

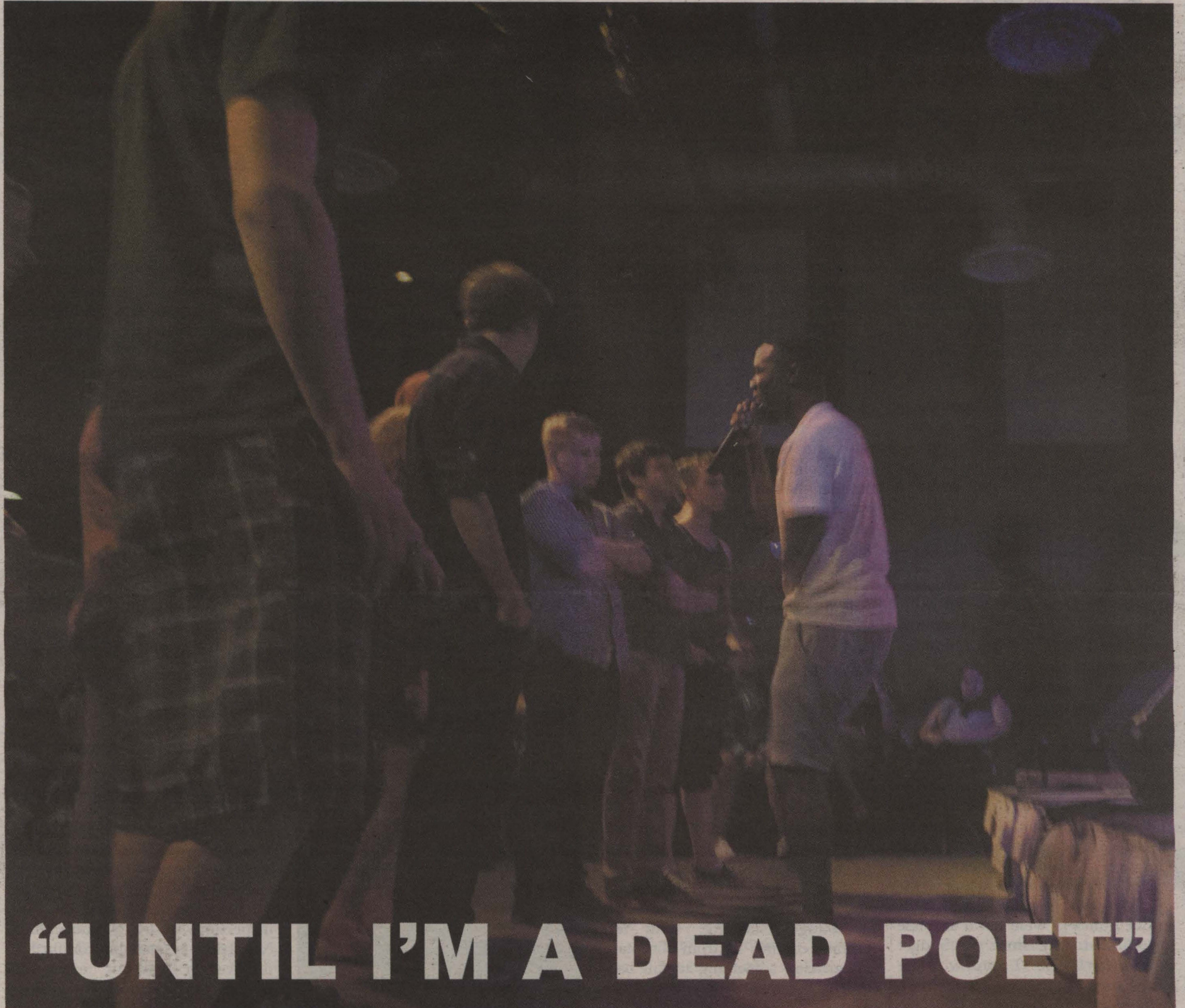
# the. pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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# The UW Surplus and How it Affects Stevens Point

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The alleged billion-dollar surplus found in the University of Wisconsin System's budget last week could mean a tuition freeze and a loss in state support to the UW System and its universities.

The budget that is being scrutinized is a snapshot of the budget from June 2012. Much of the money did not come from tuition but rather from federal grants, financial aid, gifts and other sources of revenue. Roughly \$414 million come directly from tuition. All of this is out of a \$5.6 billion budget that UW System operates on.

"The billion dollars that is being thrown around, it's not really a billion in reserves," David Boardman, next year's vice president of the Student Government Association, said. "When you are reading these news reports and seeing the larger numbers thrown out it is not really quite accurate on what can actually be touched as far as going through the budgetary process."

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was quick to produce their budget for inspection. UWSP's target tuition is \$53 million and this year they generated \$57 million. Some of the extra tuition was used to fund projects for the UWSP campus, and a small portion of about 7 percent was left in reserve. The recommended reserve is 17 percent. Of the total UW reserve UWSP contributed 2 percent.

"We knew what we had here, so our numbers were not a surprise to us," said Erin Hintz, the budget director for UWSP. "I think we were a little surprised as to the magnitude of the system as a whole. I think we do understand that a lot of it is tied up in grants and federal funds and financial aid."

In light of the reserve, the governor is calling for a tuition freeze, which would mean no raise in tuition for at least two years. The state is questioning why the UW system has been raising tuition over the last few years instead of using the reserve.

"Right now everyone is in the process of figuring out where the money is on their campuses and where the rest of it resides in system," Boardman said. "There are a lot of unknowns right now."

If the freeze goes into place it could put a stop the planned differential tuition for UWSP and could also

mean a loss to other programs.

"It is kind of up in the air right now," Hintz said. "I don't know if it would mean a reduced pay plan for faculty and staff, or no pay plan. It would mean less money on the tuition revenue side to put back into campus and to invest in the things that we need. A lot of that money is used to hire faculty to have more classes because our enrollments are growing."

There is concern that with the discovery of the surplus, the state will not give UWSP the requested \$20 to \$24 million from the Wisconsin Higher Education Grant.

"We have been playing by the rules and we have been keeping a really solid budget, which is good but then the down side of that is that by playing by the rules we might get the short end of the stick," said Seth Hoffmeister, current president of SGA.

Several members of the SGA, including Boardman and Hoffmeister, went to Madison after hearing about the surplus and lobbied 14 different legislators to make sure that UWSP does not suffer consequences from the surplus.

"I think that a lot of the legislators there recognize the value in stepping back and saying that if there are consequences for the UW System, let's be sure that we are not hurting the UW schools individually," Boardman said. "Our argument was, do not hurt the students in the process."

Part of the reason the reserve was set aside was to accommodate for budget slashing. With less funding coming in from the state, UW needed something to fall back on. The argument now is how much of a reserve is acceptable for the UW System to have.

"I agree to an extent that you do need a certain amount of reserves," Hoffmeister said. "It's not so much that they have a reserve. The question on both sides has been framed as: what is an appropriate level for a reserve?"

It is uncertain what the outcome and ramifications of this \$414 million budget will be.

