Boston University’s policies provide for equal opportunity and affirmative action in employment and admission to all programs of the University.

Boston University
Metropolitan College
755 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215

www.bu.edu/met

This spring, MET’s departments organized and hosted conferences in
gastronomy, project management, and arts research to showcase and stimulate
research efforts throughout the College.

A focus on scholarship is a priority in the
coming years as MET works to establish—or maintain—national recognition for its
programs. Tanya Zlateva, MET’s new
associate dean (see p. 5), is busy
developing strategies to increase
research opportunities for both faculty
and students. Collaboration—with
industry, professional organizations, BU’s
academic community, and beyond—will be crucial for MET, she explained.

As co-director of the Boston University Center for Reliable Information Systems and Cyber Security (RISCs), she is leading
the way. Zlateva teamed with faculty throughout the University to organize the
Center’s first symposium, which drew
over 200 interdisciplinary participants
from across the U.S.

“We are motivated and energized to
seek partnerships throughout the
University, and the scholarly community
at large,” she said. Indeed, we are. And
we had the agenda to prove it. Read on
details.

Opening Night at the MET:
the Dean’s Office goes

“Even as a graduate student, there’s
something foreboding about going
to the Dean’s office,”
mused Heidi Marston, who is currently studying arts
administration at MET.
“But that really shouldn’t be the case. I
feel it’s very important for students to
have a relationship with everyone who
participates in their education.”

Dean Halfond agrees, and to facilitate an
active dialogue between MET faculty,
students, and staff, he has designated the walls of his
office as a space for displaying student art. “This is
such a great office. I want the entire MET community
to feel comfortable here, and to enjoy it. I’d like this
to be an inviting place for conversation and
interaction,” he said. And what stimulates discussion
better than well-executed art?

The Metropolitan Gallery debuted in April with a
reception introducing Marston’s whimsical studies in
photography and drawing as the first collection in
what will be an ongoing series of student exhibits.
Marston, a graduate of Tufts University and the
School of the Museum of Fine Arts, has shown
her work nationally and internationally, including
as a participant in the MFA’s 2004 Traveling
Scholars exhibition. Together, Marston and Halfond
selected pieces from two of her series:
Photographic Drawings, which explores the merging
of the two mediums, and Valuable Information,
which comments on the
artistic process.

“This is a terrific opportunity
for people to get to know
one another outside of a
classroom or office setting,”
said Marston. “I’m excited
to see future exhibits in the
MET Gallery.”

MET Shows its
Research Gusto

Over three million hours. That is what I estimate our students
invest in their learning annually. This is an enormous commitment on their part, and
an enormous responsibility for their educators. As we enter our fifth decade, I am pleased to share our
progress as a college and announce changes that reflect the confidence Boston University’s leadership
has in our future.

BU’s tenth president, Robert Brown, was recently inaugurated. I am particularly pleased
that he has embraced MET as what he calls an “educational pioneer” in his plans to extend
Boston University in new directions. We are undergoing a reorganization, and our
administrative name will now be Metropolitan College and Extended Education.

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President Brown has honored us with a resounding vote of confidence to play critical roles within BU for the years ahead.

These changes are conservative, in our emphasis on fundamental academic values. But they are also progressive, in our willingness to experiment, take risks, and be forward-thinking in our efforts. We are both self-conscious as we ensure the ongoing academic integrity of what we do, and self-confident as we accept a leadership role in new ventures.

MET’s enrollments have grown thirty-five percent over the past four years, and we now have the second largest student population among BU’s seventeen Schools and Colleges. We exist in a state of continuous innovation: the majority of our students are in programs that did not even exist four years ago.

But growth simply for its own sake is not our strategy. We know that we need to constantly innovate and improve just to stay current and competitive. MET’s faculty are actively engaged in exploring how best to teach to a wide array of audiences in a variety of formats. Our administrators are exploring the use of technology for learning, new programs, and new locales for drawing students.

We accept a responsibility to provide ever widening access to higher learning.

Learning is the engine that drives the well-being of our society, and the future hopes and dreams of individuals. Metropolitan College and Extended Education will continue to be at the forefront in helping to make these dreams come true.

You will see in the coming years how Boston University rises in the esteem of its stakeholders. Be assured that Metropolitan College and Extended Education will play a pivotal role as we not only swim in the academic mainstream, but find ways to stand apart to help differentiate and distinguish the institution.

The thousands of hours spent in learning reflect each student’s investment in the promise of education. Commencement is the moment when we commemorate the culmination of their efforts. We recently graduated over a thousand students, and have made the commitment to finding ways to educate thousands more in the years ahead.

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Project Management in Practice
Associate professor Vijay Kanabar planned a by-invitation-only gathering for the inaugural Project Management in Practice event. But that didn’t make it low profile by any means.

The national renown of MET’s project management programs—which include a master’s degree and a graduate certificate offered both in classrooms and online—drew participants like keynote speaker John Cable, director of the project management program at the University of Maryland’s School of Engineering. Also chairman of the Board of the Project Management Institute’s (PMI®) Global Accreditation Center, Cable has his finger on the pulse of top industry standards for the field.

