Students attended the event at which Chancellor Bernie Patterson spoke about the importance of UWSP pledging.

Patterson Signs American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has joined 217 campuses in signing the American Campuses Act on Climate, a pledge to demonstrate support for strong international climate action.

Signed by Chancellor Bernie Patterson on Nov. 11, UWSP's pledge backs world leaders and policy makers in their pursuit of a low-carbon future, detailing specific actions already in place to meet campus sustainability goals. The pledges are part of a larger effort by the White House and the State Department to educate the public and encourage a global resolution at COP 21, the United Nations climate talks in Paris during December. Similar pledges were made by large businesses and municipalities to support the government and the greater climate action movement.

The White House released an official list of pledges on Nov. 19 during a 'Day of Climate Action' where students, university presidents and non-government officials met at the White House for a round-table discussion on climate change.

Dave Barbier, sustainability coordinator for UWSP, was invited to sit-in on the discussion and joined a group of select university representatives in Washington. UWSP was the only UW-System school to sign a pledge and was joined by only one other Wisconsin institution, Western Technical College of La Crosse.

The statistic is both fantastic and tragic, Barbier said. Because UWSP's administrators seized the opportunity to pledge, the university stands out on a national level. "I was pretty sad and pretty disappointed to see that we were the only UW institution on the list," he said. "I would think any time you have the opportunity to support the White House in terms of climate change, you'd do that."

Although he was honored to be invited to view the discussion, the gathering lacked the content and involvement Barbier was hoping for. Some of the smartest campus leaders in the country were in one room but discussion was not focused on tackling issues and ended up being more of a public relations event, he said.

"I was pretty sad and pretty disappointed to see that we were the only UW institution on the list," he said. "I would think any time you have the opportunity to support the White House in terms of climate change, you'd do that."

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continued on page 5
It's Been Kind of Fun, Stevens Point

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It is tradition for graduating staff members here at the Pointer to write a farewell article, and after seeing many do it before, it is now my turn. So adios, Stevens Point.

If I had to decide what the smartest decision I ever made here was, it was to build up the courage to walk through the doors into our newsroom on a January day in 2013, looking to see if the newspaper needed a sports reporter. Well, I was lucky that day because the only person in the newsroom was my predecessor as sports editor, Will Ross미, who needed a sports reporter. Long story short, I have been here ever since.

Coming into UWSP as a freshman I was not sure what I wanted to do. I knew I could write, history was easy to me, but I was awful in math and science. Since I was good at writing and I did not want to spend Pointed to be a communication major in media studies. Deciding to write about sports was easy because that’s what interests me the most, and writing about government is boring. Sorry about that.

If there is one piece of advice I can give to future students in this department, or any for that matter, it is to get involved.

Yes it sounds cliché, but getting involved in the media organizations on campus gave me so much experience that cannot be taught in a classroom. I was able to not only write about sports here, but I was able to talk about sports weekly on SPTV, as well as on 90FM.

So now is the time where I give thanks to the people who helped me get to where I am at now because I cannot come up with other things to say. First, I give thanks to all the friends I made here, and I will not say goodbye because I’d rather not play favorites.

I would like to thank Steve Hill, Mike Beacom and Chris Shofner as these three professors taught me so much on how to succeed in this profession. From learning how to write different types of articles in professor Hill’s and Beacom’s classes or learning the production side of media in professor Shofner’s classes, I think I’m ready to get into the field.

I’d like to thank Mitch Capelle and Michael Adell from the Sports Information Department. I sent a lot, and I mean a lot, of emails to them asking for interviews, story ideas and photos. They always helped me out when it came to a story, and they do a lot of great behind the scenes work for the athletics department.

Also to my fellow graduating colleague, our current Editor-in-Chief, Grace Ebert for giving me the freedom to run the sports section. Hopefully she sticks this article in Pointlife where it belongs.

Ok, time to wrap this up since it is over 450 words, and I don’t think I have written not only this article, but also this whole piece of paper.

Coming into this last semester, I had to make the decision to run the sports section. Hope you enjoyed.

I’m ready to get on with the rest of my life. It’s our first bit of freedom and one of the times in our lives we learn to understand ourselves better as we struggle to balance everything and still make it to our 8 a.m. classes. We learn where our priorities are, that you don’t need more than $40 a week to live off of and that a Netflix binge can either make or break your week.

And now is when we’re able to show off all that we’ve learned. We’re applying for jobs, moving and deciding what we want to do in our next few years. UWSP has given us the opportunity to learn all we can, and many of us are leaving as completely different people from freshman year. It’s been our building block for what we’ve become, and ultimately, what we’ll grow to be.

