

THE METROPOLITAN

The Metropolitan State University Student Newspaper

Ginny Arthur named Metropolitan State's new president

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Virginia (Ginny) Arthur will succeed Devinder Malhotra as the president of Metropolitan State University, effective July 1, 2016.

"Ginny Arthur is a leader who has worked effectively and collaboratively with colleagues at her own university and colleagues across our colleges and universities on issues that are hugely important to all of us," said Steven Rosenstone,

chancellor of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities in a press release. "As president, she will provide outstanding leadership



to the university and to the entire Twin Cities metropolitan area."

Arthur has been Metro State's executive vice president and provost since 2015, and was provost and vice president for academic affairs from 2012 to 2015.

Metro State's "sisters" of Asia: Tamkang University

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Diversity is one of Metro State's strengths. For more than twenty years, a shining example of this is the school's exchange program with universities in Taiwan. In 1994, Tamkang University, located in the city of Taipei, approached Metro State's College of Management (COM), with a proposal to help graduate students earn their MBAs.

The international programs director and department chair of COM, Carol Bormann Young — who began at Metro State in 1995 — was teaching a strategy class at that time and was one of the faculty members who went to Taiwan in 1996. "When we started this program, it was almost all master's, very few bachelor's degrees," Young said. "And they were working adults, very similar to our students here, they were



Carol Bormann Young, international programs director and chair of COM, was one of the first faculty members to visit Taiwan in 1996. The exchange students visited a number of Minnesota businesses during their visit, including 3M, Target and General Mills.



not necessarily full-time students; they were councilmen and councilwomen, state government workers, and business people who were doing this MBA program in addition to working full-time," she added.

Young and the other faculty spent about three weeks in Taiwan, teaching accelerated classroom courses. The

students would then follow up with projects and papers, sending them to Metro State for grading and credit. "They (the students) would then come here for two to four weeks to finish up their capstone course and attend the graduation ceremony," Young said.

One change over the years has come in the form of part-

nerships with universities. Metro State now works with two different universities, both also in Taipei: China University of Technology (CUTe), and Takming University of Science and Technology (TMUST). There was also a past collaboration with National Taipei University in the city of Hsinchu; the campus is located in Science

Park, which is "similar to our Silicon Valley. It's very technology oriented," Young said.

Another change has been in the gradual trend toward a more youthful student base in Taiwan, and Metro State's international program has adjusted accordingly. Taiwanese students now come here to finish their degrees. In the past, the average number of the Taiwanese cohort was about twenty-five students. But the present academic school year (2015-16) saw a spike to forty-three students.

The Taiwan International Education Association, Metro State's international programs partner, coordinated by Alex Feng, decided that recruiting undergraduates would be in their best interest for the future. So, in 2012, Roger Prestwich, the director at the time, went to

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A look back with University President Devinder Malhotra

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With the naming of Ginny Arthur as the new president of Metropolitan State University, I took some time to speak with outgoing president, Devinder Malhotra. President Malhotra has been the interim president for two years. He reflects on the time at Metro State and what the future may hold for the university.

How long have you been here?

Since July, 2014. So two years. That was the intent. The intent was that I would come in and lead the institution for two years.

And what did you do before that?

Before that, I was provost at Saint Cloud State University.

And you've been in education for your entire career. Is that right?

Yes, I've been either on the faculty or in an administrative role since 1979. So it's been a long time.

When you say you've been on the faculty, that means you've taught?

Yes.

What did you teach?

Economics. In fact, I've been faculty longer than I've been an administrator. I was a full-time faculty member right up until 1999. So I've been an administrator only for 16 years.

Why did you decide to switch over?

You know, I don't think I decided to switch over. I was perfectly content. In fact, I sort of fancy myself as an academic and faculty member who happens to administrate. So it was a series of "accidents." So I'm an accidental administrator. Opportunities arose. I looked at it and it seemed like a good thing to do. One thing lead to another and here I am 16 years later.

What was your first administrative job?

I initially worked as Associate Dean in a big college of arts and sciences



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan State University

at the University of Akron. And then in 2005, I moved to Portland Maine at the University of Southern Maine where I became a dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. I oversaw the communications department.

So you started out in Akron?

In Akron, I started out as an assistant professor of economics and became associate professor. Then in 1989 I became a full professor of economics. I was department chair in the mid 90s and in '99, I moved full time into administration.

And did you get your education there?

No, I was born in India. I got my bachelor's from Saint Stephen's college, which is part of the University of Delhi. And then I got my master's in Delhi School of Economics which is also part of the University of Delhi. And then I came to this country and I went to Kansas State University and I got my Ph.D. in economics. And then I moved to Akron.

Did you always know that you wanted to be in education?

No, not really. Not till I started doing my Ph.D. While I was doing my Ph.D. in Economics, and this is fairly common for those of us who have

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The submission deadline for the
June issue is May 10, 2016.

A look back, continued

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gone through PhD programs, to-
wards the middle and end of your
PhD program, they will assign you
classes to teach. And they pay you so
that way you are able to pursue your
education.

When I went into the classroom, I
really liked that. So I decided to pur-
sue a career in academics.

**So it wasn't until you actually got
into the classroom that you real-
ized "Oh, this might be a career
path for me."**

You don't get the feel of what you're
doing until you actually do it. And
whether you like it or not.

**Have you ever thought that you
might want to go into the private
sector?**

You know, I've had opportunities.
I started off my career working for
the planning commission of India,
which is at the federal level, in my
early 20s as an economic research-
er. When I finished my Ph.D., I had
job offers from the private sector
too and a couple of the universities.
And so I thought hard and long and I
decided I wanted to pursue academ-
ics rather than going into the private
sector.

**And why is academics so impor-
tant to you?**

At that time, I was really interested
in not only the classroom, but also
pursuing my academic research.
If you go to the private sector, you
research what they ask you to re-
search. But as an academic, I had
a little more flexibility to pursue
areas which were high in my set of
priorities as issues to be researched
and engage in that conversation on
those topics with other economists.

The space academics offered me to
grow professionally is what attract-
ed me to this job.

