

the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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Photo by Jack McLaughlin

UWSP Football Improves to 5-0

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No comeback was needed as the Pointers football team defeated the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire 30-3 on Oct. 11.

Two touchdowns for UW-Stevens Point in nine seconds was too much

for the Blugolds to overcome. Wide receiver Alex Wallace scored the first touchdown on a reverse play for 29-yards, and on the kickoff defensive back Jay Kuenster recovered a UWEC fumble for a 20-yard score. The score went from 3-0 to 16-0.

The Pointers defense was the highlight of the team's play in the game. The only points UWSP

allowed came from a field goal before halftime, and the defense forced three turnovers with five sacks. Defensive back Zach Vallafskey led the team in tackles again with 10. Line backer Bo Seibel had nine tackles including a sack, and forced a fumble, defensive lineman Aaron Karlen recorded two sacks and defensive back Tim Burmeister had an interception.

As the defense played a strong game, the offense struggled early on. A chop block penalty forced UWSP to settle for a 45-yard field goal from kicker Jesse VerVelde. The next possession for UWSP resulted in no points as running back Jake Menzel was stopped on fourth down at the goal line by the UWEC defense.

Quarterback Kyle Larson and

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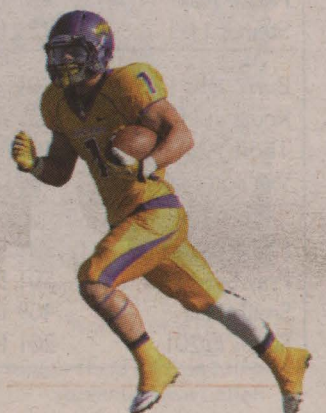
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The Pointer



NEWS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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During the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents' visit Friday Oct. 10, students, regents, and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point administration ate breakfast together at Upper Debot.

Members of Student Government Association, student athletes, and I waited anxiously at 7:30 a.m. for the regents to arrive, while also waiting for first sips of coffee and bits of food. We all found out later that our schedules did not match the regents' when they arrived after 8:00 a.m.

Despite the wait, we were excited to finally meet the regents and talk with them about their visit to UWSP and also about their positions.

As I walked through the line with UW System President Ray Cross we talked of hometowns, my high school experience, and finally newspapers and media coverage of the board's visit. We ate with a few folks from SGA and talked more of campus and our futures.

I am grateful to have had this conversation with someone so important to the UW System and so influential to UWSP. It was an experience special to my position and one I am grateful to have been a part of.



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Oct. 15 was the last day to pre-register to vote. If you did not have an opportunity to pre-register, you can still register the day of on Nov. 4. Due to changes with the Voter ID Law, voters are no longer required to bring their Wisconsin Driver's License or Wisconsin issued ID card with them to the polls. If you have already registered to vote, all you will need is your body and vote in mind.

If you are planning to register at the polling locations, you will need to bring a valid Wisconsin Driver's License or Wisconsin ID card and proof of residency.

Students who live in the residence halls may not all be voting on campus

on Election Day. Please refer to the chart below to determine where you will be voting. On Election Day, SGA and PRSSA will sponsor voter vans. These vans will run all day during voting times from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The pick-up and drop-off locations of voter vans are still being finalized. Once these locations are announced, they will be posted on the UW-Stevens Point Student Government Association's Facebook page and the UWSP Get Out the Vote Facebook page.

If you have any questions about Election Day or registering to vote, please direct messages to either of these pages. We will address those questions for you. Remember to use the hashtag #PointersVote on Twitter, and we will make sure to retweet you.

Where to Vote

If you live in	Your address is	Your polling location is
Baldwin Hall	425 Isadore Street	Dreyfus University Center (DUC) 1015 Reserve Street
Hansen Hall	409 Isadore Street	
Hyer Hall	1319 Freemont Street	
Neale Hall	433 Isadore Street	
Steiner Hall	401 Isadore Street	
Burroughs Hall	201 Isadore Street	Stevens Point Convention and Visitors Bureau 340 Division Street (next to Culvers)
Knutzen Hall	209 Isadore Street	
Thompson Hall	1817 Maria Drive	
Watson Hall	1801 Maria Drive	
May Roach Hall	301 Reserve Street	Recreation Center 2442 Sims Ave
Pray Sims Hall	501 Reserve Street	
Smith Hall	409 Reserve Street	
Suites @201	201 Reserve Street	

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Tuesday, Oct. 7

Faculty member called stating he is with a student that is warm to the touch and is feeling faint.

Wednesday, Oct. 8

Male in Hansen called to report some Toppers car signs in a resident's room. He had called Toppers and confirmed they are missing 2 signs.

Female called to report she had witnessed a hit and run incident in Lot Q at approximately 1:05 p.m. She stated a black Ford Taurus backed out of a stall and proceeded to collide with a purple truck, which smashed a gold truck.

Male called stating that there wer three students on the roof of the Quandt Gym.

Thursday, Oct. 9

DUC staff member called to report two skateboarders who were using wax on the university cement.

Student from the DUC called to report that he felt threatened by someone whom he believed to be stalking him.

Pray-Sims staff member called to report a young boy who was dropped off at UWSP for a scrimmage earlier that day. The scrimmage was over, but no one had come to pick him up.

Two students were looking for a lost ring in the parking lot.

Friday, Oct. 10

A person appeared to be causing issues inside the CCC by climbing on the doors.

DUC Information & Ticket Center employee called to report kids who had pushed the Code Blue button and ran away.

Saturday, Oct. 11

A maintenance officer called to report an older style Mazda pickup bluish-gray in color. A male rolled a bike up to the truck and threw it in the back. He called to report the situation in case the bike had been stolen.

Hyer Hall staff member called to report students were in the building who were not allowed based on previously established terms.

CORRECTION:

In the Oct. 6 issue in "Slouching Causes More Than Shoulder Pain," massage therapist for Shakti Massage is Casey Webber.

THE POINTER

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No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without expressed written permission of The Pointer staff.

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

National Student Exchange Program Comes to Campus Next Fall

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For students who may not be ready or are unable to afford studying abroad, the National Student Exchange is a new opportunity to study at another university in the United States.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point partnered with NSE this year, being added to the list of 200 schools in the continental U.S., Guam, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands and Canada that can both send and accept students from other universities.

"Students pay UWSP tuition to study at another university," said Mark Koepke, the international programs associate director. "A student could be going to an expensive state, but because you are a part of this exchange, you don't have to pay expensive tuition. If you choose California, the cost of living is definitely more than it is here, but it's not as high as, say, Australia."

This program sticks fairly close to home, so Koepke is hopeful students will be excited and open to it.

"There is not the issue of work permits and visas and students can

easily get home for the holidays," Koepke said.

Benefits of participating in this program include dramatically enhancing students' majors if there is not a large department at UWSP.

"If a student is studying anthropology, art history, or a variety of fields that we have here but don't have large departments for in those fields, they can find a university with a larger department," Koepke said.

However, one should not take choosing a university lightly. Just as choosing to attend UWSP is a weighted decision, choosing an NSE partnered school is just as big. Koepke advises students to choose schools based on academics, not geography.

