

Metropolitan State University
"Alumni News"
Summer 2002
Volume 7, Number 3, p.10

"Where Life and Learning 'Met' " Joseph E. Commers (1982) exhibits great energy and passion for Metropolitan State and its mission. As an already accomplished commercial real estate investor with a successful business, The Commers Real Estate Company, who wanted to finish his already-started degree, Commers discovered Metropolitan State's flexible class schedule, variety of locations, and its nontraditional student experience a perfect fit! Commers also hopes that Metropolitan State will continue to recognize the "nontraditional learner," encouraging one to use more of his right brain and creative side where all senses and learning can be used to accomplish a university degree. Commers graduated in 1982 from First College receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree. One of his fondest memories was the first planning class called "Perspectives", at one time a beginning requirement for Metropolitan State where entering students would map out what their course work would be as it applied to their current or future career and lifestyle. The Perspectives course and instructor had a profound impact on his life. Commers' instructor was strict and demanded that he do his best and pursue excellence in all he goaled himself for in work and life.

Passion in work, life and his experience at Metropolitan State is what moved Joe Commers to become one of Metropolitan State's most recent alumni, joining the Visionary Circle of Metropolitan State University Foundation with an unrestricted gift of \$30,000 to the Susan A. Cole Endowed Scholarship Fund. An unrestricted gift is particularly special, as it allows the foundation to distribute the investment return on the fund where the need is greatest each year in perpetuity to the university. Commers' motivations behind his most generous gift to Metropolitan State are many: he wants to affect many students' educations that can be enhanced by the variety of subjects, degrees, and professors available at the university. He wants to see Metropolitan State continue its mission in serving students who, for one reason or another, were not able to complete their degrees in a "traditional way" and to continue the positive spirit that the university instills in its students. Commers believes that "positive brings positive," and he hopes that Metropolitan State "continues to thrive and broaden itself to affect many Minnesotans, and therefore our state will be a more positive and healthy state." Commers also looks forward to seeing Metropolitan State expand and continue to grow into a much larger university that becomes even more recognized for its already fine accomplishments of its past, present and future. According to Commers, "I have loved being a 'lifelong' learner and I want to encourage others to do the same. Being associated with Metropolitan State University has enhanced that experience." Truly, Joe Commers' experience embodies the university's theme.

"Where life and learning meet." In this case, life and learning, in fact, met. If you would like to learn more about Joe Commers' mission toward work, life and career, he invites you to visit his Web site at www.CommersCompany.com. If you are interested in joining the Visionary Circle or to learn more about ways of making a planned gift to the Metropolitan State University Foundation, contact Robert Larson, Director of Development, at 651-793-1813 or e-mail him at robert.larson@metrostate.edu .