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A Closer Look at International Programs

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International Programs offers the students of the University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point the chance to take their education outside of Wisconsin, and gain global experience in the classroom and workplace.

"I think it would be good for every American to get out of America. On a broad ranging scope as to what is good I think every American had an experience outside of this country for a while we would understand our own country better," said Mark Koepke, Associate Director of International Programs. "We would have a healthier more globally literate and more understanding of America's position in the world."

One of the most popular destinations is London, which offers the most options in terms of short- or long-term stays and choices of study. There are also trips to Ireland, Iceland, Germany, Greece, Spain and even Cuba.

"I wanted to go because I always wanted to go to England, and since my trip was with an internship I figured it would be valuable work experience," Said Margaret Rohr, who participated in an internship in London. "I decided to go because I knew we would be given many opportunities to explore both the city and the country. We were in our own time, instead of following over planned touristy trips with the whole group."

When International Programs first started at UWSP in 1969, it was one of very few programs like it in the nation. A small group of 41 students was taken to London. Over the years the program at UWSP has grown, and study abroad programs are now available at almost every university in the country. Roughly 15 percent of all UWSP students will study abroad, a huge number in comparison the 2 percent national average.

Pauline Isaacson helped establish International Programs at UWSP. Her plan for this program was rejected the first time she presented it to the Board of Regents. The board was convinced that if any school in system should start an international program it should have been UW-Madison. It was not until Lee Sherman Dreyfus became chancellor of UWSP that the idea was adopted.

"He (the student) gains a yardstick for beauty. As he assimilates the legendary somber wonder of the Alps or the tranquility of the gardens of Kent, he has a new awareness of a distant view of the Baraboo hills or of the snow laden birches of Wisconsin's north," Isaacson said years ago when explaining what she hoped students would gain from studying abroad.

International Programs works hard to match students with opportunities that they will benefit from the most. Different programs offer different types of classes, Koepke said, and he wants students to be able to gain as much as they can from the time and money they spend.

According to the International Programs mission statement: "Our mission is to advance international education and global awareness through study abroad programming."

"Truly the thing to keep in mind is that this is a shrinking world," Koepke said. "You are not competing with the guy down the block anymore. That is not the way the world works no matter what we want or what nostalgia we have for an old world. It is international. Markets are international, education is international, everything is international."
October 25, 2012

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UWSP Tobacco Policy Reviewed

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point tobacco and smoking policies have been a contentious topic over the past few decades with very little changing on either side of the issue.

Student Life Issues Director Ryan Specht, who co-chairs the Ad Hoc Committee for the Resolution of Tobacco Concerns (AHCRCT), along with Health Services Student Director Anna Haug both hope that the committee will be the first to end inaction on the issue.

"We're sick and tired of the flip-flopping," Specht said. "Everyone might not be happy, but what we're working towards is a compromise. We are committed to getting something done."

Specht said that the committee is more concerned about formulating fair policy changes in making a healthier UWSP campus and that a tobacco ban is only one of five options currently being evaluated. Another plan involves the prohibition of the act of smoking anything—such as hookah—differing from a full tobacco ban, which would include chewing tobacco.

Another option the committee is evaluating involves making no changes to the current tobacco and smoking rules on campus. As of now, guidelines include a ban on smoking in any indoor building and within 30-feet of a residence halls. There is also a ban on smoking within a non-defined range of any childcare facility on campus.

There is also a plan being discussed that would create designated smoking zones where tobacco products would be permitted as well as a long-term transitional plan that would promote a cultural shift on the act of tobacco use. This plan would involve promoting the already available smoking cessation programs available on campus.

Senior English major Randy Ploeckelman, who is a smoker, said that he believes the current tobacco rules on campus are necessary and fair but should not be taken any further. Some UWSP students are not convinced that tobacco use on campus is an issue.

"I think the rules are fine now. I don't have a problem with it. I will walk through a crowd of smokers and get a cloud of smoke in my face but it happens, it doesn't really bother me," said Boone Sorenson, a senior communication major.

