

Online Catalyst

A Newsletter for Students

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Notice

**Metropolitan State University
is not open for business on
Thursday, March 11, to enable
all staff to participate in Employee
Development Day activities.**

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March is Women's History Month

In recognition of Women's History Month, the following events will take place at the Saint Paul Campus and Midway Center. All events are free and open to the public. RSVP your attendance at any event to cultural.events@metrostate.edu or call 651.793.1270.

- **Monday, March 15—Perspectives of Women Photographers;** Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. (lunch provided by Women Empowered;) Carolyn Whitson, literature and language professor, presents the work of selected American women photographers.
- **Friday, March 19—Jeans Day;** Saint Paul Campus, Library and Learning Center, first floor, and Midway Center, 5–6 p.m.; Women Services is encouraging everyone from the university community to go to work and to wear jeans, a response to a 1999 Italian judge's ruling. Get a Jeans Day button at the EOD Office, Founders Hall, Room 315.
- **Wednesday, March 24—Nursing, A Reflection of Social Reality;** Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. (lunch provided); M. Patricia Donahue, former interim director of baccalaureate nursing programs at Metropolitan State, speaks about changes in the health care environment and how it has forced nursing practices to deal with new technology, changing patient expectations and demands from employers to do more with less.
- **Thursday, March 25—Panel discussion, "Women of Another Path;"** Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m. (lunch provided). Muslim women share their experiences, struggles and accomplishments with work, family and individuality.
- **Thursday, March 25—Panel discussion, "Native Women Walking in Two Worlds;"** Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, 4–5:30 p.m. (light meal provided). This panel addresses challenges and experiences Native women face and the strategies they develop to navigate and negotiate multiple worlds; panelists are Nelda Goodman, Katherine Beane and Janice LaFloe.
- **Tuesday, March 30—Beyond Binaries: Identity and the Sexuality Spectrum,** Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, 5–6:30 p.m. (snack provided). Robyn Ochs, editor of *Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World* and the *Bi Women* newsletter presents an interactive program.
- **Wednesday, March 31—Tour Ethiopia;** Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, brown bag from noon–1:30 p.m.; Dean Becky Omdahl discusses her October 2009 trip to Ethiopia.
- **Monday, April 5—Book Discussion: *Kindred* by Octavia Butler;** Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. (brown bag; drinks provided). *Kindred* (1979) explores what being of mixed-race ancestry and having a family history of slavery has meant to modern black women. Participants who RSVP for this event will be sent a guide to the reading by Professor Carolyn Whitson. Copies of the book are available on reserve in the library.

College of Arts and Sciences dean named



Becky Omdahl

Becky L. Omdahl, Falcon Heights, has been appointed dean of the College of Arts and Sciences by President Sue K. Hammersmith. The appointment was effective Feb. 17.

Omdahl provides leadership for and oversight of College of Arts and Sciences academic programs, planning, budgets, faculty and staff. The college offers undergraduate programs in communication, ethnic and religious studies, gender and women's studies, history, information and computer sciences, literature and language, mathematics, media and fine arts, natural science, philosophy and ethics, social science and writing. The college also offers graduate programs in computer science, liberal studies and technical communication.

Omdahl came to Metropolitan State in 1999 as associate professor of communication. She

previously taught at the State University of New York at Buffalo and at the University of Minnesota. Her leadership experience at Metropolitan State includes service as Communication Department chair, vice president and president of the Inter-Faculty Organization, and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Omdahl holds a B.S. in psychology and speech communication from Minnesota State University Moorhead, an M.A. in communications from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a Ph.D. in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Her predecessor, Ed Malecki, took leave from the college's dean position in 2007 to serve as interim provost and academic vice president. He retired in 2008.

School of Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice announces changes

Effective March 1, the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice became rostered as an independent, college-level academic unit, and executive director Ginny Lane was retitled as dean, School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice. These changes were

recommended by the school's faculty, Dean Carmen Coballes-Vega and Provost William Lowe. President Sue K. Hammersmith approved the changes following meet-and-confer consultation with the university governance groups.