As he remarked, research activity is a criterion for gaining accreditation from the PMI—something MET is actively pursuing, and something only a handful of schools worldwide have achieved.

The conference brought students from all over the country and opened up conversations with the premier practitioners—from companies like General Electric and Wipro—who also attended.

“I think this is the first time we have had researchers, practitioners, and students come together to share their work, and the quality was outstanding,” said Kanabar.

Arts Research Initiative
His observation also applies to the second of this spring’s symposia—Research, Policy, and Practice: Building Capacity in Creative Communities, hosted by the Department of Arts Administration. Thanks to the efforts of Rich Maloney, assistant director of arts administration, and faculty member Rose Austin, over 100 artists, arts administrators, researchers, and policy makers gathered to exchange ideas and insights about building capacity within the artistic community.

As the first official event of the Arts Research Initiative, the symposium established a dialogue between those who conduct research and those who implement it at the levels of policy and practice. Practicality was a key focus.

Food Studies Conference Comes to BU
The Master of Liberal Arts in Gastronomy program hosted five days of presentations, culinary tours, and delicious eating for nearly three hundred students and faculty from disciplines as varied as history, agriculture, economics, literature, and the culinary arts during Place, Taste, and Sustenance: The Social Spaces of Food and Agriculture.

Highlights included an appearance by National Public Radio’s famous “Kitchen Sisters” and a book reading by Julia Child’s nephew and co-author Alex Prud’homme.

Beth Forrest, assistant director of Lifelong Learning, knew Boston University was the perfect place to host the annual joint meeting of The Association for the Study of Food and Society and The Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society.

After all, MET’s program in gastronomy is one of a kind. Because food scholars are typically spread across academic departments, the depth and cohesiveness of MET’s gastronomic community had the opportunity to shine. “We were able to showcase our resources to those throughout the world who are interested in studying food,” said director of lifelong learning Rebecca Alssid.

“This was an extraordinary opportunity for our students. The people who attend this conference are the leaders of the field,” said Forrest.

“We want to conduct research that will have an impact,” said Maloney. “We want to better understand how we can grow and strengthen the arts.”

Area organizations—including The Arts and Business Council of Greater Boston, the Cambridge Arts Council, and The New England Foundation for the Arts—lent their support to the day’s events.

Participant Dan Hunter, director of Massachusetts Advocates for Arts, Sciences, and Humanities, remarked, “I’m so pleased that this group of artists and arts administrators is getting together to talk about issues that really need to be talked about. I’m thrilled with the attendance.”

savoir faire

Metropolitan Renaissance Man

It’s been a banner year for assistant professor of Arts Administration Rich Maloney, who, in addition to serving as assistant director of MET’s graduate program in arts administration, has found time to maintain an active career as a lutenist, introduce new academic programs, join the Board of Directors of the Center for Arts in Natick, MA, and even volunteer as a coach to BU undergrads.

Here on campus, Maloney was instrumental in the organization of the first arts research symposium, an event he hopes will grow into unique research opportunities for MET students and faculty (see p. 4 for details). He also helped develop and introduce one of MET’s newest graduate certificates—in fundraising management.

His expertise as an arts administrator and talent as a performer took him abroad as well.

In the last year, he performed and lectured at the University of Athens and the American College of Greece, and addressed the Association of Arts Administration Educators National Conference in Toronto. This summer, he will lead a group of MET graduate students to London for a course in comparative cultural policy.

But before he does, his early music group, Ensemble Trident, is set to perform a repertoire of Greek music as part of the Society of Historically Informed Performance concert series, which will take place at three locations throughout Greater Boston.

When asked about his rigorous schedule, he laughed and said, “I don’t sleep a lot.” That is, before concluding, “I’m really lucky. This is the perfect job because it encourages me to pursue all of my interests.”
Innovation

This year, MET welcomed Robert Stott, New England regional president of Verizon Wireless, as the keynote speaker at Commencement ceremonies. In his address, Stott challenged graduates to pursue a “culture of continuous improvement” throughout their lives and careers.

In celebration of what they have already accomplished, and in anticipation of the achievements to come, we highlight the graduates and guests of Commencement 2006 and the ways they exemplify those qualities MET upholds as fundamental to its own culture of continuous improvement: access, innovation, and excellence.

Congratulations to the Class of 2006!

Excellence

“If I know how much effort all of you have expended earning your degrees, working full-time and balancing all of your other obligations, you’ve become enriched by your education, and you deserve to be congratulated.”

—Joseph Mercurio, (MET ’87), executive vice president of Boston University

“Braving the rain

“How does a wire technician working under stairways become the New England regional president for what Business Week has called the best wireless company in the world? It was my pursuit of education… my determination to be the best at whatever job I was doing… so think of my remarks to you today as a final MET case study simply because I am one of you.”

