

# the. pointer

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Class sizes have expanded to accommodate the student increase this year.

## UWSP Juggles Faculty Loss and Increased Enrollment

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Faced with faculty loss, departments on campus devised numerous solutions to accommodate the increased number of students this semester.

According to Jim Barrett, asso-

ciate vice chancellor for Enrollment Management, 1,791 new students have enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point this semester, creating a 158-student increase from first semester last year.

This increase, coupled with an abnormally high loss in faculty since the announcement of state budget cuts earlier this year, has

forced departments to create new ways of helping students get the classes needed to stay on track for graduation, he said.

Timothy Halkowski, interim division head of the Division of Communication, said he has been working hard to ensure students' needs are met. Former Professor Andrew Stoner left the position at the end of

last year, leaving his regular classes in need of an instructor.

"For this semester, we have hired temporary professors and faculty to cover some of the courses that Dr. Stoner would have been teaching," Halkowski said.

The division is offering additional sections of various classes, including Communication 101,

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# Students Are OK with Co-ed Bathrooms

**RIDDHI GANDHI**  
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Students living in Smith, Steiner and Watson residence halls have a new bathroom experience.

As of the fall 2015 semester, these halls have co-ed bathrooms on every floor, allowing students who identify as genders other than male or female to be comfortable in their living space.

"I think people are responding

said it should not be a problem.

"I think the bathroom was a great idea. It gives a lot of students an option that if they want to use it they can," Zeszutek said. "I have used it myself. It's not that big of a deal. It's like going to the bathroom at my parent's house. We all use it, so everyone else uses it here."

Co-ed restrooms are located in the south wing of Smith and Steiner and the west wing of Watson. Each has lockable showers, and gender-specific restrooms are available

**It's not that big of a deal. It's like going to the bathroom at my parent's house. We all use it, so everyone else uses it here.**

-Tim Zeszutek, Steiner Hall resident

to it really well. I have seen a lot of people of all genders using it, which is great," said Megan Flanagan, Watson Hall community adviser. "We haven't had any complaints of discrimination at all."

While this pilot program seems to be running successfully, some parents are concerned, but Tim Zeszutek, Steiner Hall resident,

for students who are uncomfortable with sharing space.

"I actually like the gender neutral bathrooms. I think it's really awesome that we have one in our building," said Kim Collins, a boardfield social science and education major. "I have even noticed that the guys have been using it, and I use that bathroom every day."

**ALL-GENDER RESTROOM**

Photo by Lily Dettle  
Co-ed bathrooms are new as of fall 2015.

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

### Sunday, Sept. 6

An intoxicated male student was seen sleeping in the lobby of Neale Hall. When he was woken, he walked near the hall director's apartment and proceeded to urinate on the ground.

The code blue phone was activated by the Noel Fine Arts Center, but upon further investigation, no one appeared to be on the line. The same night, this phone called the Protective Services base roughly every second.

### Monday, Sept. 7

A female student called PS and said she believed to have found her bike chained to a bike rack in Lot F, located outside of the HEC. She had reported her bike being stolen last semester.

### Tuesday, Sept. 8

PS was notified about a rock hanging out into the driveway behind Thompson Hall and requested facility services to come and move the rock out of the way.

### Wednesday, Sept. 9

A professor called PS and requested to be let inside his office, as he had locked his keys inside.

### Thursday, Sept. 10

A female student called to inform PS of a phone call she received and believed to be a scam. The caller claimed to be from the FBI.

PS was notified of a reported stolen bike. The female student said the black bike had been locked up and described the bike as having an extra seat cushion.

### Friday, Sept. 11

PS was informed of another fraudulent phone call. A student said they received the call reportedly coming from the Stevens Point Police Department phone number, claiming to be an "Officer Morgan" from the FBI. The caller said the student had an outstanding debt of \$1,800.

### Saturday, Sept. 12

PS was called twice about noise at a student organization pig roast.

