FAMOUS PHOTOS
UWSP photographer wins photography award in international Nikon competition page 7
SOPA Elicits Massive Response from Internet companies, consumers

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If you happened to be on the Internet on Jan. 18 you no doubt noticed that many of your favorite sites were out of commission. As you’re also probably aware of, this was no mistake. Well-known Internet sites like Wikipedia, Reddit and StumbleUpon were ‘blacked out’ on this day in protest of the controversial Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) and its Senate counterpart, the PROTECT IP Act (PIPA).

SOPA, which has received the most attention, is a House bill that seeks to address the theft of intellectual property and counterfeit goods, (2) barring advertising networks and payment facilities such as PayPal from doing business with infringing companies as well as prohibiting search engines from linking to those sites and requiring Internet service providers (ISPs) to block access to them, and (3) criminalizing unauthorized streaming of copyright material, with a maximum five-year prison sentence for offenders.

On January 18 Google, which had its logo ‘blacked out’, collected over 7 million signatures against SOPA and PIPA. There were also boycotts of some of the companies who support the legislation as well as a rally in New York City. Reddit co-founder Alexis Ohanian claimed that combating SOPA and PIPA is “a fight to save democracy.”

The U.S. government was able to use the objective of law enforcement to fight online trafficking in copyrighted material. The GAB is now tasked with reviewing the petitions before the petitions were turned in.

The GAB normally has 31 days to certify the recall petitions but has requested at least 60 days to review the petitions due to the large number of signatures received. If the GAB receives the extension they are seeking to certify the results, officials are estimating that the election would not take place until at least June.

The state’s non-partisan Government Accountability Board, the body that is tasked with overseeing election and campaign finance laws, is now tasked with reviewing the petitions and certifying that the groups indeed have met the requirements to recall Walker.

Included with the one million signatures turned in last Tuesday were an estimated $54,000 signatures seeking a recall election of Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch as well as four Republican State Senators, including Senate President Scott Fitzgerald.

The Internet companies backlash to the bills, however, many congressmen and senators dropped their support, leading Rep. Smith to pull SOPA from the House. He did not pull the bill without a strong word for a bill similar to SOPA to be necessary in the future.

“The problem of online piracy is too big to ignore. American intellectual property industries provide 5 million high-paying jobs and account for more than 60 percent of U.S. exports,” Smith said. “The theft of American’s intellectual property costs the U.S. economy more than $100 billion annually and results in the loss of thousands of American jobs. Congress cannot stand by and do nothing while American innovators and job creators are under attack.”

Overall the fight against the bills say that they threaten free speech and innovation by enabling law enforcement to block access to entire domains due to infringing material that is posted on a single blog or webpage. Also of concern is the fact that the bills would bypass “safe harbor” protections from liability presently granted to sites by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Libraries have also voiced concern that they could face prosecution under the bills.

The U.S. government was able to shut down a ‘rogue website’ last week even without the authority of SOPA. The founder of the illegal downloading website Megaupload was indicted along with seven executives in New Zealand. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce reported that ‘rogue websites’ such as Megaupload get over 53 billion visits per year.

Recall Organizers Turn In 1 Million Signatures to Recall Walker

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Organizers working to recall Governor Scott Walker turned in over one million signatures last Tuesday, nearly twice as many than they needed, and almost guaranteeing an election sometime later this year.

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They estimate they need about 50 signatures per assembly district to certify the recall petitions. If the GAB receives the extension they are seeking to certify the results, officials are estimating that the election would not take place until at least June.

They estimate they need about 50 workers to review the petitions, but are having trouble filling the petitions because the requirements disqualify many who apply. Anyone who has contributed to a partisan state candidate, or has signed a recall petition is not eligible to run for the governorship.

Barring any further legal challenges, there will be an election six weeks from the day the GAB certifies the petitions. That election will almost certainly be a primary as there are currently multiple Democratic Party candidates vying to replace Walker. The general election will take place four weeks later.

State Senator Tim Cullen, from Janesville, announced his candidacy before the petitions were turned in. Former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk announced last week she also plans on running in the recall election. Falk ran for governor in 2002 but lost to Governor Jim Doyle during the primary.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, who lost to Walker in 2010, is another possibility to run. Barrett says he is currently focused on his mayoral reelection campaign, which is being held on April 3.

Other potential candidates rumored to be considering a run include State Senator’s John Erpenbach and Peter Barca, as well as former Rep. Dave Obey, who retired from Congress in 2010.

Continued on page 4
North American fossil fuels are certainly in a pickle as energy and fossil fuel companies fight tooth and nail to earn an unfathomable amount of pennies from their extraction and sale. At market prices, Alberta, Canada’s 173 billion recoverable barrels of tar sands are worth roughly 1,570 trillion pennies.

**Keystone XL**

The Keystone XL pipeline is an export pipeline transporting Canadian crude oil into diesel fuel and other products for export to Latin America and Europe. Despite claims, the Keystone XL pipeline will not directly affect America’s dependency on fossil fuels. The pipeline will span across a major agricultural region, the Missouri and Niobora rivers, Ogallala aquifer, and many sensitive wildlife habitats. A spill in any of these areas could be likened to the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, but in America’s breadbasket, the results would be disastrous.