Even though we’re here at UWSP to get an education, we learn so much more. For that, I’m sure we’ll always be thankful. I’m happy that I’ve spent my last few years on this campus with other Pointers who are trying to live and find their way just like I am.

So to my fellow Pointers who are stuck in the library studying for exams and writing papers, just remember, college is only the beginning.

I'm ready to say goodbye, Stevens Point.

And now is when we’re able to send a farewell article, and after seeing this three professors taught me so much on how to succeed in this profession. From learning how to write different types of articles in professor Hill’s and Beacom’s classes or learning the production side of media in professor Shofner’s classes, I think I’m ready to get into the field.

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Ok, time to wrap this up since it is over 450 words, and I don't think I can continue.

In my final paragraph ever, I would like to finish with a quote by Michael Scott that I believe fits how I have written not only this article, but many before.

"Sometimes I'll start a sentence, and I don't even know where it's going. I just hope to find it along the way."
Food Waste in Upper DeBot is Limited, Workers Say

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As a major provider of meals, the individuals who staff and manage the daily operations at Upper DeBot have a large task at hand when implementing waste-management techniques. The facility is generally the main source of meals for students living on campus as an all-you-care-to-eat amenity that provides a variety of dining options, and Parth Dogra, a student manager at Upper DeBot, said managing waste is part of everyday practice.

"All the packaging that produce and food items arrive in are recycled," Dogra said. "Even to the extent that during preparation time there are specific locations in the kitchens. Recycling is one of the many ways we try to stay sustainable.

Dining and Summer Conference encourages student involvement by regularly scheduling trips to local farms around the Stevens Point area to educate students about the origin of their food. The department also collaborates with student organizations aiming to establish a dialogue where students can voice their requests and sponsor environmental events and campaigns.

In an attempt to minimize waste, all unconsumed food is donated to the Salvation Army Hope Center and Destiny Point Women's Center. Used cooking oil is also collected by the College of Natural Resources for biofuel research. This provides students with hands-on research opportunities to develop their skills and attain field experience.

One mainline student employee, Michelle Rodriguez, said that it is emphasized that products with earlier expiration dates should be used first to try to eliminate waste.

"While there are several methods in place to reduce food waste, patrons should still only take what they can eat as the food quantity is up to them," Rodriguez said.

She said students benefit from waste minimization as it keeps food costs in check ensuring that meal plan prices remain low. UWSP was recently voted one of the greenest colleges in the U.S by Princeton Review due in part to these programs.

The efforts to increase sustainability are not limited to only food waste. The DeBot Center recently replaced older dishwashers with a more efficient one, decreasing utilities bills, chemical usage and water consumption, she said.

On the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point website, students can view all the information available about the sustainable operating principles in place.

Attention Grows on Campus to Microaggressions

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Microaggressions, which can be described as an unintentional or intentional insult toward someone, have become an extremely pertinent and controversial topic on campus and beyond.

Greg Summers, vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, said he stresses the importance of not policing speech on campus.

"A lot of these issues about microaggressions are pushed by student groups that are interested in seeing campus reforms," Summers said. "There has been a lot of push back by conservative circles that feel microaggressions limit free speech."

Summers said he feels the university tries to provide the inclusive and diverse environment that most students want.

"We have certainly had some incidents in the past that had racial overtones, that were hostile towards other groups. There has also been hostility towards homosexuals on campus," he said. "We are not without our tensions on campus, but I think we have done a relatively good job with trying to deal with those tensions."

In the past couple of years the university has become more diverse, Summers said.

"Just in general, you want a university to be a place that has diversified opinions. We are not here to tell people what to think. We want to teach people how to think," he said. "People will disagree with one another, and that's a good thing. We just want to make sure that they are disagreeing in a respectful environment."

Ron Strege, director of diversity and college access, gives several presentations on campus focusing on diversity and inclusion.

"Microaggression is an issue in the world, not just our campus. It's not about being politically correct. It's about being human or humane to someone," Strege said.

Strege said he believes trying to avoid microaggressions does not prohibit freedom of speech.

"It's about treating someone the way that they want to be treated. Microaggressions have nothing to do with political correctness or freedom of speech," Strege said. "Nobody is taking away anyone's right to say anything."

Strege said he believes microaggressions have repercussions because of their discriminatory nature.

Kaylee Bast, business and communication major, said while it is important to be aware, monitoring speech does not always work.

"I think it's less about restricting freedom of speech, and more about thinking about a comment before you say it. It's good to be aware of other people's backgrounds and education level," Bast said. "At the same time, sometimes people aren't always consciously aware that they are making offensive remarks. I think we should recognize that it's hard to say the perfect thing all of the time."