## THE POINTER

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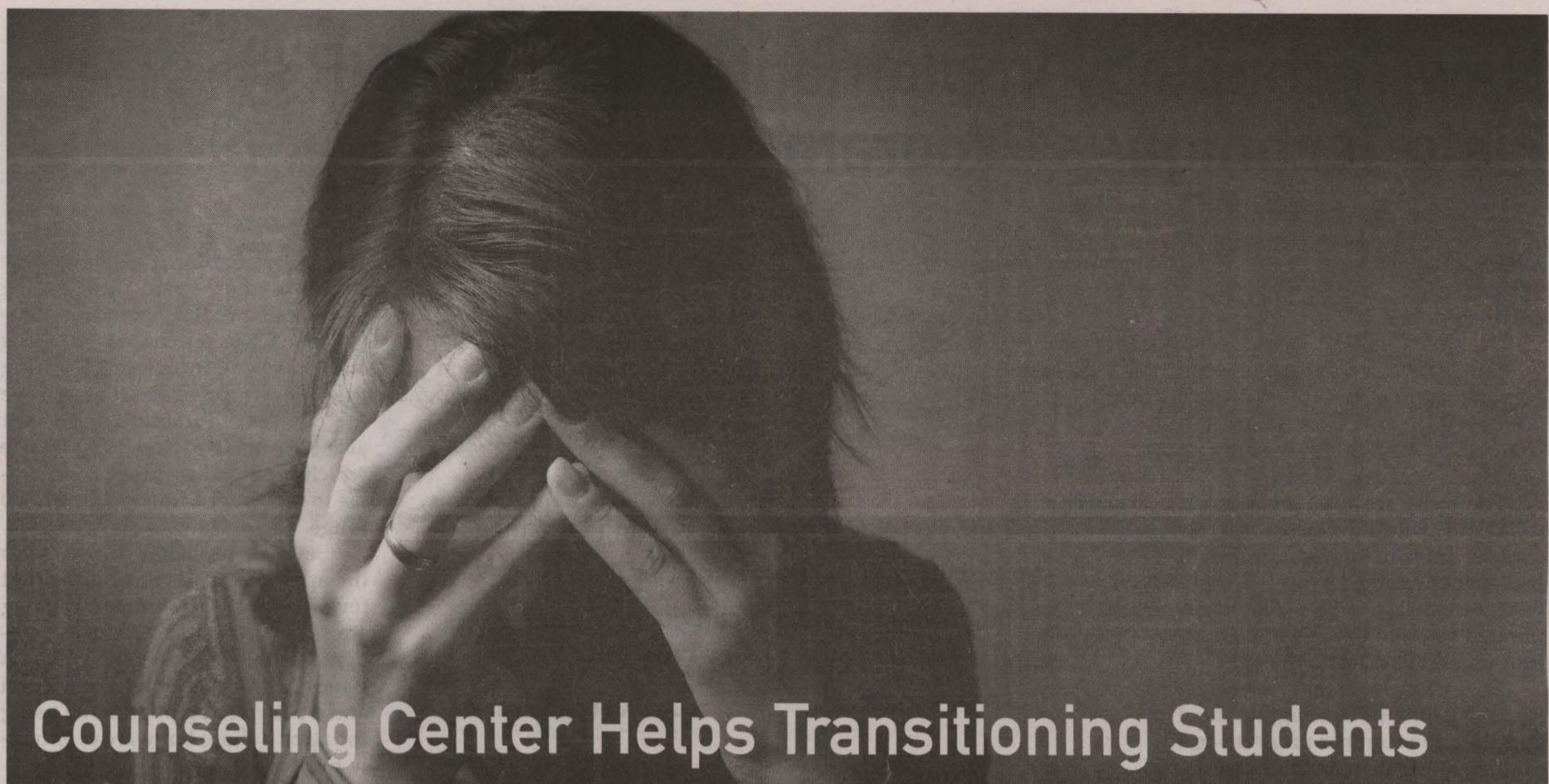


Photo courtesy of businessinsider.com

## Counseling Center Helps Transitioning Students

**CAROLINE CHALK**  
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For many students, transitioning into college life can be hard.

Jason Siewert, licensed psychologist, works at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Counseling Center in Delzell Hall and said he understands college is both a tough and exciting time for students.

"In college, it's hard to build a social network from scratch. Usually, to me, the academic and social adjustments emerge first," Siewert said.

Siewert said he recommends students struggling with the stressors of college should not only take care of their mental health but physical health as well.

"If you are very, very stressed out, the situation will be made worse if you are utterly exhausted as well," Siewert said. "People that let their general health habits slide sometimes have the toughest outcomes."

Siewert said no one is forced into counseling, but students who want help have ways to get help.

"You don't always need to have an outsider help you, but I think it's important that students know that this resource exists because we can offer feedback and support," Siewert said.

Kelsey Richmond, licensed psychologist, also works at the center and said she believes it takes courage for a student to discuss mental health.

"It can feel easier to pretend there isn't a problem and hope that pretense makes us feel stronger. But, to say, 'I'm

having a hard time and I want to feel better' takes bravery," Richmond said. "It shows accountability for your experiences and caring that you deserve to live a satisfied life."

Junior psychology major Klayton Fritz visited the center frequently during hardship.

"I was going through some hard times last semester, and I went because I needed someone to talk to. I felt like I was able to talk to the counselor openly and not be judged. Since they are educated, I felt like they could understand and give me professional help," Fritz said.

At the time, Fritz said he was having trouble reaching out to friends and lacked motivation to go to class.

"It really affected my education because, by skipping classes, I was missing

valuable information. It was hard because I didn't want to skip, but I felt like I needed to," Fritz said.

Doing calming and healthy activities have improved his mental health, Fritz said.

"I listen to music and that really helps me calm down when I am stressed," he said. "Sometimes taking a walk or watching a movie is very helpful. I think more people need to take time for themselves to get better."

Fritz said those struggling should not be afraid to ask for help.

"The counseling center is a really cool thing, especially if you are having issues telling friends about your hardships," he said. "It's nice to talk to counselors because they don't judge you."

**continued from page 1**

which the university requires of all students, he said.

But this year's changes have not come without cost.

Sara Gruenke, senior communication and art management major, noted her frustrations with getting into the classes she wanted.

"I know for a lot of the comm classes, they were filling up really quickly, and they weren't going to be allowing certain students to get into those classes," Gruenke said.

The College of Natural Resources is confronting similar problems after cutting five faculty positions as well as the Youth Programming and Camp Management Major and Minor and the Bio-fuels minor, said Dean Christine Thomas.

To address cuts, the college hired adjunct professors and allowed professors to expand class sizes, she said.

