

Online Catalyst

A Newsletter for Students

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Spring performance opens March 25

Theater du Jour (Theater of the Day), a unique production of original scenes, stories and personal monologues, opens at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, at Metropolitan State University's Minneapolis Campus in the Whitney Stagedoor Theater.

Join in giving voice to the personal stories of Metropolitan State students about social and political issues concerning the university's diverse community in very personal, direct ways. Adapted for the stage, these pieces deal with immigration, religious tolerance, gender identity, health care, war, economic racism, living with disability, the recession, political polarization, and exercises in truth telling and the classroom. This potpourri of passions, high and low, puts a distinctly human face on the issues of the day and the university's multigenerational campus:

"At a young and vulnerable age, I witnessed the horrors brought on by rage—terrible crimes committed against humanity. ... When I couldn't pay the bills, I decided to go back to college. ... English is not my second language, it is my seventh. ... When we're holding hands, which one of us is passing? ... I would love to start a revolution, but I'm too busy trying to pay off my credit card debt. ... But why 72? I mean, what are you going to do with all those virgins?"

Additional performances are at 7 p.m. in Minneapolis on March 26 and 27, and on Friday, April 16, at the university's Saint Paul Campus, Auditorium. A reception will follow the Saint Paul performance. Students, faculty and staff are admitted free with ID. A \$5 donation for general admission is suggested. Reservations for and directions to the Minneapolis performances may be made at 612.659.7222. No reservations are needed for the larger Saint Paul venue. The Whitney Stagedoor Theater is located in the Whitney Fine Arts Center on the Metropolitan State and Minneapolis Community and Technical College campus off Loring Park at 1424 Yale Place. The parking ramp is at 15th Street and Hennepin Avenue. The Saint Paul Campus is at 700 East Seventh Street.

Theater du Jour is produced by Theater Underground and the Metropolitan State theater program, Gail Smogard, director.

Persons with disabilities who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event should call Disability Services at 651.793.1549 or 651.772.7687 (TTY).

Call for entries: 2010 Screenplay Awards

The Screenwriting Program at Metropolitan State University announces a call for entries for the eighth annual Student Screenplay Awards. This competition is open to all Metropolitan State University students who have attended any semester in 2009 or 2010.

- Short screenplays of 10–20 pages in length are eligible.
- Three winners will be selected.
- The deadline for entries is March 26.

For guidelines and an entry form, contact James Byrne, coordinator, Screenwriting Program, Communication, Writing and the Arts Department, james.byrne@metrostate.edu or call 612.659.7157.

National Guard member completes degree while deployed



Unit commanders congratulating Spc. Knox after medallion and diploma were presented to her on base.

A Minnesota National Guard member, Spc. Lina L. Knox, Coon Rapids, earned a B.S. in law enforcement and was to be part of Metropolitan State University's fall commencement. Since she is presently deployed to Camp Buehring, Kuwait, with the 1st Battalion 151st Field Artillery, her unit planned a recognition there of this accomplishment. Her mother, Joyce Knox, represented her in the university's ceremony.

Knox completed the entire senior year through independent studies and online learning while deployed. Metropolitan State has

approximately 900 veterans, military service members and their family members currently enrolled. The university sent her diploma and graduation medallion to the unit commanding officer for presentation in Kuwait. The presentation was made Jan. 2 in front of a company formation. Spc. Knox plans to continue her education and has started to apply for admission to a master's program.

Feb. 27 Grad Expo provides one stop for graduation preparation



Cathy Bisser, assistant human resources director, receives her M.P.N.A. at the December 2009 commencement ceremony.

Students planning to participate in the May 6 commencement will benefit from Metropolitan State's Grad Expo, a one-stop shop for meeting student's graduation needs. Grad Expo is Saturday, Feb. 27, from 9 a.m.–1:30 p.m. at the Saint Paul Campus, New Main, Great Hall. Collegiate Cap and Gown Company, Division of Herff Jones Inc., and Metropolitan State offer this service to graduating students.

In less than 30 minutes, students can prepare for one of the most memorable events in their lives—graduation. A letter and price list went out to those on the graduation list. Come register for door prizes with the Alumni Association. Submit your e-mail to join the Alumni Association listserv. If you need more information, go to the Web site www.metrostate.edu/msweb/pathway/registration/graduation/graduation_expo.html.

GradImages/Grad Trak (photography) is also participating, offering students a free portrait sitting and a coupon for a 5 x 7 print of their photo. Others may be ordered.

Walk-ins are accepted, but students may also preschedule for a no wait portrait at <http://www.gradimages.com/portraits/index.cfm?OID=43643> and schedule a time that is good for them during Grad Expo. This link will expire Feb. 26 at 3 p.m.

The following services are also offered:

From Metropolitan State:

- Receive commencement ceremony information, including the need for guest tickets;
- Get up to four guest tickets for the ceremony;
- Receive career service information, job fair information and job vacancies;
- Obtain answers regarding transcripts and diplomas; and
- Confirm the name you want on your diploma.

From Herff Jones/Collegiate Cap and Gown:

- Purchase a cap and gown (bring cash, credit card, or checkbook [checks made payable to Herff Jones]);
- Purchase generic commencement invitations or order personalized invitations; and
- Order graduation rings, diploma covers or diploma frames.

If you are unable to attend Grad Expo, you will receive in the mail a graduation packet from the Registrar's Office including the necessary information for graduation and participation in the commencement ceremony on May 6. Ticket information will be sent to graduating students via their university e-mail following Grad Expo.

