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Photo by Lily Dettle

Leadership Changes in the COFAC

MARY KNIGHT
REPORTER
mknig512@uwsp.edu

In June, Rhonda Sprague, former head of the Division of Communication, was named interim dean for the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

The position remains vacant since former College of Fine Arts

Dean Jeff Morin resigned last spring.

Provost and Vice Chancellor Greg Summers said Sprague will serve as the interim dean for approximately two years. Administration is planning to fill the position permanently in the 2016-2017 academic year.

While interim dean, Sprague will be responsible for overseeing the four academic departments

within the COFAC and managing the college's budget. She will also serve as the main communicator between administrators and departments.

Sprague came to UWSP in 1998 as an assistant professor in interpersonal communication. She has been the head of the Division of Communication and associate dean for the COFAC for the last three years.

"Rhonda has always been committed to greatness at whatever she does. She makes herself available to students, is very easy to talk to, communicates quick and efficiently and gets the job done right," said Matt Grutza, Student Government Association senator.

While holding the interim dean position, Sprague hopes to strengthen and expand the co-curricular ac-

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Outdoor Edventures Merges with Intramurals

AVERY JEHNKE
REPORTER
ajehn738@uwsp.edu

Although Outdoor Edventures is no more, students are still able to rent equipment like canoes, sleeping bags and skis.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point eliminated Outdoor Edventures during state budget reductions but decided to keep parts of the program alive by merging it with Intramurals to create Intramurals and Outdoor Rentals.

The new program does not offer Outdoor Edventures' signature clinics and trips. Last year trips included ice climbing, skiing and exploring Zion and Arches National Parks during

Rental rates have not changed, and the same equipment, which is stored in the HEC, is available. Outdoor Edventures' former space in the Allen Center is now a cycling studio.

Despite being disappointed the program is gone, Lockwood said the merge may be a more efficient way for students to learn about and access the service.

"Tons of people play intramurals and walk the the HEC everyday," Lockwood said. "There might be more students using that equipment this year which is good."

Ethan Quimby and Alex Cheban, student staff members of Intramurals, said there have been few issues during the transition, and most were related to the electronic payment system.



Photo by Lily Dettle
Students are still able to rent equipment.

spring break. The recreational activities coordinator coordinated many of those trips, and that position has been eliminated.

Andrew Lockwood, senior fisheries and biology major, said he is concerned about the future of the clinics and trips that made Outdoor Edventures unique.

"There are a lot of kids that come to Point looking for things like that and now they're on their own," Lockwood said. "I feel bad that the freshman don't have that available. It was one of the cool things about the university."

They said they see the merge as a way to improve and expand each program.

"I don't think we'll miss a beat," Cheban said. "It's only gonna help."

The intramurals office is located in a high traffic area of campus and is more visible to students than the former Allen Center basement location. It reported having 9,087 student participants in intramural activities last year.

"It might be easier to find us. It's closer to campus," Quimby said. "We'll let everyone know, 'hey you can do this here.'"

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Sunday, Aug. 30

Protective Services received to a call from Pray Sims Hall about individuals stuck in an elevator.

A male was stopped off campus and said there were lazar pointers being pointed at him.

Monday, Aug. 31

An individual who had locked their keys in their car notified PS of the incident. They proceeded to attempt to break into their own car to retrieve the keys.

A fire alarm was triggered in the HEC due to burned popcorn in a microwave, staff said.

Tuesday, Sept. 1

The Stevens Point Police Department responded to a complaint of a vehicle that had egged pedestrians on Isadore Street and Maria Drive.

Wednesday, Sept. 2

The SPPD placed a call to PS and asked if one of their officers could accompany another SPPD at Thomson Hall with an intoxicated individual.

An individual reported their iPad stolen from the NFAC but said they may have left it at their house.

Thursday, Sept. 3

An art professor called to report two of her students having had money stolen from their wallets that had been left inside the unlocked classroom while the class was outside making art.

Two students with marijuana and paraphernalia were found at the pavilion by rangers. When the rangers had tried to make contact with the students, they took off leaving the marijuana and paraphernalia behind.

