

Online Catalyst

A Newsletter for Students

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Eight outstanding students honored

Eight students were selected as spring semester outstanding students at Metropolitan State. The honored students are **Steven Johnson**, College of Management (CM), M.B.A. program; **Alyona Mallyayeva**, CM undergraduate; **Lance Pearce**, School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice; **Donna Peterson**, College of Arts and Sciences; **Katie Rhoades**, College of Professional Studies; **LaRée Rowan**, College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) undergraduate; **Roman Rowan**, First College; and **Kalsang Wangmo**, CNHS graduate.

Johnson, Mankato, is vice president of tax and accounting at Ag-Star Financial Services in Mankato. He oversees about 70 employees and has been responsible for helping institute major strategic, structural and technological changes at the firm. At one time, Johnson launched and operated a C.P.A. firm and several other small ventures that employed 20-plus people and were engaged in everything from real estate to web design. The member of the American Institute of C.P.A.s and the Minnesota Society of C.P.A.s graduated *summa cum laude* as an accounting major in 1996 from the then-Mankato State University. Johnson has a knack for making news—once for authoring a young adult adventure novel, and another time for videotaping his marriage proposal to his wife on a Mankato movie screen. The married Johnson plans to pursue an Applied Doctorate of Business Administration at Metropolitan State.

Mallyayeva, Burnsville, is an Ukraine native who arrived in the United States in 2003 speaking barely passable English. But the marketing major diligently worked at her language skills and ended up fulfilling her father's dream that she graduate from college. Mallyayeva, a U.S. citizen since 2005, operated a boutique clothing store for nine years in her Ukraine hometown. She graduated with honors from Normandale Community College in 2008 with an associate degree in business management and marketing. Mallyayeva, an independent

Pictured below, front (l-r) Kalsang Wangmo, LaRée Rowan, Alyona Mallyayeva and Katie Rhoades; back (l-r) Steven Johnson, Roman Rowan, Donna Peterson and Lance Pearce.



Outstanding students continued

Student leadership award winners announced

The 12th Annual Student Leadership Awards were announced and celebrated May 7 in the Founders Hall Reception Area.

The Mistress of Ceremonies was Tong “Lisa” Xiong, public relations coordinator for the University Activities Board. University President Sue K. Hammersmith and Cecilia Stanton, interim dean of students, provided opening remarks for the evening.

Award recipients are: Perseverance Award, Clara Ware; Group Advisor of the Year, Eve Nichols, disabilities services director who advises the group ACCESS; Event of the Year, “Meet and Greet and Eat” by ACCESS; Female Leader of the Year, Xong Yang; Male Leader of the Year, Francis Cristobal; and Group of the Year, the first tie since 2000, has both ACCESS and the Muslim Student Organization sharing top honors.

Accolades

Ruben Rosario, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, featured outstanding student **Katie Rhoades** in the May 6 issue, “Local” section. Read the full story at http://www.twincities.com/rosario/ci_15026537.

Outstanding student **Roman Rowan** appeared on KMSP-TV Ch. 9 “Morning News” program on May 10 regarding his decision to earn a degree at age 69 and why he chose Metropolitan State.

contractor who works as a communications coordinator for a Target Store remodeling venture, considers her 20-year-old daughter her biggest life accomplishment. The married Mallyeva hopes to land a full-time job in business and, perhaps, attend graduate school.

Pearce, Mayer, is a Carver County Sheriff’s Department patrol sergeant. He directly supervises four deputies, coordinates field training for new employees and is command sergeant of the Sheriff’s Emergency Response Team. Pearce, who previously served 12 years as a sheriff’s deputy, was awarded a Meritorious Service Award in 2001 for successfully resolving a potentially volatile encounter in downtown Waconia. He has been an advisor for the department’s Police Explorers program and was liaison for the Sheriff Reserve Officer program. A member of the National Tactical Officers Association and the Special Operations Training Association, Pearce graduated from Normandale Community College in 1992 with an associate degree in law enforcement. The married father of one son may eventually pursue graduate school.

Peterson, Coon Rapids, is an organizational effectiveness consultant in human resources at Target Corp. In her first position at Target 28 years ago, she was the only female Teamster working with 135 men in the furniture division. Peterson, who has won a number of company awards for her work, volunteers for the Target-sponsored Project Homeless Connect and is also active with a Target employee photography group that often volunteers their services. She has previously served on the curriculum advisory boards for the Anoka-Hennepin School District and Dakota County Technical College, from which she also graduated in 1980 with an associate degree in wood-finishing technologies. She is the married mother of two adult children.

