

Metropolitan State University

buzz

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

FALL 2018 VOLUME 11, NO. 1

Community



Metropolitan
State University





Minnesota State Fair Labor Day Storm
Janelle Danforth '18
photography

Office Hours



Greetings! Have you ever had the experience of being in a meeting in which everyone is engaged in building a novel solution to a problem? Or participated on a sports team where everyone's talents came together to help propel the team to victory? You've likely walked away feeling exhilarated, knowing that you and the group have achieved something you couldn't do on your own. You also probably felt quite positive about your colleagues or teammates—high fives all around! If so, you have experienced the strength we all find through inclusion.

At Metropolitan State, where students come with many different racial, ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds or experience the world from differing sexual identities, ages or physical abilities, I often hear how much they learn from each other. Students become creative, thoughtful and resilient as a result of the inclusion of diverse perspectives on campus. This is one of the hallmarks of a Metropolitan State University education!

While this is a wonderfully diverse community, we know it is important to be intentional about assuring that everyone feels included. To that end, we kicked off the academic year with a keynote address at convocation by Dr. Lucy LePeau, an associate professor and associate director at the National Institute for Transformation and Equity, at Indiana University. She works with colleges and universities to cultivate culturally engaging campus environments where diverse students thrive. In addition to demonstrating the benefits of an inclusive environment for students' success, she shared practical ideas for creating inclusion in and out of the classroom.

After a festive annual picnic, attendees reconvened in the afternoon for a presentation on the *Neuroscience of Inclusion*, helping us to understand that inclusive behavior is both inhibited and built in the brain. Throughout the year we will be focusing on how inclusiveness can provide the strength our students' need to persist in their studies, graduate and find career success.

This is going to be another exciting year for Metropolitan State. We are launching a campus-wide strategic planning effort to strengthen the university and outcomes for our students. We are also preparing for enrolling students in our newly approved MA and MS degrees in Individualized Studies, staying true to our founding commitment to help students identify the problems they want to solve, and then working with them to design the academic program that will give them the knowledge and skills they need to achieve their goals. We are being noticed! Three recent forms of recognition provide encouragement for our work to make learning and working inclusive. First, CollegeNET's "Social Mobility Index" ranked Metropolitan State in the top 6% of 1,363 colleges and universities, noting our success in enabling graduates to move from a lower to a higher income stratum after graduation.

Metropolitan State is now officially recognized as a Minority Serving Institution, on the basis of the number of Asian American and Native American Pacific-Islanders we serve. This status will make us eligible for Federal capacity-building grants. Our affiliation with the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Foundation qualifies our students to apply for significant national scholarships.

Also this year, we received the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) award from *Insight into Diversity* magazine, the oldest and largest diversity-focused publication in the higher education sector.

We are also proud to be part of a system that is forward-looking. Minnesota State's Board of Trustees is launching a forum on the theme of "Reimagining Higher Education." Their goal is to assure that our system is an innovative and resilient organization that can thrive in a changing and uncertain environment. Supported by this kind of leadership, I know that Metropolitan State—an institution that was born out of "reimagining higher education"—will continue to be the inclusive and impactful university that the Twin Cities region needs.

Sincerely,

Virginia Arthur

Virginia "Ginny" Arthur, JD
President

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An equal opportunity educator

COVER:

TRIO Mural

The TRIO mural was made in collaboration with over 350 administrators, faculty, staff, students and TRIO supporters from across the country. Through this, we are coming together to symbolize a community that supports and strengthens each other.

This mural is dedicated to all students who are striving to further their academic journey and success in life.

Unveiled on Nov. 8, 2017 in honor of First-Generation College Student Recognition Day. The full mural is on display in the TRIO offices at Metropolitan State University.

Alumni Association

Greetings from the Alumni Board.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the president of your Alumni Board. Our mission as a volunteer board is to extend the relationship between the university and its graduates after the commencement ceremony ends. We are students for a short time, but we are alumni for life.

One of the challenges to maintaining this connection is that alumni have really busy lives, and coming to campus for an event or volunteer opportunity doesn't always fit with their lives. We have heard from many of you that you would like to stay connected, but it is hard to find the time. Over the summer we piloted events we are calling "Metro in Your Neighborhood." We gather at restaurants around the Twin Cities for conversation and appetizers, courtesy of the Alumni Association, to make staying involved more convenient. We were pleased with the response, and we will continue to host these types of events. Keep an eye on the monthly alumni email newsletter and our social media channels for dates, time and locations.

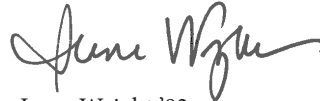
Your feedback is important to us. To that end, we will be conducting an alumni survey. We know that, as Metro State alumni,

you have feedback and ideas that we can't hope to capture by a casual meeting at an event. We want to stay relevant to your life, so look for the survey in February. Your responses will inform our plans for the future.

In this issue of the *buzz*, you will find profiles of the current board members. I think you will agree we represent many backgrounds, life experiences, and career paths. The strength of our board is the many perspectives we bring to our work. I have found it to be a rewarding experience. I invite you to consider volunteering for a board committee. Our Fundraising and Events committees are actively seeking additional members. If you have time and talent to share, consider joining us! We would love to have you.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Irene Wright '92

President, Alumni Association Board

Do you have the time and talent to invest in joining a committee of the Metropolitan State Alumni Association Board?

**Email your resume and contact information to:
alumni.relations@metrostate.edu.
We would love to connect with you.**

Community

Restoring Community—

The 2018 International Restorative Practice Conference

By Emily Seddon

“In this time of conflict and pain, we invite people to come and hear with an open heart and open mind; willing to be bent, moved, coerced at times; to be vulnerable; to listen; to learn and lead. No matter what we hear, let it not be seen as an individual offense. We are here to expand our knowledge base. We are all here for learning. We all need to listen. We may not agree with one another. Our Restorative Practices work is messy, so let us recognize our messy humanity.”

—Restorative Invitation by Professor Raj Sethuraju

Metropolitan State University is building an anti-racist learning environment by uplifting community knowledge and welcoming difficult conversations about inclusion and equity. This is one of the reasons why Metro State was an ideal host for the 2018 International Conference on Restorative Practices, which was held on the Saint Paul Campus Aug. 9–11, 2018.

“Restorative practices are the essence that underpins restorative justice work,” explained conference coordinator and founder of Dialogue UP!, Natasha Lapcinski. “Restorative practices aren’t just a set of tools, a program, or a technique—it is a way of being in the world.” Intentionally naming the conference “*Restoring Self. Restoring Community. Restoring World.*,” the faculty, alumni, and community conference planners designed a three-day program that focused on restorative practices as a way of life.

Professor Raj Sethuraju, one of the lead organizers for the conference, explained that “creating a restorative space and a restorative environment invites us to challenge the status quo and let the dissonance in us unite our mind and body.” He believes that “the fusion energy will continue to help us explore and engage humanity, community, and relationships.”

One of the ways in which conference organizers challenged the status quo was by highlighting voices from the restorative practices community that are often marginalized. Lapcinski noted the uncomfortable but necessary truth that “for far too long, we have taken a restorative practices way of being and tried to fit it into our current systems, like courts and schools. This has caused us to get away from restorative practices’ depth and ability to heal whole systems and communities. We need to create a space where we return to the indigenous wisdom.”