"When you help the person who's in trouble, who needs to get into your class, you are basically on some level diminishing the amount of attention that each of the people who are already there are going to get," Thomas said.

Students should not worry too much about the changes, said SGA Budget Director Adam Swanson. Although there are more courses that could slow a student's path to graduation, the majority of students will remain unaffected, he said.

In fact, the changes may lead to an increased graduation rate overall. Barrett said the anticipated graduation rate for summer 2016 has become 5 percent higher than the previous year.

"We always have tried to keep the students at the center of what we do," he said. "That's what we're here for."



Photo courtesy of uwsp.edu

# New Technology Implemented during CNR's Field Techniques Program

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Data collection and navigation apps for tablets and smart phones are now being used in natural resources classes at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The apps are used in forestry, soils and wildlife classes for recording information, sharing data and maneuvering in the field and were tested last winter and incorporated into the College of Natural Resources' Field Techniques.

Kevin Burns, Treehaven Forest Ecologist, pushed to integrate these apps into the summer program and said the students who attended the program at Treehaven in 2015 were some of the first students in the country to use this technology in a classroom setting.

"I think we're at a turning point

right now," Burns said. "This is early, early technology."

Data recording and navigation equipment is not new, but the idea of performing professional-grade fieldwork by using consumer-grade

storage methods.

"It's complex, you need a ton of training to use it," Burns said.

The apps are much more intuitive for students to learn and are extremely functional, he said, and

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**Just the fact that you can go out and take the same data with a smart phone or iPad that a \$1000 unit can is crazy. I can definitely see it taking over and being used a lot.**

-Joel Gebhard, senior

equipment is. Purpose-built data recorders and GPS equipment are expensive and complicated, involving clunky operating systems and

nearly every student and faculty member already has a personal smart phone which can download and utilize the free tools.

"We were blown away by how easy it is," Burns said. "I'm getting phone calls weekly about this."

The CNR purchased 20 iPads and fully-waterproof cases during the summer programs to improve the devices' durability. Each unit also had a \$100 wireless antennae which provided accuracy comparable to specialized units in the \$1,000 range.

Several problems arose with the apps and iPads during the first few weeks of the summer, causing stress, confusion and reducing students' faith in the technology. Login issues, a poor internet connection and a suite of app bugs made using the apps a chore but were eventually resolved.

"It was a scary couple of weeks," Burns said. "It works flawlessly now."

Joel Gebhard, senior, attended the first session at Treehaven and

**continued on page 5**



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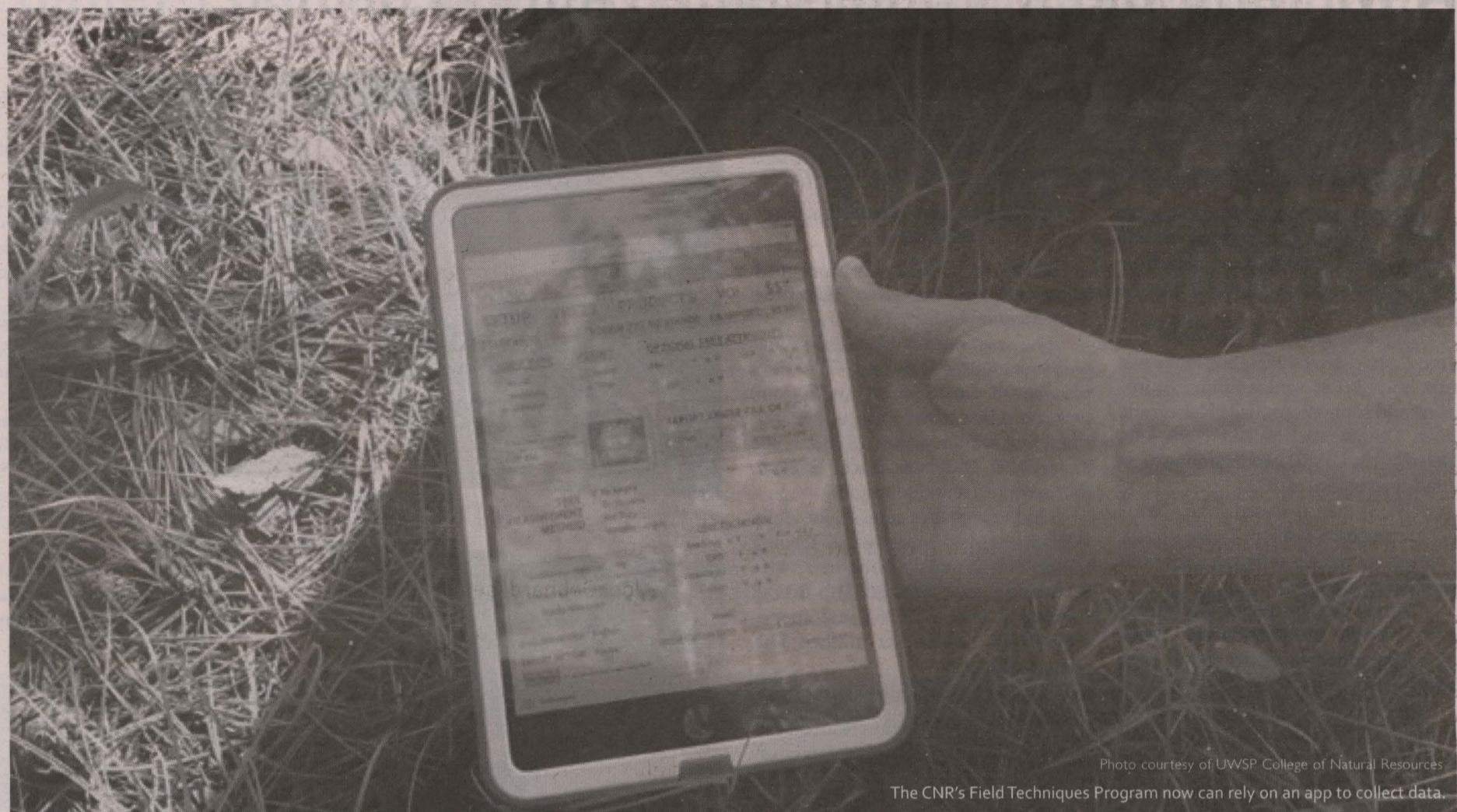


