



Photos by Emma St. Aubin

Students Embrace Seasonal Facial Festivities

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Each year when the temperatures dip, the seasons shift, and the harsh November winds begin to blow.

At this time of year, students across campus take part in the annual event aptly titled No-Shave November.

"I enjoy No-Shave November because I no longer have to try to tame my thick and massive beard," said

Bryan Driebel, a regular participant in the annual event. "I can let it grow and be free, the way it was meant to be."

Chris Fahley agreed with Driebel, making note of his beard's many benefits.

"I enjoy my facial hair because it keeps me warm during the winter. I chose to embrace it because it would be foolish to try and always keep a clean face," Fahley said. "Plus, people with clean shaven face are often evil,

like Chucky, The Joker and Emperor Palpatine."

Fahley also explained that not having to shave is yet another added bonus that the naked faced must do without.

"I enjoy not having to take time to shave. For myself, I know it will take 45 minutes if I have to go to a completely clean face after three weeks of growth, even 30 if I'm just trimming it up," Fahley said.

Despite these benefits, there are

critics to the rugged look. Logan Feldt said that he takes beard criticism with a grain of salt.

"I have been ridiculed once for my beard, and I am no longer friends with said person. People that talk down on my beard are not worthy to be in my life," Feldt said.

Like Feldt, Driebel also said he has little time for haters, though he has dealt with few since he started growing facial hair.

"I started growing facial hair in

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5 mustaches!

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Mandatory Advising Possibly Outdated

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A team of consultants from the National Academic Advising Association visited the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point last spring.

The association conducted a comprehensive, in-depth assessment of the university's academic advising program.

During their visit, the association recommended the elimination of mandatory advising. They felt that there were many underlying problems with the policy hindering the development of a functional academic advising program.

"We invited the external review of advising in response to student concerns about the consistency of academic advising across campus," said Provost Greg Summers. "We are determined to provide students the best learning experience possible, and we have recognized that advising is a key area where we might improve our collective effort."

One of the downsides that the association brought up about mandatory advising is that both the student and advisor tend to connect advising with registration since the time for the meeting is usually done just before a student can register for the next semester. Meetings are generally short and consist of the advisor approving students' schedules and allowing them to register.

"Essentially, they argue that to require this advising appointment reduces the advising experience to mere course selection rather than a more comprehensive mentoring," Summers said. "Students would be allowed to register without meeting their advisors, and they would assume a greater responsibility for ensuring they remained on track in fulfilling requirements for their degrees."

Haley Osborn, a UWSP senior, agrees.

"I don't think advising should

be mandatory except for freshman, because, let's face it, they have no clue what they're doing and need that extra help. We've all been there and know that to be true, but we get the hang of it eventually," Osborn said.

Having this policy assures that students are seen by an advisor and that important exchanges can occur, but the advising association shows that these appointments need to focus more on advising rather than schedule approval, and students should be able to access their advisors as much as they need in order to discuss academics.

"I think once a semester is fine and then the second time should be an option," Osborn said. "Most students should know when they need extra advice or are pretty good about handling their classes and schedules on their own."

Jordan Lenzner, a senior, agrees.

"I sometimes find advising useful, but usually only if I have specific questions," Lenzner said.

Summers is currently in the process of putting together a new advising council to consider the various recommendations in the report.

"The advising council will focus initially on helping me to implement the many recommendations proposed," Summers said.

The elimination of academic advising is still up in the air. At a minimum, the campus would need to develop much stronger supporting materials, especially electronic resources, so students would be able to assume responsibility for their progress toward their degrees.

This would include comprehensive four-year pathways for each degree available on campus among other resources.

"I can't predict if it will happen or not at all," Summers said. "Such a proposal would need a broad campus conversation and the input of both faculty and student governance."

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Friday, Oct. 18

Staff member called from Knutzen Hall to report a strong odor of marijuana coming from a room of Knutzen Hall.

Sunday, Oct. 20

Staff member called stating there was vomit in the 4th floor, south men's bathroom of Smith Hall, and requested custodial staff.

551 radioed that he had talked to a few individuals who had stolen a shopping cart from K-Mart. They were compliant and returned the cart.

Monday, Oct. 21

Faculty member reported that a set of keys is missing from her office in the CAC. She believes the keys have been taken from the office and not lost.

Staff member requested an officer to meet with him and a student regarding harrasing text messages and a parent threatening to blackmail the student.

A loud sound almost like a car horn has been going off ever since 9 a.m. this morning. Female from out of town, refused to give name, was annoyed by the constant ongoing noise. She was visiting her boyfriend who lives in the apartments on Michigan.

Tuesday, Oct. 22

A male called and reported finding a lost wallet on the sidewalk in front of the cycle shop on Isadore Street.

Career Services reported that they can hear yelling from a room that someone "needs security here now." Unknown problem, and unknown if there are any weapons.

Thursday, Oct. 24

Older male individual seen looking in all the cars in Lot R. Officers sent to investigate.

Saturday, Nov. 2

Subject urinating on cars in Lot R.

Staff member called to request a clean up of two smashed pumpkins on the second floor of Knutzen in the south wing.

Drunk man started a physical altercation outside Hyer.

THE POINTER

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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to *The Pointer* becomes the property of *The Pointer*.

Local, National, and Worldwide News Briefs

Stevens Point Man Arrested for ATV Theft

Police arrested a 26-year-old Stevens Point man on charges of theft between \$2,500 and \$5,000 and cited him with operating while intoxicated, operating without required lamps, operating an ATV while intoxicated and operating an ATV on a highway at 11:23 p.m.

Courtesy of the Stevens Point Journal

Twitter Goes Public, Shares Priced at \$26

This is the biggest marketing debut for a technology firm since Facebook went public in 2012. Twitter will sell 70 million shares. They have decided not to sell on the New York Stock Exchange.

Courtesy of the BBC

Pointers Make a Difference in Milwaukee

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Last weekend, a group of students participating in the Intercity Impact service trip traveled to Milwaukee to get firsthand experience with urban sustainability.

The group worked with the humanitarian organizations Growing Power, The Guest House, and the Urban Ecology Center.

"Intercity Impact has been going to Milwaukee for seven years," said Alanna LeClair, service trip coordinator for SIEO. "Our goal is to build active citizens. We want people to go from not knowing that there are problems to being fully educated on what they can do to help."

Each organization that Intercity Impact visited focuses on a different aspect of urban stewardship. The first organization they visited was Growing Power.

"I think my favorite part of the trip was volunteering at Growing Power. I just felt very involved and like we actually made a difference," said Breanna Heckner.

Growing Power combats the problem of food deserts through the promotion of urban agriculture. Food deserts are areas where healthy foods are difficult to obtain, usually due to lack of transportation.

The organization also works to establish community food systems that provide safe, affordable and healthy foods to communities.

"I learned about sustainable practices at Growing Power like

aquaponics, composting with worms and beekeeping," said Jessica Brennan.

"Growing Power is such a great organization and makes such an impact in the Milwaukee area, as well as being a great inspiration for other inner city people in different cities to make a difference in how they can eat. I'm glad I could be a part of it," said Acelynn Moser.

Later that night, the group visited the Guest House. The organization fights homelessness and the deleterious effects it can have on communities by providing housing, education and services to Milwaukee's homeless.