The planning paid off. Participants did feel challenged to examine their own work and way of being. One participant shared, “I felt that this conference differed from any other conference I have attended. At first, I found fault in that. However, after opening my mind and heart, I began to appreciate this difference and realize that this difference was what I am searching for in education. A sense of sincerity, a place where people can be real, a place of truth—and the truth is not always pretty. Once I made that shift in my mind, the experience on the whole was BEAUTIFUL. It was powerful, inspiring, and transforming.”

American Indian activist Stephanie Autumn gave the opening keynote address titled “In the Absence of Justice” in which she challenged conference participants to honestly examine and own their work. She said to the crowd of more than 420 participants, “Indigenous people lit this fire [of restorative practice] when you were looking towards this land for your freedom. For your liberation. And we will never ever relinquish that history to your system.” Following this powerful reclamation of the narrative, the conference highlighted and brought together voices from Minnesota’s Somali, Hmong, Black, and Native American communities with others from around the globe. Sessions highlighted work being done in schools, in courts, in prisons, in communities, and tools for individuals.

So what comes next? Lapcinski explains that the conference was structured to include “a call to action to address how we are going to be together in this restorative practice work while systems of oppression continue to exist.”

Jason Sole ’06, the Community-First Public Safety Initiatives director for the City of Saint Paul, relied on the words of activist Lilla Watson for his call to action: “If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

Autumn suggested that we can work together by decolonizing language within the restorative practice community. This includes honoring experience and moving away from language and systems that create restorative practice as something in which one must be certified to be effective. She also suggested that we, as communities and individuals, can *act* restoratively to help heal trauma and harm by, for example, increasing funding for mental healthcare.

Several of the Minnesota-based conference organizers and participants are planning on hosting circles—a restorative practice that seeks to repair harm by creating a safe community space grounded in principles of respect, honesty, listening, truth, and sharing—on key issues affecting local communities today.

Professor Debra Ricci ’79, one of the conference organizers and a Metro State alumna, is working with Professor Caitlin Mahoney and others from the Metro State community to develop research infrastructure and a curriculum to revive peace and social justice studies at the university.

Metro State President Ginny Arthur also recognized the work ahead for the university in her remarks at the conference. Referencing the strong and ongoing engagement with the community, President Arthur said, “we may be on a beautiful river bluff, but we are not an ivory tower.” Acknowledging that the university’s beautiful Dayton’s Bluff location is Dakota land, President Arthur reaffirmed Metro State’s responsibility to use its assets to provide inclusive and culturally relevant education to everyone who wants it.

Lifelong Learning

Master of Technical Communication Program (MS)

By Dr. Tori Sadler

Are you someone who is intrigued by technological change and its effects on communication? Are you interested in expanding your range of communication skills by including technology? Maybe you are an expert in your field and would like to learn how to better communicate with non-experts?

If so, consider Metropolitan State's master's program in Technical Communication.

The field of Technical Communication is as varied as the people who work in it, and this variety is what makes it ideal for the lifelong learner. As a student in our program you'll find your classmates come from a range of backgrounds: some create technical documents for the workplace; some are communicators in corporations or nonprofits; some are scientists or engineers learning how to improve their communication skills; and some are interested in non-workplace issues related to communication. Regardless of background, they all have in common a goal of solving complex communicative problems for a variety of audiences, in a variety of media.

Whether you're hoping to deepen your understanding of the field of Technical Communication or are transitioning to the field; hoping to apply technical communication skills in your role as a technical expert, or hoping to learn for the sake of learning, we think our Master of Science in Technical Communication program is for you. Please email techcomm@metrostate.edu or call

Professor Tori Sadler
at 651-999-5817
for more information.



Graduate Program

College of Liberal Arts–Master of Science in Technical Communication

Your current abilities—you know, excellent communication skills and working knowledge of digital media—combined with our innovative program will grant you an edge in highly sought-after careers in technical communication.

Our innovative Master of Science in Technical Communication program is one of the largest of its kind in the United States, and that comes with many advantages. Many of our professors and students are former or current communication professionals. They bring to the classroom a wide range of demonstrated skills and experience that will enhance your own knowledge and skillset. In addition, you will have opportunities to work on real projects for real clients, which provides useable material for your professional portfolio.

Upon completion of this program, you will have developed understanding in many of the following areas:

- Document and information design
- Content development and design for digital media
- Writing and editing
- Project management
- User experience and information architecture
- Information management
- Cross-cultural communication

For more information, visit us at www.metrostate.edu/academics/programs/technical-communication-ms



“I chose to study at Metro State because the technical communication graduate program accommodated adult learners with demanding schedules. The program was a great fit for me because I was able to relate the class discussions, assigned readings, and assignments with my real-life work experiences and projects.”

– Cindy Xiong '16

Alumni Spotlight

Meet Your Alumni Board

By Matthew Spillum '06



Sandy Best '88

Minnesota Air National Guard Brigadier General Sandy Best's earnest enthusiasm for the work of the Metropolitan State Alumni Board comes across immediately in conversation. Having served more than three years, she speaks with pride of the many highlights of her time on the board: "I love serving with Ginny—her presidency really serves the university well. Also, having General (Frank J.) Grass '85 acknowledged as Alumnus of the Year, Metropolitan State being named as a Yellow Ribbon company, and Metropolitan State having the largest number of veterans studying here of any of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system."

These successes are not without counterbalancing challenges, of course, and Brigadier General Best notes the chief one without hesitation: "(The board) is not large enough. Sometimes, for instance, committees are a committee of one. So we need to expand." However, she immediately turns her focus to the positive steps being taken to address this: "Reviewing the outside study done to look at the board and see what the board was doing well and where we need to improve, as well as reviewing our bylaws, will help us be more focused going forward."

Brigadier General Best is particularly sanguine in regards to Metropolitan State's inclusivity. "I think Metropolitan State exceeds all other educational institutions in knowledge of inclusivity and diversity, from my perspective, because they're living it." She sees that success as a model for how the Alumni Board can partner with the university in furthering this core principle. "We are trying to be very deliberate to ensure the board is a diverse representation, that we look like the students that attend school here. We must remain conscious of the population that the university serves and constantly be thinking about inclusiveness and respect, which go hand in hand, in everything we do."



Steve Campos '17

For Steve Campos, returning to serve the institutions that have helped shape him is a natural calling. Whether working as a K-12 substitute teacher for District 833; volunteering with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; or serving on the Metropolitan State Alumni Board, Campos is not one to let someone else handle it, even as he "scales back into 3-4 years of real retirement."

A relatively new board member, Campos finds serving on the board "really enjoyable as we create a new emphasis on reaching out to the alumni community." This focus on outreach and providing new ways to connect is a familiar concept to the longtime veterans services advocate: "In the Air Force, we call it 're-blue-ing,' so here at Metro, we might call it 're-Metro-ing.'" Getting those alumni to 're-Metro' can be accomplished by outreach initiatives and mentoring programs.

"Of course, such initiatives take time and people," says Campos. "We're making strides now, through opportunities to connect with the alumni community, such as Saints games and the newer Metro in the Neighborhood gatherings," he says.

