

Online Catalyst

A Newsletter for Students

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Published biweekly by
Metropolitan State University
700 East Seventh Street
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106-5000

Editor Darlene Esko
Managing Editor Susan Amos Palmer
651.793.1820
darlene.esko@metrostate.edu

Smart classroom building finally funded!

It has been a long, arduous struggle to complete the “inner core” of the Saint Paul Campus, but the new smart classroom building has finally been funded! This is the fourth attempt over a dozen years to secure state funding to replace the condemned part of the old St. John's Hospital with a new state-of-the-art office and classroom facility. In 2008, the Minnesota Legislature funded this capital project, but Governor Tim Pawlenty vetoed the project.

Again this year, the Minnesota Legislature approved funding for the much-needed facility. The governor had not included our project in his original list of bonding projects. After further consultation with legislative leaders and much lobbying on our behalf, the governor has signed into law the Capital Investment Bill, including the smart classroom building. This signals a turning point in Metropolitan State's growth and development, with the governor, Minnesota Legislature, and MnSCU all supporting investment in our future.

I would like to thank everyone who lent their voice of support for this project, whether through active participation in hearings and legislative visits, or simply by making sure that everyone who would listen heard the Metropolitan State story. None of us could have done it alone.

The smart classroom building will symbolize a new era of expansion and development to better serve the students and communities of the greater metropolitan area. Further information about timeline and construction will be shared as it becomes available.

- President Sue K. Hammersmith

National honor roll announced

Metropolitan State University was placed on the annual President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, which recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for exemplary, innovative, and effective community service programs. The Corporation for National and Community Service oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact and the American Council on Education. Honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Metropolitan State was one of 14 Minnesota colleges and universities recognized. Others in Minnesota included Carleton College, Central Lakes College, Century College, Gustavus Adolphus College, Hamline University, Inver Hills Community College, Normandale Community College, St. Catherine University, St. Olaf College, University of Minnesota—Crookston and Twin Cities, University of St. Thomas and Winona State University.

Higher Learning Commission gives three important approvals

Ed Lotterman to speak about the economy

The Y Service Club in conjunction with the Skyway Y and Midway Y Clubs are sponsoring speakers on the last Thursday of the month. Ed Lotterman, community faculty, is presenting “Our Ongoing Economic Debacle: How did we get into it and how do we get out of it?” The presentation is at the East YMCA, 875 Arcade Street, Saint Paul, at 7 p.m. on March 25.

Lotterman writes a column titled “Real World Economics” that appears in the *Pioneer Press*. He is an economist teaching economics at Augsburg College to M.B.A. and undergraduate students.

President Sue K. Hammersmith announced that the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association has given three vital approvals to Metropolitan State, effective immediately.

First, the university received reaffirmation of accreditation effective for seven years. Metropolitan State participates in Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) (<http://www.aqip.org/>), which enables already-accredited institutions to maintain and reaffirm accreditation within a continuous improvement framework. Reaffirmation signifies that Metropolitan State has met the five criteria for accreditation and demonstrated a commitment to continuous improvement within the AQIP framework. President Hammersmith expresses her heartfelt thanks to the entire Metropolitan State community of faculty and staff, whose efforts and contributions over many years led to reaffirmation of our accreditation. She also extends her thanks to the many faculty, staff and students, who were such an important part of the

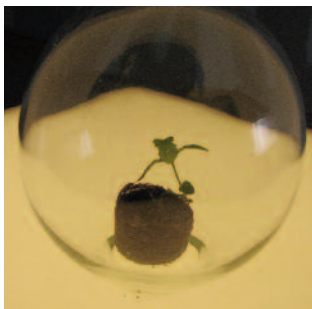
last March’s Quality Checkup Visit, the last major activity prior to reaffirmation, and to the members of the university’s Continuous Improvement Coordination Team for their leadership.

The second approval from the HLC is for the new applied Doctor of Business Administration degree (DBA). It is the university’s first free-standing doctoral program and joins the three-year-old Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, which is offered through a consortium with three other MnSCU universities. The first DBA students are expected to begin their studies in fall 2010.