Friday, Sept. 4

PS was informed about a suspicious vehicle parked in the Schmeckle parking lot.

PS was informed of a male individual who had been seen crawling into a window at the CAC.

Saturday, Sept. 5

A male individual, who had been struggling to walk, was pulling on the NFAC doors trying to get into the building.

PS responded to two males who were acting as if they were ready to fight. A fight arose later, with the SPPD called in for backup.

THE POINTER

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Differential Tuition: More Classes, More Advisors, More money?

CHRIS SLATTERY
REPORTER
cslat108@uwsp.edu

Many students either experience, or have a friend who knows first-hand, the reality of super-senior life.

For the past six years, the Student Government Association has sought to implement differential tuition, an additional tuition, as a solution to the five or six-year graduation model many students deal with.

According to the University of Wisconsin System's website, "institution-wide differential tuition is defined as tuition that is added to the base tuition level set by the Board of Regents to supplement services and programming for students within that institution above and beyond existing activities supported by general program revenue and program revenue funding."

Because UW-Stevens Point could implement differential tuition, SGA will hold a university-wide student referendum Nov. 11 and 12 asking students if they support it.

Adding differential tuition would cost students \$200 more per semester, making UWSP the sixth-most-expensive university in

the UW System at \$7,687 per semester, based on pricing for the 2014-15 academic year.

But the money could work toward eliminating bottleneck courses and increasing academic advising on campus, both of which have been blamed for keeping students in school longer than necessary. The extra \$200 could create 160 course offerings and about 20 faculty positions designated to high-demand areas that currently lack courses or instructors. Funding could also be put toward 12 full-time academic advisers in high-demand areas.

If students approve a differential tuition program, the first priority would be setting up a differential tuition advisory board, Chancellor Bernie Patterson said. The board would evaluate where high-demand areas are on campus and allocate funding.

"The key to differential is its flexibility. The high-demand areas would be assessed on a regular basis, and if the areas change, then the advisory board will re-allocate."

Differential tuition also has an escape clause, which allows the board or SGA to end the program if needed. The clause is unique to UWSP.

"Providing students with an es-



Photo by Emily Hoffmann
Vote on the referendum Nov. 11 and 12.

cape clause...means that we have more power, more say," SGA Vice President Amy Vida said. "Students have leverage, an ability to decide, should they feel differential tuition isn't doing what it is supposed to, not serving student needs, that it ought to end."

Although differential tuition seems to be a solution to the current budget cuts UWSP faces, Patterson said this is not the case. Differential tuition is funding on top of what the university is already charging and could not be used to fill budget lapses.

Students Ditch Organics, Cook to Save Money

CAROLINE CHALK
REPORTER
cchal845@uwsp.edu

Attempting to eat healthily, with a college budget, is a challenge for many students living off campus who prepare their own food.

Kasea Roman, senior special education major, lives off campus and maintains a healthy diet while budgeting her money. Before going to Trigs, Roman makes sure to cut out coupons she gets in the mail.

"Because I am on such a tight budget, I prefer not to buy organic foods. Eating organic is a personal choice, but for me and what I strive for in my nutrition I don't feel that I need to eat organic. It's so much more expensive," Roman said.

Students are saving money by cooking their own meals, rather than eating out.

Students are saving money by cooking their own meals, rather than eating out.

In addition to not eating organic food, Roman also prefers buying frozen fruit over fresh, because it is cheaper.

"My boyfriend and I try to limit how much we eat out. We eat out once every two weeks. We do try to limit it, because if you start making a habit out of it you're going to end up spending a lot more money than you want to," Ro-

man said.

Roman enjoys cooking at home, chicken being one of her favorite things to prepare.

"I make chicken three to five times a week. I love doing anything with chicken. My favorite is probably a lemon chicken pasta. I use whole wheat noodles and then I bake chicken in some lemon juice," Roman said.

Kat Taylor, junior arts management major, has also been enjoying cooking her own meals at her new apartment.

"Now that I am living in an apartment I am constantly thinking about what I have in my fridge and utilizing my leftovers. I like to make sure I eat the food that I have before it goes bad, that way I don't waste food," Taylor said.

Taylor tries to buy food in bulk so that she can use her money more efficiently.

