University Writers Release Barney Street 2014

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The Barney Street 2014 release party will take place on Thursday April 24 in the Carlsten Art Gallery of the Noel Fine Arts building, honoring many talented University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point writers.

"Beasts of the Imagination" is the 36th edition of Barney Street. UWSPI's annual anthology published in conjunction with University Writers. Students were allowed to submit prose, poems and artwork in December to get considered for publishing.

"University Writers oversees the entire publication process from promoting the call for submissions, hosting a fundraiser to help fund the publication, edit and select the pieces, and put the cover and interior layout together," Erika Kolacki, a senior majoring in English with teacher certification and the president of University Writers, said.

University Writers receives all of the submissions in the fall semester on the last regular day of classes. In January, members of University Writers read all of the submissions and judge them based on their originality and quality of work. In February, the organization has a meeting where the final list of accepted pieces is organized.

"In the first semester we also have writing workshops where students can bring their work to a meeting and get it critiqued by their peers," Christopher Gideon, a sophomore majoring in media studies and the treasurer of University Writers, said.

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SGA Proposes Unified Attendance Policy for Campus

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SGA passed a bill last week to create a campus-wide attendance and make-up work policy in order to make requirements consistent regardless of the department or professor. “We are one of the last UW schools to address a campus-wide, standard attendance policy,” said Ryan Specht, the president of the Student Government Association. “It is inconsistent and we have received troubling reports throughout the year of students not being afforded appropriate time to make up activities or given an excused absence for a medical emergency or related reason.”

SGA has been working with a committee for the duration of this academic year addressing the issues at hand and formulating actions to resolve them. “We are working to collaborate with faculty to create a general policy that will ease confusion and be consistent,” said Katie Cronmiller, SGA vice president elect. The alterations to the current policy aim to not only make students more aware of what is expected of them, but to aid faculty in setting their attendance policy,” Specht said. “An attendance policy in a seminar will and should look different from a lecture. By the same token, students deserve a standard or foundation upon which they know they can be excused from class. This includes medical emergencies, accidents, representing the university, and others.”

In recent years, the university has run into issues with certain absences not being considered excused. A major goal of these policy changes is to provide a clear definition of what exactly an excused absence can include.

“One population we have heard a lot from these past few years has been student veterans who consistently are not being considered excused. A required drill as an excused absence,” Specht said. “Our proposal changes that, making a drill call or other military obligation a guaranteed excused absence.”

A consistent attendance policy will immediately affect students upon implementation. “Students will notice the most immediate and direct benefit with the course absence and make-up policy,” Specht said. “This will allow for students to be afforded greater accountability and means of being evaluated from class to class.”

The proposal has been approved by SGA and is being forwarded on to the Academic Affairs Committee and Faculty Senate. These changes will take place next semester at the earliest.
Website Offers Free Resource to Learn

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In today’s technology-driven world, students are required to know how to use an increasing amount of programs. Using all of these programs properly can be a daunting task, but Lynda.com is here to help.

Lynda.com is a web database that has thousands of on-line training videos to teach people how to use different kinds of software. The demonstrational videos span from simple to use programs, such as Microsoft Word, to more complicated programs, such as Final Cut.

Mary Mielke is the interim coordinator at the Teaching and Learning Research Network in the information technology department and has spent quite a bit of work with Lynda.com. She encourages students to use it.

“Lynda.com is like having your own personal tutor that you can tell to stop when you need to practice a bit,” Mielke said. “It is a good resource to help you learn what you need to be better at your school work.”

Lynda.com breaks down each program into a number of videos and each of those videos into chapters. Users can navigate them with a search bar or scroll through all of the videos available for the program they have chosen. If the user has many videos to watch in a specific order, they can put them into playlists, similar to a music library.

Hayley Barrickman, a communication major, has done a lot of work promoting Lynda.com in classrooms.

“I have you ever had a program that you did not know how to use and it was late at night when you could not get a hold of your professor? Lynda.com will show you how to do it,” Barrickman said.

Lynda.com is free for all students to use through the University Wisconsin-Stevens Point website. Students can find it by typing “Lynda.com” into the search bar and then following the link. From there, students are required to enter their university login username and password in order to access all of the websites content.

Students may also find Lynda.com through their myPoint account, by selecting the academics tab and looking in the bottom right corner for the box labeled “Student Computing Services” and then click on Lynda.com.

In addition to tutorials, Lynda.com also has sample scenarios for users to use to practice ideas they have just learned and difficulty ratings for each new skill being taught.

Lynda.com is also available on mobile devices in both iOS and Android operating systems which allows users to access the video tutorials anywhere with internet access. This also gives students the freedom to use their mobile devices as second screens and leave their computer screens free to work on the program they are learning about.

If Lynda.com was not provided through the university, students would have to pay a minimum of $25 a month to access the resource. Having access to the site for free gives students a great opportunity to learn new things about the programs they are using now or be taught about entirely new programs for future use.

