

THE METROPOLITAN

The Metropolitan State University Student Newspaper



Photo by Scott Lindell

Break dancers (left to right) Genny Moua, Kevin Vang and Robert Thao displayed their break dancing skills at Monte Carlo Night.

Metro State Breaking Club debuts as student organization

SCOTT LINDELL
Associate editor

The Metro State Breaking Club made its campus debut at the Monte Carlo Night on April 28. In front of a Student Center audience, Kevin Vang, Genny Moua and Robert Thao performed their signature break dancing moves.

The crowd applauded the dancers' impressive steps, spins, flips and freezes. Soon, the audience broke away from their card games to join the excitement. They learned new techniques and had fun showing off their dance skills.

Kevin Vang, the founder of this new student organi-

zation, felt something was missing at Metro State. "I wanted to bring something fresh and new to the university," he said. Vang, also known as Bboy Keej, has been break dancing for seven years.

He started when he was a freshman in high school. Now, Vang is an instruc-

tor at House of Dance Twin Cities, a center for hip-hop and breakdancing. There he discovered his passion for teaching. He enjoys seeing students learn new skills and display their individuality.

Besides instructing, Vang is also a competitive break dancer. As a member

of the Icy Styles Crew (facebook.com/mnicystyles), Vang travels to tournaments that pit five-member teams against each other.

Videos of tournament competition are available on the Icy Styles Crew's YouTube page (youtube.com/user/IcyStylesCrew), includ-

SEE BREAKING ON PAGE 6

Homeless to Hopeful

Vision boards inspired life changes

KIM DEBLIECK
Guest Writer

Six summers ago, I was sleeping in my Honda Odyssey van. I was manic and unable to pay for my mental health medications. My low-paying part-time job had me earning just enough that my Medical Assistance benefits were denied. I lived on food stamps and purchased my food with an EBT card.

That Halloween, I was fortunate to move in with Lynn and Bill, a couple that has since become my dear friends. On a snowy winter day, I sat down in their kitchen and created a vision board. In the center, I placed a large, smiling sun. To its

right, I glued a picture of a hefty, happy-looking, silver-haired woman in a blue cap and gown, proudly standing with her hands on her hips. Down below, I put a picture of a blue backpack with an A+ glued to it. There was also an image of a nest with golden eggs in it that I placed near the backpack.

I completed the vision board and was happy with the results. It contained things that were important to me, including my values and my vision for the future I wanted to create. I placed my vision board on my dresser where I could see it every day when I woke up.

In March, I moved into a subsidized apartment. I

"My life sounded like a bad country western song. I was divorced, my lover had left me, I had gone through bankruptcy, and now foreclosure. I had bipolar disorder and was currently depressed, out of work, and broke. That morning, I had handed over my keys to my beautiful suburban home to the representative from the mortgage company and left in denial about my current circumstances. It hit me hard."

*Where will I stay tonight?
I have no place to go!"*

- Kim DeBlieck

mounted my vision board in the entryway. Every day I came home from work, I saw what was most important to me, and that little old woman in the cap and gown spoke to me. I had dreamed of returning to college for

so long; now it was time to make my dream a reality. Imagine our world without personal computers, email or the internet. That was the case in 1981 when I went to college for the first time. At the age of 51, I enrolled at Metropolitan State University. Thankfully, many credits transferred, even though it had been more than 30 years since I completed a year of junior college and received an associate degree in respiratory therapy.

I pulled an old blue backpack from my closet, registered for classes, purchased my books and swallowed my fears. Three goals have kept me focused. I envisioned holding a bachelor's degree in my hand. I wanted to improve my writing skills. And I dreamed of writing a memoir.

SEE HOPEFUL ON PAGE 2

THE METROPOLITAN

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University
campus newspaper

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Writing for *The Metropolitan* is an excellent way to inform fellow students about important issues and events while enhancing your professional writing credentials.

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The Metropolitan welcomes article submissions from all students. Please see submission guidelines on OrgSync.

To share your article ideas or to submit your article for publication consideration, email the Editor:
ul5097yl@metrostate.edu

The submission deadline for the August issue is July 10, 2017.

Homeless to Hopeful

HOPEFUL FROM PAGE 1

I chose Metro State for its creative writing program and its focus on adult learners. Metro State is a very diverse college. While I'm frequently the oldest student in my classes, I don't let that stop me.

Writing academic papers was new to me, so I utilized the Writing Center when my first paper was due. I worked with a tutor named Jamie, and I was grateful for the help. I also scheduled meetings with my academic advisor who helped me map out my courses so I could meet my goal of graduating.

My professors have also been very supportive and committed to my learning.

I have taken a mix of traditional classes and online courses. The online courses have been convenient; they allow me to work from home and are flexible with my schedule.

I loved my WRIT 352 Writing Memoir and Creative Nonfiction class with Patricia Hoolihan, which is where I had the opportunity to start my memoir. I will continue to work on it in my WRIT 583 Writing Major Projects class this summer semester.