"When I buy products from the grocery store, I try and look at the ingredients in the products, and buy products with fewer ingredients because they are less processed," Taylor said.

Like Roman, Taylor also chooses to budget her money by only eating out occasionally.

"I always feel better about myself when I prepare a healthy meal at home as opposed to eating out. It's nice cooking for myself because then I can control what goes into my food," Taylor said.



Photo by Allison Birt
Students are cooking at home.

UWSP Athletics Start with Wins and High Scoring

MARTY KAUFFMAN
SPORTS EDITOR
mkauf036@uwsp.edu

Football team loses to Abion College

The football season kicked into high gear for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point as the Pointers fell to Albion College 65-52.

The 117 point game was the highest scoring game in school history. With a 45-44 lead in the fourth quarter, UWSP could not hold the position as the Britons scored 21 unanswered points for the win. Wright_color_Jack McLaughlin, actionpointphoto.com 2

Junior Quarterback Kyle Larson and Matt Sosinsky, senior wide receiver, led the offense with 540 yards. Larson threw for 389 yards and five touchdowns, which were career highs. He also had three interceptions. Sosinsky caught nine passes for 195 yards and three touchdowns, which were also career highs.

On the ground, Running Back De'Juan Wright ran 18 times for 119 yards, gaining two touchdowns. Junior Defensive Back Deion Jones led UWSP with nine tackles. After a bye week, the Pointers face Coe College on Sept. 19 in UWSP's home opener, which is the annual Pink Game and Spud Bowl.

Volleyball team starts strong

Ranked No. 7 in the nation, the Pointers volleyball team began the season with four straight wins at the Ground Round Sugar Loaf Classic in Winona.

All four wins were 3-0 sweeps, which the Pointers have done 26 times in their last 35 wins. Senior Middle Blocker Emma Brunkhorst and Brittany Laffin, freshman setter, were named to the All-Tournament



Photos by Jack McLaughlin
The Pointers lost to Abion College 65-52.

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SPORTS SCHEDULE

WOMEN'S SOCCER	WOMEN'S TENNIS	VOLLEYBALL	WOMEN'S GOLF	CROSS COUNTRY
Sept. 9 @ 4 p.m. at University of Chicago	Sept. 10 @ 5 p.m. at St. Norbert	Sept. 11 @ 3 p.m. vs Hamline @ 7 p.m. vs John Carroll	Sept. 12 at Marian Fall Invite	Sept. 12 at Concordia(Wis.) Invitational
Sept. 11 @ 4 p.m. vs Edgewood	Sept. 12 @ 10 a.m. at Mount Mary/ M.S.O.E	Sept. 12 @ 12 p.m. vs Bethel @ 4 p.m. vs Concordia-Moorhead		

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team. Brunkhorst averaged 3.42 kills and hit .360 a set, while Laffin averaged 12.08 assists a set.

The Pointers return to action Sept. 11-12, hosting the UWSP Invitational.

Soccer team wins first home game

After opening the season with a loss at St. Thomas, the women's soccer team defeated Concordia-Chicago 2-1 on Sept. 4 in the Pointers home opener.

Forwards Sarah Meylor and Kelsey Schneider each tallied a goal leading the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point to victory. Senior goaltender Kristen Churkey made four saves in net. The win was the first under new head coach Dawn Crow.

The following day, UWSP traveled to face Macalester where the Pointers fell 1-0. UWSP was held to one shot on goal, while Macalester scored the lone goal with six shots on net. The team travels to the University of Chicago on Sept.9 for its next game.



Photos by Jack McLaughlin

The soccer team won its first home game 2-1.

Tennis team opens with wins

The UWSP tennis team opened the season with two wins over Wisconsin Lutheran and Alverno on Sept.6.

UWSP defeated Wisconsin Lutheran 8-1 with wins in singles and doubles competition from juniors Katelyn Asfeld, Emily Kleist, sophomore Nicole Thorson and freshman Jordan Tyjeski. Winning 6-3 against Alverno, the Pointers swept doubles competition. Tyjeski added two more wins and is now 4-0 starting her college career.

UWSP plays next at St. Norbert College on Sept. 10.