As a student, Campos noted the ways Metropolitan State included so many communities; "I definitely witnessed, as a veteran, as a Latino, and also as an older student, that Metro State has a place for and is inclusive of, all these communities." And the same remedies the board is pursuing are what he names as ways that Metropolitan State can continue to lead in the area of inclusiveness: "We need more awareness and outreach, on the part of the board or Metro State itself, to create more gatherings of students like at Fall Fest, and ways to connect current students with the alumni community. And that is our goal."



Akmed Khalifa '08

Akmed Khalifa's wide-ranging collection of passions and vocations encompasses writing, educating, counseling, creating and managing organizations, and service to others. It is to Metropolitan State's great benefit that he includes serving on the Alumni Board as one of his many interests. Over the course of time as a student and his more than six-year tenure on the board, he has seen the university evolve and change to meet its challenges.

"I've been impressed by the way that Metropolitan State has developed its presence as an urban educational institution, particularly in terms of diversity and serving people of color. Even as the university has moved in some ways toward more traditional educational offerings, it is still honoring the traditions of its origins; offering individualized programs and providing academic credit for life experiences."

Khalifa is particularly interested in the ways that Metropolitan State has risen to the challenge of inclusiveness. "Given the rising numbers of people of color, the LGBTQ+ community, elders in the community, and people of different faiths being served by the university, it is important that all of these groups feel that they have a place here. Metropolitan State provides that more than many other universities. As numbers continue to grow, these intergenerational, intercultural, and interfaith challenges will remain an issue for Metro State, as we navigate how best to straddle social issues, how to advocate for our various communities without excluding any of our other communities." With his long connection to the university and the many lenses he brings to bear on any given issue, Khalifa certainly seems well-suited to help keep the alumni community engaged and informed on Metro State's most pressing needs.



Linda McCann '06

Linda McCann knows Metropolitan State from multiple perspectives, from her time as a masters and doctoral student in the College of Management, as an alumna, and as College of Management faculty, where she currently serves as an associate professor in the accounting department. Such connections serve her well in working with the other members of the Alumni Board. Her service on the Alumni Board over the last couple of years has also provided her the opportunity to "see the scope of how much of the community Metropolitan State reaches in the Twin Cities."

Among the ways McCann views inclusivity as a Metropolitan State core value is on the age spectrum: "Inclusion for me meant being an older person coming back onto campus after having spent a considerable amount of time away from formal education, working as a CPA and raising my kids—it was scary to come back onto a campus and try to compete again at that higher level. I felt like Metro State really embraced me. I never felt like I couldn't participate. College of Management classes did a great job with group work: 'this is business, in business we work in teams, and everyone is going to bring something to the table.'"

Among the ways that McCann could see Metropolitan State improving inclusivity is in the area of informal networking opportunities for students: "Adults are busy, and don't always have time to network. Providing ways to build casual connections between students, such a sharing food before class, create those relaxed opportunities to get to know each other." She sees the Alumni Board expanding on this idea in similar ways: "We need to continue to invite our alumni back onto campus, for alumni events, and invite them to other events on campus that have space. The board did a trivia night with the College of Management. It was a good time to network, as well as an engaging competition. We also do our Saints game, and I really have enjoyed that."

Meet Your Alumni Board



Isaac Muhammad '12

As a first-term member of the board, Isaac Muhammad really looks at the recently done survey as a great launching point for the future. “I think that we have done a great job so far, doing the survey and understanding our shortcomings, to see how we can improve. Regular attendance is one area, as well as having greater understanding of the board expectations and finding ways to meet those expectations.”

From his own perspective, Muhammad is glad to bring “a different perspective to the board; an understanding of the minority student, the adult student, and how we can help them out in terms of opportunities. Getting those students engaged, not only when they are alumni, but also with the school itself.” He recalls his own experience as a student being “great—the university is very diverse and welcoming. Areas to continue working on would be in terms of faculty and staff becoming more representative, and bringing greater job market knowledge to immigrant communities, so that when they graduate, they land in their field.”

Muhammad sees the board as no exception to the need to improve representation: “we are working on getting more diverse members, not only in ethnic background, but in profession and age. The more board members that we recruit, the more we will have individuals with understanding of the different challenges that are out there, and how we can help our alumni, as well as helping the university engage with those alumni.”

Muhammad sees good things happening with some of the board's more recent initiatives. “One of the things we have started to do is our Metro in the Neighborhood gatherings, which are opportunities to engage and connect with other alumni. We can introduce them to the board, and see if any of them might be open to serve on the board themselves.”



Carmen Shields '15

Coming to her first term on the Alumni Board with 17 years of experience in higher education marketing and communications, Carmen Shields wanted to “see the alumni engagement experience from the other side.” As a longtime professional in higher education marketing and communications, she “absolutely loves the mission of Minnesota State and particularly that of Metropolitan State University because it's so inclusive, accessible, affordable, and it meets the need for people to improve their lives in ways that not all colleges and universities can.”

After the early months of “learning expectations and how things work,” Shields, along with the rest of the board, dug into the outside survey research conclusions. “I've been really excited by the research that was done on how to improve the work of the board. I've also been part of the rewriting of the board's bylaws, which was fun for me. Most recently, I was part of the scholarship group to identify the alumni scholarship recipient. Hearing the stories of the applicants was particularly powerful.”

With so many ways to make an impact through the board, the chief constraint Shields faces is time. “Trying to identify the ways that I can provide value to the work of the Alumni Board, while also knowing that I am balancing a lot with my own full-time job, family, and church obligations. I try to be more specific in the types of things that I am able to do, so that I know the time and energy I am putting into those things is making a difference.”

As a longtime higher education professional who has specifically reviewed a great deal of research into adult learners, including specifically adult learner research in the Twin Cities area, Shields is well-positioned to provide insight into the intersection of inclusiveness and success. “Where I see Metropolitan State doing it really well is meeting a busy, working adult where they are, and providing education in a way that makes it possible. Offering online classes, evening classes, weekend classes, accelerated learning opportunities, and not having a big barrier in terms of cost, those are the ways that provide a lot of different kinds of people access.”



JEFF ACHEN

Andrea Steen '11

Andrea Steen might have more perspective on the many facets of alumni organization than anyone else on the board. The Century College Director of Alumni Relations was just recently voted onto the board, after one of her Century College alumni, Michael O'Connor '92, had just cycled off of the Metropolitan State Alumni Board to transition onto the Metropolitan State Foundation Board, and recommended she join. "We had met on another matter and it came up in conversation, and I said, 'I'm an alumna, and I'm in this world, so I am happy to contribute.'"

Steen hopes that her work at Century provides "experience from the execution side, as well as creativity and idea generation from the board member side. We have a lot of strategic thinkers, excited alumni, on the Century board, with a lot of great ideas, and we come together to decide our programming and benefits and all that. Then I, as the director, go out and make it happen, which is a ton of work. So I bring that understanding of the 'ton of work' part to the Metro board." Providing those tools and perspectives to the board, Steen hopes to empower others to be more effective.

Even as a brand new member, Steen is aware that "reaching people is the number one challenge. Finding communication channels that reach them, and once you have reached them, what do you have to say?" To do that, she thinks, it is necessary to find that "common denominator that brings alumni together. What are the university traditions that alumni enjoy? And if there aren't any, what is the tradition or theme that we could start?"