I have earned good grades, and school has been manageable with my work schedule. I take two classes every semester. Every time I receive a syllabus, I feel overwhelmed and wonder how I will ever complete the requirements of the course. Then I take a deep breath, review my goals and focus on taking it one week at a time.

I currently work full time and have a nest egg saved for

Kim DeBleck's story is the first in an occasional series of powerful personal essays by Metro State students.
Do you have a compelling story to share?
Email TheMetropolitan@metrostate.edu to pitch your idea.



Photo by Kim DeBleck

Kim DeBleck's tips for making your own vision board, "It can have a broad focus, or you can narrow the focus to a specific theme. Once you decide on the focus of your vision board, gather words and images that speak to you. Cut and paste them to a poster board or use an electronic format. When you finish, mount your vision board where you can see it daily. Reflect on the words and images you create and take action to achieve your goals."

a condo. I will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in creative writing. Getting an education is an honor and a privilege, and I discovered that it is never too late to invest in your

learning.

Last fall, I created a new vision board with a specific theme. It focuses on what I want to create with my memoir. It is filled with words and images that

inspire me to reach my goal.

I mounted the vision board above my desk, so I can view it every day. It reminds me of how far I have come and where I'm going next.

Letter to the Editor

Faculty work to serve interests of online learners

The Metro State Distance-Learning/Intellectual Property Committee of faculty read with interest C.T. Corum's article, titled "Breaking the Piggy Bank: Why Online Classes Cost More Money Than Traditional Classes" in your March 2017 issue.

Our committee was disappointed that no faculty were interviewed for this piece, because we work hard to advocate for improvements to online learning. These include: ADA accommodation needs in online courses for students (e.g., closed captioning, universal design); SCORM (Sharable Content Object Reference

Model) for ensuring content functions consistently across the learning management system; an online orientation for students new to online coursework; and course templates for consistency of navigation and user experience as students move from course to course.

We would very much like the student body to know that our faculty committee has reviewed and questioned the development of extra technology fees associated with online learning. As a committee, we have advocated regularly for the most effective, economical, and efficient uses of any tuition differentials that may be

needed for online and hybrid courses.

If any student would like to speak with our committee regarding our committee's research on this issue and our proposals for examining the use of tuition differentials for improving student success, please feel free to contact Professor Carolyn Whitson, our committee's chair, at carolyn.whitson@metrostate.edu.

Metro State Faculty Distance-Learning/Intellectual Property Committee

The Metropolitan
welcomes
submissions of

Letters to the Editor.
All letters are subject to editing for brevity and clarity.

The deadline for publication in the August edition is July 20. Please specify your connection to Metropolitan State University.

Submit your letter to:
TheMetropolitan@metrostate.edu.

As a Matter of Course

Big Questions, Big Tent: New 'Chautauqua' Class Offered

Students ponder interrelatedness and sustainability in IDST 323 course.

SARAH FJELLANGER
Guest Writer

This summer, Metro State students are broadening their worldviews using the teachings of a 19th-century education movement in IDST 323 Chautauqua: Sense of Place.

Dr. Carol Lacey, associate professor in the College of Individualized Studies (CIS), created this new interdisciplinary course. She modeled it on the spirit of the Chautauqua Institution, an innovative liberal arts program that is more than 140 years old. She incorporated what she learned from attending the Chautauqua Institution summer season in 2016 in southwestern New York.

Lacey welcomes students from any major to enroll in the online course. It can be used to satisfy goal 5, goal 10 and upper-division Liberal Studies.

Multisided Syllabus

Asked how the class differs from WRIT 532 Writing About Place, Lacey said that her students first consider a personal experience in a place that is specific and significant to them.

Class exercises push students beyond casual observations. They must explore physical, economic, social, cultural and spiritual aspects. They must tackle ecological and environmental challenges, and evaluate the sustainability of their chosen place.

The expansive, multidisciplinary nature of the class generates big questions: What was this place before you laid eyes on it? What could it become? How can an individual make an impact on future generations?

Historical Roots

The Chautauqua Movement began in 1874 with the work of Methodist Church leader John Heyl Vincent and businessman Lewis Miller. They convened at Lake Chautauqua in New York to build an organization, which offered lifelong learning opportunities to the public.

It was modeled after



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Historic Chautauqua Auditorium in Spicer, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota.



Photo courtesy of Chautauqua Institution

The "Amp," the open-air amphitheater at the Chautauqua Institution, New York, can accommodate over 6,000 people. It offers a wide-ranging slate of theater, orchestra, opera, popular music and dance programs.

an earlier adult education program, the Lyceum Movement.

To serve those who could not afford to attend college, the Chautauqua Movement offered correspondence courses. The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle (CLSC) book club encouraged participants to form local reading circles.

Chautauqua caught on. By World War I, groups had organized across the U.S. Traveling Chautauquas offered programs under tents or pavilions. They brought educational lectures, enter-

tainment and cultural enlightenment to isolated communities. Audiences could learn about scientific discoveries, receive a deeper religious education, listen to famous orators, or enjoy music concerts. Women, teachers and those living in remote areas benefitted most from these programs.

Influential Model

The Chautauqua Movement's influence can be seen in the development of summer school, university extension, correspondence courses and "great books"

discussions.