"The NSE website has a list of schools to choose if they don't know which school is right for them," Koepke said. "I am more than happy to walk through this with students to make sure they are choosing the best school, academically, for them."

However, paying home tuition at a host school does not make this program a cheap way to attend more expensive universities.

"The max number of times you can participate in this program is two. It can be consistent. You can do a full year, for example, or do a semester, come back to UWSP, and

then do another semester. It can be at the same school or another school if you choose," Koepke said. "It's a really good deal and the people who set this up were just trying to foster the exchange of students throughout the country."

Applications for the NSE program will become available next fall, but there are several requirements students must meet before applying.

"Students are required to have a 2.5 grade point average minimum, have no outstanding debt at UWSP, no probational status—a clean record. There are not a lot of requirements for these programs, but they are still a bit strict," Koepke said.

Students have to pick five universities to apply to, but over 80 percent of students are given their first choice.

"Of all the schools that participate, some will take anyone who is qualified and some only take a select few," Koepke said. "Some host schools require specific questions or requirements for students to answer and meet."

Students also receive a catalog of courses, just as they would here, and are required to choose 10 courses. Students must also have full-time status at the host university as they would here.

"You are not going to take all 10, but we find the UWSP equivalent. There are always special cases of class overlap or if classes fill up or get cancelled, but exchange students receive priority over students at the home school," Koepke said.

The NSE program is also beneficial to students looking at graduate schools or for those who want to experience diversity not in Wisconsin.

"There is a lot of diversity in this country that we don't know about in Wisconsin and not everyone has that opportunity to study abroad but there are parts of this country that would still be a contrast to here for our students," Koepke said.

Junior Hayley Schaut also thinks the NSE program will open new doors to students.

"I think it's great that UWSP is offering more programs to get students to try new things," Schaut said. "It's always beneficial to explore other options when deciding your future career."

Questions regarding the NSE program should be directed to the International Programs Office in Collins Classroom Center 108. Walk-in advising takes place every Wednesday without appointment, or students can make an appointment with Mark Koepke via the sign up sheet in the office.

Differential Tuition to Receive Additional Consideration

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After being shot down twice, officials are continuing efforts to implement differential tuition, a fee intended to help Pointers graduate on time and save money.

Differential tuition would allow the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to hire more full-time professors and alleviate bottleneck courses. Bottleneck courses are the ones some students cannot register for because they fill up too quickly. These courses are usually prerequisites for upper level courses.

If differential tuition goes into effect, it will not appear as a separate fee on students' bills. Students will notice an increase in the cost of tuition, and the extra money will only be used by UWSP. Currently, all of the money collected from tuition goes into the greater UW System and is divided among the UW schools.

Other areas differential tuition would affect are academic support services like advising, tutoring and library resources.

The original proposal was known as The Pointer Compact and was denied because of a tuition cap

increase for all UW schools during the previous fiscal year. The second attempt was denied because of a tuition freeze on the current budget as well as a line item that legally restricted an increase in tuition or implementation of new differential tuition.

Both times, differential tuition had already been voted on and passed by the Student Government Association. For it to pass, differential tuition must be signed off by SGA, the UW System Board of Regents, the Joint Finance Committee and the governor.

"It will be a tough road, and there is no guarantee we will get it," said Ryan Kernosky, the director of legislative affairs for SGA.

Kernosky got involved with differential tuition as a student senator. He remains optimistic that it will become a reality. Kernosky explained how those involved with the proposal are making another effort to implement differential tuition even though it has failed twice.

"The biggest hurdle I faced so far is the mentality toward differential tuition," Kernosky said.

Kernosky discussed plans for a huge education and survey effort in order to better understand stu-

dent attitudes toward the increase in tuition. He hopes proper education and solid survey results will convince legislators and the Board of Regents that UWSP needs differential tuition.

Senior Max Irons confessed to not knowing much about differential tuition, but is generally in favor of it.

"I think it would definitely be beneficial in the long run," Irons said. "I want to know how they will focus on divvying it up."

Freshman Bradley Christensen noted how he has seen similar issues regarding the need to provide money now to save money later.

"Even though we would have to pay more for it, it would be worth it," Christensen said. "In the long run, students would be more educated. It would balance out."

According to Kernosky, differential tuition will have to wait until 2015 when the UW System's next budget is created. It will also depend on whether Gov. Scott Walker or his successor will freeze the budget again. Walker intends to freeze the budget.

"Our first step is to get it through the Board of Regents, then to lobby the state legislature," Kernosky said.

If the current budget limitations remain, they would attempt to lobby the governor to veto the line item.



Photo by Emily Hoffmann

Differential tuition could add on top of students' base tuition.

NEWS

University's Strategic Plan Makes Strides

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Chancellor Bernie Patterson presented the university's strategic plan, A Partnership for Thriving Communities, to the UW System Board of Regents on Oct. 9, detailing efforts to improve upon a vibrant, healthy, prosperous and sustainable community.

This plan emphasizes a learning environment that allows the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to be more inclusive, cohesive and engaged in the community. Patterson started working on it when he came to UWSP in 2010.

"It is pretty impressive that a bunch of academics managed to fit a strategic plan onto one page," Patterson said. "With this plan, we are trying to be more purposeful, focused and attentive to the needs of students and the community."

Patterson clarified that "community" means anywhere from the Old Main Neighborhood Association to Rhinelander. This effort goes far beyond just the university.

The vision of this plan is for UWSP to continue to develop, support and educate students and to encourage them to actively engage in their local, regional and global communities. This will prepare students for interaction in a diverse and sustainable world.

"The problem with these strategic plans is that they all end up sounding the same," said Kym Buchanan, a professor of education and member of the strategic planning committee. "It is laid out as a fancy document, but this is actually a mindset. This plan has very real economic and political impacts, and we have to make sure we carry it out."

Patterson referenced the cupola as a guiding light for UWSP and the strategic plan.

"Symbolism is important, and the cupola represents both old and new tradition," Patterson said. "It is the foundation upon which we build a successful future."

Patterson said the university has remained too hands-off for the past 20 years. The administration needs to be more engaged with students and their families.

UWSP has added a new retention coordinator position to better interact with new students. However, Patterson made it clear that retention is everyone's responsibility. 87 percent is the goal for retention. The university is working toward this goal by strengthening the First Year Experience program, Freshman Year Seminar and Freshman Interest Groups.

"We are especially focusing on retaining high-risk students," said Retention Coordinator Sally Cayan. "We do our best to advise students. If we cannot, we point them to the people and resources that can."

It was also made clear that student recruitment is everyone's responsibility. With the new General Education Program, students are graduating sooner with less debt than before. This causes enrollment to decrease, therefore creating a need to attract more students.

Buchanan said he used to think his job began and ended in the classroom.

"I thought I just needed to get in the classroom to instruct students and score assignments," Buchanan said. "I now realize it is a responsibility of the faculty and staff to create a quality educational environment that will help more students choose Point."