Photo courtesy of UWSP College of Natural Resources

The CNR's Field Techniques Program now can rely on an app to collect data.

spent the second session working as a teacher's assistant for Dr. Jacob Prater's soils class. Gebhard used the app to map soils in Prater's class and also mapped trails and section corners for Burns.

Gebhard preferred to use the Trimble field computer because it was more reliable, though he enjoyed the apps.

"What I liked most about the app was how easy it was to use," Gebhard said. "This was all really new to me."

Gebhard plans to keep working with both technologies because the apps have not yet gained widespread popularity.

"Just the fact that you can go out and take the same data with a smart phone or iPad that a \$1000 unit can is crazy," Gebhard said. "I can definitely see it taking over and being used a lot."

Dr. Shelli Dubay, associate professor of wildlife, used an iPad app in her wildlife class at Treehaven that allowed students to record locations of small mammal traps and input data from a given trapping outing. The data was instantaneously shared with classmates in a cloud-based storage system for interpretation and students could view a map on their devices showing trap locations and related information.

"It was pretty darn cool," Dubay said. "The app helps give a visual of what areas are hot and what's not."

Using the app in her class has increased the efficiency of recording and updating trapping information for the Department of Natural Resources.

"There are so many different places for error to occur," Dubay

said of alternative data-gathering technology. "This made it simpler."

Dr. Mike Demchik, professor of forestry, offered his soils students the opportunity to use an iPad app, which allows pdf files to be used as maps in addition to recording data. He also made self-guided plant walks available for the plant identification course using the same app on smart phones.

"They could go do their own plant walks using a cell phone," Demchik said. "This actually lets them fit it in when they have time."

It is likely that resource managers will gravitate toward this technology given its affordability and efficiency, Demchik said. He has seen iPads mounted on four-wheelers used for agricultural applications and thinks their use will continue.

The university may eventually provide students with software to run on personal devices rather than continuing to invest in new hardware. Faculty have shown interest in making this technology a part of their courses, which Burns said is a positive sign, since introducing new things to a large group of people can be intimidating.

"Will they know everything right away?" Burns said. "No, but they're trying."

Demchik emphasized the remarkable speed at which computing technology continues to progress. He recalled his first long distance phone call as a child, believing he needed to yell into the phone for his voice to be heard.

"That's cool because what you can do now on your smart phone is now as powerful as the best computers in the world at that time," Demchik said.

