Patrick Rothfuss will be teaching English 395: Speculative Fiction Writing over the Winterim session at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Rothfuss is a UWSP alum as well as a New York Times best-selling author who became famous with his sci-fi fantasy book "The Name of the Wind."

Rothfuss wrote for The Pointer during his undergraduate studies at UWSP and agreed to answer some questions for us about the upcoming course he'll teach, his career and his life:

Have you taught at UWSP before?
Yeah. I taught here for a couple years starting back in 2002. I taught English 101 and 102 and Children's Literature. But since I only had a master's degree, I never got to teach a creative writing class.

But then my book got published in 2007. Then it won some awards. Then in 2008 I hit the New York Times bestseller list. Then the book started to get translated into dozens of foreign languages and hit bestseller lists all over the world. So now they're willing to let me take a crack at creative writing despite the fact that I only have my MA.

Aside from that, I was a writing tutor for over a decade, and I've run smaller writing workshops at various conventions all over the country. This is my first chance to teach an entire creative writing course though.

There's only so much you can fit into a two-hour workshop.
I'm looking forward to being able to go into much more detail with a group of students that I'll be meeting with day after day. It will give us the freedom to discuss things in a much deeper way. We'll really be able to get down to the real gritty underpinnings of writing, rather than just dealing with the superficial surface stuff.

What will students be working on over the winterim period?
The main focus of the class will be on the craft of writing: Character, tension, how to handle story arc, how to use language. Those are the basics. You need them no matter what genre you're writing in. No matter if you're writing a short story or a series of novels.

See Rothfuss, page 3

Merger likely to form statewide student government

DUSTIN KLEIN
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Students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have been represented by their Student Government Association at the university level, and now that idea could be brought to the entire state.

The two groups forming a merger are the United Council of UW Students and Student Reps. The two organizations focus on different things yet are comprised of many of the same people.

Reps deals primarily with legislative efforts put forth by presidents and vice presidents of SGAs around the state.

UC promotes different causes for all of the UW System that range from environmental sustainability to student power over budgets.

The merger, which began last year, has been an issue of serious contention between many of the schools for several different reasons.

"If we merge, students should have an opt-out clause for the purpose of sovereignty," said SGA President Mike Wilson.

He was talking about mandatory membership. It's an option that UC has been pushing for some time to increase operating costs as well as more involvement in the programs they put on.

The membership for UC consists of every student being charged a mandatory refundable fee of $2.00 currently, but that will increase to $3.00 if the new merger constitution is approved by two-thirds of the universities in the UW System.

The fee is refundable, plus post-age, for any student who requests it. They are also still entitled to the services that UC offers, including student legal aid and lobbying on behalf of students in Madison and Washington.

Student Life director and board member Seth Hofmeister, Student Life Issues Director for SGA, was recently elected to the board of United Council and is looking forward to working on the

See Merger, page 3
NEWS

NEWS BRIEFS

NATIONAL
Pirates expose arms headed toward Sudan

Newly made public documents from WikiLeaks depict an instance from 2008 in which Somali pirates made a startling discovery. They consumed evidence from northern Sudan after a 50-year war. However, there has been a mass flowing of weapons to northern Sudan. Clinton is calling northern Sudan a "ticking time bomb."

Elizabeth Edwards dies at 61

Elizabeth Edwards lost her battle of cancer on Tuesday morning. Elizabeth Edwards was the wife of former Senator John Edwards who ran for a presidential nomination back in 2008.

Mrs. Edwards was an accomplished lawyer and mother of four children, but her life was ridden with tragedy. Her 16-year-old son was killed in a car crash, she was diagnosed with cancer when she was 55 and in 2008 it was exposed that her husband had an affair with a campaign videographer. Soon after John Edwards admitted to having a child with his mistress, the couple legally separated.

On Monday she posted a Facebook message stating, "I have been sustained throughout my life by three saving graces - my family, my friends and a faith in the power of love."

The Bush administration officials knew of earlier weapon transactions and chose not to shut them down.

Once the Obama administration became aware of the arms transactions they threatened Ukranian and Kenyan governments.

On Jan. 9, southern Sudanese are scheduled to vote for their independence from northern Sudan after a 50-year war. However, there has been a mass flowing of weapons to northern Sudan. Clinton is calling northern Sudan a "ticking time bomb."

FBI stops attempted bombing

On Wednesday, a 21-year old recently converted Islamic man attempted to blow up a military recruiting station near Baltimore.

The man, Antonio Martinez, thought that he was detonating a real car bomb at the Catonsville recruiting office, but he didn't know that he was really interacting with the FBI, and the bomb was a fake. He faces charges of attempted murder of federal officials and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction.

According to Martinez, the United States was responsible for Sept. 11, 2001 and had "accused Muslims of committing the attacks as an excuse to fight them."

Martinez caught the FBI's attention in October when he expressed interest in joining jihadists in Afghanistan on his Facebook page.