Patterson said UWSP needs to align its resources with its goals. This means faculty should be recognized for the work they do. Many faculty members are paid well below the national average. The university would need \$1.1 million to bring



Photo courtesy of UWSP

UWSP's average faculty salary to the national average.

"We need to attract and keep quality faculty, and that could require increased compensation once we understand where our salaries are as compared to the rest of the region," Buchanan said.

UWSP has a high turnover rate for faculty, so it is thought that increased salaries would help alleviate this issue. In addition, the university is working toward simplifying the hiring process for smoother transitions.

The university is also going through program prioritization under the plan. This allows for every department to be analyzed and realigned, perhaps resulting in consolidation and fewer departments.

"Program prioritization sometimes receives a negative

connotation because it is often triggered by budget cuts at universities," Buchanan said. "Luckily, that is not the issue here. We are going through this to increase efficiency."

Student Government Association President Chris Slattery said SGA played a major role in the development of this plan. He said the underlying principles he finds most notable in the plan are the university's ideals of democracy and social justice students are hoped to have acquired by graduation.

"It is important to realize that the university does not exist in a bubble," Slattery said. "The college is in a city, the city in a county and so forth. It is important to make these connections and break down barriers."

Fall Colors Coincide With 'For Rent' Signs

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Fall is a season of change. As the earth continues its tilt away from the sun, there are reminders everywhere that winter is on its way.

One of those reminders is "For Rent" signs in Stevens Point yards.

Once the fall semester begins, students feel pressured to solidify living arrangements for next year. Those living off campus who wish to remain in their apartments or houses simply sign another lease. Students who do not wish to stay in the same arrangements must confront the burden of securing a different residence.

Besides finding suitable

roommates and touring the property, a potential lessee will need to complete an application. Typically, a security deposit equal to the first month's rent is paid. The whole process takes days and sometimes weeks to complete.

Part of the stress associated with apartment or house searching stems from the lack of rental units near campus. Renters who begin searching early have several locations to choose from. Students who wait too long usually have no choice but to rent spaces that are less than ideal.

"We try and do it right away. September and October are usually the busiest times for renting," said Linda Fuehrer, an accountant at Candlewood Property Management in Stevens Point.

Fuehrer explained Candlewood

has about 100 units to rent and most leases last for one year.

Students planning to rent from Candlewood can expect to undergo a background check in addition to providing names of past landlords. According to Fuehrer, any past drug use or bad reviews from landlords will prevent their acceptance.

Senior Amber Sullivan will move home after graduation and is relieved she does not have to find a new apartment next fall. Sullivan recalls missing out on her ideal property as a sophomore.

"I felt super rushed into picking a second house," Sullivan said.

Although comfortable in her current living arrangement, Sullivan discussed the trouble she had getting there.

"I did not find it until May. I had to sublease the old house, which was a hassle," Sullivan said.

Another student, Sam Hein, agrees that finding a decent place to live can be challenging.

"There are so many people trying to do the same thing you are," Hein said.

Hein was able to find an apartment adjacent to campus, but mentioned he wishes there were more housing for students closer to campus.

"There are community members who live right next to campus, so there is only a certain amount of options," Hein said.

OMNA Looks Out for Student Safety Off Campus

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For the past few years, The Old Main Neighborhood Association has been striving to enforce a zoning ordinance to keep students from unknowingly leasing unlicensed property and to allow for a safe off-campus living experience.

In the '70s, a zoning ordinance was put in place for Stevens Point's R3 zone that prohibits more than two unrelated individuals from residing in a home at the same time.

"The biggest issue is with people not knowing about the zoning," said OMNA President Cindy Nebel.

Landlords sometimes purchase property and do not license it, then tell students only two renters need to sign the lease. Being first-time renters, students unknowingly end up in tricky situations. When inspectors come, they see more than two unrelated people living together.

Even if only two people are on the lease, the city can find out. In that situation, students are sometimes faced with the stress of finding new living arrangements.

Nebel said many students who lease unlicensed properties end up in unkempt or unsafe conditions. She does her best to be a good neighbor and help students who may be stuck and unaware of what an appropriate landlord-tenant relationship is.

"Dishonest landlords make it more difficult for those who are doing the right thing and getting licensed," Nebel said. "Most of the time, the student is not even aware of what is wrong with the situation or that

this ordinance exists. I have waited an entire year to report a violation because I did not want to put a burden on the student."

When this ordinance is not enforced, backyards become parking lots.

"I am sure students would rather have a lawn than have to park on the grass because too many people are living there," Nebel said.

Aside from putting students in potential danger, property values for family homes go down when this ordinance is not enforced.

"We are seeing a real decline in families moving into this area," Nebel said. "We are becoming a minority, and having such a high concentration of student renters can be rough on houses."

Nebel clarified that OMNA does not want to drive students from the neighborhood.

"We want to make sure a balance is kept between families and students," Nebel said. "We really like living alongside students, and so do a lot of other people."

Nebel said she has become close with her student neighbors throughout the years. Many of them even babysat her children.

"I do not want to live in a gated community," Nebel said. "I enjoy the mix and living so close to the university."

Students also enjoy living in a diverse neighborhood.

"It gives you a chance to be a part of the community and experience what life will be like in the future," said junior psychology major Deidre May. "It also provides a way to get

help if you need it."

Nebel said OMNA will continue urging city officials to better enforce the ordinance with thorough inspections. Enforcement will also require cooperation from the Student Government Association.

"We are all for working with the city to figure out a way to enforce this zoning ordinance without it being detrimental to students," said SGA President Chris Slattery.

Slattery said there is a benefit to living close to campus, but he realizes laws need to be enforced.

"Some students might perceive that leasing one of these unlicensed properties might do nothing but lower the cost," Slattery said.

He also said having a mixed neighborhood is beneficial. Students learn how to engage in their community. In addition, many professors live close to campus, allowing them to establish a stronger connection with students.

"We do not want students scrambling to find housing, but we do want to obey this ordinance," Slattery said.

Students can check if a rental property is licensed for more than two unrelated individuals through the city inspection office at 715-346-1566. They are also encouraged to report a landlord who is asking them to sign a rental agreement with only two names rather than the names of everyone to be living at the property.

If students experience problems with a landlord, there is a student lawyer on retainer through Student Legal Services to deal with these issues.

Parking on Campus Raises Frustration

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The Parking Advisory Board, comprised of students, faculty and staff, is getting back together and working to solve many parking dilemmas on campus.

"It's ridiculously hard to find parking," said senior Cara Staub. "The parking lots only offer overnight parking from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m., so then I'm forced to park on the street and there's a two-hour limit for that, too. It doesn't make much sense to me."

According to Tyler Forsythe, the parking advisory board chairman, there are going to be multiple solutions discussed that will hopefully solve this predicament. The first meeting was on Oct. 15.

"Overcrowding on campus parking is due to multiple issues. Two of the more prominent issues include overselling lots by about 25 percent and retired parking permits," Forsythe said. "Basically, some retired faculty has received permanent parking privileges in any lot on campus. This is a good incentive for faculty, however detrimental to parking. Around 400 retired parking permits are currently circulating."

