Official launch of WIST brings bright energy future to UWSP

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's future as a center for the development of alternative energy was realized last Wednesday. Rep. Dave Obey was at UWSP to commemorate the official launch of the Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology, or WIST.

Obey has been crucial in securing federal dollars for the creation of WIST since it was first conceived roughly four years ago.

WIST is a wide-ranging, interdisciplinary institute that strives to create long-term environmental sustainability by promoting three core functions: research, laboratory services,

See WIST, page 3

Students turn out for primary election

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Primary elections were held Tuesday for state and federal congressional seats, as well as Wisconsin governor and other state and county positions. Staff were on hand at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Dreysus University Center to help voters cast their ballots.

Primary elections are contests where candidates run against others in their own party to gain its backing going into the general election in which they run against everyone else.

"There's definitely some different strategy that goes into voting in a primary," said Jake Schroeder, a junior and music education major, "If the candidate I want to win the general election has two opponents in the opposite party, sometimes I'll vote for whichever one I think my candidate can beat."

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Check out The Pointer Online to hear the full recording of our interview with Chancellor Bernie Patterson on a podcast called 'Chat with the Chancellor.'

If you have a question you would like us to ask the Chancellor on your behalf, e-mail pointnp@uwsp.edu for your question to be considered and read on-air.

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Election/Students come out to voice their opinions

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In other words, some voters choose not to vote for the candidate they want to win, but for the candidate they think can be beaten. In any case, Schroeder said that primary voting is important because it determines who’s on the final ballot and who is voting your constitutional right, and one should take advantage of it whenever possible.

Greg Hartman, senior sociology and political science major, said, “It’s important to choose the candidates you want to represent you and not leave the final ballot up to chance, even if you don’t identify with a specific party.” Hartman also said that if you don’t vote, you can’t do any complaining about who’s running our country.

Widespread campaigns have been underway in just about every medium possible for some time now. This year has seen some of the most expensive and widespread campaigns in U.S. history, thanks in part to a Supreme Court ruling allowing corporations and unions to donate much more money to candidates than in the past.

Hartman is upset by this change in the law, and said, “It’s really troubling to see that these huge corporations could potentially just start buying elections. I don’t think it’s fair to candidates or individual voters,” he said.

Campaigning went through campus and both the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, College Democrats and UWSW College Republicans student groups (and even some of the candidates) were in the Dreyfus University Center on Monday with information for would-be voters passing by. The scene Tuesday was much quieter, however, as any campaigning near polling sites is against the law.

Primary elections are important, but this is all just the beginning. Winners from Tuesday’s elections will run against their opponents in the general election on Nov. 2. Hartman said he wished more students would’ve voted on Tuesday, and thinks “the governor’s race will bring out a lot of students in November.”
WIST/UWSP research creates renewable bio-fuel

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and education. The institute itself is a collaborative effort amongst students, faculty and researchers, with each playing a vital role in WIST's goals.

The over-arching goal of WIST, through these three functions, is to help develop alternative energy technologies that are not reliant on fossil fuels for their creation. Eric Singsaas, associate professor of biology and the director of research for WIST, stresses this as a main goal for the institute.

"Our main goal for the broader community is to move us from old fossil fuel-based, manufacturing-based industries into the green economy, into new cleaner industries," said Singsaas.

WIST will do this, in part, by placing a huge focus on converting commonly used agricultural and forest products into fuels and other industrial materials. Singsaas specifically highlighted hybrid poplar as a key commodity to be used in research, as it is widely used by the paper industry.

Other future energy crops include switchgrass and miscanthus grass, as well as pulp mill sludge, which is a waste product from paper factories. Eighty tons of this sludge are produced per day and placed in a landfill; however, 50 percent of this amount can actually be converted into sugars, which can be used to make fuel.

Another material that shows promise as a versatile fuel source is the compound isoprene, which can be altered in form to create various fuels. Don Guay, assistant professor of paper science and engineering and director of laboratory services for WIST, speaks to the energy possibilities of this volatile and energy-dense liquid.

"[Isoprene] is sort of a building block...if you put two or three together, now you're in the range of gasoline...and it actually has more energy per gallon than gasoline does," said Guay.