In striving to create ways for students and alumni to connect with each other and with the university, Steen relates some of the programming being attempted at Century. "We can create more inclusion (in the university) with more awareness and a more welcoming atmosphere. One thing we are piloting at Century that I'd like to see Metro State consider is an alumni/student Career Connectors program. Part of that program would include giving our alumni mentors inclusion and cultural sensitivity training, to bring those issues back to mind and give them resources that may increase respect and understanding, creating more successful interactions with students."



JEFF ACHEN

Irene Wright '92

Irene Wright heads into her fourth year on the board, seeing a lot to be positive about. The Edina Realty Vice President of Corporate Services speaks of the board's current situation as one of improved focus: "I think one of the big successes is that the board has a sense of purpose. We're working together, and also working in conjunction with the Foundation Board. We've started to do the Metro in the Neighborhood events, gathering alumni from areas around the Twin Cities and as we do more of these, we hope they gain ever more traction. It is a good way to meet fellow alums we might not otherwise know."

Wright's experience as a student reflects some of the challenges the board faces in reaching out to alumni. Absent sporting events and other university-wide cultural touchstones to draw on, students at Metropolitan State can sometimes be focused only on the end goal: "When I came to Metro State as a student, there were a lot of things going on in my life, and my goal was just to get done, and get a job. Now, looking back, I kind of wish I hadn't rushed through it."

Still, Wright notes the ways that the same elements that drew her to Metropolitan State provide a measure of inclusivity: "access to flexible schedules, online classes, multiple locations for classes all over the Twin Cities, all these allowed anyone who could do it to do it, and your circumstances didn't have to keep you from it." Her message to alumni who haven't yet connected to one of the board's events is to give them a try. "Try to attend one thing, because the experience you receive now, as opposed to when you were a student, for me at least, is an incredibly joyful moment. I sat at the greeting table at the Grad Expo, and hearing the stories of the students, the perseverance, the determination, the drive to complete a degree, was so powerful. That experience alone, for an alum to come back and listen to students, was just awesome."

The Metropolitan State University Alumni Board of Directors offer alumni the opportunity to give their time and talent back to the university. If you have the time and willingness to serve on the Alumni Board or committee of the board, we would love to hear from you. Email us at alumni.relations@metrostate.edu.

Leading the Way

A Commitment to the Future

By Emily Seddon

“If you want to create a better society,” suggests Metro State alumnus Tim Doherty ’94, “contributing to education is possibly the best way. When I see mega-donors giving large gifts to their respective alma maters, I get it. They’re demonstrating their gratitude, and they see the long-term value in it. If investing in our future by giving to higher education is good enough for billionaires, it’s good enough for me.”

Doherty’s giving and volunteer commitment to Metro State goes well beyond following the example of some of the world’s leading philanthropists. It is part of an ongoing relationship with Metro State that started when he was a student and has grown into a responsibility to give back.

In the early 1990s, Doherty needed to finish his degree. Fast. He had some college credits but needed to finish almost two years of college in 12 months. Metro State was the only place that allowed him to do that. In 1994, he graduated with a business degree after being awarded credit for prior experiences and taking both traditional classes and independent study.

Twenty-five years later, Doherty still marvels at the quality education at Metro State. He valued having instructors with real-world insight. He feels that the Metro State experience “rounds a person out by teaching critical thinking and writing skills and helping students build confidence.” This is why billionaires and Doherty give to higher education.

But Metro State is not just any university. Doherty believes that Metro State better develops its students’ capacity to solve problems and lead their community into the future because its students are adult learners and have a wide breadth of experiences. He credits Metro State with his communication skills and the ability to anticipate and understand client needs in his work today at Dakota Electric Association.

Thankful for that gift, Doherty was ready to give back. So, in 2010, when Doherty was asked to volunteer on the Alumni Board, he showed up ready to work and bring new ideas. As a member and later board president, he helped Metro State think creatively about showcasing what makes it special and getting other alumni to give back to the university.

Part of Doherty’s commitment is to lead by example. In addition to volunteering, he makes an annual contribution to the Metro Fund and has named Metropolitan State University as a beneficiary in his will through a process known as planned giving.

He challenges you to think about what you want your legacy to be. “When I think about how my education at Metro State has contributed to my success, it is easy to be grateful,” says Doherty. “In doing my estate planning, which is something everyone should do sooner than later, including Metro State was an easy choice. There is little commitment for a donor other than naming your alma mater in your will. You don’t have to be wealthy to have a will or to include Metro State in your will; you only need to write it up.”

Volunteering has given Doherty unique insight into current student experiences. He likes seeing his gifts at work. He has served on the Alumni Scholarship Committee, which provides support to alumni going back to school for another degree. Through this experience, he said you can hear the “amazing stories” and see “impressive student talent.”

Doherty likes knowing that his gifts are going to support this type of education—designed to incorporate the nuances of a student’s life experiences. He gives back to honor the quality and flexibility that helped him launch his career. He feels that giving to Metro State gives him control over what his money does and over how it helps and shapes the future of Metropolitan State students.

When he’s not at work or volunteering at Metro State, Doherty can be found teaching curling, bicycling, traveling, or spending time with his wife and their dog at their Saint Paul home.

Making a legacy gift is such an individual decision. Metropolitan State University Foundation has systems that can help you navigate fiscal complexities, provide confidential, expert legal and financial guidance, and create a legacy plan to suit your needs and reflect your personal values. We encourage all donors to contact Foundation Executive Director Rita Dibble to get more information and build your customized plan. rita.dibble@metrostate.edu



JEFF ACHEN

Tim with his wife Connie at the 2018 President's major donor reception.

Student Success

“Life Chose Me to Be a Teacher”

By Kristine Hansen '07

When Drew Edwards '18 stands in front of his students as a student teacher in Language Arts at South High School in Minneapolis, he understands the struggles his students face in life and in the public education system. He is familiar with teachers who lack the cultural competency to allow students to bring their whole identity to the classroom because that was his experience. As a student at a master's program in the Metropolitan State University School of Urban Education, Teacher Preparation program, he intends to use his experience and degree to change that paradigm.

As an elementary and secondary school student, Edwards attended both Minneapolis and Saint Paul Public Schools, graduating from Saint Paul Central High School in 2004. He experienced what is sadly common among many students of color: systems and policies favoring authoritative control rather than an understanding of the experience of the whole child.

“Even before I could articulate it, I knew the schools were not serving me,” Edwards says. “I could see they were not building leaders. Education was a sorting process.”

After graduation, he went on to get an Associate degree in Business Management from Minneapolis College (Then known as MCTC). While he was attending MCTC, he stayed close to his home base. He volunteered as a coach at Powderhorn Park Recreation Center in Minneapolis because he wanted to give back to his community, and “the rec center that raised me.”

While volunteering as a coach for chess, football, and wrestling, the mothers of his athletes would come to him and speak of the issues their children were facing in the schools. It was a familiar story, and he realized that these kids could benefit from his experiences. With a teaching degree, he could extend his work in the community to the classroom. He could be an advocate within the schools.

As a student in the Master of Education Program at Metropolitan State, Edwards found the academic support that would help him take his career and his passion to the next level. “I didn’t think of myself as a teacher, but my professors told me I could be successful. Professors Mr. Bruce Drewlow, Dr. Anne Winkler-Morey and Dr. Nadine Haley believed in me. They showed me that I can take my narrative and change the narrative for other kids.” As a recipient of the Urban Teacher Endowed Scholarship, he earned tangible recognition of his potential.