Forsythe also acknowledged that parking permits are handed out based on seniority, putting younger students at a severe disadvantage.

"I don't think I was even capable of bringing my car freshman year," junior Libby Steeber said. "I remember I had a couple friends who were constantly complaining about how they wouldn't be able to find a parking spot after being gone for a weekend. So come Sunday, one of them was forced to park in K-Mart and got a ticket. So obviously after seeing all the issues they had, I wasn't eager to bring my car here."

Forsythe explained this will be the last year Lot X will be a part of campus parking. Beginning in fall of 2015, construction of the new science building will begin.

According to Carl Rasmussen, the director of facilities planning, the structure should be complete in spring of 2017. This is why the board wants to set aside a large fund in order to construct the new 75 car parking lot.

"I think we need something with more than one level. In Madison, they have multiple seven-story parking structures, and here they give us a few metered lots and call it a day," Steeber said.

Forsythe said the multi-level parking structure originally proposed is no longer on the table due to insufficient funds. Despite the university's lack of funds, the reformation of the board's aims to improve parking on campus.

Voter Photo ID Law Challenges Community

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Wisconsin officials reinstated the voter photo ID law for the November election on Sept. 12, only to have the Supreme Court block the enforcement on Oct. 9.

Katie Cronmiller, the vice president of the Student Government Association, was conscious of the precautions students would be required to take if the photo ID law was carried out.

"As long as students are proactive and register ahead of time, they should have no problems on the day of the election," Cronmiller said.

Many people in Wisconsin do not possess a government-issued photo ID, or the birth certificate necessary to obtain one. According to the Center for Media and Democracy's PR Watch, about 300,000 Wisconsin voters do not possess a proper ID.

If the voter photo ID law had gone

through, approximately 9 percent of Wisconsin voters would be incapable of casting a vote.

Luckily for students who have been unable to locate their birth certificate, the law will not be active for this year's general election because there was not enough time to implement it.

"We are doing our best to make sure students are registered, educated and able to vote come Nov. 4," Cronmiller said.

SGA registered voters in the Dreyfus University Center until Oct. 15. Proof of address was the only thing needed at the time of voting. Cronmiller said this can be presented with a letter of enrollment, course schedule or a bill from the university with the student's current address.

Proof of permanent residency may prove difficult for students who move around a lot. The requirement is 28 days of consecutive residency.

"I'm actually very glad the photo ID law didn't go through. My grandma

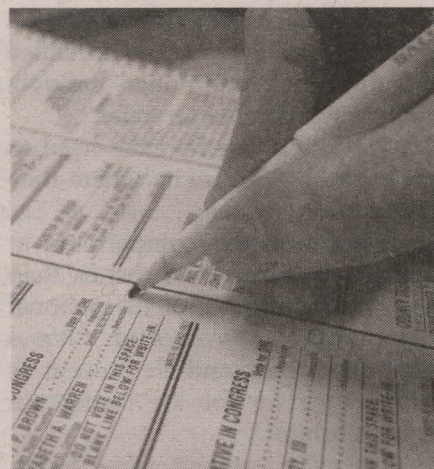


Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Ballots used for voting.

was born down south and never retained her birth certificate, so she wouldn't be able to vote," business major Shannon McGinnis said. "Just because she doesn't have her driver's license doesn't mean anything. She's an American, and she has every right to place her vote."

SPORTS

continued from page 1

his favorite target wide receiver Matt Sosinsky struggled to find a connection as Larson overthrew Sosinsky a couple times, and Sosinsky dropped a couple passes. This was the first game all season Sosinsky did not have a touchdown or 100 yards receiving. He finished with 28 yards on three passes. He led the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference in receiving yards and receptions heading into the game.

Larson threw his only touchdown in the fourth quarter when he found Wallace for 45 yards giving UWSP a 30-3 lead. Larson threw 14-26 for 207 yards with one touchdown and one interception. In the running game, DeJuan Wright led UWSP with 46 yards and a touchdown. Jared Pankow led all receivers with five catches for 74 yards.

UWEC was no problem offensively for UWSP defense. Coming into the game, UWEC only had 24 points total in four games. Starting quarterback Mark Munger was replaced in the second quarter after throwing 4-11 for 20 yards. Backup Joel Newman began moving the Blugolds down the field, but costly holding penalties and a late hit foul killed possessions for UWEC. Newman threw the ball 17-27 for 126 yards and one interception. Bo Casper had 15 carries for 61 yards, and Korey Jacobson had seven catches for 24 yards.

UWSP is now 5-0 and 2-0 in the WIAC. UWSP is now ranked 13 in the nation, and travel next week to number 14 UW-Platteville to face the Pioneers at 2 p.m.



Photos by Jack McLaughlin

Zach Vallafskey (#6) and Matt Gaffney (#21) team up for a tackle against Eau Claire.

Pointers Stride Toward Strong Season Finish

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With a few meets under their belt the men's and women's cross country teams look to funnel their hard work into the end of the season.

"We're making progress but we've still got some work to do," said associate head coach Brett Witt.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point cross country team is preparing for the bigger races coming in the next few weeks, marking the end of the season.

"The way that the Witts coach, we're not going to be the best team at the beginning of the year. We're going to be the best team at the end. Basically you come into the season prepared to work for three-fourths of it training for the big races," sophomore Dane Tyler said.

The women run a 6k at their meets, and the men run an 8k.

"After the first few meets we've improved on some things, but we have other things to work on," Witt said.

Senior Lauren Dilley can pinpoint one particular meet where the number results were not quite where the team wanted them.

"Augustana was a hot one, and we didn't do as well as we hoped," Dilley said. "But everyone pulled through, and it only makes us stronger."

On Oct. 18 the Pointers head to the Oshkosh AAE invite where they will be put to the test.

"The level of competition at Oshkosh is as good or better than what you would see at the national championships," Witt said. "It's a crazy good meet, and we'll use it as a final tune up for the conference championships."

Oshkosh is among a few tough teams the Pointers face. UW-Eau Claire, North Central, UW-Oshkosh, UW-Platteville, and the University of Chicago are also strong competition.

The conference meet is Nov. 1. Last year the women's team finished second, and the men's team finished sixth.

This year the team has goals set for the conference meet and the season as a whole.

"We want a top three conference finish, our top five guys within 20 seconds of each other, to qualify for nationals, and to stay focused on running," Tyler said.

The women's team have similar goals, and Dilley has confidence in both teams.

"I hope to make it to nationals," Dilley said. "I think both the guys and girls can make it this year."

The top two teams at the regional meet are guaranteed a spot at nationals. From there a committee selects what other teams will go based on times.

"Usually five or six teams from our conference go," Tyler said.

Dilley has noticed a certain energy surrounding both teams this year.

"There's willpower of wanting to make it to nationals and place at conference," Dilley said. "There's also a love of running and practicing together."

Tyler agrees and likes what he sees during the practices and meets.

"Definitely see both teams training as a single unit, and the guys have a nice front group that stay

together in the same pace," Tyler said.

Tyler also has an individual goal in mind looking at the rest of the season.