"Our job is not done," Hoffmeister said. "Our student government has been doing everything that we can to make sure that our students here are protected throughout this whole debate that is going on."

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

April 27

8:56 a.m. - City police called Protective Services to inform them that an employee from Hardees had reported a Lamers bus had taken out a sign in Lot B.

2:33 a.m. - A Protective Services officer reported that a male and female were having a domestic dispute near Lots S and J. The individuals were married and having an argument. No physical abuse was involved.

2:04 a.m. - The Stevens Point Police Department called to inform Protective Services that a hit-and-run on Franklin St. had occurred involving a dark Nissan resulting in front end damage.

April 26

12:43 a.m. - Faculty from the TNR called reporting that there was a girl outside the building who was acting hysterical with the possibility of a threat of suicide.

April 25

2:03 p.m. - A male called and said that people in the sundial area had ran an extension cord up the steps. He said he did not know why it was there, but was complaining that it was a hazard.

April 24

9:03 p.m. - City police called saying they had an open emergency line with someone on campus but they could not hear anything in the background. The call seemed to be originating from the roof of the CCC building on the corner of 4th Ave.

April 22

5:50 a.m. - A Stevens Point Police Officer radioed in saying they had an individual pulled over with several campus parking citations on their file. The individual said their mother had paid the tickets the previous week and the officer was checking if the claim was valid.

April 21

5:15 a.m. - Officers made contact with a male individual outside the bathrooms on the west side of Schmeeckle Reserve. The individual said he was the one calling out for help that a student previously reported.

3:35 a.m. - The Stevens Point Police called Protective Services saying that a caller from the Suites had reported that when she was out for a walk she heard screams for help coming from near the lake. Officers were sent out to search.

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Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to *The Pointer*, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to [pointer@uwsp.edu](mailto:pointer@uwsp.edu). We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate length or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to *The Pointer* becomes the property of *The Pointer*.



# O.N.E. Conference Helps to Expand Inclusivity on Campus

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The One New Effort Conference focused on raising awareness about inclusivity and what students can do to get involved, occurred last Wednesday, April 24.

Mark Moua, Inclusivity Director of the Student Government Association, described the event and its purpose.

"The goal of the O.N.E. conference was to get the whole campus involved and engaged in inclusivity. Inclusivity is not discussed to the levels where it should be on this campus, so this conference is a way of engaging the campus on how we can better discuss this topic," Moua said.

Moua explained that understanding and developing diversity and inclusivity is not only for a better campus but is needed for the work environment.

"Students leaving this campus should be ready and set to face all the tribulations that society will give them. That is why diversity and the acceptance of diversity are so important. In the future, you will not get to decide who you will have to work with. That is why understanding and accepting someone's differences is so important. It not only makes you a better citizen, but it also prepares you for the future," Moua said.

Aric Zondlo attended the conference and explained its purpose.

"To provide equal opportunity for all students of all races and culture, and in order to provide equal opportunity, we need to consider these differences, embrace them and

cooperate with one another," Zondlo said.

Zondlo stressed the importance of accepting diversity.

"Even if there is only one student on campus that may be having a problem with it—if you could reach out to that one student, it would be worth it. It's good to educate students on this because people can forget. Even if it's not a large problem on this campus, it is hard to be perfect," Zondlo said.

Chancellor Bernie Patterson, who spoke at the conference, was adamant that inclusivity is not something just a few people need to be involved in.

"This cannot be something that only one group on campus is interested in. This has to be something that is infused across campus," Patterson said. "It has to be something that everybody thinks and understands and agrees that it is their responsibility, just like recruiting and retaining students. In fact, you could easily make the case that the issues of diversity we are talking about right now are critical to our success in recruiting and retaining students."

While many students may not see much of a problem with diversity on campus, Moua said that due to his position, he sees the problem more than others.

"With inclusivity, this campus is not doing terrible, but that doesn't mean there isn't room for improvement. Speaking to so many students, not everyone has had a very pleasant experience here because of the discrimination and racism that

they have faced," Moua said. "There is a lot more that this campus could be doing to educate and raise awareness to prevent these incidents."

Campus has already taken numerous steps to help increase diversity on campus, including the new search for a Director of Diversity on campus and the allocation of funds toward inclusive activities to promote diversity and acceptance across campus.



Photo by Samantha Feld

Students and faculty share their steps towards inclusivity. Pictured from left are Tim Klement, Madilynn Moua, and Hudson Gauthier.

## It's Getting Hot in Here

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After a brutal Wisconsin winter, students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are eager to get outside and enjoy the welcome onslaught of warm weather—and an increase in rambunctious behavior.

"Students have more energy, they're more boisterous, and they're more likely to turn their music up to ungodly volumes, turn the speakers around outside and lock their doors so we can't get to them," Amy Vida, the fourth floor Community Advisor for Hansen Hall, said.

Spencer Schreiner, a CA in Baldwin Hall, agrees with Vida, citing noise as a typical issue that becomes more prevalent with warmer weather.

"For me, personally, I feel like

the biggest issue that comes with rowdiness is loudness, and that's especially apparent after quiet hours or during courtesy hours," Schreiner said. "Just trying to enforce that when people are going out and trying to have a good time can be a little rough."

Joe Krumrie, another CA from Baldwin Hall, stated that, the consumption of alcohol on campus property is also a constant concern, especially as temperatures rise.

"Alcohol violations are one of the biggest things we have to deal with. We don't do any disciplinary action. We just confront the situation when it comes up to us," Krumrie said.

Vida also noted an increase in alcohol consumption.

"Broken shot glasses in stairwells are something we've been seeing a

lot of lately. Also, a lot of people are running around outside, and then they'll drink, so there's a lot of vomit," Vida said.

Warmer months prompt more student outdoor activities, which can be both a positive and a negative to those trying to enforce university policy.

"There's definitely a lot more drinking going on as it gets warmer out, but the great thing is people go out more, so the game kind of changes," CA Dominic Pritzl said. "It goes from us having to deal with things at midnight or 2 a.m., to 3 or 4 a.m. when people are coming back into the halls, which can suck because that's when I'm trying to sleep."

Krumrie is also familiar with this two-sided problem.

"It's kind of a plus for us, because

with the warmer weather people tend to want to go out more—as in go outside of the halls and drink—so it's a little easier for us in that aspect. However, at the same time, when people do stay in, the warm weather tends to make them a little more hyper and a little more rowdy, so it's sort of a double-edged sword," Krumrie said.

According to Vida, with the arrival of summer, it becomes necessary for students to maintain some level of responsibility while enjoying the weather.

"Have fun, but just be careful," Vida said. "We have a lot more injuries when it's warm out because a lot of people go out and do reckless things. Don't be one of those people."



# SGA Strives to Implement Differential Tuition

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The Student Government Association is hoping to implement the Pointer Compact, otherwise known as differential tuition, in the spring of 2014, which will mean an increase in tuition costs for students.

