

Online Catalyst

A Newsletter for Students

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Ride for Education is Aug. 22

The Metropolitan State University Foundation is sponsoring its first annual motorcycle ride, Ride for Education, on Sunday, Aug. 22. All proceeds from the registrations and silent auction will go to create student scholarships. This ride will bring together students, faculty, staff, alumni and spouses/significant others.

Registration and information are available at www.metrostate.edu/foundation/scholarship/ride.html. Links to the registration form and the required waiver can be accessed from this site.

Print out the registration form and mail both the form and payment to the address on the form. You may also view the waiver form which you will be required to fill out and sign the day of the ride.

Schedule for the Day

Riders will register on the Saint Paul Campus, center courtyard, on Aug. 22, 10–11 a.m. after which begins a 100-plus-mile ride through the beautiful bluffs of the Mississippi River near Prescott, Wis. with several enjoyable stops along the way. Upon return, riders will enjoy a pasta dinner at Yarusso Bros. Italian Restaurant, 637 Payne Avenue, Saint Paul, at approximately 5 p.m. The accompanying silent auction will provide more fun and excitement, and all proceeds will go to student scholarships.

Volunteers needed

If you don't ride, you can still take part. Organizers are looking for:

- Crossing guards to help control some busy intersections;
- A motorcycle trailer to be pulled by the chase vehicle for any possible breakdowns;
- Volunteers to help before and after the ride.

Questions?

If you have questions regarding this event, contact Thomas Maida, safety/security director, at thomas.maida@metrostate.edu or 651.793.1725.

In the event of a rain out, the entire schedule moves to Sunday, Aug. 29.

If you would like to make a noncash or silent auction donation, or if you cannot attend this event and would like to make a tax-deductible donation, contact Dotty Hayes, new media director, communications and marketing, at dotty.hayes@metrostate.edu; or Diane DeRosier Douglass, university art director, at diane.derosierdouglass@metrostate.edu.

Sponsors

The sponsors supporting the First Annual Ride for Education are Afton Leather, American Security and Investigations, Century Power Sports, Costco, Impark, Midway Party Rental, Inc., Perkins Restaurant and Bakery, Timberwolves, Yarusso Brothers Italian Restaurant, and the list continues to grow.



Gateway increases personnel and service hours

Fall tuition due Aug. 4

Students who do not pay their tuition and fees in full by the Aug. 4 deadline and have not made other arrangements will be dropped from the fall semester courses. Students are responsible for making financing and payment arrangements well in advance of the payment deadline. Being dropped for nonpayment can affect your ability to complete your program on time.

Students who have a financial aid application (FAFSA) on file for fall semester, those who are veterans receiving VA benefits, those who have made arrangements with the university for their tuition and fees to be paid by a third party (for example, an employer), or those who have signed up for the FACTS Management Plan will not be dropped from their courses.

If you are hoping to register for a course that is currently closed, start watching the online registration system soon after the payment deadline. Some seats in closed courses may open as other students are dropped for nonpayment.

Five Gateway student services associates have been appointed effective June 21 and began serving students July 19. These associates will follow student issues through to resolution, which includes use of investigation, professional judgment and individual discretion. They will act as student advocates and deliver resolutions in a manner consistent with a one-stop approach to student services. They will work flexible hours, including nights and weekends.

Rodney Angier, Woodbury, worked at Saint Paul College since 2005 as an enrollment specialist. Earlier he was a labor services representative for the New York State Department of Labor, Endicott, N.Y. He holds a bachelor in music from Wilkes University, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Rodney is housed in Founders Hall, Room 106C; his phone number is 651.793.1533.

Heather Aune, Cottage Grove, previously worked as an accounting officer at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. Earlier she was an ACT test site administrator at Inver Hills Community College. She holds a B.S. in business administration from Metropolitan State, and an M.A. in educational administration from Saint Mary's University, Minneapolis. She is housed in Founders Hall, Room 106B; her phone number is 651.793.1548.