As the Great Depression began, the Chautauqua revivals diminished. Radio, automobiles and the shift from rural to metropolitan living all contributed to the decline.

But in spite of these cultural changes, the original Chautauqua Institution still draws thousands to summer programs on its 750-acre campus every year. It continues to play a unique role offering studies ranging from the recreational level to the professional.

Modern-day Minnesota

Dr. Lacey noted that vibrant Chautauqua-style programs continue to pop up across Minnesota too.

St. Catherine University in St. Paul has offered a summer Chautauqua with renowned speakers, faculty presentations and alumnae involvement. The Arts Access Chautauqua in Minneapolis in 2015 assembled artists to discuss accessibility and disabilities.

By gathering Metro State students under the 'big tent' of IDST 323, Lacey keeps the Chautauqua tradition alive.

chau·tau·qua

n. (1873) : any of various traveling shows and local assemblies that flourished in the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, that provided popular education combined with entertainment in the form of lectures, concerts, and plays, and that were modeled after activities at the Chautauqua Institution of western New York.

Student Life

Summer Sampler

Take the lead from faculty and seize the summer days.

KATHRYN GANFIELD

Editor

Metro State faculty aren't spending the summer holed up in their offices. They are out exploring all the Twin Cities have to offer. Check out their recommendations for activities and events.

Trail Blazers

Kal Tuominen, community faculty member in the department of natural sciences, is teaching NSCI 201 Minnesota Ecology and Conservation Biology this summer. They recommend students take a hike "a bit outside the Twin Cities."

"People who want to get out of the city for a few hours, or even for a few days, will find a lot to do at Afton State Park. This is my first choice when I want to go for an intense hike without driving too far!" Tuominen said.

The park offers 20 miles of hiking trails, including 0.6 miles that are wheelchair accessible. Terrain varies from flat to steep.

Tuominen points to the park's "excellent examples" of deciduous forest, former pine plantation, oak savannah and restored prairie.

Park activities include camping, picnicking, swimming and fishing in the St. Croix River, volleyball, horseshoes and geocaching. An archery range will be open on June 10 and July 15.

Afton State Park is about a 30-minute drive east from the St. Paul campus. A one-day vehicle permit costs \$5. A twelve-month permit is \$25 and allows access to all 75 Minnesota state parks and recreation areas. Entry is free on June 10 in celebration of "National Get Outdoors Day."



Photo courtesy of Library and Information Services, Metropolitan State University

Metro State and the Dayton's Bluff branch of the St. Paul Public Library share space at 645 E. 7th St., St. Paul.

Library Lovers

Metro State's Library and Learning Center is unique for housing a university academic library and a public library branch under one roof. Librarians collaborate to provide a range of family-friendly events in their shared building.

Savitri Santhiran, children's specialist at the Dayton's Bluff branch, welcomes Metro State students and their kids to participate in "Summer Spark" from June 1 to Aug. 31.

Children and teens aged 0-18 can complete activities and read books to earn prizes. Santhiran says parents and kids can stop by the library to pick up activity and reading logs.

Open Eye Figure Theatre will present the puppet show "Molly and the Magic Boot" on June 14 at 7 p.m. Hosted jointly by the Dayton's Bluff branch and Metro State, pre-show activities begin at 6 p.m.. There will be food, face painting and a hula hooping contest.

Summer Spark also offers free performances by musicians, magicians, comedians and storytellers.

All programs take place in the children's area in the Dayton's Bluff Branch: Jason Huneke's Juggling Show (June 17, 1:30 p.m.); Snake Discovery, an educational reptile program (June 21, 3 p.m.); Magical Mia (June 28, 3 p.m.); Brodini Comedy Magic Show (July 5, 3 p.m.); A Touch of Magic presents "Mixed Nuts" clown show (July 12, 3 p.m.); Bruce the Bug Guy, live insect presentation (July 19, 3 p.m.).

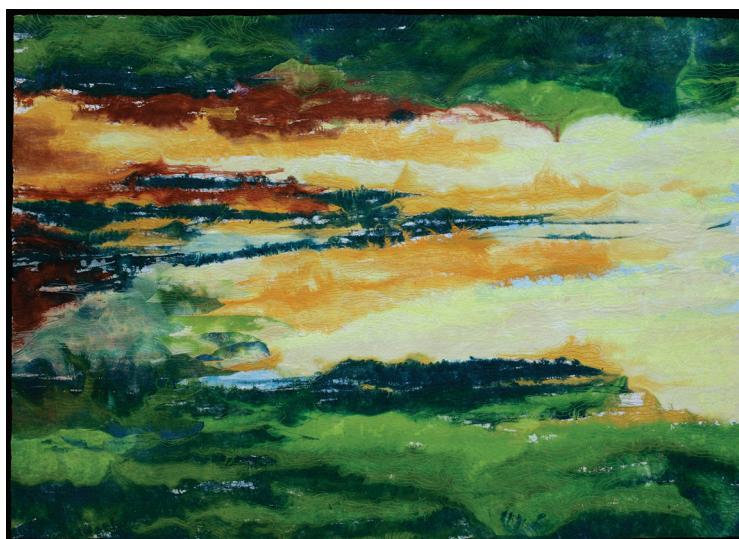


Photo by Tom Holt - Tacoma, Washington

"Solstice Light" is a 2015 mixed-media work by Barbara Lee Smith. It's on display at the Textile Center in Minneapolis until June 24.