Daniel Werachowski, a junior English major and smoker, agreed with Sorenson.

"I feel like if they passed legislation to ban smoking on campus, it would be really hard to enforce and could cost a lot of money to enforce. It seems like since budgets are tight, there are a lot of bigger problems to worry about right now," Werachowski said.

Specht said that he knows changing tobacco and smoking policies is a controversial issue but hopes that an open dialogue with students and faculty will help shape a policy that reflects the opinions of all sides.

"Feedback is critical and we won't be enacting policy without that feedback," Specht said.

AHCRCT is holding an open forum on Nov 14 where students and faculty can voice any concerns and offer input on the issue, as well as learn about some of the proposed plans. Anyone interested in more information can contact Ryan Specht at rspec566@uwsp.edu.
First Lady Rallies in Wausau

ANDY DAVIS

On Friday, Oct 19, Michelle Obama visited the Fieldhouse of the University of Wisconsin – Marathon County in Wausau to speak to grassroots supporters of the Obama Campaign.

"What I like about campaigning is talking about the man I love, your president. He is handsome and charming and incredibly smart," Obama said, opening the speech for her audience.

According to Wausau Fire Marshall David DeSantis, there were 980 attendees in the Fieldhouse and another 600 in an overflow room. Her speech was geared towards women and student voters, two key demographics in this election.

Wisconsin counts for 10 electoral votes, making it one of the crucial Midwest states to win. Before her stop at UWMC, Obama made a visit to speak in Racine, and later Friday evening Bill Clinton spoke in Green Bay.

There were a few speakers who opened for the first lady including Veteran Jim Palmer, Pastor Steven Wright, WI State Assembly Representative Donna Seidel and Former State Senator Pat Kreitlow. Cynthia Johnson of Rhinelander, a student in the middle of her third year of college, introduced Obama and explained why she is a supporter of President Obama.

"We need a president that will stand up for students like me," Johnson said. "I know President Obama is looking out for me." President Obama has made changes to the federal financial aid system since 2008. As the first lady mentioned, Pell Grant spending has reached $35 billion, an amount that will support about 10 million low-income students. Obama also pushed Congress to postpone scheduled doubling of subsidized Stafford loans.

"When it comes to student debt, Barack and I have been there," Obama said. "Barack worked to ensure that Pell Grant funding was doubled and he fought hard to keep interest rates down on student loans." Obama made statements about her husband's stance on access to healthcare, contraception, and women's rights. She also spoke about efforts to improve the economy.

"We know very well that cutting Sesame Street is no way to balance the budget," Obama said. "Yes, we have to make cuts to spending, but we also have to make smart investments.

"President Obama "inherited an economy in rapid decline, but instead of complaining your president got to work," Obama said. "It is going to take way more than four years to rebuild an economy on the brink of collapse."

Presidential Candidate Mitt Romney is scheduled to visit Defiance, OH Thursday, Oct 25; he will be in Virginia Beach, VA on Sunday, Oct 28. As of now there are no scheduled stops in Wisconsin for the Romney/Ryan campaign.

Obama wrapped up her speech by urging voters to vote early and tell all of their friends and neighbors to vote. She said that what happens in the final days of the campaign will absolutely affect the outcome of the election. Her speech ended with a question.

"Are you ready for this? Are you in?" she asked. She was answered by cheering and applause.

The full speech can be viewed on Youtube.com at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iETSkcvRlQ

Academic Custodial Staff: Always Here to Help

RACHEL PUKALL

Every campus has its heroes, some less recognized than others. University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point is no exception. Hidden heroes working behind the scenes doing things early, Zylkowski said.

At that stop, the academic custodial staff is responsible for cleaning more than 1.6 million square feet in more than 18 buildings on campus every day. On top of that, custodial staff is also notorious for saving 2 to 3 lives a year on average.

"We do a lot more than just clean buildings. We see a lot going on," said Dennis Zylkowski, a custodian at UWSP since 1993.

Zylkowski has witnessed many acts of vandalism as well as medical emergencies.