NATIONAL

Rothfuss/UWSP alum to teach winterim course on fiction

continued from page 1

We'll also be focusing on some of the particular problems that arise when you're writing speculative fiction.

A good portion of the class will also deal with the tricks of the trade. There are really two different skill sets an author needs. You need to be able to write, and you need to be able to sell what you write.

As you mentioned, there are some problems that arise when you're writing speculative fiction—what are some of those problems?

If you set a story in Paris, you can just do research on Paris if you want to add more detail. Same thing with Chicago, or Spain or Plover. But that doesn't work if you're writing a fantasy novel set in some other world, or a sci-fi novel set in the future or a Victorian era alternate history novel where the Faerie courts rule England. We can't just research the worlds where our stories take place. We have to build them.

Even more important than world building is the issue of how to reveal your newly created world to your reader. If you include too much detail, they feel like they're reading a history book. If you include too little, they don't understand what's going on. It's probably the biggest problem new speculative fiction authors face.

We also have to fight harder to maintain verisimilitude than folks who write most fiction. A good story needs to seem real, but we have to gain that realness. How do you handle descriptions of magic or advanced technology? How do you avoid clichés? How are you going to make your vampire novel different than, BETTER than the thousand other vampire novels that are already out there?

What first got you into writing?

I was a big reader as a kid. I loved books. One day I thought, "If I could write something like this, that would be really cool." So I tried to write. Most of it was crap, of course. Whenever you start anything you suck at it. But I got better over the years. By now I've learned a lot of tricks, and I'm ready to pass some of them along.

WAY CHEAP INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

USA SUMMER CAMP: This is an English language program for Japanese students, elementary school age through college. During the summer, UWSP counselors take part in the camp program for approximately 27 days/22 nights. During the program the students from America will act as camp counselors, working with the Japanese students on a variety of English language drills and activities. Counselors will also participate with the Japanese students in recreation activities, meals and variety of social activities. This is a VERY rewarding program, but be prepared to work hard. It is a wonderful way to enhance your résumé, especially if you are going into an educating field.

COST/COMPENSATION: UWSP students pay ONLY $950-$1150 to cover costs such as UWSP tuition and mandatory health/travel insurance. Included: Round-trip air transportation, host family arrangements, food and lodging during all assigned days at the camp program, transportation expenses between host family's home and the camp program, three UWSP undergraduate credits, health insurance policy for stay in Japan through the UW-System.

DATES: The period of stay in Japan will vary from team to team. Departures from the United States will range from late June to early July. Returning dates will range from mid to late August.

Japanese language ability is not required to apply for this program.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? COME SEE US,
International Programs, 108 Collins, 346-2717

WAY CHEAP INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Pointer

2011 USA SUMMER CAMP

JAPAN

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The Pointer

The Pointer

Editorial Policies

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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes the property of The Pointer.
Dryhootch chapter started to help Stevens Point vets

MARIO KORAN
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Vietnam-era veteran Winton Miller Jr. is quick to offer a seat, a coffee and his story.

A recovering chemical addict, he founded a local Dryhootch chapter, an organization that offers veterans a sober environment for connecting to other veterans, area resources, or, as Miller said, "where people can unburden themselves and loosen the grip of their history."

Miller saw his efforts validated Monday night when community members met in the Portage County Public Library to offer their support for the chapter and endorse its presence in the area. Mayor Andrew Halverson, County Executive Patty Drewer and various University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point officials were among those in attendance.

"Vets my age saw what happened to guys coming back from the Korean War," said Miller. "We saw soldiers get spit on when they came back from Vietnam. With the current generation - we aren't gonna let that happen."

Miller, although hesitant to steal attention from Dryhootch, is open about his past struggles. "In the 70s I was using a lot of chemicals. I looked in the mirror and I didn't like what I saw. I survive better when I'm giving back," said Miller.

Although the location of the Dryhootch coffee shop is still to be determined, Miller said the chapter will function as a referral resource, where clinically trained peer mentors offer personal support for drop-in coffee shop patrons.

Zachary Ruesch, UWSP vets club treasurer, said that after he returned from deployment to Afghanistan he found relief from isolation by connecting to other veterans on campus. Ironically, he said that in reaching out socially, he adjusted to spending time alone.

"The Vets Club was my outlet, but Dryhootch offers similar support and incorporates the greater community," said Ruesch.

Ruesch said that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is often used as a "catch-all buzz word," and that "adjustment syndrome," while still a label, is more accurate.

The National Center for PTSD reports that the diagnostic criteria for the condition, which can include nightmares and anxiety, are actually normal reactions to extreme and unnatural stress.

In 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs reported that of all patients hospitalized for PTSD, 70 percent were also treated for substance abuse. Many individuals haunted by past trauma will self-medicate with alcohol or other drugs. And veterans recovering from addiction, said Miller, may not feel comfortable in veterans' organizations that serve alcohol.

With increasing numbers of soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, communities and VA hospitals are seeing an increased need to provide services.