**Do you think that your back-
ground in economics has helped
you in your administrative roles?**

I hope so. When you come to ad-
ministration and when you are in
leadership roles, you are really a
product of what you have done in the
past and how you have approached
things in the past. You can't really
change that.

Economics deals with understand-
ing how economic agents or indi-
viduals make choices in the face of
scarcity. And as administrators, we
are constantly making choices in the
face of scarcity. So I think some of
that thinking may have transferred,
but leadership is also more of an art
than a science. When I'm engaged
in a decision-making process, or
thinking about some issue, or lead-
ing a particular conversation, I don't
consciously think of "What would an
economist think?" You just go ahead.
But I'm sure it creeps into my think-
ing here and there.

**What are some of the tough deci-
sions you have had to make?**

It's not a decision, but a series
of decisions. I think it is to think
through with the rest of the univer-
sity community and engage them in
thinking around how we can move
the institution towards a sustain-

able, growth-oriented future. So the
toughness is not embedded in a de-
cision, but a series of decisions. And
to make sure that you stay focused
and are coordinated and cohesive in
your approach.

These decisions are fraught with
complexity and require thinking
and often we have to operate in an
environment where there may be
incomplete information or uncer-
tainty about the future. That's the
nature of this beast.

**I suppose, being the leader of
such a big organization with so
many different voices and per-
spectives, it's hard to know what
the best way is for the most peo-
ple?**

I don't know whether it's hard to
know what the best way is. The deci-
sion you ultimately make often is not
readily accessible to you. You know?
Some decisions are very black and
white for various reasons. In some
instances you may not have a choice.
So to me that's relatively easy, you
don't have to do much thinking. Or
something is of such overriding im-
portance that it may be easy to move
in that direction.

So, to your question, ultimately, it's
not an individual, whether that in-
dividual is president or in any other
significant leadership position, who
can change the direction of the insti-
tution it is really the university com-
munity: faculty, staff, students, who
together think and come to a shared
understanding about the history of
the institution, but also where they
would like the institution to be.

You come to that shared under-
standing about where we are com-
ing from and where we want to be.
The leadership role is to facilitate
and engage in a conversation with
that community so that we all have
the ability to review the informa-
tion, assess all the options, and then
pick approaches and make choices
to move the institution towards that
desired state.

And that's the strategic part, which
is fraught with a lot of complexity. It
is the leadership's role to listen to a
multiplicity of perspectives and then
try to sort that out and go through an
iterative process with the university
community. "This is what I heard. Is
that what you're saying?" And then
you refine your thinking as an insti-
tution, rather than as an individual.

As an individual, I may have X, Y, Z
preferences, but that's not the way
to approach the leadership role. The
leadership role also has to engage
the broader university community
and learn from them. It's true that
we are constantly, as a university,
engaged in teaching and learning.
That's what we do in our interac-
tions with our students. But we, as
a university, as an institution, as an
organization, also have to become
a learning organization. We learn
from each other. We learn from our
peer institutions. We learn from the
national context. And then we put in
all the information and we come up
with what makes sense as to how to
approach a particular issue or topic,
or in general how to move the insti-
tution forward.

**On a practical level, how do you
get that? How do you collect those
thoughts?**

When you look at organizations
like universities, there is a very
strong tradition of shared gover-
nance. Usually it refers to the inter-
actions which the leadership or the
managerial side of the institution
has with the faculty and staff. There
is a strong tradition of consultative
structures. But we have been much
more intentional also. For example,
a year and a half ago we created a
strategic planning advisory commit-
tee, which has representation from
all areas of the university, including
students. Student government also
has representatives there.

Essentially, what happens then
is this group engages the broader
university community and evalu-
ates the different options and then
makes recommendations.

And those recommendations come
in to the administration and then
internally, we look at it, how to re-
source those recommendations, and
what kind of operational frames will
deliver the goals underlying those
recommendations. And then we link
strategic planning to the allocation
of resources that the institution has,
for the benefit of our students.

In general, when we think strategi-
cally as an institution, what we are
really thinking about is: how can
we provide access, in an enhanced
manner to higher education to all
communities out there? And then,
how can we ensure that once these
students enter our institution we
provide a facilitation and an envi-
ronment in which they can succeed?
And, by success, I mean not only
they graduate, but also that they can
meet their aspirational goals and
their personal goals, both in life and
work.

Sounds like a lot of complexity.

Yes, there's a lot of complexity. But
almost any observed phenomena
is complex. If you think of just the
physical world, it is also complex. If
you think of life sciences, they are
also complex. There is complexity
as to how we approach this work.
But then, there are ways in which to
deal with complexity. That's where
data-driven decision making and de-
veloping information sets helps us
understand not only the complexity,
but also helps us move towards ap-
proaches which may be complex, but
we can break down that complex-
ity into different segments and then
deal with each so we can proceed in
a coordinated, cohesive manner.

**What would you say has been the
biggest success of the school in
the time that you've been here?**

I don't really focus on the success of
individuals, but I focus more on the
success of structures, what struc-
tures and approaches will lead to
success for the institution. These
two years have been extremely grat-
ifying to me. I've learned a lot from
the university community. I have
been very fortunate to be here and
be part of the journey of this insti-
tution. This institution has a long his-
tory of success. And it is going from

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Alumni

Metro alumni making a difference in children's lives

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Kadija Naïma Touré is a Metropolitan State University Alumni. She graduated in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in public relations. Kadija is the founder of a non-profit organization called Le Projet Écoute that is dedicated to help prevent childhood sexual abuse within the African context.

According to Touré, Le Projet Écoute means "The 'Listening Project.'" When it comes to children disclosing abuse, most parents would rather not imagine this happening to their own children, so they listen but do not hear what the child is saying. "It is easier to brush off such a big problem this way," said Touré.

In 2013, she became actively involved in addressing the issue of child sexual abuse, especially in her home country of Guinea. "It is an issue that needs to be addressed, as it is long overdue," Touré said. "I also find it extremely important to define the problem of childhood sexual abuse within the specifics of Africa."

"Le Projet Écoute uses an inclusive, community-based approach to heighten safety awareness focusing on knowledge, skills and responsibility, but taking cultural realities into account," said Touré.