"The focus of the trip is mainly on sustainability, but also on how poverty ties into that," LeClair said. "I think there are a lot of stereotypes about inner city homelessness, and by bringing students to these situations we mean to show that those stereotypes aren't true, and we hope that the students bring that back to campus."

The next day, students met with the Urban Ecology Center, an organization which fosters ecological understanding by providing outdoor science education for urban youth, protecting and using natural public areas and preserving those areas and their surrounding waters.

"My favorite part was the Urban Ecology Center because I think their dedication to restoring a park which used to be undesirable and educating the community was admirable," said Kate Egan.



Photo courtesy of Intercity Impact

UWSP students gain firsthand experience in sustainability through service trip to Milwaukee.

When asked whether they would recommend that other people get involved in Intercity Impact, the student response was unanimously positive.

"It is a great trip that applies to all majors and all interests. You can learn how to make a difference in your own community by doing something small or big," said Leah Rogers.

"It gives you a new view on a community you might not be used to. I'm from a small town and never guessed Milwaukee would have things like Growing Power. It was

very cool to experience," said Anna Goodrum.

Intercity Impact is only offered in the fall semester, but there are other service trips offered through SIEO.

"We're thinking of planning a weekend trip during the spring semester to either Minneapolis or Chicago," Leclair said. "So that's something that people can be watching for on the SIEO Facebook page, the campus announcement emails or just posters around campus."

Wisconsin Gets Fast and Furious at 70 MPH

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A bill to raise the interstate speed limit to 70 mph in the state of Wisconsin was authorized by Assembly Representative Paul Tittl, who wants to maintain consistency between other states around us who have 70 mph speed limits on freeways.

"The law still has to be passed by the State Senate and signed by the Governor," Tony Babl, the community resource sergeant at the Stevens Point Police Department, said. "I believe there are still studies that need to be done. For example, they are now discussing if commercial truck traffic should remain at the 65 mph limit."

Supporters of raising the speed limit believe that it would make the highways safer because not only are cars built safer, but many drivers are already going 70 mph in a 65 mph zone. This way, everyone will be going the same speed.

"I think if the speed limit is 70, it

will better regulate traffic with those who are driving 75 the majority of the time," said Brooke Davis.

Babl thinks differently.

"I don't necessarily agree with this reasoning. It is no secret that many drivers routinely drive above the posted speed limit and that most law enforcement have a small discretionary range before they will make a stop or issue a citation," Babl said.

Nicole Pare is a driver with the tendency to drive over the limit.

"I always drive 73 mph and I don't think I would change that even if the limit changed to 70. I just think there would be less speeding tickets given out," Pare said.

There are also many people who like to drive at or below the posted speed limit.

"When the faster traffic meets the slower traffic, this is where many crashes occur, especially during winter weather road conditions in Wisconsin," Babl said. "With a 70 mph limit, I feel that officer discretion

will have to be much lower for those traveling 5-10 over to try to decrease the gap in speeds."

Davis agrees with this.

"I think raising the speed limit would be a good idea unless the weather conditions are bad, such as during a snow storm when people think others should be going faster since the speed limit is faster," Davis said.

There will also be an assortment of hidden expenses if the law is passed by the state.

"There will be expenses for re-signing the roadways and I'm sure there will be numerous traffic studies and re-engineering of some highways," Babl said. "Individual costs could include decreased fuel economy with some vehicles at 70 mph and any changes to insurance premiums are not yet known."

One of the most important costs could be in human's lives with increased traffic fatalities. As the speed increases, so does the likelihood of death or injury during a crash.

"In Stevens Point, we see many vehicle crashes but very few involve fatalities. This is directly related to the speeds involved," Babl said.

Davis doesn't think that raising the speed limit will have an effect on fatalities.

"A lot of people drive at least 70 and faster the way it is, so I don't think in general it would cause more accidents," Davis said.

Zach Koskey agrees with this.

"I don't think it will cause more accidents because it's only being raised 5 mph," Koskey, said. "I believe people will still drive over the speed limit because no matter what the limit is, some people will always push their limits."

Babl thinks that the general public will definitely be for the new law whether it proves to be a good idea or not.

"In today's fast pace world, everyone is in a hurry," Babl said.

UWSP Forges Connections with Local Businesses & Community

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Over the summer Dave Eckmann, formerly the economic development director for the Marathon County Development Corporation was named special assistant to the chancellor for economic development purposes at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"From a broad point of view, it is my job to connect the university and all its assets to the regents throughout the community for economic development purposes," Eckmann said. "Economic development is a comprehensive thought, a set of programs and policies that are designed to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of the surrounding area."

The UW System associate vice president for economic development, David Brukardt, said "in his new role, Dave will help UW-Stevens Point

to further connect university talent with regional business and industry innovation, entrepreneurship and economic expansion statewide."

Chancellor Bernie Patterson also spoke highly of Eckmann and his work ethic shortly after his appointment this past July.

"Dave is a well-respected leader with a proven record of successful economic development and a passion for education," Patterson said. "He is a great fit for this new position. UW-Stevens Point will be one of the first comprehensive universities in the state to have a staff member who is focused entirely on creating and strengthening economic development partnerships between the business community and the university."

According to Eckmann UWSP is currently spearheading several initiatives with the intent to develop strong partnerships with local businesses and external stakeholders,

perhaps the most pertinent being the university's relation to the constantly growing paper industry throughout the state.

"What we're trying to do is take the excellence that we have here with paper science and engineering and the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology and really start a strong partnership with the Wisconsin paper industry," Eckmann said. "They're moving toward a more competitive direction for the state, and this university can play a big role in that from north to south."

Eckmann said these initiatives do not always go according to plan. Earlier this year, plans for an off-campus entrepreneurial center, which would allow students and community members the means to create and market their own small business endeavors, were postponed due to a larger-than-expected building fee.

"What it was envisioned to be, and is still envisioned to be, is a place

that not only serves the university, but also the students, the faculty and the public. It's going to be a place where they can take their entrepreneurial ideas, get assistance to all those ideas, get them on paper, and help get the resources in place where they can actually get funding to start a small business," Eckmann said.

Despite this setback, Eckmann remained adamant that this plan could eventually become a reality and said initiatives like these are dependent on student participation.

"When you hit a roadblock you can either choose to stop and quit, or you can try to navigate around and find different solutions, and that's the mode we're in now," Eckmann said. "The students are critically important, because if we can identify what we have at this university we can better connect to our communities and businesses."

Proposed Bill Allows Students to Refinance

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The Wisconsin Democrats have proposed a bill called The Higher Ed Lower Debt Act, which will allow students to refinance their student loans.

"It would create a state Student Loan Refinancing Authority allowing student loan borrowers to refinance those loans at much lower interest rates, just as homeowners do with mortgages," said the bill's developers, Rep. Cory Mason (D-Racine), Sen. Dave Hansen (D-Green Bay) and Sen. Chris Larson (D-Milwaukee).

"This bill is really appealing to me," said University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point sophomore Sarah Bromley. "My question is how will the economy thrive if college graduates like us, with good paying jobs, can't spend money because we are too busy paying off college loan debt? For my major I will have to go to school for six years and it is daunting to think of the \$40,000 to \$60,000 I will have in debt."

Another idea behind the proposed bill is to keep the money used to pay off student debt in the state.

"Instead of sending dollars out of this state off to Wall Street to pay down loans because we've made it impossible for students to refinance, let's refinance those loans right here in Wisconsin and put those dollars back into Wisconsin's economy," Mason said.