Gallery Gazers

Erica Rasmussen, Metro State studio arts professor, encourages students to explore the field of fiber arts at the Textile Center in Minneapolis.

She recommends an exhibition by award-winning, internationally exhibited fiber artist Barbara Lee Smith. The show is titled "That's How the Light Gets In: Reflections on Transitions." It features large landscapes and abstract works crafted with paint, collage materials and sewing machine stitches.

"Through meditative landscapes and abstract compositions, this show provides a rich visual experience that ruminates upon place and memory," Rasmussen said.

Smith's work is on display until June 24 in the Joan Mondale Gallery at the Textile Center, 3000 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis.

Hours are 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday; 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Admission is free.



Photo by Tim Wilson

Riders race the wooden track at the National Sports Center Cycling Velodrome in Blaine.

Road Racers

Economics professor Allen Bellas is an avid cyclist who commutes by bike to campus. He urges students to take two wheels to see the sights.

"I love riding on the Midtown Greenway in Minneapolis. It runs from West River Parkway—a great place to ride, too—and East 27th Street to the north side of Lake Calhoun. From there you can continue on to Hopkins and points west," said Bellas.

But he doesn't want you to whiz right through. "Along the way you can enjoy the view from the Sabo Bridge; get coffee, pastries and repairs at the Midtown Bike Center; or have a meal at the Midtown Market," he said.

Even inexperienced or out-of-practice riders are good to go on the Greenway. "Greenway users are tremendously diverse and you'll see everything from serious bikers to kids just learning to ride and everyone in between," said Bellas.

But if you're more of a watcher than a rider, how about seeing the fastest human-powered sport on Earth? Bellas highly recommends the Thursday Night Lights bike races at the National Sports Center Cycling Velodrome in Blaine.

Races run Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. through September 14, weather permitting. Adult tickets are \$5, kids under age 12 are free.



Kid Campers

The Science Museum of Minnesota will bring kids to the Metro State campus this summer. The Science Center on the St. Paul campus will host four camps. Metro State students receive a 75% discount rate for their children—\$54 per camp.

- "Female Filmmakers" (July 24-28, 9 a.m. - noon) offers girls ages 9-12 an introduction to digital video production and editing.

- In "Gamer Girls: Dance Edition" (July 24-28, 1-4 p.m.), girls ages 9-12 will use Scratch software to design and code a dance game.

- "Scratch Your Funny Bone" (August 7-11, 9 a.m. - noon) will get boys and girls, ages 6 to 8, telling jokes and learning basic computer code on the ScratchJr app.

- In "Puppet Movies" (August 7-11, 1-4 p.m.), boys and girls, ages 6-8, can create puppets and make them move with HUE stop motion animation software.

To register, call 651-221-4511 and mention coupon code MSU2017. Offer available only for Metro State location and summer 2017 camps. Limit two coupons per family.

Film Fans

The libraries will also offer a family-friendly movie series on Fridays 1-2:30 p.m. in the first-floor student lounge in the Library and Learning Center on the St. Paul campus.

Scheduled films include: "Trolls" (June 16), "Moana" (June 23), "Kubo and the Two Strings" (June 30), "Toy Story" (July 7), "Toy Story 2" (July 14), "Toy Story 3" (July 21), "The Muppets" (July 28), "The Last Mimzy" (Aug. 4), "The Jungle Book" (Aug. 11), "Beauty and the Beast" (Aug. 18).

For more adult fare, turn to Metro State's Film Space, a digital cinema theater located in Founders Hall on the St. Paul campus. Screenwriting professor James Byrne says don't miss the upcoming Qhia Dab Neeg Hmong Film Festival, June 23-24.

"This is the biggest and one of the only Hmong film festivals in the country. It features national and local films that reflect Hmong culture and/or are made by Hmong filmmakers," Byrne said.

Studio, Stage & Screen

Indulge in the 'Ecocentric'

Environmentally inspired art on display in the Gordon Parks Gallery at Metro State

C.T. CORUM
Staff Writer

Step through the entrance and immediately your attention is seized by a bright and colorful tree at the center of the room. You lean in close to discover that the tree is made of Target bags and other recycled plastic.

Swirl to your right to see a sculpture of a fish, created from empty Marlboro cigarette cartons and aluminum Mountain Dew cans.

In the opposite corner, you see a sculpture of a fox also composed of recycled material.

Hanging on every wall are pictures of wildlife and charcoal drawings of seeds. These images meander across the wall, creating an intriguing mosaic that seizes your imagination.

Some people might call these pieces of art eccentric. Rather, they are the artworks that make up the "Ecocentric: Art, Ecology and Engagement" exhibit.