Currently, every student pays \$7,370 per academic year. That number includes tuition, which goes to fund things like cost of instruction, and segregated fees, which goes strictly to nonacademic things such as student organizations and health services. Differential tuition would be a \$324 per semester increase in tuition, to be used only for the UWSP campus, unlike regular tuition, which gets poured into the UW System.

"It is kept on campus, paid for by Point students, controlled by Point students, and used for Point students," Ryan Specht, next year's SGA president, said.

Out of all the four year campuses in the UW system, UWSP is one of four that does not have differential tuition. The \$324 fee falls in the middle range when compared to what other schools are charging. La Crosse charges \$643.20 per semester, Madison \$500, and Superior \$119.

With Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker proposing a tuition freeze due to the recently discovered surplus of the UW System, it is possible that UWSP will not be allowed to implement differential tuition. Representatives from SGA made a trip to the Capitol in Madison to

lobby the legislators to allow UWSP to implement differential tuition even if the freeze goes into place.

"What we are asking legislators is that we are allowed to play by the same rules that every other campus has played by," Seth Hoffmeister, the current president of SGA, said. "It was very well received."

Some of the differential tuition will go towards helping alleviate the bottleneck courses; the courses that are constantly full because students need to take them before moving on to higher level courses. Funds from the extra-tuition will be used to hire adjunct professors to teach more sections where it is needed.

"Twenty-six percent of Pointers graduate in four years," Specht said. "It's a very, very low number. Getting bottlenecks taken care of means faster graduation time. If you graduate even a semester early, you just saved yourself three or four grand."

Differential tuition would also cover the cost of adjunct professors, which would mean individual departments will have money freed up to redirect into the salaries of their professors on a career path. Part of the tuition will also go into academic support services, like the tutoring and learning center, career planning, and advising.

In the fall semester of 2011, SGA sent out surveys to find out what students thought of the Pointer Compact. The feedback it received showed that many students thought it was unfair that seniors would have to pay for things they would never

use. As a result of that survey it was decided that for the first year only freshmen would pay 100 percent of the differential tuition. Sophomores will pay 75 percent, juniors 50 percent, and seniors only 25 percent. The percents will increase by 25 percent for two years until all ranks are paying 100 percent of the differential tuition fees.

The funds will be overseen by the Pointer Compact Advisory Board, made up of six students and two faculty members. The board will make decisions on how and where the money is spent, and will have the power to adjust the numbers based on the needs they see. However, every change the board makes to the budget must first be approved by the SGA.

Students in financial tiers above those who depend on Pell Grants to pay for their education will cover costs for those who otherwise could not. This is the largest portion of the differential tuition budget. Students depending on Pell grants would be at the highest risk of not being able to cover the extra fees and thus lose their ability to stay in school.

"There is the concern that if we raise tuition, these students get left out," Specht said. "Even though they are getting funding from the state and the federal government, they are at risk of losing federal monies. There is no way to talk about this without saying it is a redistribution of wealth. Those who can afford to do so are paying for those who can't afford to do so."

Ryan Schwobe, a student who

has worked on the Pointer Compact, gave his personal opinion on having students pay for those who are financially dependent.

"It is unfortunate that students without financial aid will have to pay more. Asking students who already cannot afford school on their own to pay more than is feasible will disenfranchise them. It is a necessary evil for the Compact to function properly," Schwobe said.

When students were polled in 2011, 39 percent said they did not support the Pointer Compact. However 82 percent also said they were not even aware of it to start with. Specht said there has been a lot of philosophical opposition from people who think that the Pointer Compact will improve UWSP, but that campus should be petitioning the state for money instead of asking it of the students.

"I agree with this in a lot of ways; we need the services but the state should be the one paying for them," Specht said. "It is a very valid argument I think we all can agree, but we also all have been watching the economic times the last couple of years, and especially in the last week, and that's a very difficult proposition."

The SGA will be taking a final vote on the Pointer Compact on May 9. If SGA votes to pass differential tuition—as it already has once—it must then be signed off on the by the Board of Regents, the Joint Finance Committee, and the governor before being implemented.

## Flooded Streets and Lake DeBot: Water Collects on Campus

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Even a brisk walk through the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point can be marred by April showers. However, often it is not the showers that burden students but what they leave behind.

Flooding on campus a large problem in 2011 when the Lower DeBot Dining Center became flooded. Carl Rasmussen, who works for Facility Services, explained the problem and its solution.

"Since the 2011 DeBot flood, the drain system was separated from discharging into the Isadore street storm drain pipes," Rasmussen

said. "A direct discharge pipe was installed east of DeBot, then south into a six-foot-wide storm pipe. All roof drains were re-routed to new piping with greater capacity. Scuppers were added to the roof parapet as back-up in the event the roof drains overload."

Rasmussen also noted that having a sound building structure is not enough.

"Designs which do not anticipate certain events or chain of events are always a possibility, thus the need for vigilance which includes short-term response teams," Rasmussen said.

While structural integrity is very important, many students perhaps notice the large puddles on campus and in the roads, though solutions

are quickly found. Joshua Liddle, a student at UWSP, explained the problem.

"The past two years, there have been several huge issues with flooding. For example, the two sidewalks that lead south from DeBot were once flooded to the point that someone was floating in an inner-tube. Also, in between the science building and the HEC, the crosswalk used to be a pond during heavy rains," Liddle said. "Both of these issues have been fixed and have been fixed in a time period that didn't affect the students in the area. From that, I do think the university is trying to fix the issues that arise with flooding."

Katie Bauer, a student at UWSP, is

sometimes frustrated by the flooding, but she said for the most part it is not so bad.

"It's wrecked some of my shoes, and I've gotten splashed by passing cars," Bauer said. "It can be kind of an inconvenience at times, but it's not terrible."

Aaron Messier, a student on campus, is not bothered by the flooding.

"It's never bugged me for the most part and doesn't affect how I go about my business living on campus. I actually saw some ducks in the one by Thompson the other day and thought that was pretty cool that they were using it," Messier said.



## 2013 NFC North Draft Review

**WILL ROSSMILLER**

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Commentary

The NFL Draft has come and gone, and teams are left with a new group of players that will come in and compete for a place on the team. So how did the NFC North do in their drafts? Here's a review of the players taken by the Lions, Bears, Vikings and Packers.

**Detroit Lions:** Going into the draft, the Lions wanted to improve one of the worst defenses in the NFL. They were successful in adding three possible starters on the defense. In round one, the Lions selected defensive end Ezekiel Ansah. Ansah has rough football skills but is also an athletic freak. He has great pass rush ability and should cause some havoc on a defensive line that already consists of Ndamukong Suh and Nick Fairley. In the second round, the Lions grabbed Darius Slay. Slay was projected as a third-round talent but is an athletic cornerback that should start in a weak Lions secondary. Detroit also had issues on the offensive line. They waited until the third round but got a good value in guard Larry Warford. Warford is a big run blocking offensive lineman. He doesn't fit the mold of the Lions' offense because his strength isn't as a pass blocker. The Lions added another starter in the fourth when they selected defensive end Devin Taylor. Taylor will start based on the fact that the Lions' defensive end corps is very thin at the moment. The rest of the draft was used to bring in players to add depth and competition. The Lions added a punter, Sam Martin, who will be their starter. Running back Theo Riddick and wide receiver Corey Fuller were added in the sixth round. They should both get a roster spot. In the seventh round, Detroit added Michael Williams, a big blocking tight end, and inside linebacker Brandon Hepburn as a special team's player. Overall, the

Lions filled some holes on their roster. This draft's success down the line will rest on how productive Ansah's career will be.

