

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

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Monte Bute named Alumnus of the Year



The Alumnus/Alumna of the Year award recognizes a graduate who has exhibited exceptional volunteer or career leadership and personal character. The Metropolitan State University Alumni Board this year is honoring Monte Bute ('91) as Alumnus of the Year. He will receive the award at the Recognizing Excellence event on June 24.

Monte Bute is an associate professor of sociology at Metropolitan State University with a background as a community organizer. Bute has played a major role as an academic leader at Metropolitan State and, over the past 20 years, his research and scholarship have been increasingly recognized at the national level. He was cited as having an unequaled ability to integrate superb teaching skill with real world experience resulting in classes which students praise for their transformational quality. Students talk about how his courses made them think, changed their career paths, developed them as people and opened doors.

Bute began teaching at Metropolitan State as a community faculty member in 1984. He finally finished a long-delayed B.A. at the university in 1991 and began graduate school rather late in life. Bute has been a prolific writer over the years, publishing 65 articles in scholarly publications and the popular press. He is also regularly invited to give public talks, having made over 75 presentations at academic conferences and community events. Professor Bute is, first and foremost, a master teacher. As a social scientist, he has taught thousands of students and delights in the challenge of reaching each student. At times, he employs a provocative teaching style in his interactive classes. His passion for teaching extends to all levels of university students, from freshman to graduate students.

Bute is respected by local and state government officials and often called upon for his public policy expertise. His community-based experience began in 1972 when he served as ombudsperson at Metropolitan State Junior College, now Minneapolis Community and Technical College. He went on to hold positions of increasing responsibility and leadership. He honed his skill as a patient advocate for the Minneapolis Model City Early Emergency Care (1973–75), director of community organization for Anoka County Community Action Agency (1976–77), organizer/advocate for Minnesota Tenants Union (1978–79), campus coordinator for Minnesota Public Interest Research Group (1979–82), director of Jobs Now Coalition (1982–87), and resident participant coordinator (1988–89) for the Minneapolis Community Development Agency. He has devoted a significant amount of his career to the needy and powerless in our community.

His exceptional service has been recognized over the years by awards and honors including these:

1983–84 Fellowship, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota
1987 Special Appreciation—Job Training Partnership Association

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Monte Bute continued

Hungary: A global experience

The students of History 353A invite you to an exhibition of their projects about their global experience of Budapest and Hungary.

Stop by the Founders Hall Reception Area any time between 1–6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20.

Students who visited Hungary during the spring break will present their projects about Hungarian culture, society, history and culinary arts, and will answer questions about their global experience.

This event is free and open to the public.

- 1987 Minnesota Jobs and Justice Award—Jobs Now Coalition
 - 1991 Excellence in Teaching Award—Metropolitan State University
 - 1992 Outstanding Teacher Award—Metropolitan State University
 - 1993 Teaching Excellence Award Finalist—Minnesota State Legislature
 - 1999 Fellowship—National Endowment for the Humanities
 - 2000 Special Award for Outstanding Service—Sociologists of Minnesota
 - 2004 Distinguished Sociologist Award—Sociologists of Minnesota
 - 2007 Inductee—Minneapolis Community and Technical College Hall of Fame
- Professor Bute is a past president of both Sociologists of Minnesota and the National Council of State Sociological Associations. He has been the editor of *Sociograph*, associate editor of the *Sociological Imagination*, and is currently on the editorial board of *Contexts*, a journal of the

American Sociological Association. He has been a fellow of the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota.

Like many of his students, Bute comes to both sociology and academic life by a rather circuitous route. Majoring in American studies and European humanities, he dropped out of college in 1967 and landed in Berkeley and the Haight-Asbury. Bute then spent the next two decades on the barricades of social change, working as a grassroots organizer and independent scholar for organizations representing the unemployed, tenants, welfare recipients, union members and students. He served on the Governor's Poverty Commission in 1986–87 and was the lead author of *A Poverty of Opportunity: Restoring the Minnesota Dream*.

The Alumni Association Board cited his impressive contributions as an educator as well as his commitment to community activism in choosing him to be this year's Alumnus of the Year.

Gateway student services director named

Computer Science and IT graduating seniors:

Receive a copy of *101 Ways to Dead-end Your IT Career* (\$6.95 retail) for free. Simply register for the Twin Cities IT Alumni Association (TCITAA) at www.alumni.advanceitmn.org. The TCITAA provides no-cost IT career and educational presentations and networking opportunities to IT students in their graduating year and to IT alumni.

Mary Braun, Saint Paul, has been appointed Gateway student services director effective April 5. The Gateway is a one-stop student service center that is responsible for advising students regarding their registration, records, financial aid, student accounts and financial issues.

Braun provides strategic and operational leadership and supervision for the Gateway operations. She oversees the university's student communications and the division's Web presence; leads continuous quality improvement for the Gateway; leads ongoing training and professional development efforts for Gateway staff and other related areas; and manages the unit's data-driven approach to quality assurance, assessment and reporting requirements.