SGA Seeks Alterations to Course Evaluation Structure

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Last week, Student Senate passed a bill to alter the current course evaluation structure in order to elicit more qualitative responses from students and, in turn, aid faculty in working to improve overall course objectives and methods.

Course evaluations are meant to be a means to interpret students’ feedback on their experiences with an instructor. Students evaluate their professor in the classroom, class materials and learning objectives, and outcomes for individual courses.

Some students involved with SGA think that the current course evaluation form offered to students does not effectively gauge responses. It is also unclear exactly how the information gathered is currently being used.

“Students and faculty alike have all raised serious concerns about the effectiveness and use of course evaluations,” said SGA President Ryan Specht. "We receive numerous complaints annually regarding course evaluations, and so we have taken action to take proactive steps and form a joint ad-hoc committee with Faculty Senate to address the issue."

The proposal passed through Student Senate and is being sent on to the Academic Affairs Committee and Faculty Senate to address the issues holistically.

"By presenting this proposal, we have basically started a conversation with faculty," said Katie Cronmiller, SGA vice president elect. "We have sent the plan to a joint committee that is made up of both students and faculty."

The proposed alterations include a variety of suggestions aimed to help students better express their responses and help instructors improve their course layout and teaching styles based on the responses they receive. It is proposed that the current scale be reversed, making one represent “strongly disagree” and five represent “strongly agree.” Many students have reported filling out the evaluation incorrectly and this is aimed to clear up confusion.

The changes also include rephrasing of questions and asking additional questions such as, "did you gain interest in the material after enrolling in the class?" and "do you feel this grade accurately reflects your performance in the class?" These questions aim to elicit a deeper response from students beyond generalities.

Another suggestion is to provide a more obvious space for an open-ended writing response. Clarifying this will help instructors receive more personalized, course-specific, feedback.

"SGA is not currently being sent the results of the evaluations, which is a contrast to the introduction on the current form. It is suggested that students would feel their input is more valuable if they were made aware of how the data is being collected and used."

"Overall, the goal here is to create a better instrument to evaluate how courses are taught to provide the best learning experience possible," Cronmiller said. "This evaluation is going to be a more qualitative, organized, system."

These changes are aimed to benefit both students and faculty in the long run.

"Evaluations are a key tool for tenure and promotion for faculty," Specht said. "If we are assessing our faculty better, we will be able to not only address more effectively faculty who are not excelling in the classroom, but we will also be able to reward the best faculty by measuring their successes better."

Now that the topic of these alterations has been broached, the discussion can continue and allow for changes to possibly be implemented during the next academic year.
Continued from page 1

The group also went to local businesses in downtown Stevens Point to ask for advertisements. "We have space in the back of our book dedicated to collecting advertisements from businesses that are willing to buy from us," Kolacki said. "The money always goes toward funding our release party at the end of April."

University Writers just finalized the layout and cover of the book and is ready to send it to UWSP's Printing and Design to be printed. "The most stressful thing every year is making sure the book itself is properly formatted and printed by the release date," Gideon said.

"As the president, my top priority is to make sure we complete everything that we need to in a timely manner," Kolacki said. "I organize all of the meetings, which are held almost every Monday."

Kolacki also led the effort to conduct classroom visits and talk to students about submitting their work, as well as explain the possibility of publication. "I had to organize all the submissions that came in and create a workable document and Excel spreadsheet for the judging of the submissions," Kolacki said. "I set up the big meeting, worked on getting advertisements, and collaborated to create the cover and layout for the book. Besides that, I also collaborated in order to get out the invitations to all of the authors, artists and their loved ones as well as figure out the specifics of the release party. I'm sure all of this sounds like a laundry list of responsibilities, but it's all worth it to me."

Kolacki enjoys having the opportunity to work with like-minded people that place high importance on writing. "Writing is beautiful, and writing is powerful. I want to be surrounded by people that agree with that, and I think I am within this organization," Kolacki said. "I learned that I am not entirely alone and that there are other people out there that want to continue to support writing or be a member in a campus organization that promotes writing. I've often been an outcast, so it's comforting to know that there are others that feel so strongly about the positives that writing has to offer."

Gideon said he feels the same way. He said he got involved with University Writers because he has always loved writing short stories. "I create a new piece of fiction every day in my head, and sometimes it's good enough for me to put on paper and give it to my friends," Gideon said. "University Writers gave me the chance to get constructive criticism from other writers and to even get my stories published."

Kailan Schepper, a student majoring in English and the designer of Barney Street, said she decided to get involved with University Writers when she was published by Barney Street her freshman year. "I thought it would be interesting to see how the book was pulled together and made," Schepper said.

The Barney Street publication features any currently enrolled UWSP students. "We encourage anyone that likes to be creative or share their thoughts to submit to us," Kolacki said. "Generally, we get most of our work from English majors, but that only makes sense since we are focused on creative writing. As far as types of pieces, we publish black and white art, poems and prose. The only things that we do not accept are academic research or analysis papers."