Carol Scipior, associate director of student financial aid, offered some insight of how graduates pay off their loans.

"The average debt for UWSP graduates in the 2011-2012 year was \$ 27,100," Scipior said. "However, students here have a good repayment

history. The latest Two-Year Cohort Default Rate provided by the Federal government shows that only 2.8 percent of UWSP borrowers default on their student loan payments. The State average is 6 percent and the national average is 9.1 percent."

Scipior stressed that the key to getting out of student loan debt is to have a plan in which loan repayment is manageable.

"Loan repayment shouldn't exceed 8 percent of adjusted gross income according to some experts, Scipior said. "I feel it should not exceed 5 percent of your adjusted gross income. An example of excessive payments is if you have \$20,000 in loan debt and you make \$35,000 a year, which after taxes and other costs is about \$26,250. If you pay \$230 a month to your loan that is about 10 percent of your adjusted gross income which is way too high."

Scipior could not comment on the Higher Ed Lower Debt Act because she was not aware of all of the provisions. She indicated that perhaps there may be some benefits, but would need to see the entire bill before assessing the value.

Scipior went on to emphasize the importance of how students need to know what they owe and the repayment options available to them. If they have questions or would like information regarding repayment resources, the financial aid office is there to help with questions.

"If the money we are paying goes back to the schools it would show benefits, but if it goes elsewhere this bill wouldn't be necessary. I say this because I don't have problems with the current system," said junior Lindsey Korst. "The big thing to me is where the money would be going. Would it benefit the students or would it be going to the upper-class?"

Food Share Recipients Suffer Cuts to Benefits

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The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which provided temporary extra funding, expired last Thursday, decreasing food share recipients' benefits.

"The Food Share program is intended to supplement food purchasing abilities for low-income families," said Mandy Mayek, the family and support services supervisor for the Portage County Health and Human Services Center.

Those who received public assistance benefits were given a temporary increase in 2009 due to an economic stimulus that was put in place to help people through the economic downturn.

The temporary legislation that boosted all benefits for people receiving food stamps ended on Oct. 31, and those families or individuals will see a reduction to their benefits implemented on Nov. 1.

"There are 3,000 cases in Portage County, meaning about 7,000 people will be affected," Mayek said.

In Wisconsin there are about 861,000 recipients who will be impacted by the change. That results in about an \$89 million cut in Wisconsin.

Since this is a federal change, millions more across the nation are in

similar situations.

"There will be an average decrease of about \$9 per person per month," Mayek said.

The size of the household determines the amount of money that will no longer be supplied by the program.

These cuts can be dramatic for families who rely on the benefits. An average cut of \$9 for one person is about one meal for that individual.

There are policies related to student eligibility, and individuals enrolled part- or full-time in college must meet certain exceptions to be a part of the Food Share Program.

"A lot of students are ineligible, but there is a decent chunk of students who are. It is a common misconception that students cannot receive the benefits," said Mayek.

Some of the exceptions for those students looking to get benefits include: a 20-hour or more workweek, enrollment in work-study, having a child under the age of six, or inability to work.

"I encourage people to apply if they need assistance. Error on the side of applying and the worst case scenario is that they would get denied," said Mayek.

Regardless of the cuts, there will always be some financial assistance provided to recipients in need.

DECREASE IN DOLLARS PER PERSON IN HOUSEHOLDS:								
Number in household:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Total cut in \$ to their benefits:	\$11	\$20	\$29	\$36	\$43	\$52	\$57	\$65

Women's Tennis Turns Things Around in 2013

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Heading into the 2013 season, the Women's Tennis team hadn't experienced a lot of success in its past two seasons.

With an overall record of 4-30 over those two years, the Pointers were ready to make some changes. That is exactly what the team did with new head coach Deena Gordon.

"I really had no idea what to expect in terms of what the team has done in the past," Gordon said.

After finishing the 2013 season with a 9-4 record, the Pointers made some improvements that allowed the team to compete in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

The high point of the season was a six match winning streak that came in the middle of the season.

After having the streak snapped by the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, the Pointers lost another match to UW-Eau Claire. However, the team finished the regular season by beating UW-Oshkosh.

In the WIAC Tournament, the Pointers came up one point short of

entering the Spring tournament.

Led by senior Rachel Brown, the Pointers evolved into a much stronger team this year.

"We all became very good friends, and had a lot of fun. It was nice being able to go out there and be competitive. This year we played a lot of schools that were closer in level to us," Brown said.

With a new head coach, players adapted to a new style of learning. Junior Kristen Finstad embraced the change and learned a lot from Gordon.

"Deena came into the season with a positive attitude and a goal in mind," Finstad said. "She taught us to always be thinking about our shots rather than just hitting the ball back."

As seniors Rachel Brown and Taylor Weuve have finished their final year. Juniors Molly Hendries and Kristen Finstad will have to be leaders.

Finstad is excited for the opportunity to lead a team that she has been on for three years now.

"I'm excited to step into a leadership role next season. We've come up with ideas over the last

three years to make our senior season the best it can be," Finstad said. "I also think one of the most important things is team cohesiveness, so I'm excited to plan some team bonding activities."

Junior Molly Hendries is also prepared to take the leadership position on.

"Stepping into the leadership role next season will be quite different and very exciting. I hope to be a strong leader, set an example of being a good teammate, and make the season lots of fun while also working hard," Hendries said.

Freshmen Katelyn Asfeld and Hayley Schlueter also made a big impact on the team.

"I could tell that those two are going to be top competitors for us," Brown said on Asfeld and Schlueter. "As a senior, I just tried to help them out as much as I could. I would play against them in practices to help make them stronger."

With an impressive season in the books, all the Pointers have to do now is prepare for next season.

LAST WEEK IN POINTERS SPORTS

Friday, Nov. 1

Men's Hockey defeated
Finlandia University 6-1

Women's Hockey defeated
St. Olaf College 4-0

Saturday, Nov. 2

Volleyball defeated UW-La
Crosse 3-0

Football lost to UW-Oshkosh
35-20

Women's Soccer lost to
UW-Whitewater 4-1

Volleyball defeated St.
Catherine University 3-0

Women's Hockey defeated
St. Olaf 3-2 in Overtime

Men's Hockey defeated
Finlandia 11-0

Men's Cross Country
finished 6th and Women's
finished 2nd at Wisconsin
Intercollegiate Athletic
Conference Championship

Who Should the Brewers Target in Free Agency? Part I

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Commentary

The baseball season is officially over and as of Tuesday free agency has begun. The question now is: who will the Brewers go after in free agency?

The Brewers are an interesting team when it comes to free agency this year. They already have \$80 million tied up in current contracts, but they could be only a couple of solid players away from competing for a playoff spot.

If the Brewers look to improve through free agency, they should address first base.

The list of players below shows free agents that make sense for the Brewers to try and sign for a possible playoff push next season.

Corey Hart: The best option for the Brewers would be to retain Hart. He wants to stay and is willing to take a discounted contract. Hart missed the 2013 season dealing with knee injuries, but looks healthy and ready for 2014. While he is not a sure thing, even if Hart returns to be even 80 percent of the player he was before injuries you can mark him down for 20 home runs and 70 runs batted in. Hart would provide protection for Ryan Braun and Aramis Ramirez in the heart of the Brewers batting

order. If the Brewers want to go in a different direction there are plenty of other options at first base.

