

# Online Catalyst

*A Newsletter for Students*

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## New art exhibit opens Oct. 30



*Wishes for the Sky*

A new Third Floor Gallery exhibit, *City Behavior by Grace MN*, opens Oct. 30 and runs through Dec. 11 with a reception on Thursday, Nov. 5, from 4–7 p.m. Gallery hours are Mondays–Thursdays, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; and Fridays–Saturdays, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. The gallery is located at the Saint Paul Campus, Library and Learning Center, Third Floor.

This exhibit features a number of local urban art projects by a collective of artists who call themselves Grace MN. Grace MN includes Marcus Young, Saint Paul, Kathleen Maloney, Minneapolis, Aki Shibata, Saint Paul, Travis Spangler, Saint Paul, and others. Some projects are executed in collaboration

with Saint Paul Public Works and Public Art Saint Paul, such as *Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk*, which features the poetry of 34 Saint Paul poets stamped into sidewalks throughout the city. Other projects such as *Wishes for the Sky*, *Don't You Feel It Too?* and *From Here to There and Beyond* will also be presented.

Regarding the artwork and philosophy of Grace MN, founding member Marcus Young has said, "Grace MN is a behavioral art studio whose work attends to the inner, natural and civic life, creating personal practice and collective experience. Our work shapes the mind and body as played out in public spaces and across the institutions and systems of the city, usually inviting large-scale collaboration and involvement by the public audience. We create art to re-enchant our daily lives."

For more information, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-793-1631 or e-mail [erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu](mailto:erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu). To learn more about the sidewalk poetry project, see [www.publicartstpaul.org/everydaysidewalk/poems01.html](http://www.publicartstpaul.org/everydaysidewalk/poems01.html). To learn more about *Wishes for the Sky*, watch the video at [www.wishesforthesky.org](http://www.wishesforthesky.org).

## *In the Blink of an Eye* with Marcus Engel

In recognition of Disability Awareness Month, Marcus Engel, blinded by a drunk driver, presented a program on Oct. 6 about living with a disability.

Pictured are (l-r) Marcus Engel and ACCESS members Stephanie Chavers, Mary Bailey Bustos and Priscilla Cross; (front) Jim Galbraith.



## Metropolitan State presents experimental intermedia art festival

*Strange Attractors 20: Festival of New Music and Intermedia* is on Fridays, Oct. 30 through Dec. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Fine Arts Studio, 677 East Seventh Street, on the Saint Paul Campus. This year's festival features Cyrus Pireh and Guitar Heroes on Oct. 30; Carei Thomas and Walking Through Songs on Nov. 6; Dixie Treichel with Kris Peck and Friends on Nov. 13; The New Jon

Spayde Show on Nov. 20; and Steve Goldstein with David Means on Dec. 4. *Strange Attractors 20* is produced and presented by the Experimental Music and Intermedia Arts program, Communication, Writing and the Arts Department, College of Arts and Sciences. For more information, call 651-999-5963 or visit [www.dsmcompositions.com/studio677](http://www.dsmcompositions.com/studio677).

## Planning to take a Goal IV mathematics course?

### Be a part of UAB

University Activities Board (UAB) is a student professional and staff-run organization. Volunteer for the UAB and gain skills in leadership, cooperation, communication, decision-making, committee structures/workgroups; network with university student leaders, faculty, staff, employers and other MnSCU students; and meet new friends. For information on how to join, contact Lori at [student.activities@metrostate.edu](mailto:student.activities@metrostate.edu) or call 651-793-1556.

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.

## Want to travel to France next May?

### Government Job and Internship Fair

Find internships and full time employment with city, county, state or federal agencies at the Government Job and Internship Fair on Monday, Oct. 26, 10 a.m.–3 p.m., University of Minnesota, Great Hall, Coffman Union. Register at [www.mcucsa.org/govjobfair/candidate\\_registration.aspx/](http://www.mcucsa.org/govjobfair/candidate_registration.aspx/). The fair is open to undergraduate and graduate students and alumni from participating colleges and universities, including Metropolitan State.

A map to Coffman Union can be found at [www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/CMU/index.html/](http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/CMU/index.html/).

