The Spirit of New Orleans, in Boston

Sometimes modest acts of kindness go a long way. Last fall, like many individuals and institutions across the country, Boston University contributed to relief efforts for survivors of hurricane Katrina in the way it best knew how. In one of his first acts as president, Robert Brown invited Tulane University students—who had moved into their New Orleans dorm rooms just one week before the storm hit—to attend Boston University tuition-free during the fall semester.

In response to the president's statement, MET immediately volunteered staff and resources for assisting the 300 students who came to campus looking for a place to live and a plan for moving forward with their studies. Because these students needed to enroll in courses throughout the University that would match their existing curricular requirements at Tulane, MET's overarching perspective on BU policies and programs proved critical.

...continued on page 8>

MET Night at Agganis Arena

Last November, nearly four hundred of MET’s closest friends—students, alumni, Advisory Board members, corporate partners, and faculty members—donned red MET hats, munched MET M&M’s®, and cheered as the Terrier men’s basketball team took on the Michigan Wolverines in the new Agganis Arena. The event was an opportunity to bond and have fun—it was also one of a string of celebrations that officially ring in MET’s fortieth anniversary.

MET fans conspicuously occupied two whole sections of the arena, right in the midst of the broader BU student body. “It’s great to see the presence of MET in the BU community” commented new alumnus Tim Sullivan (MET ’05). “We’re really a big part of the University.”

Though a significant amount of work went into hosting MET Night, alumna Isabel Pisano says it was a “labor of love.”

...continued on page 9>
Dear Friends,

This year we celebrate MET’s forty years of access, innovation, and excellence. As you will read, we are welcoming new faculty, launching new programs, recognizing the accomplishments of our faculty and alumni, and connecting with our communities.

This year started dramatically. Boston University’s new president, Robert Brown, responded to the Katrina disaster his first week on the job by offering a free semester at BU to students from Tulane University. I volunteered MET as the portal for advising and registering these students. Working twelve-hour days through Labor Day weekend and beyond, the MET staff enrolled over three hundred students—more than any other university in the nation.

In just the past four years, MET’s enrollments have grown about thirty percent. We’ve recruited more than half of our current faculty—we now have thirty full-time members. And the majority of our students are enrolled in programs that did not even exist four years ago. We have become a leader in providing high quality, engaging, rigorous, and highly interactive online distance education programs—as well as new programs on campus and in corporate settings.

As we extend Metropolitan College to a national and international audience, we are strengthening our local ties as well by reaching out to graduates of area community colleges, by offering liberal arts education to incarcerated students at area correctional sites, and by providing educational opportunities for youth, college-age students, working adults, and retirees throughout New England.

You will read about these developments in the following pages of the Metropolitan. But between the lines, I hope you see the ever-changing nature of this very special enterprise. We are ready for MET’s next forty years.

Jay A. Halfond
Dean

You’re Invited to Celebrate MET’s 40th Anniversary

This spring, join us for our Anniversary Gala!

Hosted by Dean Jay Halfond

We will be celebrating the history of MET and the many people who have contributed to our dynamic community over the years.

Ticket sales and a silent auction will benefit the Metropolitan College Scholarship Fund.

Details to come … contact Kay Moriarty at kaymoria@bu.edu or 617-353-2976.
Two New Faculty Bring Fresh Perspectives to MET Programs

Revitalizing liberal studies

At the end of a long day at work, are students willing to settle into a nice cozy ... Dostoevsky novel? The answer, says MET’s new associate professor and chairman of liberal studies Greg Salyer, is a resounding yes. Not only are they willing, they are eager.

The reason? Well, it’s good reading, to be sure. However, under Salyer’s guidance students have discovered that Dostoevsky, and Virginia Woolf, and N. Scott Momaday, and Kafka knew a trick or two they can apply to their own lives. For Salyer, and subsequently for his students, the humanities are all about relevance and accessibility.