According to Touré, in her home country of Guinea, some parents have the tendency to deal with the issue of child sexual abuse between themselves and the abuser without involving au-

thorities. The matter is kept private. "This is really bad because that same predator is free to do it again, he doesn't even have to move to a different neighborhood," said Touré.

In Guinea, Le Projet Écoute was officially registered as a nonprofit organization on May 1, 2014.

Since the organization began, it has directly impacted approximately 4,000 children. "We are pretty proud of that," said Touré. "It's hard for me to define success in a matter where even one child victim is one too many we consider every little step in the fight a victory."

The organization runs an outreach program to educate children, "We created the ColorMeSafe program, which is designed to empower children and reduce their risk for victimization. The program is part of the first phase of Le Projet Écoute and is mainly delivered in schools."

In the region, there is a lot of focus on empowering girls and preventing unwanted pregnancies for teenagers, but a complete disregard for the sexual abuse of children. According to a 2010 UNICEF report on school-related violence in West and Central Africa:

"Girls are the primary victims of sexual violence, abuse and exploitation perpetrated by male teachers and school staff or male students. This is confirmed by all studies in the region. Sexual violence of boys by teachers (both male and female) appears to be marginal." The phenomenon



Photo provided by Le Projet Écoute Organization
Kadija Naïma Touré (right), Metro State Alumni and founder of Le Projet Écoute.

reflects socially ingrained gender-based power disparities which exist both inside and outside the classroom."

Touré said that her organization faces some big challenges; they are often faced with the lack of resources on the ground, things that are often taken for granted in the Western world, such as consistent electricity or high speed internet. She said, "We rely on donations in time and money and the current eco-

nomie climate restrain some from charitable donations."

"Some obstacles have to do with breaking barriers and taboos," said Touré. "For instance, some parents are skeptical about allowing their children to enroll into our program. They misinterpret child sexual abuse and are mainly concerned that their child is going to be unnecessarily frightened and taught information that is not age appropriate."

It is hard for some parents, according to Touré, "to disassociate sexual abuse prevention classes with sexual education classes. So we work hard to draw out a clear distinction between the two." She states that their major focus is to prevent child sexual abuse and that they are challenging mindsets which is never an easy task."

In its mission statement, Le Projet Écoute highlights the fact that it provides means and tools to prevent the sexual abuse of the most vulnerable. This year, due to the immediate need of the children displaced by Ebola, Touré and her organization "will modify our traditional 'information day workshops' to be delivered in open spaces where children without access to school can still sign up and receive our program with a priority being given to the displaced children of ebola. We will also have workshops days in orphanages."

Touré implores people to educate themselves about childhood sexual abuse and its consequences. "It is the most underlooked cause of so many issues that take the forefront such as child marriages and early pregnancies," said Touré.

For those interested in learning more, please visit the organization's blog www.leprojetecoute.tumblr.com or find them on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram: [Leprojetecoute](https://www.instagram.com/leprojetecoute). You can email them at leprojetecoute@gmail.com

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that state of being very, very good to being great.

In that thinking, over the last two years, the university as a whole has really asked very foundational questions. What is our identity as an institution? We talked a lot about what a public, urban university ought to look like.

What is our focus? At a very simple level, that is obvious. Our focus is on student success. On creating an environment where students can maximize their innate potential. The foundational question we ask ourselves is: Given our history, given the context in which we are operating, given the amount of resources we have, what kind of an organizational structure will best deliver on the promise to the students?

There has been a lot of that conversation. We've gone

through organizational restructuring at the institutional level. We have integrated student affairs and academic affairs into one division so that they can be more coordinated in their impact on student success.

We have created a new college and rethought our other college structures. We have, through strategic planning conversations and through enrollment management conversations and various other conversations, asked ourselves the question: What would it take to, let's say, double our graduates in the next five to seven years? What would it take to move the institution with an enrollment of 11,500 to 17,000? What would it take, in other words, to move towards a sustainable, growth-oriented future?

So there, we are looking at how we should formu-

late our budgets. We went through a lot of thinking about that. What are some of these strategic approaches we would need to accomplish? And what kind of organizational structure will deliver on those strategic approaches?

This conversation has been very exciting, very reinvigorating. At a very simple level, I would say in the last two years, this university has been engaged in conversations where it has been rethinking its own profession and its own place in today's changing world. And that has been very, very exciting. I was fortunate and privileged and honored to be part of that conversation.

So how do you feel, after engaging in all those conversations and being a part of that planning?

I would say, as I leave this institution, I'm very bull-

ish on Metropolitan State. Metropolitan State has very strong fundamentals. It is well-aligned to the changing demographics. Just to give you a sense, 40 percent of our students are either Native Americans or come from communities of color. Close to 70 percent either are from communities of color or are [...] low income, or are first-generation college entrants.

Did you know that 50 percent of our science majors are women? A third of our science majors come from communities of color, which is very unlike any other institution.

And so we take this, and you look at the other side; almost 100 percent of the additional Twin Cities metropolitan region over the next ten years will come from communities of color. So we know that the population, as well as the workforce will

become more diverse.

Traditionally, these communities have been denied access to higher education. Most of these communities have a very low participation rate, but that's where our strength is: We have been embedded in these communities and engaging students from these communities for the more than 40 years. And so we bring this strength and are well-aligned to the changing demographics.

Somebody asked me the other day, "What is the rationale for a public, urban university such as Metropolitan State?" And our rationale is very simple. Our rationale is to address the insufficiency of higher education to deal with issues facing the urban communities. It is to rid higher education of its elitist and insular character.

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Summer Fun

We know what you'll do this summer!

The Metropolitan staff asked some of your fellow students what they were excited about doing this summer. The responses piqued our interest and may spur some adventures of your own.



Sarah Elbasher
Sophomore
Psychology
“A friend of mine and I are taking a two-week tour of Europe. Either England or France. It'll be my first visit.”



Denny Yang
Graduate student
Tech Comm
“Spending time with family members who are coming back after working abroad for the past five years.”



Nic Liu
Junior
Economics/English
“Taking classes in literature or ethnic studies. If I don't take classes, I might visit home in China.”



Allison Cole
Senior
Accounting
“Starting my internship with a state agency and planning my graduation party for the fall.”