When conducting research on materials such as these, WIST will work in partnership with paper, engineering and biotechnology companies to develop new, sustainable technologies. On campus, WIST has around six to seven students per semester conducting research, and if additional programs are added on top of the bio-fuel research currently underway, that number could expand to 60 to 100 students per program.

The creation of a bio-fuels minor as well as a renewable energy minor are also main emphases of WIST's plan for education. Gerry Ring, chair of the department of paper science and engineering and director of education for WIST, mentions this as his primary concentration.

"Right now, my major projects are to create minors or certificate programs in bio-fuel technology or renewable energy. A secondary goal is to bring resource-generating education programs for industry," said Ring.

Ring says he hopes such programs will generate new industries and foster greater academic excellence at UWSP. Programs created by WIST will attract highly educated people to the area, as well as high-tech companies that want to become research partners with WIST. To help the institute succeed, Ring envisions WIST as a truly interdisciplinary program in which all of the colleges can participate.

If WIST succeeds in its goals, Stevens Point would become a hub of alternative energy education and research, and the community would have a bright future both economically and environmentally.

Flags/Fallen remembered

continued from page 1

They placed a flag for every worker, citizen and hero that died that day, 2,976 in total. Not only were these flags for the people that lost their lives that day, they were also in remembrance of those who lost their families that fateful day.

Chairman of the College Republicans, Patrick Testin, said, "It does seem like there are a number of people who have become apathetic to the day, which is why it is important that we participate in these memorials so that people will be reminded that freedom isn't free and that there are people in this world who would love nothing more than to see our great county burn."

The memorial touched both students and residents that walked by on Saturday. Jake Schroeder, a junior music education major, said, "I think the memorial...was good because it brought awareness to the day without being pushy or offensive toward anyone."

Testin stated, "In the case of the 9/11 project, it is important to put politics aside for a day and remember that we can never take our freedom for granted and to honor those who died as well as honor those who fight for us overseas to protect our liberties and freedoms."

The flags reminded students on Saturday to spare a moment of silence to remember how many lives were lost or changed nine years ago.
The Spud Bowl is this weekend and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point football team is gearing up to win it. The match is set to have The Pointers spar against the Missouri Science & Technology Miners at Goerke Park this Saturday. After a disappointing loss on Sept. 4 against Willamette University, the team is planning on making some adjustments to how they play.

The UWSP football team anticipated a strong start to the season. Their expectations fell short with the Missouri Science & Technology Miners last two seasons, and hold a record of 20-2 for the Spud Bowl.

The team is aiming for a top finish in their conference this season, especially under the direction of Coach Stacey White. The team fired up, and we do wear spandex.
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Green Bay Packers managed to come two interceptions. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers completed 19 of 31 passes for 188 yards out on top Sunday with a 27-20 victory over the Philadelphia Eagles.

Rookie quarterback for the Eagles, Kevin Kolb had an abbreviated debut after being tested on the sidelines for a concussion, which was later verified.

The Eagles were not ready to submit, however. After starter Kolb was sidelined, Michael Vick stepped into the huddle and sparked Philadelphia's near comeback.

The Eagles were losing quarterback for the Eagles, Kevin Kolb had an abbreviated debut after being tested on the sidelines for a concussion, the Eagles next game. Bradley was also added, "It's a way to bond and to come together with some of your best friends, while participating in a sport you all like."

With the exception of the loss of Grant, Green Bay came out of the game healthy and with a solid performance to hang their hat on.

An especially bright spot for the Packers' defense was the play of second year linebacker Clay Matthews. Matthews had two sacks, seven tackles, including the fourth down stop of Vick and a forced fumble against the Eagles. Matthews was plagued during the preseason with a nagging hamstring injury but appears to have bounced back well.

While the Eagles have some definite issues to attend to before they return to action, the Packers appear ready to hit the turf running. The Packers next game is at 12 p.m. this Sunday, Sept. 19 against the Buffalo Bills at Lambeau Field.
Due to a housing shortage this semester, every kitchen in the dorm halls, excluding the ones in the basements, have been turned into dorm rooms. The kitchen rooms in the dorms are approximately twice the size of regular dorm rooms and house three residents each. The room provides a full kitchen to the students as well as a wardrobe to make up for not having a closet. The cost of the kitchen rooms are the same as living in a double room in a renovated hall, $1,819 per semester.