**Ogallala Aquifer**

One of the world’s largest aquifers, the Ogallala Aquifer is 174,000 square miles and spans parts of eight states. The aquifer underlies 27 percent of the United States, irrigated agricultural land and supplies 30 percent of agricultural irrigation water. Of those people living on top of the aquifer, 62 percent get their drinking water from the aquifer. A fairly shallow aquifer, the water surface ranges from 100 to 400 feet below the surface and could easily be contaminated by a spill.

**Canadian Business**

Canadian crude currently refined in the Midwest will be diverted to refineries along the Gulf coast, effectively increasing fuel costs for Americans by a projected 20 cents per gallon leaving the U.S. economy.

**Tarsands**

TransCanada job projections claim 2,500-4,200 jobs will be created, the majority being construction personnel to build a pipeline for two years. A report by Cornell University Global Labor Institute entitled “Pipe dreams? Jobs gained, Jobs lost by the construction of Keystone XL,” concluded that employment potential from Keystone XL is little to none and that the decision should be based on other factors.

**Extraction Processes**

More than two trillion barrels of the world’s oil is in tar sand form, with the largest deposits in Canada and Venezuela. Eastern Utah has the largest continental U.S. deposit of roughly 12-19 billion barrels.

Tar sands are a mixture of clay, sand, bitumen, and water mined and processed for the bitumen, which can be converted into a synthetic crude oil. There are two main methods of tar sand mining. One method is called open pit mining, where giant tar sand moving trucks can carry 320 tons of tar sands per load from the giant hole (mine) to the extraction facility. The other common method is steam extraction where steam is pumped down into tar sand deposits, heating the tar sand to where it can be easily pumped to the surface.

Amazingly, extraction and refinement of bitumen is more greenhouse gas intensive than conventional oil! “One hundred and seventy-six cubic meters of natural gas are required to liquefy, extract, and purify each cubic meter of bitumen produced,” says Eddy Isaacs, director of the Alberta Energy Research Institute. Approximately two tons of tar sands make one barrel of oil. Once out of the ground, the bitumen must be removed from the clay, sand and water. This is accomplished through several processes including extraction and separation systems. Since bitumen is so thick it must be diluted to be transportable through pipelines. The extraction process uses hot water to separate bitumen from sand, clay, water and minerals. “Hot H2O is added to the sand and the resulting slum is piped to the extraction plant where it is agitated. The combination of hot water and agitation releases bitumen from the oil sand, and causes tiny air bubbles to attach to the bitumen droplets that float to the top of the separation vessel, where the bitumen can be skimmed off. Further processing removes residual water and solids. The bitumen is then transported and eventually upgraded to synthetic crude oil,” according to the Oil Shale and Tar Sands Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement.

**Fracking**

A sand mine near Chippewa Falls and Eau Claire, Wisconsin, will cater to mining companies’ increasing demand for sand that has the right characteristics for hydraulic fracturing, aka “fracking.” The sand is used to keep existing cracks open for easier natural gas extraction. Last summer began with 16 active sand mines and is now at 34 with another 25 sand mines in development.

In President Obama’s Jan. 24 State of the Union address, it was announced that 600,000 new jobs in hydraulic fracturing would be created. “We have a supply of natural gas that can last America nearly one hundred years, and my administration will take every possible action to safely develop this energy,” said President Barack Obama. Fracking has recently been blamed for earthquakes in Northeastern British Columbia. Investigations are underway.

**Northern Gateway**

What if America does not allow the Keystone XL pipeline? TransCanada has arranged to service another market. The Northern Gateway is a $5.5 billion pipeline capable of transporting 525,000 barrels a day from Alberta to Kitmat, British Columbia. This pipeline boasts similar environmental concerns as the Keystone XL pipeline, except this pipeline leads to a West Coast port where it will be distributed to Asian markets.

**American Connection**

January: President Obama, in response to a 60-day decision deadline set by Republicans, rejected an application to build the 2,147 mile (3,440 kilometers; 3,760 kilometers), 36 inch in diameter, Keystone XL pipeline. “The rushed and arbitrary deadline insisted on by Congressional Republicans prevented a full assessment of the pipeline’s impact, especially the health and safety of the American people, as well as our environment,” President Obama said. TransCanada plans to reapply with a new route hoping to be operational by 2014.
Republican Primaries: Still Happening

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ANALYSIS

In Tampa, leaders of the group seeking the Republican Party's nomi-
nation as presidential candidate this
coming November exchanged a series
of blows during the last debate on
Monday, January 23. With four clear
candidates, out of the original seven
candidates registered at their outset,
the first Republican primaries offer
a glimpse into the decision that con-
servative voters will make elsewhere.