During the release party, the organization will have an open reading for all the writers within the publication. "They will have the option to come up and read their work aloud to us," Kolacki said. "Likewise, all the writers and artists get to collect a copy or two of the book for themselves. After the reading, everyone can just talk with their friends and family that came to support them and look at the artwork."

Kolacki said she is most looking forward to seeing the reactions she will get from the writers and artists once they hold the books in their hands and see their names in print. "I always think it is very exciting, so I hope all of them will get as much satisfaction out of this as I do," Kolacki said.

Gideon said he likes seeing how happy everyone is to get their copy of the book they are published in. "It's important to them. I know it meant a lot to me, and I'm glad that Barney Street and University Writers are here to make that happen for them," Gideon said.

Kolacki
Brown Goes 4-0 in Women's Tennis Split

The UW-Stevens Point women's tennis team lost 6-3 to St. Norbert before defeating UW-Stout 8-1 in a pair of dual matches on Saturday at Western Racquet and Fitness Club.

St. Norbert, UW-Stevens Point 3

Rachel Brown and Katelyn Asfeld were victorious at the top two singles spots for UW-Stevens Point (10-7). Brown and Rosie Buckley teamed up at third doubles for the other UWSP point, an 8-4 win.

Brown came back from losing the first set to Nancy Chybowski to win the second 6-3 and the senior then took the match tiebreaker 10-7. Asfeld's win was a straight-set 6-2, 7-5 win over Elizabeth Manlick.

St. Norbert (22-4) won in straight sets at the third through sixth singles spots for UWSP.

The men's and women's track and field teams began their outdoor seasons competing in meets at Whitewater and Platteville the past two weeks. At the Rex Foster Invitational in Whitewater on April 6, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's track and field team won the event with 186 points, while the women finished third with 144 points. On April 12, the teams competed at the Platteville Invitational, which had no team scoring.

Both head coaches Rick Witt and Megan Woloszyn were pleased with the teams performances as a whole, but say these meets are meant for individual performances.

“Track and field is different than any other sports because it's all about trying to get athletes qualified for conference and national meets,” Witt said. “It's nice that we won, but it was not our goal to win it was about our individual performances”.

“Over the season we focus on individuals, but when we get to conference we focus on the team,” Woloszyn said.

Juniors Alexander Gonzales and David Hebert feel the good start has given the team confidence starting the year, and we came into it wanting to prove that we can be a really good team.”

“Having the team win the meet was a great feeling and I think it gave all of us some confidence,” Hebert said. “I think we’re feeling pretty good and are ready to keep improving.”

Gonzales and Hebert both compete in the 5,000 meter run, and have each finished top three in both meets. They each feel the top finishes are good, but there's room for improvement.

“Anytime I can finish at the top of my event is amazing, it's something I really hoped to accomplish this year,” Gonzales said. “Even with being a top finisher I know that I can improve my performance even more for the next week, because it doesn't get any easier from here”.

“It's a great feeling finishing that close to the front and having other teammates very close by,” Hebert said.

The Platteville Invitational had no team scoring which is common in meets as the most important team events are the conference and national championships. These meets leading up to the conference meet help the overall team performance at the conference championship.

“We hope to sharpen things we need to work on due to being limited outside,” Witt said. “Everybody's performance needs to come up and the team's performance will come up”.

“There's not much time during the season so people have to focus and get down to business right away to make conference,” Woloszyn said.

The men's team will compete this weekend in Rock Island, Ill., while the women's team will compete at UW-Lacrosse.
Mother Nature Not Kind to Spring Sports

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It is a problem that the Pointers baseball and softball teams seemingly have to deal with every season.

The inclement weather of spring in Wisconsin puts a strain on both teams' practice and game schedules. The weather makes it difficult to play all of the necessary games while also dedicating time for practice.

Baseball head coach Pat Bloom explained that the weather prevents players from getting into a comfortable routine during the season.

"Anybody that's played baseball or softball knows that the cold, the wind and the rain affect performance," Bloom said. "It makes for a real challenge, and it's hard to expect players to perform at their optimal level."

Softball head coach Jill Millis said that the weather limits what they can coach their players on.

"It's particularly difficult when it comes to defense as there are certain aspects of the game that you simply cannot work on inside," Millis said.

Even with the conditions not being favorable this year, the baseball team has gotten eight games in at home this season.

Coach Bloom gives a significant amount of credit to building and grounds supervisor Chris Brindley and his grounds crew team for getting the fields playable.

"They were out there plowing our field off in the winter when there were several feet of snow on it," Bloom said. "They do a lot of work behind the scenes and they are always there at the break of dawn to help get the field ready."

Bloom said that Brindley and the grounds crew work from sunup to sundown some days and are willing to offer their help on weekdays and weekends.

"We really appreciate all the work they do for us," Bloom said.

With the constant threat of weather causing a move indoors for practice, both teams are thankful to have the Multi Activity Center as an option in the Health Enhancement Center.

"We very fortunate to have the MAC as it's a great space that allows us to utilize two batting cages which makes working on our hitting a lot easier," Millis said.