The VA estimates that 11 to 20 percent of newly returned veterans will develop symptoms of PTSD, but these numbers may not represent the complete picture. Ruesch said the negative stigma that surrounds mental health treatment in the military may keep some soldiers from seeking help.

A soldier who is diagnosed with a mental illness has that information documented in his medical file. These files follow soldiers and could be a barrier to promotion or could result in a military discharge and loss of benefits.

Ann Whipp, UWSP veterans' coordinator, helps student veterans connect to benefits and area resources. Whipp attended Monday night's event and supports Dryhootch.

She said, "If veterans are able to understand and process their experiences early on, perhaps they can avoid significant coping issues such as alcoholism as they move forward in their lives."

At Monday's presentation, two potential donors stepped forward and offered land for Dryhootch to use for the coffee shop as well as money for the chapter to help to open its doors.

As the chapter has only been operating for 18 days, Miller said it is too soon to predict the nature of all the services that the chapter will provide. "It will grow according to community needs," said Miller. "When I looked in the mirror and decided to change my life, I saw possibilities. We have to become the possibilities that we see."

Merger/UWSP student named to UC Board

continued from page 1

merger with different students across the state.

One of the main things he hopes to work on is the tuition cuts that are foreseen with the new Walker Administration going to Madison in early January.

"If we truly want to save this economy, we should invest in the future," Hoffmeister said.

He's also excited at the opportunity that he has been waiting for since June.

"I'm really excited; I was going to run for the position at the June UC convention, but I was unable to attend. I'm glad that I have this opportunity this time," he said.

However, he does have to weigh in on the merger as a board member, as he will have a vital role to play in the two organizations' discussions about the constitution.

Hoffmeister's opinion breaks from Wilson's on mandatory membership. He believes that students, in order to be part of a statewide government, have to participate in it to make a difference.

"Personally I feel it's a self-defeating concept, it's self-defeating to not be together in solidarity," he explained.

Schools decide on merger

Some schools agree with Hoffmeister, like UW-Eau Claire, and some agree with Wilson, like UW-Parkside.

Both have recently passed pieces of legislation through their student governments supporting the constitution, but both put stipulations on their support.

Parkside argues that there must be a clause for opting out of the student group after its creation.

"There must be a process by which an individual campus may withdraw its membership from the organization. This process may be difficult or time-consuming to prevent the unnecessary fluctuations in support and funding of the organization, but it is imperative that it exists to maintain the integrity of having individual campuses with individual needs," the legislation asserts.

However, UWEC disagrees with this action. They even went as far as to write a piece of legislation denouncing such actions taken by members of student government denouncing talks amongst the two groups.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the UW System should not allow one campus to dictate policy for all member schools," their bill says.

Hoffmeister and Wilson will play a key role in the new merger, and the fate of the statewide student government rests in their hands.

SGA Senate at UWSP will be "taking a look at their legislation on the merger soon," Wilson said.

Students can stop by the SGA office in DUC 052 to voice their opinion on the merger.
SPORTS

Witt named coach of the year for fifth time

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Rick Witt, head coach of the Men's Cross Country Team, has been awarded the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletics Conference Coach of the Year award. It is the fifth time he has won the award.

The award came after the Pointers had claimed victory in the 2010 WIAC Men's Cross Country Championship that was held at the Whitetail Golf Course on Oct. 30.

Witt had nothing but good words to say about his team and had a glowing respect for those he had the opportunity to work with this year. "They got to the point to handle the world load and to be really really good," Witt explained. "Any coach will tell you the reason that you get an award is because of what the athletes do.

However, the season had started out rocky for the team after some of the players had been injured.

"We had a couple of injuries that could've kind of put a ripple in the season," Witt said. "We really lost two guys that we thought were going to be mainstays, and any time that happens you never know how you're going to proceed."

Still, the players, according to Witt, had the chance to really take their own game and run with it however they saw fit. For the Pointers, especially the younger team members, they took the opportunity and decided to sprint rather than jog towards victory.

"Some of the younger guys sort of stepped up and then the guys that had had some experience took and stepped up to the next level," he said.

Team members have a rigorous year with training and practices before their competitions. Cross country runners will run, at times, anywhere in between 90-100 miles per week; a schedule that demands a lot of time, according to Witt.

With the season now over, the team will have to start focusing on keeping members healthy and in shape as well as the everlasting tool of recruitment for future seasons.

"That's a never ending part of the process. You don't have to have the best kids; you have to have kids that buy into the way that you do things. Kids that buy into what we call the Pointer way," Witt explained.

Witt hopes that the team will be able to hold onto the feeling of victory and keep the same energy, because it might be what helped them achieve the ultimate goal of victory.

"Once you are successful you really don't like to fall back, you kind of like to keep it at that. There's a huge amount of pride in that," Witt said.

At the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point the coaches tout the ideology of the teams and the unique circumstances that they have here at the university.

For cross country the thing that helped the team out the most was the ability to practice and train more. Witt attributes having the Green Circle, a trail that surrounds the Stevens Point community, to a huge part of the ability of his runners.