Tim Pawlenty and Herman Cain dropped out of the race before
the primaries began. Next, Rep.
Michelle Bachmann, Utah Governor
Jon Huntsman, and Texas Governor
Rick Perry have officially ended their
campaigns. Huntsman took the most
votes of the three, with a total of
roughly 44,000 to Perry's 17,000 and
Bachmann's 7,000.

Pennsylvania Rep. Rick Santorum
took the Iowa primary on January 3,
although this result was not con-
firmed until days after the Party
decided they needed to see
Mitt Romney the winner by five
votes. Romney was the decisive win-
ner in New Hampshire seven days
day, with 39.3 percent of the votes, and
second, with 22.9 percent.

To some surprise, Newt
Gingrich's favorability rose by a wide
margin in recent polls and won the
South Carolina primary on January
21, taking 40.4 percent in a state
where Romney, Santorum and Paul received
27.8, 17 and 13 percent, respectively.

Debates held recently have shown
the extent to which Republican con-
tenders will 'one-up' one another on
their harsh rhetoric. These typically
discussed will do who best at keeping
Iran from producing a nuclear bomb, preventing homosexuals from
marrying, downsizing government, lowering taxes, restricting undocu-
mented immigrants from accessing
voters that Gingrich "resigned in dis-
and demeanor reached a cam-
paign of the upcoming January 31 primary — demonstrated that
Romney is not taking his nomi-
nation for granted. His aggressive
tone and demeanor reached a cam-
paign high. Within his first speaking
turn, he called Gingrich a Washington
insider and "influence peddler" who
had developed a profitable relation-
ship with Freddie Mac, the infamous
mortgage trader.

Romney's narrative reminded
voters that Gingrich "resigned in dis-
grace" from his position as Speaker
of the House when "members of his
own congressional team ... voted
to replace him" in the mid-1990s.

With composure, Gingrich said
Romney's attacks were "desperate" and
"untruthful." He responded that
he had resigned out of "responsible-
ship" towards his party. Paul, who
was a member of the House of
Representatives at the time, refuted
this statement, saying that Gingrich
"didn't have the votes, that's what the
problem was."

The primary in Maine will follow on February 1, and then 21 states will
hold theirs on February 5, "Super
Tuesday."

New Aquaponics
Course offered at UWSP

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Chris Hartlere, Professor of
Fisheries Biology at the University
of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and
Pace, Inc. have joined forces to
create a new course offered through
UWSP's continuing education cur-
niculum. "Introduction to
Aquaponics," is a three credit online
course with a laboratory portion
to take in late May at Nelson
and Pace, Inc.'s demonstration green-
house. The following is from an
e-mail conversation with Dr. Hartleb.

Why aquaponics?

"Aquaponics is a highly innova-
tive, cost-efficient and sustainable agri-
culture method that combines aqua-
sculture and hydroponics. Nutrient
rich water from aquaculture, fish cul-
rature and mineral fertilizer to the
plants in the hydroponics system. In
return, the plants return clean, fresh
water to the fish. Overall, aquaponics
conserves water, is a natural food pro-
duction system, involves fewer use of
herbicides or pesticides, eliminates
any soil-borne diseases that may be
caused by vegetables, and is compact,
thereby, maximizing space while
increasing food production."

How did the course come about?

"UWSP-Northern Aquaculture
Demonstration Facility had been
co-hosting one-day workshops on
aquaponics with Nelson & Pace, Inc.
Rebecca Nelson and John Pace have
always strongly supported aquaponics
education so they suggested that
UWSP and Nelson & Pace, Inc. part-
ner on offering college-level aqua-
ponics courses. After a few months of
research and preparation, we joint-
lively developed the undergraduate/
graduate course in aquaponics that is
being offered for the first time this
semester (Biology 498: Introduction
to Aquaponics). This private/public
partnership and the resulting
UW-Stevens Point aquaponics course
is a new stage in the development of
the aquaponics industry and in provid-
ning comprehensive training in
aquaponics at the university level.
As the aquaponics industry grows, one
of the biggest issues facing is a lack
of trained and educated individuals
to fill jobs as aquaponic greenhouse
managers and workers. The launch
of this course, which we believe is the
first of its kind in the nation, has the
potential to grow into a knowledge-
based economic engine to help the
aquaponics industry. The course has
online lectures, the month of March
with hands-on labs that occur May
21-23 at the Nelson & Pace, Inc.
greenhouses."

Who is Nelson & Pace, Inc?

"Based in Montello, WI, Nelson
and Pace, Inc. supplies aquaponic
systems and controlled environment
agriculture technology to meet the
need for the sustainable production
of nutritious, safe food. Their mission
is to lead the industry by providing
quality systems, supplies, training
and technical support. Their goal is
diversity for all nations, through
aquaponics and controlled environ-
ment agriculture. They have over
20 years' experience in aquaponics
and controlled environment agricul-
ture. They have earned industry-wide
respect for their leadership, research
and knowledge, for designing and
building functional and highly pro-
ductive aquaponic systems, for offering
education and employment to prospec-
tive and new growers and for
counting on consulting projects
around the world."

What is in the future for aqua-
ponics?