"Ecocentric" is on display in the Gordon Parks Gallery until July 13. This exhibition features the works of Minnesota artists Mary Johnson, Rachel Breen and Miranda Brandon. You can find the gallery on the third floor of the Library and Learning Center on the St. Paul campus.

Artists Nurtured By Nature

Each artist discussed the inspiration and process of her artwork with The Metropolitan.

Scavenging through sewers, gutters and riverbanks, Mary Johnson has spent years gathering trash. Collecting metal pop cans and plastic shopping bags, she uses these pieces of garbage to create something aesthetically pleasing. "The art gives people the ability to visualize how much stuff is out there," said Johnson.

Her inspiration came from researching extremophiles, which are organisms that can survive in extreme conditions. Using her sculptures as points of departure, she finds herself wondering how life will adapt to the changing environment. "The art makes a statement about certain areas," said Johnson. "This helps feed into my own creative process."

Rachel Breen imprinted her charcoal drawings directly onto the wall of the

Gordon Parks Gallery. Using an unthreaded sewing machine, she created stencils of seeds. Once the stencils were finished, she traveled to the gallery and began transforming the wall into art.

One of the most important principles learned from seeds, Breen explains, is the idea of heirlooms.

"The concept of an heirloom is really important because it is a metaphor for larger things," said Breen. "There are some things we see as being precious and pass them down. Heirloom seeds are the same way. Saving seeds is how we can preserve our community legacy. We ensure our stability as a community as long as we grow our own food."

Drawing on the wall helps Breen to symbolize another concept. "One of the reasons I work on the wall, is there is less of a border," Breen said. "The art becomes much more a part of the space, but also it is more temporary and fragile. If you rub it or blow on the art, it changes. That is the meaning of the work. How fragile and delicate our environment is. It's precious and we have to be very careful with it."

Miranda Brandon created the prints featured on the wall of the exhibit. Using appropriated images, she inserted animals into photographs she captured around the Twin Cities. Brandon also created posters of animals to accompany the framed works.

The Ecocentric Argument

"Ecocentric" is certainly a unique and unfamiliar term. What exactly does it encompass?

"Ecocentric means a person is capable of thinking outside the self," said Breen. "Thinking community based, instead of thinking about the self and only the self. It is broader way of thinking."

Erica Rasmussen, the gallery director and studio arts professor at Metro State, sees the exhibit as a platform to help create awareness of environmental issues. "[The artists] are interested in not just making art and showing art, but also engaging people in ecological discussions," said Rasmussen. "Art students might be inspired by the exhibit. The exhibit spurs all kinds of thought about developing subject matter and integrating ideas into one's work."



Photo by Mary Johnson



Photo by Miranda Brandon

Photographer Miranda Brandon, Minneapolis, crafts images of animals and then re-photographs them in natural spaces.



Rachel Breen, Minneapolis, stenciled images of heirloom seeds onto the walls and ceiling of the Gordon Parks Gallery.

But this does not mean that the exhibit is meant only for art students. Because of the broad spectrum that "Ecocentric" covers, Rasmussen suggests that all students come to see the artwork, regardless of their major.

"It's about engaging people," said Rasmussen. "The arts are oftentimes a very solitary act, but I think that we are going to see more and more of this kind of practice where artists invite the

community to get involved and participate. It's a way to get people excited about artwork and ideas. Artwork is one place to start raising consciousness about some of the things that deserve discussion."

On Campus

Players of All Stripes Unite at Game Night

NICK WELSCH
Guest Writer

As I walked into the quiet Library and Learning Center on the St. Paul campus, I thought it was an odd place for a noisy night of games. I headed to the student lounge on the first floor, where the library offers Game Night the third Tuesday of every month.

When I arrived, I was greeted by library technician Dylan Harris as he hooked up a Super Nintendo—just one of the many systems available to play. Harris and librarian Jennifer DeJonghe are the masterminds that brought this event to the Metro State community.

Joined by librarian Alec Sonstebry this year, the Game Night team has expanded the library's game collection to include tabletop and board games—all which can be borrowed by library card holders.

"We know that not everyone can stick around and we want people to have fun," Sonstebry told me when I asked how to check out games. "[We want people] to play games and learn new ones and we want people to



Photo by Scott Lindell

The library has a variety of games for students to play at Game Night, or check out to play at home.

take them home."

That raised a question about logistics: How do they keep track of the numerous game pieces in a board game?

The library uses the honor system and expects patrons to communicate problems with the librarian on duty. Usually there are no issues as the library can often replace missing pieces.

Game Night has grown since its origins as a once-a-semester event started by librarian DeJonghe. "It was about two years ago and it began as a video game night," Harris said. Once Sonstebry was on board, they expanded into tabletop games, to appeal to the diverse mix of gaming subcultures.

The library's video game collection ranges from old-

school classics like Tetris on the NES, to Mario Kart on the Super Nintendo and the Wii, to FIFA Soccer for the PlayStation 4. Librarians will expand the game collection as demand increases.

In most instances the tabletop games take 15 to 90 minutes to play so players can try several during a three-hour Game Night. I tried two tabletop games:

Carcassonne, a worldbuilding tile game, and Splendor, a card game where you work your way to 15 points by acquiring gems and cards.