PRSSA Wins Teahan Award First Time in UWSP History

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The Public Relations Student Society of America honored the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's chapter with two awards at the PRSSA National Conference in Atlanta.

The UWSP chapter was awarded the 2015 Dr. F.H. Teahan Award for Outstanding University Service, which recognizes voluntary work done by chapters that benefit their school. Chapter members volunteered to promote Relay for Life last spring and worked closely with College Against Cancer in support for the fight against cancer.

"We have come a long way, and the future looks bright for UWSP PRSSA, I am excited to see where they go from here," said Brittany Falk, PRSSA co-visual promotions chair and communication major.

Members wrote press releases, media advisories, connected with the media, managed Twitter and Instagram accounts and helped out with events.

"It turned out to be an even bigger success than the year previous. I hope UWSP PRSSA can help out again," Falk said.

PRSSA notified UWSP's chapter the morning of Nov. 11 of the award, and the group received a plaque and $300 to support the chapter's growth.

"It is a huge honor to celebrate Dr. F.H. Teahan's legacy via naming its outstanding performance chapter awards in his honor. The Teahan award is the most prestigious PRSSA award given."

The Teahan award honors chapters for their accomplishments within 12 categories. Only one chapter in the country is chosen for each of those categories.

The chapter also received the Star Chapter Award, which they have for the past three consecutive years. The award commends chapters that have met chapter and professional developmental goals.

"We are an organization for students interested in public relations and communications. The organization is comprised of students and advisers a part of more than 30 chapters in the United States, Argentina, Colombia and Peru."

PRSSA helps to increase education, professional development, experience and networking.
A movement is underway in Stevens Point to make the city and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point more bicycle-friendly. Students, faculty and community members gathered at UWSP on Nov. 29 for a lecture on ‘Breaking down bicycle barriers at UWSP’ by Trevor Roark, Adventure Tours program manager and local bike advocate. The lecture was hosted by activist group 350 Stevens Point and drew over 30 people.

Roark presented information and photos outlining the challenges and benefits of using bikes for transportation, following with suggestions for improving the situation. He began by telling the audience the most important thing to do in regards to transportation because children are taught to ride by parents instead of professionals, suggesting the bicycle is more a toy than transportation.

Roark ended the presentation with suggestions on how people can help push for a better bike community. Taking action to lobby local government, attend meetings and educating the public are all important parts of the process, he said.

Phil Piscitello, senior social science major, said he makes an effort to ride his bike all year long. He found a bike at a garage sale and drew over 30 people.

Similarly, Everett Dupler, junior political science major, said he regularly commutes to campus by bike. Like Piscitello, Dupler also has reservations about riding during cold weather, but said getting around by bike is generally a pleasant experience.

"It’s always cold. That’s obviously a big barrier,” Dupler said. "I have a pretty easy time getting around." Dupler would like to see more bike parking to alleviate issues with locking bikes at crowded racks.

While Roark and others believe there is much work to be done, Roark said some steps have already been taken for improvement.

The city of Stevens Point recently adopted the Portage County Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. A city advisory committee, which Roark is a member of, regularly meets to discuss bicycle and pedestrian issues. UWSP also outlines plans to improve infrastructure for bikes in their master plan, and a project has been approved to install a bicycle shelter outside the Dreyfus University Center in 2016 using Green Fund dollars. UWSP failed to be designated as a ‘bike-friendly university’ by a third-party organization in 2015, which Roark said is both bad and good.

"The good thing is that this is the first step," Roark said. "The university and the chancellor are now committed to this."
Winter sports enthusiasts may be disappointed with early-season conditions, but skiers and snowboarders at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are still planning to enjoy the downhill activities all season long.

Luke Koch, junior communication major, said he normally skis a few times per year at Wisconsin hills such as Tyrol Basin in Mt. Horeb and Cascade Mountain in Portage. He tried both skiing and snowboarding while growing up but now prefers skiing. Snowboarding many times left him with a bruised tailbone, he said.

“I enjoy both,” Koch said. “Skiing is more like ice skating for me, which is more comfortable.”

Koch has plans to ski in New York with his girlfriend over winter break and hopes to ski at Granite Peak in Wausau this year but said he is worried about the lack of natural snow.

“I got to imagine that it’s getting pretty icy out there,” Koch said. “That definitely puts a stall on things. People are happier when there’s fresh powder.”

A couple big snowstorms would help motivate him to do more local skiing, he said.