"I want to run around a 25:30-25:40 by the end of the season," Tyler said. "I'm trying to be all-conference or all-region."

Dilley's biggest goal is to help the team out as much as possible.

"I am going to strive to get better and stronger," Dilley said. "I need to work on speed. I have endurance but the speed isn't always there."

Witt agrees with goal conference finish and wants to see as many runners possible on the all-conference team.

"Getting runners on that time coincides with where we want to be at conference," Witt said. "I would also like to see us in contention to be a team to be selected to compete at the national championships."

Dilley hopes if there is a national appearance this year the team will do better than how they are ranked.

"I just want us to do our best and finish the season strong," Dilley said.

Shockwave Seeks Successful Season

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The women's club ultimate frisbee team is down in numbers but plans to have a strong and successful season.

"We have some new faces and plenty of attitude and talent," said senior co-president and cutter Ashley Schlapper. "I'm excited to see how that will help the team this year."

Shockwave also has new coach Dan Albert this year, and the team is excited to have him.

"He is really helpful. We have such a small number of girls. It's nice to have someone in power this year," said Katherine Ebensperger, the senior co-president, cutter and handler.

Ebensperger has played since her freshman year and enjoys the change of pace.

"He has had years of experience and practice," Ebensperger said. "He brought in a new offense, defense and new drills to practice. Until now we have just been using the same drills since I started."

The team has a couple goals in mind.

"I would like to avoid getting injured and go back to regionals this year," said Andie Jurcoi, the junior treasurer and cutter.

Schlapper wants to improve on field awareness and up field throws. She also wants to see the regional field again this year.

"We made it to regionals last year with a lot less girls. I believe we can do it again this year," Schlapper said. "We have a lot of the same people. I have faith."

UW-Milwaukee and UW-Eau Claire are the toughest teams Shockwave will face this season.

Schlapper has confidence in how the team will fare as they learn more about ultimate.

"We have a lot of talent and the skill levels are still up from last year," Schlapper said.

She is happy to see new people learn from returners.

Jurcoi would like to see Shockwave's style carry over from last year.

"We're a huck happy team so we do a lot long distance throws, and I



Photo courtesy Ashley Schlapper

MaryClaire Streator, Katherine Ebensperger, Casey Barton, McKenna Schaffer, Ellie Corbin, Ashley Schlapper, Jen Kozuch, Andie Jurcoi, Lindsey Reach and Brie Ashauer of the Shockwave team.

think we should keep doing that," Jurcoi said.

The team has grown since last year, and the new players have continued to improve. However, Shockwave would like more members.

Seven players are on the field at a time, and the team only has 12 consistent team members.

"We need to get more members," Ebensperger said. "My goal this year is to build the team. It would be great to see some more new faces and retain them."

Even though the year has started, new members are still welcome.

"You can still join. It's not too late," Jurcoi said.

With two practices a week, ultimate is a good activity to join that would not eat away too much time in a busy college schedule.

"Ultimate is a good way to stay involved if you have played sports and are looking for a way to stay active and competitive with less commitment," Ebensperger said.

UWSP Represented in MLB Playoffs

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COMMENTARY

The Major League Baseball postseason has been exciting to watch. Though the Milwaukee Brewers missed out, Wisconsin has reasons to watch.

Former University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point pitcher Jordan Zimmermann made the postseason for the second time in his career with the Washington Nationals. Clintonville, Wis. native Mike Jirschele made the playoffs as third base coach for the Kansas City Royals. Jirschele has ties to UWSP because his son Jeremy is an assistant coach for the baseball team, and his other son Justin played for UWSP.

Prior to playoffs, the area celebrated when Zimmermann threw a no-hitter on Sept. 28. He became the second Division III pitcher to ever throw a no-hitter in the MLB. For UWSP head coach Pat Bloom it was exciting to watch.

"We were at our golf outing with 150 people watching the TV throwing their hands in the air on the final out," Bloom said. "It is something we can all be proud of."

Zimmermann continued his

dominance against the San Francisco Giants in game two of the National League Division Series. Zimmermann pitched into the ninth inning needing only one out to complete a shutout. With a 1-0 lead, he was pulled after walking a batter. The Giants scored later in the inning and won in extra innings 2-1. The decision by Nationals manager to remove Zimmermann was a questionable decision leaving Nationals fans puzzled.

Bloom said it was tough to see Zimmermann removed from the game in that spot. "Those are very tough calls to make, especially with the season on the line," Bloom said. "It was hard to see him taken out with one out left after retiring 20 straight."

Zimmermann would not get another chance to pitch because the Giants eliminated the Nationals. Bloom could not be happier for Zimmermann.

"It is very exciting to see him have success and not just this season but every season," Bloom said. "I am happy for him and his family for the success, and the pride he brings back to central Wisconsin and Pointer land."

Bloom believes Zimmermann's success helps the UWSP baseball program. "We want to tell kids age 16-18 that Jordan Zimmermann played at UWSP," Bloom said. "We

want his success to bring a strong identity to Stevens Point."

Watching Zimmermann pitch on television is different than watching the dugout for Bloom.

"I get into the games he pitches intensively," Bloom said. "When you coach someone in the big leagues it is hard send your positive vibes through a TV."

It has been just as exciting for Bloom to see the success of Jirschele and his family.

"It's great to see him in playoff baseball with a chance to win a World Series," Bloom said. "He's more than paid his dues."

Mike Jirschele finally made it to the MLB as a coach with the Kansas City Royals after being in the minor leagues for almost 30 years. Mike Jirschele is currently the third base coach for the Royals, which Jeremy Jirschele said is something his father and Jeremy's kids enjoy.

"He said it was great to be back on the field, giving signs," Jirschele said. "It's more fun for me and my kids because he is out there on the field. They enjoy seeing him on TV."

Coaching third base can be tough when deciding to send a runner to home plate on a close play.

"There are times I'm thinking what's he thinking," Jeremy Jirschele said. "I would say it's a little more

stressful playing through scenarios, but we say it is a good problem to have."

This season has been worth the wait for the family, according to Jeremy Jirschele after his father spent his entire career in the minor leagues, and now made it into the postseason. Another bonus is seeing many of the players Mike Jirschele coached succeed in the playoffs.

"Guys like Eric Hosmer, Mike Moustakas and Billy Butler have all played for him in Triple-A," Jirschele said. "That part makes it more special with homegrown players."

Jeremy Jirschele went to game three of the American League Division Series when the Royals clinched the series and called it a great experience.

"Right away you see the enthusiasm in the parking lot, and that is what postseason baseball is all about and Kansas City is taking advantage of it," Jeremy Jirschele said. "We were able to go down in the locker room to congratulate the guys and had a lot of champagne hugs."

Jeremy only went to the one game, while his mom and brother have gone to every game the Royals have played in the postseason. Jeremy said he will go to all the World Series games if the Royals advance.

POINTLIFE

ROTC Teaches Movement Techniques

EMILY SHOWERS

POINTLIFE EDITOR

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Students crawled through the sand pits of DeBot Field, threw mock grenades and covered each other from enemy fire as they practiced individual movement techniques in a lab entirely planned by two Reserve Officers' Training Corps students.