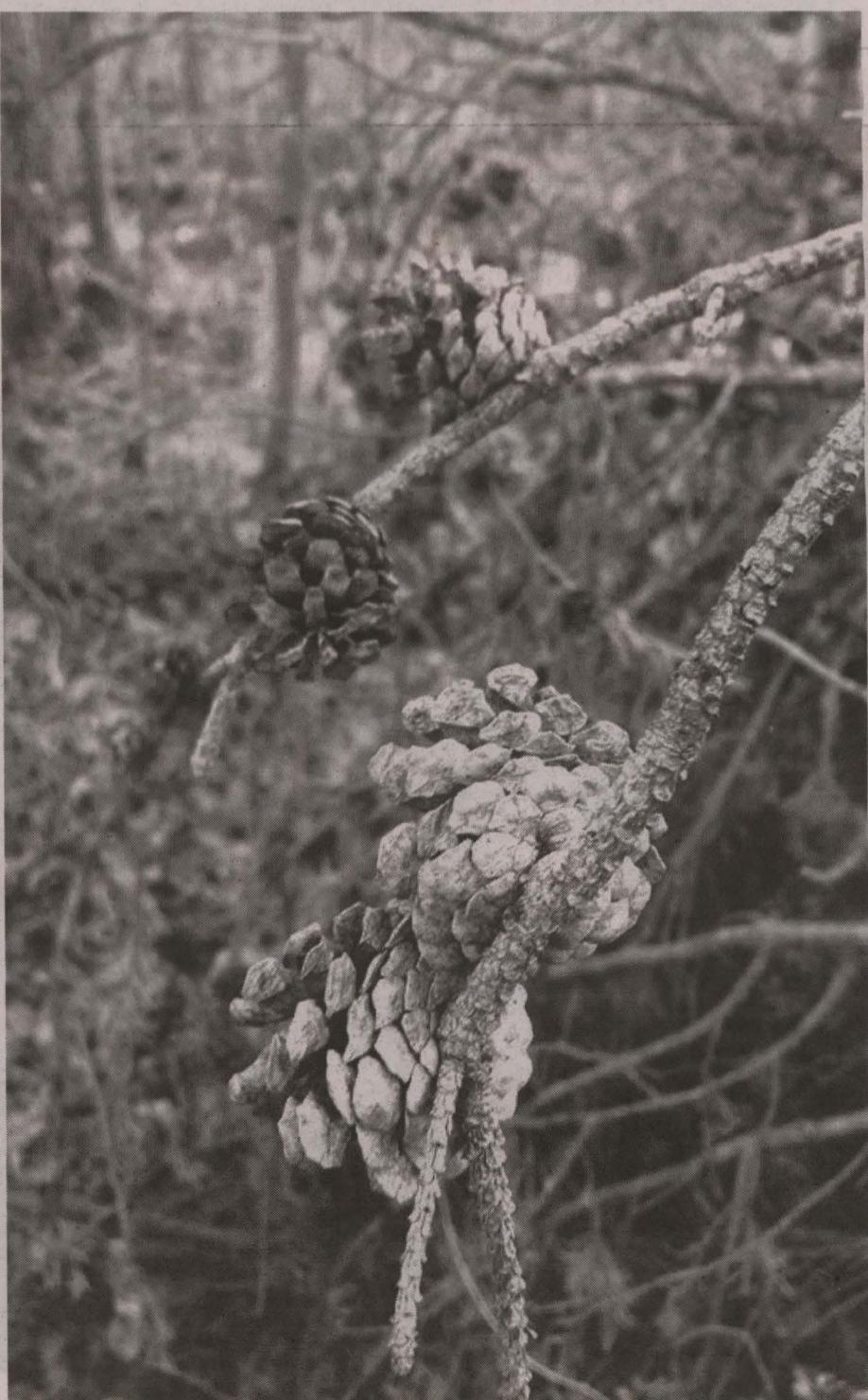


Photo by Allison Birr

# A winning weekend for UWSP Athletics

**MARTY KAUFFMANN**  
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## Volleyball 4-0 in Pointer Invitational

Ranked sixth in the nation, the Pointers volleyball team remains unbeaten, after winning four games, including three sweeps, in the Pointer Invitational.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point defeated Hamline in its first match-up 3-0 as senior Emma Brunkhorst and sophomores Bella Nelson and Ellen Drewry each tallied eight kills. Defensively, UWSP kept Hamline to an attack percentage of .032.

UWSP then defeated John Carroll 3-2 in comeback fashion. Down 9-7, the Pointers scored six unanswered points on the way to victory.

With 14 kills, Brunkhorst led UWSP even though freshman setter Brittany Laffin added 48 assists and 22 digs, which were both career highs.

The second day of the invitation resulted in two-straight sweeps for UWSP. Against Bethel, Drewry recorded a match-high 12 kills, and senior Hanna Picel had 26 digs leading the defense. In the match versus Concordia-Moorhead, Brunkhorst recorded 11 kills with an attack percentage of .556, while defensively UWSP held Concordia-Moorhead to a .034 attack percentage.

## Soccer Wins in Double Overtime

With four minutes left in a second overtime, Jillian Ross, senior forward, scored the lone goal for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in a 1-0 win over Edgewood College.

The Pointers offense had many opportunities with 16 shots and 10 on goal.

Elise Thuot, freshman defender, recorded an assist on Ross's goal, and Goalender Kristen Churkey made four saves. UWSP improves to 2-3-0 and play next at Lawrence University on Sept. 16.

## Cross Country Teams Compete at Ken Weidt Classic

Both of UWSP's cross country teams competed at the Ken Weidt Classic in Mequon on Sept. 12.

The men's team placed first and women's finished second. The first-place finish, out 16 for the men's team, was paced by Lukas Johnston, who finished first with a time of 26:36.5, while junior Neil Pederson placed second, four seconds behind Johnston.

On the women's side, senior Holly Winberg finished third overall, leading UWSP and posting a time of 23:48.0. Katherine Larson finished 11th overall running a time of 24:36.3 and sophomore Emily Schlebecker finished 13th overall at 24:49.7.

## Women's Tennis Beats M.S.O.E.

UWSP women's tennis team defeated the Milwaukee School of Engineering 7-2 on Sept. 12.

The Pointer win was powered by five straight-set singles victories and a pair of doubles wins. Sophomores Nicole Thorson and Abbey Johnson each recorded wins in singles and doubles competitions.

Thorson, playing number one singles, also recorded her career win with a pair of 6-2 wins. Along with Thorson, Juniors Emily Kleist, Frances Weiss and Freshman Jordan Tyjeski added singles wins.

UWSP begins conference play on Sept. 19 at UW-Oshkosh.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Senior Emma Brunkhorst is one of UWSP's leaders in kills.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Soccer team groups up on the field.

# Pointer Football Prepared for Another Season

**CHARLES KLUMB**  
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Four years ago, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was at the bottom in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

Now, four years later, Head Coach Tom Journell has the Pointers competing at the top and the gradual rise is not expected to stop now.

Journell is entering his fourth season at UWSP. His career began with a 2-8 record in his first year and rose to a 7-3 record last year. He said he has tried to install consistency in the program both on and off the field.