"We have access to the Green Circle which means there's not as much pounding on your legs are there on the streets, which means we have a lot of kids who run doubles," Witt explained.

Hopes remain high for next year, and Witt will work as hard as ever to make sure his team is ready to take the championship once again.

The Pointer basketball ladies got game

RAMONE SANDERS
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's basketball team is off to a hot start this 2010-11 season. The Pointers overall record is 6-1, while their Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) record is 2-0.

After tallying their first loss of the season against Millikin University, the Pointers won all of their four games leading into tonight's match against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The Pointers only loss was the result of a two-point deficit so, it was no surprise when the Pointers ended the University of Wisconsin-River Fall's five game win streak.

UWSP faced off against the Falcons last Saturday Dec.4. Senior post player Britta Petersen earned her first double-double of the season rallying 16 points and 13 rebounds. The Pointers Beat UWRF 75-67.

Petersen, a native of Luck, was also named WIAC women's basketball athlete of the week.

On and off the court, the Pointers are working to make a difference in the Stevens Point community. The UWSP women's basketball team will hold a silent auction to benefit Project Embrace at their next home game Saturday Dec.11 at 2p.m. in the Berg Gym.

Project Embrace is a local breast cancer charity that gives comforting blankets to people diagnosed with breast cancer within the St. Michael's Hospital in Stevens Point. There are many items up for bid thanks to the Ramada Inn, Tilted Kilt, Hilltop Pub and Grill, Bill's Pizza, Trig's County Market, Fazoli's and Teri Jenkins.

The women's basketball team looks to be a force to reckon with in the WIAC ranks and division-III national ranks as well.
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women’s hockey team swept Finlandia University last weekend at home at Ice Hawks Arena. The Pointers downed the Lions with a 6-0 victory Saturday, Dec. 4, helping them complete a weekend sweep. The UWSP women’s hockey team is 8-1 overall and 4-1 in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA). The Pointers are on a two-game win streak as they start their holiday break this week. Goals in the 6-0 victory came from senior forward Kelsea Martalock, sophomore forward Michelle Lunneborg, senior forward Dana Carothers, junior forward Erin Marvin and freshman Defender Keela Patterson. All of the goals except for Martalocks came in the third period. Carley Gorecki blocked all of Finlandia’s four shots on goal, and UWSP out-shot the Lions 41-4. The Pointers return to action Tuesday, Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. at Lake Forest College (Illinois).
SPORTS

Rough start to men's hockey season

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's hockey team has had a rough start to their 2010-11 season, going 4-7 in their first 11 games. Following a season opening loss, the Pointer men won their next four games, winning by a combined 13 goals.

However, following their four game win streak, they have lost six straight, losing by a combined 11 goals. Following their 4-1 start, the Pointers were ranked 10th in the nation by United States Colligate Hockey Organization (USCHO). Their four wins were against St. Scholastica (11th) twice, Hamline University (15th), and Bethel University.

After wins against Hamline and Bethel University earlier this year, junior Forward Harrison Niemann was awarded Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) men's hockey athlete of the week and Northern Collegiate Hockey Association (NCHA) athlete of the week. Niemann had two goals and two assists in the two wins, notching four points total.

Niemann is leading the team in goals scored (4) and points (9) and is tied with junior Forward Jon Madden for most assists with five.

This weekend the Pointer men travel to the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire to take on the Bluegolds, Friday and Saturday night Dec. 10 and 11.

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Afterimages showcases dance talents

This weekend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Theatre and Dance Department will showcase many talents among students. Afterimages is a student directed and choreographed dance show featuring everything from ballet to contemporary dance. Though anyone is allowed to audition to perform within the show, the directing and choreographing spots are saved for majors within the department of theatre and dance.

A number of student choreographers/directors as well as the faculty advisor to the show were kind enough to sit down with me earlier this week and shed some light on the production of Afterimages.

Professor Estanich, assistant professor of dance and faculty advisor to Afterimages, said this year’s show is particularly unique in that it sees students crossing disciplines to put on a great production. One piece in particular, titled “Rusting Rooftops” by Courtney Holcomb, junior dance major, will feature a suspended structure above the stage designed to look like the rusting rooftops she was inspired by while in Thailand.

Holcomb added that choreographing to her is about “abstracting what we know, and bringing it onto the stage so people can latch onto our experiences.”

Student choreographers, may draw inspiration from a great range of different experiences, the results of which will create a varied landscape of dance for this year’s show. “Engendered Species,” by Carolyn Marcotte, senior dance major, is an investigation of gender roles in the 1950’s and how they relate to the present day. Conversely, “The Humans Are Dead” by Marcotte, Melanie Rockwell, senior dance major, and Elizabeth Swingle, senior dance major; is more of comic relief inspired by the music of The Flight of the Concorde.