Recently Custodial Supervisor Jason Zinda found a student in diabetic shock. The student had already been lying there for two hours when Zinda found him. Zinda gave the student CPR until the paramedics arrived and saved his life.

"It's not uncommon for us to come across stuff like that," Zylkowski said.

One night, Zylkowski saw a suspicious person in a parking lot trying to light a car on fire. He ended up scaring the vandal off, who ran away after the police were called.

"We know who belongs here and who doesn't. We can be the eyes and ears of campus," Zylkowski said.

The girl was about 20 feet up in a ledge. Someone called us and said, "We need wrestling mats." At that point we knew exactly what they meant," Zylkowski said.

The girl was about 20 feet up in the air and eventually fell and broke her ankle.

"It would have been a lot worse if we hadn't gotten there in time," Zylkowski said.

Tammy Larson, the head of the Academic Custodial Department, likes being able to help and protect students and their families, so we have to look out for them," Larson said.

Last year, with all the heavy rains and floods, the custodial staff fixed all of the leaks and got rid of all the fallen trees.

"We save hundreds of thousands of dollars because we catch these things early," Zylkowski said.

The academic custodial staff is often taken for granted for what they do, from keeping the campus looking its best to protecting students and saving merchandise.

"We get short-changed for what we do around here. I think it'd be a good idea to use us more effectively," Zylkowski said.

"I always tell my staff the students are like our own. They're away from their families, so we have to look out for them," Larson said.
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They come from all around the United States for various reasons, but student athletes from Alaska, Missouri, Iowa, New York and many other places come to Stevens Point and proudly wear the Pointers jersey. There are 282 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point athletes on men’s teams. 24 percent of them are not from Wisconsin. Of the 230 female athletes, 23.3 percent don’t call Wisconsin home.

Almost every team at UWSP has at least one out of state athlete on their team. Both men’s and women’s hockey have the highest percentage of out-of-state talent, with 78 and 65 percent, respectively. This is a common trend in Division I programs, but it is becoming more prevalent in Division III programs.

Why would so many come to the small town of Stevens Point to play their sport? There are a quite a few answers to that question.

Both senior golfer Olivia Schiefelbein, from Iowa, and sophomore cross-country runner, Chandler Mellon, from New York, chose UWSP because of its outstanding natural resources, scenery and lifestyle to their previous homes, it’s understandable that many of these athletes needed some time to adjust. "I wanted to go somewhere I had never been to before, and Wisconsin was one of those places," Schiefelbein said.

Considering the change in scenery and lifestyle to their previous homes, it’s understandable that many of these athletes needed some time to transition to the Wisconsin culture. "Words used like ‘bubbler’ and ‘tennis shoes’ were very foreign to me," Mellon said.

The biggest difference is the size of Stevens Point," Gammage said. "It was way smaller than St. Louis." Daley, a transfer student from Penn State University, enjoys the small number of students. "I find it’s easier for me to get around campus and have a better one-on-one relationship with some of my teachers," Daley said.

For Hasbrouck, she had to get used to many things, coming from a small community of just 3,000 people in her town. "There were more people on my swim team than there was in my graduating class," Hasbrouck said. "I had never spent time in a deciduous forest, had never stopped a car at a stoplight and had never heard of Black Friday shopping." Hasbrouck said. "But one of the biggest changes for Hasbrouck was the Debot food. "I’m used to eating a lot of seafood," Hasbrouck said. "Debot caused a major food-oriented culture shock."

Even with all of the changes, the athletes agree that the Stevens Point community is a very welcoming and friendly place to call home for nine months out of the year. "I have met and become friends with some really great people up here," said Schiefelbein. "The atmosphere around campus is pretty cool, too. You get to know a lot of people and make new friends every day," Daley said.

"I’ve found that I’m particularly fond of cows," said Hasbrouck. "There are many more choices in Stevens Point, WI, compared to Petersburg, AL."