The lab was offered on Oct. 9 to students who are enrolled in military science and physical education classes. They were divided into six stations. Each had a leader who taught different military training techniques. They rotated stations every 10 minutes.

"The benefit to lab is it puts a visual to what they learn in class," said Jesse Stansell, a ROTC public affairs officer.

ROTC Special Project Officer Jaclyn Johnson explained one of the techniques called a buddy rush. 10 duffel bags were staggered along the field and represented covers like cars, rocks or bushes that would be found in a real battlefield.

Johnson and ROTC Training Officer Rachel Stoltzmann planned the entire lab in two weeks, and they were happy with how smoothly it went.

"The motivation was high in all

of the groups," Johnson said.

Johnson was pleased they allotted enough time at each station so people who were not in ROTC could understand the actions. Johnson and Stoltzmann conducted two rehearsals, one in class and one live rehearsal, to iron out small details.

“

We figured out a lot from trial and error.

– Jaclyn Johnson

Johnson said she walked her class through a PowerPoint she created of how the lab was going to be structured. They delegated who would be at each station and showed them where they would be situated. Then they were ready to test the live rehearsal.

During the live rehearsal, Johnson and Stoltzmann noticed several elements to be changed.

"I had to figure out how to organize everyone," Johnson said. "We rehearsed with more people than were going to be at the actual lab, so we figured out a lot from trial and error."

An example of tweaking was how Stoltzmann noticed the high crawl, a

After their fine-tuning, the officers at the stations took the changes to increase students' confidence.

Stansell said when students learn the maneuvers it gives them a confidence boost.

"They prove that they can do it," Stansell said.

Stansell said during the labs people get to experience training exercises members of ROTC go through. This is an advantage for people who want to join ROTC like sophomore Matt Esser.

Esser said he has always been interested in the military and is currently in the process of contracting into the ROTC.

"I took the 101 'feeler' course and really liked it," Esser said.

Esser explained motivation plays a huge part in ROTC, and the individual movement technique lab enhanced that motivation. "It was very informative," Esser said. "The officers increased your motivation by making it a competition, which made it fun."

The lab let students experience what military training is like. Even though it requires a lot of physical movements and attention to details, it proves they can preform all of the tasks set before them.

Students and Local Residents Share Experiences with Dumpster Diving

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Junior natural resource major Jacob Cerminar has been dumpster diving since his last year of high school when he was inspired by his environmental science class.

"Don't be afraid of what people will think," Cerminar said.

With each successive dive, his level of comfort increased. Fast forward three years and Cerminar is a seasoned diver.

On a trip to Target his sophomore year, Cerminar recounts a successful night. "At least 20 untouched angel food cakes loads of baked goods, and more loaves of bread than we could carry," Cerminar said.

He shared all the loot with hungry peers back on campus who were studying for finals.

"We handed it out and told them it was dumpster food, but they still ate it," Cerminar said.

One busy night at Target provided free snacks for a few lucky residents, and others, were taking advantage of businesses waste as well.

During one excursion a man, who had been dumpster diving for over ten years was already on site. He was a farmer who would take what he could to feed his pigs, and he remarked how he used to bring back entire truckloads of perfectly good food every night.

During the same trip, another dumpster provided an ample amount of food. Over 50 granola bars, five boxes of off-brand Oreo cookies and two boxes of cereal were salvaged from a dumpster that had already been picked over.

While satisfying a late night craving for "dumpster dessert" may

not be of interest to all, it speaks to a greater issue. These were findings from a small set of dumpsters on a short number of days. There are dumpsters across the world which have much more waste.

Dumpster diving is a small but powerful way that community members can resist a wasteful system while saving money in the process.

"If stores are going to throw away edible food or merchandise, people should be able to take that food or those items," said Sheri Faust, junior English major.

Faust does not dumpster dive herself, but understands why people do it.

Although the restriction of dumpster diving is for liability reasons, it is a relatively harmless act. As the adage goes, one man's trash is another man's treasure.

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Students Offer Perspectives on Political Advertising

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Jobs, economic growth, taxes and health care are buzzwords pushed in every political ad. According to students, these ads are not doing much to tell listeners the candidates' plans.

A political campaign tactic commonly used in today's races is mudslinging, or criticizing or insulting an opponent with the aim of damaging that person's reputation.

This is a prevalent problem in

politics and is evident in Wisconsin's Governor Race.

Some citizens criticize that candidate's hard-earned campaign dollars are spent on trashing challenger's proposals rather than informing voters of their own.

"The uneducated voter will vote for who they dislike least," senior Travis Brown said. "It's all about bashing the opponent."

Big bucks are spent on television ads but other forms of communication are used to contact voters. A number of flyers, radio ads and tabling volunteers contribute to the outreach

strategy.

"I think it's important for them to reach out, but calling my phone is taking it too far," senior Heather Zarzecki said.

"It comes down to who has the most money," Zarzecki said.

While student perspectives differed about candidates, it was clear the spiteful, malicious campaign strategies were unnerving and annoying.

Jerry Ugland, a community member who volunteered at the voter registration booth, attempted to remain nonpartisan.

"The negative campaigns do nothing but deter people from voting," Ugland said.

An important part of any functioning democracy is a high level of civic engagement. A political process rooted in spending large sums of money on toxic advertising can turn away voters.

For students, choosing a candidate is not about making sacrifices, but many find themselves choosing the lesser of two evils.

OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Students Shy Away From Graduate School

EMILY SHOWERS

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Originally, this was supposed to be an article about the struggles a student goes through while applying to graduate school. However, I had a difficult time finding students who were applying.

It seems many people are waiting a couple years after graduating to apply. When I came to campus it seemed everyone was in a tizzy studying for the Graduate Record Examination or deciding where to attend after graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

I was a biochemistry major then, and people in that discipline tend to

be set on going to graduate school. Many graduate school websites say students should be out of school for three to five years before they invest in graduate school.

Most students have been in school for about 16 years after graduation and may want to use their degree, and Graduate school does not get easier. It requires dedication and skill in order to succeed.

Alumna Emily Anderson is in the arts management field. She thinks it is sometimes harder to find jobs after graduate school because employers have to pay more.

According to the Council of Graduate Schools, "people with graduate degrees are driving growth and innovation in our economy, and graduate-level skills are in higher

demand every year."

Career specialist Lauri Martin Keefe at career services provided an observation from one of her colleagues.

"Unfortunately it seems that more and more students are going on to graduate school because they don't want to look for jobs in the current market."

People are divided on whether or not graduate school is a good option for students. From my observations, it depends on the major and the desired job. If a student wants to be a physician, he or she should expect to remain in school. It might not be a bad idea to wait a year or two before plunging into graduate school, though, to make sure it is truly wanted.

As a journalist, I always look to the advice the editor at my internship at "Fox Cities Magazine". She said you can have the degree in your hand, but what really matters is experience and actually doing and creating work.

I challenge you to not just sit in class but to make your degree mean something by working on an original project outside of class.