"The aquaponics industry will
develop rapidly for both salt and fresh
water fish and crops to meet tomor-
row's demand for food world-wide.
Aquaponics will become increasingly
important in a world where climate
change challenges make traditional
and conventional technologies in soil
either uneconomical or difficult to
implement. Overall, aquaponics
maximizes food productivity where
resources are often limited or become
limited - such as water conservation.
Aquaponics produces crops that are
safe, organic and can be grown close
to markets (i.e. consumers) which avoids
transportation and food safety issues.
The partnership with Nelson and Pace,
Inc. is an example of UW-Stevens
Point's involvement in the 'commu-
nersity,' helping local businesses
and emerging private companies
and community-based organizations
achieve their entrepreneurial goals."
Women's Hockey Splits Weekend Series With St. Scholastica

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women’s hockey team shut out St. Scholastica Friday, but fell to them the following night. Junior forward Brooke Hanson led the way as the first as first of Saturday’s 3-2 loss.

On Saturday we got a two goal lead and felt complacent, we let up for about ten minutes and that killed us," Hanson said. "We need to string together 60 minutes to be successful."

Hanson scored the first goal of the game on Friday early in the second period unassisted. Hanson then assisted the next goal scored by sophomore forward Allie Tanzer in the third period. The goal brought Tanzer to double digit points on the season, joining three other players in that category including Hanson.

The Pointers committed five penalties totaling ten minutes, but St. Scholastica was unable to take advantage, missing all five shots on goal during that period. The Pointers also failed to take advantage of St. Scholastica’s penalties with three power play shots during the six minutes of penalties committed by the Saints.

"We have been pushing ourselves and each other harder in practice to become consistent during the game," Hanson said. Freshman goalie Janna Beilke-Skoug recorded 17 saves and her seventh win of the season.

On Saturday, Hanson scored with just over seven minutes remaining in the first period off an assist by senior defender Ariel Novak. In the second period, Novak and freshman defender Nicole Shaub assisted senior forward Erin Marvin.

The two assists for Novak accounted for both of the senior captain’s four points on the season. The next three goals came in favor of the Saints, the first less than five minutes after the Marvin goal. Sophomore defender Frankie Bergman set up sophomore forward Michelle Fischer for the 2-1 score in favor of Point.

The tying goal came late in the second period when sophomore forward Jordy Klimek scored unassisted. The winning goal came when freshman defender Kaitlin Johnston scored off of an assist by freshman defender Alex Blair.

Beilke-Skoug recorded 25 saves in the loss but did not allow a short-handed goal in the series two.

With Friday’s win, the Pointers took a one game lead over St. Scholastica but the Saints would even the record at 8-3-1 with Saturday’s win creating a three way tie for third place in the Northern Collegiate Hockey Association.

"We need to win the rest of our conference games, so when it comes to seeding for playoffs we have a good chance to host," Hanson said.

"We fell short of hosting by one or two points the last couple of seasons." The Pointers have a good chance to get ahead in the rankings this weekend when they face off against the University of Wisconsin-Superior, whom the Saints and Pointers are tied with in the conference. The puck drops at 7:00 p.m. at Superior.

River Falls Edges Point In Overtime

ANDY HESSE
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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point fell in overtime to the University of Wisconsin-River Falls 82-75 on Saturday. The Alumni Day start but shortly after it was the Pointers with 22. Sophomore forward Alex Blair.

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Brewers second baseman Rickie Weeks may find himself in an interesting situation when the 2012 season opens on April 6.

With the departure of first baseman Prince Fielder and the possible 50-game suspension of left fielder Ryan Braun, an offensive drop-off is inevitable. Braun and Fielder accounted for 28 percent of Milwaukee’s runs last season and hit 71 of their 185 homeruns.

With the core of the team effectively disrupted, an opportunity arises for someone else to literally step up to the plate.

Last season Weeks was hindered by an ankle injury that sidelined him at a crucial point in the season, disrupting what had been a successful run. With Weeks’ ankle now healed, the Brewers will need his bat to be as hot as ever.

Weeks was fourth on the team in batting average, .269, and homeruns, 20, numbers that would have certainly been higher if not for his injury.

As one of the longest tenured Brewers, the organization will also look to Weeks as a leader in the clubhouse as they move into the post-Fielder era.

The lineup shift also affords right fielder Corey Hart the opportunity to become the player he has shown flashes of being. After his all-star year two seasons ago, Hart reverted back to his inconsistent production and .285 average ranked third on the Brewers, the organization will also certainly been higher if not for his injury.

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McGehee following the down year McGehee suffered last season which proved to be an upgrade from Casey McGehee following the down year McGehee suffered last season which led to his trade to Pittsburgh. Last season with the Cubs, Ramirez hit .305 through 149 games, recording 26 homeruns and 93 RBIs, which would have been third on the Brewers.

Life without Fielder is something Brewers fans have not experienced in a number of years. And with the possibility of not having Braun through the first 50 games the emotions of Brewers fans will be as strained as ever.