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The Smaller Bigger 'World of The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt'

Photo courtesy of thewitcher.com

PAUL GROSSKOPF
REPORTER
pgros301@uwsp.edu

I've always felt somewhat lonely while playing open-world role-playing games.

While single-player gaming often demands a certain level of isolation, this feeling also depicts the nature of this particular game style.

They are constantly getting bigger and more open. With each new release, whether it's "Skyrim," "Fallout 3" or "Borderlands," the constant drive for developers revolves around throwing the player into larger worlds filled with quests, characters and environments they can explore or interact with as they please.

In many ways, CD Projekt Red's "The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt" is defined by this design philosophy.

The Witcher 3 is a role-playing game where you are sent to save the world from space elves.

The Witcher 3 is a role-playing game, sending players to save the

world from space elves.

The game's premise is appropriately grand. The titular witcher Geralt, a mutated samurai who hunts monsters, is tasked with saving the world from a horde of space elves. Yes, it is as awesome as it sounds.

The witcher must preform the task while two huge factions battle for dominion over the northern realms where the story takes place. Witchers are often feared or discriminated against, adding to the challenge.

The game's world is vast, encompassing five gigantic, playable areas, which many times are accessible only by boat, ranging from the bustling urban labyrinth of Novigrad to the scattered islands of Skellige. The narrative itself also plays into this idea, with players being able to directly shape the story through their decisions.

Even though the size and scope of this game are undeniably impressive, the most admirable quality of "The Witcher 3" is how it often scales back or limits the player's in-

fluence in the game.

As I mentioned, I feel a loneliness when playing these games, and I believe it stems from a certain detachment that exists between the player and the world around them. After all, players can customize their characters to be anything from a murderous thief to a battlemage of any age, origin, gender or species, and the developer in turn must design a world that can accommodate them.

While the intention to accommodate the player's influence is certainly present in games like "Skyrim" or "Fallout 3," building a system to account for all these factors and nuances would be too difficult from a design perspective. As a result, many open-world games often make these characteristics irrelevant to the way the player interacts with the world. In turn, a mechanic that should aid in immersion or connecting and communicating with the player actually transforms it into one that hinders this goal.

By taking a certain amount of

control away from the player "The Witcher 3" manages to avoid the detaching the player. For example, Geralt is by default always going to be a witcher, and as a result, the developers can craft intricate and meaningful stories in which his profession or identity affect the way others view or treat him.

This improvement is also reflected in the mechanics, with the developers being able to design their game's combat and combat scenarios around swordplay augmented by magic and alchemy, instead of trying to make the same controls and levels designed around swordplay just as accessible to ranged combat or stealth.

By skillfully taking away control from the player, "The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt" immerses the player in a richer world that connects more directly and meaningfully through its game play and storytelling. The game's world is ultimately made bigger by becoming smaller.

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tivities the COFAC provides and to also create more real-life experiences where students could apply the skills they learn in the classroom. She wants to create opportunities that help students grow professionally and build strong resumes for the working world.

Sprague said she will not be teaching classes because she wants to obtain a solid grip on her new position, especially with budget management. She will miss how rewarding teaching courses is.

"I am excited to really get to know more of the people who are over here. I'm excited to have an opportunity to interact with more of the students that we have. I'm looking forward to hearing singing in the hallways. I'm looking forward to walking through the courtyard and seeing all sorts of things up," Sprague said.

Communication professor Timothy Halkowski has taken over as interim head of the Division of Communication for this year. According to Sprague, a committee of faculty, staff and students will be formed next fall to begin a nationwide search to fill the COFAC dean position permanently.



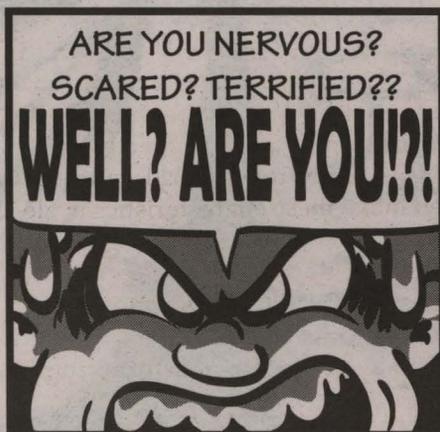
Photo courtesy of <http://miron-construction.com>

The Noel Fine Arts Center houses most of the COFAC.