Finally, HLC has approved the College of Management to offer the B.S. in business administration in Singapore. Metropolitan State faculty will teach 32 credits in Singapore and will accept in transfer the remaining credits in partnership with the China University of Technology (Taiwan). The degree will be awarded by Metropolitan State.

The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association is the accreditation commission for our region of the country.

Experimental intermedia art festival runs April 9–30



Sofia's glass ball

Strange Attractors 21: Festival of New Music and Intermedia is on Fridays, April 9–30, at 8 p.m. at the Fine Arts Studio, 677 East Seventh Street, on Metropolitan State University’s Saint Paul Campus. This year’s festival begins April 9 with New York City-based choreographer and Imaginarian Maureen Koelsch’s premier of “The Morgan Project,” a collaborative performance installation with David Means and intermedia arts students. The festival continues with videographer Jim Malec on April 16; installation artist Sophia Lorraine with sound artist Holly Newsome on April 23; and concludes April 30 with Dain Girodat, Razi Ahmed and Wilel Safwat.

The festival brings to the university a collection of renowned artists in a celebration of new work and creativity. It offers a flexible and interactive environment for artists to present and discuss their work to audiences who have a unique opportunity to experience these works in diverse and creative ways. *Strange Attractors 21* is produced and presented by Experimental Music and Intermedia Arts program, Communication, Writing and the Arts Department, College of Arts and Sciences, Metropolitan State.

For more information, call 651.999.5963 or visit www.dsmcompositions.com/strangeattractors21.

UAB presents coffee house student acts

Enjoy some entertainment during March and April at the Educated Palate on the Saint Paul Campus, New Main, Room L206.

- Monday, March 22, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.—Will Anderson, modern folk music;
- Wednesday, March 24, 3:30–5 p.m.—Wayne Burgess, blues/jazz/folk music;
- Monday, March 29, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.—Chris Hollister, acoustic rock;

- Wednesday, March 31, 3:30–5 p.m.—Syril Odoh, American folk music;
- Monday, April 5, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.—Syril Odoh, American folk music; and
- Wednesday, April 7, 3:30–5 p.m.—Wayne Burgess, blues/jazz/folk music.

For more information, contact the University Activities Board (UAB) at 651.793.1556 or student.activities@metrostate.edu.

Veteran's counselor/retention specialist appointed

Thomas J. Boylan, Minneapolis, was appointed veteran's counselor/retention specialist with the TRiO program, working in collaboration with the university's Veteran's Affairs Office. This three-quarter time appointment was effective March 1 and is contingent upon external funding.

He provides counseling, academic advising and monitoring services to undergraduate students including veterans, first generation college students, students with limited income and students with disabilities. He assists students in identifying obstacles affecting academic progress

and provides services to overcome these barriers.

Boylan worked as a readjustment counselor at the Saint Paul Veteran Resource Center from 2003–2009. He also served as adjunct faculty at Century Community College from 2005–2007. Earlier he was program coordinator, research specialist and data manager for the University Hospital Medical School.

He holds a B.S. in social work and sociology/psychology from the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse, and a master of social work from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

Are you undecided or do you have specialized interests?

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."

If you are undecided and/or looking to focus on specialized career interests not offered in the university's structured degree programs, the individualized bachelor of arts degree through First College may be for you. First College offers an individualized and interdisciplinary degree program for students who would like to design their own degree by choosing courses from most of the university's curriculum and by exploring a variety of creative learning strategies (recognition of prior learning, student-designed independent study, faculty-designed independent study and internships) to meet their educational goals.

Students in the individualized degree

program complete the four-credit semester course, Perspectives: Educational Philosophy and Planning (PRSP 301) at the beginning of their educational journey. There are numerous sections offered both online and on campus each semester and there are still seats available for students to enroll.