The good news is Nyjer Morgan is still a Brewer. Call him by whatever name you like, the man is entertaining. Not since the Ole Gunslinger walked Lambeau Field have Wisconsinites had an athlete to watch who seemed as if they played with total enjoyment.

Morgan brought a spark to the Brewers on and off the field last season and became a fan favorite almost immediately. As tortured as we may be in the beginning of this season, at least we can watch Morgan work his hands and just tickle it for another season.

The Pointer swim and dive team hosted the Get to the Point Invite last weekend.

Women’s basketball traveled to San Diego for the Surf ‘N Slam Tournament where they fell to host Point Loma Nazarene University, 66-74, but rebounded the next day with a decisive 62-43 win over Wellesley College.

Men’s hockey amassed a 3-2-1 record during the winter break, highlighted by a 6-2 victory over Adrian College of Michigan. They skate against the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Friday, then return home to face UW-River Falls for Put a Check to Cancer Night on Saturday.

The men’s team took third out of four teams Saturday at the UWSP Indoor Tri. The women’s team accumulated 126 points to secure a second place finish. Senior Kelly Haen and junior Logan Seipel swept the one mile run with times of 5:04.91 and 4:22.48, respectively. Track and Field travels to Carthage College Friday for the Thad Metzger Invite.

The Pointer

**Time to Shine for Weeks?**

**GUS MERWIN
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The men's team took first with 1271.5 points and the women finished third with 765.5 points. Junior Joe Clapp finished first in the 100-yard backstroke, 100-yard butterfly, and the 50-yard freestyle. The men tallied 26 points and 285 average ranked third on the Brewers, the organization will also certainly been higher if not for his injury.

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**Morgan brought a spark to the Brewers on and off the field last season and became a fan favorite almost immediately. As tortured as we may be in the beginning of this season, at least we can watch Morgan work his hands and just tickle it for another season.**

**With the departure of Prince Fielder, other Brewers players such as Rickie Weeks will have to step up their offensive production.**
The Noel Fine Arts Center filled with glitz, glamour, fashion, food, and art can only mean one thing; it’s Arts Bash. The NFAC has been hosting Arts Bash as a fundraiser event for nine years in order to raise money for the Arts Bash Scholarship Endowment Fund. The event on Feb. 4 will feature student dance and theatre performances, a wearable sculpture fashion show, arts sale with pieces donated by community artists and student artists, and food and drinks from 21 different restaurants.

“It’s a little bit of everything: dance, theatre, culinary arts, wearable art,” said Bobbie Erwin, the marketing specialist for the College of Fine Arts & Communication and main organizer of the event. “Everything’s arts all in one night.”

Junior Arts major Kaleena Hastings will be showcasing her art for the first time at this year’s Arts Bash. Hastings was inspired last year when she was a model in the wearable art fashion show.

“I felt like I should start putting my art out there so people notice it,” Hastings said. Hastings has spent the last two months working on a photo for the event as well as a dress made entirely out of paper.

The wearable art show this year is unique from what it’s been in years past. Instead of just having it open to art and design students, theatre and dance students are also participating in the show.

“The juxtaposition of the two is going to be really interesting,” Erwin said. “It’s going to be like Project Runway gone wild.”

Sarah Mark, a freshman Art major, is also participating in Arts Bash for the first time. The piece that Mark is presenting is entitled “Starry Nights.” It is composed of three wood cubes that are stacked in different orders to show three of Vincent Van Gogh’s pieces.

“Van Gogh has captured my imagination ever since I was little, so to have the opportunity to experiment with his work was very exciting,” Mark said.

Arts Bash gives students the opportunity to present their art to the public in a formal setting and allows them to gather a public opinion on their pieces.

“I’m excited to see the reaction from the people and how they take my art...I hope they like it,” Hastings said.

Last year, Arts Bash raised $30,000 for the endowment and scholarship fund with more than 700 attendees. “At the end of the day it’s going to be excellent to have scholarships to give to students. It makes it all worth it,” Erwin said. “We’re making a difference in students’ lives.”

Arts Bash 2012 will be held at the Noel Fine Arts Center on February 4th from 7:00 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.artsbash.com in advance or be purchased at the door. Student and faculty tickets are $20 in advance. General public tickets are $50 in advance and $60 at the door.

A photomicrograph of agatized dinosaur bone cells, by University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point photographer Doug Moore was a winning entry in the 2011 Nikon Small World International Photography Competition.

The competition began in 1974 to, according to Nikon, “Recognize and applaud the efforts of those involved with photography through the microscope.” The competition has become the top forum for showing the beauty and complexity of life captured under the microscope. It showcases photomicrographers from all over the world, and from a wide range of scientific disciplines.

A former field biologist and naturalist, Moore has been a keen collector of rocks, as well as agates and dinosaur bones, for over 50 years. After taking a few courses in light microscopy and microscopy techniques at UWSWP, Moore became more involved with microscopes and began photographing agates. Moore explained that the knowledge of lighting is what separates the amateurs from the professional microscope photographers.