James Loney: After a career resurgence with the Tampa Bay Rays, Loney is a free agent once again. In 2013, Loney posted a .299 batting average, with 164 hits and 75 RBI's. It's hard to believe that Loney can replicate those numbers again, but he is only 29, and will come at a cheaper price than many other first base options. Loney will also be seeking a one-year deal, leaving little risk if the Brewers do decide to pursue him. While he may not fit the typical Brewers format of offense, hitting home runs and stealing bases, Loney will bring his solid defense and ability to get on base wherever he ends up.

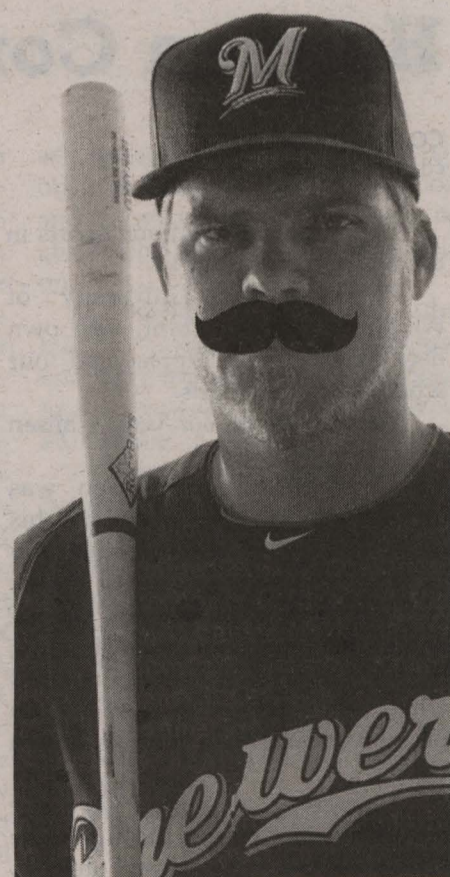
Justin Morneau: The former Twin's first basemen and 2006 MVP would be a great signing by the Brewers. Morneau has never been the same since concussions in the 2010 and 2011 seasons that derailed his career. He isn't the hitter he was in 2006, but he still provides plenty of pop and advanced fielding for the team that signs him. In comparison to Hart, Morneau is a better fielder and is far better at getting on base than Hart. In terms of salary, Morneau would command a very similar contract to Hart, which would be a one to two year deal with salary being around six to eight million for the year.

Mike Morse: Another cheaper, riskier, option for the Brewers to fill their need at first base would be Morse. Morse started off 2013 hot for the Seattle Mariners, hitting eight home runs in the first month of the season, but finished with only 13 on the year, while only driving in 27 runs. Morse was traded to the Baltimore Orioles at the end of the season, but the O's don't appear to be interested in retaining him. While his offensive numbers will be a wild card, Morse is only two years removed from hitting .303 with 31 home runs and 95 RBI's. In my opinion, Morse is worth a flier.

Mark Reynolds: Definitely the most unpredictable of the five options listed, Reynolds is a player that could either push the Brewers over the edge and into the playoffs, or back to fourth place in the National League Central Division. Two things are certain about Reynolds: he hits home runs and he strikes out a lot. He led the league in strikeouts from 2008 to 2011. You may ask what's the upside to signing Reynolds? Well, he has 30 homerun potential every year. That certainly would be helpful in the middle of the Brewers lineup. Reynolds will also be relatively inexpensive to sign, and would probably only need a one year contract. Reynolds could also fill in at third base in a pinch, giving the Brewers more flexibility. While it's unlikely, Reynolds seems like a

possible fit in Milwaukee.

Check back in next week's issue for a preview of some of the relief or starting pitchers the Brewers could target to bolster their pitching staff for the 2014 season.



Photos courtesy of www.zimbio.com

Men's Hockey Officially Underway

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The 2013 Men's Hockey team made a huge statement last weekend, beating Finlandia University 6-1 on Friday and swept them the next day, 11-0.

The team's upcoming games are Friday against Gustavus Adolphus College and Saturday against St. Olaf College.

Pointers' Head Coach Chris Brooks stresses that his players are getting better every day as a team and each individual player goes beyond the expectation of a good player.

"All 29 players on the roster are more than capable to win games, and they all have the potential to do

something special this season," Brooks said.

Although the roster is full of talented men that have a mission to win as many games as possible, the team still needs to work on a few adjustments.

"Our special teams need to improve," Brooks said. "We also need to work on playing at our own pace."

"What we need to improve on this year is becoming more consistent on winning two games every weekend and not just one," said sophomore Sean Gammange.

Gammange explained that this team has gained many skillful players this season.

Brooks went into detail about how the new freshmen have been a great addition to the team and are adjusting well.

"This is a different sport. Many freshmen are 20 years old. They have been out of high school for one, two, or three years now. They are mature and know how it feels to be away from home for a long time," Brooks said. "The seniors are helping make the new players feel comfortable."

With 17

new players, this team has plenty of strengths that they are bringing to each game. "Our five on five play is very good," Brooks said. He also explained how his team's defense is outstanding this year.

With 23 games to go, Brooks is looking forward most to playing against the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and St. Norbert College.

"I'm looking forward to the national championship game because I know we have the team that will make it there this year," Gammange said.

The team's schedule is full of challenging opponents this season, but Brooks insists that his team is ready.

"We are not really nervous for any game because this group is always prepared," Brooks said.

Before big games, rituals are normally performed to help calm down nervous players. By going through these rituals, players feel more confident in winning the game.

"I personally don't really do any rituals before a game because that kind of messes with your head, but most of the guys tend to have a game day routine that they will do every game," Gammange said.

With two wins under the Pointers' belt, Brooks believes the fans play a

key role to the team's success.

"The past two games we had great crowds. The fans were electric. They help create an exciting environment," Brooks said.

The team and coaching staff are very grateful for the amount of fans that come out each and every game cheering for their team.

"Our fans do a great job supporting this organization," Brooks said.

He and all of the players are hopeful for an even better turn out this weekend.

THIS WEEK IN POINTERS SPORTS

Thursday, Nov. 7

Wrestling vs. Lakeland College at 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball at Wisconsin Exhibition at 7 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 8

Men's Hockey Parents Weekend/Youth Hockey Night vs. Gustavus Adolphus College at 7 p.m.

Women's Hockey at Concordia-Moorhead College at 7 p.m.

Volleyball WIAC Semifinal vs. UW-La Crosse at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 9

Wrestling hosts Pointer Open at 9 a.m.

Football vs. UW-Whitewater at 1 p.m.

Women's Hockey at Concordia-Moorhead at 2:30 p.m.

WIAC Volleyball Championship Game at 2:30 p.m.

Men's Hockey Cupboard Canned Food Drive ight vs. St. Olaf College at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 13

Wrestling vs. Concordia University (Wis.) at 7 p.m.



Men's Hockey swept their weekend series against Finlandia University.

Hansen Competes Internationally

CONNOR DANIELS
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There are many unique sports in the world that we live in.

Here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, our own Ben Hansen has represented our school in Timbersports.

Now in his senior year, Hansen has come a long way.

As a freshman, Hansen was introduced to the sport by his roommate, Joe Huber. He instantly became involved with lumber sports.

"I made a lot of friends, got out to competitions, and started training hard," Hansen said. "Once I realized what an opportunity I had been presented with, I took it and ran with it."