Review: 'Dracula Untold' Should Have Stayed Untold

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When your lead character is the most famous vampire of all time, it is an achievement for a movie to suck more than he does. This is one of the few compliments I have for "Dracula Untold."

My other compliment goes to Luke Evans, who plays our titular, undead protagonist. He is one of few people both onscreen and offscreen who seems like he cares about making a good movie. He brings a power and presence to Dracula that has not been

seen from the character since Gary Oldman in the '90s. His performance leading an army in this movie makes me think he will be an impressive standout in December's conclusion to "The Hobbit" trilogy.

Speaking of Middle-Earth, "Dracula: Untold" desperately wants to be "Lord of the Rings," but falls short by one good director, three good scripts, and several hundred million dollars. The special effects often look cheap, and the bland, generic sets are far from the world of Tolkien and more like "Skyrim" running on a low-end computer.

The battle scenes are shockingly

dull, too. Dracula slices and dices hundreds of foes at one time, somehow managing to do so without spilling blood.

Am I the only one who sees a problem with a PG-13 altering of this character? A Dracula movie without blood is like a Ninja Turtles movie without pizza. It is just wrong.

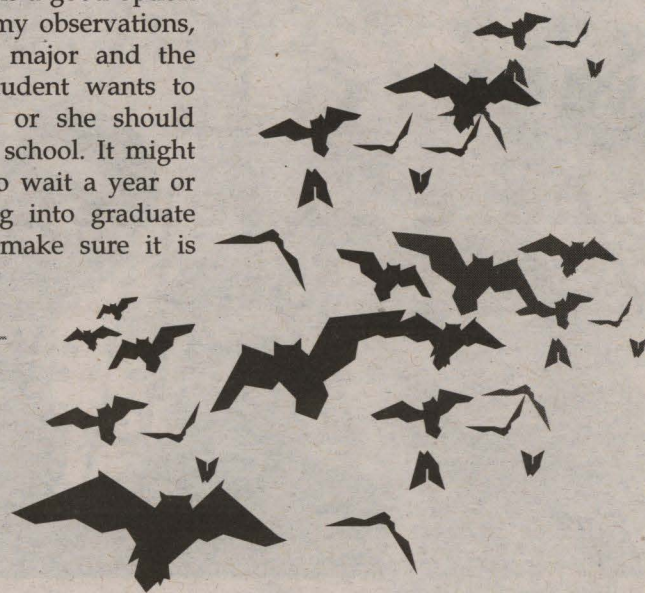
The bad accents are all wrong as well. It is hard not to cringe when hearing the goofy Transylvanian voices many of these actors put on. Some sound like they are channeling the Count from "Sesame Street."

One of the better accents comes from Charles Dance. He plays the

vampire who sires Dracula and is horribly cast. Though his performance is a great, his presence constantly reminds the audience how much they would rather be watching him in his other, far-superior medieval drama, "Game of Thrones."

Ever since Bram Stoker published "Dracula" in 1897, the blood-sucker has remained truly immortal in pop culture, being reborn in countless film adaptations. This time, unfortunately, he would have been better off staying dead.

"Dracula Untold" gets five lame subtitles out of ten.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mentalist Shocks Audience Members

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Comedic mentalist Sean Bott has been studying mentalism since he was 12. For the past six years he has been touring across the country, impressing audiences with his seemingly supernatural abilities. On Oct. 11 Bott showed off his abilities at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Attendees gathered in the Laird room to tune into Bott's performance. Throughout the show he randomly selected audience members to join him on stage for various activities.

Brandon Hennes, a senior majoring in accounting and business administration, was thrilled when Bott asked him on stage.

"I wanted to participate in any way possible," said Hennes.

When Hennes was on stage, Bott asked him to think of the most important person in the world to him.

After that, Bott prompted Hennes to think of the number of letters that were in that person's first name. During this activity Hennes did not give Bott any verbal information about the person he had in mind.

Bott was able to correctly write the name of the person Hennes was thinking of on a giant poster, leaving the audience amazed.

"It felt weird right away because I thought in my mind there was no way he could do it and I tried to stump him," Hennes said. "It failed. He read my mind."

Throughout the show Bott asked audience members a variety of questions, ranging from their dream vacation spots to favorite movies. Every time Bott would ask an audience member a question, he knew the answer the person was thinking of without them saying it out loud.

Libby Kaminski, a sophomore majoring in accounting and business administration, was one of the many

skeptics in the audience.

"I just didn't think he'd get a lot of his tricks right and that he'd mess up," Kaminski said.

Bott surprised Kaminski and other skeptics by his accuracy. Bott said he was aware of skeptics and does not strive to convert anyone's beliefs. He remains sensitive to other people's opinions.

Bott said anyone who works extremely hard and studies subjects such as human nature and psychology can learn how to be a mentalist.

"It's dumb luck, skill and knowing how people respond," Bott said.

Bott admitted that during shows his answers are not always accurate. He believes if he builds a good enough relationship with the audience that instead of being outraged if he fails, they will just laugh.

"I don't know any other job where you get to experience something really crazy," Bott said. "I think people have many answers and it's good to give people questions."



Photo courtesy seanbott.com.

The Speedbumps Impress at The Encore

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The Encore was packed Thursday Oct. 9, as students waited to hear from the up and coming indie folk band The Speedbumps.

The Speedbumps' unique style has earned them several awards such as the Independent Music Award and the American Songwriting Award. Their music has been featured on television programs like Public Broadcasting Service's "Road Trip Nation."

"I really liked their musical style and their take on different bands such as Creed and Radiohead, and the way that they played these different genres in their own style," said freshman Logan Becker.

The Speedbumps line up featured Erik Urycki on vocals and guitar, Sam Kristoff on cello, Kevin Martinez on bass and Patrick Hawkins on percussion. Other featured

performers that accompanied the band included Abby Luri on female vocals.

When the first note sounded, students rushed to get a closer look at the band and broke out into dance as The Speedbumps' upbeat acoustic songs transfixed the room.

The Ohio natives performed a wide variety of songs, ranging from a lively cover of "Say Something" by A Great Big World, to unfamiliar, more original pieces that are featured on their new album, "The Harbors We Seek."

"The Speedbumps were a quality live experience, and I really enjoyed their performances, both the covers and their original pieces like 'All My Mistakes,'" said sophomore Mark Harris.

The Speedbumps currently tour universities, technical and community colleges across the country. Their next project is an upcoming collaboration with The Canton Symphony Orchestra in 2015.



Photo courtesy thespeedbumps.com.

Life By Jonathan Seymour



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Wolfe Speaks for LGBT Political Spectrum

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Chuck Wolfe, the president and CEO of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund & Institute, visited the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on Oct. 10. Wolfe spoke to the public, including a small part of the student body, in room 221 in the Noel Fine Arts Center at 4:30 p.m.

Wolfe stressed the importance of the LGBT movement in the political spectrum and explained the opportunities offered through his company.

Founded in 1991, the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund & Institute endorse viable LGBT candidates running for various levels of office across the nation.

"The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund & Institute was created to be a political action committee dedicated to electing LGBT people to office," Wolfe said.