Ethan Heineke, sophomore forestry major, is an officer of the UWSP ski and snowboard club and has been skiing and snowboarding many times. He loves all aspects of the activity but focuses his time working on jumps, rails and tricks in the terrain park at Granite Peak. The delayed season is frustrating, he said, but hopes January and February are warmer with more snow.

The club helps enable students to partake in downhill winter sports and coordinate trips of varying lengths, usually to western resorts. No western trips are planned yet for this year, he said, although officers are planning to make more trips to Granite Peak and working out a better carpooling system to share rides.

“In the past we have focused mostly on a big winter trip and little else,” Heineke said. “We want kids to be able to get to granite with some friends and just have fun.”

Although a large winter break trip is out of the picture, several ideas are being explored like trips to the Upper Peninsula. Heineke is also considering hosting meetings where members can have their skis and snowboard waxed and serviced by experienced personnel.

Granite Peak opened on Nov. 30 this year, which is later than normal said Kelsey Beasland, administrative assistant of the ski area. Last year Granite Peak marked one of its earliest opening days ever with the first chairlift opening on Nov. 15.

Despite poor snowmaking weather, patrons enjoyed two runs during opening weekend before the area closed to make more snow during the week. Staff members are getting positive feedback, she said, and the snowmaking crews are continuing to make snow when weather allows.

“Skiing is something every chance we can get,” Beasland said. “Everyone has just been really excited to finally get out skiing.”

Above average temperatures have effected ticket sales, but Beasland said it is normal for the area to be less busy in the early part of the season, with business picking up as people start making trips to the hill around the holidays. Locals and season pass holders who live closer to the slopes like to get some skiing in during the first weeks of December, she said.

Although most of the snow is currently man-made, the early season is a good opportunity to enjoy discounted lift ticket prices. Granite Peak is offering $10 off it’s early season rates and two-for-one tickets for college students with a valid student I.D. Student pricing is honored weekdays from Dec. 14 to 23 and again Jan. 4 to 29.

For newcomers looking to try skiing or snowboarding, Beasland said Monday or Wednesday from 4 p.m. to close. Granite Peak offers free ski rentals and $10 snowboard rentals during that time, she said.

Beasland said the area is a popular destination for college students who usually arrange carpools from places like Stevens Point. Live music on Saturday nights helps make for a fun experience and only a short drive, she said.

“It’s Wisconsin’s largest ski area. It’s nice having that right in your backyard,” she said. “It’s just a great atmosphere.”

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Despite his disappointment, Barbier considers the round-table a success and said he was happy to represent UWSP and network with other universities and the state department, making future collaborations a possibility.

The discussion was originally planned to be live-streamed via Facebook, but officials instead broadcast an interview with Gina McCarthy, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Around 70 students, faculty and staff watched the interview at a viewing event held in the Laird Room at UWSP. Chancellor Bernie Patterson addressed the audience before the live-stream began and spoke briefly about the pledge.

“The turnout today is great,” Patterson said. “Whatever we can do to make ourselves more sustainable in terms of climate issues, the better.”

McCarthy spoke generally about the impacts of climate change and the importance of taking action. The effects are already being felt, she said, and action must be urgent.

After watching the interview, the audience was engaged in open discussion lead by junior Natalie Lirette, student data analyst for the Office of Sustainability.

Students brought up a number of climate related topics like how to convince non-believers that climate change is occurring and how social norms may slow progressive action.

“I don’t think people realize how much power universities have,” said one student when commenting on the power of institutions to make positive change.

“I think all of us have a huge foot in the door by being at this school,” said another student who spoke about environmental literacy.

Lirette said the main goal of the event was to educate students about COP 21 and empower them to take action. She was happy to see enthusiasm among attendees and stressed the importance of students understanding climate issues, especially because of UWSP’s ‘green’ reputation.

“I think it’s our duty,” Lirette said. “We need to be aware and we need to take action. By doing so, we’re on our way to leadership.”
Men's Basketball Struggles for the Win, Hockey Rises to the Top

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Men's Basketball Loses to Top-Ranked Augusta

In a rematch of last season's national championship game, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball team lost to Augusta 81-58. UWSP opened up the game with an early 8-3 lead, but it would be the only time the team would be ahead as Augusta took control the rest of the game. Senior Sean McGann led the Pointers with 10. Pelkofer added 10, and Luke Zulker tallied eight in the loss.

The Pointers next play at North Central on Dec. 9.

Women's Basketball Beats Ranked Opponent

Allie Micelli's career day led the UWSP women's basketball team to a 63-60 win over 23-ranked Carthage on Saturday. Anklam added seven more points for the game-winning layup that put the Pointers in the lead for the rest of the game. Senior Sean McGann led the women's basketball team to a win on Saturday.