Rhoades, Saint Paul, is a one-time human trafficking victim, adult entertainment dancer, alcoholic, drug addict, depressed anorexic who was sure she wouldn’t see her 22nd birthday. But Rhoades, now 29, reclaimed her life after jettisoning her pimp and dead-end West Coast lifestyle and pursuing treatment and intensive therapy. Sober now eight years, she emerged an exemplary student leader, serving as president of the Social Work Student Association and as secretary for Lavender Bridge, a student GLBT organization. Additionally, Rhoades has volunteered for Breaking Free and Civil Society, two Twin Cities organizations that deal with domestic and international human trafficking issues, as well as Outfront Minnesota, a GLBT advocacy group. She has also lobbied state and national lawmakers about human trafficking concerns. Rhoades, who works full-time for a residential treatment center for the developmentally disabled, will be attending the social work graduate program

at Washington University, Saint Louis. A member of the National Association of Social Workers, she eventually hopes to operate a nonprofit pursuing a holistic and collaborative approach to helping human trafficking victims.

LaRée Rowan’s goal of attaining a bachelor of science in nursing was derailed for years by a high school counselor who discouraged that ambition. But the Eagan resident garnered the last laugh by achieving her long-time dream at age 53. Rowan is the manager of quality and risk management at the Phillips Eye Institute, Minneapolis. She was previously HealthEast Clinics’ director of quality and clinical practice, a nursing educator and has won recognitions for patient-care improvements. Rowan, a governor’s appointee to the Minnesota Board of Nursing, was a member of a board task force that collaborated with nurses nationally to create the first National Council of State Boards of Nursing document on nursing delegation. The former Fairmont (Minn.) Young Career Woman of the Year received her associate degree in nursing from Regents College, Albany, N.Y. Active in community service for Hope Academy, Minneapolis, and an environmentally-oriented lakeshore owners’ group, the married mother of two adult sons hopes to pursue a master’s degree.

Roman Rowan, 69, is the university’s oldest outstanding student. The Plymouth resident heads that city’s reserve police officers, overseeing and training 12 other volunteers. The one-time board member for River Councils Minnesota (now Minnesota Waters) also volunteers for his wife’s environmental consulting firm and serves as a bugler at Fort Snelling ceremonies honoring deceased service persons. For two decades the retired Rowan worked for Analysts International Corp., an Edina software consulting firm, once overseeing 1,400 employees. The U.S. Navy veteran and member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Minnesota Reserve Police Officers Association has three children and seven grandchildren.

Wangmo, Minneapolis, is the first Tibetan to receive a master’s degree in nursing. The daughter of Tibetan natives who expects to gain U.S. citizenship this summer, she hopes her degree inspires her siblings and some of the estimated 1,000 Tibetans in Minnesota. Wangmo considers her university degree—she graduated with a bachelor’s and master’s degree simultaneously—to be her biggest life achievement. For the past six years, she has worked as a charge nurse for a Saint Louis Park long-term and transitional care facility, where she has received several honors. Wangmo, who received an associate degree in nursing science from Minneapolis Community and Technical College, expects to pursue a nurse practitioner certification and a master’s in psychology or a doctorate in nursing.

Prerequisites matter!

Internship opportunities

Visit these Web sites for internship opportunities:

- Career Link: metrostate.edu/career
- Center for Community-Based Learning: metrostate.edu/ccbl. Click on “Academic Internships,” “Internship Resources.”

As summer semester begins, students are reminded that they are responsible for checking prerequisites and verifying that they are satisfied. Students who have not satisfied prerequisites for a given course may be administratively dropped from that course at the discretion of the department and instructor (Policy 2130 <https://db.metrostate.edu/webapps/drep/Policy%202130.pdf>).

Course prerequisites define the skills and content needed for effective learning in a Metropolitan State University course.

To check whether your course has prerequisites, review the course description at www.metrostate.edu/msweb/explore/catalog/course_desc/index.cfm. If you have questions about the appropriateness of the courses for which you have registered, contact your academic advisor.

Community Organizing and Development minor offered

First College is offering a Community Organizing and Development minor. This interdisciplinary minor is available to students with interests in organizing, developing and sustaining community, institutional and social change. The minor provides a holistic view of the organizing and development field including a focused field experience in community organizing

and development; an exploration of approaches to community empowerment and social justice; and an understanding of the impact of public policy on low-income populations and people of color.

For more information about this minor, contact Professor John Burton, minor interim advisor, at 612.659.7195.