Students love the atmosphere and friendliness of Stevens Point, but everyone eventually misses home a little bit, and being far away can mean missing it more. "I really miss my family, especially my niece, my dogs and close friends," Mellon said. "Parents, grandparents and my brother are a big part of my life," Daley said. "It gets a little difficult at times not having that chance to see them as much as I would like to." "I miss the ocean and the salty breeze, the nest of mountains that surround and the glorious amounts of seafood," Hasbrouck said. "I miss sea kayaking, fog in the morning, watching sea lions swim and walking through the harbor at night."

Everyone in college misses someone or something along the line, but there are support systems to make you feel better, and that’s no different for the athletic teams. "Playing on the hockey team here helps you through, because it kind of puts you in a ‘family’ here," Gammage said.

Being so far away from home, the athletes don’t get to see family very often, but many have family in the area. "I am only a couple hours away from my grandparents, Schiefelbein said. "It is nothing to head down to see them for the weekend, which is great."

Sometimes families even travel to UWSP to support their athletes. "Some of my family will visit here a couple times, though, to watch some of my hockey games," Gammage said.

Just remember, whether they’re just across the way in Minnesota or all the way from Alaska, make our athletes, and all of the out-of-state students, feel welcome here in our great state of Wisconsin.
Pack Back on Track

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After a dismal start to the season, the Green Bay Packers have strung together a few impressive wins and are back in the division race with a 4-3 record.

The Packers started the season with a loss to the San Francisco 49ers 30-22. Green Bay bounced back the next week with a Monday night victory against the Chicago Bears, 23-10.

Next came the game against the Seattle Seahawks, a game Packer fans will not soon forget. The Packers lost the game on a blown touchdown call as time expired. The play subsequently led to an agreement between the NFL and the striking referees.

The Packers then beat the New Orleans Saints, 28-27. The Pack looked like they might have been getting in a groove, but then the Indianapolis Colts stunned the Packers with a 30-27 upset.

The loss may have awakened a sleeping giant, as the Packers came ready to play against their toughest opponent of the season, the Houston Texans. The Packers stomped the Texans, 42-24.

This past weekend, the Packers traveled to St. Louis to take on the Rams. It wasn’t the prettiest, but Green Bay came out on top with a final of 30-20.

To put it in perspective, the Super Bowl-winning 2010 Packers started the season 4-3, but finished strong down the stretch, played their best ball at the end of the season and made history from there.

This is exactly what the 2012 Packers are set up to do. With the tough, start some people wrote them off early and focused on the teams with better records like Atlanta, Houston and Chicago, which could come back to bite them.

Green Bay has gotten through the hardest part of their schedule and now has a legitimate shot at winning the rest of their games.

The other threat to the rest of the Packers schedule will be against the Detroit Lions twice, who proved to the world Monday night against the Bears that they are a very beatable team. They also play the Minnesota Vikings twice, a team that will not play as well as they have been.

The games to look out for will be the playoff rematch in week 12, against the New York Giants. The Giants can beat anyone at home.

The other threat to the rest of the Packers schedule is the week 15 matchup at Soldier Field against the Bears. If Green Bay can win both of those games, they will be in good shape for the playoffs.

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Handoff goes to Pointer Running Back Adam Vesterfelt.

Photo by Jack McLaughlin

The marching band kicks off the homecoming celebration by traveling through the circle Saturday morning.

Photo by Nino Nuttavuttisit

Chris Rosendahl shares a laugh with Senior Pointer at the Homecoming Game.

Photo by Nino Nuttavuttisit

Students from Watson hall getting ready for tug-of-war.

Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Running Back, Ethan Lockhart runs the ball down the field.

Photo by Jack McLaughlin

Adam Vesterfelt communicates with the team during the Homecoming Game.
Celebrate All Abilities: 3peat

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The University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point Disabilities Advisory Council presents another year of "Celebrate All Abilities" to end the month of October.

Since the very first time Celebrate All Abilities was introduced to campus, educating the community has been a main goal. For the last few years, UWSP has been on a mission to celebrate inclusive excellence. To some, it has been unknown, to others, it rings in their ears in the form of event planning. Jim Joque, the director of the Disability and Technology Center, spoke about how Celebrate All Abilities is more than just an event.