Braun comes to Metropolitan State from Mounds Park Academy, Saint Paul, where she has worked for four years as associate admissions director and later as admissions director. Previously she worked at Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand as an administrator for one academic year. Earlier she worked at St. Catherine University, first as an admissions counselor, and then as assistant weekend college director, associate registrar and finally enrollment services director.

She holds a B.A. in elementary education from the University of St. Thomas and an M.A. in organizational leadership from St. Catherine University.

History series focuses on food and food industry workers

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."

"Untold Stories," the annual series of labor history programs sponsored by The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library and the Social Science Department, celebrates its twelfth year with programs about food industry workers and our food system. Topics include farm workers, food cooperatives and the landmark 1985 Hormel strike. Also included is the popular history tour—this time visiting the South Saint Paul packinghouse district.

The series is cosponsored by a number of labor and educational organizations and is free

and open to all.

"From Populist Farmers to Urban Food Co-ops: The Cooperative Tradition in Minnesota" will be presented on Tuesday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the Library and Learning Center, Ecolab 302.

Join Steven Keillor, author of *Cooperative Commonwealth: Co-ops in Rural Minnesota, 1859–1939*, and Dave Gutknecht, founder of *Cooperative Grocer*, a trade magazine for food co-ops, for a conversation on the cooperative tradition.

Census Questionnaire Assistance Center opens on campus

A 2010 Census Questionnaire Assistance Center is now located in the lobby of the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the Saint Paul Public Library within the Metropolitan State Library and Learning Center.

A census representative is available to answer questions about the census and the 2010 questionnaire, to provide guidance for individuals with disabilities such as visual impairment, and for those who may need language assistance. If you have misplaced or damaged the questionnaire you received in the mail, you can pick up an extra copy.

For those who would like to respond to the questionnaire in their native language, the census has questionnaires available in more than 50 languages, including Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Korean and Vietnamese.

The center will be staffed through Monday, April 19, during the following hours:

- Monday 3–8 p.m.;
- Wednesday noon–4 p.m.; and
- Friday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Make sure you fill out your census and be counted!

University now offers a D.B.A. degree

Metropolitan State University is offering an applied Doctor of Business Administration degree starting in August 2010. Through a flexible, part-time program, the degree fills the need for advanced leadership and management skills beyond those of an M.B.A. to help solve complex business problems that cut across organizational levels and boundaries. The degree also prepares qualified individuals for faculty positions in higher education institutions, where a growing shortage of doctoral-trained instructors has been documented.

“The gold standard in business education has been the M.B.A.,” said Gary Seiler, dean, College of Management. “Because of the increasing complexity of business management and the growing need for advanced skills, we believe the standard is moving toward the doctorate. Offering this type of advanced degree fits into our sweet spot of providing busy adult learners with relevant, affordable educational programs.”

The Doctor of Business Administration program is flexible enough for working professionals, as well as people who are preparing to enter the field of business consulting. Students attend classes every other weekend, while other course work is completed online. The three-year program requires completion of 52 doctoral credits beyond an M.B.A. or equivalent management-related master's degree and an applied dissertation research project. Emphasis in

course work and the research project is on applying practical knowledge to the solution of business problems. Experienced faculty members and advisors from the business community help students identify and research relevant dissertation projects.

The Doctor of Business Administration program also prepares graduates for academic careers. Today, more than two-thirds of individuals who receive a Ph.D. in business are not entering the academic market. The growth of new programs, retiring faculty and professors who are moving into corporate and consulting jobs, are factors behind the documented shortages of business instructors around the nation. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development predicts a 42 percent increase in postsecondary business teacher openings in Minnesota between 2006 and 2016.

According to Dean Seiler, “At a time when organizations are facing a whole host of new theoretical and practical problems, we also see a looming shortage of qualified educators to teach students how to solve those problems. The Doctor of Business Administration degree prepares individuals for business and consulting roles, and it increases the potential number of qualified educators who can teach them these skills. There is clearly an emerging set of new roles and responsibilities that requires more in-depth study and application beyond that of the M.B.A.”

Buckle up, Metropolitan State!

You've heard your vehicle's dinging tone when you forget to put on your seat belt. It's annoying, but it's a better reminder to buckle up than the whine of police sirens!

In May, Minnesota cops are stepping up seat belt patrols to ensure we are all buckled up and not putting ourselves or others in our vehicles at risk.

Minnesota's new seat belt law requires drivers and all passengers to buckle up, **including those in the back seat.** Officers will stop and ticket motorists if anyone in a vehicle is not buckled up—fines are more than \$100.

Minnesota's most at-risk group on the road: young adults. A primary reason they are overrepresented in traffic deaths is lack of seat belt use.

Help keep Minnesota roads safe—always buckle up, and insist that your passengers are belted, too.

Remember, Click It or Ticket!

Five days remaining to apply for free money!

The deadline submission date for the Metropolitan State Foundation's privately-funded scholarships is noon on Friday, April 23. More than \$150,000 in funds are available to award, and you don't have to pay any of it back! You may

apply for and receive more than one award. Check out this Web site and leave “all” in the options field:

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

Student Senate elections are open

The Student Senate elections have commenced. You can log-in to the ballot by going to <https://www.metrostate.edu/applications/studentcouncil/electionform.cfm>. Once there, you will need your Student ID number and PIN. Candidate information is listed as well as a series of ballot questions on such topics as a student center, child

care, mass transit, Latin honors and textbooks.