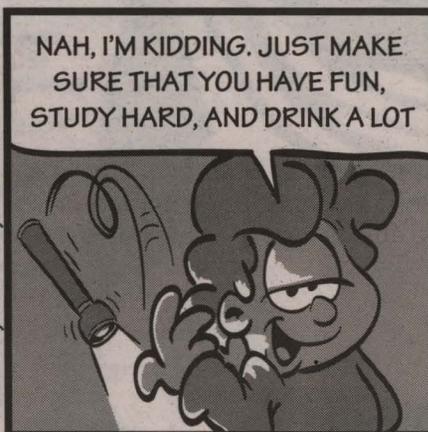
EVENTS IN ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEPT. 9	SEPT. 10	SEPT. 11	SEPT. 12
<p>@ 7 P.M. and 9:30 P.M.</p> <p>Pitch Perfect 2 DUC Theatre</p>	<p>@ 7:30 P.M.</p> <p>Faculty Recital- Steven Bjella (violin) Michelsen Hall</p>	<p>@ 8 P.M.</p> <p>Make Your Own Mason Jar Encore, DUC</p>	<p>@ 10 P.M.</p> <p>Tye Dye and Toppers Alumni Room, DUC</p>
	<p>6-8 P.M.</p> <p>Student Org Fair Laird, Encore and Concourse</p>	<p>@ 7 P.M. and 9:30 P.M.</p> <p>Pitch Perfect 2 DUC Theatre</p>	<p>@ 8 P.M.</p> <p>Whosah w/ The Last 3 Flavors Encore, DUC</p>

Life By Jonathan Seymour



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Veteran Print Project Exhibit Brings Together Student Artists and Veterans

MARY KNIGHT
REPORTER
mknig512@uwsp.edu

The Carlsten Art Gallery is displaying The Veteran Print Project, a collaborative exhibit between University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student artists and veterans.

Art students from professor Robert Erickson's spring printmaking class worked with veterans from the First-Year Seminar "Back from the Front: Transition from the Military to Civilian Life" to create pieces for the exhibit.

"It's a conversation both for the veterans, where they can have their stories be told, but it is also for the art students because many of them, while they may know some veterans, have never actually talked to a veteran about their experiences," Erickson said.

The FYS course, taught by assistant history lecturer David Chrisinger, is specifically for veterans and focuses on helping acclimate them to campus life and be successful in college. Chrisinger said he had the idea to have students work with artists early on.

"I approached Professor Erickson over winter break last year with this idea, and he was on board right away," Chrisinger said.

The Veteran Print Project is a Wisconsin-based organization founded by veteran Yvette Pino. Chrisinger met her three years ago and was inspired by the organization. Once he began teaching the course, he thought it was a great opportunity to incorporate The Veteran Print Project at UWSP.

Each veteran from the class was paired with an art student whom they exchanged stories of their time in the military. The printmaking students then recreated the stories in each design they made.

"They were not only testifying to their story but bearing witness to it. There's something very profound about having experiences filtered through someone else's lens," Chrisinger said.

The collaboration is beneficial for the student artists and veterans, Chrisinger said, by making the veterans feel a sense of belonging on campus and giving the artists a new perspective on military life.

"It was a very interesting project for me to do. I found that once I applied my method of printmaking to the story, the image unfolded," said Emily Kuchenbecker, printmaking student.

The Veteran Print Project has been on display throughout the summer and will continue to be until Sept. 14. A closing reception for the exhibit will take place the same day at 4 p.m. and is open to the public.

"I think one of the more rewarding ideas is to see the art students grow. To see them grow like that and to understand something, is incredibly rewarding. It just broadened their world," Erickson said.

The Carlsten Gallery, located inside the Noel Fine Arts Center, is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Prints are also on display in the Kenosha Public Museum and Edgewood College in Madison.



Photos courtesy of Edna Carlsten Art Gallery at UWSP
Prints on display until Sept. 14.