Preview Day is March 8

Admissions Preview Day sessions are noon–3 p.m. and 5–6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8, Saint Paul Campus, Library and Learning Center, third floor.

Topics that will be addressed are transferring credits, financial aid options and online/on campus degree programs.

RSVP by March 1 and receive a free gift. The application fee of \$20 is waived for those who apply for admission on Preview Day.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Rodrigo Vega, recruiter, at 651.793.1313 or admission.metro@metrostate.edu.

Visualize Ethiopia at Becky Omdahl's March 31 brown bag



In October 2009, Becky Omdahl, interim dean, College of Arts and Sciences, visited Ethiopia and captured the country and its peoples with photography.

Bring your lunch and take a virtual trip to Ethiopia on Wednesday, March 31, from noon–1:30 p.m. in the Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302.

This event is sponsored by the Women's Commission.

Haute Dish invites you to an open mic

Haute Dish, the arts and literature magazine of Metropolitan State University, warmly invites you to join the upcoming open mic reading on Wednesday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. at Riverview Cafe, 3753 42nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, 55406.

This is a free-for-all open mic. Any students, alumni, staff, or faculty of the university are invited to share up to five minutes of literary

talent—haikus, poetry, prose, spoken word, monologues, stories, or any other literary or musical talent you've been hiding.

Space is limited—sign-up begins at 6:30 p.m. sharp for those who wish to read.

On Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=302947418282>.

Free tax help available

Scholarships awarded

Three RCB Management Scholarships of \$500 each were awarded for spring 2010 to the following students:

Edward Fabiano, Minneapolis; Valentyn Babenko, Richfield; and Sanaa Amchich-Benarouch, Edina.

The RCB Scholarship was established to provide financial support to accounting majors.

Working families who earned less than \$41,000 in 2009, people with disabilities, senior citizens and students are offered free tax help at the Metropolitan State University Library, 645 East Seventh Street. Two dates are available: Tuesday, March 9, 5–7 p.m. in Room 312; and Thursday, March 11, 5–7 p.m. in Room 312.

Bring your Social Security cards for yourself, your spouse, and each of your children; any 2009 tax forms or "tax label" postcards received in the mail; W-2 wage and earnings statements from each employer for the year 2009; a copy of your 2008 tax return; any other information about your 2009 earnings including 1099-G forms stating unemployment insurance or interest (form 1099-

INT) or dividend (form 1099-DIV) as applicable; information on child care expenses; information on other expenses that may reduce your taxes: mortgage interest, union dues, car registration fees, medical expenses or school expenses; Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) forms from your landlord if you are a renter; and statement of property taxes if you are a homeowner.

If you don't file, you will lose the earned income credit (sometimes over \$1,000). This is walk-in service, so no appointment is needed. Free parking is offered in the Metropolitan State lot.

Questions? Need an interpreter? Call 651.699.4707.

Think spring—think rain gardens!



For the third consecutive year, Metropolitan State is offering a rain garden brown bag workshop as part of its sustainability initiatives. This workshop is informative and fun, and it's good for the planet. Bring your lunch and join your fellow gardeners in the Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

on Tuesday, March 9. The workshop is free and open to the public. The workshop is presented by the Capitol Region Watershed District, Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council's Greening Dayton's Bluff, East Side Neighborhood Development Company, Lower Phalen Creek Project and Ramsey Conservation District.

Reminder: Census awareness programs

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."

Metropolitan State University has two events remaining in the series of programs aimed at raising awareness of the 2010 census.

These events include:

- **Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6:30 p.m.–8 p.m., New Main, Great Hall—Census: Dollars We Count On: The Census, Cities, Local Government and Higher Education.** Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman leads a panel discussing how the census can impact critical funding for our cities and neighborhoods, as well as tuition grant and loan programs and other critical services offered by colleges,

universities and their campus communities.

- **Monday, March 15, noon–1:30 p.m., Library and Learning Center, Room 329—Controversy, Conflict and the U.S. Census.**

An open discussion for students, staff and faculty is facilitated by a Metropolitan State faculty member and focuses on current issues.

Census programs are sponsored by the Center for Community Based Learning, the Student Senate, University Activities Board, Students for Social Change, MSUSA and the American Democracy Project.

If you can read this, you can tutor!

The Literacy Corps program is recruiting university students to work directly with children facing significant language, literacy and ESL challenges at Minneapolis and Saint Paul inner-city schools, libraries and learning centers. Two new sites have been added: World Cultures Magnet and the American Indian Magnet Schools. Flexible scheduling is available (including some evening and weekend opportunities). Students can participate in the

Literacy Corps program by fulfilling required community-based (service-learning) hours or through civic engagement initiatives. Training and placements are provided. The next Literacy Corps training will take place Tuesday, March 2, 6–9 p.m. at the Minnesota Literacy Council. Contact Vanessa Young, Literacy Corps work study coordinator in the Center for Community-Based Learning, at 651.793.1296 or via e-mail at younva@go.metrostate.edu.

Tutor at the Zone Homework Help Center

The Zone Homework Help Center is seeking tutors to provide after school and weekend help at the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the Saint Paul Public Library. University students and staff can serve as general tutors, helping students of all ages with reading, math, computer literacy and other general homework concerns in the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the Saint Paul Public Library, co-located at the Saint Paul Library and Learning Center. The Zone has

expanded its hours to include Sundays from 1–4 p.m. Participating as a Homework Help Center tutor allows university students to work with community youth and adults while fulfilling community-based learning requirements. Work-study funds are available to eligible students.

Contact Lul Said, library-community outreach coordinator, at 651.793.1296 or saidlu@go.metrostate.edu.

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