You may vote for up to 20 candidates. Write-in votes are also allowed. In addition to online voting, there will be several opportunities to cast a paper ballot. Balloting will be open through April 25.

Nominations are open for President's Student Leadership Awards

Nominations are open for the 12th Annual President's Student Leadership Awards. Help recognize the important contributions of Metropolitan State's outstanding individuals and student groups. Request nomination forms from the Student Life Office (Saint Paul Campus, Founders Hall, Room 201), or via e-mail at philip.fuehrer@metrostate.edu. The deadline for returning nominations is noon on Friday, April 23.

Award categories are: male and female

student leaders of the year, student group of the year, event of the year, organization advisor of the year and the Perseverance in Leadership Award. The last award recognizes an individual's "career" at Metropolitan State University and the perseverance in overcoming barriers faced.

Awards will be presented at a ceremonial dinner on Friday, May 7, Saint Paul Campus, Founders Hall, Reception Area. Call Phil Fuehrer at 651.793.1551 for more information or to attend the dinner.

PSYC 353—Selected topics in early childhood: nature education

Are you looking for a fun elective or liberal studies course? Do you like working with young children? Do you like nature? If yes, this course is for you! PSYC 353 Selected Topics in Early Childhood: Nature Education (Course ID # 000949) is offered fall 2010 on Wednesday evenings 6–9:20 p.m. at Ford Motor Company, 966 South Mississippi River Boulevard, Saint Paul, 55116.

The course runs Aug. 25–Dec. 1 and is four credits. The instructor is Patricia Born Selly.

Introducing children to nature at a young age is one of the best ways to foster a sense of wonder and stewardship for the natural world. It has also

been shown to boost learning and reduce behavior issues in the classroom, and can be the beginning of a lifelong love of science. The course introduces nature education as a concept and offers students the opportunity to reflect on the role nature education plays in their practice. Students identify, examine and discuss research, issues, and current trends around nature education for children, particularly in the early childhood years.

This course includes field trips to local preschools and nature centers where students see first-hand different ways to use nature for learning and play.

Psychology Club elections are Sunday, April 25

To put your leadership skills to good use, nominate yourself at the Psychology Club elections at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 25, at the Library and Learning Center, Room 306. The positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary are open. Complete the questionnaire

(received via e-mail) and bring it to the meeting. The vote will be taken after all the presentations.

If you intend to run, or for more information, e-mail Bonnie Bouché at metropsychclub@gmail.com.

Spring Job Fair is April 28

Travelers Pathways

The Metropolitan State University's **Travelers Pathways Program** exists to enhance educational and career development opportunities for students and alumni interested in careers in insurance and financial services. To learn more, send an e-mail to jill.sondergaard@metrostate.edu.

The 2010 Spring Job Fair takes place on Wednesday, April 28, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Minneapolis Campus, Management Education Center, Rooms 2100 and 2200.

So far, at least 16 employers will be there for you to meet, so bring copies of your resume:

- Aerotek
- Best Buy Mobile
- Culligan Drinking Water
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Reading Corps
- The Cooperating Community Programs
- UPS
- Minnesota Department of Correction
- Doherty Staffing Solutions

- American Security and Investigations
- HMS Host
- SuperAmerica
- Randstad Staffing
- Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and
- Securitas Security Services

Visit this Web site:

<https://db.metrostate.edu/webapps/drep/Spring%20Job%20Fair%202010.pdf/>

The Management Education Center (MEC) is at 13th Street and Harmon Place, Minneapolis, MN 55403. Ramp parking is \$5.

For directions: see the following link:

http://www.metrostate.edu/msweb/resources/depts_services/bldg_services/location.html.

Raptors to be released on May 1

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine will release rehabilitated raptors back to the wild on Saturday, May 1, at 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (release at 1 p.m.) at the Hyland Lake Park Reserve Visitor Center in Bloomington.

During this annual celebration, participants can watch raptors return to the wild and photograph eagles, falcons, hawks and owls. There will be children's activities, a climbing wall and educational displays throughout the day.

"It is always a thrill to see the excitement when people—especially kids—get up close to these magnificent birds who have so much to teach us," says Julia Ponder, doctor of veterinary medicine and executive director of the Raptor Center.

The public is also invited to bring their used printer ink cartridges for the Recycling for Raptors program, which helps support The Raptor Center.

This event is cosponsored by The Raptor Center and Three Rivers Park District and is free and open to the public. For more information, contact the Raptor Center at 612.624.4745.

The Raptor Center at the University of Minnesota specializes in the medical care, rehabilitation, and conservation of eagles, hawks, owls and falcons. In addition to treating approximately 700 birds a year, the program provides training in raptor medicine and surgery for veterinarians from around the world, reaches more than 250,000 people each year through public education programs and events, and identifies emerging issues related to raptor health and populations. Three Rivers Park District promotes environmental stewardship through recreation and education in a natural resources-based park system.

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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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