Salyer, whose scholarly interests include religion, philosophy, and Native American literature, is prepared to show students that the humanities are “living, dynamic, and profoundly relevant.” While the phrase might conjure images of dusty tomes and abstract philosophizing, those dusty tomes have lasted for a reason: they hold time-honored truths that reverberate through a variety of contemporary settings. Like politics, film, law, and even business.

As Salyer takes charge of MET’s liberal studies programs—for undergraduates, graduate students, and online students alike—he emphasizes that the liberal arts, with perspectives spanning the social and natural sciences as well as the humanities, provide a profound opportunity to “gossip about the meaning of life.” More than that, though, they constitute an inimitable foundation for career success. “The liberal arts,” said Salyer, “have always allowed students to work in a currency of knowledge, rather than asking them to be bound to one subject.” That is, students gain “skills that generate other skills.”

The study of literature, for example, is a great “testing ground” for critical thinking and persuasive writing, which will always be relevant in any career. “I can’t think of a more applicable, more exciting education,” said Salyer.

Revving up online learning

Having taught computer science and database management for MET on an adjunct basis for years, Robert Schudy is no stranger to the “exceptional students and faculty” wandering the halls, virtual or otherwise.

Schudy’s research credentials include avionics work for the Department of Defense, improved ultrasound technology, and consumer product development for companies such as Hewlett Packard—and he sees many possibilities for enhancing MET’s online learning experience through the addition of several technological features.

As associate professor of computer science and coordinator for MET’s online Master of Science in Computer Information Systems (MSCIS), Schudy is busy implementing dynamic features like “online tutors” that can measure the boundaries of a student’s knowledge level and pose suitable questions and challenges.

continued on page 8 >
Some were slightly intimidated. Others were ecstatic. Whatever their initial feelings, the first ten recipients of MET’s Community Scholar Academic Scholarship are now one semester into their studies at BU. The scholarship is a new initiative to provide opportunities for local community college graduates to use their associate’s degree as a stepping stone toward a bachelor’s degree.

We recently checked in with Lisa Tozier, a scholarship recipient and graduate of Bunker Hill Community College, to see how she’s settling into MET.

“I am very honored,” said Tozier, who has designed a bachelor’s degree in order to study forensic chemistry. “It is such a wonderful thing to have this happen to me,” she remarked, noting that she’s had her eye on BU since the eighth grade. Now, with her degree underway, she’s setting her sites on a career as a crime scene investigator or forensic chemist.

So far, Tozier is enjoying the increased bustle of the BU campus. “I really appreciate the range of students in my classes,” stated Tozier, commenting on the mix of young students, working professionals, and even retirees that can typically be found in MET classrooms—and the unique perspectives they bring with them.

For Tozier, faculty also play a key role: “My professors are great. Not only are they really knowledgeable, but they are also accommodating. It’s very clear that the class works together as a group.”

A bachelor’s degree is a logical next step for students who have academic aspirations beyond their associate’s degree. The Community Scholar program is an outreach initiative aimed at mitigating both financial and scheduling obstacles to further study for outstanding students.

MET has earmarked up to twenty-five scholarships per year for graduates of five different area community colleges. The award covers fifty percent of tuition costs for up to twelve credits per semester, and with many opportunities for part-time study at MET, these students are able to put their scholarships to good use.

“Offering this scholarship has been particularly rewarding for all of us at MET,” commented Ellen Peterson, director of student affairs. “Not only have we been able to bring an incredibly diverse group of students to campus, but we have made the BU experience affordable to students who probably would have considered the cost totally out of their reach.”

Speaking for the first class of community scholars, Tozier comments, “This scholarship will have an enormous impact on all of us.”
One of the newest ways students have been finding their way to MET is through their employers. Many companies have come to realize—with a little help from the Office of Student and Corporate Outreach—that MET has just the academic expertise to keep their employees on top. Evening and online courses in areas like project management, information security, software engineering, and banking and finance are an ideal fit for the demands of a wide range of offices and careers, making MET a great venue for employees seeking to leverage their tuition benefits.