Swingle said that a lot of work goes into Afterimages, though ultimately it’s a great opportunity to grow as an artist. The work involved was not under-stressed by any of the directors I met with. Production started at the beginning of the semester with the dance department accepting dance submissions. Out of twenty submissions, eleven were chosen to be in the show. Since then, all related productions including sets, costumes, publicity, and choreography have become a major weekly commitment for all the students involved in the show.

Estanich noted that Afterimages is a great way for students to get involved and see how much work it really is to put on a show.

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Afterimages has been an annual production for the UWSP’s Department of Theatre and Dance for many years, according to Estanich, and usually sees a turnout of anywhere between 900-1000 people for the whole week of performances.

Holcomb finished of the interview by adding “Dance is the least understood of the arts. We have a lot to say through our movements, and it’s exciting to share with others, so please come out and support us this weekend.”

Afterimages will show in Jenkins Theatre on December 9-12. Evening showtimes will be at 7:30 p.m. with a Sunday matinee beginning at 2 p.m.

Can’t attend any of the performances? There will be plenty of other opportunities to come out and see what the department of theatre and dance has put up. Such future productions include “Sunday in the Park with George” coming in March; Danstage 2011 in April; and Shakespeare’s “The Taming of the Shrew” in May.
WikiLeaks: The X-Ray Glasses to an Opaque U.S. Foreign Policy

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The high-profile new media website WikiLeaks and its creator Julian Assange have been the recipient of intense media and government ire over the past few months for the website’s release of thousands of U.S. government documents. Since July, WikiLeaks has released the Afghan War Diary (76,000 documents from the war in Afghanistan), the Iraq War Diary (400,000 documents) and, most recently, 250,000 U.S. Embassy diplomatic cables.

The war diary documents released comprise reports of combat and non-combat events such as IED explosions, friendly fire occurrences, reconnaissance missions of insurgent groups and governmental threat reports.

The U.S. Embassy cables, most of which are classified as “confidential” or “secret” serve to “show the extent of U.S. spying on its allies and the UN; turning a blind eye to corruption and human rights abuse in “client states”; backroom deals with supposedly neutral countries; lobbying for US corporations; and the measures US diplomats take to advance those who have access to them,” according to WikiLeaks website.

The leaks, many of which reiterate previously known facts, have also illuminated new truths, such as the monti leak that Iran now possesses 19 advanced missiles, which could be used to strike Europe.

A leak of government documents of this magnitude is unprecedented, and Assange and WikiLeaks are helping to provide the truth to the American public itself instead of to transpire on it at will.

However, many in the American political realm are reacting to this “over-exposure” of American conduct by demonizing Assange and WikiLeaks. Sarah Palin said recently that Assange “is an anti-American operative with blood on his hands” and that the U.S. should pursue him as if he were an al-Qaeda or Taliban leader.

That’s some pretty inflammatory rhetoric, but it doesn’t hold any merit. WikiLeaks is releasing government documents, not attacking U.S. troops. Mostly all of the documents will not compromise U.S. strategy in Iraq or Afghanistan, and the diplomatic cables, although they could complicate diplomatic relations, will allow American citizens to see what their country is truly up to on the global scene.

Senator Joseph Lieberman (I-CT) has called for the prosecution of Assange based on a provision of the VW-Wars US Espionage Act, which prohibits the “unnecessary possession and dissemination of information related to U.S. national defense.”

The law itself, however, is very vague, and Attorney General Eric Holder has said it would be difficult to prosecute Assange based on the act. To do so, they would have to prove that Assange showed intent in the release of government documents. If a distrust of government and a desire for government transparency constitute sufficient “intent” to prosecute, then we as a country, unfortunately, have slipped into fascism.

By demonizing Assange and WikiLeaks, the U.S. government is trying to detract national attention away from the fact that the documents leaked show an American government that is, quite often, corrupt, shady and dishonest in its foreign policy.

Regardless of the Washington response to the leaks, we as citizens need to realize that WikiLeaks is performing a crucial democratic action by providing us with a window into American international actions.

Holiday cheer echoes in Sentry Theater

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With Christmas right around the corner, The Messiah by George Handel is in the season with voice and orchestra.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point concert choir and choral union joined Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra to perform a part of the piece.

Lucinda Thayer, a professor of music and director of choral activities at UWSP, has been working with the choirs for six weeks to prepare for the Messiah.

“It's really exciting for [the choirs] because many of them haven't performed with an orchestra before, especially one of this caliber,” Thayer said.

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“It's really exciting for [the choirs] because many of them haven't performed with an orchestra before, especially one of this caliber,” Thayer said.

There are 100 people in choral union and 44 people in concert choir, so the impact was large when they all came together.

The Messiah is classified as an oratorio, which is a sacred piece that is like an opera but doesn't have the costumes, set or staging.

The work is divided into three parts which deal with the birth and death of Christ, as well as the book of Revelations in the Bible. In this performance, they sang only the portion of the piece that commemorates the birth of Christ.