"It's fantastic to have a range of indoor facilities that we have as options in case we can't practice outdoors," Bloom said.

But with the expectation that both teams would be outside at this point in the season, scheduling a time in the MAC has proved to be a challenge.

"With one space on campus and numerous teams, classes, and events all using the same venue, our time is very limited," Millis said. "Many times we don't have full use of the space for practice."

When asked if this season was any different than the others, both Millis and Bloom said that these types of issues come up every year.

"It is very similar to last year so the returners have an advantage of knowing what it's like to deal with it," Millis said.

"I could think back to at least one situation in each of the last ten years that we had a bad weather week where it forced our hand in rescheduling and moving practice indoors," Bloom said.

Both coaches know that this weather can be frustrating at times, but they also know that you should not get frustrated about things that you cannot change.

"We can't control the weather so we just have to figure out what we can do and make the best of our situation," Millis said. "We have to stay positive and focus on the things we can do to get better as a team."

"It's part of playing baseball in central Wisconsin," Bloom said. "We just have to focus on what we can control."
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The 34th Annual Steiner Hall Alcohol Awareness Fund Run, commonly referred to as SHAFFER, took place through the weekend of April 11-12.

SHAFFER is an event where students run a two mile loop with a partner around Stevens Point. The pair then hands off a baton to the next pair of runners who then run for two miles. It continues until 120 miles have been completed.

“Each pair ends up running four or five times throughout the event,” said Steiner hall director Tim Schmidt.

The run started at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 11 and concluded around noon on Saturday, April 12.

“Students fundraised and donated in order to participate as runners as well as to help with the event, mostly driving the safety and shuttle vehicles,” Schmidt said. “The run is done each year to help raise funds to put towards alcohol education on campus and in the community. This year the money raised went to the Bring A Buddy campaign.”

The original SHAFFER event bused participants down to Madison and the run began at the steps of the state capitol and finished at Steiner’s front door. Now it is run as a relay and once each group completes their two miles, they are picked up and taken back to Steiner so that they can rest up and run again in a few hours.

When participants were not running, there were dozens of free activities to take part in.

“This year we had tie-dying, henna tattoos, ping pong. Settlers of Catan, create-a-puzzle, and many more great projects,” said Emma Brukner, a sophomore SHAFFER participant. “Because the run is so long, we also served dinner, pancakes at 2 a.m., and breakfast for volunteers and runners.”

SHAFFER was started 34 years ago and to celebrate 34 years of supporting the community, there was also a special tier for donations.

“If you donated 34 dollars to SHAFFER, you got lots of free merchandise and were entered into a large drawing for some pretty incredible prizes,” Brukner said.

Brukner first participated in the run last year when her friend, and now roommate, was living in Steiner hall.

“She showed me just how incredible this event really is,” Brukner said. “She is the one who pushed me to sign up for this position in the first place, and I am so glad that I did.”

Because the event is as long as it is, people who sign up end up having a great time getting to know each other.

“A lot of new friendships are made, especially very early in the morning when everyone is a little bit goofy. Seeing everyone come together is my favorite part,” Brukner said.

Brukner says that it is exciting to see how much money they can raise to help a good cause.

“While pairs of runners were off on the loop, the events going on in the hall ran all night and into the morning on Saturday,” Brukner said.

Brukner believes that this event is important to campus and students because it brings issues associated with drinking to light, such as addiction, rape, sexual assault, and loss of inhibitions.

“Instead of insisting or trying to enforce the idea that college students should not and can never drink alcohol, we try to promote safety and responsibility,” Brukner said. We know that this is college and that students will go out and drink no matter what, so we try to inform students of the dangers of drinking and try to give them the information they need to have fun in a safe and respectful manner.”

Schmidt and the SHAFFER committee had been meeting throughout the entire school year to work on marketing and publicity initiatives for the event.

“SHAFFER is a Steiner Hall tradition, but that is not why we put it on,” said senior SHAFFER participant Phillip Bianan. “As college students, it is important to think about the impact that alcohol has on our experience as incoming adults. Campus is making a big push towards alcohol education and SHAFFER is an opportunity to make that a fun experience.”

Schmidt thinks the event is important because it is one of the longest running traditions on campus.

“Every year there is a pretty high number of students who participated in the past,” Schmidt said. “The students look forward to the challenge of running 8-10 miles in two mile increments over a period of 20 hours, especially the 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. running parts.”

Schmidt says that it also shows a great unity of students on campus coming together for a good cause.

“Everyone signed a proclamation that was carried in the baton for the entire run and it was great to see all of the signatures of those students who were in support of a great cause,” Schmidt said. “There can always be more education about alcohol and safe alcohol use.”

Photos by Emily Hoffman

Hannah Morgan and Sarah Petitte run out of Steiner Hall and begin the relay.
Students Construct Edible Works of Art

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Centertainment hosted The Art of Sushi Making on April 11, where two chefs shared their artistic techniques for preparing the Japanese dish with students to make edible artwork.