My fellow players were not only students and staff, but members of the community as well. In fact, the biggest group at Game Night was kids from the surrounding neighborhood. They mingled easily with adults in a university setting.

I felt Game Night represented our school well to the community, and showed a strong campus-community connection. I plan to bring my family to the event in the future.

While some gaming systems like the Super Nintendo were donated to the library, the Playstation 4 and many of the nearly 70 tabletop games were acquired with funding requests. The goal now is to add one board game a month and possibly another video game system.

For Game Night updates, text "@libgamers" to number 81010 or send a blank email to libgamers@mail.remind.com. For more information about Game Night, email dylan.harris@metro-state.edu.

Breaking Club puts best foot forward as new student organization

BREAKING CLUB FROM PAGE 1

ing their semifinal matchup versus the Majestic Crew at the Patrick Henry Jam in Minneapolis.

Vang plans to attend the Freestyle Session Minnesota Qualifier over Memorial Day weekend at the Fine Line Music Cafe in Minneapolis. At this competition, contestants will clash for top prizes including cash, trophies, Soundset Music Festival tickets, and entry to the Freestyle Session World Finals.

In addition to competing, Vang also performs at community events. Many organizations seek dance teams to entertain crowds at gatherings. From whirling windmills to beautiful backspins, audiences enjoy the originality and creativity of break dancing routines. Recently, the Hopkins Police Department requested a House of Dance performance team for a summer get-together at the Hopkins Center for the Arts.

Starting this summer, Vang will offer breaking workshops at Metro State. These seminars will feature guest B-boys and B-girls

that have competed at the national level. At Monte Carlo Night, Vang introduced his crewmate Genny Moua, also known as Zony. At Jam for Food 2017, Zony won the "Most Valuable Breaker" award. He also propelled the Icy Styles Crew to a second place finish in the event's five-on-five breaking competition.

The Metro State Breaking Club meets on Mondays from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Student Center on the St. Paul campus. During the first hour, participants will learn basic moves and discuss break dancing culture and lifestyle. Then, students will practice while Vang provides coaching and encouragement.

According to the club's OrgSync page, break dancing is a sport that encourages personal development through cardio, strength and mental training. Many breakers find that learning the sequences requires hard work, dedication and determination.

While breakers can acquire moves by watching tutorials on YouTube, they will probably notice greater



Kevin Vang leads a break dancing class in the Student Center at Monte Carlo Night on April 28.

improvement by practicing with others. Breaking Club members will challenge and inspire each other to improve.

The Monday club meetings feature more than an educational experience. For music lovers, there will be a mix of tunes played during the dance routines. The beats motivate and move members to perfect their

performance. "We play old-school hip-hop remixed with sounds from cultural music," Vang said.

Meetings are also great opportunities to meet fellow students, develop friendships on campus and get involved in the broader Twin Cities breaking community. Members will receive notifications of local competitions to attend as participants or

spectators.

If you are interested in becoming a B-girl or B-boy, the Metro State Breaking Club wants to meet you! Even if you don't want to dance, attend a meeting to take a break from your coursework and cheer on great breakers. Please visit their OrgSync page at orgsync.com/159674 for up-to-date information.

Tech Corner

JOSEPH T. PARSONS
Staff Writer

The web browser is the most fundamental piece of software on your computer. The majority of time you spend on your computer will be within a browser. Every website you visit, every online application you use, will be conducted, mediated and controlled through a web browser. They are the gatekeepers between you and the internet.

When it comes to browsers, people have their preferences. But they aren't always well-informed choices. Microsoft Edge (and before it, Internet Explorer) is standard on Windows PCs, so many people default to using it. The same is true of the Safari browser on Macs.

On the other hand, Google Chrome is the most popular web browser at the moment, and so many people automatically use it— "it must be popular for a reason," right? Let's explore the modern web browser landscape, and compare different web browsers for speed, security and features.

Niche Browsers

I will mention a handful of lesser-known, "niche" browsers throughout this article. Don't be surprised if you haven't heard of them; they exist mostly for a specialized audiences.

The three most common right now: Opera, Vivaldi (which tries to be like Opera of a few years ago), and Brave. Sandip Rai discussed the security features of Brave in-depth in our May 2017 issue.

Operating System Support

It is also worth noting that not all browsers are available to everyone.

Safari is only for macOS users; if you use Windows or Linux, don't even think about it. Microsoft Edge is only available on Windows 10. Older versions of Windows run Internet Explorer instead, which is old enough that in general I won't focus on it.

Speed

Browser speed can be difficult to measure. It will vary somewhat depending on your hardware and the

Weighing Winners and Losers

Speed	Compatibility	Extension Support
✓ Edge and Safari ✗ Internet Explorer	✓ Chrome and Firefox ✗ Internet Explorer	✓ Firefox and Chrome
Memory Usage	Security	Parsons' Picks
✓ Firefox ✗ Chrome	✓ Edge and Chrome ✗ Firefox	✓ Edge and Chrome ✗ Internet Explorer

Graphic by Dominique Hlavac

types of sites you visit. Web browsers will often have several releases and updates focused on speed. The fastest browser today could well be one of the slowest next month.