Hansen competes on the Timbersports team through the UWSP Society of American Foresters. He competes in four disciplines in the

Stihl Collegiate Timbersports Series: the stock saw, single-buck, standing block chop, and underhand chop. Hansen is looking to add springboard and hot saw to that list.

After his first competition in 2010, Hansen improved his skills and won his first event, the underhand chop, in the Midwestern Conclave in spring of 2011.

Following his 2011 season, Hansen went on to sweep the Stihl Collegiate Series Midwest Qualifier in 2012, but finished last in the national championships.

Using the motivation of last year's run, Hansen received his revenge when he won the Stihl Collegiate Timbersports Series National Championship.

As a result, he was given a spot in the International Rookie Relay Team, which competes at the world championship level in Stuttgart, Germany.

"This season was a great start to my professional career as a Timbersports athlete," Hansen said.

Hansen's goal of making the college level championship is now complete, but he has no intentions of stopping there.

"A collegiate national championship was my first goal and it was amazing to accomplish that. Next is a national championship as a professional," Hansen said.

As Hansen continues to grow and compete on the international level, his family and friends are always there to support him.

"This sport requires a great deal of self-motivation to accomplish any success, but my contribution to my accomplishments is greatly overshadowed by the incredible support I have from a lot of people," Hansen said.

Graduating Students Join the Peace Corps

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It's the time of year to start freaking out about what to do after graduation, although let's be honest, it's that time all year round.

Some students have it all planned out, right down to the outfit they will wear on the first day of their first real job, while other students are still in the dark. Then there are those who have no idea where they're going or what they're doing, but are still completely in control – the students going into the Peace Corps.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has two Peace Corps programs: the Master's International Program and the Peace Corps Fellows Program.

The Master's International Program is for students wanting to advance their degree and volunteer, while the Fellows Program for returning Peace Corps volunteers wanting to advance their education. Both require the participant to be away from home for long periods of time.

The Peace Corps sends its volunteers to the far corners of the globe, putting them to work in their field of knowledge. There are programs in more than 73 countries.

Potential volunteers are put through an extensive application process that can take 9-12 months. This consists of an online application, medical forms, and multiple interviews.

There are several reasons a student could want to join the Peace Corps. For some, it would brighten up their resume. For others it's all about helping those in need.

For Alyssa Grams, the Peace

Corps seemed like the perfect combination of adventure, learning, and helping.

"I wanted to join the Peace Corps because my passion in life is helping others and I am intensely curious about other cultures," Grams said. "Through volunteering, I will have the opportunity to really immerse myself in a foreign community, where I will live and work with people very different from me. I know it's going to be a challenge to be away from my family and friends for the 27 months of service, but I feel that I need to have my worldview challenged and to really test my personal and professional limits after graduating from UWSP. Besides, I love adventure!"

For Erin Donahue, the Peace Corps is an opportunity to make women's lives safer.

"Thinking about my future career and goals, I realized that I am very interested in women's health especially their reproductive health rights," Donahue said. "The Peace Corps is an amazing organization when it comes to providing education opportunities for people abroad, including education about preventing sexually transmitted infections, birth control options, sanitation, and women's rights. I wanted to be able to educate young girls, women, and men about the importance of sexual health as well as experience the beautiful and unique cultures around the world."

Joining is a big commitment and all who volunteer should be aware of that. Participants have to spend three months training in the specific program they are assigned to, learning about how to do their intended jobs, and how to interact

with the people of their country.

After training, it's off to where the world needs them for an entire two years. Volunteers are allowed 48 days of vacation time, which most use to visit family and explore surrounding areas.

"Obviously volunteering with the Peace Corps and spending two

years in a mentally and physically challenging environment away from family and friends is a huge commitment," Grams said. "But I know that this has the potential to be one of the most rewarding and meaningful experiences of my life, and I am very excited about that."

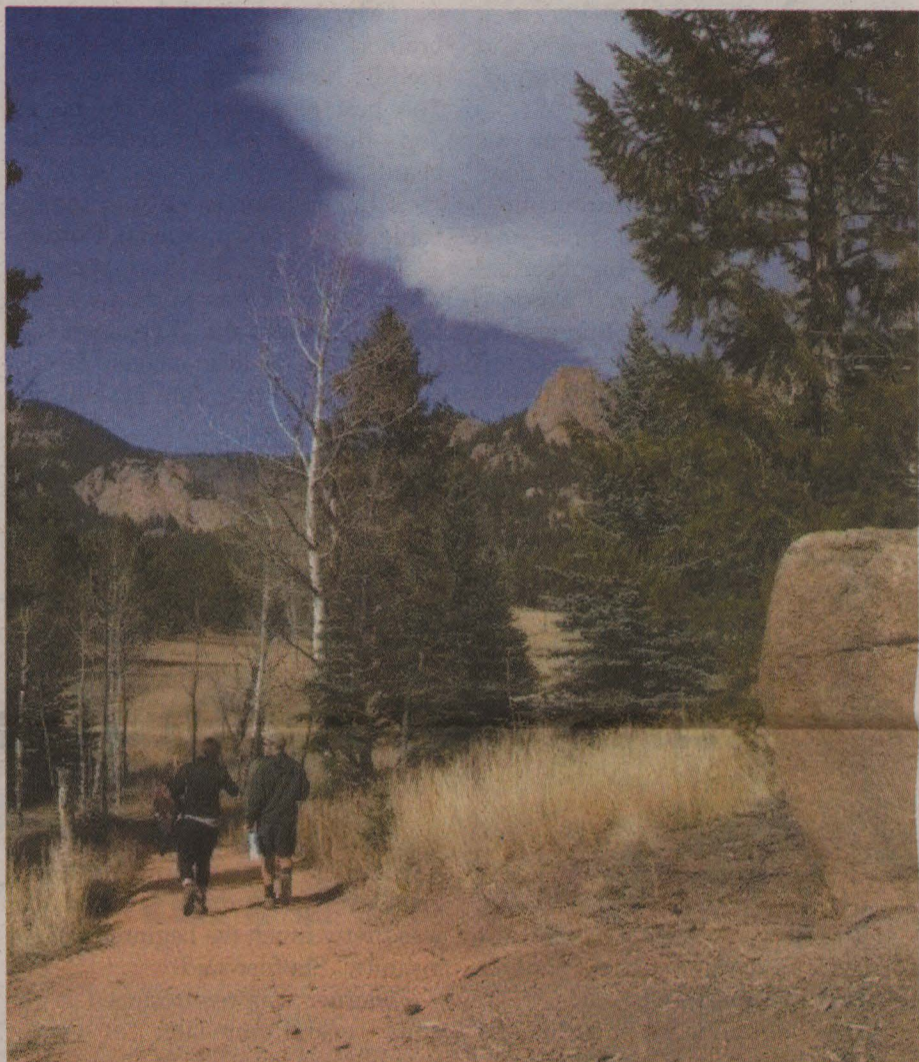


Photo by Lindsey Weins

Before being sent on their first project, members of Americorps NCCC went hiking at Staunton State Park in Colorado as part of their training.

Always Talk to the Taxi Driver

COURTNEY GONNERING
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COMMENTARY

Courtney Gonnering is a University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student studying at Hope University in Liverpool, England for the Fall 2013 semester.