\$150,000 in privately-funded scholarships available

Many of Metropolitan State's privately funded Foundation scholarships have just been opened for application. **The deadline for submission of your application is *noon* on Friday, April 23.**

The Metropolitan State University Foundation has over \$150,000 in funds to award. Click on the link below to view an electronic flyer with another link to the Financial Aid Web site and scholarship page.

<https://db.metrostate.edu/webapps/drep/ScholarshipFlyer.pdf>

In order to maximize search results, select "all" in the options fields.

A basket has been placed at the front desk of University Advancement, Founders Hall, Suite 219, to receive completed applications.

Human Services Career Fair is April 7



Save the date—the Metropolitan State University Human Services Career Fair is Wednesday, April 7, from 1–4 p.m. at the Saint Paul Campus, New Main, Great Hall. Students, faculty and staff are welcome.

For more information, contact Nancy Miller, assistant professor, human services, at 651.793.1364 (nancy.miller@metrostate.edu); or Deborah Mosby, assistant professor, human services, at 651.793.1359 (deborah.mosby@metrostate.edu).

Art Purchase Award competition open for submissions

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."

In an effort to encourage the growth and development of student and alumni studio artists and to elevate the profile of the arts on campus, Metropolitan State University has committed to sponsor an annual art purchase/competition.

Students and alumni may submit up to six works annually. This year there is a special purchase for the library that will allow faculty to submit up to six works. All subjects, media and forms are welcome (that is, sculpture, ceramics, photographs, paintings, drawings, fiber works and so on).

Hard copy entry forms are available on the Saint Paul 'Arts on Campus' kiosk in Founders Hall, Reception Area, and at the Third Floor Gallery. Electronic versions of the entry form are available upon request by contacting Erica Rasmussen, associate professor, at erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu.

metrostate.edu. **Application deadline is April 1.**

All works must be prepared for display (two-dimensional works should be properly framed and sculptural objects should be equipped with secure bases). Submissions will be reviewed by the Art Exhibition Committee (AEC) consisting of two students appointed by the Student Senate, four faculty appointed by the IFO, and three staff members (academic and administrative) appointed by the president and her council.

Due to the generous support of various university departments and individuals, three works will be purchased for a minimum of \$800 each.

The winning artworks become the property of Metropolitan State and are exhibited in public areas at the discretion of the university.

MSO presents Peace—Not Prejudice Awareness series

Blink Bonnie's spring break hours

Spring break is March 8–13; Blink Bonnie's hours during that week are:

- Monday through Friday, March 8–12, 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, March 13–14, closed.

Blink Bonnie will return to regular hours March 15:

- Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.–8 p.m.;
- Friday, 8 a.m.–3 p.m.

The Muslim Student Organization cordially invites you to Peace—Not Prejudice, an educational awareness program series designated to raising bridges of understanding within the diverse community of Metropolitan State University.

- **Wednesday, March 17—A book session with James Yee;** 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302. Yee is the author of an award-winning book, *For God and Country: Faith and Patriotism Under Fire*. He is a graduate of West Point and holds a master's degree in international relations. He served as Muslim Army Chaplain at Guantanamo Bay with the rank of Captain. He was falsely arrested on espionage and treason charges in 2003, but later cleared. In 2005 he was awarded with the Exceptionally Meritorious Service medal. He now lectures about his harrowing experience, about Islam, Asian-American and religious diversity issues, and the challenges of protecting both national security and civil liberties.
- **Thursday, March 18—A book session with Geneive Abdo;** 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302. Abdo is the author of *Mecca and Main Street: Muslim Life in America after 9/11*. With her 20-year

journalism career, Abdo has covered extensively the Middle East and the Muslim world. She serves as the liaison for the United Nations' Alliance of Civilizations: a project created by the UN Secretary General improving relations between Western and Muslim societies. Her essays have been published in prestigious newspapers, and she appears on radio and television shows.