"It's good to see people work together for a good cause, and the good cause is making people aware of disabilities," Joque said.

Moments later, Joque mentioned he thinks that the students will be greatly impacted by the testimony of the people who live with these disabilities.

Each program has brought a lot of success, but a lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make it all happen.

After speaking with Margaret Strong, the Assistant Technology Coordinator, the amount of work became a little bit more visible. "My part was mainly partnering up with St. Michael's and making sure that it was all secure," Strong said.

However, Strong is not alone. Every year a student intern helps with the promotions as the promotions manager. This year it is Morgan Kucksdorf. Joque mentioned how fulfilling working with Kucksdorf was.

As the student intern, Kucksdorf has had the promotions. The student put together flyers and came up with other strategies to promote as best as she could.

"It's just a matter of getting everything coordinated. So we had a student come in as an intern, as a promotions manager, who has the talent and skill to make posters, and then know how to contact other mediums," Joque said.

Joque later commented that another of the Council's most rewarding opportunities has been offering this information to the students, the staff, and the community of Stevens Point.

Strong's and Kucksdorf's efforts are part of the Council's mission of educating the campus and community. Some of the topics to look forward to this year will be "Recognizing and Helping people with ADHD," "An American America Resurrection," and "The Visible and Invisible Wounds of Wounded Warriors." This year Celebrate All Abilities takes place in the UWSP Dreyfus University Center in the Laird Room South.

In its third year, the UWSP Disabilities Advisory Council hopes Celebrate All Abilities impacts everyone who comes out to take place in this experience.

Alumni Banquet

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University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point alumni gathered to be honored for their accomplishments and contributions to both the university and community, as well as to participate in homecoming activities this past weekend.

The banquet that the alumni attended distributed four different awards throughout the night. The Distinguished Alumnus Award (1969), Alumni Service Award (1998), the Trailblazer Achievement Award (2010), and the Lifetime Achievement Award. The Alumni banquet hosted anywhere from 100 to 130 alumni with both their friends and family.

The event started with a pre-banquet reception for alumni to interact with one another. This year, the reception was located in the Legacy Room, and the actual banquet and ceremony took place in the Alumni Room. Alumni Relations staff greeted guests and took photos of award winners and their families.

Laura Gehrmann Rottier, Director of Alumni Affairs, explained that the Distinguished Alumnus Award was created in 1969 as the university celebrated its 75th anniversary. Those who are nominated for this award meet criteria that a selection committee then reviews to make a final decision.

"Nominations are based on outstanding accomplishments of outstanding contribution to the university and community and beyond the recognition and reputation that extends past the nominee's immediate environment," Rottier said.

There is also a Distinguished Alumni Council, which is comprised of alumni from each of the four colleges on campus that "demonstrate the broad range of outstanding accomplishments alumni achieve after they graduate from UWSP."

With the banquet may honor prominent alumni for their accomplishments, the banquet itself established an even bigger connection between the university and the alumni with their participation over the homecoming weekend.

Maintaining relations with alumni after they graduate is important, and the Alumni Relations office works hard to preserve the connection former students have to UWSP.

"This event provides a deep and lasting connection to UWSP. In some cases we are recognizing alumni who have an existing relationship with UWSP, but in others, this honor is the first time they have reconnected in years," Rottier said.

The Alumni Banquet may showcase the accomplishments of former grads. Current students are also able to participate in the event. The jazz trio and string quartet made up of current UWSP students were hired to play during the reception. Even the University Dining Service catering staff was involved with the event.

Rottier explained that alumni can reconnect with the campus by connecting with current students. Students are given a chance to network, and in years past there have been meet-and-greets with specific alumni. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed.

"The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed. The connections that the winners develop or deepen with the campus by connecting with current students. Out of these connections, scholarships have been developed.

American Politics in London

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COMMENTSARY

Similarities to Wisconsin’s recent political atmosphere loomed at a demonstration held on Saturday, October 20th, 2012 in London. Students along with union members and union sympathizers gathered outside the University of London Union (ULU) in Bloomsbury to protest the recent cuts in welfare and education as part of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) demonstration for “A Future that Works.”