The Pointers next play at Illinois Wesleyan on Dec. 12.

Men's Hockey Split Games

UWSP men's hockey team went 1-1 over the weekend losing to UW-River Falls and defeating UW-Superior.

Against UW-River Falls, the Pointers gave up two goals and lost 3-2 after tying the game from the first period. Nathan Harris, Joe Kasliss also scored for UWSP, while goaltender Max Milosek made 28 saves. Against UW-Superior, Lawrence Corneliell recorded his first career hat-trick leading UWSP to a 5-3 win. Jono Davis and Joey Haydock each scored a goal, while Milosek made 15 saves for the win.

The Pointers travel to Northland on Dec. 11 for their next game.

Women's Hockey Goes Undefeated

UWSP women's hockey tied and defeated UW-Eau Claire in two games this past weekend.

In the first game, the teams skated to a 3-3 tie as Emily Lester, Ellie Purnett and Lauren Smith scored for the Pointers. In the second, UWSP goaltender Sydney Conley made 17 saves.

The next night, UWSP defeated Blugold 3-2 after scoring three goals in the second period. parasan and Kat Nejedlo each scored for the Pointers, while teammate Lisa Fowle made 26 saves for her fourth win of the season.

The Pointers next play at St. Thomas on Dec. 12.

Anklam Striving to be Leader of UWSP Women's Basketball

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Lauren Anklam, junior guard, entered the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point three years ago with high expectations for herself.

Now, as she enters her third season with the women's basketball team led by head coach Shirley Egner, Anklam is embracing her ever-evolving role on the team.

"Her growth from her freshman season to now has vastly improved and is so enjoyable to watch. You can tell she has really embraced being a leader of this team by improving her voice not only in games but every day at practice," Egner said.

Anklam was a First Team All-WIAC player last season, an accomplishment she said she undoubtedly would like to duplicate.

"As a guard I am always trying to get in the lane and score or set up a teammate. Sometimes I pushed it too far and got a bunch of offensive fouls, so I worked on basic footwork stuff to prevent some of those turnovers," Anklam said.

Anklam has accumulated her fair share of individual accomplishments, but what makes her stand out with her coaches and teammates is her constant mentality of wanting to win and being the best teammate possible.

"Physically Lauren was ready to compete at this level right out of high school, but she always was the ultimate team player willing to sacrifice for whatever we needed as a team," Egner said.

Anklam has moved over from the two-guard to running more of a point guard this year. "I am playing more point guard this year. Coach is still asking me to score but to be a better decision maker and get the team involved as well," Anklam said.

Anklam seems to have been about as good of a mentor on and off the court as anyone could ask, a quality that Anklam takes advantage of everyday.

"Coach Egner has helped me improve as a person off the court, which then gives me a ton of confidence on the court," Anklam said. "She pushes me to maximize my skill set. She is the most intelligent basketball mind of anyone I know, and I learn something new from her every day."

Throughout her first two years, Anklam has played in every game. The return of fellow guard Autumn Hennes from last season's injury has Anklam very excited going into the conference season.

"Having her back is so huge for us. She is so good at just simply putting the ball in the bucket," Anklam said. "Just seeing her back on the court after what she went through opens our eyes to enjoy it and realize it could be gone in a second."

Coach Egner has been around a lot of players as this is her 27th season at UWSP and said Anklam has the qualities she looks for in a player.

"The most successful players I have coached are those who have had an opportunity to work with buy into our system, put the team before themselves and a desire to get better every offseason. Lauren possesses all three," Egner said.

When asked about what her expectations were coming into the season, Anklam personified coach Egner's qualities with a team theme.

"We want to win the WIAC Conference Championship and make the NCAA Tournament. We have a lot of work to do, but we are moving in the right direction and I'd like to be a big part of it," Anklam said.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

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UWSP Volleyball Exceeds Self-Made Expectations as Season Ends

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After making a few deep tournament runs in previous years, the expectation may have been that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point volleyball team would duplicate its success this season. But these outside expectations did not meet exactly what the players expected of themselves.

UWSP graduated multiple seniors including an All-American, and only two seniors returned to lead the team. One of those seniors, Emma Brinkhorst, had to miss a big chunk of the season due to injury. Despite all the inexperience and injuries, head coach Abbey Sutherland lead the Pointers to a 27-9 record.

"Looking back on the season, I’m very proud of what we have accomplished. With some of the injuries and adversity we went through, we had some other players get a chance to step up and get experience, and I thought we ended pretty strong," Sutherland said.