Here's a quick lowdown on English life:

Everyone over the age of 40 will call you "love." They don't actually love you and it's not meant to be weird.

Tea does not always mean the drink. Tea is also what they call dinner in England.

If you aren't wearing more than a pound of make-up or a dress that would make your grandmother cringe while going out on Saturday night, you won't fit in.

Always talk to the taxi driver. They know everything about the city

and the best places to eat. They will also make fun of you for going to a dodgy tourist town two hours away to see Christmas lights.

After having spent a little over a month across the pond, I have learned many lessons, but definitely not lessons taught in a classroom.

I have learned trivial things, such as how to navigate public transportation, how to explain where Wisconsin is in America, and what the English think a rubber is—it's an eraser, obviously.

I have learned more profound lessons as well, like that other countries view "Merica" quite a bit differently than those who emblaze upon their chest the good old red, white and blue. They critically analyse our health care, education and political systems.

When I stepped off the plane and made my way to Liverpool, I began to understand what it meant

to be completely independent. It was liberating, yet scary.

I was used to friends or family to depend on. When I would travel with my family, I was always a passenger just along for the ride. Now I was driver and that meant figuring out what to do and when to do it.

There was also the challenge that all students face when breaking from the cozy Debot Fine Dining Hall. As a person who lived in the dorms with a meal plan for my first two years, I was thrown into the world of cooking and buying food for myself. Except here I was faced with the extra step of figuring out where to purchase food, as Walmart does not exist in England.

On the other hand, I learned about the importance of interdependence and relying on others. I quickly made friends that became my support system and I felt like a freshman all over again—lost and confused.

I had to swallow my pride and

ask questions that seemed to have obvious answers, ask for directions, and occasionally admit that I had absolutely no idea what was going on.

Through these seemingly minor blunders I have gained confidence in talking to others and have become more informed about the world around me.

Through this experience I have become more open to change.

Spontaneous adventure is a crucial component to enjoying life. I wouldn't have friends around the world, gone to Ireland travelling solo for a week, made that last second decision to see Christmas lights, or even gone to study abroad at all if I had been afraid of the things that could go wrong.

Cheers from Liverpool!

Continued from page 1

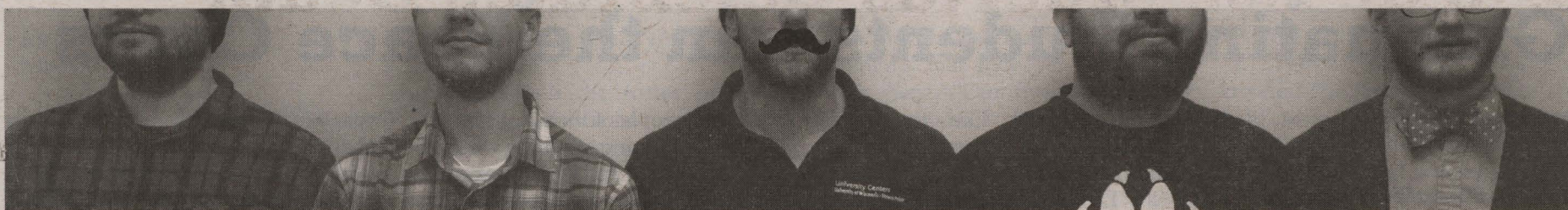


Photo by Emma St. Aubin

seventh grade and back then I wanted nothing to do with it, but now people love my beard and I wouldn't have it any other way. I have only known one person who did not like it; it was a girlfriend back in the day, and needless to say it didn't last long," Driebel said.

Fahley also identified with his facial hair at an early age and cited several bearded idols that inspired him in his shaved youth.

"Growing up, my big bearded idols were sheriffs in old western movies as well as Paul Bunyan. To me, it seemed that beards have often been associated with people of great power and strength, like Zeus, Jesus

and Santa Claus," Fahley said.

Feldt explained that his beard was also motivated by a number of recognizable figures.

"My bearded idols are a no brainer: my Pops, Chuck Norris, Freddie Mercury and Ron Swanson. The best facial hair has to be ZZ Top—they are old and distinguished beards, the best kind," Feldt said.

Chuck Norris also topped Fahley's list of inspirational beards.

"I feel that the best beard of all time award has to go to Chuck Norris," Fahley said. "I've never seen Chuck with a clean-shaven face, it must be what gives him his amazing powers."

Though Driebel, Feldt and Fahley all agree that No-Shave November is a joyous celebration of masculinity, all three were adamant that the growing of a warm, winter pelt should be reserved only for those who can do so adequately.

"Do not grow a pencil thin mustache or a peach fuzz wannabe beard. You need to be able to actually grow real hair. People these days don't seem to know that and they grow whatever they can and it ends up looking sick and creepy. Don't be that creep," Driebel said.

Again, Fahley agreed.

"I feel that only those who can grow in a full beard should. It is sad

and painful to watch someone grow out an area on their right cheek and upper lip and chin, but have a barren wasteland on the rest of their face," Fahley said.

Feldt described the look as trashy, not classy.

Still, Fahley encouraged all who could grow a beard to take part in this month's festivities.

"Facial hair should no longer be frowned upon. It is a sign of being a man of power, of wisdom and of knowledge. No Shave November is the perfect time of the year for us men to enjoy that which makes us," Fahley said.

Communication Professor Releases Debut EP

KYLE FLORENCE

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Recently, Associate Professor of communication Chris Shofner released a four song EP.

"The album is all instrumental and it's primarily a guitar album, though it does have different instruments throughout. I wanted to create an album that used together all the different genres I'd grown up with, so I guess you could call it a fusion album—sort of a funky-blue meets country kind of things," Shofner said.

Shofner recorded the entire EP himself, titling his songs based off the vision he had for his music, like the groovy closer "Mr. Fancy Pants (Extra Crispy)," or according to the different periods and experiences in his life, like "Ginger Beard's Revenge," acting as homage to his time at East Central University in Oklahoma.

According to Shofner, his father was a contributing factor to his interest in music from a very early age.

"I grew up in a very musical family," Shofner said. "My father is also a musician; he's a guitar player and he plays primarily country music. He played a lot of music when I was little, so it was sort of always around."

Despite this constant exposure to music, Shofner's passion for songwriting didn't fully develop until he was a teenager.

"I learned to play a little bit of guitar here and there at a fairly early

age, but it wasn't really the thing I was into. Then for my thirteenth birthday I got a drum set, and that was pretty much the beginning of the insanity," Shofner said.

Shofner was reintroduced to the guitar several years later and immediately fell in love.

"When I was 15 I decided to pick the guitar back up and then that was my thing. I discovered Rock n' Roll and Blues and then got to college and got introduced to Jazz, and now it's all sort of coming together," Shofner said.

Through high school and college, Shofner would hone his trade until he eventually felt ready to record an album.

"High school is when I basically started recording music and then once I got to college I got some more recording equipment and started getting into it more and more until finally, now many years later, I decided it was time do something a little more official, and that's what we have here with this album," Shofner said.

However, even after achieving this goal Shofner is adamant that

he is content simply making music and at the moment does not plan to pursue a serious musical career.

"There was a time in my life where I wanted to pursue a career as musician, but that's not really my

goal anymore," Shofner said. "Ever since I picked up the guitar, I love it, and there's not too many things more enjoyable in my life than sitting down and playing music."



The Album cover for Chris Shofner's new EP.