Pamphlets and signs were generously passed out to the crowd that began gathering just before 11:00a.m. Speakers shouted through megaphones about the cuts made in the last two years to the country’s budget and individuals with clipboards walked through the crowd collecting signatures on a petition.

Just one and half years ago, a similar situation unfolded in Mitcham, as the students will be making sure to the Thames River to join with the larger movement of the TUC the crowd became more vociferous with drum cadences, whistles, and chants. “Hey, ho, Cameron’s got to go” boomed from a megaphone while another group chanted of rights to a free education.

Tyler, a student and the education officer at his university, spoke of the hardships many students were facing with the cuts to student services and the increase in tuition from £2000 ($4800) to £0000 ($14400) per year. “Students need jobs to pay for school, but there are no jobs,” he said. It is a chilling reminder that the economy still lags while the cost of education soars. Students are hard pressed to find jobs, and with cuts to housing benefits, some are finding the need to move back home.

Michael Holland, a teacher at Benedict Primary School in Mitcham, spoke on the difficulties students in primary and secondary schools face along with the problems teachers are now dealing with. “It’s turning children into units of labor, ” he said, referencing the belief that rigorous government standards lead to a “minimal amount of education” and that students are simply being “ground through” the system - with fewer resources due to budget cuts.

Increased scrutiny and rigorous government testing, similar to that in the states where students are tested on knowledge gained and teachers are assessed accordingly, has caused frustration in the classroom for both teachers and students. It is difficult not to hear echoes of Wisconsin’s recent political upheaval in the struggles between England’s working class and Parliament’s move towards sorting out the nation’s debt. The struggle between fairness to the working class and maintaining a functioning government is a complicated issue that is shared internationally.
Pointers

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A Little Too Close to Home

JUSTIN SULLIVAN
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On Sunday, Radcliffe Haughton shot and killed his estranged wife and two other women in a Brookfield, Wisconsin spa before turning the gun he had bought two days earlier on himself. Recently, these violent acts have seemed all too common, forcing me to reevaluate the trust I held in the nature of people and question why these things were happening.

This past summer wasn’t very productive for me. I barely went outside, slept too much and spent most of my time with my head under a rock working as an assistant manager for the same movie theater I’ve been employed at since I was sixteen years old. I even downloaded an advertisement blocker so I could watch my “Call Me Maybe” covers free from any presidential election ads. I took some time off from the world, but the shootings in Aurora, Colorado at the Century 16 Megaplex pulled my head from the ground and affected me greatly, like for many Americans.

Along with the twelve lives lost that day came the loss of innocence at the movie theater, a place for entertainment and magic, where every class, creed, and gender can come together to lose themselves in a story. In a way, the movie theater represents America, an opportunity for a melting-pot of silhouettes to escape their problems and forget for awhile.

But the loss of all those innocent lives tested that ideal. I felt distrust in my customers, in my fellow man. I didn’t want to be constantly nervous that people were carrying weapons with the intent to harm others. I didn’t want to be scared.

Then came the shootings at the Oak Creek Sikh Temple, just three hours away from Stevens Point, the city I grew up in my whole life. Six innocent people were killed along with the shooter in a seemingly senseless act of violence, with possibly a racist motive. Americans were shot and killed because they were different. The American ideals of religious tolerance and the freedom of opportunity were carried out in stretchers in the same state that I live in. One again, a horrific, violent act forced me to question what it means to be a human being and what it means to be an American.

This questioning, these feelings of remorse, regret, and anger, extend above the evaluating of gun control laws. It is certainly an issue, but if someone had used a different weapon in any of these cases, I would still be writing this. The issue lies in the seemingly common disregard certain members of society feel for others. The loss of innocent lives so near to me that affect me and my community made me ask, “Just what we all are working for?” How are we to deal with our differences as a nation, as a state, as the human race? And the thing is... I don’t have any answers for anyone, including myself. I just feel like we all have to start looking.