Steve Le
First year
International Business
“I'm not sure. It'll be my first summer in America. Catch some crawfish and go on a road trip.”

Summer should get a speeding ticket

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For some of us, the end of spring semester merely marks the beginning of a one-week break from syllabi, homework, and classes. For the rest of us, it's the beginning of a glorious three-month recess of reorganized priorities and, if you're lucky, some refreshing downtime. And while naps are by and large my favorite way to pass the time, I'd like to propose a few family friendly activities and events to help keep the cabin fever at bay.

Eating healthy is no joking matter, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun.

So dust off that old sun hat, slap on some sunscreen, and head to the Farmer's market. The two big ones are in St. Paul and Minneapolis but I can only guarantee a good time at the Minneapolis/Lyndale Avenue Farmers Market since it's the only one I've been to as of late. Each and every time I visit I get a sense of refreshing nostalgia that makes me resent today's retail experiences more so than normal.

It also makes me feel good knowing that I'm supporting local small businesses. Not only can you have your pick of the ripest fruits and veggies at really affordable prices, but they have apparel tents, jewelry stands, henna body art, and delicious cooked foods that are typically understood as summer staples. The market is

open every day (mid-April to mid-November) from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m., but most visitors choose to go on the weekend since that's when the largest number of vendors are around. This can be a really great way to enjoy the summer. Don't overlook it.

Friends that sweat together, stay together.

That's why getting together with friends and enjoying fitness activities that make me forget I'm getting a workout are BIG on my summer to do list. That's why Brunswick Zone XL has become a regular meeting spot/fitness center for my comrades and I.

On Wednesdays and Sundays we pay just under \$10 each to enjoy unlimited lazer tag and bowling. I know it sounds childish, the thought of adults running through a lazer tag arena, but appearances aside, it's a lot of fun and a really great workout to boot. You can find Brunswick Zone XL in Edina and Brooklyn Park, and if you're not into lazer tag or bowling, you'll also find pool tables, a large arcade, and an adult lounge with delicious adult beverages. It took some convincing, but once I got my gang out there once, there's been no shortage of requests to return.

I used to have a fear of boats, but that ship sailed.

As the land of 10,000 lakes there's absolutely no reason why your summer should be boatless. Do a web search of boat cruises offered in the

twin cities and you're sure to find one that's right up your alley. They typically have fun themes, like Lake Minnetonka's "BBQ Picnic Lunch Cruise" or the far less sophisticated "Booty Cruise" where lots of skin and lots of booze are the central theme.

Whatever your predilection, cruises and boats are a very refreshing way to spend your time. In fact, hydrotherapy has long been acclaimed for its physical, mental, and emotional benefits.

Unleash the Indiana Jones within.

Minnesota is one of a decreasing number of states that truly values wildlife. Sure, they're no Yosemite, but Minnesota is home to 67 state parks, 7 state recre-

ation areas, 8 state waysides, and 22 state trails. Go for a hike, do some archeological type digging, have yourself a swim or be really cool and hit up the Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul. They're really cool and have a history that's even cooler. You can sign up for a professional tour or pack a lunch and some friends and hit the caves on an excursion of your own. Just keep in mind that caves can be dangerous and you should be extra careful to do some research about how to keep you and your group as safe as possible.

A great remedy for a long day is a short walk.

Every month beginning in June Open Streets Minneapolis temporarily closes

major streets throughout Minneapolis and opens them up for Minnesotans to walk, bike, skate, eat, and browse various vendors. It's a great way to learn about initiatives happening across the city as many community organizations attend with the goal of passing on crucial information to community members. It really is a great way to take a load off and meet new people. The first Open Streets event, "Open Streets Lyndale" will take place on June 5th. Check out their website (openstreetsmpls.org) for more information on these great events and if you see me out there (because I always am), feel free to stop and say "What's up?"

The Metropolitan is hiring

The Metropolitan is looking for new staff members and writers. Topics related to Metropolitan State and East St. Paul are in consideration for submission. Please email themetropolitan@metrostate.edu for more information. The following positions may be open in May 2016: Editor, Associate Editor, Copy Editor, Layout Editor line adminisitrator. These are paid positions. The Metropolitan pays non-staff member contributors \$45 per article.

Summer Fun

Flat Earth Brewing Company: Serving beer to the East Side

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The former Hamms Brewery sat patiently abandoned on St. Paul's East Side like some giant brick ship waiting for a captain. That is, up until Flat Earth Brewing Company opened its taproom in the Hamms building off Minnehaha and Payne Avenue, serving pints and growlers among the graffiti and concrete.

Heavy wooden doors guard the entrance with speakeasy-style peepholes allowing a non-existent bouncer to ask you for the password. You enter on the far right side of the taproom, near the growler coolers, which are separated from the bar.

The décor is a mix of rustic industrial and vintage Americana. A mish-mash of wooden tables and chairs spread out across the room make for a charming set up, like a holiday dinner where your grandmother pulled every spare piece of furniture into the living room to accommodate your large family. Games of several varieties are laid out on these tables,



ED DAY

ranging from Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots to playing cards. Vintage scales and a Conn electric organ in the corner add to the Grandma's house vibe.

The brown brick walls that dominate the interior are broken up by a smattering of murals. The taproom itself is separated down the middle by a wall and restrooms, with the bar on the far left end.

Passing over the restrooms you find the bar, stool-less and ready to serve. A pretty girl in a headband and cardigan is tending bar. She says their Cyngus porter is on nitro today — it's only available in the taproom.

You order their IPA, because a craft brewery without a solid IPA can



ED DAY

hardly call itself craft. You also might be a hipster. The brew is pleasantly hoppy, medium in body with some fruity notes. It pairs well with a game of Rock 'Em Sock 'Em Robots.

They've got all the other typical styles; a pale ale, Belgian-Style pale ale, along with their IPA and porter make up the year round taps. Another nine seasonal brews round out their roster. They range from a heavy coffee stout to a light lager, with several in between.

Eventually whatever you're drinking will need to escape, at which point you realize the Flat Earth team has built their urinals out of old kegs cut down the middle.

Returning to the table, you see bikers and runners chasing their cardio buzz in Swede Hollow Park out the back window.