Edwards will complete his student teaching in November. He approaches his education and career with humility and gratitude. “I never expected to get a master’s degree, less than 8 percent of kids from my background do, but life chose me to be a teacher.” When life called on him, he raised his hand.

Support Success

Mark your calendar to make a difference for students at Metropolitan State

Give to the Max Day is Nov. 15, 2018.

Visit GiveMN.org and search for Metropolitan State to make a gift. Your generosity could translate into a \$10,000 Golden Ticket for Metropolitan State!

Look for more information emailed to your inbox in the coming days.



Dean's Notes

Dr. Judith Graziano, PhD, RN, Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences



Greetings from the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). Our college enjoys a long history of providing accredited and board-approved programs in the areas of nursing and dental

hygiene. Building on strong underpinnings from the liberal arts and theory, our programs provide a strong foundation necessary for meeting changing, complex health care needs of our citizens. To respond to this complex ecosystem of change, we continue to evolve our programming to meet the needs of our students.

The School of Nursing was established in 1981 as part of the university's mission to provide high-quality baccalaureate-level education to registered nurses (RNs) seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees. Our inaugural RN-BSN program is going strong and continues to educate associate and diploma-prepared RNs in a flexible manner geared for working adults. **Watch for the launch of the 100% online RN-BSN program in spring semester 2019!** This is a great opportunity for RNs that want to become part of a baccalaureate-prepared nursing workforce.

The Minnesota Alliance for Nursing Education (MANE-BSN) pre-licensure program innovates because the faculty from Metropolitan State and seven community colleges worked together to create a brand new, concept-based baccalaureate curriculum that is offered on both the community college and university campuses. Over 400 dual-admitted students have graduated with a BSN as of spring semester, 2018.

The Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program started enrolling students in fall 2012. This program prepares students for the advanced practice role of a Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP). I am happy to report that preparations are underway to welcome our first cohort of master's in Nurse Anesthesia students in partnership with the Minneapolis School of Anesthesia in fall 2019, and the first cohort of DNP Nurse Anesthesia students in fall 2021.

Our groundbreaking **Master of Science in Advanced Dental Therapy** program is the first program of its kind in the nation, preparing baccalaureate-educated and licensed dental hygienists for the new dental provider role of advanced dental therapy. Graduates of this program are making a difference. An early impact statement published in 2014 showed that dental therapists had served more than 6,338 new patients, of which, 84% were enrolled in public medical assistance programs. Dental practices employing dental therapists were seeing cost savings, increased productivity, and patient satisfaction.

The **Health Systems Bachelor of Science (HSBS)** degree is the newest academic major in our college. This program provides individuals holding a health-related associate degree the opportunity to complete a baccalaureate degree. This multi-disciplinary, innovative baccalaureate degree completion program helps students build careers in health promotion and disease prevention within complex health systems located within diverse communities. Building on foundations of the liberal arts, behavioral and life sciences, students in this program learn to effectively lead people and projects.

As the dean, the most gratifying events of the year are the commencement ceremonies held each fall and spring semester. It is so heartwarming to see the work of our students, faculty, and staff culminate in the proud faces walking across the stage being recognized. Lives on all sides have been changed as life-long relationships between students and their peers, students and their faculty and advisors, and ever-deepening relationships among the faculty and staff have formed and evolved. Tears of joy, and sometimes relief, are shed. The departments in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences are steeped in deep-rooted traditions of holistic health and healing aimed at eliminating health inequities through the facilitation of student learning, advancing scholarship and engaging in the community. I am pleased to report that our programs provide our alumni with the tools they need to make a difference for the community.

From You

Caregiving in a Rural Community

Cassandra Altringer '12 DNP, APRN, FNP

I graduated in April of 2016, as a member of the first cohort to go through the Doctorate of Nursing Practice program at Metropolitan State University. After graduation, I started my career at Coal Country Community Health Center in Killdeer, N.D., where I still practice. The clinic is a federally-qualified health center, and the majority of our patients are low-income individuals and families, as well as those without health insurance. The clinic is in a rural area, and the nearest hospital is a 45-minute drive away.

I work in family practice, so I manage everything that I feel I am capable of managing with the help of specialty care when needed. We rely on our local emergency services staff when patients come into the clinic with emergent situations. We have to be resourceful; I find myself calling other health care providers at our main clinic in Beulah, N.D. when I have questions or need someone to discuss a patient case with. I work with one other family nurse practitioner to care for the patients in our community. We are in the middle of oil country so the majority of our patients at this point are not permanent residents in North Dakota and we may see them once or twice, and that is it. This makes continuity of care difficult.

While going through my program at Metropolitan State University, I learned a great deal about caring for individuals in underserved communities, including training regarding communication and education of health information with these communities. We often treat Native American patients from the two reservations nearby because we are the closest clinic for these communities. I am thankful to be working somewhere that I feel my skills as a family nurse practitioner are utilized to their fullest, and I feel Metropolitan State University helped pave the way for me to provide quality, competent care in a rural clinic setting. I felt well-prepared to enter my first job as a family nurse practitioner and continue to learn new things each and every day. I was the first doctorally-prepared nurse practitioner hired by my organization. And my training allowed me to embrace my role from the start. Two years later I can still say that I chose the perfect school to attend graduate school because of the program structure and faculty.



Arts at Metropolitan State

Excerpt from *Haute Dish*

Barn Swallows

Rebekah Pahr ('12)

We watch barn swallows,
high from the hayloft hatch,
perched on straw and hay.
Prickling bales,
packed end to end,
barn seams strain, holding wrap and weft,
woven in sunlight and sweat.

Sheep barn bubbles with grey boils, erupting under eaves,
clay sculptures—a barn swallow installation.
Splatter-paintings of spittle,
dried nests of mud pellets,
lined with tufts of stolen wool,
softening lanolin,
to oil speckled eggs.

Boomerang shadows loom and shrink in flashes,
sun, stretching tail-feathered tapers to pitchforks.
Swooping silhouettes hung against spider webs,
hooked thick across wood splinters.
Darting wing-tips push a whisper across our cheeks,
like melting clouds,
dissolved
into pasture and rays, vanishing.

Dropping, diving, gobbling over the manure pile,
swift turns, rapid bursts, impossible orbits.
Flies, fat and heavy, angry ink blots suspended,
Swarms that rise and fall,
gasping like the breath of late yellowed lambs.
Streaming stench suffocating
soiled straw,
rich with time and soured decay,
devouring old ewe bones.

Lilac bodies hurled, greedy throats coated cinnamon,
tending translucent hatchlings.
Twitters, warbles, whirrs and buzzing,
staccato scolding pollutes the air,
thick with gnats,
flurry
and fury.

Haute Dish is the Metropolitan State literary magazine dedicated to showcasing the artistic talent of Metropolitan State students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The poetry and art in this issue are excerpted from the spring 2018 issue of *Haute Dish*.

Alumni are encouraged to submit poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, memoir/personal essay, photography, studio art or digital storytelling for publication.