Open Lecture:
The European Perspective of the American Presidential Election

‘Want to know what the Brits and the other Europeans think of us and this whole election thing? You might be surprised. Dr. Leslie Zwolick, Professor of History and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Anglo Educational Services, London, England promises an interesting and insightful talk.

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### Comics

Aquaman, you wouldn't happen to know anything about global warming, would you?

Global warming? Sorry Superman, haven't the foggiest.

Hmn... alright. Well, if you find anything, let me know.
Can do.

Keep that god damn oil burning!

Soon the whole world will be underwater, then we'll see whose worthless.
Self-Titled Album by The Lumineers

Apart from its stunning natural beauty and John Denver, Colorado now has something else to brag about—the three-piece folk rock band The Lumineers, whose debut self-titled album was released early last spring, and recently peaked at number 11 on the Billboard Top 200 chart. Group members Wesley Schultz (guitar, lead vocals) and Jeremiah Fraites (drums, percussion, mandolin, backing vocals) began writing music together in the autumn of 2005 in Ramsey, New Jersey, before relocating to Denver. It was here they met Neyla Pekarek (cello, mandolin, piano, backing vocals), who would become the final addition to the trio, through a Craigslist ad. The three began writing and practicing together regularly, and by 2011 they had gained a considerable amount of recognition throughout the Denver area, and settled-in comfortably under the direction of the artist-friendly Dualtone Records. For almost a year, The Lumineers would stay one of Colorado’s best kept secrets, until their song “Ho Hey”, which would also later become their first single, was aired in the season finale of CW’s “Hart of Dixie”. This would prove the match that ignited a firestorm. Virtually overnight the track leapt to the top of download charts and radio rotations, has since sold over 935,694 copies, and has been praised by many distinguished media outlets as “the best song of 2012.” Now, nearly a year later, the bands popularity has only continued to balloon.

And upon listening to “Ho Hey”, it becomes clear why. The track is infectious; a cheery sing-along that will surely become a staple at weddings for years to come, and sits very comfortably on the energy and can see them continuing to improve. If you have a chance to pick tracks to recommend I would say that “In Limbs and Joints”, “... And So We Destroyed Everything”, and “A Gaze Blank and Pitiless as the Sun” are good examples of their ability and style. Overall this is a great new band. I like their style and energy and can see them continuing to improve. If you have a chance to check them out DO IT! You will not be disappointed.

ALBUM REVIEW

Sleepmakeswaves – ... And So We Destroyed Everything

Sleepmakeswaves began in 2006 when a post was put up on Myspace looking for members to start a band in Sydney, Australia. Two years later Sleepmakeswaves broke onto the post-rock scene and released their first EP “In Today Already Walks Tomorrow.” From there they began touring Australia, where they had already developed a cult following, but also used the tour to gain some international attention. Sleepmakeswaves has played with headliner bands such as Mono, Boris, and Russian Circles as they made their Australian rounds.

Stylistically the band follows in the footsteps of other post-rock powerhouses like Explosions in the Sky, Mogwai, and Sigur Ros. Sleepmakeswaves uses cleaner guitar riffs than is common for post-rock giving it a sparkling quality which soars over the wall of sound that is very common for the genre. A major hiccups for many in this genre is that bands can’t keep the energy going throughout the album. Bands like Sigur Ros and Mogwai have a tendency to let their energy trail off; but that is not an issue for Sleepmakeswaves. They do a great job of attaining this with their slower and more minimalist songs by compensating with complex rhythms played underneath or other tricks to keep the music moving forward (think of the intro to the TV show House).

...And So We Destroyed Everything” is the band’s first full length studio album. It was released in 2011, but has just been released in the US (2012). The album isn’t as hard in nature as the previous EP’s but I feel they found a happy medium. Unlike Explosions in the Sky, Sleepmakeswaves doesn’t make the wall of sound as big of a focus, but rather it’s energy and can see them continuing to improve. If you have a chance to check them out DO IT! You will not be disappointed.

ALBUM REVIEW

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