Moore is not new to the microscope photography world, as he entered an image of algae in 1993 and received an honorable mention award. Moore didn’t spend too much time looking at the competition, but was surprised at his recognition. Most entries were of living materials, and Moore’s image stood out because, as he states, along with the photograph having strong patterns and color, “it was a different subject matter than most.”

Using a stereomicroscope, Moore photographed the 150-million-year-old unpolished slab of dinosaur bone, which was from Utah’s Morrison Formation.

Moore’s photograph was recognized out of 17,000 entries from 68 countries and is featured in the Nikon Small World 2012 Calendar. Moore encourages students to enter photo competitions.

“If you have the photos, why not?” Moore said.
In Pursuit of Perfectly Cooked Pasta

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If you’ve ever watched an Italian themed cooking show, you’ve probably heard the words “al dente” in regards to cooking pasta. The etymology of al dente comes from the Italian phrase “to the tooth,” which refers to the firmness of the pasta and the necessity to chew through the cooked pasta. Basically, al dente refers to a point where pasta is not hard, but yet isn’t completely cooked through.

Traditionally, the first step of perfect pasta would be to prepare the noodles fresh from flour, eggs, and salt. Combined, kneaded, divided, flattened, cut, and then dried, noodles are far from labor intensive. Unless you are a true connoisseur, pasta that’s condensed on leaves. It’s extremely hot, especially forest. It’s extremely hot, especially

But al dente, if you haven’t guessed, is extremely subjective. What’s perfectly cooked for you might not be perfectly cooked for anyone else. The best way to test the pasta is to take a bite; a timer will never be as accurate as a quick chomp.

Then there is the sauce. From what I know from Italian-Americans I have met, the sauce has to be handled down from generation to generation as a closely guarded secret. The perfect sauce is made from gently squeezed tomatoes, garlic carefully minced, and olive oil pressed from the happiest little olives in Italy and set to gently simmer for no less than twelve hours.

Italian romanticism of food isn’t unusual. However, a bit of sauteed onions and garlic with some crushed tomatoes and a myriad of dried herbs cooked for 15 minutes or so can imitate ancient family recipes quite nicely.

But for the perfect pasta dish, it’s the combination between noodles and sauce. Always put your pasta in the pan where your sauce is cooking, adding a little bit of the starchy water from the pot in which you cooked your noodles. Cooking the pasta in the sauce allows for the sauce to coat and cook into the pasta rather than just sitting on top of the noodles. If the sauce seems to dry, add some more pasta water; if it’s too soupy, let it cook down a little.

As always, the perfect pasta is perfectly personal. The cooking process allows you the chance to taste and change the dish so you can change the food to what you like; pasta is no different. Be involved and don’t rely on timers, in matters of love and pasta, only the heart and taste buds will know!

So Much to See, So Little Time

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While some students slept in late, worked, spent time with loved ones, or watched TV over break, others were camping in the mountains and watching the New Year’s Eve fireworks in Sydney, Australia. These adventures overseas were a part of the winterim programs at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. These three week experiences are a unique and convenient way to see a new country, gain some credits, while not being as time consuming as a semester trip would be.

Communication & Social Change in Australia

The first trip to Australia as a winterim course took place on Dec. 27 to Jan. 19. Students arrived just in time to watch the New Years Eve fireworks in Sydney, Australia, with roughly 2 million other people. Typically, this trip is only offered as a semester program. However, the winterim offered a feasible option for some students. Those that went on this trip learned about the communication and social change in Australia and how it differs from the United States.

“Most people think that Australia is just an English speaking country so it’s not a big deal; however, this experience is so valuable. There are so many significant culture and social differences,” said Matt Tolstedt, the leader of this winterim experience. The 19 students that went on this trip visited sites, went on field trips, and listened to guest speakers all surrounding these topics.

As a Spanish major, Jenika Marion was hoping to immerse herself in the language and see the country; however, she got much more than that.

“I learned so much information; not only about natural resources, but also about Central American culture. They really have a commitment, dedication, and belief to live sustainably,” Marion said. “It was amazing and encouraging to see how much they worked with the environment and land rather than just working on it.”

From zip lining and whitewater rafting to seeing sea turtles lay their eggs on Naranjo Beach New Year’s night, the students got a wide range of experiences on their trip.

“Hiking is a huge part of this experience. In one day we had hiked 8.5 miles down and back in the dry forest. It’s extremely hot, especially with the 1,500 ft. elevation change,” Demchik said.

Tropical Ecology in Costa Rica

Every study abroad program that is organized by the Natural Resources Department targets a different aspect of natural resources. The trip to Costa Rica that took place on Dec. 26 to Jan. 14 was centered on its human dimensions, soils, waters, and tropical ecology. Students saw about half of the country, including a cloud forest. The unique sight is made up of humid air that’s condensed on leaves.

“I learned so much information; not only about natural resources, but also about Central American culture. They really have a commitment, dedication, and belief to live sustainably,” Marion said. “It was amazing and encouraging to see how much they worked with the environment and land rather than just working on it.”

“Start with a large pot on medium heat, add the olive oil and wait till it starts to shimmer.”