Submission deadlines are:

Fall issue – April 15

Spring issue – Nov.15

For more information, visit the *Haute Dish* website,
www.hautedish.metrostate.edu

Gordon Parks Gallery Exhibition Schedule

In the Company of Others

(documentary portraits by African-American photographer
Den-Zell Gilliard, guest curator John Schuerman)
Jan. 28-Feb. 21, 2019

Student Salon 2019 (artwork by Studio Arts majors)
March 25-April 11, 2019

We Come from the Flower (photographs of Hmong American
farmers by Mike Hazard)
April 22-June 27, 2019

Gallery Hours:

Nov.-June, Mon-Thu 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
Metropolitan State University Library and Learning Center
645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106



Den-Zell Gilliard, from the series *Odyssey of a Black Boy*, digital photograph

Theater at Metro

From Behind the Sun

by Stanley Kipper and Laura Drake
7 p.m., Feb. 21, 22, 23 and March 1; 1 p.m., March 2, Whitney Fine
Arts Center Theater, 1424 Yale Place, Minneapolis

Obie Kipper has finally found the house of his dreams. There's one problem. It is 1956 and banks, together with insurance, mortgage companies, and the federal government work to distinguish which American neighborhoods are "best" and which are "dangerous." Obie's dream for the future of his family lies outside a redlined district in an all-white neighborhood. With the help of an old friend and coworker, Obie puts a sensational scheme in motion to purchase the house. His plan will either land him in jail, or it will help chart the future for his family and certainly for the city of Minneapolis. Based on a true story, the effect these "red lines" had on America's neighborhoods can still be felt today.

TWO ONE-ACTS

7 p.m., April 11, 12, 13, 19 and 20; 1 p.m. matinee, April 20, Whitney
Fine Arts Center Theater, 1424 Yale Place, Minneapolis

2B or NOT 2B, Original devised work by Brian Grandison with MCC
and Metro State students

Students' thought-provoking voices are heard as we explore social justice issues around freedom of speech, gender equality, racism, sexism, and institutional oppression. You are invited to help us claim the theatrical platform to stir the pot while exploring and critiquing the world around us.

OVERTIME: Men @ Work by Jonathan Beller and Jarod Hanson

Three desperate workers struggle to navigate their way through the monotony of the workday, facing stark questions about their goals, motivations, scruples, and camaraderie. The play is a surreal romp through the world of workplace gender roles, capitalist exploitation, and themes of thwarted ambition, disillusionment, and the American dream-turned-nightmare.

**Whitney Fine Arts Center Theater on the Metropolitan State
Minneapolis Campus (MCTC) is located at 1424 Yale Place on
Loring Park. Admission is free. Audiences are encouraged to bring
a non-perishable food item to donate to the food shelf. Parking is
available in the Hennepin Avenue ramp for \$5 or at no cost with a
Metropolitan State University parking card. Persons with disabilities
who need reasonable accommodation to participate in this event
should contact the Center for Accessibility Resources at 651-793-1549
or email accessibility.resources@metrostate.edu. A Metropolitan State
University and Minneapolis College Premiere**

Outstanding Students

By Robert Boos

Kossi Ayigah of Brooklyn Park graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and was chosen outstanding student representing the College of Management. He was chosen as a commencement speaker at the spring 2018 ceremonies. Ayigah is an auditor at the Minnesota Department of Transportation. He intends to take the Certified Public Accounting exam through Becker CPA and pursue a master's degree in business communication. He hopes to become an auditor at International Monetary Fund or Federal Reserve.

Stacy Buschmann-Ford of Farmington graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science and was chosen outstanding student representing the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. She graduated with a 4.0 grade point average and on her first attempt passed the National Council Licensure Examination—the required exam to become a registered nurse. Buschmann-Ford is a staff sergeant in the Minnesota National Guard with 21 years of service and an emergency medical technician.

Genevieve Calvillo of Prior Lake graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree and was chosen outstanding student representing the College of Individualized Studies. Calvillo is active in service to her tribal community of sovereign people and government. As a general council member, she works with elected tribal leaders to support the community's well-being. She is now considering graduate school so that she can serve others as an educated person and global citizen.

Jennifer Cannon of Saint Paul graduated summa cum laude with a Master of Science degree in technical communication and was chosen outstanding graduate student representing the College of Liberal Arts. Cannon earned a bachelor's degree in technical communication from Metropolitan State in 2015. She is a web administrator and instructional designer at the Center for Victims of Torture. At Metropolitan State, she was an officer of TC3, the student organization for technical communication.

Raelene Caswell of New Brighton graduated summa cum laude with a master's degree in Advocacy and Political Leadership and was chosen to represent the College of Community Studies and Public Affairs as the outstanding graduate student. She was the president of Metropolitan State's Advocacy and Political Leadership student organizations where she built a network of like-minded, community-oriented scholars. Caswell is a program manager at SafeJourney, a domestic violence program at North Memorial Health in Minneapolis.

Taskin Haque of Minneapolis graduated with a Master of Management Information Systems and was chosen outstanding graduate student in the College of Management. Haque began working as an associate technical support analyst for Medtronic in January 2018. She previously earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Dhaka in her home country of Bangladesh. She participated in a number of cultural groups and is a cultural program coordinator for University of Minnesota's Bangladeshi Student Association.



L-R: Genevieve Calvillo, Amy Gort, Jessica Stewart, Stacy Buschmann-Ford, Kossi Ayigah, Ginny Arthur, Rodrigo Sanchez, Jennifer Cannon, Tess Spence-Sing, Taskin Haque, Christopher Sugden, Cynthia Yoder

Rodrigo J. Sanchez of West Saint Paul graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree and was chosen as outstanding student to represent the School of Urban Education. Sanchez is a Special Education Paraprofessional at Academia Cesar Chavez charter school, where he also coaches the boys and girls basketball teams. He is also active with his church, Our Lady of Guadalupe. Sanchez intends to pursue a master's degree at Metropolitan State.

Tess Spence-Sing of Minneapolis graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology and was chosen outstanding student to represent the College of Community Studies and Public Affairs. Spence-Sing is on the Dean's List and applied to the Psi Chi International Honor Society. She conducted and prepared research to present at the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Conference in Chicago in May 2018. She is planning to pursue a master's degree.

Jessica Stewart of Andover graduated cum laude with a Doctorate of Nursing Practice-Family Nurse Practitioner and was chosen as the outstanding student to represent the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Stewart was awarded the Minnesota Nurse Practitioners Annual Scholarship in 2017 for her capstone work and planned research. She was awarded the Lukaszewski Family Professional Development fund from Metropolitan State in 2018 to help disseminate project findings on a larger scale. She is also one of three students selected by the dean to present her findings at the Midwest Nursing Research Society Annual Conference in May 2018 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Christopher Sugden of North Saint Paul graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and was chosen as an outstanding graduate student representing the College of Liberal Arts. After graduation, Sugden plans to attend graduate school at Hamline University to obtain a Minnesota teaching license for secondary social studies education, grades 5-12, and to pursue a Master of Arts in teaching.

Cynthia Yoder of Saint Paul graduated summa cum laude with two Bachelor of Science degrees in biology and environmental science and was chosen as the outstanding graduate student in the College of Sciences. While a student, Yoder tutored science for the Center of Academic Excellence at Metropolitan State. She hopes to find similar jobs as a science tutor, work in a laboratory setting or as a researcher, and is considering graduate school options.

Fall 2017

Correction: We regret omitting Andrea O'Malley and Heather O'Rourke from the list of outstanding students for Fall 2017. We celebrate their achievement and congratulate them on their success.