"We expect that our student-athletes, after four years, walk across the stage to shake Chancellor Patterson's hand with rings on our fingers," Jour-

nell said. "We expect overwhelming academic and athletic success from all of our players."

UWSP started last season 6-1 with Kyle Larson, junior transfer quarterback, under center. Larson missed the final three games due to injury. His return under center was noticeable as the Pointer offense put up 52 points in their season opener against Algonquin College, and Larson threw for 389 yards and 5 touchdowns.

Although Larson has returned, the experience gained by Cody Neurnberg, senior quarterback, at the end of last year makes Coach Journell very comfortable with the quarterback position.

"We have two great QB's in Kyle and Cody, we have proven we can win with both," Journell said. "Both understand our offense and execute it at a

high level."

Journell, who runs a base 4-3 defense and continues to implement the ever popular spread offense, has continued recruiting players to fit his team and is excited about his latest freshman class.

"Our coaches deserve a ton of credit. Recruiting is like shaving. If you don't do it every day, you look like a bum," Journell said. "We recruited very well. We had over 20 first-year student-athletes travel with us this past weekend and many contributed. We have a bright future."

Pointer football has evolved over the years with big thanks to a simple acronym that was installed when Coach Journell took over four years ago. It has made its waves around the campus and has become the call card of the Pointer's.

"Our team stands for the acronym TEE; it is who we are, why we do what we do, how we do it and for what we stand for on and off the field," Journell said.

The acronym has a specific message: "T" stands for toughness, grit, and consistency. "E" stands for effort, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. Finally, the second "E" stands for execution, in which championship levels of discipline and execution are expected every day.

"This is the process we discuss daily, we don't talk about winning, if the process is correct we don't need to be concerned about the result," Journell said.

The Pointers will next take the field in the annual Spud Bowl and Pink Game against Coe on Sept. 19 at home.



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Players will be wearing the annual Pink Game jerseys this weekend.



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# UWSP Tennis Looking for Bounce-Back Season

**CHARLES KLUMB**  
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Deena Gordon is leading the Pointers tennis team for the third time as head coach, and although she returns to a team without seniors, she is not worried about lacking experience.

"We have only one freshman that has no college experience, and what I like about this team is these girls have played in different settings, and they each have their own different style," Gordon said.

Katelyn Asfeld, junior, was all over the board last season. She was

at University of Wisconsin-Waukesha Community College, where she was the state champion. She looks to carry that success to the team here at UW-Stevens Point.

"I really wanted to play more competitive tennis. I was a state champion in my two years at UW-Waukesha and felt like I should go to a higher level and try something different. I was really drawn to this team when I heard there was openings," Kleist said.

UWSP has been knocking on the door of the four-team spring tournament, where the top four teams in the WIAC Championship qualify, but they have narrowly missed by

**What I like about this team is these girls have played in different settings, and they each have their own different style.**

-Deena Gordon

not only one of the lead doubles players, being matched up with five different partners, but was also the Pointers' top singles player throughout the year. Asfeld looks to draw on that experience for this season.

"I got some experience and I know what I need to do to up my game now, specifically being aggressive while still being patient at the same time," Asfeld said.

After going through last season in a major role, Asfeld has set her goals much higher for this upcoming season, hoping to be one of the top four players in the conference. Some of her own teammates, including sophomore Nicole Thorson and junior Emily Kleist, will be challenging her for that spot.

Kleist spent her last two seasons

finishing fifth the past two seasons.

The number one goal of the team is to bust that door down.

"Being in that top four spot is the main goal. We have just been right outside of it the last two years, and also just upping the intensity of our practices on a daily basis as individuals will lead to team improvements to hit that top four spot," Gordon said.

The Pointer roster is filled by juniors Rachael Kwiatkowski, Frances Weiss, and Megan Zilke. Abbey Johnson and Kaylee Roberts are the other sophomores and Elizabeth Wilichowski is the lone freshman.

UWSP will take the court again this Thursday in DePere against St. Norbert.



Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics

Emily Kleist is new to the team this year and hopes to bring her success from UW-Waukesha.



Photo courtesy of UWSP Athletics

Katelyn Asfeld is one of the team's top players.

## SPORTS SCHEDULE

### VOLLEYBALL

Sept. 16 @ 5:30 p.m.  
vs Lawrence

Sept. 16 @ 7:30 p.m.  
vs St. Norbert

Sept. 18-19  
at Carthage  
Tournament

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

Sept. 19 @ 11 a.m.  
at UW-Oshkosh

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Sept. 16 @ 7 p.m.  
at Lawrence

Sept. 19 @ 2 p.m.  
at UW-Stout

### FOOTBALL

Sept. 19 @ 2 p.m.  
vs Coe, Pink Game  
Spud Bowl

Sept. 20 @ 2 p.m.  
vs Wartburg

# FROM TOURIST *to traveler*

**SOPHIE STICKELMAIER**  
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This past week, I spent my days exploring the ancient Roman baths, eating three-course meals three times a day and enjoying the deliciously-liberal city of Brighton.

With a group of 19 women and one lonesome boy, we began a week-long entry tour filled with

tours of cathedrals, castles and historical landmarks scattered across England.