“Add onions, garlic, salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes, let sauté till it becomes fragrant. Add the can of crushed tomatoes and the dried herbs.

“Let simmer for 10 minutes then serve on top of your perfect, al dente pasta.

INGREDIENTS:
- 28oz. can of crushed tomatoes (with no added seasoning)
- 1/4c olive oil
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 medium sized onion, diced
- 1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- A few turns on a pepper grinder

SIMPLE RED SAUCE

• Start with a large pot on medium heat, add the olive oil and wait till it starts to simmer.
• Add onions, garlic, salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes, let sauté till it becomes fragrant. Add the can of crushed tomatoes and the dried herbs.
• Let simmer for 10 minutes then serve on top of your perfect, al dente pasta.
Girl With A Dragon Tattoo: A Review

OWEN STEVENS
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I'd be hard-pressed to think of a better director than David Fincher for bringing the grim "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" to the silver screen. Fincher's previous endeavors into society's dark underbelly include "Seven" and "Zodiac." With Dragon Tattoo, Fincher blends the taut drama of "Zodiac" and the gruesome terror of "Seven", creating a stark, nightmarish reality.

The story tells the tale of a disgraced journalist, Mikael Blomkvist (Daniel Craig), investigating the disappearance of a girl who went missing forty years ago.

Blomkvist is aided in his search by Lisbeth Salander (Rooney Mara.) Lisbeth is a highly skilled computer hacker and a severely damaged individual. She is tough enough to overcome it.

Lisbeth appears to have been born weathered by abuse and hardened by neglect, as the children of the UWSP faculty, and whether you have found yourself wondering why they are here. These children belong to the recently top-rated child care service, the Helen R. Godfrey University Child Learning and Care Center (HRG-UCLCC) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The UCLCC, located in the lower level of Delzell Hall, is one of the six programs, among the 374 rated, that has recently received a five-star rating from the YoungStar program of Wisconsin. The program was created through the Department of Children and Families to improve the quality of child care for Wisconsin children.

"The five star rating is a great testament to the commitment the center has on children receiving a quality early education. Birth to age 5 is the largest time frame in a person's life in terms of development and we strive to give these children the best start we can," said Becky Helf, the director of the UCLCC.

Along with the rating, the UCLCC has also recently received national re-accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood programs, which is a division of the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in Washington, DC. The UCLCC is currently the only center in the area that is accredited by the NAEYC.

The UCLCC is an organization that focuses on educational and developmental services for all young children. The organization serves and acts on behalf of the children's needs and well-being along with promoting high-quality education.

"The UCLCC stands out from other centers in the sense of family and the warm feeling you get when visiting the center, along with many other things," Helf said.

Kally Samuelson, a senior Early Childhood Education major, has been a teacher's aide at UCLCC for three years.

"I am very happy that UCLCC has been re-accredited. We work hard to meet and hopefully exceed the standards that the NAEYC sets," Samuelson said.

The UCLCC provides child care for pre-school age children. The child care center allows the children to play, learn, and grow emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively.

The enrolled children are members of the Stevens Point community, as well as the children of the UWSP faculty, students, and alumni.

Hayley Wiesman, a UWSP sophomore, began working in the UCLCC this year to gain work experience with children as she aspires to pursue a career in social work.

"I think it's cool that the university has the center for students with children so that they can still get a college education even though they have young kids," Wiesman said.

The lead staff at the UCLCC consists of all degreed teachers with skills and knowledge in child development, but many UWSP students come in to volunteer, do observations for classes, and work.

"Working here provides a great opportunity for me to work with children. It is wonderful that we can learn and grow alongside each other," Samuelson said. "Just spending time with them can brighten up my day."

"It's always fun talking with the kids and watching them work things out by themselves and seeing them grow, but the most rewarding part is just being able to see the kids so many times a week, and making a connection with them," Wiesman said. "Just knowing that the kids like having me there and see me as someone they can go to is very rewarding."
Mr. Lovenstein

Where’s your homework, Simon?

Uhh... My dog ate it.

Funny, you were going to bring your dog for show-and-tell.

So, your dog ate itself?

Earlier...

Rufus, NOO!

by Justin Westover

[photo of the week]

Peppers: Akha Hill Tribe Village, Thailand

Photo by Michael Wilson

Do you have... Opinions, photos, comics, or classifieds?
Send them to us at: pointer@uwsp.edu (We’ll publish them!)
January 26, 2012

Opinion

Why the Mexican elections matter

The casualties and targets of Mexico's intensifying conflict are, by a grossly disproportionate margin, the poor, peasants, indigenous peo­ple, women, migrants and disaffected urban populations. There is little toler­ance for a free press, and it has taken the title as the country with the greatest journalist­ly killed in Netzahualcoyotl and in sewage drains in Mexico City, ballot stuff­ing and illegal campaigning, sur­faced. However, these and other ris­ing issues of electoral fraud were ignored or swept under the rug by the na­tional vote intimidators and political abuses by the military, votes (and voters) disappear, political protest movements and worker organi­zations are brutally crushed by police and military troops, and political extermination and subordination, judicial repression of opposition parties and other forms of violence are expected and prevalent.