**Chicago Bears:** The Bears went into the draft with one major goal: filling the void left by Brian Urlacher. As always, Chicago was also looking to add depth and competition to the roster. The Bears' first selection was Kyle Long, an offensive guard. I like Long, but I do not think he should have been taken in the first round. Long possesses ideal size and athleticism, but when you watch him, he just doesn't jump out at you. In the second round, Chicago added linebacker Jon Bostic. Bostic was a leader on Florida's defense. He is not outstanding at any specific element of football, but he is a good all-around player. In the fourth round the Bears once again added to their linebacking group by selecting outside linebacker Khaseem Greene. While he might not have ideal size or speed, all Greene did during his senior year at Rutgers was produce great numbers. He is a good tackler and could make a push for some starting time this year. The Bears added offensive line depth in the fifth round with Jordan Mills. Mills is a project right now for the Bears. I'm a huge fan of the Bears' last two picks. In the sixth they took defensive end Cornelius Washington. Washington is very athletic and will be in the Bears' defensive line rotation this season. In the seventh, the Bears selected wide receiver Marquess Wilson. Wilson left school early this year due to friction with his head coach. Wilson has the talent level of a second-round pick, and could be the third passing option the Bears have been waiting for. Besides the Long pick, I really like how the Bears drafted this year. They added some talent in the early and late rounds that should contribute this season.

**Minnesota Vikings:** The Vikings had holes to fill for a team that just finished a playoff campaign in 2012. The Vikings' 2013 draft will be defined

by the performance of their first-round picks: defensive tackle Shariff Floyd; cornerback Xavier Rhodes; and wide receiver Cordarrelle Patterson. Floyd was predicted to go in the top five. He fell to the Vikings at the 23rd pick and should be a strong presence anchoring the defensive line for years to come. Rhodes is a perfect fit for the Vikings' cover two defense as he is a great in man coverage. In Patterson, the Vikings believe they have a bigger version of Percy Harvin. Patterson had the potential to be a top-20 pick in the draft but fell to 29, where the Vikings traded a second, third, fourth and seventh round pick to the Patriots to trade up. He will be the team's return man, and the Vikings will try to get him the ball in space. The Vikings' next four picks consisted of doubling up on players from some schools known for talent. In the fourth the Vikings took Gerald Hodges and then in the seventh they took Michael Mauti: both linebackers from Penn State, known historically for producing NFL linebackers. Both players will compete for playing time on a weak linebacking group. In the fifth, the Vikings selected punter Jeff Locke, and in the sixth they took guard Jeff Baca, both from UCLA. Locke is an upgrade over Chris Kluwe and should be the Vikings week-one punter. Baca is simply a depth move. The Vikings' other seventh round picks were offensive guard Travis Bond and defensive tackle Everett Dawkins. You have to love the talent the Vikings got in the draft. Now they just have to prove themselves.

**Green Bay Packers:** The Packers

had some holes to fill going into the draft. They wanted a player that can rush the passer on the defensive line, a running back and some offensive line help, and they wanted to continue to pick players they think would develop in their system. They hit on all of these goals. In the first round they got Datone Jones, a defensive end in the Packers 3-4 defense. He has the ideal size and athleticism to stop the run and get to the quarterback. In the second round the Packers got one of the best running backs in the draft, Eddie Lacy. They then doubled up on offensive linemen in the fourth, taking David Bakhtiari and J.C. Tretter. Bakhtiari profiles as a tackle while Tretter is a guard in the NFL. Both could compete for a spot this season, but more importantly they add some talented depth to the Packers' offensive line. The Pack added more talent to their running back stable with their last fourth-round pick, Johnathan Franklin. Franklin, like Lacy, could start right now for Green Bay. The rest of the draft added general young depth to the roster. Cornerback Micah Hyde and defensive tackle Josh Boyd were taken in the fifth round. Green Bay selected outside linebacker Nathan Palmer in the sixth. In the seventh the Packers took Charles Johnson and Kevin Dorsey, both wide receivers. With their last pick, the Packers took outside linebacker Samuel Barrington. It's hard not to like what the Packers did in their draft. They answered most of the major questions on their roster. Of the NFC North teams, they had the best draft in my book.



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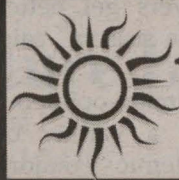
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## Spring Season a Challenge for Golf Team

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Normally, a college golf team has five golfers compete in an event, and the top four scores count for the team. This spring, the Pointers golf team only has three players.

Last fall, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point golf team was struggling with only four members on their team. Now they have been cut down to a group of three.

"The spring has been rough, to say the least," said Pointers Head Coach Melissa Martin. "We are not competing as a team but as individuals."

The lack of players hasn't been the only challenge for the Pointers, as the weather has affected their season too.

"We had to play our first two tournaments without ever playing on grass here at home," Martin said. "We are just now getting out onto the grass."

"It was a struggle to go from the

artificial turf at Sentry to actual grass," said senior Olivia Schiefelbein. "The other teams that are farther south had been hitting off grass for weeks, so we were at a disadvantage."

Even with all of the stress the weather has put on the team, Schiefelbein said the team has stayed calm. "We've really kept our heads about the weather," Schiefelbein said.

The Pointers have participated in two events so far this spring at Bloomington, Ill. and UW-Whitewater. The next tournament comes at UW-Eau Claire this Saturday. It will

be the team's last tournament of the spring.

The team's top performer has been McKenna Prestigiacomio, who finished 31 out of 93 golfers in Bloomington and 11 out of 33 golfers at UW-Whitewater.

Despite the team's struggles, Martin is very proud of her student-athletes.

"The girls have done a great job of not getting extremely upset with their performances this spring," Martin said. "It's hard to be competing at the level you were in the fall when we have hardly been on grass."

So after a rough season, the Pointers will look ahead to next season. Schiefelbein will be leaving the team, so now three spots are up for grabs.

Martin is eager about the group that she has gotten together to compete for a spot on the team next season.

"I'm really excited for the fall. I've got several new players coming in, and I'm working on a few more," Martin said.

The team will also hold an open tryout in mid-August with anyone welcome to attend and try to make the team. Those interested in tryouts should email Coach Martin at memartin@uwsp.edu.

"We really need more recruits. We need more girls to be competitive," Schiefelbein said. "It takes time away from school and social lives. But it's fun, and we always have a blast together."



Photo by Jack McLaughlin

The Pointers competed in the Illinois-Wesleyan Spring Fling at Ironwood Golf Course in a two-day tournament.