Andrea O'Malley, Saint Paul, graduated with a Master of Arts in Psychology and was an outstanding graduate student in the university's College of Community Studies and Public Affairs. O'Malley had first earned her bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at Metropolitan State. She started the master's program shortly after graduating while working full time as a targeted case manager with Ramsey County. At the time of her graduation in December 2017, she had already applied to several Legal Psychology PhD and JD/PhD programs.

Heather O'Rourke of Hastings graduated with a Master of Science degree was chosen outstanding graduate student representing the College of Nursing and Health Services. O'Rourke used to work evenings as a patient access representative at an emergency room in the south metro in order to free up her mornings to care for her two children while her husband worked during the day. When her youngest child started kindergarten, O'Rourke began attending prerequisite classes at Metropolitan State University, working toward getting accepted into the Entry Level Master of Nursing (ELMSN) program. She sailed through the prerequisites and began pursuing her nursing degree. After graduation, she looks to passing the National Council Licensure Examination and working as a nurse.

Out and About

Members of the Metropolitan State Alumni Association had a busy summer, gathering at venues across the Twin Cities for food and fun at Metro in Your Neighborhood events. In June, we gathered to talk about the future of the university with President Arthur. August found us at the Saints game, enjoying the last days of summer. *Watch for your monthly e-newsletter for upcoming opportunities to get connected!*

June 21: Metro in Your Neighborhood–Woodbury

Members of the Alumni Association celebrated the first day of summer on the patio at Tamarack Taproom in Woodbury.



Standing: Eh Ta Zar '16, Victoria Trinh '16, Kristine Hansen '07, Sandy Best '88, Steve Campos '17. **Seated:** Rob Pajala '87, Kathy Bednark '88.

June 22: A Conversation with the President

President Arthur hosted current and former members of the Alumni and Foundation Boards to share her vision of the university, and hear stories of why Metropolitan State is important to the alumni and our community.



Back Row: Robert Carter, Michael O'Connor '92, Chrissy Hursh, Sandy Best '88, Steve Campos '17. **Front Row:** Debra Vos '05, Kristine Hansen '07, Betty Brandt Passick '96, Terri Hawthorne '77, Ginny Arthur '17, Diana Carter, Kyle Swanson, Jack Hawthorne '92.

July 26: Metro in Your Neighborhood–Edina

Alumni Association members didn't let the rain stop them from gathering at Tavern on France in Edina, where they connected with members of the Alumni and Foundation Boards.



Standing: Naomi Stock '83, Kristine Hansen '07, Steve Nolte '97, Teri Calderon, Ginny Arthur '17, Connie Hessevick '13. **Seated:** Irene Wright '92, Steve Campos '17, Cara Johnson Blystone '07, Dianne Gieseke '01.

Aug. 5: Metropolitan State alumni picnic at the Saint Paul Saints game

Members of the Alumni Association gathered at the Saint Paul Saints game to cheer on our neighborhood team. Alumni cheered the Saints on to a 9-3 victory over the Kansas City T-bones.



Jessica Brouillette '16 and Luke Ferguson.



Bob Carter with grandson, Tobias.

News and Notes

Note: All towns are in Minnesota unless otherwise noted.

By Grace Doyle

Robert Ball '11, Maple Grove, completed the Executive MBA program at Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota.



James Barrett '93, Minneapolis, began working as a certified Salesforce administrator at Jamf Software. Barrett said, "There is life after 66!"

James Beach '03, Providence, R.I., announced the reboot of his literary magazine *Wood Coin*.



Todd Connaughty '09, Minneapolis, joined The PRIDE Institute as director of clinical services.

Angi Daus '12, Santa Barbara, Calif., joined the board of The Arts Fund in Santa Barbara, Calif. Daus is also the program manager at the Hudson Institute of Coaching.

Khalid Dayib '16, Minneapolis, found the link between his degree in accounting and political diversity through the Capitol Pathways internship with Citizens League. Dayib was placed with the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, which is a coalition focusing on clean water, clean energy and conservation of Minnesota's outdoor amenities.

Jaclyn Dukowitz '04, Saint Michael, was announced one of the 2018 Women in Business honorees by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*.

James Franklin '97, Maple Plain, was announced as the city of Rochester's next police chief. Prior to his appointment, Franklin was a captain with the Minneapolis Metropolitan Transit Police and has served with Plymouth Police Department. He is also an adjunct professor for Rutgers University.



Christine Husom '03, Buffalo, gave a presentation on her writing as a best-selling author at New Ulm Public Library. Husom is the author of the *Winnebago County Mysteries* and *Snow Globe Shop Mysteries*. She trained with the Saint Paul

Police Department and served with the Wright County Sheriff's Department. Husom is an active member of the Twin Cities Sisters in Crime, and currently serves on the Wright County Board of Commissioners. www.christinehusom.com

Shannon Glenn '14, Coon Rapids, and her dogs Wilbur and Charlotte, are the executive directors of mypitbullisfamily.org. My Pit Bull is Family works to end insurance and housing discrimination for all dogs and their families. Shannon currently manages the nation's largest database of rentals that accept all dogs regardless of what they look like along with a team of volunteers around the country they advocate at over 100 community events. Outside of running the organization, Shannon works full time at Hennepin County Elections working to reduce barriers to the voting process for individuals experiencing homelessness and also works at Simpson Shelter and Adult Shelter Connect. Shannon truly believes that everyone—both human and dog—deserve a place to call home. Shannon continued her educational journey at Metro State by completing the Masters in Advocacy and Political Leadership in the fall of 2016.





Robin Kocina '86, Burnsville, was inducted into the Minnesota Women Business Owners Hall of Fame. Kocina is the president and co-owner of Media Relations Agency and a past board member and chairman of the board for WomenVenture. She is also an active member of the Women's Presidents Organization, a chairman of the board for Depart Smart, and currently serves on the leadership board for the National Federation of Independent Business.

Kocina received the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award and was also recognized as a Top Women in Finance Circle of Excellence and Top Women in Finance by *Finance & Commerce*.

She has also received honors including Exceptional Businesswoman Award; Volunteer of the Year, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce; 25 Women to Watch, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*; Upside Lifeline Award, *Upside Magazine*; Standing Ovation Award, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Magazine*; and NAWBO's Luminary Award.



Mindy Johnson '92, Toluca Lake, Calif., gave a presentation and panel event in conjunction with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences for the TCM Classic Film Festival, entitled: "An Invisible History-

Trailblazing Women of Animation." Johnson wrote

the book *Ink & Paint- the Women of Walt Disney's Animation* (Disney Editions), on which the event was based. Her groundbreaking book casts a light on the unsung contributions of women throughout animation's past and was recently announced as a 2018 SCIBA Independent Booksellers Finalist. Her forthcoming children's book entitled: *Pencils, Pens & Brushes - Great Girls of Disney Animation*, will release summer, 2019 with Disney Press. Johnson is currently speaking and presenting at various campuses, museums and festivals worldwide.

www.mindyjohnsoncreative.com



James Kosmo '76, Bayport, won two international book awards for his book, *Monsters in the Hallway*, which previously captured six other book awards: two Reader Views Literary Awards, Gold for Best Midwest Book and Silver for Best Mystery/Thriller; National Indie Excellence Awards (NIEA), two Golds for Crime Fiction and Regional Fiction (Midwest); Midwest Book Awards (MIPA), Silver for Best Cover Design; and Independent Publisher Book Awards (IPPY), Bronze for Best Midwest Fiction. Kosmo's first book *Still Standing: The Story of SSG John Kriesel* has been re-issued as "2018 Updated Edition Still Standing."