For the students living in the kitchen rooms, it’s a different experience than most and all have their reasons for choosing to live in them.

Sophomores Emily Loose, Kaitlyn Buchholz and Communicational Disorders major Chelsey Marcelina live in a kitchen dorm because Chelsey has food allergies.

In Hansen hall, Jerry Adams, Phillip Johnson, Christopher Bennett and Jeff Skoug don’t usually use their actual kitchen. They mostly have easy mac and frozen pizza for dinner, and they utilize the space instead for movie nights.

In Baldwin hall, Joe Sawyer, Matt Sallimen and Noah Salmeri decided to get a kitchen room for many reasons. Because of the large open space, it’s perfect for hanging out with friends. Having a kitchen all to yourself has its benefits. When the kitchen rooms used to be actual communal kitchens, the cleanliness was always up to the people on the floor, the cleanliness wasn’t always reliable. What Salmeri likes about having the kitchen to himself, is that he can keep the kitchen as clean as he would like it to be. It also helps to have a sink in the room so they don’t have to walk to the bathroom to brush their teeth.

These students are excited about being able to experience their year in the kitchen; it has a lot of perks.
In the not too distant past, a number of unusual phrases that had never before been uttered entered our everyday lexicon.

"Will you tag me in that?"

"Write on my wall."

"Facebook me."

While all these things are great and good, there is some Facebook activity that makes you not only a bad Facebook friend, but also a bad person.

1. Don’t poke me anymore. That is so 2006. Also, quit throwing sheep. These things prove no actual purpose and make me no longer want to be your friend.

2. I don’t care about your relationship. If you are sad because someone said something insensitive, I don’t care. If you are lonely, go out and find someone instead of sitting at home on Facebook with your cats.

3. Stop telling me happy birthday. I know it’s my birthday. I appreciate your thoughts, but getting 200 birthday messages clogs up my inbox and clutters my life. Call me. If you matter, you’ll have my phone number.

4. I don’t need your schedule. You are a working student. The fact that you are going to class and then work and then doing homework is not lost on me. I managed to figure it all out myself. Also, I don’t care if you are drinking, what you’re drinking, or how much you are drinking. Just freaking drink it.

5. Farmville is stupid. I hope your cows die.

6. Stop tagging me in your collages. If your nose is accidentally in a picture, don’t tag me in it.

7. If half my mouth a little. If you matter, you’ll have my phone number.

8. I don’t want to join your virtual group that does nothing.


10. If. I haven’t seen you in 10 years, we are no longer friends. Stop commenting on my stuff.


Follow these 10 simple rules for Facebooking and you will be a better person. Trust me. We’ll be friends forever.

WISPIRG brings Day of Service to Stevens Point

MARTIN SMITH
MSMIT816@UWSP.EDU

The Wisconsin Student Public Interest Research Group, Stevens Point chapter, hosted a day of service last Saturday in remembrance of the victims of Sept. 11. Members described the “day of service” as a volunteer-run event, where citizens go out and support their community.

Members of WISPIRG set up a site at the local farmers’ market on Main Street and asked locals for donations for the Salvation Army. On this first event of the year, they hoped to raise $150 in donations, which would be the equivalent of 75 meals for those struck by poverty.

WISPIRG is a student-run organization that exists in 26 states across the country. Their mission is to enhance the nation by raising awareness of social and political issues.

WISPIRG’s many accomplishments nationwide include a local success last spring, when they raised over $2,000 for the victims of the massive earthquake in Haiti.

Other events last year included an “Undie-Run”, where volunteers took part in a short race through campus. At the end of the run, participants stripped down to their underwear and donated all clothes to charity.

Also last year, they accumulated over 300 petitions addressed to our state senators in support of clean energy legislation.

At the community farmer’s market, WISPIRG organizer Catherine Ludwig, along with three interns, collect donations to provide meals at the Salvation Army.

See WISPIRG, page 12
Dear 16 year old self,

SAMANTHA FELD
sfeld857@uwsp.edu

We just wanted to let you know that in four years, all the things you are worrying about right now, won't matter.