The bar tries to give back. A non-perishable food shelf setup near the front door looks like a permanent installment. The wall next to it is spotted with paperwork from the "Make-A-Wish" foundation.

Pretty-headband-bar-girl is back. "It's last call," she says, wondering if I want another beer.

Of course I do.

Metro cements relationship with sister school in Taiwan

"SISTERS" FROM PAGE 1

Taiwan to help in that process. (Having taken over the position after Prestwich retired, Young returned to Taiwan in 2013 to recruit the students who will start at Metro State this fall.) These students have spent the last three years in Taiwan pursuing their bachelor's degrees and are now at Metro State for their final year. The undergraduates, as well as the Taiwanese graduate students, will walk through the spring graduation ceremony and then finish their last courses this summer.

This first year of undergraduates is also the last year of graduate students in the program. "So, in a way, it's a beginning and an end," as Young put it. Since the students spend a full year here, they will experience a Minnesota winter and, for most of them, have their first encounter with snow.

The students — most undergraduates ranging in age from 22 to 24 years — are housed at University Village. Home to a number of University of Minnesota students, the building is located just off the U of M campus, on University Avenue. "We really liked the University Village facility because it gave the students what we hoped was more of a campus feel," Young said. "We felt a need for that type of setting; one example that convinced me of this was when, during the admissions interview process, one of the questions asked was, 'where can I play

basketball?'" Young added with a laugh.

For the MBAs that have been coming to Metro State over the past several years, the classes comprise all Taiwanese students; the classes also provide interpreters. But that will change because the incoming undergraduates take English classes during their three years in Taiwan and are English proficient. They also arrive here early (in July) to further improve their English before fall semester starts. The undergraduates are also mixed in with local students in their classes; many Minnesotan students take on leadership roles in class to help the Taiwanese students when needed.

Once the Taiwanese students earn their bachelor's degrees, they will also become the recipients of Metro State's recently implemented "Dual Degree Program." Once graduated, the students will have dual degrees, one from their respective school in Taiwan and one from Metro State. This goes hand in hand with the recent signings of a "Sister University Agreement" between Metro State and both Taiwan schools: CUTe and TMUST. This agreement serves as "a public signing to show that we have a formal relationship," Young stated. The agreement also allows for a free exchange of information and ideas in such areas as assessments, coursework and curriculum.

This agreement has also led

to a "sister" signing between Metro State and Chongqing Jiaotong University (CQJU) in Chongqing, China (mainland). While still in the early stages, in 2014 this collaboration resulted in Metro State hosting two visiting professors from CQJU: Xiohong Ren and Xia Zhang. Their impressions after a few months here: "The Twin Cities is a very good place, with beautiful scenery and friendly people. Although it's a little cold and snowy in winter, we feel very warm in our hearts."

These days, duties as director and department chair for the College of Management keep Young from teaching as much as she used to. Prior to that, though, Young taught a variety of classes to both graduate and undergraduate students. Young saw fulfillment of this when she went to Taiwan in 2013 and was able to sit down to dinner with about ten of her past students. One of them was Alex Feng, now the coordinator of Metro State's international partner in Taiwan. "When I go to recruit in Taiwan, we have some fun with

telling the story that Alex is my student," Young says with a smile.

With the graduation of this year's students, Metro State will have over 850 Taiwanese alumni. Young summed up her involvement over the years, "It has been my honor to teach in this program and to coordinate this program; it gives me an understanding on a completely different level."

Health screenings on campus



ED DAY

Naima Yahya, a graduate student in nursing, takes the blood pressure of a Metropolitan State staff member outside of the fitness room of the Student Center. Health screenings have typically been conducted in the Student Parent Center in Founders Hall, but recently they have been conducted on Mondays in the new Student Center to increase visibility, according to Yahya. For more information, contact the Student Parent Center.

Tech Check

Computer Security Primer (and a goodbye)

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What does it take to make your computer secure? You might say “install antivirus.” It seems simple, but the idea that you can set and forget one program to safeguard your data and devices is just not true anymore, if it ever was.

Last month’s article was about smartphone security, and you might remember its cheeky subtitle: “Easier than your computer.” Your phone has its own problems – the biggest one being physical security, since they’re more easily stolen than a laptop or desktop – but at the end of the day it’s pretty well locked-down. Computers take a little more work.

Vectors

The real problem with keeping a computer safe is the number of “attack vectors.” On a smartphone, new apps only come from one place: the app store. As long as Google, Apple or Microsoft put every app through a scanner, the likelihood of

a malicious one making it all the way to your phone is pretty low.

A computer has many more doors for bad code to slip through! Web browsers, email attachments, or some program you downloaded for the promise of extra emoji in Skype. Most infections occur because users just don’t know how to identify a threat.

Recognizing and Stopping Attacks

Stop me if you’ve heard this one before: you’re browsing an article when a popup fills your screen, screaming about a virus. Or perhaps it was an email, masquerading as security advice. These “scareware” tactics aim to shock you into believing your data is already in danger, so the attackers can convince you to install something to actually make it so. Many infections start with a panicked user just following instructions.

In your browser, many threats load via malicious advertisements. The ethics of ad blocking are a subject

of hot debate, but until ads stop being a common attack vector, blockers are a helpful insurance policy. Adblock-Plus.org can get you started – it will block ads on most sites with some exceptions, and you can turn it off for websites you want to support with ad revenue.

Most email programs allow you to disable loading images or scripts by default for a “text only” view – you can reactivate them with a button press. Personal email accounts on sites like Gmail and Yahoo include the ability to report messages that get through the spam filter so they learn to stop them in the future. As for professional emails, the safe option is to report suspicious messages to your IT department. Don’t click the links or open attachments!

If an attack gets far enough to run its code, antivirus programs can usually catch them, but they need some help. First, make sure they’re installed correctly (not just running an expired trial) and don’t install more than one antivirus at the same time,

or they’ll conflict. Second, set a schedule for scans and updates. An antivirus that never scans your hard drive or downloads new virus definitions (that’s how they know what is and isn’t a threat) doesn’t help.

Contrary to popular belief, you’re not automatically safer if you use a Mac. Symantec Corporation, the company behind Norton Security, found in their 2016 Threat Report that Mac OS X has seen a rise in malware; attackers are catching on to Apple’s growing market share and responding with new exploits.