If you have questions about the opportunities to design an innovative degree program which meets your personal learning goals, call the First College Advising Center at 651.793.1783 or visit the Web site at www.metrostate.edu/fc. Register online at www.metrostate.edu and click on "Register for Classes" link.

Theory seminar offered fall semester for Perspectives

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 or call 651.793.1556.

Perspectives, the required course for students doing an individualized B.A. program, will be offered in a theory seminar format during fall semester. The seminar is intended for students who have already experienced learning and planning one's learning from life, work and/or community settings. The four seminar sessions build on a student's experience and concentrate on discussing values and expectations about being an educated person. In the seminar format, students need to be able to work mostly independently to articulate personal goals and to plan an individualized degree program.

The fall theory seminar (PRSP 301-T) will

be offered on four Fridays: Sept. 17, Oct. 8, Nov. 5 and Dec. 3 from 1–4:30 p.m. on the Minneapolis Campus.

Students must complete a Diagnostic Assessment Survey to assess their readiness for the seminar format. Access and complete the survey online at www.metrostate.edu. The Diagnostic Assessment Survey is linked to the course number ID in the online *Class Schedule*.

Registration for the seminar must be approved by the instructor after review of the diagnostic survey. Contact the instructor at marcia.anderson@metrostate.edu with questions.

National Youth Service and Earth Days—April 22–23

University students have the opportunity to work with Dayton's Bluff Elementary School students on neighborhood service projects. There are hourly activities from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. on April 22–23, including indoor plantings, community garden work, Flip the Switch

Campaign (energy conservation), storm drain stenciling with the Friends of the Mississippi, and more. Sign-up for an hour or the whole day. To learn more, contact Yolonda Rogers, youth outreach coordinator, at 651.793.1288 or yolonda.rogers@metrostate.edu.

Scholarships available

Metropolitan State's privately-funded scholarships are now open for application, and recently more funds have been added. The Metropolitan State University Foundation has more than \$150,000 in funds to award.

Click on this link to the electronic flyer which has another link to the Financial Aid Web site and scholarship page:

http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/pathway/aid/grants_loans_scholar/scholarships.cfm.

To maximize your search results, leave "all" in the options fields. The application deadline is **noon, Friday, April 23**. Submit applications to the Foundation, Founders Hall, Suite 219.

Community Garden Committee to meet

The Psychology Club has organized a committee to promote growth and initiate change through community gardening. This initiative hopes 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.

The Community Garden Committee is meeting on Wednesday, March 24, to write a grant proposal that would provide needed funds

for this venture. To get involved, attend the meeting at the Midway Center, either at 3:30 or 4:30 p.m. Be looking for an e-mail in the next week that will have that information.

Metropolitan State's garden, tended to by Associate Professor August Hoffman and his psychology students on Saturday mornings, is above the library parking lot, surrounding the green house.

For information, contact Bonnie Bouchè, president, at metropsychclub@gmail.com.

Camille D'Ambrose, community faculty, dies at 63



Community faculty member Camille D'Ambrose, a lifelong theater artist known as an inspiring teacher and honest actor, died March 7 of cancer.

"There was no artifice in her work and she had quick access to her emotions," said her husband, Allen Hamilton, also an actor and community faculty member. "The highest compliment I can give her acting is that it was personal and true."

Her brother, Stephen D'Ambrose, also an actor, recalled that as a child, Camille would lead him and their cousins in theatrical productions at the lake. "I don't know if we invented karaoke, but she'd have us doing these skits to records," he said. "Theater was always a part of our lives, and I followed her into that."

D'Ambrose acted at the Cricket, Brave New Workshop, Illusion, Jungle and the Guthrie theaters in a career that spanned nearly 40 years.

She was instrumental in developing a theater-degree program at Metropolitan State. She was also a voice-over talent.

"Her sense of nuance within a character was just extraordinary," said Bain Boehlke, artistic director at the Jungle Theater in Minneapolis, where her 2005 performance in "Honor" won *Star Tribune* praise as the year's best performance by an actor.

Hamilton said he will arrange a memorial service at a local theater later this month or early in April.

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