The two seniors who were able to coach this season, Brunkhorst and Hannah Picel, were a big part in one of the most successful four year runs UWSP volleyball has ever seen.

"I care so much for them off the court first off, and with not only their talents on the court but character off it, it has been a major reason for our big success over these past few years," Sutherland said.

UWSP was knocked out in the second round of the NCAA Division III Tournament by fourth-ranked Calvin College. The match was in reach for the Pointers, but a point here and there did not go their way, and they were sent packing.

"We had to compete at an extremely high level for every point of that match, and in the first couple sets we had match point and were able to go toe to toe with them but just weren’t able to sustain that high level for the duration," Sutherland said.

Having to battle through injuries gave some younger players, who will be staples in the UWSP program for years to come, an opportunity to show what they can do. This was a pleasant surprise for coach Sutherland to see how they played.

"We will have four seniors and one medical redshirt senior coming back. I am looking for them to jump into that leadership role right away, which they have done a good job of setting up open gym and what not already," Sutherland said. "The thing I am excited for is with how this season ended these girls will be extra motivated next year and hungry to get back, and I think how these girls played at the end of the year will be a good indicator of what is to come.

"Going into next year with this group of girls will ramp up expectations to make a trip back to the national championship again, which is something that the Pointers always welcome with open arms.

"Of course the expectation is always to get to that level, but I think if you build in those expectations sometimes you put too much negative pressure on yourself, which isn’t good. In order to succeed in the tournament you not only have to be playing well but get some luck on your side," Sutherland said.

With the 2015 season in the books, UWSP exceeded its own expectations, resulting in the continued success of one of the most thriving programs at the university.

"We left here talking about how to get better with our character on and off the floor, and that is something that we think will translate to continued success as it has in the past for us," Sutherland said.
Review: ‘Krampus’ Makes This Season’s Nice List

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There are worse things you could get than a lump of coal.

For every holiday cynic out there who rolls their eyes at how Christmas has become this weird blend of over-the-top capitalism and watered-down Paganism, the movie “Krampus” couldn’t come soon enough.

This is a film where the amazingly dark and often ignored mythology of Santa Claus comes to life in hilarious fashion. A young boy turns his back on Christmas and accidentally invokes the wrath of the demon, Krampus, an evil reflection of Santa Claus who punishes non-believers.

Plenty of violence and mayhem ensues, but this is not a genuinely frightening horror film like “Black Christmas” or a gory, ironically funny slasher like “Silent Night, Deadly Night.” “Krampus” has Christmas cult-classic potential but falls more into the vein of “Gremlins.” It’s a scary movie, but one that most of the family can enjoy.

That being said, the humor here is aimed foremost at adults, and it’s done to great effect by the cast, particularly Adam Scott, Toni Collette and the constantly underrated David Koechner.

Koechner is arguably only a one-note comedian, but it is a note he has perfected so well that it is hard to even want him to do something different.

The comedy is definitely where “Krampus” shines the brightest, but sometimes it does seem to forget the importance of comedy. There are stretches of inconsistency where it tries a little too hard to be genuinely frightening or emotional, and a lot of that falls flat. It is admirable that the movie wants to be more, but it isn’t necessary with how well it handles the comedy.

“Krampus” won’t make any sort of indelible mark on our culture, but it’s a fun, spookily charming addition to one of Hollywood’s strangest subgenres. What director Michael Dougherty did for Halloween with “Trick R Treat,” he does for Christmas with this film.

“Krampus” gets 8 “maids a-milking” out of 10.

Does the Wasteland Become Itself? Return to ‘Fallout 3’

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Bethesda Softworks released “Fallout 4” almost a month ago, and ever since then I have been dying to play it.

However, as most college gamers know (or are soon to discover) the end of the semester is a terrible time to start a new game, particularly anything from Bethesda’s library of expansive open-world experiences.

As a result, I decided that rather than diving into this new experience in the midst of all my final papers and exams, it might be interesting to reacquaint myself with all things “Fallout” through loading my old “Fallout 3” save files. Despite having put over 150 hours into my original play through, it had been at least two years since the last time I had revisited the Capital Wasteland.

In many ways it felt like spending the night in your childhood room after moving away or rereading your angst-filled entries in an old diary.

I spent a great deal of time wandering around my in-game house, looking at all the collectibles I had meticulously placed on shelves and tables. I thought about all of the time that went into the creation of my character and the development of his skill tree. I thought of the countless adventures we had together and the ways in which my actions and decisions shaped him and the surrounding world.

All of the time and energy I had invested into this game made my return to “Fallout 3” a joyous experience, and yet it also had an air of melancholy.