MET’s recent Preferred Educational Partnerships with companies such as ADP Processing, Raytheon, United Technologies, Acambis, and Boston Medical Center are designed to provide just that. “Employees gain a feasible way to get a highly relevant education, while employers gain the well-trained workforce they depend on,” explained Katie Pasciucco, an admissions and outreach coordinator.

Amanda Grace, a project engineer enrolled in the online M.S. in Project Management offered for Pratt and Whitney, reflected that “Course content is directly applicable to my current role, and complements my learning experiences at work.”

MET has been able to group courses in order to meet the needs of specific professional practices—like the new Certificate for Defense Acquisition Managers now offered at Hanscom Air Force Base. MET also delivers on-site programs at organizations with a critical mass of students, such as Acambis, a biotechnology firm in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where employees may complete the Graduate Certificate in Project Management on location.

This kind of flexibility, combined with the quality and variety of offerings, makes MET a “key” educator in the eyes of employers, said Ed Francis (MET ’73), of United Technologies Corporation, which offers several MET programs to employees. “To offer an education benefit properly, it is critical to provide a range of programs in formats that match the scheduling needs of our employees, and MET is a very good fit in this regard.”
New Faces, Big Ideas

Three Profs Join the Department of Administrative Sciences

The perks of domestic manufacturing. Sustainable economic development through ecotourism. Investment risk management.

These are just a few of the topics of conversation you might encounter when walking down the halls of MET’s Department of Administrative Sciences. They are also subjects of intense interest to the three new faculty members you’ll find there.

The ecotourist

Sam Mendlinger, in fact, is leading a group of students all the way to Tanzania this spring to explore the effects of tourism on developing countries. The course, MET AD 893 Economic Development via Tourism, will cut to the heart of what he has been pursuing for years regarding low impact/high return strategies for economic growth in countries that lack the infrastructure to support industrial processes. Mendlinger joins MET as full professor of administrative sciences after teaching on a part-time basis for nearly twenty years—mostly during his summer break from teaching and research at Ben-Gurion University in Israel.

Mendlinger’s work has taken him to countries throughout Africa, the Middle East, and Latin and Central America, where he has focused on development at the community level. In Kenya, for example, he helped indigenous populations learn to farm specialty vegetables for export to English markets.

Recently, his attention is focused on the promise of eco- and cultural tourism—if done right, he stresses. “We want to figure out how to minimize negative impact and maximize profit. The trip to Tanzania will provide students with vital exposure to the rewards and drawbacks of economic growth at the national, regional, and village level, and consequently, they will gain an extremely nuanced understanding.” Students will visit indigenous villages, multimillion dollar hotels, and nature reserves for a well-rounded local perspective on the dos and don’ts of tourism development strategies.

The risk manager

It’s just the kind of international exposure that Bill Chambers, associate professor of professional practice in administrative sciences, would advocate. Chambers has spent time abroad himself in Australia as part of his twenty-year career at Standard & Poor’s, where among his many accomplishments, he developed models for predicting loan default risk, as well as improved internal credit rating systems. “It really helps every individual to be exposed to a totally different environment,” he said.
One of the things he hopes to impart on his MET students—who range from undergraduates learning introductory finance to graduate students mastering the intricacies of the international investment portfolio—is the importance of combining practical knowledge with a flexible outlook, especially if they are seeking a career navigating the ever-fluctuating finance industry.

Exposure, and openness, to multiple perspectives is key. “You have to see the large picture as well as the building blocks. If you can do that, you can combine them to take on almost anything.” One of the virtues of MET classrooms, Chambers observed, is that “we have so many students, international and otherwise, who bring many different flavors to class, to the benefit of the students and faculty.” MET is an environment, he said, where creativity and diversity thrive. Students understand that “it’s not necessarily a bad thing to do things differently.”