The committee only supports candidates who are openly gay. Wolfe explained that this mission keeps the company focused on activism, advocacy and achievement. It is a waste of time for them to support candidates who feel there is

something wrong with being LGBT.

Wolfe was pleased to discuss Tammy Baldwin, Wisconsin State Senator who was elected on Nov. 6, 2012. She is the highest-profile LGBT Candidate ever elected to office.

"Tammy being put into office was an eye-opener on the hill," Wolfe said.

During an interview on Nov. 7, 2012 with CNN, Baldwin said her candidacy was to "make a difference," not just to make history. Throughout her career, Baldwin was not just the first openly gay politician elected to Congress, but the first Wisconsin woman elected to Senate.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund & Institute do not offer support to university level campaigns. Instead they offer Victory Congressional internships to university level students.

The program began four years ago. Almost 300 students apply each semester to participate in the program, but only eight are selected, which makes it a very competitive, sought-after position.

"These are opportunities for college-aged students, still in school, to serve on Capitol Hill," Wolfe said. "We pay a stipend, provide housing and build a leadership development component into their time in

Washington. They will work for a member of Congress four days a week, and on that fifth day they will do some sort of leadership development, public speaking, resume writing, et cetera. It's all based on what it's like to work in the public sector."

Wolfe's passion for politics began at an early age. He described his experience coming out to his father as a matter of his father moving from asking himself "What did I do wrong as a dad?" to reflecting on his son, saying, "It's too bad you won't have a future in politics now." Of course, Wolfe is anything but a failure.

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund & Institute continue to encourage the voice of LGBT politicians and take pride in supporting open, honest and viable candidates. As far as the LGBT voice in politics is concerned, Wolfe's job is never done nor is the role of LGBT politicians.

"We are not ever going to achieve equality unless we start electing our own community to office," Wolfe said. "The LGBT movement is never done. Until we are there, the enemies can continue to make us look however they want. There's always another step and worthy fight that needs to be fought."

Festival of India Showcases the Art of Indian Culture

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The 27th annual Festival of India, held on Saturday Oct. 11 at Stevens Point Area High School, offered community members the opportunity to experience aspects of the Indian culture without leaving central Wisconsin. When entering the festival doors, attendees were serenaded by live sitar, guitar and vocal performances.

"The music sets the mood as you walk through the door," said volunteer Nicole Tewinkl. "It's as if you are in India."

Several organizations put the festival together, including volunteers. One major locally active group that helped put the festival together is SHAMA Inc., a nonprofit organization that works to empower Indian women and their families,

regardless of backgrounds.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's South Asia Society also puts a lot of work into the festival.

"There is a combination of music and dance at the festival," Secretary of South Asia Society Apoorva Sarmal said. "We have Bollywood dancing, Kirtan and a Tabla and Harmonium performance by Dr. Dilip Tannan, Shreekanth Shah and Karan Pal Cheema. We also have Indian classical and folk dances."

Community members had the opportunity to learn the different styles of dance. Vicki Kurasz, a festival dancer, led a class on Bhangra dance, something she has developed a passion for over the years.

"I started at home learning from videos," Kurasz said. "I also took local belly dancing classes. I met people there and we developed our own troupe, Tarantism and started

performing. We have been together for three years."

The dance Kurasz taught was performed on stage later that evening, along with several others including a Bollywood style dance performed by SHAMA dancers.

People from a variety of backgrounds attended the festival, participated in, and volunteered at this event. These levels of involvement showcased the community's effort to become more accepting and welcoming of different cultures.

"Diversity affects us in ways we can't even imagine," Sarmal said. "We can either choose to ignore it or accept it graciously. Accepting it is the harder, but rewarding way."

Community members and UWSP students raved about the event, expressing interest in having the festival continue in the future.

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Netflix Teases Moviegoers with 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: The Green Legend'

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In late September 2014, Netflix announced it would premiere "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: The Green Legend" on Aug. 28, 2015, which happens to be the same day it will premiere in theaters.

This announcement has stirred up controversial emotions for Netflix users, moviegoers and fans of the film's prequel "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

During spring 2014, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offered a Chinese Cinema class in the Division of Communication program. The class studied "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon." Having familiarized themselves with the art of cinema and this particular film, those from the class offered their opinions about Netflix's latest announcement.

"I find it both exciting yet worrying that this sort of release could set a trend for future movie releases," said WWSP-90FM Production Director, Harrison Meyer. "On one hand, this gives lesser known movies, maybe independent films, a better way of accessing moviegoers who have trouble seeing them upon release. The closest location these films are shown is two hours away from Point, so I can attest to the frustration."

Meyer was enrolled in Chinese Cinema as a sophomore and has been a Netflix user on and off for the past six years. He said he values Netflix for its convenience, but would prefer to sit in a movie theater for a film's premiere.

"I have a hard time believing that a sequel to 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon' would be better watched on a home television or laptop rather than the silver screen, so there is the possibility that consumers won't get that full experience while streaming," Meyer said.

UWSP alumnus Erik Kersting was enrolled in Chinese Cinema during his last semester at UWSP. Also a former employee of UWSP Centertainment,

Kersting said Netflix's new strategy would be better utilized for more independent, small and artistic films.

"Netflix is clearly paying the producers of 'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon 2' the lost opportunity cost of having a film only in theaters," Kersting said. "Films like 'The Avengers' or even mildly large films like 'Meet the Millers' will take a long time to reach the point of simultaneous release. It would take a major upheaval of the system in order for films to use this as a viable model for making money."

Flannery Wilson taught Chinese Cinema but is now teaching Italian at University of California-Riverside. Wilson recently released her first published work through Edinburgh University Press, "New Taiwanese Cinema in Focus."

Wilson said Netflix releasing "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: The Green Legend" the same day it hits theaters should not be the only thing surprising about the film, but that Ang Lee is not the director.

"Without Ang Lee as director, many fans of the original will be instantly turned off," Wilson said. "Why pay for a potentially terrible sequel in theaters when you can pay less to have a potentially terrible experience privately? I'm not saying that the film will necessarily be bad. I doubt that most people will only watch it in the theaters."

Wilson admitted "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" was not her favorite film screened in the Chinese Cinema class. Wilson said if she decided to watch the film, she would likely use Netflix before paying to see it in theaters.

"The fact that Ang Lee is not directing further disappoints me, but that says more about me than it does the film," Wilson said. "As far as Netflix and the movie experience goes, there is no point in embracing bad cinema in the name of technological democracy. I think most films are made worse by sequels, so I guess we have yet to see whether or not this will be the case with the new

'Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.'"

Though there is still fear among moviegoers that the art of theater-going may be enlisted to death row given Netflix's announcement, it seems there is still enough excitement about the feeling of sitting in a popcorn perfumed room that continues to enchant audiences to keep traditions alive.

"My general rule for movies is if it looks interesting and I have the time and money, I will go see it at the theater," Meyer said. "For me, Netflix is for movies I may have missed or older movies I would like to enjoy, but if it's currently playing I will make an effort to see it on the big screen. To me, that's where they are meant to be watched."



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