As opposed to a good book or movie, this story acknowledged the time I had spent inside it and even relied on my inputs for its current form or structure. Like an old house this game had become an extension of myself. And as much as I get excited about new games and experiences it was also sad to think that I was saying goodbye, perhaps not to “Fallout 3” but instead this character and world that I had created.

Ultimately, I can’t wait for “Fallout 4” and the promise of new adventures and experiences that it holds. But at the same time, new beginnings make you think about the endings of things, and a part of my heart will always belong to the irradiated wasteland of yesteryear.
December 9, 2015

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Book Review: ‘Ashley Bell’ by Dean Koontz

When I heard Dean Koontz was releasing yet another novel, I knew I had to read it. I set out to put my craving for Dean Koontz to rest, but instead it only made me want to read more of his works.

In his latest thriller, young author Bibi Blaire is diagnosed with a rare brain cancer called gliomatosis cerebral, which is supposed to be incurable. Most patients lose the battle within a year.

But Bibi manages to do the impossible. The cancer is gone soon after diagnosis, and she is released from the hospital. After leaving she becomes obsessed with finding and saving a girl named Ashley Bell.

The premise of this book was enough to captivate me, and its fast pace kept me going. This book is over 500 pages long, but it rarely feels like it.

Koontz is a very descriptive writer, and most of the time the descriptions are so vivid that the reader becomes immersed. Multiple times I was reading before I had somewhere to be, and I would have to set an alarm because I was so in danger of being so engaged with the story.

Bibi is a lively character who never stays still. She is always moving, always thinking and always creative in her tactics. Since she has a strong history in writing and literature it was only fitting that there were many illusions to famous works, one of which was Harry Potter. Those propelled the story and assisted with explaining the plot twists.

The perspective shifts between many different time periods and people, all in a very clear third person. Normally this would bother just about anyone, but Koontz very clearly labels where the time shifts are and within the first sentence or two it is clear who the chapter is about.

I went into this novel expecting to be able to predict the ending and in a way I could, but it wasn’t until I was a couple chapters before the scene actually happened. There were two different plot twists where I had to put down my book and think back in the book, realizing they do make sense and that I should have realized it. For me, these are the best types of surprises.

In all, ‘Ashley Bell’ gets five haunting memories out of five.

Review: Joshua Hyslop ‘In Deepest Blue’

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Since his first EP “Cold Wind” was released in November, Joshua Hyslop has focused the messages of his music around hope and keeping positivity. His newest album “In Deepest Blue” is no exception to that trend.

Hyslop is a Christian artist, and you can see the religious influence in his works.

The album opens with a track titled “The Flood,” possessing a voice soft enough to coincide with the softness of his music. The lyrics are based off of the biblical story “The Return of the Prodigal Son,” setting a general theme for the songs coming after. Later in the album is the track titled “Living and Dying,” which gives off an incredibly strong Iron & Wine vibe with lyrics describing Hyslop’s underlying fear of human mortality.

The next track “Let It Go” (not a reference to “Frozen”), and the second to last track titled “Gone” is a response to “Living and Dying.” Within these tracks, Hyslop is talking about relinquishing those worries and just enjoying life because “the lord knows/ he’ll be gone” eventually and it is inevitable.

Because of his straightforwardness, he named the most important song of the album after the album itself. “In Deepest Blue” seems to be directed to an individual and the remainder of the album also seems directed toward the same individual. Hyslop shows off his fingerpicking and guitar skills in the instrumental track titled “Instrumental” (not much thought put into that title, but it’s still a solid track).

The album finally ends with a track titled “Tonight,” which ties everything together by tying in references to previous messages heard in the album: accepting help when it is offered, and finding the light in the darkness, etc.

As a Christian indie folk artist, his work is the center of the genre and is unique when compared to other Christian artists. As an indie folk artist alone, he is recommendable for those who enjoy a style similar to Iron & Wine and Jack Johnson.

Sheeran collaborated with Iron & Wine and centered their album’s message on optimism.

Born in British Columbia and raised in Canada, Hyslop is incredibly optimistic and possesses great interpersonal abilities including traveling across the country, spending quality time with families who invite him in and sharing his message everywhere he goes.

“In Deepest Blue” is a pretty straightforward album. Hyslop is a Christian artist, and you can see the religious influence in his works.

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Amid Final Exams Musicians Prepare for Recitals

MICHAEL SCHNELL
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While students are getting ready for their final exams, many musicians are spending their time preparing for another type of challenge.

Students are practicing in the practice rooms for upcoming recitals while balancing their finals.