The contrarian

Which is precisely what Roger Warburton thinks. Warburton joins MET as associate professor of administrative sciences. A physicist-turned-business man who has worked on submarines and sportswear alike, he is no stranger to finding surprising connections across disciplines and industries. “Physicists tend to look at large concepts. The training is broad in scope, and those kinds of skills, it turns out, are extremely valuable in business.”

Currently, he’s taking a contrarian’s stance to trends in outsourcing and offshore manufacturing. **Despite industry (and public) perception, he has demonstrated that there is still a vital role for domestic manufacturing.**

Rapid response, he says, is something offshore manufacturing simply cannot accommodate. The realities of shipping and communication make it impossible for the offshore firm to accommodate, say, a sudden design change or an unexpected surge in demand. His conclusions are based on the successful mathematical models he developed at Griffin Manufacturing, a Massachusetts-based apparel factory. “We could respond when consumers and designers changed their minds, and that’s how we survived,” said Warburton.

Like Mendlinger and Chambers, he stresses big thinking when relaying his findings to his students. “I tell my students, ‘I can’t teach you everything you’re going to need to know. So what we’re going to focus on is solving problems.’”

Thoughts on MET

The three agree that MET is just the right place to accomplish big thinking. “Here, everything is about getting the job done, and the practical experience of our students contributes tremendously to what we are able to achieve,” said Chambers.

“I read the MET website before I came to interview and I thought, these guys are really innovative. And when I went home from my interview, I said ‘They actually believe what’s on the website. They say it and they mean it. It’s just great,’” said Warburton.

This is all old news to Mendlinger, of course. “One of the great advantages at MET is that the students are more attuned to world experiences. We can teach them much more practically, because they know how to relate the material to the real world.”

“It’s academic nirvana!” he reflects.
Two New Faculty Bring Fresh Perspectives to MET Programs

continued from page 3

A feature like the online tutor reflects Schudy’s goal of reaching the individual student: “I want to challenge every student in every way. I want to give them what they need, no matter what stage they’re at.” With approximately 350 students enrolled in online MSCIS courses each semester, that level of teaching is no small undertaking. In the online environment, it calls for careful thought about how to provide instructional variety in an inviting and feasible way.

Schudy is also at work on a kind of interactive über-Help button stocked with layers of examples, models, and explanations. “Good teachers try to explain something four different ways in order to reach the strengths and background of different students,” he said. The idea is to “provide a good resource for those who need a little help, but also to create extra challenges for students ready to work at a higher level.”

All signs are that the efforts are paying off. According to Schudy, students are achieving high levels of success, and working hard: “Our students complain if the website goes down on Saturday night at 1:30 a.m., because they’re actually working at those hours!”

The Spirit of New Orleans, in Boston

continued from page 1

“We are extremely proud to have been able to offer our unique expertise within the University to help implement this act of altruism,” said Carl Sessa, assistant dean of student academic affairs at MET. In an effort described as “herculean” by Dean Halfond, MET’s Undergraduate Student Services staff spent their Labor Day weekend working ten-hour days in order to deliver a much needed warm welcome to Tulane students and their families.

Good will reverberated throughout the BU community, and MET Advisory Board members and faculty lauded the efforts. “This was an exceptional act of leadership and kindness on the part of the University and the MET staff,” said Ralph Groce (CGS ’80, SMG ’82, MET ’84).

President Brown stopped by in person during the registration process to offer his encouragement and to greet the newly arrived students. “What an amazing, wonderful, heartfelt response to this tragedy,” said Gary Grossman (MET ’75).

“It is in times of crisis,” reflected MET associate dean Tanya Zlateva, “that people and institutions show their character, and I am proud that MET proved its longstanding tradition of empathy and excellence.”

In the same spirit of optimism and leadership, Tulane president Scott Cowen is eager to welcome students back home for the spring semester, when the University will reopen its doors. He traveled to BU in December to visit displaced students and to deliver an address titled “Survival to Renewal,” in which he discussed the important role that Tulane and its students can play in rebuilding the city of New Orleans.