One of the most recognizable parts of the Messiah is when the group performs the Hallelujah Chorus. This is usually sung only at the death portion of the piece, but it is so immensely popular that it is usually added on to any performance of the piece. Traditionally, the audience stands when that piece begins to play.

This is the third time the Messiah was great because both performances were sold out, so it was a big crowd," said Willhoit. "It's always fun to sing to a sold-out house.

Thayer and her choirs worked extremely hard on the presentation, and it showed in her performances.

“My voice was completely shredded after that one, but it was all worth it,” said Swartz.

This was Swartz's first time performing The Messiah, and she also really enjoyed the experience.

Dennis Willhoit, who also sang alto, spent hours of practice time to prepare for this performance.

It was great because both performances were sold out, so it was a big crowd," said Willhoit. "It's always fun to sing to a sold-out house.

Thayer and her choirs worked extremely hard on the presentation, and it showed in her performances.

“This was a nice way to end the semester, but the concert choir isn't done yet,” explained Thayer. "We will begin preparing for our choir tour in Puerto Rico.

“The concert choir will be traveling to Puerto Rico Jan. 17, and are set to return on Jan. 22.

Though there is no projected year for when The Messiah will return, it will surely be as popular as it was this past weekend.

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For many, their introduction to this dish was about halfway through the movie "Julie & Julia." If you haven't seen the movie, however, (and you should if you're a food nerd like me), you should know that Boeuf Bourguignon is actually just a beef (boeuf) stew that gets its deep burgundy (bourguignon) color from the abundant use of red wine.

My introduction to this dish came long ago, back in the days when the only two chefs I was really aware of were mom and dad. Waiting for the dish to be done was a painful experience. Piece by piece they'd sear off the beef. Why they did this I could never understand. All I knew was that a.) it smelled amazing and b.) I couldn't eat it because it was still raw in the center. If that wasn't enough to set me over the edge, I had to go through another three hours of agony while it cooked. Sixteen years later that same smell makes it itch with anticipation. It is one of my favorite dishes in the world and is, of course, French.

Also, don't get bummed out if your stew doesn't look as beautiful as the one in the movie. I can say, almost for certain, that whoever made that stew was less of a chef and more of a food stylist.

However, if you're looking to cut down on calories then the round roast is going to be your best option. Searing (browning) the beef before stewing it is a very important step, so don't skip it. It helps to lock in the flavor of the meat and keeps it moist and tender while it cooks. Pearl onions can be found in the freezer section at most grocery stores.

Heavy, full bodied reds like Cabernet Sauvignon work nicely.

Here's What You'll Need

- 2 lb. chuck or top round roast, cut into 1" cubes
- 2 T. olive oil
- 2 ribs celery, chopped
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 - 750ml bottle of red wine
- 1 1/2 tsp. dried rosemary
- 1 1/2 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 cups beef stock, divided
- 1 lb. baby carrots
- 2 lb. baby red boiling potatoes, quartered
- 12 oz. pearl onions
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 5 T. unsalted butter
- Flour
- Salt, to taste

In a large (preferably cast iron) pot heat olive oil over high heat. Working in batches so as to keep the meat in a single layer, sear the cubes of beef until evenly browned on all sides.

Remove the meat and set aside. Turn the heat down to medium high and, in the same pot, add the celery and onion. Saute until the onion becomes translucent. Add the beef (plus all accumulated juices), dried rosemary, oregano and thyme to the pot and stir.

Add in the whole bottle of wine, scraping the bottom of the pot with a wooden spoon while pouring so as to loosen all of the browned bits.

Cover pot and transfer to a 350F oven. After 1 1/2 hours of cooking time add the carrots, quartered potatoes and 2 cups of beef stock. Another 45 minutes later add the pearl onions and 1 cup of beef stock. Cook for another 15 minutes or until the beef becomes nice and tender (for a total cooking time of roughly 2 1/2 hours).

In a separate pot melt butter over medium heat. Slowly whisk in flour until you have a thick, but not dry consistency (roughly 2-3 T. of flour). Remove pot from oven and whisk in your butter/flour mixture (roux). Add whipping cream, check for seasoning and serve immediately.

**Dress It Up**
Serve with a rustic French baguette and a heavy red wine such as Cabernet Sauvignon. Garnish with a sprig of something fresh (parsley, cilantro, rosemary, etc.).

**Dress It Down**
If you can't afford to buy a nice wine to use in the stew itself than I would just skip the wine altogether and substitute beef stock. Celery, whipping cream and pearl onions can be omitted entirely.

Almost all of these ingredients can be bought from the local Co-op.

Serves 6.
Why I am a libertarian

JOHN LEE
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When I started out as a freshman, I considered myself a neo-conservative. Donald Rumsfeld was my god and messiah whereas the War on Terror was my religion.

Needless to say, my political philosophy has morphed over the years and I am now a Libertarian. I am also an Objectivist, but I am only allowed to write a certain number of words for this column so you'll have to look that up yourselves.