—Robert Stott, New England regional president of Verizon Wireless, MET Convocation

Access

Marina Wolf Ahmad (MET ’96), winner of the Excellence in Graduate Study Award for Arts Administration. Ahmad is founder, producer, and choreographer of Big Moves, a national non-profit training and service organization dedicated to promoting size acceptance and size diversity in dance.

Innovation

Xiaokai Shi (MET ’06), winner of the Excellence in Graduate Study Award for Actuarial Science. Using regression techniques, Shi conducted repeated analyses of medical data that may eventually yield advancements in the treatment of burn victims.

“I hope we prepared you not only for the immediate demands of your job, and not only for advancements toward your next job, but for the decades ahead.”

—Dean Halfond, to the first class of the online Master of Science in Computer Information Systems program

Leslie Patton (MET ’98) (L), winner of the Distinguished Alumni Award for Service to Community. Patton left her career in financial administration to become a full-time hospice volunteer for HealthCare Dimensions, a subsidiary of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

“There is not your peak or pinnacle—it’s only the beginning. This is the start of the fun stuff, when you actually get to apply all that you have learned.”

—Robert Stott, New England regional president of Verizon Wireless, at MET Convocation

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Distinguished Alumni Awards
Edward M. Francis Service to Alma Mater
Leslie Patton Service to Community
Dr. Roger Deveau Memorial Part-Time Faculty Award
Mark Milots Criminal Justice
Alumni Student Leader Award
Barbara A. Storella
Excellence in Graduate Studies Awards
Xiaokai Shi Actuarial Science
Jennifer DiTomaso Jacobsen Administrative Science
Marina Wolf Ahmad Arts Administration
Anthony King Computer Science
Kouchi Komuru City Planning
Leena Weekes Criminal Justice
Kara Nielsen Gastronomy
Undergraduate Certificate of Achievement
Elizabeth Mortensen

Leadership Circle of Giving
Leadership Circle members are alumni and friends of Metropolitan College who have made a significant financial commitment toward the needs of the College. The Leadership Circle recognizes donations within the current calendar year and multi-year pledges to any Metropolitan College Fund. A special thank you to all MET donors can be found at www.bu.edu/alumni/met/donors.

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Mr. Matt Wardenpas MET ’95
Mr. Hugh M. Wilkinson III MET ’83
Howard E. Williams, Ed.D. MET ’86, SED ’89
Ms. Susan K. Woerner MET ’05

New Scholarship Named in Honor of Student
During this year’s commencement ceremonies, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs Carl Sessa announced the establishment of the Bryan D. Willard Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship honors Marine Captain Bryan Willard, a highly decorated officer and graduate student in MET’s military programs who was killed in the line of duty on February 17, 2006, after his helicopter crashed in Djibouti, Africa. The announcement met with a standing ovation. “Our country has lost many brave men and women in recent military activities around the world, and Metropolitan College was not able to avoid such a loss in its own family. We are all saddened,” said Sessa.

Shannon Willard, Captain Willard’s wife, was also recognized during the ceremony. She traveled to Boston from North Carolina to attend, and remarked that “Bryan never did anything half-heartedly.” As a legacy in honor of his dedication and service, the Bryan D. Willard Memorial Scholarship will support Metropolitan College students who have been wounded in the line of duty. The scholarship funds will also be available to spouses and children of veterans who have been wounded or killed in duty.

Those interested in contributing to this fund are encouraged to contact Kay Moriarty at kymoria@bu.edu or 617-353-2976.

for the record

3,000,000 Total estimated number of hours MET students spend studying, annually
1,500 Estimated number of hours each student spends earning a MET degree
1,138 Number of years Elizabeth Mortensen (MET ’06), this year’s winner of the Certificate of Undergraduate Achievement, spent pursuing her bachelor’s degree. Congratulations, Elizabeth!
2 Total graduates of MET’s Class of 2006
30,000 Approximate number of rain ponchos on hand for guests of Commencement exercises at Nickerson Field*
23,000 Number of cookies baked for Commencement receptions around campus*
45,000 Number of finger sandwiches consumed during Commencement events—that’s equivalent to one sandwich per guest, University wide. Lined end to end, they could reach the top of the Empire State Building or circle the bases at Fenway Park 31 times.*

*As reported by BU Today (www.bu.edu/today)
A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE OVER ONE HUNDRED GUESTS WHO TURNED OUT TO CELEBRATE MET’S HISTORY, and to honor its future, at this inaugural event supporting the Student Scholarship Fund.

Amidst dining and dancing at the Metcalf Trustee Ballroom, participants took time to enjoy an array of musical performances as well as a special film presenting MET’s forty years—they also bid on silent auction items ranging from theatre tickets to FitRec memberships to fine art to the chance to be Dean for a day (watch out, Dean Halfond!).

We hope you’ll enjoy this collection of the evening’s highlights, and that you’ll be sure to join us next year.

OUT TO CELEBRATE ONE HUNDRED GUESTS WHO TURNED ANNIVERSARY TO MET’s 40th Anniversary Student Scholarship Gala

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