MET wishes Tulane students a fond farewell, and every success in the coming months.
Joseph Mercurio (MET ’81), executive vice president of Boston University, generously donated tickets to the game, while event committee members like Pisano undertook the footwork of planning, welcoming guests, and encouraging alums to maintain close ties. “It’s the very least I can do, after everything I gained from MET,” said Pisano, who earned her M.S. in computer science in 1987.

Sullivan, who received his M.S. in advertising in December and accepted a new position as communications officer for a local firm, agreed. “My time at MET really helped me to focus and energize my career. I feel very close to the people I went to school with, and I definitely plan to stay involved.”

The arrival of MET’s fortieth anniversary is a time to reflect proudly on how far things have come, said Dean Halfond: “The majority of our students are now enrolled in programs that didn’t exist just four years ago. Our pace of innovation is truly noteworthy.” But it is also a time to set new goals. An important theme of the night’s celebration was MET’s fundraising initiatives, with a particular eye toward finding new facilities that reflect the energy and high standards at the heart of the College. “We need a true home, and that is a priority for the years ahead,” said Halfond.

Increased student support will also be a priority. Preparations are underway now for an Anniversary Gala in the spring. A culmination of the year’s celebrations, the Anniversary Gala will feature dinner and a silent auction to benefit the Metropolitan College Student Scholarship Fund. “We want to be able to honor our hardworking students,” said Kay Moriarty, MET’s development officer.

Moriarty, who is a 2005 graduate of the Arts Administration program, commented on the warm reception these initiatives have met throughout the community thus far: “Our outstanding Advisory Board, alumni, and close friends have already provided a strong endorsement of our efforts—their generosity gives us confidence in moving forward.”

To learn more about attending the Anniversary Gala, or to find out how you can contribute, contact Kay Moriarty at kaymoria@bu.edu or 617-353-2976.

MET Night at Agganis Arena

Isabel Pisano (MET ’87), event chair for MET Night at Agganis Arena

for the record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>304</td>
<td>Number of Tulane University students MET helped register in tuition-free courses at BU this fall after Hurricane Katrina hit—more than any other university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Number of MET press appearances—on campus, locally, and nationally—since June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Average number of hours each student spends on schoolwork per week, per online course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,503</td>
<td>Number of times the 21 students in MET’s online course MET IS 327 (The Meaning of America) posted to the class discussion board—in just the first five weeks of class (all other online students, consider yourself challenged!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Average number of times each student in MET IS 327 posts every week, amounting to a lot more interaction than usually takes place in a typical classroom environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>382</td>
<td>Number of MET faculty, alumni, students, and staff who attended MET Night at Agganis Arena</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26,740</td>
<td>Number of MET M&amp;M’s® consumed by guests at MET Night</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MET students, alumni, friends and family enjoy a Terrier basketball game.
MET Alumni and Advisory Board members have been busy gathering across the U.S., and even internationally. Pictured here are recent events in Portland, Maine; New York City; MET’s new campus in Brussels, Belgium; and Stuttgart, Germany. Many thanks to event hosts.

Portland

From left to right:
Susan Love (SON ’74),
Natalie Brown (SPRC ’53),
Jim Knox, and Claire Knox (CAS ’69, MET ’76)

New York

From left to right:
Michael McCabe (MET ’87),
Suzanne Cutler (SMG ’61),
Linda McCutcheon (DGE ’75, MET ’77), Sam Kuttner, Philippe Rixhon (MET ’81), and Mati Weiderpass (MET ’85)

Brussels

From left to right:
Alexander Steyns,
Deborah Rhea,
Christina Vicini (MET ’99),
Anthony Dodd (GSM ’79), Howard Honick, Morris Honick (GRS ’78, GRS ’82), and Kay Moriarty (MET ’05)

Stuttgart

Guests in Germany enjoy an event hosted by Willis Eayrs (MET ’88).
Chuck Ahner (MET ’92) of Overland Park, KS, is a candidate for U.S. Congress. He is the chief technology officer for the Midland loan services division of PNC Bank.