Beakal Elala, Minneapolis, has been a financial aid assistant and support staff at Metropolitan State since 2008. Earlier he was a

dispatcher for United Properties Securitas in Bloomington. He holds a B.S. in accounting from Metropolitan State. He is housed in Founders Hall, Room 106E; his phone number is 651.793.1512.

Kristan (Esson) Nolan, Saint Paul, formerly was an administrative assistant for TRiO/Student Support Services at Augsburg College since 2008. Earlier she worked for CIGNA, Health Solutions, Eden Prairie, as an employee assistance program personal advocate. She holds a B.A. in psychology and a minor in Spanish studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is housed in Founders Hall, Room 106A; her phone number is 651.793.1513.

Tamara Merkouris, Blaine, previously worked as residence hall director, adjunct faculty, at Winona State University. Earlier she was a library assistant at both the Moorhead Public Library and Hawley Public Library. She holds a B.A. in music from Concordia College, Moorhead, and an M.S. in library science from Clarion University, Clarion, Pa. Tamara is housed in Founders Hall, Room 106D; her phone number is 651.793.1511.

Beginning the week of July 26, the Gateway Student Services Center will extend its hours and be available to assist students over the telephone and in person from 8 a.m.–6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

In October the Gateway Student Services Center plans to extend its hours to include Saturdays from 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Save the date—Transformational Leadership Reception is Aug. 27



The Student Life and Leadership Development Office and the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Office cordially invite all student organization members and their advisors to attend a launch reception for the Metropolitan State University Transformational Leadership Series. This new program is designed to provide ongoing support for student organizations to grow and thrive.

The Transformational Leadership Reception takes place on Friday, Aug. 27, from 5–7 p.m. at the Saint Paul Campus, New Main, Great Hall. The guest speaker is Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz. Students are requested to “dress to impress.”

RSVP your attendance to philip.fuehrer@metrostate.edu or call 651.793.1551 by Friday, Aug. 20.

“Recognizing Excellence” event—correction

In the July 12 *Catalyst*, “‘Recognizing Excellence’ event honors 14”, new Legacy Circle donors Arthur and Ronnie Siegel’s last name was

misspelled as Aeigel. We apologize for the error.

The online copy of the July 12 *Catalyst* has been corrected.

Happy birthday, ADA!

You're invited to a birthday party for the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) on Monday, July 26 from 3–4:30 p.m. in the Reception Area of Founders Hall. Food, games, ice cream and cake await all attendees.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H. W. Bush, and later amended with changes effective Jan. 1, 2009. The ADA is a wide-ranging civil rights law that prohibits, under certain circumstances, discrimination based on disability. It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as

the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination based on race, religion, sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal. Disability is defined by the ADA as “a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits a major life activity.” The determination of whether any particular condition is considered a disability is made on a case by case basis. On Sept. 25, 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, which was intended to give broader protections for disabled workers and “turn back the clock” on court rulings which Congress deemed too restrictive.

Degree plan update workshop for returning students

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 000666) is scheduled for Sept. 9, 3–6 p.m., on the Saint Paul Campus. A second workshop

(course ID 000667) has been scheduled for Oct. 22, 3–6 p.m., on the Saint Paul Campus. The workshops have limited enrollment.

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

Politics, Markets and Society qualifies for Goal IX

SSCI 301-01 Politics, Markets and Society is newly approved for Goal IX, and also qualifies for Goal V and Liberal Studies. This four-credit course taught by Ken Peterson explores the contrasts and interrelationships between three approaches to organizing our public life: democratic politics, economic markets and multiple associations that

make up civil society.

The course runs from Aug. 25–Dec. 8, 6–9 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Saint Paul Campus.

Prerequisites are WRIT 131 Writing I or equivalent, or the instructor's permission.

Study in Nicaragua during winter break

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.”