Food production assistant Kyle Braun and executive chef Angel Alcantar, both from Dining and Summer Conferences, invited students to explore artistic culinary techniques at the event. Braun and Alcantar began by demonstrating techniques on how to craft a sushi roll and students had an opportunity to construct their own rolls afterward.

Braun and Alcantar were always close by to aid students and encouraged them to be creative.

"Once we show you the mechanisms, be creative. This is what culinary art is, being creative with some of the techniques you learn here," Alcantar said.

The two offered students an array of ingredients that would blend well together no matter what combinations were created. The ingredients were spicy tuna, julienne cut carrots, jalapenos, green onions, cucumbers, cream cheese, a sweet sauce called Hoisin, a spicy mayonnaise, soy sauce, sushi rice flavored with rice wine vinegar, sesame oil, and salt. Alcantar said that all of the flavors can marry together to create a flavor as a whole, unique to the person who produced it.

The flavor and the aesthetics worked together to make the sushi roll a complete work of art.

"Culinary art is more of the format of the food we eat. We eat with our eyes. Every chef believes their plate is a canvas," Alcantar said.

Students began by spreading a cup of sushi rice on seaweed paper called nori. From there, they laid their ingredients on the rice. Alcantar advised them not to stuff too many ingredients into the roll.

"It’s about creating the perfect roll and not making a burrito. Put enough pressure to form the roll, but not to squeeze the inwards out the sides," Alcantar said.

Braun said there were two methods to roll the sushi. The first was an older method, with the nori on the outside of the roll. The second was a newer method with the rice on the outside and the nori on the inside.

When the rolls were complete, slicing came next. Braun told students to first cut off the rough edges so the ingredients did not spill out. He cut a mark in the nori to indicate the middle. He then kept splitting the roll in halves to create evenly sized pieces.

Students Clean Up the Community at Be the Change

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Students helped clean up the community on April 12 at Be the Change, sponsored by the Student Involvement and Employment Office.

Be the Change is SIEO’s largest volunteer event of the year. Usually about 100 students come together to make the Stevens Point area and campus a cleaner and safer place.

This year was the largest registration yet with over 180 students signed up to volunteer.

Students participate for two to three hours on a Saturday morning and volunteers also receive a free breakfast provided by the SIEO office.

Kirsten Donkle is the service events coordinator for SIEO. She said that Be the Change was started about seven years ago.

"It is a day of students giving back as a way of thanking Stevens Point for welcoming us into their community," Donkle said.

In the past, Be the Change participants have volunteered at Habitat for Humanity, the Salvation Army Hope Center, St. Vincent de Paul, Oakridge Senior Living, the Central Wisconsin Children’s Museum, Dressed to Work, YMCA, St. Francis Horse Rescue, and others.

Junior Katie Morici got involved with this event her freshmen year at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point while working for SIEO.

"I enjoy volunteering, so I jumped on the opportunity and have been to every Be the Change since," Morici said.

At Be the Change, students can sign up to volunteer in groups or as individuals.

"We have a lot of Greek and student organizations participate, but we also have a lot of groups of friends volunteer together as well," Donkle said.

They are then matched to one of 12 sites in the Stevens Point area. Students went to various locations in the community including the fire station, children’s museum, assisted living facilities, cap services, the YMCA and the Hope Center.

Some students picked up trash on campus as well as other odd jobs that needed doing. Another group got to make cookies at an assisted living facility.

Adam Cadena was one of the students who volunteered at the event.

"You’d be surprised at how much trash there is on the ground. You don’t notice it until you’re looking for it," Cadena said.

Cadena said he was eager to volunteer before graduating in May.

"The weather was rough because it was cold and rainy, but it was a great experience and I’m glad I did it. It’s good to be doing something positive," Cadena said.

"Many students are eager to go and serve, especially after a long winter," Morici said.

Alcantar and Braun were satisfied with how many students came to the event.

"We could tell a lot of people had interest in it. They paid attention and really followed the technique," Braun said.

Emily Wisniewski, the Centertainment Productions special events coordinator, knew the event would be popular.

"It sold out within two days of being up. When you have a Japanese steakhouse offering half-prices twice a week it has to be popular," Wisniewski said.

Braun said culinary arts has grown in popularity over the past couple years because it is viewed as a creative outlet and not just a source of nourishment.

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Pointers with Passports Creates Study Abroad Discussion

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Pointers with Passports is a new organization on campus that was created so students can be a part of both seniors at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, are organization on campus that was co-founders of the program. Erin Baudhuin and Katie Olson, both seniors at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, are co-founders of the program. Baudhuin and Olson work for the International Programs Office where they learned about student needs regarding studying abroad. They are hoping to respond to these needs through Pointers with Passports.

Both women have their own experiences in studying abroad. Olson spent time studying abroad in Spain for a semester, while Baudhuin spent a semester in Ireland and a short term in Kenya.