Dia de Los Muertos Celebrates Death

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Dia de Los Muertos, Day of the Dead, was celebrated on Nov. 1 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Edna Carlsten Gallery.

The holiday, despite dealing with the usually morbid topic of death and visiting spirits, is not spooky or scary. Dia de Los Muertos is much more than Mexico's version of Halloween.

"While Halloween is supposed to be scary with haunting ghosts, Dia de Los Muertos is supposed to be fun and a welcoming of the dead," said freshman Paulette Salazar.

Dia de Los Muertos is a national tradition in Mexico and the holiday spans two days: Nov. 1 through Nov. 2. During these days people build offrendas, similar to altars, to honor loved ones who have passed away.

Students from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's Spanish Club, Latino Student Alliance, International Club, and Department

of Art & Design built offrendas for the celebration.

Offrendas are often built to honor a specific person, and family members prepare the favorite foods and drinks of their deceased. Senior Spanish major Maggie Stollberg helped build the Spanish Club's offrenda to honor Mexican artist Frida Kahlo.

"We chose Frida Kahlo because she's a very iconic woman in Latin culture," Stollberg said.

The event also featured traditional Mexican food, a Mariachi band, a gallery talk, and face painting.

UWSP history professor Anju Reejsinghani spoke about Dia de Los Muertos to help attendees better understand the history of the celebration.

"I thought focusing on the fusion between indigenous and Spanish cultures to create something new would be a good focus," Reejsinghani said. "It's taken several hundred years to develop the tradition as we are celebrating it today."

While the holiday has been around for a long time, many people of Hispanic decent have not experienced the celebration.

Salazar, a member of the Latino Student Alliance, was excited to tell her parents she would be celebrating Dia de Los Muertos.

"This is my first time, which is really odd since I'm Hispanic," Salazar said.

Of the roughly 425 who attended, many had never celebrated Dia de Los Muertos before.

Advising Coordinator for the School of Business and Economics, Tonya Kowalski, also experienced the holiday's celebration for the first time.

"I love it. The food is great, the music is great, the altars are wonderful to look at, and both of my daughters got their faces painted," Kowalski said.

Kowalski was happy to participate in the Dia de Los Muertos festivities.

"In Western culture, we get stuck

in a lamenting period where we're all just sad," Kowalski said. "And this is such a healthy way to look at death by honoring and celebrating instead of always being sad."

Davis and Stollberg value the celebratory aspect of Dia de Los Muertos and intend to carry their outlook on death to their lives beyond college by celebrating the holiday in the future.

"I'll share it with my friends," Stollberg said. "And when I'm older and have a family and kids, I'll share it with them in the future too."

Dia de Los Muertos is a day to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have passed and to welcome their spirits back.

"The best part is that death doesn't need to be scary," Stollberg said. "It's just about honoring your loved ones and letting them come back to life for a while."



Photo by Hannah Rundman

Student and community members learn about the culture of Dia de los Muertos at the Edna Carlsten Gallery in the Noel Fine Arts Center.

THIS UPCOMING WEEK ON CAMPUS

Friday, Nov. 8

Singer/Songwriter:
Jared Mahone
DUC Encore
8 p.m.

Cost: Free with UWSP ID
or \$5 without

Saturday, Nov. 9

St. Paul's Holiday Fest
St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
9 a.m. - 3p.m.
Cost: \$2

YMCA Ski and Sports Swap
YMCA
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Cost: \$1

Taste of Toj Roob
DUC Laird Room
4 p.m.
Cost: \$12 in advance or
\$15 at the door

Comedy Open Mic Night
DUC Encore
8 p.m.
Cost: Free with UWSP ID
or \$5 without

Sunday, Nov. 10

Phillip Phillips Concert
Quandt Field House
& Berg Gym
7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$25 in advance or \$29
the day of the show.

CORRECTION:

Last week in the story regarding the American Institute of Graphic Arts, the captions for the four photos on page 7 were incorrect. The correct captions are as follows:

(Top Left) Students present work to Studio Dunbar at the end of the workshop. (Top Right and Bottom Left) Current students Andraya Wimmer and Kaitlyn Pepp receive feedback from Alumni in the portfolio reviews. (Bottom Right) Famus letterer, Chank Diesel, ran a workshop in which the students created a typeface out of Gouda cheese.

SUDOKU AND COMICS

SUDOKU

		1			2			4
4				7				
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5	8		2					
			8			3		
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			9			8		
2	5				7			9

SOLUTION TO LAST WEEK'S SUDOKU

6	1	4	7	2	9	8	3	5
2	9	7	3	8	5	6	4	1
8	5	3	4	6	1	2	7	9
9	6	1	2	5	7	4	8	3
3	7	5	8	1	4	9	2	6
4	2	8	6	9	3	1	5	7
7	3	9	1	4	8	5	6	2
5	4	2	9	3	6	7	1	8
1	8	6	5	7	2	3	9	4

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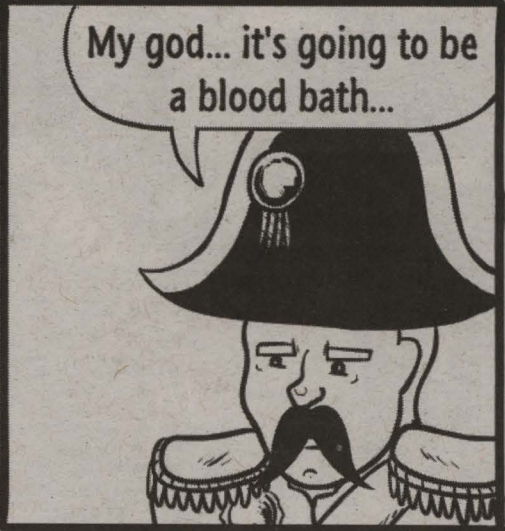
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11

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Deadline for application is Friday, Nov. 15.

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MADAME ZAMBONI'S PREDICTIONS

Capricorn: December 22 - January 19

That milk you bought has gone bad. Either throw it out or sell it to your roommate.

Aquarius: January 20 - February 18

You really need to do a load of laundry. If you wear those underpants one more time they will literally disintegrate. Then you will have a lot of jean to skin friction. Which is bad news.

Pisces: February 19 - March 20

Due to a lack of funds you will decide to indulge in a buffet this weekend. You will spend the rest of the night on the toilet, but it will be "totes worth it."

Aries: March 21 - April 19

Overindulgence will prove to be both good and bad for you. A hangover will cause you to skip a morning class. But upon awakening you will realize that you did not pee your bed.

Taurus: April 20 - May 20

A family gathering will force your roommate to go home for a weekend. Therefore his leftovers will be left unattended. Just saying.

Gemini: May 21 - June 20

You will have a great "That's what she said" in class. Everyone will laugh and your professor will have to cancel the rest of class to recover.

Cancer: June 21 - July 22

On your walk to class your neighbor will be walking their dog. You will pet it and giggle like a child because it is cute.

Leo: July 23 - August 22

You will make the decision to put your beer outside in order to make more room in the fridge #goinggreen.

Virgo: August 23 - September 22

In order to cut down on your water bill, you will not shower or do dishes for four days. It will be lauded as a "responsible adult decision."

Libra: September 23 - October 22

Due to an impressive hangover you will be late getting out to your deer stand. Upon settling in you will realize you have to poop.

Scorpio: October 23 - November 21

Throw out your stupid pumpkin, Halloween is over.