## Coaching Offers Students Valuable Experience

**KYLE FLORENCE**

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Many of us have had coaches that have impacted our lives in a meaningful way. Now students have the opportunity to affect tomorrow's athletes themselves.

"It's the opportunity to work with young men in a setting where the dynamic is different from one day to the next," said baseball Head Coach Pat Bloom, also the coordinator of the coaching minor.

While attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in the early 2000s, Bloom acted as the baseball team's student assistant coach. Upon graduating, Bloom pursued his graduate degree at Miami University of Ohio before being offered the opportunity to return to Stevens Point to coach in 2004.

"I would absolutely encourage students to coach. I'm an example of a coach who got an opportunity here at UWSP to coach as a student, and I think Division III is a great environment to offer up opportunities to anybody who is a college student and has those pursuits," said Bloom.

Senior Derek Weyenberg is one such student. Currently, Weyenberg acts as the baseball team's student assistant coach, the same position that Bloom occupied over a decade ago.

"I work with the catchers each day, working on defensive drills to try to improve and hone their skills. I also work with hitters but focus more on overseeing the bunting and base-running aspect of the offensive game," said Weyenberg.

Aside from the camaraderie offered by Pointers baseball, Weyenberg explained that seeing athletes improve over time is the most rewarding aspect of coaching.

"I love working with the coaching staff and players. They are all great people, and the team has a family feel to it. That being said, I really enjoy watching players get better over the course of the season," said Weyenberg.

Bloom shares a similar opinion.

"We work with a variety of backgrounds, academic majors and kids that have great ideals and pursuits. We want to help them

realize those goals and dreams," said Bloom.

Despite popular opinion however, coaching is not always fun and games. According to both Weyenberg and Bloom, coaching at any level is a full-time endeavor.

"There's a huge time commitment involved with coaching, and the hours aren't the regular nine-to-five that you might get with other jobs," said Bloom. "It can also be stressful at times because we tend to judge coaches on the overall performance success of their teams."

Weyenberg agrees.

"It is a big time commitment," said Weyenberg. "It is a balancing act for me between school, practice, work camps and now games."

Despite this however, both maintain that the rewards ultimately outweigh the sacrifices.

"I would recommend for other students to get into coaching as soon as they can," said Weyenberg. "The insight and knowledge that you can gain is so important."

Bloom echoed Weyenberg's sentiment.

"It's an extremely rewarding profession in that you get to work with and develop young men every day and get to share in the satisfaction that comes from seeing them be successful," said Bloom.



Photo courtesy of UWSP Sports Information

Senior Derek Weyenberg, student assistant baseball coach.



## POINTEREST

Seasons

### On Wisconsin Spring

AARON KRISH  
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COMMENTARY

The changes I have seen in the weather during the last month still absolutely amaze me. Although I am a native Wisconsinite, the weather completely baffles me.

Through the month of April, I have trudged through ankle-deep snow to class, seen countless blizzards outside my window and watched as the baseball fields were plowed bare of snow, only to be covered again the next day.

Living in Wisconsin, we may have adapted to living in these conditions, but we also have our limits when it comes to the cold. Really, there is no way of knowing if we will wake up one morning and see everything covered in snow. Cross your fingers that this does not happen again.

On the other hand, we may wake up and see students walking to class in shorts. As a means to keep the nice weather around for the rest of the semester, it is time to get excited about everything Stevens Point offers when the weather is warm.

As I explored campus this week, I was inspired by Ken Fuson, a journalist who wrote an atypical

piece on springtime and appeared in "The Best American Newspaper Writing." He presented spring in a way that made it personal to the town that he was working in as a journalist and I wanted to do the same thing with some of my favorite places in Stevens Point:

Here's how Wisconsin celebrates a warm, sunny day in the middle of spring: By wearing that extra layer or taking their coat if it starts to get cold or rain; by wearing khaki shorts when it's sunny and 50-degrees outside; by longboarding to and from class and slack-lining between trees; by walking the trails through Schmeekle Nature Reserve and riding bikes around the Green Circle; by sitting at picnic tables in front of the dorms and laying out on blankets beneath the sun, dreaming of summer vacation; by hearing the battle cries of the Belegarth club across campus and the loud country music playing from dorm windows; by walking to Belt's Soft Serve and buying the special of the week; by longing for the start of spring break and the end of studying for mid-terms; by preparing to walk at graduation wearing cap and gown starting a new chapter in life.

### Is School Becoming Too Competitive?

EMMA ST.AUBIN  
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We compete for prizes, for parking spaces, for grades. We compete to see who's fastest, who's strongest, and we all came to college to compete for employment.

Competition, one might say, makes the world go 'round. Still, many of us are hesitant about it. We may praise the competitiveness of athletes, but we criticize the competitiveness of classmates.

One person's win can be another person's loss, and the drive to be better than others, when taken too far, can appear ruthless and selfish. To suggest what nice people we are, we deny that we ourselves are competitive.

All of us compete to some extent. Whether we are naturally competitive or yearn to enhance our competitive instincts, it is nearly unavoidable.

In order to compete we must take risks that are normally constrained by fear. Risk-taking is a crucial quality of competitiveness. Those who tend to be risk-takers tend to be the competitors, while those who analyze the risks involved may restrain themselves, requiring high odds in their favor before they even enter the game.

Either way, competition can be both a virtue and a vice. As students, competition can breed excellence and build character, but it can also lead to hurt feelings and diminished confidence.

"The hard part is considering people who don't do well with competition. If they're not competitive, it's obvious that they might not want to

participate in competition. It could be a bad scenario for these students because it's possible that they might get left behind in some things like employment after college," Molly Farley, a secondary education for English major said.

Getting ahead, being successful and being the best are all common concepts in our society. Most people spend their lives trying to outdo others to make their way to the top. While many view this as detrimental, many view this as a good thing—competition encourages people to excel and do their best.

As we near graduation and enter the working world, our surrounding competition will only flourish. Employment after graduation doesn't always come easily, and without a competitive edge, it may mean waking up to a inbox full of rejections. In this case, being persistent and competitive may be beneficial.

"Competition for things like higher grades and employment after graduation can be great for students because, for competitive people, it's a push to really earn what they want—to go above and beyond to get something. In the working world, competition is common, and I think experiencing it at the college level can be a good training tool for a lot of students," Farley said.

With competitions surrounding many daily activities, we must remember that just like anything that can benefit or fail us, moderation is key. Although competing may be thrilling and motivating, sometimes it is necessary to step back and simply watch.

### Landing a Job After Graduation

RACHEL PUKALL  
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Finding a job after graduation can be stressful. With the economy the way it is, landing the position you want can be difficult.

Sarah Johannes, a spring 2012 graduate from the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point who majored in communication, got a job as a consultant for Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority International Headquarters.

"The job is to start a chapter at the University of Maine," Johannes said. "It is a year position, so I am applying for other jobs right now."

Johannes has gotten to meet and know some pretty amazing women, and she has had fun while doing it.