"When I got back from studying abroad it was a dramatic reverse culture shock," Baudhuin said. "Baudhuin intends to make Pointers with Passports a collaborative support group where students can share their experiences. Alumni who have studied abroad and current students that have or will study abroad are welcome to come to meetings. Even those considering study abroad are welcome to become involved."

"We want members of the organization to drive it," Baudhuin said. "Baudhuin said. The first meeting for Pointers with Passports occurred on April 10 in the Collins Classroom Center. Olson and Baudhuin listed 65 interested members but hope to grow their organization even more. Their next meeting is on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Alumni Room of the Dreyfus University Center."

"Next fall we really plan to hit the ground running," Olson said. Olson hopes to host fundraisers to support study abroad scholarships through Pointers with Passports. She said that their May meeting will act as a send off for students planning to study abroad in the fall.

Junior Ryan Hietpas is currently studying abroad in Valladolid, Spain. Hietpas was excited to speak about his current destination and encourages students on campus to try out new locations too.

"Studying abroad means opening your eyes to other people, cultures, and languages and the programs at UWSP show how easy it should be to experience this," Hietpas said.

Hietpas first heard about Pointers with Passports when Olson gave a presentation at Baldwin Hall. According to Hietpas, Olson explained her experiences with studying abroad and the opportunities that students have on campus to do so. Hietpas said that following Olson’s presentation, he approached her with more questions and has valued her as a study abroad source ever since.

"Katie has been a great source for any questions that I could ever have. I hope that Pointers with Passports gives people that spark in their mind, helping them realize how easy it is to be able to study abroad. It might be a little terrifying seeing this tuition cost, but you’re already paying for college and this is a once in a lifetime experience," Hietpas said.

Baudhuin and Olson feel that Pointers with Passports is customizable.

"We want to make Pointers with Passports for the students by the students," Olson said.

Looking into the future of the organization, Baudhuin and Olson hope to collaborate with other UW campuses that offer similar programs. They desire to keep reaching out to students to build a large study abroad community.

"We really have the world at our fingertips," Olson said. With experiences throughout the world, Baudhuin and Olson hope to give students a whole new experience. Pointers with Passports is bound to create collaborative discussion and provide tips as students are given a chance to share their experiences and learn about ones they could have.

Further questions about the program can be addressed to Baudhuin and Olson through UWSP campus e-mail.

Fun Activities Promote Healthy Kids

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Parents across Portage County brought their kids to the Stevens Point YMCA last Friday, April 11 for the Family Health and Healthy Kids Day Fair.

The fair is part of the YMCA’s National Healthy Kids Day initiative that is celebrated on April 26. The event gives parents and kids the opportunity to learn about healthy habits and lifestyles, all while having a great time.

Sidney Geldmeyer, a student studying health promotion and wellness, is an intern at the YMCA who helped with the event.

"From the always exciting Tom Pease concert to the various vendor booths and games, kids and families are exposed to numerous ways to live healthier in Portage County," Geldmeyer said.

Geldmeyer referred to Tom Pease as a children’s performer who always gets the kids movin’ and groovin’. The event usually draws about 200-250 people with kids of all ages invited. In addition to the many vendors and activities, attendees were invited to swim from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The YMCA’s Healthy Kids Day national initiative is described on their website as a way to keep kids active outside of the school day and during the summer months.

Learning is not just limited to the kids, as parents have a number of opportunities to gain new knowledge as well.

"Many vendors focused on family health which gave both children and parents something to learn," Geldmeyer said. "Not only does it give their children a chance to have fun and learn healthy practices, but it also allows them to learn as a family how to lead healthier lifestyles."

The Stevens Point YMCA is one 1,500 YMCA’s that has hosted or will host an event for Healthy Kids Day. The free educational opportunity they provided will help both parents and kids who attended make healthy choices all summer long.
Sisyphus is an oddball collaboration between three artists: folk/alternative singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens, electronic producer and beats maker Son Lux, and rapper Serengeti. Formerly known as S/S/S, the trio released an EP in 2012 called Bear & Claw. Now, they have returned with a full-length, self-titled LP. The album came out with a little fuss and hype, due to Sufjan Stevens, the most well-known of the three by a rather significant degree, and his carefree demeanor surrounding the album’s release.

Being a Sufjan fan myself, I gave the first singles Sisyphus released a listen and they clicked with me pretty quickly. It wasn’t what I expected from Sufjan Stevens, known for his epic 60+ minute albums that tug at one’s heartstrings. The album has focused rhythm and catchy tunes. It sound like something that would be played in someone’s basement before the party arrives, when everyone is standing around with their drinks hoping someone will bring out the Ping-Pong balls. That isn’t a knock on Sisyphus sounding tunes which further pushes it away from its party curb appeal.

Sisyphus has some rather dejected- sounding tunes which further pushes it away from its party curb appeal. “Dishes in the Sink” tells of the misfortunes of a man and his family’s temper raising during his rap portion of the track and Sufjan coming in with a smooth and sensual hook that really throws you in a groove. This mish mash of an album has its great moments, but seems to be uncertain of its identity. Time will tell if this threesome continues as a super group and start to take themselves seriously.

**CENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTIONS**

**FRIDAY**

The Lego Movie (Family/Action)
The Encore, DUC at 8 p.m.
Free with UWSP Student ID, $5 without.

Adam Grabowski (Comedian)
The Encore, DUC at 8 p.m.
Free with UWSP Student ID, $5 without.

American Authors “Best Day of My Life”
Quind Fieldhouse on the UW-Stevens Point Campus
Doors open at 6:30 p.m. | Show starts at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets are $5 for UWSP Students. (When purchased in advance and only one ticket per student with valid ID.) Plus service fee
Tickets are $20 for non-students in advance and $25 day of show. Plus service fee
Reserve your ticket at University Info and Tickets Desk, DUC.

**SATURDAY**

Dead Horses with Lazydeadpoet (folk)
The Encore, DUC at 8 p.m.
Free with UWSP Student ID, $5 without.

Late Night Video Game Night
Alumni Room, DUC at 10 p.m.
Free for all

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Quindlen Presents New Understanding of Feminism in 'Still Life with Bread Crumbs'”

GRACE EBERT
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Once a well-known and highly idolized photographer, Rebecca Winter, is now a 60-year-old single woman struggling to pay rent on her New York City apartment. Income from her famous photography series has ceased and with an unwilling agent, Rebecca cannot seem to sell, or even promote, any new work.

In New York Times bestselling author Anna Quindlen's recently released novel, "Still Life with Bread Crumbs," Quindlen brings the beauty of feminism to an older generation as she chronicles Rebecca's life beyond her years as a successful photographer and as the ex-wife of a wealthy English professor. Rebecca dreams of the days she was recognized and admired by prospective artists and photography lovers and of her successful working days, when she reluctantly decides to move into a small, rural cottage in order to save money. As her work ceases to sell and the steady income she has received for years from her first famous photograph series, she struggles to earn enough to pay for her piling bills.

With money constantly on her mind, Rebecca settles into her new life outside the city as she meets locals and establishes a daily routine of visiting the tea shop near the highway for breakfast. She befriends the local roofer who exterminates the monuments have been removed. Quindlen presents just how devastating mental illness can be and the ways in which others can be blind to the true issues it causes as Rebecca strives to discover who is blind to the true issues it causes as she makes the struggles of life's changes seem less.

Quindlen does not abandon Rebecca's dream of selling more photographs, however. In a search for inspiration and in an attempt to revitalize her diminishing career, Rebecca wanders into the wooded area nearby her cottage just to find an interesting set of crosses that seem to be placed overnight. When she returns to the areas the next day, though, the monuments have been removed. Quindlen presents just how devastating mental illness can be and the ways in which others can be blind to the true issues it causes as she makes the struggles of life's changes seem less.

Despite the novel's predictability, Quindlen presents a sense of comfort as she makes the struggles of life's changes seem less difficult. She chronicles the life of an aging woman, using feminist ideals to depict a life of despair, love, triumph, and illness. "Still Life With Bread Crumbs," although a common love story, holds more truth about the joys of aging and is ultimately enjoyable.
Communication Capstone gets Zombified

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This semester, students enrolled in the communication capstone course created a post-apocalyptic zombie film inspired by "1348", a musical composition by film composer Charles Barnett. The film, "Strand 1348," incorporates moods from the silent film era and is livened by romance and zombies.

Dr. Patrick Miles, a professor of horn and director of orchestral activities at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is the conductor of the film's score.

"It is very much a challenge, because it is so different. The music came to my ears," Miles said.

Miles will direct orchestra students for the film's premiere on April 23 in Michelsen Hall at 7:30 P.M. "It is not like we have flash clocks like Hollywood does, there is just a stopwatch," Miles said.

Unlike the silent film era, Miles has no click track to follow, meaning he will have to pay close attention to in order to guide orchestral students as efficiently as possible. Miles previously worked with Leslie DeBauche, a professor of media studies and adviser of the capstone course, who provided a foundation for students.

Ian McKay, the director of "Strand 1348," said that DeBauche previously produced a film with another capstone course. "Far Tortugas" was the name of the film that, according to the 2009 Central Wisconsin Film Festival Selection, combined live action and silhouette cutscenes with vibrant backdrops for audience attraction.

Mckay's focused on the development of the film and overall production processes. "As soon as script writers were done, I was able to visualize how to make it possible," McKay said.

McKay mentioned that the pre-production process was extensive for students with advertising, casting, and storyboarding. "Casting was a nightmare. We originally went to the theater department on campus for actors, but there were production conflicts with scheduling. We were scrambling to find people," McKay said.

David Hastings, a professor of saxophone and music theory, was ultimately cast as Todd in the production. "I did not audition for the film. I was approached by the casting director," Hastings said.

Hastings had no previous acting experience but was intrigued when Leslie DeBauche approached him with the idea.

"It was a very enjoyable and interesting experience," Hastings said.

Hastings had no idea what the film's plot was until the filming process began. Now that the project is complete, Hastings knows where his character stands.