Giuliano Calza (MET ’96) of London, England, is a senior finance business analyst in the cable and wireless broadband division of Bulldog Communications in London. Giuliano previously worked for BT plc, a leading global telecommunications provider, and AOL UK. E-mail Giuliano at headspring@talk21.com.

Robert G. Dawson (MET ’80) of Riverside, CA, is senior vice president of Taft Broadcasting Co., where he has worked for 13 years. Bob also served 32 years of active duty with the army before retiring in 1991 as a lieutenant colonel. Although his service prevented him from attending Commencement in 1980, Bob “walked the stage” at this year’s MET graduation. He has 5 children and 10 grandchildren.

Albert Diaz (MET ’93) of Charlotte, NC, a Marine Corps Reserve lieutenant colonel, is a judge on the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. In his civilian capacity, he continues to be a special superior court judge in North Carolina. E-mail him at adiaz2@carolina.rr.com.


Daniel V. Miele (MET ’00) of Duxbury, MA, is a registered representative with John Hancock Financial Network and teaches part-time at the New England College of Finance. Daniel lives with his wife, Erin, and two children, James and Charles. E-mail him at dmiele@adelphia.net.

Sharyn Rose Zeiberg (MET ’81, SED ’82, SSW ’85) of Malden, MA, works for Twisted Rico Management, a music management company in Boston. She is still in contact with fellow Warren Towers 18C-ers Shari Rovner (COM ’85) and Laura Bihlorn Perlstein (SAR’85). E-mail Sharyn at sharynzs@gmail.com.

Kudos to …

MET acknowledges the following alumni for their outstanding achievements:


Louis Cobarruviaz (a criminal justice student) was appointed Commander of the U.S. police advisors in the Civilian Police Advisory Training Team, the component of the U.S. Military Multinational Security Transition Command responsible for the effort to train and equip the Iraqi police service.

Marsha Cohen (MET ’78) was recognized as Insurance Woman of the Year by the APIW.

Paul Edmonds (MET ’79) became vice president of engineering for mobile services provider PocketThis.

A. Elizabeth Jones (GRS ’86), a Brussels alumnus and former assistant secretary of state of the U.S. Department of State for Europe and Eurasia, has joined APCO Worldwide as executive vice president.

Damian Koslowski (CAS ’86, MET ’89) was named global chief executive officer of The Citigroup Private Bank and named to the Citigroup Management Committee.

Daniel Sobczynski (MET ’04), a facilitator for the online Master of Science in Management, who was inducted into the Michigan Insurance Hall of Fame.
You’re Invited to Celebrate MET’s 40th Anniversary

Join us for our Anniversary Gala
For details, see page 2

www.bu.edu/met

campus notes

Keep in touch with news and events at MET and BU everyday by visiting www.bu.edu/today.

Recent Grants and Awards

Carla Romney, MET Chairman of Science and Engineering, received a $300,000 three-year grant from the National Science Foundation for the project “Expanded Access to Biotechnology for Students with Disabilities.” A collaborative effort with the School of Medicine and the School of Education that aims to integrate science education across the university, the initiative will bring high school students with and without disabilities together to learn hands-on biotech laboratory skills.

The MET Prison Education Program received a grant for $180,000 from the Lynch Foundation for the “Bridge to College Program.” The grant supports a two-year pilot program, which serves 75 students in three state correctional facilities. Boston University is one of a few institutions offering a four-year degree program inside prison walls.

Boston University dedicated $1 million to support CityLab Academy, a tuition-free academic and laboratory skills training program for Boston high school graduates. CityLab Academy students enroll in MET courses and gain hands-on laboratory experience as interns on campus and throughout Boston.

New Digs for BU in Brussels

MET’s Brussels campus relocated to new state-of-the-art facilities in the heart of the Brussels university district. The new location features executive meeting spaces, common student spaces, and wireless everything—not to mention easy access from all forms of public transportation. For details on MET programs in Brussels, visit www.bu.edu/brussels.