Still, by all rights, Microsoft Edge (exclusive to Windows 10) is the fastest browser currently on the market for Windows PCs. Safari is probably the fastest browser currently on the market for macOS.

Chrome remains a very speedy choice. Indeed, it is the fastest for older versions of Windows, and is very competitive on macOS and Windows 10.

Any browser based on the Chrome engine, which includes the bigger niche browsers— Opera, Vivaldi and Brave—will boast the same speed, as well.

Mozilla Firefox is probably the slowest modern browser, but this isn't really a distant last. It still performs very well, and is improving all the time. Internet Explorer is the only browser to avoid if you want speed. IE simply isn't up to snuff.

By this metric, Edge and Safari win. Chrome is a close second.

Memory Usage

This is a tricky one. Memory usage doesn't really matter for people who have a lot of storage space on their computers. If you have 16 GB or more, it probably doesn't matter which browser you use. Don't know how much memory you have? You probably have less than 16 GB.

For those with less, the browser's memory usage can impact how well your other programs run, as well as how many tabs you can have open before performance starts to degrade. The measurements change over time and vary depending on your computer and what

types of websites you visit.

In general, industry consensus is that Chrome, Safari and Microsoft Edge are all memory hogs. Chrome perhaps slightly more so than the other two.

Firefox used to be the biggest memory hog of them all, but today is actually quite slim and trim. Only niche browsers are liable to use less memory. Plus, it is possible to configure Firefox to use less memory at the expense of stability. That is a task I'll leave as an exercise for the interested reader.

So Firefox wins here.

Compatibility

Compatibility is an interesting metric. Websites that haven't been updated since the early 2000s may fully work only on Internet Explorer. In some cases, they may not work at all in any modern browser because they require technologies no longer supported today, like Java applets. New browsers sometimes can't load old webpages if the site's code was poorly written or relied on some obscure bug in an old browser.

I'm more concerned with the new technologies implemented in web browsers. For example, web browsers only started supporting native video playback in the last five years. Before that, Adobe Flash was used instead, but it was less secure and more battery-draining.

Measuring a browser's degree of support for new technologies can be complicated. The website caniuse.com tracks many such technologies. It places Chrome at the top of the heap, followed very closely by Firefox.

Safari lags behind a ways, followed by Edge. Internet Explorer isn't even tracked anymore. If you care at all about using the latest and greatest internet technolo-

Edge's extension system is quite advanced, but somewhat less so than Chrome's. Due to its newness and lack of popularity, the vast majority of extensions aren't (yet) available for Edge.

By this metric, I would say Firefox and Chrome are both strong contenders. Edge may compete one day, just not today.

Other Features

Most web browsers focus on speed and compatibility, but several bring a little more to the table.

Chrome and Firefox, for instance, both offer excellent device synchronization. They make it easy to unite bookmarks, history and passwords across different devices.

Opera features built-in ad blocking, VPN privacy and chat app pinning. Facebook Messenger and WhatsApp conversations can be pinned to the side of your browser.

Vivaldi is most notable for its customization. You can change it in just about any way you want. The Brave web browser focuses more on privacy-oriented features.

All three of these niche browsers use the exact same engine as Chrome. Webpages will look exactly like they would in Chrome, and load just as quickly.

Final Conclusions

Taken as a whole, Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome are my picks for best browsers for your laptop or desktop computer. Firefox is right behind.

While Safari is fine, I think most macOS users would have a better overall experience using Chrome. Avoid Internet Explorer like the plague.

On campus? Most Metro State computers have both Internet Explorer and Firefox. Firefox is the unequivocal best browser on campus. In my tests, Firefox took a few seconds longer to start up, but often loaded the Metro State home page before Internet Explorer managed to. Over the course of a browsing session, you'll almost certainly wait around less by using Firefox.

Even on campus computers with Chrome, I still recommend using Firefox. Firefox's lower memory requirements ensure that it can do more on memory-starved computers. Of course, if you prefer Chrome, use it. It's a perfectly fine browser. Unlike Internet Explorer.



Type here to search



Tips and Tricks for Students

C.T. CORUM
Staff Writer

How can college students and graduates impress employers and get hired for their dream job? Resumes and networking are the answers.

Resumes are often the first thing a prospective employer sees from a job applicant. These one-page documents have the power to land you an interview—or get you tossed into the rejection pile. With so much resting on your resume, how can you write one that will impress your employer and get you an interview?

Elegance is Everything

"Holistically, when I first look at a resume, I think the first impression is important," said Metropolitan State professor Quan Zhou, who teaches WRIT 372 Document and Information Design. "It tells you something about this person. Some resumes are cluttered; other resumes are elegant."

Resumes give employers a peek into your lifestyle and personality. As a job candidate, you have total control over what that employer sees.

Use clear writing to emphasize your strengths. Resumes should lay out your accom-

Need help perfecting your resume?