In May 2010, Assistant Professor Susan Hilal, School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, along with three other professors from Inver Hills Community College will lead a trip to France which includes the cities of Paris, Brittany and Normandy. Some of the visits include Notre Dame Cathedral, Arc de Triomphe, Champs-Élysées, Eiffel Tower, Champ de Mars, Arromanches Museum visit, D-Day beaches and much more. Additional tours include World War II sites and criminal justice-related sites (court, prison and police). This trip is not affiliated with any university.

Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome (students, faculty, staff, friends, family members, and so forth) and if a student would like to turn

this into credit, Hilal will work with the student to develop a student-designed independent study course. The cost is \$3,083 (price goes up after Dec. 1). Pricing includes round-trip airfare, seven overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, full European breakfast daily, dinner daily, full-time professional tour director, guided sightseeing tours and city walks as per itinerary, visits to select attractions as per itinerary, Paris Métro carnet, Seine River cruise and tour diary. A Nice extension is available. If you wish to run a marathon in France on May 30, additional fees will apply to those interested. Visit [www.tripwithdave.com](http://www.tripwithdave.com) for more information and the itinerary, or contact Hilal at 651-999-5889 or [susan.hilal@metrostate.edu](mailto:susan.hilal@metrostate.edu) with questions.

## Learn more about the M.P.N.A. degree

### Karl Neid Endowed Scholarship awarded

Amanda Yoch, Shoreview, was awarded a \$1,000 Karl Neid Scholarship for use during spring semester. The scholarship, which had been forfeited by another student, is awarded once every two years to a student who is a Saint Paul East Side resident or a graduate from an East Side high school.

During these tough economic times, a graduate degree is one of the best investments you can make. That's why this is the ideal time to improve your credentials by pursuing a Master of Public and Nonprofit Administration (M.P.N.A.) degree from the College of Management.

To learn more about the quality, fully-accredited and affordable M.P.N.A., you are invited to attend the Metropolitan State M.P.N.A. Program Open House on Saturday, Oct. 17, at Midway Center, 1450 Energy Park Drive, Room 148 from 10–11:30 a.m. The benefits of attending the Open House are:

- continental breakfast;

- hear from the M.P.N.A. program director about the value of an M.P.N.A. degree in today's economy;
- meet with an M.P.N.A. admissions advisor;
- hear from alumni and current students about their experiences in the M.P.N.A. program;
- door prizes; and
- free parking!

Space is limited. R.S.V.P. to [COM.graduateprograms@metrostate.edu](mailto:COM.graduateprograms@metrostate.edu) or call 612-659-7290. For directions, visit [www.metrostate.edu/msweb/resources/depts\\_services/bldg\\_services/location.html](http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/resources/depts_services/bldg_services/location.html).

## Booming enrollment at MnSCU sets record high

More students poured into the 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) this fall than ever before, resulting in the largest increase in the number of students since the system began, officials said. The enrollment numbers released by MnSCU are the official count of students taking credit-based courses on the 30th day of the fall semester.

Thirteen colleges have double-digit percentage increases. The state colleges and universities system now has 198,791 students or 12,641 more students than last fall when 186,150 students were enrolled. That's nearly a 7 percent increase. Previously, the largest increase in the fall

headcount was 9,023 additional students in 1999. Also, this is the fourth consecutive year that the system's fall enrollment has set a record high.

The number of students taking online courses, which includes credit and noncredit courses, grew by 21.7 percent to 47,794 this fall. The system offers about 200 programs completely or predominantly online through Minnesota Online ([www.minnesotaonline.org](http://www.minnesotaonline.org)), the largest provider of online education in the state.

Among the universities, Metropolitan State had an increase of 5.3 percent, a gain of 370 students. Only Bemidji State exceeded that with a 6.1 percent increase, a gain of 295 students.

## Psychology Club promotes community garden project

A Psychology Club committee is promoting growth and initiating change through community gardening. This initiative aims to involve students from all areas of study at Metropolitan State as well as the surrounding community.