Focus on yourself. People are so worried about what everyone else thinks of them that they will help you grow. Although it is true adults care about what others think of them right now, and focusing on yourself will help you grow. Although it is true adults care about what others think of them right now, and focusing on yourself will help you grow.

"Know thyself" Socrates said. Try to be more aware of yourself, as it will help you in the future.

Start exploring every inch of this earth now, and never stop. Know that life is too long to stare at a blank piece of paper, so create something beautiful every day.

Learn all you can right now. Even if it means learning to do your own laundry and cooking.

Know that your parents aren't the root of all evil. They have actually "been there."

Side note; don't give in to the logo t-shirt craze. I promise it won't make you any cooler.

Resist the urge to spend your life savings on the homecoming of your dreams. Spend your money on ballet dance lessons with your date, because grinding is not dancing. Vintage is pretty edgy, I promise. You have feet. Use them, Mother earth would thank you. In four years no one will remember who had the "cool car" and who didn't. Sincerely, your future (and better) self.

POINTLIFE

Pointer of the Week: Brandon Taylor

Brandon Taylor has served overseas twice, and now he is serving another important purpose as President of the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Vet's Club.

Taylor, a senior political science major, served in Iraq in 2003 and then in 2004 through part of 2005.

He served mostly in the 498th Medical Company, and part of his job was to haul wounded people off of the battlefield. He said his buddies would make fun of him for it, but there was one thing about Iraq that made everything just a bit better.

"The best part of Iraq was the night sky," said Taylor. "The sky was just bigger, and had a lot more stars than here."

In addition to serving in Iraq, he also assisted with search and rescue missions after Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita.

After he returned, he wanted to meet other veterans who attended college, so he decided to get involved in the vet's club on campus.

He has now moved up to become president of the club. He said the attendance is always fluctuating, but it usually hovers at around 60 members.

"At the meetings, there is usually a good amount of teasing," said Taylor. "We also help vets on campus and do fundraising and community service."

He said that he sees a need for a club like this on campus for the large number of vets that attend UWSP. "Veterans keep to themselves or tend not to talk to a lot of the students," said Taylor. "I see a need for it, for everyone who has a need."

He said it is a great safe landing zone, and is a place for them to meet and relate to each other.

Taylor has done many important things in his life, and he has aspirations to accomplish much more while being president.

Ann Whipp, the veterans coordinator on campus, said that the exact number of veterans on campus is hard to gauge but is around 300.

"I think [this club] is great, particularly socially," said Whipp. "They think they are different from others and this is a good outlet for them."

She also said that they have great initiatives throughout the year. Some of the projects the vet's club has accomplished are going to conferences, being a part of Student Vets of America and they have also sent care packages overseas.

For those who would like to attend the meetings, being a veteran is not a requirement, but is preferred. The club's location is in 7011 of the DUC, near PRSSA and WISPRIG headquarters.

The meetings will be held every other Monday at 4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, you can contact Brandon at btayl443@uwsp.edu.

Thinking about a semester abroad soon? Meet representatives from our partner universities abroad:

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EDUCATION ABROAD ADVISER
MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1:30 TO 2:30, 224 CPC

MS. SARAH BRECKENRIDGE O’CONNOR,
STUDY ABROAD RECRUITMENT MANAGER
LIVERPOOL HOPE UNIVERSITY, ENGLAND
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1:30 TO 2:30, 214 CCC

DR. LIAM O’DOCHARTAIGH,
DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK – IRELAND
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2:30 TO 4:00, 224 CCC

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The editorial board, consisting of Kaitlyn Luckow, Ramone Sanders, Aaron Osowski, and Samantha Feld, writes to their 16 year-old selves.
Certain truths are self-evident to the mind

DUSTIN KLEIN
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In a world where we hold certain truths to be self evident, it is remarkable that so many will still, never realize them.

Political discourse in the United States has effectively died. Between radicals and reactionaries, the middle is becoming drowned out, and you and I must suffer the consequences.

Between radicals and reactionaries, the middle is becoming drowned out, and you and I must suffer the consequences.

JOHN LEE
jlee6@uwsp.edu

When the Constitution and the Bill of Rights were first written, it was written by men who believed that the only rights that people are born with are "negative rights" such as freedom of speech, freedom of worship, habeas corpus, and the right to bear arms; rights which limit the government's power to act. In other words, negative rights guarantee law abiding citizens the right to be left alone by the government.