Sagittarius: November 22 - December 21

You obviously farted. Avoid sudden movements.

Winter is just about here, but it will be gone soon enough. Don't forget to register for your study abroad program for summer 2014 by December 1, 2013 - because the world is calling!

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"The Day of the Doctor" is Almost Here

MARY MARVIN

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The popular BBC series Doctor Who has an enormous fanbase; one that's kept the show running for 50 years. This year marks the momentous occasion with an upcoming special that will feature several different Doctors and companions.

News of the special, "The Day of the Doctor," has fans on the edge of their seats.

Doctor Who has kept itself going with the same title character for 50 years by changing the actor every once in a while.

The switch is made when a Doctor regenerates, transforming into someone new. The latest Doctor, Matt Smith, has made a considerable impression on "Whovians," fans of the show.

The 50th anniversary special is said to feature more than one Doctor, though it is not clear how multiple Doctors are going to be incorporated into the special. Fan favorite David Tennant will return, as well as Billie Piper as Rose, the most famous of his companions.

One surprise in the casting is the announcement that the ninth Doctor will not be played by his original actor, Christopher Eccleston, but will instead be portrayed by John Hurt of Harry Potter and Merlin fame.

Eccleston has had his hands full with the latest Marvel movie, in theaters this Friday, Nov. 8, but it is no secret that he didn't have the best time filming Doctor Who. Still, it's easy to get a glimpse of him as Malekith in Thor: The Dark World.

Another hurdle the show has to tackle is introducing the newest Doctor, Scottish actor Peter Capaldi. Capaldi will be incarnation

number 12 of the Doctor, and producers of the show predict he will win watchers' hearts with ease.

With fans eagerly wolfing down details about the special, it was a buffet when BBC released the synopsis.

Steven Moffat, who wrote the episode, has previously said that it will "change the narrative" of Doctor Who.

The BBC is celebrating Doctor Who's anniversary by airing several programs dedicated to it, including a lecture about the science of the show, a Doctor Who-themed episode of The Culture Show and An Adventure In Space And Time, a one-off BBC Two drama penned by Mark Gatiss about the creation of the series in the early '60s. Meanwhile, BBC Four will broadcast a restored version of An Unearthly Child, Doctor Who's first ever adventure from 1963.

The special will be airing in

select theaters across America, including some in Chicago. However, it's more likely you'll catch it on BBC America. Hopefully you have a friend with an awesome cable set up.

BBC Synopsis:

"The Doctors embark on their greatest adventure in this 50th anniversary special. In 2013, something terrible is awakening in London's National Gallery; in 1562, a murderous plot is afoot in Elizabethan England; and somewhere in space an ancient battle reaches its devastating conclusion. All of reality is at stake as the Doctor's own dangerous past comes back to haunt him."

NEED-TO-KNOW TUNES

KYLE FLORENCE

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Too often in our society, beautiful art, which has the potential to change lives, sculpt individuals, and alter the ways in which we think, goes unnoticed.

This is especially true in regards to music, whose more thoughtful messengers are often overshadowed by a maelstrom of cookie-cutter acts all strumming the same four-chord progression.

For this reason, we at The Pointer present you with Need-To-Know Tunes, a weekly column dedicated to highlighting not necessarily the newest releases, but rather the totally awesome one's that, for one reason or another, you may have missed.

Through the Deep, Dark Valley The Oh Hello's

For Fan's of:

Mumford and Son's "Awake My Soul", The Lumineer's "Ho Hey", The Middle East's "Blood"

The Scoop:

In a nutshell, The Oh Hello's started in late 2011 when Texas-native Tyler Heath, who had been writing and recording his own music for four years prior, joined forces with his sister Maggie Heath to create an eclectic folk rock band. Since releasing their self-titled EP shortly after forming, the duo has toured extensively under their grammatically rousing moniker, garnering a small, but devoted fan base. A little over a year ago, the outfit released their first full-length record, Through the Deep Dark Valley, a self-

proclaimed concept album which is meant to be listened to in one sitting, chronologically. And it rules.

Why It Rules:

For an independent release, Through the Deep Dark Valley is arranged beautifully and though the band has been intentionally vague as to the album's broader concept, each song fits together like some kind of folk-infused puzzle piece. Headstrong tracks, like the toe-tapping "Second Child, Restless Child" spring forward with the exuberance of a kid on Christmas, only to be paralleled by more somber, poignant tunes, such as the beautifully haunting "Wishing Well", or the relentlessly uplifting "I Have Made Mistakes." Additionally, the chemistry between the siblings is both impeccable and apparent. Though both phenomenally gifted singers in their own right, the duo's harmonies are truly breathtaking and will surely prove a treat for fans of Mumford and Son's and other similar acts. The instrumentation, though not genre bending in any way, makes a point to never overstep its boundaries, while each infectious melody seems more unforgettable than the last, often preaching topics of maturation and growth through personal struggle. Better still, this gem can be listened to and downloaded in full on the band's website for free, so your excuse for not checking it out is already invalid—trust me, you will not be disappointed.

Stand-Out Tracks:

"Eat You Alive", "The Wishing Well", "In Memoriam"

O'so Offers Variety in Craft Beer

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O'so Brewing Company is a craft brewery in Plover, Wisconsin. O'so is a personal favorite destination of mine in the extended Stevens Point area. The brewery is going to celebrate their 6th anniversary on Nov. 9, so I tried a few of the year-round beers to give a jumping-off point to anyone that might be looking for an introduction to local craft beer.

There are four criteria that beer is traditionally judged on: appearance, scent, taste and mouthfeel.

Rusty Red is a red ale with a red-brown, rosewood color. I didn't get very much from the scent other than a slightly yeasty aroma. Of all of the beers I tried from O'so, Rusty Red had the least interesting scent, taste and mouthfeel. The beer is malty and screams "balanced," but it's kind of boring and the beer lingered with me a little longer than I would have liked. Admittedly, I would almost never choose red ale if presented with another style, but I still found it underwhelming.

The Big O is a wheat ale brewed with a touch of orange. The Big O lit up my room when I poured it and the light caught the glass at the perfect angle. It's appropriate that The Big O is such a bright beer because everything about it hints at warmer days that seem long past during this time of

year. The Big O smells summer-y and tangy and tastes the same. The Big O is the lightest, most drinkable beer in O'so's year-round lineup, leaving the drinker with a crisp and clean finish.

Hopdinger is a pale ale that pours a deep gold color with a thick, foamy head. Of every pale ale I've had, Hopdinger is the one that I would recommend to a friend that doesn't like the bitterness typical of many well-known pale ales that come from the West Coast. Hopdinger is floral and piney with a very subtle bitterness accompanying a resinous, creamy mouthfeel. It will leave something to be desired for those who enjoy hoppy beer, but is an approachable entry into pale ales.

Night Train is an oatmeal porter that is far and away my favorite of O'so's year-round brews. It is dark, dark, dark and smells like the mixture of a coffee shop and a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup. Those smells come through in the taste, as the boldness and roasted flavors of coffee come to the forefront and the chocolaty taste follows closely. The beer is thick and chewy—in a good way, I promise—and absolutely perfect for this time of year. Of every porter I've ever tried, Night Train is the one I come back to time and time again.

O'so Brewing Company has a diverse lineup of beers that are available all year long. You'd be remiss to overlook these beers.