Bathe was the first stop on our itinerary and it was, by far, the most stunning place I've seen yet. The city is filled with cobble streets, blooming gardens and a plethora of history. We also had the opportunity to tour the Roman baths, which were originally used for socializing as well as bathing, but is

now considered one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

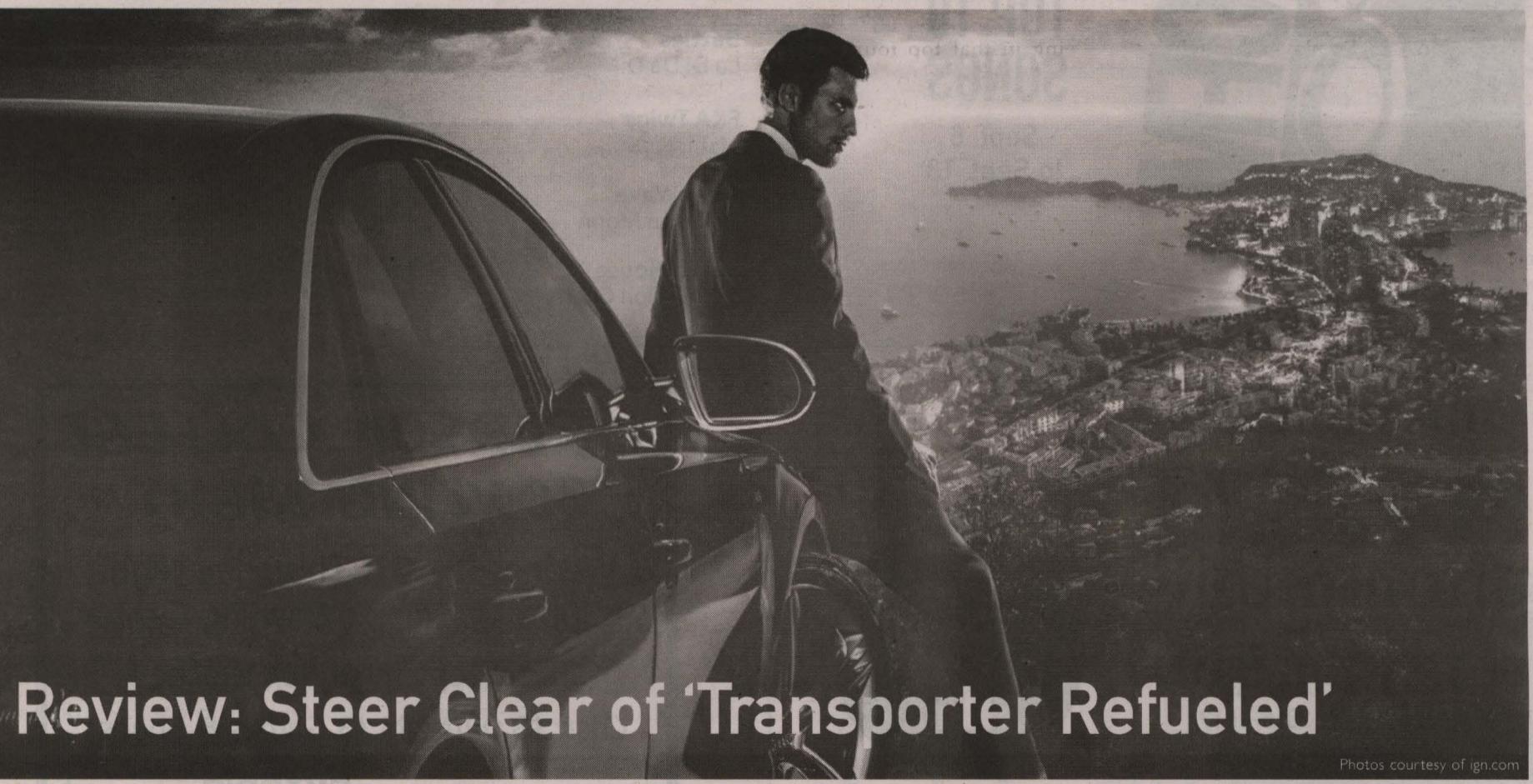
After seeing one cathedral, and a three-hour bus ride later, we arrived at the seaside town of Brighton. It immediately reminded me of San Francisco with its funky cafes, miles of coast and rainbow flags in every window. On our last night in Brighton, I managed to see a jazz band, watch swing dancers and go to an old school drag show where a

lovely lady sung tunes from Wizard of Oz all night.

To be honest, I learned more about the culture and life of Brighton during that one night out than I did in all the tours combined. Granted, I love learning the historical traits of a city, but by meeting the locals and immersing myself in their lifestyle I was able to see the city through their eyes and not the eyes of a tourist.



Photos by Sophie Stickelmaier



## Review: Steer Clear of 'Transporter Refueled'

Photos courtesy of ign.com

**BRADY SIMENSON**  
CONTRIBUTOR  
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Once upon a time, when B-list action movies were given C-list sequels with D-list stars, they always went straight to the video stores instead of going to theaters.

There was a sort of understanding between studios and audiences that if someone was going to make a movie with video store quality, they were not going to try and trick their audience into paying movie theater

dollars.

Presently, with the growing abundance of movies like "The Transporter Refueled" being given wide theatrical releases, it is safe to say that mutual understanding has been cast aside. Studios are now more than happy to be snake oil salesmen who try to sneak their products onto pharmacy shelves.