Community gardens are becoming more prevalent within the urban landscape and can provide a multitude of health and social benefits to the citizens. These are a few proven advantages:

- Improved nutrition with convenient access to quality foods.
- Improved physical and mental health through exercise and involvement with other community members.
- Increased appreciation of social diversity through the development of social ties.

- Improved local sustainability, ecology and beautification of underutilized land.

Metropolitan State University is in a unique position to build on the garden started in spring 2009 by Associate Professor August Hoffman and his psychology students. The success of this project will depend on the investment of the people involved. Reintroduce yourself to how vegetables are grown and spend a little time digging in the dirt; who knows where it will lead.

Come visit the garden at the Saint Paul Campus on the grounds above the library parking lot surrounding the greenhouse. You can find Hoffman and his students there most Saturday mornings in spring, summer and fall.

## Job search group starts in November

### Fellowships for environmental study

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Center for Environmental Research, invites applications for the Greater Research Opportunities Fellowships for undergraduate environmental study for bachelor's level students. Application deadline is Dec. 10. Thirty fellowships will be awarded by July 30, 2010. The fellowship provides \$19,250 a year of academic support and \$8,000 for internship support for a total of \$46,500 over the life of the fellowship.

A typical job search can take six months to a year. When the process grinds on longer than anticipated, job seekers suffer from isolation, lack of motivation and energy, and a sense of despair that they will ever find a position that fits their career goals. Richard Nelson Bolles, author of the classic *What Color is Your Parachute?*, notes an 84 percent success rate when job-search techniques are conducted in groups, compared with a 15 percent lower rate when the same techniques are followed individually.

A job search support group helps Metropolitan State students and alumni maintain focus and stay on track toward their career aspirations. It serves as a powerful source of support and encouragement while expanding networking opportunities. The group will consist of up to 12 participants and meet weekly for a period of six weeks.

The group will meet on Thursdays from noon–1 p.m. on the Saint Paul Campus on Nov. 5, 12 and 19, and Dec. 3, 10 and 17.

The job search support group:

1. provides a source of encouragement, accountability and community for Metropolitan State students and alumni in career transition.
2. provides education and information related to career exploration strategies and job search techniques.
3. shares ideas and networking leads among members of the cohort.

Participation is limited. To be considered, contact Career Services 651-793-1528 or [career.services@metrostate.edu](mailto:career.services@metrostate.edu) with your name and phone number and you will be contacted.

## Grad Expo helps with commencement preparation



Students planning to participate in the Dec. 15 commencement will benefit from Metropolitan State's Grad Expo, a one-stop shop for graduation needs.

The Alumni Association, Career Services and the Registrar's Office join forces with Herff Jones College Division at the Saint Paul Campus, New Main, Great Hall, on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

In about 20 minutes, students can prepare for

one of the most memorable events in their lives—graduation. Detailed information on Grad Expo is mailed to each graduating student and is also on the Web site. It provides the easy steps required to participate in the December ceremony, which takes place at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Auditorium. See [www.metrostate.edu/msweb/pathway/registration/graduation/graduation\\_expo.html](http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/pathway/registration/graduation/graduation_expo.html) for details.

## Spend New Year's Day in the Caribbean

### Internship opportunities

Visit the following Web sites for internship opportunities:

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

It is not too late to sign up for a Jamaica study abroad program for Dec. 30–Jan. 14.

There are lots of reasons to go:

1. add an international dimension to your degree and your career;
2. make your resume stand out from the crowd;
3. gain a global perspective;
4. learn about the special opportunities and challenges of the developing world;
5. broaden your personal horizons; see your own homeland and yourself in a new light;
6. get an "insider's" view of Jamaica, as a typical tourist never can; and

7. have the time of your life enjoying the Caribbean beaches, shopping, nightlife and the friendly Jamaican people.

If these reasons are not enough, if you sign up for the Criminal Justice focus, it will count as fulfilling a GELS requirement—Goal 8: Global Awareness. Visit <https://db.metrostate.edu/webapps/drep/Jamaica-MetroVersion.pdf> for more information.

If you have questions, contact Susan Hilal, assistant professor, School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, at 651-999-5889 or [susan.hilal@metrostate.edu](mailto:susan.hilal@metrostate.edu).

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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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