In contrast, however, most libertarians advocate "positive rights," which are rights that oblige the government to take action. The greatest perpetrator who attempted to unleash this heathen word of positive rights upon us was none other than President Franklin Roosevelt via his (thankfully ignored) proposed Second Bill of Rights, or the Economic Bill of Rights. President Roosevelt proposed eight additional "rights" that the Founding Fathers would have been appalled at. They were:

1. The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation.
2. The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation.
3. The right of every farmer to earn a living wage equal to the best wages paid in the industries or shops of the nation.
4. The right of every man or woman to have proper living quarters...a decent home.
5. The right of every family to have proper medical care.
6. The right to a good education.
7. The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness, accidents and unemployment.
8. The right to a good education.

Both as a libertarian and an adherent of Ayn Rand's philosophy of Objectivism, I am compelled to ask a single question in response to these positive rights as Ms. Rand had done before: At whose expense?

None of these "rights" are entities that grow in nature. They are man-made goods and services. So if a nation of people had the right to a "decent home" or "adequate medical care," then who is to provide them? Surely not the government that has nothing except for what it can take from the people. No. The people who would have to provide these goods and services to the entire nation are the producers and it will have to be carried out at the expense of their labor and intellect. If they are forced to do this by government decree regardless of their personal choice, then how could that be described as anything besides theft and/or slavery? Any "right" of one man, which necessitates the violation of the rights of another, is not and cannot be a right.

Unfortunately, this advocacy of positive rights is prevalent amongst liberals and as their argument usually invokes "the right of the people," liberals are either willingly or otherwise transforming a segment of the citizenry of this country into a self-indulgent mob at the expense of personal responsibility and the real rights granted by the Constitution - political rights.

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Positive Rights: Thievery

JOHN LEE
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Viva! Gourmet

Best Breasts

MARTIN SMITH
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Got your attention? Good. So here's the deal: I can't tell you how many times I've eaten your run-of-the-mill, dry, flavorless chicken breasts. The notion that chicken breasts are inherently flavorless, or that they should require little to no effort is absurd. You know the routine: take them out of the bag in your freezer, stick them in a warm water bath or microwave to thaw them out, then cook them using some obscene method that dates back to the dark ages of food preparation: the 50's.

Sure, this method might make for a quick and relatively easy dinner, but it certainly doesn't make for a truly fulfilling meal— in every sense of the word. There's a food revolution going on across America at this very moment. Masses of people are finally becoming aware of what they're putting into their bodies and demanding higher standards. Terms like "organic" and "sustainable," that once seemed foreign to us are contributing to an ever-expanding market. Ready to jump on board? Here's a good place to start.

Now, I understand that many of our readers live on a college budget and can simply not afford to go organic. That's okay. I can't either all of the time. But when you make a conscious effort to move away from the highly processed likes of frozen meals and you're using more fresh foods than canned or bagged, you're doing well. So let's all make an effort to develop some good eating habits.

Throw away that can of condensed cream of chicken, and come with me for basic food prep. If you can cook a flavorful, juicy chicken breast, then I believe you can cook just about anything.

So, let's get the obvious out of the way first. Thawing your boneless, skinless chicken breasts in a sink filled with warm wafer is not acceptable. Allowing them to float in a bath of warm water, zip-loc baggie or not, is creating a breeding ground for bacteria. You could seriously injure yourself or whomever you are feeding. The proper way to thaw a chicken breast is to place them in a clean reseal-able container or zip-lock bag, then into your fridge, the night (or morning) before use. Better yet, just buy them fresh when you can.

So, here's what you'll need:

1 Chicken Breast
1 T. Flour
Kosher or sea salt
Ground black pepper
Olive oil (preferred), or veg. oil

Place chicken breast on a clean, plastic cutting board. Add enough oil to the bottom (1-2 T. depending on the size of your pan) and heat on high. After 2-3 minutes, when the oil is hot enough (it should appear glossy, and move around the pan like water), add the chicken breast to the center of the pan. Sear for about one minute on each side, until you get a nice even brown. Then, turn the heat down to medium and put a cover over it.

WISPIRG

Their mission is to enhance the nation by raising awareness of social and political issues.