The word "Libertarian" gets tossed around a lot lately. But what is Libertarianism? In my opinion, Libertarianism is the political philosophy that seeks the smallest, least intrusive government consistent with the principle of guaranteed freedom for each individual to attain his own objectives as long as he doesn't interfere with others who are doing the same.

As a Libertarian, who oftentimes gets lumped in with conservatives, I have many disagreements with modern day conservatives - those who wish to invoke religion, a private matter, into politics, and thus, by definition, conceding that they do not have the ability to use reason to back up (some of) their worthy causes; those who invoke tradition as the end all and be all of conservatism thus, by definition, claiming that the American system must be defended not because it is good but because it is active, and therefore unequally equated with being good.

Similarly, I have many disagreements with liberals, especially those who wish to identify with the Kennedys. Whereas liberals claim that they are the champions of reason and science (a title that liberals could not have earned on their own merit without conservatives' retreat into religion and mysticism), the libertarian holds that they use to aid the poor and downtrodden, whether we call it minimum wage or Social Security, is the collectivist iron fist of government.

The underlying fallacy of liberalism is that it claims that it is possible for the government to do "good" with other people's money. The first problem with that is that in order to do so, government has to take money from the productive to feed and clothe the unproductive, which is anathema to liberty and common sense. If government continues to increasingly tax the productive and subsidize the unproductive, be they individuals or businesses, how can we ever expect problems to arise? The second problem is that very few people spend other people's money as carefully as they spend their own, as our depression-inducing deficit shows.

In my ideal world, maximum freedom would be guaranteed to people with the existence of a very small government that is limited to the departments of defense, state, justice, treasury, legislature and very little else. All other problems will be tackled by free individuals who come together voluntarily through a competitive market.

To paraphrase Gordon Gekko, the quintessential American hero who can only be turned into a villain by collectivists such as Oliver Stone, greed, for the lack of a better word, be it greed for money, love or life, is good. For those of you who disagree, I ask you if you can name any society that does not run on greed. History has shown time and again that greed, which has been channeled by laissez-faire market economies and overseen by a limited government, has allowed societies to flourish. It is those places that depart from that model that has shown albatross misery, be it Detroit or North Korea.

The record of history is crystal clear. So far, in order to improve the lives of people, there is no alternative to the productive activities that are unleashed by a free enterprise system that is overseen by a limited government. Everything else is pie in the sky.

I am a Libertarian. And I hope that more of you declare yourselves as such.

I will wear that label as a badge of honor

DUSTIN KLEIN
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I was raised to be a conservative. Yes, believe it or not, as a ten year old, I called Al Gore a sore loser. Some things shifted for me when I found out that a member of my close family was gay. I still remember to this day, when I figured out that maybe the Republican Party wasn't for me. I had asked one of my teachers in high school in October 2004 who she was supporting for president. She responded, "Well, I'm an education voter, it's my issue, and I'm going to vote for the guy who supports education more."

I didn't know who she supported because she told me she couldn't answer, but I went out and looked at the education plans of George Bush and John Kerry and found out that Bush had a record of showing no support for K-12 education and especially a bad background with colleges and universities. Kerry, however, wanted more aid for students, more federal help for K-12 schools and supported measures like a national curriculum for schools across the country to give everyone a fair shake.

It's crazy to me how empowered I felt I had after I went out and educated myself on an issue that I cared a lot about.

I didn't necessarily find the party that was right for me yet, but I did find one that I could actually agree with a lot more than the Republicans.

For me, I found a party that would fight for people with my economic background; a party that would fight for the rights of minorities; a party that would fight against corporate crime; a party that would fight against discrimination of LGBT related issues; a party that would support students and their ambitions; and a party that would support bringing troops back home to their families.

I was raised in a single mother home. She worked long hours each day to make money for rent, food paying the bills and supporting my sister and me in whatever we needed, sometimes wanted but didn't need.

It wasn't always easy. I remember the time when the electricity was out for three days and my dad had to pull out the propane stove to boil hot dogs for dinner, but we persevered.

Now, my dad and my mom split and since then, I've grown up, gone to college, joined student organizations, helped out on state campaigns and I'm here, in front of you, a liberal, and a proud one.

I always believe that there is a human condition that allows us to show compassion to each and every person that is on this planet, it is whether we choose to acknowledge that condition or not.

Some people believe that that condition shows us that we need people to make their own decisions 100% of the time and that this means, primarily, less government, if any at all.

I have good friends, like John, that feel this way. But the problem with this argument is that there are people that need the help.

Food stamps, Medicare, Social Security, mandated health care coverage, Badger Care, public transportation, public education, fire department, police, libraries, agriculture, the military, head start, highways and YOUR university are all examples of government. Start cutting these programs and you start to shut out the poor, the elderly, the young, working men and women, people with pre-existing conditions, people who travel to work, people striving to be educated, farmers and national security.

Pretty soon, after all of these programs are cut, you have nothing left holding society together.

You see, society is like a clock. There are a series of cogs that have to be there and in working order for the clock's hands to turn. Once one of these cogs is removed the whole mechanical system shuts down.