Chad Landmann '10, Fergus Falls, joined Bremer Bank as a business banker. Landmann has worked in the financial services industry for the past 14 years. Previously he served as a commercial and consumer loan officer at the American National Bank of Minnesota. He also worked as a member advisor for Affinity Plus Federal Credit Union and had been an underwriter at Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

Anita Muhammad '91, Chicago, Ill., is an independent business and grant writing consultant and previously worked as the first development director of the South Side Community Art Center in Chicago, Ill. There, she wrote a grant which was recently awarded in the amount of \$250K.



LaBelle Nambangi '07, New Hope, wrote *Women Who Soar: Stories of Challenging the Status Quo and Breaking the Global Patriarchy*. An article from *Sun Post* describes it as, "a sampling of stories from 14 women and three men who have brought change to communities through their bold actions in finance, self-worth, resilience and out-of-the-box thinking."

Michelle Raven '10, Minneapolis, took on the role of Director of Business and Creative Development at Fiddlehead Design Group out of the International Market Square in Minneapolis. Prior to this position, Raven founded the personal shopping program, Arc's Value Village, in 2011 and built an Instagram following of more than 11,000 by hosting weekly "influencer takeovers" with the hashtag #VillageforaDay



Jennifer Ryan '98, Culver, has taken the position of relationship manager with Alerus. With over 20 years of commercial banking experience, Ryan recently served as senior vice president of National Bank of Commerce Twin Ports. In 2016, she was named one of the top women

in finance by *Finance & Commerce Magazine*. She is a member of the executive committees for the Hermantown Area Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Downtown Council of Duluth and also serves on the Duluth Legacy Endowment Fund Committee and the Military Affairs Committee.

Joseph Seidel '05, Mendota Heights, is the leading faith honoree with St. Thomas More parish in Saint Paul. Seidel is a theology teacher at St. Thomas Academy and moderates the Senior Project program in regards to community service.

Carolyn Xiong '06, Osseo, received the MN TRIO Achiever Award at the annual TRIO conference in April.



Max Zappia '08, McGregor, serves as the deputy commissioner of the financial institutions division at the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Prior to this, he was hired as a bank examiner in 2009, holding multiple positions including chief examiner of banking.

In Memorium

Dorothy Brazeal '83, Sycamore, Ill.

Ruth Chevalier '84, Saint Paul

Sandra Peterson '96, Minneapolis

Robert Thul '84, Eureka, Calif.

Anne Webb (Retired Metro State employee),
New Hope

Charles "Chuck" McDew, West Newton, Mass.

Charles F. "Chuck" McDew, who touched many lives at Metropolitan State University as a teacher and colleague, died on April 3, 2018. He will be mourned by countless people throughout our nation.

Chuck devoted his life to bringing about social and political change, to the development of local black leadership, and advancing civil and human rights, which meant fighting against racism. He was a teacher, a labor organizer, and managed anti-poverty programs. His impact was felt in several cities across the nation, and he was a recurring and effective presence on radio and television broadcasts.

Chuck McDew advised and taught at Metropolitan State University from 1981 until his retirement in 2006. He later moved to West Newton, Mass. He is survived by his fiancée, Beryl Gilfix, his brothers, Mark and Eric, and his daughter, Eva Goodman. A memorial service was held at Metropolitan State for members of our community who knew him, learned from him and who will remember him fondly as one of the earliest members of the Metropolitan State community.

John T. Westrom, Lakeville

On Sept. 13, 2018, Metropolitan State University lost a friend and ardent supporter. John T. Westrom of Lakeville passed away at age 93. John's influence in the philanthropic community made a difference for organizations across the state of Minnesota. John's career included fifty years as a trust officer at First National Bank (now US Bank). After retirement, John continued to work as an advisor to the Katherine B. Andersen Foundation and the Saint Paul Foundation. University Advancement Vice President Rita Dibble says of him, "John Westrom's relationship with Metropolitan State University went beyond the functional boundaries of our association with the Katherine B. Andersen fund. He supported the vibrant growth of this 'University without Barriers' and demonstrated a deep commitment to enabling education for all who wanted one. We will sorely miss his charming personality and unwavering partnership with the mission of Metro State."

John is predeceased by his wife of fifty years, Harriet Westrom. He is survived by his sister Betty Skold, children John "Jay" Westrom, Lynn "Hilary" Westrom and Anne McKinney and two grandchildren, Nicole McKinney and Daniel McKinney.

John enjoyed music, particularly folk music. A celebration of life held in his honor on Sept. 22, 2018, included many songs and tributes from friends and family. He was beloved by many, and he will be greatly missed.

Director's Notes



An occupational hazard of being the alumni director at the university from which one graduated is that during the first days of each new academic year, my excitement also bears a faint tinge of wistful longing for my days as a student. Of course, I don't miss the time spent frantically typing a paper in the library before my 6 p.m. class. And I certainly don't miss what seemed like the insurmountable challenge of College Algebra. I do miss the time in the classroom learning from professors and my fellow students.

I believe it is the diversity of Metropolitan State's student population that made my education stand out. Learning from other students who came from backgrounds different from my own was the key difference in preparing me for work and critical thinking challenges ahead. It is a key strength of the university.

In this issue of *buzz*, we invite you to learn more about the Alumni Board of Directors. As alumni volunteers, they represent a wide range of life experiences, but they share the commonality of having earned their degree from Metro State. As you read through their biographies, you might think to yourself, "Do I see myself here?" If the answer is yes, I invite you to reach out to the alumni office to explore opportunities to join a committee of the board.

Another strength of our university is the way we embrace opportunities to be of service to the larger community. By welcoming the International Restorative Practices Conference to our campus, we helped to facilitate a conversation of healing and justice in the Twin Cities community. You can read more about it on page six of this magazine.

Finally, I would like to give you a gentle reminder that the work we do to promote diversity and community would not be possible without the financial support of our alumni. I invite you to join me on Nov. 15 for the tenth annual Give to the Max Day. When you make a gift to support students, or share your support on social media, you make a difference.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kristine Hansen".

Kristine Hansen '07
Alumni Relations Director

Stay Connected

Stay connected with the Metropolitan State Alumni Association and your fellow alumni. We'll keep you updated with the latest Metropolitan State alumni news and events.



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Connect with us on LinkedIn:

Metropolitan State U Alumni Relations



Follow us on Twitter:

MetroStateAlumniMN @MetroAlum_MN

Association Membership Benefits:

- Library privileges
- Volunteer activities
- Invitations to alumni events
- Discount on Liberty Mutual auto and home insurance
- Career workshops and Career Center appointments
- *buzz* magazine mailed to alumni donors twice each year
- Access to the Alumni Scholarship for alumni pursuing a second or advanced degree
- Discounts on continuing education programs through the Institute for Professional Development
- Recognition opportunities through the Alum of the Year award
- Access to membership at the Fitness Center (Saint Paul Campus), *fee applies*

You can learn about the Alumni Association and sign up for our monthly email newsletter. Visit **www.metrostate.edu/alumni**



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