There are many antivirus options out there – I’ve personally tested half a dozen. Paid ones are often better, but free is usually fine. Your internet service provider might offer a complimentary subscription, which is convenient because your license is automatically paid with your internet bill. If that’s not an option, I won’t tell you what to get, but I’ll tell you where to look: Lifehacker and How-ToGeek have been my go-to websites for new software

for years, and they update their recommendations annually.

This is the end of Tech Check

By the time this issue hits stands, I’ll be graduated. It’s been two and a half years since I started Tech Check (even if the name didn’t come until later), and we’ve covered so many topics. From timely breakdowns on StarID and Network Neutrality, to apps to you study, to the perennial “what’s up with the Wi-Fi?” piece. My mission was always to write articles that were not just informative, but actually useful to the average student, and it’s been a lot of work.

The Metropolitan is a small paper but it’s been a big part of my life. We finally have a proper website (only took two years to build it). Eventually there will be over a decade of past issues in the online archives, including many articles that haven’t been accessible in years.

Thanks for reading.

Dr. Kev’s Love Advice

KEVIN MILLER
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Dear Dr. Kev,

First, I want to thank you for your great, detailed advice last fall about the pros and cons of dating a woman who already had a couple of gentleman callers (last time we called her Barb). I opted not to jump into the fray and have developed a solid, drinking-buddy type of friendship instead. (I have since found that she prefers romantic gestures like roses from her fellas, so I’m pretty sure we would have been a disaster).

But I’m troubled by a couple of things. First, I’ve discovered that she sometimes talks about me in order to press her potential mates to step up their game. Apparently, I’m some sort of looming presence. She goes out of her way show affection towards me in front of her main boyfriend. Does this make me a bad guy?

It goes deeper than just a few side comments. I can’t say for sure, but I’m pretty sure one of her boyfriends egged my car the other weekend. How can I main-

tain a friendship with Barb without needing to scrape potential poultry off my windshield every other weekend?

Second, by hanging out, I’ve met a number of her single friends. Of course, she always tells me their worst quality first. This isn’t my first rodeo, so I know the reason why and don’t really care, but still find it a little annoying. What compels women to do stuff like this? It’s like they are collecting guys like Pokémon.

Sincerely,
Safety School of the Dating Pool

Dear Safety School of the Dating Pool,

I’m happy to hear my advice didn’t result in undue weeping or gnashing of teeth. One can never have too many drinking buddies. If she’s all flower and chocolates and you’re more beers and popcorn, then it sounds like you made a good choice.

All congrats aside, Barb is flaunting you for relationship leverage. To answer your first question directly, no, I don’t think that makes you a bad person. Some folks take a certain sadistic pleasure in watching their platonic relationships threaten the salience of another, like a soldier in some Cold War missile silo fondling the H-Bomb switch, knowing they have the power to end things but never getting the go-ahead from mission HQ. Every slow embrace, every shared moment of spontaneous laughter, stolen by a thief in the nighttime and stashed somewhere for comfort.

This does not sound like you. When you’ve already waded through the carrot soup, why bother making it too hot for anyone else to drink? That said, how do you respond to her affection? Do you bask in it like a sun-bleached seal or shy away, blushing and bashful? If you’re uncomfortable with the way she treats you in regards to her gentleman callers, go with the latter rather than the former.

Which brings us to the open-

air-omelet splattered across your vehicle. Have you spoke with her boyfriend(s) about your situation? It may warrant some explanation. Perhaps they assume you and Barb are getting freaky on the side and it offends their delicate sensibilities. Set the record straight.

I’m not sure what sort of persona you may or may not have cultivated for yourself among this group, but a little tough guy rhetoric might help keep your car clean. Have you told them any stories from your all-too-brief stint in amateur boxing, The Marines, the county jail, or just a series of increasingly violent bar brawls? (OK, it was really more like a bar scuffle. Ok, it was really more like I woke up on the floor at Williams surrounded by peanut shells and cops with a concussion and still didn’t get that girl’s number. Or did she give me a fake number? Who can remember? They say you get, like, a couple of freebie concussions before you end up like a retired NFL player, but I’m skeptical. Anyway, she had a face like a cocker spaniel and a crazy ex-boyfriend, so it all worked

out in the end. But I digress).

I’m not sure why Barb wants to steer you away from her other friends. The answer likely lies outside of Dr. Kev’s expansive but inexact jurisdiction, perhaps better suited to the Sigmund Freud’s than the Sigmund Frauds. If I were to speculate, I would guess she is missing something in her life, and she uses relationships to cope.

I appreciate the update, and hope that the only eggs you wake up to are Grade A, cruelty-free and in your frypan.

Until next time, I remain:
Your Friend,
Dr. Kev

Dr. Kev is graduating,
but is going to
continue his love
advice work on a blog.
Stay tuned for the web
address.

Student Life

AWP conference workshops a boon for Metro writers

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Editor’s Note: In late March 2016, a handful of The Metropolitan staff flew to Los Angeles for the annual Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP) conference. Last year, Editor Kevin Miller went to AWP when it was hosted in Minneapolis.

It would be a lie to say that a single writing conference can suddenly, with the flick of the switch, make Los Angeles come alive. But to say AWP was simply a blip on the southern metropolitan city can’t be true either. With tens of thousands of writers coming into downtown, thousands of organi-

zations represented, writing became manifested in human form.

The workshops were wonderfully more than expected. These weren’t the standard laissez-faire, run of the mill workshops readily expected from a seminar. Most of the workshops focused on various underrepresented populations becoming empowered through writing; this was with the ultimate hope of making writing more inclusive. But, topics ranging from publishing to various forms of narratives to properly representing perspectives other than one’s own were proudly put on display. Additionally, an emphasis on networking for a largely introverted industry was pushed on a large scale.

“Networking for Introverts” was featured on day one.

Bridging the gap between typing keys and creating legitimate relationship to ensure industry success was one of the overarching themes of the entire weekend. “Thinking like an Editor” brought this idea to true light, with emphasis on writer’s networking as well as prolonged success concerning the established relationships. With the size and scope of conference, the opportunities offered lend to an enthusiastic amount of potential.