Resume Drop-in Sessions

- When: Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Where: Library and Learning Center, St. Paul campus
- No RSVP needed
- Bring paper or electronic draft of your resume
- Offered by Career Center and the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE)

One-on-One Resume Reviews

Schedule a personal appointment by emailing: career.center@metrostate.edu

plishments and skills. Hiring managers do not want to have any questions about your qualifications.

"Your resume should respond to what they are looking for in their job advertisement," said Zhou. "Don't describe your experience in a plain way. Think in terms of accomplishments. Give people measurable things like data, numbers and progress. When you write your resume, you should think about what value you present to your employer."

State Your Skills

Not showing your value clearly in your resume is the biggest mistake you can make, according to Metro State human resources recruiter Michele Chilinski.

"People leave out skills that they have," she said.

Chilinski can receive anywhere from a dozen to hundreds of applications for a single position. She must sift through them in a short period. If an applicant hasn't clearly listed their skills on their resume, they will be rejected.

Because of this, she recommends that students clearly state their skills. The best way to do this is to take the qualifications from a job description and match them to skills listed in your resume, she said. This action will help dispel any confusion about whether an applicant has the minimum qualifications for the job.

"Write short and simple resumes, but provide enough

information," Chilinski said. She also recommends that students use large and clear typefaces, but refrain from adding a photograph of yourself.

Many corporations and businesses, including Metro State, are required to hire a diverse staff. By including a picture, an applicant can actually decrease their chances of getting the job.

Dont Neglect to Network

While resumes are essential, personal connections are also vital to finding a job. "It's not just about resumes," said Chilinski. "It's also about networking."

People are influential and invaluable in the hiring process, Chilinski said. Getting to know someone on

the inside of an organization increases your chances of getting an interview. It gives you a distinct advantage over other applicants.

When the volume of applications for an open position can be huge, connecting with someone inside the organization will help you stand out from other candidates.

Zhou and Chilinski's advice channels a quote attributed to famed writer Ernest Hemingway: "My aim is to put down on paper what I see and what I feel in the best and simplest way."

Make that your goal when crafting your resume. A well-written resume—and a person-to-person connection—will launch you ahead of other applicants.

Test Drive Google Drive

Use cloud computing to simplify your semester

SANDIP RAI
Guest Writer

The driving force behind Google Drive is the idea of "Save Here. Access Anywhere." Any file you save to your Google Drive will be accessible to you from any device, including your PC and smartphone.

As a student, you can use this service to write and submit papers, projects and reports every semester.

Once you save it in Google Drive, you will never lose your work. This feature makes Google Drive a more secure option than storing your papers on USB flash drives that are easily misplaced.

If you have a Google or Gmail account, it's easy to get started with Google Drive.



Go to google.com/drive and sign in with your Google account.

Every user gets 15 GB of storage space, which should be more than enough for all the papers you will write until you graduate.

Google Drive's most powerful features are its online syncing, collaboration and software suite (Google Docs, Sheets and Slides).

Sync Your Files

Google Drive features an easy-to-use file syncing tool for laptop and desktop computers.

After downloading Google Drive (google.com/drive/download), a special folder is created whose contents are automatically synced to your online Google Drive ac-

count. You can access, edit, download and collaborate on those files by logging into your Drive account from any device.

Press the blue "NEW" button to create subfolders for all of your classes inside your main Google Drive folder. Then upload your papers to the proper folder and they will be automatically saved and synced to the web.

Working on your papers while they are synced will ensure that you can access your papers even if you leave your USB flash drive or laptop at home—or, worse, your computer breaks.

Collaborate with Classmates

For your group projects, Google Docs lets your team

members collaborate on documents in real time. You can see what your classmates are writing in the group paper, and you can easily edit and make changes.

Since Google Docs is a web-based service, you do not need to install any software on your computer. Giving a class presentation? Use Google Slides. Tracking stats on a spreadsheet? Try Google Sheets.

Save and Share Freely

Sharing files you create on Google Drive is as simple as sending an email. Enter the email address of the recipient, and then they can view, edit and collaborate on that file.

You can attach the files to your emails or integrate them into various web apps like Slack (a cloud-based collaboration tool). Files can be saved in different formats like Microsoft Word and PDF, which makes it easy to send them to people who do not use Google Drive.

Not the Only Service Under the Sun

If you do not get the hang of Google Drive, try out

Microsoft OneDrive. You've probably come across OneDrive on Metro State campus computers.

Like Google Drive, OneDrive provides online syncing, collaborating and 5 GB of storage. Also, OneDrive provides online versions of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Office 365 subscribers, including Metro State students, have access to 1 terabyte (1,000 GB) of storage.

For more information on the advantages of Office 365, check out Levi King's article in *The Metropolitan* from June 2015.

The main difference between these two services is the user interface. Google Drive provides a much simpler and easier-to-use interface which OneDrive lacks.

Due to this, I've found many Metro State students prefer using Google Drive. Collaborating on a group project through Google Docs was a great experience for me and my teammates last semester in our ICS 382 Computer Security class.

Having our files and papers synced automatically was a very handy feature as we multitasked on a tight schedule.