The first and most foul-tasting issue with this deceitful product is that they replaced Jason Statham, the only thing anyone cared about from the franchise. That would be like Belts

replacing all of their ice cream with mashed potatoes and then wondering why sales are suddenly going down.

Producers could have cast a potato in the lead role, and the final product would have been just as good. The new "star," Ed Skrein, is someone you haven't heard of, and someone you never should have. His biggest claim to fame is being so boring during his short time on "Game of Thrones" that he had to be replaced by an actor whose beard alone is more charismatic than Skrein was during his entire run.

Skrein's boring performance is far from being the only thing wrong with "Refueled," it's only the most obvious and egregious. The movie also piles on plenty of horrific dialogue and lazy plot. You could accuse the last "Fast & Furious" for having most of the same problems, but I gave that a much better review because the actors are much more likeable and they avoid the same level of blatant sexism that seems to be the actual gas that "Refueled" is running on.

"Transporter Refueled" gets four flat tires out of 10.

**Life**

By Jonathan Seymour

**TOP 10 SONGS**Sept. 6  
to Sept. 13

1	Foals	Ben Rogers
	What Went Down	The Bloodred Yonder
2	Battles	FIDLAR
	La Di Da Di	Too
3	FKA Twigs	Homeshake
	M1LL355X	Midnight Snack
4	Meat Wave	Diane Coffee
	Delusion Moon	Everybody's a Good Dog
5	Beach House	The Mae Trio
	Depression Cherry	Housewarming

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## Communication Week Brings Networking Opportunities

A networking session during a previous Communication Week brought students and professionals together.

**MARY KNIGHT**  
REPORTER  
[mknig512@uwsp.edu](mailto:mknig512@uwsp.edu)

Communication and arts management students will have a chance to network with professionals during the Division of Communication's annual Communication Week.

Beginning Sept. 28, the event will bring UWSP alumni to campus to speak to students about their careers. The event gives current students the opportunity to explore and learn about the many different paths others have taken and net-

work with professionals.

Alumni presentations will be in various communication and arts management courses relating to the profession of the featured speaker. Other activities for the event include networking times with each individual speaker, where many will give advice about opportunities for students.

"Communication is a very diverse field and sometimes in students' minds, it's so diverse that it's hard to imagine which kind of career path you might take," said Timothy Halkowski, interim division head of the Division of Com-

munication.

Maggie Marquart, director of development for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, will be one of the many speakers during Communication Week. She is a graduate of the arts management program and hopes students take advantage of the networking time with the alumni.

"Look for people who have jobs that seem interesting to you. Ask them how they got to what they are doing now. It's an important skill to be able to call upon people and introduce yourself and learn to make those face to face connections with

people," Marquart said.

Aaron Krish, a 2013 graduate of the communication program, will also be speaking. Krish is currently employed as an account coordinator at public relations firm C. Blohm and Associates in Madison and is looking forward to being a source of advice for students.

"When you're looking for a career you really have to love what you do. Don't be afraid of trying something new. Be fearless and take a chance at a new opportunity even if you do not have a lot of experience in it," Krish said.

### EVENTS IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

#### SEPT. 15

6 P.M.  
**Diversity Debunked**  
*DUC Lair Room*

7:30 P.M.  
**Trivia night**  
*Brewhaus*

#### SEPT. 17

8 P.M.  
**Comedian**  
**Tracey Ashley**  
*DUC Encore*

#### SEPT. 18

8-10 P.M.  
**Wick-it the Instigator**  
**with Space Mason**  
*DUC Encore*

#### SEPT. 19

10-11:45 P.M.  
**Poetry Slam**  
*DUC Alumni Room*

# Coffee and Culture Gives Students New Perspective

MARY KNIGHT  
REPORTER  
[mknig512@uwsp.edu](mailto:mknig512@uwsp.edu)

Coffee and Culture, a diversity series hosted by the Student Involvement and Employment Office, attracts hundreds of students annually for discussions about various topics.

The series' first event is Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. in the DUC Laird Room.

Ron Strege, director of Diversity and College Access, will be speaking at the first program, *Diversity Debunked*. It will be an open discussion

about race, ethnicity and gender issues, and Strege hopes students who attend the program will leave with a better understanding of others and themselves.

"I want students to understand that every single person comes to the table with a story. We all have something that defines us. Not everyone is defined by their religion. Not everyone is defined by their ethnicity. Not everyone is defined by their sexual orientation," Strege said.

Mariah Pfundheller, student leadership and marketing coordinator for

the SIEO, said the program provides a safe place for students, faculty and staff to share their beliefs and stories about culture, race, ethnicities and other diversity-related issues.

Throughout the fall semester, faculty, staff, various organizations and students will present for the series, which includes topics like atheism, Hmong-Americans and disabilities. The speakers range from the UWSP Student Secular Alliance to The Veteran's Club.

Elizabeth Gillmore, greek life and leadership coordinator for SIEO,

believes the positive feedback and support from students and faculty is the most rewarding aspect of the program.

"Students learn about biases that they never knew they had. They feel more welcome as a member of our community on campus. They have their eyes opened to things that they just never knew about," Gillmore said.

Registration for Coffee and Culture programs is available on the SIEO website.



Photos by Emily Hoffmann  
Students learn about various diversity topics throughout the series.

