–5:30 p.m.

Fridays, Oct. 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13—Understanding ASL and the Dynamics of Deaf Culture. In four workshops led by Rania Johnson, a Metropolitan State alumna, learn some basics of American Sign Language (*limited to the first 20 registrants*); Library and Learning Center, Room 307, 10 a.m.–noon. Registration required.

Monday, Oct. 26—A Look in the Mirror: The Memoir of a Deaf Performer. A one-woman show written and performed in American Sign Language by Nic Zapko is a true story of loss, despair and redemption. Live audio interpretation in English is by Patty Gordon; Founders Hall, Auditorium, 4–6 p.m. with post performance discussion at 5:30 p.m.

Planning to take a Goal IV mathematics course?

College of Veterinary Medicine open house

The U of M College of Veterinary Medicine and the Raptor Center Open House is Sunday, Oct. 11, from 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Both locations are on the Saint Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota, 1365 Gortner Ave. Last year 45,000 animals were treated by 100 veterinarians, and 700 birds were rehabilitated. View www.cvm.umn.edu.

For information, contact Brian Graves, College of Veterinary Medicine, at 612-624-6228 or e-mail grave237@umn.edu.

In an effort to promote student success in Goal IV mathematics and statistics courses, starting with the spring 2010 semester the Mathematics Department will enforce prerequisites for MATH 110–Math for Liberal Arts, MATH 115–College Algebra and STAT 201–Statistics I. Students who do not satisfy prerequisites will be dropped from these courses.

In order to enroll in these classes a student must satisfy any of the following:

- A passing grade in MATH 98, MATH 99, MATH 101 or MATH 102.
- Placement at the level of MATH 115–College Algebra on the mathematics assessment test offered by Diagnostic Services.
- A passing grade in a course equivalent to MATH 101.

Beginning spring 2010, the Mathematics Department will also enforce prerequisites for MATH 102–Mathematics of Sustainability. MATH 102 is both a prerequisite for the Goal IV courses above and is also a Goal X course. In order to enroll in this course, a student must have either:

- placement at the level of MATH 102–Mathematics of Sustainability on the mathematics assessment test offered by Diagnostic Services; or
- successful completion of Goal IV.

Contact your advisor (or any faculty in the Mathematics Department) if you need clarification or for a list of MATH 101 equivalent courses from other colleges or universities.

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Anyone with disabilities needing accommodations for a Metropolitan State event or who needs a publication in an alternative format, should call Disability Services at 651-793-1549 or 651-772-7687 (TTY).

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