Josh Tomlin, a senior majoring in forest management who graduates this spring, has a six-to-nine month

SEE After Graduation: PAGE 8

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# Until I'm a Dead Poet

AARON KRISH  
akris821@uwsp.edu

Spoken-word artist, musician and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student Emmitt James performed his latest extended play "Until I'm a Dead Poet" to a live audience on Tuesday, April 30.

An extended play is a musical recording that contains more music than a single, but is too short to qualify as a full studio album.

The performance featured live music: guitar, bass, drums, vocalists and a keyboard. Each member of the band is a friend of James and committed to collaborate with him on the project.

"The show is made of sample bits. There are pieces of older songs that are looped with my lyrics," James said. "It's about me and my upbringing, my desire to do music for a living and be successful."

Through many of the tracks, James features personal stories of his family, one specifically about his mother as a poet.

The track "Coercion" tells the story of his mother and why he creates music. The lyrics say, "My mom's had a poetry book in the third grade—teacher took her stuff and used her own name. In other words, my mom didn't get credit for her artwork. I do this for my family and put my mom first."

## After Graduation

CONTINUED FROM: PAGE 7

temporary position lined up working for the U.S. Forest Service in South Dakota.

"I would like to continue working for the U.S. Forest Service after my temporary position is up," Tomlin said.

Tomlin will be marking and cruising timber plots to get them prepped for timber sales.

Ken Matsche, a 2006 UWSP graduate who majored in communication, worked for UWSP as a crime prevention officer. He now works on his farm, Matsche Brothers Inc., and at the Wittenberg Birnamwood school district.

"I am very satisfied with my jobs. I feel very lucky and rewarded to be able to work with the great group of students I do. I know that I am making a positive impact on their lives as well as the lives of people in our community," Matsche said.

Kea Gregorich, a senior majoring in communication, will be graduating this spring. She has a few job options on the table but nothing set in stone yet.

"I essentially want to work and live in Chicago. However, I know I have to start small to reach my ultimate goal so I am willing to go anywhere to get experience in my field in the working world," Gregorich said.

Gregorich started applying for jobs in January, unlike Johannes, who wishes she would have started applying for jobs earlier.

"I was originally going to go to grad school, but at the last minute decided to not go because of financial circumstances," Johannes said. "Start applying for jobs around spring break because graduation will come up fast. Don't be afraid to ask the career center for help on your resume and cover letters. That's what they are there for."

Matsche agrees with this.

"I wish I would have used more resources such as Career Services in my job search," Matsche said. "I know that their expertise, experience and dedication would have made many things that I had to find out myself a lot easier."

The best advice Gregorich can give to students and upcoming seniors is to not get discouraged.

"During this whole process, discouragement has been my enemy. Finding a job is a job in itself and graduates are competing with the rest of the world, not a handful of people. Yes, you will be denied from multiple jobs—it's just how it works—but stay positive no matter what. The right fit will come your way. It just takes time," Gregorich said.

Tomlin agrees with this.

"Keep your options open. You may have to be willing to move to find a career that fits what you want to do," Tomlin said. "Positions all around the country open up at different times and close fairly quickly, so checking frequently will help ensure you don't miss out on opportunities."

Gregorich also says that individuals can do many things to make themselves marketable.

"It is entirely up to the individual on what they want to do to make them stand out from the crowd," Gregorich said.

It is important to be professional and be yourself and stay true to that.

"Don't be discouraged by the jobs that are available. Chances are, you will not land your dream job right out of college. And don't be afraid to use the resources that are available to you. It's why they exist," Matsche said.

Networking is also huge. Talking to people in your field and meeting with professionals can get you far.

"I networked with professionals in Chicago and in Madison, and even though they weren't interviews, I still treated them as such because you may never know what will happen after those initial meetings," Gregorich said.

Career Services provides networking opportunities and offers help by critiquing resumes, preparing students for interviews and offering advice with job applications. Creating profiles on websites such as LinkedIn and cleaning up your Facebook can also make a big difference.

"You are your own brand. Sell yourself," Gregorich said.

"I embrace the ideas of my mother's talent from when she was younger. She didn't make it as a poet, and now I'm trying to change that and be successful myself. I want to make it big," James said.

Fellow band member Tim McHatten explained his reasoning for collaborating and playing in the band. He shares many of the same goals as James and the rest of the band when it comes to playing music.

"It's been challenging and fun. These are all life-based stories and lessons, and we need to keep the message going and moving forward. I share many of the same goals as Emmitt and the band itself," McHatten said.

UWSP student and musician Joey Bonner also helped James during the show. The duo wrote a song together entitled "Gold."

Before starting the song, Bonner explained that he has Synesthesia, or the merging or combination of senses or sensations. Basically, he sees certain colors when he sees certain numbers or letters, hears music or sees certain people. Bonner sees James in gold.

"Gold is about self-worth. It pretty

much talks about how people put way too much stock and care into how much people value them. It's about everyone realizing that each of us is valuable in our own way, and no one can tell you otherwise," Bonner said.

Bonner feels that it is important to have a positive message when you want to share things like music with people, and that if you choose to create music you should do it for yourself, not because someone else wants you to.

Bonner believes the message behind the music is more meaningful for everyone if it is set out in this way.

"Emmitt is an inspiration. He pushes for not taking people for granted and making the best of a bad situation," Bonner said. "He has a dream, and from hearing his lyrics and from having conversations with him, I can tell that he will stop at nothing to reach his dream."

Some of the songs are about the desire to follow your dreams and being introspective. This is the message that James and those who collaborated try to follow and show their audience.

"It's the little things at the end of the day. These are the things that drive me," James said.

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# UWSP Love Confession Advice

KAITLYN LUCKOW  
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SAMANTHA FELD  
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We love UWSP Love Confessions. Legitimate or not, we are going to lend a hand to those who might actually need advice. We skimmed the Facebook page and chose a couple that really caught our attention.



**UWSP Love Confessions**  
April 22 near Stevens Point, WI \*

um why do alot of you ladies have shiny heals when you dress up to go out and how you get your heals so shiny.

Because, baby, we were born that way!



**UWSP Love Confessions**  
April 23 near Stevens Point, WI \*

I am a virgin looking for a girl to change that as well. Like if you'd like to be that person.

Stop and think about what you're doing for a second. You are worth more than this. We get it; being a virgin in college isn't exactly easy. Maybe sometimes you think that it's weird or that other people think you're "uncool." That couldn't be further from the truth, and don't force anyone else's opinions to influence what you do with your body. You have waited this long, don't just go out on a whim and sleep with some random person just to get it over with. Wait until you find someone that understands and cares about you. If you're worried about telling people the fact that you're a virgin, don't. Always be honest. The worst thing that you could possibly do is lie about the fact (they're going to find out eventually). If the fact that you're a virgin freaks them out, then they're not worth your time.



**UWSP Love Confessions**  
April 21 near Stevens Point, WI \*

Are there any gay guys looking for a boyfriend? Not a fling, not a closeted experiment, but a boyfriend?