Students who want to explore a developing nation in a warm and gorgeous country will surely want to take advantage of this Metropolitan State University opportunity over the winter break, Dec. 26–Jan. 12. If you have interests in working with children, working in a library on community projects, working with English as a Second Language vets, or doing other projects so desperately needed in Granada, Nicaragua, consider signing up for the two credit COMM 499: Topics: Service Learning in Nicaragua.

Students who study abroad can use their financial aid package to help defray the cost of the travel. It is wise to register for this two-credit course when registering for fall classes. The class will meet the first Friday of the fall term and one Friday every month throughout the fall (6–9 p.m.) in preparation for the Dec. 26 departure. Professor Suzanne Walfoort of the

Communication, Writing and the Arts Department will conduct the classes and accompany students in their travels and service learning.

Students will live together in one house and walk to their work locations each morning. After working for the morning on service learning projects, they will return for lunch, followed by intensive Spanish in the afternoon.

Cost for the two weeks is \$1,100 plus air fare. Included in the cost is room, board, five excursions, intensive Spanish at whatever level you are, community activists as guest speakers at three dinners, service placement, and transportation throughout the visit.

The trip is limited to 14 students, so register today if interested. All MnSCU students are invited to participate.

Immigrants and Refugees in Urban Schools is new course for fall

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 Yang at student.activities@metrostate.edu or call 651.793.1556.

EDU 451 Immigrants and Refugees in Urban Schools (two credits) is part of the new English as a Second Language minor, and it should be beneficial to interested students from all majors.

The course taught by Associate Professor Rosa Fagundes runs from Aug. 25–Oct. 6 on Wednesdays from 6–9:15 p.m. at the Minneapolis Campus, room to be announced.

Among other topics, students will learn about:

- The experience of students in grades K–12 (and their families) who are immigrants or refugees living in urban communities, particularly within the Twin Cities
- The historical and contemporary factors that contributed to families from various countries and cultures coming to the U.S.

- Similarities and differences between the experiences of immigrants and refugees
 - ~ particular challenges
 - ~ examples of resiliency
 - ~ community resources
- Benefits of bilingual education
- How the larger community shapes communication with parents
- How the urban environment conditions may influence learning

Note: There are no books required for this course; field experience is part of the requirements.

For further information, send an e-mail to rosa.fagundes@metrostate.edu or call the Education Department at 612.659.7180.

Stephanie Lasley, TRiO office manager, dies



Ambassador wolf “Denali” greets Stephanie at the International Wolf Center.

Stephanie (Lange) Lasley, age 58, of Saint Paul, passed away June 24 in her home. She is survived by her mother, Wilda Gustafson; sister, Carrie (Larry) Barrett; niece, Allicia; nephew, Dean (Bonnie); brother, Glenn (Peggy) Lange; niece, Amy (Scott) Birkins; and great nieces Emily and Hanna Birkins. Services will be held at a later date.

Stephanie began work at Metropolitan State as an office and administrative specialist intermediate for TRiO and Disability Services in the Student Affairs Office on Oct. 10, 2005. She provided secretarial/administrative support services to both offices, maintained databases, arranged for student accommodations and assisted in event and program production. Previously she had worked in positions at Merrill Corporation, Goodwill/Easter Seals, Express Scripts, Gateway, HealthPartners, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy and others. She held a bachelor of arts from the University of Minnesota, a computer programming certificate from Brown Institute and had Novell Administrator and Novell Engineer certificates from Benchmark Computer Learning in Edina.

A memorial in Stephanie’s honor has been set up with the International Wolf Center in Ely, Minn. She was passionate about her work with the center. Contributions

can be sent directly to International Wolf Center, 3410 Winnetka Ave. North, Suite 101, Minneapolis, MN 55427; or donations can be made online at <http://shop.wolf.org/donate.asp> (when checking out on billing page, indicate “in memory of Stephanie Lasley” in the order comment).

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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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