That is why liberals have fought so hard over the years of government to avoid these programs. Every person in society has his or her place that is essential in making the clock work. But on top of programs, liberals have worked for protection of their people, often times, these people are minorities.

Civil Rights legislation, the 14th amendment, the bill of rights, ending badger care, public transportation, public education, fire department, police, libraries, agriculture, the military, head start, highways and YOUR university are all examples of government. Start cutting these programs and you start to shut out the poor, the elderly, the young, working men and women, people with pre-existing conditions, people who travel to work, people striving to be educated, farmers and national security.

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Civil Rights legislation, the 14th amendment, the bill of rights, ending tax cuts for the super rich, title IX and Pell grants all protect people in the minority.

My mentor has become the very person I called a sore loser after that election in 2000. Al Gore is the example that I believe we should all look towards, especially in this environmentally conscious university, to what change and leadership looks like.

He grew up as the son of a rich tobacco farmer. He ended up a private subsidizer of green energy for people's homes, the leader of a cause everyone else refused to take up, he started a tobacco company after his sister was diagnosed with cancer and he stepped up to show us that losing and winning isn't everything.

One day, I aspire to be a leader; I aspire to be a leader, to help shape policy, to govern, elect good people, and to have the backbone that people like Al Gore and Russ Feingold have.

Though I may have found my home in the Democratic Party, I believe that there is still more work to do. That is why I keep telling stories, talking to people, raising a ruckus about issues that people are tired of hearing, organizing people to vote and to talk about causes. That is why I fight so hard to find people who like me and get across the message that, at times, hard to do. It is important that we protect citizens, minorities, our national security, our students, our sick, our elderly, our poor and our well being.

I am a Democrat. I am a progressive, a liberal. I am an organizer. I am a student, a minority. I am the middle class. I am a pre-existing condition. I am a citizen. I am a voter. I am every-thing that this country is supposed to be about: moving forward.
Students publish memoir history

KAITLYN LUCKOW
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A fugitive in his own country, Miguel Dominguez Soler was made to flee from the forces of Spanish Fascism which had torn his country during the infamous Spanish Civil War.

On Tuesday, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s student-run Cornerstone Press got the chance to tell Soler’s story when UWSP Professor Richard Barker provided excerpts of his newly published translation of Soler’s narrative “Fugitive From Spanish Fascism.” The event was an official launch of Soler’s memoir, and copies of the book were available for purchase.

Barker discovered a memoir manuscript of Miguel Dominguez Soler while in Spain depicting a story of a man affiliated with the Spanish Left on the run from Spain’s fascist regime.

“Barker was born in 1945, the same year in which fascism ended in all parts of Europe except for Spain. He was “fated to study fascism in Europe,” said Dean Christopher Cirmo of the College of Letters and Science.

After discovering Soler’s memoir, Barker translated it to English and was keen to publish it so it could reach a wider audience than an academic publication would.

“I was an addiction to seeing the screen fill up with words,” said Professor Richard Barker of the process of translating the memoir from Spanish to English.

However, publishers thought that there wouldn’t be an audience for his book in the United States. Barker disagreed and thought the memoir dealt with issues that are especially of concern to us today, such as illegal detention and torture.

“If there wasn’t enough interest in the U.S. for torture and imprisonment in other countries then we were a country that had a serious moral problem,” Barker said.

The class of English 349: Editing and Publishing, or by its “company name,” Cornerstone Press, thought that it was a story to be told. This semester’s Editing and Publishing class had only inherited the book from the previous class.

Due to the complexities of getting rights to publish the memoir, the previous class wasn’t able to finish the editing of the novel in time for publication.

“The editing process was a little more laborious,” said Aaron Onowski, junior English major, and editor-inchief for Cornerstone Press.

Since the book was a translation from Spanish, the editors not only had to take into account correct grammar for the English language, but they also had to satisfy Spanish grammar rules.

Cornerstone Press is an actual publishing house, and every fall semester students publish a book by themselves, covering all parts of the process including the editing, marketing and design of the book.

“It’s an amazing class, a great opportunity,” said Per Henningsgaard, the professor and CEO of the class. “It’s so unique.”

"It's a snowboarding mystery with constraints. With those constraints it has had amazing success," said Henningsgaard. Since its start in 1984, Cornerstone Press has published books that have become nationally known.

One author published his first book at Cornerstone Press and is now a New York Times bestselling author. The next publication that Cornerstone Press is currently working on is “Jake the Grizz and the World’s Fastest Snowboard” by Kit Keifer.

“It’s a snowboarding mystery of epic proportions directed at and appealing towards young adults and adolescents,” said Onowski. The book has unique marketing demographic of 8-14 year olds. The book was originally written for Keifer’s son who had trouble finding an interest in books.

To purchase “Fugitive From Spanish Fascism,” contact Cornerstone Press at its Web site, www.uwsp.edu/english/cornerstone, or visit the University Store or Book World in downtown Stevens Point.

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