There are 3.5 billion men on the planet. A really low guesstimate of the percentage of the population that's gay is 1.7 percent meaning there are nearly 60 million potential romantic partners. So my advice is to not wallow in self-pity because that is completely useless. If you're single and want to meet people then start moving on all fronts: bars, online dating, volunteering and just generally getting out of the house.



**UWSP Love Confessions**  
April 22 near Stevens Point, WI \*

No, our relationship wasn't perfect. No relationship is. I was so happy when we were together. I know you were too. But when we hit a rough patch you just drifted away from me and made excuses instead of trying to work things out. I probably started coming off as clingy. But that was just me missing you because I hardly ever got to see you or talk to you anymore. You said you wanted to get closer and spend more time together. You told me you wanted to be friends if we were to ever break up. But I have a feeling I'll never see you or hear from you again after the year is over.

The question here really is an age-old one: can you really be friends after you break up? To be honest, it's probably best just to let it go. It's okay if you're not friends; you don't have to be friends forever. Cry, eat some food, delete some stuff, and hit on someone else as soon as you're able. People break up. You'll make new friends. If you try to stay friends, your relationship will always be in the back of your mind. You will never truly be friends with them because your relationship will always be there and you will constantly be thinking, "what if?" Do yourself a favor and just move on.



**UWSP Love Confessions**  
April 22 near Stevens Point, WI \*

The girl that I really like is one of my best friends. I really don't know how she feels about me, but I get the feeling sometimes I'm not worth her time. It just gets a little confusing, like our relationship is really bi-polar. She holds me when we are alone, but when around other people, it's like she becomes someone else, someone who is just a friend. I feel like she is afraid to be with me in public. Makes me feel not good enough. What do you guys think I should do? I know we both feel it. She knows I definitely like her.

Stand up for yourself; no one should ever make you feel like you are not good enough. It sounds like she is using you in an emotionally draining way. If she knows you like her she would have done something about it, and she would most definitely be seen with you in public.

## Are you Graduating ?

If you have any questions about commencement on May 18, 2013, visit the commencement website at [www.uwsp.edu/commencement](http://www.uwsp.edu/commencement).

- RSVP online to walk at the ceremony by May 10.
- Purchase caps, gowns and tassels at the University Store May 6-10. Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. If you are out of the Stevens Point area, call 715-346-3431 to mail order your cap and gown package to be shipped May 6-10.
- Reserve and/or claim your six general admission tickets for the ceremony. Tickets will be available May 6-10 at the UWSP Information and Tickets Office in the Dreyfus University Center. Additional tickets, if extras remain, will be available May 17. Each graduate will be allotted one additional ticket until extras are gone. Hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Friday. A student ID is required.

### IMPORTANT!

If you are unable to pick up your tickets between May 6-10, please call the UWSP Information and Tickets Office at 715-346-4100 or 800-838-3378 to RESERVE them. If you do not, tickets may not be available for your guests.



## Fully out, but are we there yet?

ANDREW E. STONER  
COMMENTARY

*Jason Collins either broke down a major barrier this week with his announcement that he is gay, or he simply added to the unwanted intrusion of social issues into sports.*

A read of public reactions such as those of fellow NBA players (and even President Obama) suggests that Collins is politely welcomed as the first openly gay pro basketball player in America (former NBA player John Amaechi didn't "come out" until after his playing career had ended). A few days removed from Collins' disclosure, and a wider array of thoughts is surfacing.

A cousin of mine posted a Facebook meme lamenting that now-jobless NFL quarterback Tim Tebow was allegedly vilified for his open discussion and displays of his fundamental Christian beliefs, while Collins "lifestyle choice" is celebrated. Beyond the fact that Collins, nor any person, chooses their sexual orientation and that Tebow was given multiple chances to succeed *on the field*, the analogy not only fails, but reveals how people really feel.

There's no getting past this fact: A lot of Americans don't want to know about, see or hear anything about homosexuals. When it comes to watching ESPN's SportsCenter or an NBA playoff game, they surely want nothing to do with such issues. When

it comes to gay, for many, the less said, the better.

But sports are not played by machines or lifeless beings – sports are played by people with real lives, real thoughts and feelings, facing the same realities of life that confront all of us. Another reality is that some of the people who play these games we love also happen to be gay.

We've been here before – many individual athletes come out before – Dave Kopay and Esera Tualo of the NFL, tennis champion Martina Navratilova, Olympic diver Greg Louganis, baseball player Glenn Burke, Seimone Augustus and Brittney Griner of the WNBA, and pro boxer Orlando Cruz.

But change hits some of us harder than a Jason Collins personal foul (a big, tough inside player, Collins led the league with personal fouls called in the 2004-05 season with 322).

A student newspaper columnist at Colorado State University recently stirred considerable controversy when she suggested that gay and lesbian people pipe down – citing a study she found that indicated homosexuals may be 2 percent or less of the population. Coupled with the fact that none of her friends on Facebook were gay (that she knew of), she said she was growing tired of hearing about gay people and thought their profile had become much too large.

What the student columnist – and the online Facebook memes reveal is that we've likely reached a level of tolerance for gay people around us, but we're still far removed from acceptance. The distinction is found in understanding the difference that exists between all people on a multitude of issues – whether they are 2 percent or 20 percent of a population. Acceptance means we find a way to live in harmony with those who are different from us, including supporting their right to full and equal participation in society. Tolerance means we recognize "those people" are about, but we don't have to be happy about it, especially in our whispered remarks to friends, or our anonymous posts online. We've got a long way to go.

Jason Collins will no doubt experience a life not too different from what Jackie Robinson knew in 1947. Robinson's minority status – the first African-American to break the color barrier in major league baseball – was ever around him. He had no decision to make about "coming out" – and as a result, he had a wide support network and a lifetime of experience to contemplate what breaking a barrier could be like. Collins, on the other hand, is stepping into new territory not only as the first openly gay NBA player, but as someone who has never before been viewed through the "other" lens that still clouds the eye of many Americans.

In coming out, Collins said, "I didn't set out to be the first openly gay athlete playing in a major American team sport. But since I am, I'm happy to start the conversation. I wish I wasn't the kid in the classroom raising his hand and saying, 'I'm different.' If I had my way, someone else would have already done this. Nobody has, which is why I'm raising my hand."

Collins' words and actions are courageous – and he will need all of that courage as he starts his 13th NBA season with a yet-to-be-determined franchise (as he is currently a free agent on waivers from the Washington Wizards).

If he never plays in another NBA game, we will learn a lot. If he plays and weathers whatever storm comes his way, we'll also learn a lot.

But if we only tolerate him – and view him as a distraction or noisy interference with our love of sport – and miss the noteworthiness of his act, we learn nothing and we continue down a path far beneath championship caliber.

Andrew E. Stoner  
Assistant Professor, Division of  
Communication, teaches public relations  
and in Spring 2014 will teach COMM  
330, Sports Public Relations.