"It combines a love story with zombie culture. I am kind of the sought-after guy," Hastings said.

Charlie Barnett did not think his music would inspire this creativity. "Not in any way did I see this coming," Barnett said.

Barnett wrote the piece "1348" about the bubonic plague that had swept through Europe in the fourteenth century, killing an estimated 75-200 million people. The plague, also referred to as the black death, peaked in Europe in 1348. It is often remembered as one of the most devastating pandemics in human history.

When writing an orchestral piece, it comes from a visual place. To my great surprise, no one wanted to write a piece about the black plague. I found it odd and interesting," Barnett said.

Barnett was especially intrigued that students were inspired by his music to create a zombie film.

"Everyone in the whole world said, 'Ooh,' but DeBauche's class heard it and said, 'Oh, zombie movie,'" Barnett said.

Barnett is interested to see the final correlation between his music and the film. Thus far, he has only seen bits and pieces of the project.

"I based one whole movement on flagellants. It was a particularly grotesque scene. "1348" was meant to sound macabre," Barnett said.

Barnett did not envision his music to inspire a movie and credits UWSP students fully with the final product, saying he just provided a basis. Barnett and Hastings feel viewers of the film will be impressed by its quality.

"There is a creative dimension to it that student's colleagues will be impressed by," Barnett said.

"I am impressed with the film quality. The final product is visually appealing," Hastings said.

"Strand 1348" is sure to be a unique experience for audience members deciding to partake in this zombie culture. Tickets are available for purchase at the UWSP Ticket Office.

Creative Women Turn Hobbies into Career Aspirations

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Trendsetting allows creative women to stand apart from their peers in different aspects of their job communities.

Jessie Langley, Los Angeles based fashion blogger at blashandblonde.com, Carsla Peyton, C.E.O. and founder of Connect-the-Cloths.com, and Christy Ann Siebers, theatre design major at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, similarly value confidence as the ultimate trendsetting tool for job prospects.

Having turned hobbies into feasible career goals, they reveal their secrets to being confident in a career oriented environment.

Langley’s ultimate dream is to work for ‘Vogue.' She had previously attended the 'Lucky Magazine' Fashion and Beauty Bloggers Conference on April 4 and 5 in Beverly Hills to educate herself in blogging success. This event featured keynote speakers and panelists like model Coco Rocha, Nicole Richie, fashion designer and television personality, Eva Chen, Editor-in-Chief of 'Lucky Magazine,' and more notables.

When asked about what makes a person a trendsetter, Langley said individualism is key.

"To be a trendsetter you have to showcase what makes you different, not what makes you the same. It’s about finding that perfect balance between personal style and current trends. It goes beyond what you wear. It's about the kind of life you lead," Langley said.

Langley also lists confidence as an important quality for a trendsetter. "You need to be confident above all else. Know your style. Know why it’s your style. Show others why it should be their style, too. Confidence is the ultimate accessory," Langley said.

Langley is originally from Georgia and although she considers herself a southern girl, she intends to be rookie of the year.

Peyton also values confidence. She said that trendsetting begins by being a leader.

"To be a trendsetter means being a leader. It's a matter of doing your own one-of-a-kind thing," Peyton said.

Peyton said this type of person is not typical and is able to follow their own path.

"A trendsetter is an outcast of sorts that doesn't necessarily play by the rules. He or she doesn't mind taking fashion risks, is not greatly influenced by mainstream and doesn't care what others think," Peyton said.

Peyton earned two Bachelor's degrees from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas in 2012. She studied journalism with an emphasis in integrated marketing communication and sociology. She also achieved a minor in entertainment management.

Feeling dissatisfied with her six month experience as an intern, she engaged in entrepreneurial endeavors. As a result, Connect-the-Cloths was born on Sept. 17, 2013.

Siebers will graduate this May from UWSP with a lot of costume design experience under her belt. For graduation, she will tour the country working as a costume designer. Siebers aspires to one day have her own fashion line. She notes how trends in costume design are affected by those in fashion.

"To be a good costume designer, you have to know trends in fashion," Siebers said.

Siebers lists Lady Gaga as a person she would love to style.

"It’s always been a dream of mine to work with Lady Gaga. She’s exactly what I look for in a trendsetter," Siebers said.

Siebers values Gaga’s style as wearable art, which combines elements of costume, art, and fashion. While she lists Gaga as a person she would like to style, Siebers looks to deceased fashion designer Edith Head as inspiration for her career path and says Tim Burton is also a person that she would like to work with.

"I like how costume designs for Tim Burton are very picturesque," Siebers said.

Siebers’ career aspirations are not short of sight as she continues to reach out to her following with career updates and tips on her website christysiebers.webs.com. She pictures herself doing many things in film, fashion, and costume design.

All women have made an effort to stand out when approaching their career goals. Confidence, individualism, and goal setting are key to the trendsetting mix. Although trendsetting is valued differently among job communities in fashion, it seems that dedication is valued equally among prospects.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

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The Pointer