Mexico's presidential and 14 gubernatorial elections this coming July could mark an escalation of violence or a turning point for one of the U.S.'s largest trading partners. Exacerbating the current elec­toral period's propensity to result in bloodshed is the $30 billion business spent our patience for electoral poli­ties - extortion and subordination, judicial and military troops, and political abuse - is at our peril that we turn a blind eye to them, as we do daily to the tragic­ities occurring globally. For those of us whose tax dollars are funding this 'international secu­rity' and 'development' charade as a failed state due to the impunity, violence, and insecu­rity that characterizes its plutocratic and PRI parties equated class con­sciousness with fascism and dictator­ship. The election was originally too close to call, as announced on election night by the electoral commission, the Instituto Federal Electoral (IFE). Both Calderon and Lopez Obrador declared victory.

In the coming days, reports of voter intimidation and vote buy­ing, ballot boxes found in a dump in Ahualulco and in sewage drains in Mexico City, ballot stuff­ing and illegal campaigning, sur­faced. However, these and other ris­ing issues of electoral fraud were ignored or swept under the rug by the na­tional vote intimidators and political abuses by the military, votes (and voters) disappear, political protest movements and worker organi­zations are brutally crushed by police and military troops, and political extermination and subordination, judicial repression of opposition parties and other forms of violence are expected and prevalent.

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MICHAEL WILSON
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Most of us in the U.S. have spent our patience for electoral poli­tics on the escalating gaffes by the Republican Party presidential con­tenders who, in their own ways, have demonstrated to the public how unsuitable they are to run the coun­try. However, our southern neighbors have a much more decisive election at hand.

Due to the political malleability of its legal system and the central­ized power of its executive office, Mexico has a long history of blood­shed during presidential elections - candidates are assassinated, entire indigenous and peasant communities are invaded, tortured and sexually abused by the military, votes (and voters) disappear, political protest movements and worker organi­zations are brutally crushed by police and military troops, and political extermination and subordination, judicial repression of opposition parties and other forms of violence are expected and prevalent.

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Bon Iver: A Reflection of the Wisconsin Lifestyle

MITCH DESANTIS
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ALBUM REVIEW

Wisconsin is a cold tundra-like land, home of beer farts, cow shit, "Happy Days" and, of course, the Green Bay Packers. We also have a pretty good history with cannibal serial killers... but let's not get into that. Other than Chris Farley, Ed Gene, and Gene Wilder, Wisconsin has given life to one of the greatest-modern folk musicians, Justin Vernon.

Growing up in Wisconsin, I know how proud we as citizens of this great state can get. Generally most Wisconsinites adore the Packers, mainly because without us there wouldn't be the Packers, we own the team. I personally believe that gave us as Wisconsinites a weird sort of pride. We work hard to market our state in a good light. We're proud of our lifestyles and everything that reflects our way of living. Whether it be The Packers, the politics of Russ Feingold, New Glarus' "Spotted Cow," or Bon Iver, all represent our unique American life and we're proud of all of them.

Enough talk about sports, this is "Pointlife," and this article is really about Justin Vernon, Bon Iver and their reflection of life in Wisconsin at least how it's perceived by me, a poor college student with the nerdy hobby of writing.

In 2008, Justin released "For Emma, Forever Ago," to the world and the world took notice. What was interesting was a that more people seemed to be into it purely behind the album than the actual beautiful sound it created. In short it was break-up story: man gets dumped, man secludes himself in northern Wisconsin cabin, man produces art with inspiration from lost love and the quiet solitude of Wisconsin winter. Face it: if you're not into ice fishing, skiing, or snowmobiling, your Wisconsin winter consists of mainly shoveling driveways and self-reflection. Vernon just gave us a soundtrack, one with a story we all personally have experienced in some form or another.

Wisconsinites are also used to having to transition themselves from winter to spring and, take it from me, the transition can be difficult. Our winters are so long at times it seems like we'll never see green grass again. In the long run we do see the green grass again and when we do, we really appreciate it. I believe a similar transition happened to Justin Vernon between albums. He wasn't the heartbroken folk singer we all knew him as anymore. He picked himself out of the snow and stepped into something bigger, something he had to prepare for. In his release of his new self-titled album, we can hear the very transition: the sound has more positive energy with lyrics that evoke the listener with hope, romance and curiosity.

His music hasn't gone unnoticed by the rest of the nation either; Vernon and the Bon Iver crew have earned four Grammy nominations, two of which are best record and best song for "Holocene."

Admittedly, this isn't an album review; this is more of a long-winded thank you to Vernon. Bon Iver continues to put out great albums that, in my opinion, express our unique Wisconsin lifestyle and, seeing that both the mayor of Milwaukee and Eau Claire declared two different "Bon Iver Days," I'm not the only one in the state that thinks that.

Bon Iver, good luck at the Grammy Awards, Wisconsin is proud of you.

The 54th Grammys will be held Feb. 12 in Los Angeles.