## An Alien Invasion in our Midst



Photo courtesy of 100thmeridian.org

As summer approaches, or in Wisconsin's case spring... and many people start hitting the beaches and lakes for warm weather activities including swimming, boating, fishing, etc. it's likely you might come across an aquatic invasive species called zebra mussels.

Zebra mussels are an aquatic nuisance species that can cause

billions of dollars in economic damages including industrial damage from clogged water pipes and restricted water flow of water intake systems of power plants and water treatment facilities. They also threaten native species and biodiversity.

These little alien invaders have already infested at least 130 Wisconsin lakes and rivers. You might be

wondering why you should even care? Because how do they affect you? Although very small these guys can have a large and negative impact on many recreational activities. Because their filtering nature increases water clarity it leads to higher light penetration reaching the bottom of the lake or river. The increased light penetration fosters growth of aquatic weeds. This aquatic plant growth can then interfere with boaters, anglers, and swimmers. Zebra mussels also pollute beaches where they pile up when they die, wash up on the shore and decay. Their shells are razor sharp and can cut your feet. Even when they're dead they create problems and clean up cost are high. They will colonize just about any hard surface and can destroy fishing nets and navigational buoys, dragging them under water and making them useless. They also attach to boat hulls and motors, increasing drag, causing overheating and other damages. If you've ever had your feet cut up at the beach or been tangled up in weeds while swimming, boating, or tubing, these little creature might be the ones to blame!

Even though they seem to be everywhere, there are still some lakes that have not been infested

yet and there are ways in which we can prevent their spread. There are very easy things we can all do to protect our lakes as we enjoy them this summer. One way you can help is just by inspecting and cleaning your boats and other equipment after each time you use it. If you'd like to get more involved than that you can also become a Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer. As a volunteer you can learn many things while serving on the frontline in protecting our lakes from evil invasives. You can learn how to educate boaters about invasive species, perform boat and trailer checks, and some volunteers even help collect samples and data for monitoring efforts. If you are interested in becoming a Clean Boats, Clean Waters volunteer you can find out more about these programs on the Clean Boats, Clean Waters website, just type in the following link: <http://www4.uwsp.edu/cnr/uwexlakes/CBCW/default.asp> or contact someone via email at [uwexlakes@uwsp.edu](mailto:uwexlakes@uwsp.edu). You can also check out the Wisconsin DNR's webpage: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/prevention.html> or Wisconsin Lakes at <http://www.wisconsinlakes.org/>.



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11

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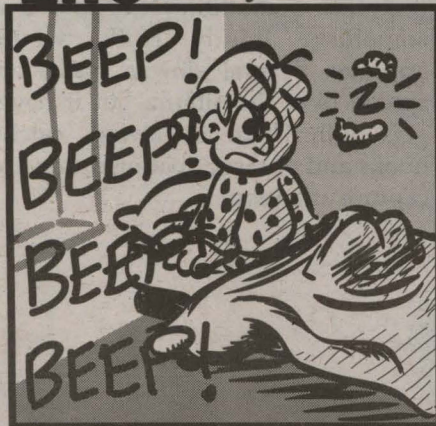
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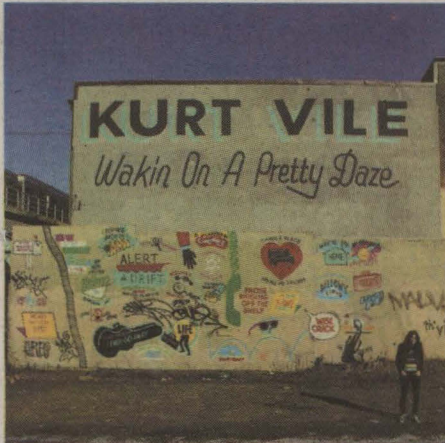
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## Kurt Vile – *Wakin on a Pretty Daze*



CONNOR GODFREY

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90FM ALBUM REVIEW

Kurt Vile's sullen expression and long flowing hair wouldn't lead you to believe he has a great work ethic (not that I am one to judge). Back in 2008, Kurt's solo album *Constant Hitmaker* was released along with The War on Drugs (his band at the time) album *Wagonwheel Blues*. Since then, Kurt Vile has decided to focus on his solo career, pumping out four albums within a four year time period. The quality in Kurt Vile's work does not seem to correlate with the length of time it took to produce those albums, and this has been especially proved to be true with his latest release, *Wakin on a Pretty Daze*.

Firing off the record is the "title track" *Wakin on a Pretty Day*;

the album title is a pun of this song, according to Kurt Vile. The 9 minute album opener had me completely engaged, and upon first listen I had to repeat it a few times before I continued with the rest of the album. In an odd sort of way, it reminded me of something Neil Young would record with Crazy Horse; it has a certain psychedelic "jaminess" to it. I really love when the guitar riff kicks in around four and a half minutes in. The song smoothly transitions into KV Crimes, the hard rockin' track of the album with some shreddin' guitar work.

Kurt Vile's vocals are in the slightly-above-mumbling tier, but the lyrics range from humorous to wise. "Phone ringin' off the shelf; I guess it wanted to kill itself" is a quirky line that probably reflects Kurt's feelings towards his communication with the music industry. In the final track *Goldtone*, Kurt lays down the truth and tells us that when is in his zone he may seem stoned, but he has in fact "never touched the stuff." The lackadaisical, mellow tone of the album makes you think otherwise, but I believe him.

*Wakin on a Pretty Daze* is the perfect title to this album. I would suggest to listening to it after waking up from a nice afternoon nap in the sun to fully appreciate the dreamy and spacious world that Kurt Vile has gifted us.



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## She & Him – *Volume 3*



DANIEL WATERMAN

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90FM ALBUM REVIEW

For those not familiar with She & Him, I must first introduce Zooey Deschanel. Yes, that Zooey Deschanel who stars in FOX's *New Girl* and has been featured in many Hollywood Movies. Aside from an exciting acting career, she's also been putting out records with "Him". In this case the "Him" is M. Ward, the accomplished folk-rock musician who's had a successful solo career.

Volume 3 is the duo's fourth album (counting "A Very She & Him Christmas"). Its obvious Deschanel and Ward have a specific formula they use with their songs. Borrowing from Americana, folk, do-wop, rock and roll, and even some Latin

influences. They are somehow able to blend many different elements, this allows every track to stand firmly on its own.

M. Ward has served mainly as an instrumentalist and arranger for She & Him since their first release back in 2008. Ward is an extremely talented front-man and soloist, yet he is able to do something that many prominent performers never can.

He shuts his mouth.

He allows Deschanel to stand out. Many of the Harmonies and backing vocals are sung by Deschanel, M. Ward only contributes when it's absolutely necessary. Zooey's voice is timeless. She would be just as popular

if she was putting out albums for phonograph in 1913 rather than now.

The album as a whole is exactly what you'd expect from She & Him. It's smooth, upbeat and poppy (not like a muffin). The groove is something Buddy Holly would approve. Several slower tracks are spread over the album, but it never gets dull. There are always catchy hooks and phrases floating around to capture attention.