The largest aspect of the conference was quite easily the book fair. In this area, hundreds of publishers and vendors set up booths to sell their products. With

these hopeful vendors putting their wares on display, it was pretty easy to see the excitement. The Public Broadcast Station (PBS) was there on the last day of the conference, interviewing various authors throughout the day. Sure, this conference was by all means an educational event, but don’t cut it short by not looking at its business and cultural values, as well.

To give most credit to one workshop or speaker makes the conference’s mission statement somewhat moot. After all, when the PDF of the event list of AWP’s website led to a 62 page document. Given the scope of the conference, the only suitable answer of “was this conference worth it?” is al-

most criminally simple: Absolutely. An optimistic tinge rubbed off onto the newspaper staff was transferred from sunny California to not so sunny, but ever pleasant Minnesota. The tinge itself was not the only benefit, but each Metropolitan representative was busy going to workshops each day from dusk until dawn. It seems that more times than not, the excitement of ensuring the arrival of especially crucial workshops took over; it was never a chore. With new perspective under our belts and increased ambition in our hearts, AWP Los Angeles 2016 is a trip that none of us will soon forget.

Opinion

Spending money may be the fiscally responsible option

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Fiscal responsibility and protecting the taxpayer are two of the most common phrases bandied about whenever public money is involved. At face value the intentions are good, but it often results in choosing the cheapest possible option. But sometimes spending more money is the most responsible thing to do.

Two examples on the Metropolitan State University campus are the new fitness center in the New Student Center and the video-editing lab in the basement of Founders Hall.

The fitness center already has a good number of users, even though it has yet to install all the equipment. Early reports indicate that

usage surges in the morning and during the lunch hour. Overall, it is a great addition to the campus.

However, to me, it’s quickly reaching capacity. To me, this is a case of fiscal responsibility run amok at the state Capitol, whose members saved the taxpayer thousands of dollars by keeping it small.

Not going big with this project was a missed opportunity to better serve the public and to potentially make some money. A bigger fitness center at Metropolitan State could have eventually become a community asset. And while students might have disjointed enough schedules to go to the gym during a down time, the small size will likely hamper revenue garnered from employee memberships.

Unlike students, employees are more apt to only use the fitness center in the morning before work or during their lunch break. The fact that there is a good chance that all three treadmills could be occupied at those times has likely dissuaded some employees from purchasing memberships.

The video-editing lab in Founders Hall is a different story. While it’s filled with excellent computers equipped with great editing software, it’s only available to students for six measly hours a week—9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. The rationale I was given was that people only use the lab just before an assignment is due.

While that is undoubtedly true, the driver of that behavior might

be that many Metropolitan State students have families or jobs that prevent them from using the lab at that time of day—and they only take time off work to go to the lab when absolutely necessary.

This is like spending money to buy and maintain an Olympic-sized pool but only letting people use it during the six hours each week that a lifeguard is present.

To be sure, there will be a lonely lab attendant for some time if the hours of operation were increased, but once word gets out, people will use it, which is the point of having these great learning tools on campus.

Being fiscally responsible means looking at more than the bottom line.

DEVINDER FROM PAGE 3

Purely from that standpoint, we are well-aligned to the demographics. We are a very flexible, adaptable, nimble institution, which has strong, passionate, committed, devoted faculty and staff who have traditionally focused on student success.

We have very strong success metrics. Did you know that entering students in Metropolitan State graduate with a four year degree with a median time of 2.7 years. It is true that most of the students we get are transfer students. Two thirds of our students are transfer students.

They come with a couple of years under their belt. Or

they are adult students who have worked outside and are coming back to the university. They are much more focused and motivated and know what they are looking for. The point is, when they come, they are able to accomplish success. So the transformative power of a public, urban university is a lot stronger.

Just to give you a statistic: 50 percent of the emerging jobs are going to require a four-year degree. So the workforce will be coming from diversified communities, and they will need four-year degrees. Now universities which are engaging those communities and cre-

ating opportunities for them to get four-year degrees or graduate degrees are the once who will become most central to the vibrancy of the region itself.

Therefore, the centrality of Metropolitan State to the economic, social, cultural and intellectual vibrancy of the Twin Cities region is actually increasing day by day. We are becoming more salient and more central to the economic, social, cultural and intellectual well-being of the community.

So that’s why I’m bullish. That’s why I think we are poised for a very strong, sustainable, growth-oriented future.

That’s awesome.

Yeah.

So, if that’s what’s ahead for Metro State, what’s ahead for you?

I’m retiring, finally, after 37 years. I’m going to go back and do what I joined the academic profession for: some reading, writing, and thinking in terms of research and scholarship.

My specialty in economics is regional economics. I’m going to study the impact universities make on communities and the ways in which that impact is transferred. And how do communities shape the type of universities they have and

vice versa. Not only how universities shape the communities in which they are located, but also how the communities themselves shape the functioning of the universities.

So this interaction between the communities and institutions of higher education hopefully will be the focus of my research.

That sounds fun.

Yeah, I’m looking forward to it. I think I will do some traveling, some reading and writing and just be my own boss.

Science Education Center grand opening draws a crowd

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The new Science Education Center's grand opening drew a crowd, including former Metropolitan State president Susan Hammersmith and her husband Allyn Uniacke, two huge advocates for the facility.

But for some, the real show stoppers took place in the classrooms and labs, which will allow the university to diversify its programming to accommodate more for applied science, health-care students and prospective K-12 science teachers.

Professors and student researchers were on hand during the self-guided walking tour of the new digs to explain the importance of the new equipment and space. This includes 6,000 square feet of classroom space, the science and math tutoring center, and 19,500 square feet for labs.

Biology and anatomy students can now use a 3D projection to learn about physiology. The virtual dissections not only reduce the number of animals utilized, but are in some ways superior.

The 3D technology allows



ED DAY
Organic chemistry student Michael Chhoun describes the equipment in the new science lab to visitor Mark Larson, a Metropolitan State alumnus, during the walking tour that was part of the April 12 grand opening Science Education Center.

Biology students Hnubqub Vang and Lorraine Onchiri partake in an experiment about intermolecular forces. "It's our first time making slime," Vang said.

students to see how organs in action and responding to different stimuli, such as epinephrine. "You can see the heart beating," Harley said.