Degree plan update workshop for returning students offered

A workshop has been scheduled for First College students who would like to update their individualized degree plan. First College Degree Plan Updating Workshop PRSP 002-81 (course ID 000449) is scheduled for June 18, 3–6 p.m.,

on the Saint Paul Campus. The workshop has limited enrollment.

For further course and registration information, refer to the online *Class Schedule* at <http://www.metrostate.edu/schedule>.

Alcohol and drug counseling support group launched

New course for fall

MUSC 220, Music Appreciation, is approved on a one-time basis for Goal 6 and/or liberal studies. The class explores both the western musical tradition and world music, with emphasis on the elements of music; includes in-class demonstrations and attendance at outside musical events. No previous musical study required; 4 credits; no prerequisites; meets Thursdays, Midway Center; hybrid format.

Alcohol and Drug Counseling (ADC), a new student organization at Metropolitan State, is a club for students who have chosen this major and thereby have become automatic members. Board meetings take place the first Thursday of the month in the Library and Learning Center, Room 310, except during summer months. The organization’s mission is the pursuit of the following principles:

- **Enhancement:** The organization’s focus is to enhance students’ educational experience.
- **Possibility:** The organization’s mission is to help expand students’ perspectives in every aspect of the field of chemical dependency counseling.
- **Dedication:** The organization is dedicated to promote members as future addiction professionals and to act as a peer support network.

The organization’s objective is to strengthen students’ knowledge in chemical health educational resources, including internships, employment, volunteering and all other related issues by sharing knowledge and experiences among the members and the community. By getting involved with the organization, students will develop strong professional relationships with their peers and other associations.

The group has an open door policy—you do not have to be an ADC major to attend meetings or make contacts.

For additional information, contact Gregory Kienlen, founder and president, ADC Student Support Group, at kienlegr@go.metrostate.edu.

Psychology professor Deborah Bushway retires



*Deborah Bushway
professor emerita*

At a reception on April 20, Metropolitan State's retiring faculty member Deborah Bushway (in absentia) was honored and presented with a plaque and a gift of personalized bookends by President Sue K. Hammersmith.

It's no coincidence that the Metropolitan State Psychology Department flourished during Deb Bushway's 17-year tenure at the university. As a resident faculty member, she helped spearhead the department major. Dr. Bushway, who chaired the department, was also integral in creating the master's degree.

She was indispensable in helping the department quickly fashion a reputation for producing a high-quality curriculum and community-based learning and research. Many psychology students were accepted in top-flight graduate programs and earned membership in Psi Chi, a national psychology honor society whose Metropolitan State chapter Bushway

helped establish.

Her scholarly mastery of the material was evident in a number of graduate and undergraduate courses she developed. She was also eminently relatable to students, winning a trifecta of prestigious university honors— Outstanding Teacher, Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Advising.

Bushway's expertise was also apparent in several key university committees, as the faculty association's president, in her authorship of many academic articles and chapters, and in dozens of presentations she made across the country. Outside academia, she remained grounded in the real world as a licensed clinical psychologist.

It's for these and other accomplishments that Bushway has earned Metropolitan State's enduring respect and gratitude, and the title professor emerita.

Dean Coballes-Vega named provost of Hostos Community College



*Carmen Coballes-Vega, dean,
College of Professional
Studies*

Carmen Coballes-Vega, dean, College of Professional Studies (CPS) and professor of education, has been appointed provost and vice president for academic affairs at Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College (Bronx, N.Y.) by the Board of Trustees, the City University of New York, effective July 1.

During her seven-year tenure at Metropolitan State, she has been involved in several significant organizational and program developments including the formation of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences; the establishment of the Minnesota Center for Professional Development (funded through the Minnesota Department of Human Services), and the restoration of the School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice as a free-standing unit led by Dean Ginny Lane. She also worked collaboratively with faculty to establish new programs including Urban Early Childhood Education, Urban Elementary Education and Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Secondary Education; Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Applied Doctorate in Nursing Practice; online undergraduate/graduate

programs in Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement and Nursing; Disabilities Studies concentration in Human Services, and the redesign of Bachelor of Science in Human Services.

Under Dr. Coballes-Vega's leadership the college garnered over \$2.7 million to support programs and special projects within CPS. In addition, she worked with faculty and the Advancement Division to successfully fund scholarships, including a corporate donation of \$150,000 for student stipends for the Urban Teacher Program. The American Association of State Colleges and Universities named Dr. Coballes-Vega a Millennium Leadership Fellow. She raised the profile of Metropolitan State at the national level through her service on the Board of Directors of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, the Higher Learning Commission (AQIP), the Council on Professional Education and the Board of Directors, *Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio* (CLUES).

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