- **Thursday, March 25—Women of Another Path—A panel discussion with local Muslim women** who are sharing their experiences, struggles and accomplishments with work, family and individuality. 11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m., Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302.

The Metropolitan State University Bookstore will be selling a limited quantity of both authors' books during their event dates. Contact the bookstore for more information at 651.793.1670.

For program or membership information, contact MSO at <http://mso.metrostate.edu> or e-mail mso@metrostate.edu. These events are free and open to students, staff, faculty and the public. A light lunch will be provided. RSVP your attendance to cultural.events@metrostate.edu or call 651.793.1270.

MSUSA lobbies at Capitol on March 3

Student representatives attending the seven Minnesota state universities met with legislators at the State Capitol on March 3 to encourage support of higher education. They discussed how recent cuts to higher education will affect the

quality of their education, and other topics including the importance of Bonding and Higher Education Asset Preservation and Replacement (HEAPR) projects in maintaining their campuses.

MnSCU has record enrollment growth

Students enrolled in record numbers this spring at the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, resulting in an increase of 14,338 students, or nearly an 8 percent gain, over a year ago. The state college and university system has 197,576 students taking credit courses, compared to last spring's enrollment of 183,238. The latest growth spurt was on top of a record increase last fall when an additional 12,641 students enrolled compared to the year before.

Overall, enrollment at the system's 25 two-year colleges increased this spring by 10.1 percent; the number of students at the seven state

universities went up 3 percent. The larger increase at the colleges is not surprising, considering they offer more short-term programs and allow anyone with a high school diploma to enroll.

Metropolitan State University's student count increased by 6.3 percent, going from 7,179 students in spring 2009 to 7,633 students in spring 2010. Metropolitan State's full fiscal year projected equivalent is a 5.9 percent increase, the highest of the seven universities in the MnSCU system.

In memoriam—student Robert Hampson

UAB now on Facebook

Students, stay connected to the University Activities Board (UAB); check us out on Facebook and keep yourself connected to our upcoming events and activities on campus. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/universityactivitiesboard.metrostate>.

Robert "Bob" Daniel Hampson, 49 of Brooklyn Center, a Metropolitan State student, died Feb. 19 of a heart attack. Bob was active in social justice, and was passionate about homelessness, the mentally ill and the criminal justice system. He was on the board of St. Stephen's Human Services and on the university's IT Student Action Board.

He is survived by his wife, Mary A. Maas; siblings Doug and Sue Hampson, Plymouth; Janet and David Coons, Lakeville; Jim Hampson,

Florida; Richard Hampson, Minnesota; and Pat Comer, Maryland.

His funeral was Feb. 25 at St. Stephen's Catholic Community at First Christian Church, Minneapolis. Funeral arrangements were made with Historic Thomson-Dougherty Funeral Home, 612.871.4407.

Memorials are preferred to St. Stephen's Human Services, 2211 Clinton Avenue South, Minneapolis 55404.

Season's final free concert is March 19



Loren Fishman
(son of Jay Fishman)

Metropolitan State University presents "Winter Concert Series III," the second of two free concerts of the Minnesota Sinfonia conducted by Jay Fishman, on Friday, March 19, at 7 p.m. at the Saint Paul Campus, Founders Hall, Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Minnesota Sinfonia will perform *Overture for Tough Times* by Jay Fishman, a Sinfonia commission and world premiere; *Piano Concerto No. 20 in D minor, K. 466* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart featuring Loren Fishman, pianist; *Katherine in Memoriam* by Stanley

Woolner; and *Suite from Peer Gynt* by Edward Grieg.

Concert seating is first come, first served. For special accommodations, call Disability Services at 651.793.1549 (voice) or 651.772.7687 (TTY).

The free performances at Metropolitan State by the Minnesota Sinfonia are thanks to a grant from the Anna M. Heilmaier Charitable Foundation.

The registration deadline for the Young Artist Competition is Monday, March 29. For details, visit <http://www.mnsinfonia.org/yacom.html>.

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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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