It also allows students to

compare the physiology of different species at the same time.

"It enables you to interact," Harley said. "The limitation is creativity at this point."

In assistant professor Kate

Edelman's room, visitors got the opportunity to make their own slime—and then use sulfuric acid to transform the glob back into a liquid.

For biology students

Hnubqub Vang and Lorraine Onchiri, it was their first time making slime. Through the exercise, which explores intermolecular forces, they noted the precision required and importance of getting the proportions just right.

Down the hall, the analytic suite boasts an array of instrumentation that serves two vital purposes: first, students need to know how to use the equipment to get jobs, and its presence greatly increases the amount of research students can do at Metropolitan State.

The suite has four times as many work stations available for students than they did previously. The processing capabilities range from instruments to help analyze dilute samples to machines that speed up natural processes and more.

For example, one instrument can process a condensation reaction that would normally take a day in just eight minutes.

But for some reason, Edelman's room seemed like the busiest one.

"Who doesn't like to make slime?" Edelman said.

Metropolitan State cohosts conservation conference with Trout Unlimited

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Raising trout eggs over the course of a school year sounds like a narrow niche—and it is—but it also requires a keen exploration of watershed education and habitats.

In turn, watershed preservation really means being a good steward of the overall environment, said John Lenczewski, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of Trout Unlimited, which sponsored the Minnesota Youth Trout Summit on April 15.

About 400 elementary, middle school, and high school students from nine schools descended upon Metropolitan State's Saint Paul Campus for the event. Throughout the day they attended seminars from environmental professionals, including the Raptor Center, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Forest Service, Wilderness Inquiry, local meteorologist Sam Ryan, and Metropolitan State professor Kate Edelman.

The interconnectedness of the environment was highlighted in a presentation by Jennifer Teegarden, DNR forestry outreach specialist. An interactive exercise prompted students from Rockford Middle School to identify some unlikely products that include wood (like some cheese!) and the nuanced impact of trees on everyday life. Trees protect the habitat for fish by providing buffer zones that absorb pollutants on

shore and shade to cool the water. Lesser-known qualities include the fact that trees have been proven to reduce stress in humans.

The Rockford students experienced the ups and downs of raising trout. Some lessons were learned the hard way.

"We were losing 30 a day," said Rockford eighth-grader Sarah Pflipsen.

"They've definitely done a lot of water quality analysis," said Rockford agriculture teacher Clint Smith, noting specifics like pH balance and nitrate levels that affect trout eggs and hatchlings.

The highlight for Pflipsen and other students from Rockford, whose middle school is a STEM magnet, will be a field trip to Lake Vermilion to release the surviving trout.

In a broader sense, Trout Unlimited's goal is fostering an appreciation for the outdoors. "Our concern is that, for many students, their only experience outdoors is the soccer field," said executive director John Lenczewski.

The Trout Unlimited partnership is in the first of three years at the participating schools as a supplement. Some, like Rockford, already have a focus on environmental studies.

Mariah Flohr, an eleventh-grade student from the School of Environmental Studies in Apple Valley, had already been focusing on composting to keep nutrients out of landfills. The trout project added a new spin for

her classmates.

Her class will only have about 50 trout to release this spring due to a moss growing on the eggs, which require a specific temperature, oxygen level, and current to thrive. The students could not mimic the current of a trout habitat in a tank.

"We expected to lose some, but not quite this much," Flohr said.

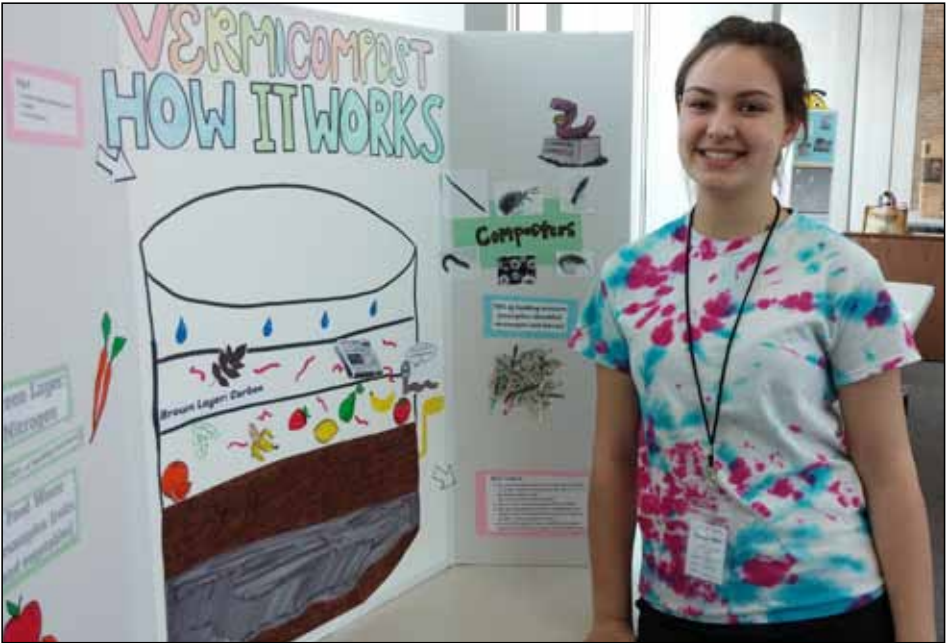
Participating schools include Horace Mann (Saint Paul) and Salem Lutheran (Stillwater) elementaries, and Murray Middle School in Saint Paul, and Rockford Middle and High

School. Also attending were high schoolers from Humboldt, Hopkins, Stillwater, Winona, and the School for Environmental Studies.

The event also gave Metropolitan State a chance to show off its facilities to potential students.

Flohr said her favorite part of the day was the pathology seminar to study bacteria and viruses. They cut open dead fish to see the eggs—and found a living parasite.

"That was really cool," Flohr said.



ED DAY
Mariah Flohr, an eleventh-grade student at the School for Environmental Studies in Apple Valley discusses one of her class assignments in the Great Hall during the Youth Trout Summit. Metropolitan State worked with Trout Unlimited by providing facilities and staff volunteers.