At some point during their college career, music performance majors are required to give at least one half recital and one full recital. A half recital is typically performed during junior year and requires at least 30 minutes worth of music. A full recital, typically performed during a musician’s senior year, requires a full hour of music.

The process of selecting, planning and practicing an hour and a half of music can cause a great deal of stress and anxiety for many music students. In order to make this process go more smoothly, many musicians start planning well before the semester even begins. In some instances students begin preparing to give a recital even a year in advance.

Even with plenty of preparation, it can still be difficult to balance studying for finals, finishing homework and mentally preparing to perform in front of an audience of your family, peers and professors.

Bri Trainor, senior percussion performance major, said balancing all of these responsibilities is all about planning.

“It’s time consuming and definitely not easy,” Trainor said. “It’s a lot more manageable when you plan ahead, make a practice and homework regiment, and make sure to take time for yourself.”

Although recitals are only required for performance majors, this does not prevent music education students from giving recitals of their own.

This semester Ally Evans, junior choral education major, has begun preparing for her recital, which is taking place next semester. Evans said even though she is not required to give a recital, she wants to take advantage of the time, space and opportunity to perform. Although it has been a lot of work, Evans says she would not trade the experience.

“It’s been stressful, but it’s worth it,” Evans said. “I only have to be nervous if I’m not prepared so I’m mostly excited.”

While the process of preparing for a recital can be long and challenging, said fifth year jazz performance major Adam Hatton. But the end result is more than worth it.

“It’s stressful preparing for, but it helps to prepare you for the real world,” Hatton said. “It’s a useful experience, but it definitely feels good when it’s over.”

Trainor agrees about the fulfilling aspect of recitals.

“For me, the most rewarding part is to have the audience come and support you,” Trainor says. “It’s knowing that these people all support you and what you’ve accomplished.”

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

DEC. 9
5:30 P.M.
Coffee Tasting
Basement Brewhaus

7:30 P.M.
Margaret Taughner
NFAC 221

7:30 P.M.
Katie Anderson
Michelsen Hall

8 P.M.
Destination Imagination
Improv Comedy
DUC, Encore

DEC. 10
5:30 P.M.
Tuba Christmas
Michelsen Hall

8 P.M.
Lux w/ Backer
DUC, Encore

DEC. 11
3 P.M.
Austin Kirchof
Michelsen Hall

7:30 P.M.
Brianna Trainor
Michelsen Hall

10 P.M.
Yoga and Zen Gardens
DUC, Alumni

DEC. 12
6 P.M.
Open Mic
Basement Brewhaus

DEC. 13
6 P.M.
Jenilee Klish
NFAC 221

7:30 P.M.
Kel Kelly
Michelsen Hall

Dec. 9-13 Afterimages 2015 7:30 p.m. Studio Theatre
What was the craziest thing you've done this year?
"I joined a fraternity-Phi Sigma Phi."

What is your favorite quote?
"Reality is wrong. Dreams are for real." - Tupac Shakur

What would you name your autobiography?
"This Book is Too Cool for a Title"

What is your biggest pet peeve?
"The way people shorten words when they talk, like 'totes' and 'adorbs.'"

If you could move anywhere, without language barriers, where would you move? Why?
"Well, I just moved from India. New York. I was born in Brooklyn, and I don't remember anything about it."

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Afterimages Features Student Talent in Annual Show

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The Department of Theatre and Dance will bring the creativity of student performers, choreographers and designers together in its annual production of "Afterimages."

"It is a really unique opportunity for everyone in not only the dance program, but the entire theater and dance department to come together and collaborate," said Emily Hein, senior dance and arts management major.

Hein is one of the student directors and choreographers for the show. She will also be performing in "I Can Move Mountains," a piece choreographed by dance major Constance Williams.

The production's focus on original student artistry gives dancers and designers a chance to meet and interact with more peers in their department, she said.

"If there is a senior choreographer you can cast any student of any year, so that has been really cool. It has been a good way to get to know the upperclassmen and the lowerclassmen. We don't really interact outside of technique classes unless we have rehearsals with each other, so that has been a really big part of why I have enjoyed this process so much," said Sarah Fernander, junior dance major.

This is Fernander's second year performing in Afterimages. She will be dancing in "A New and Different Sun," a contemporary piece choreographed by Emily Hein. Fernander said the piece begins with rigid, sharp choreography and as the dance continues the dancers break into more free movements.

The composition is about the balance between finding one's place without solely focusing on the destination but the journey, Hein said. Maps are used throughout the piece as props are incorporated in the design of the costumes.

"It is a really great opportunity for me to develop my voice as a choreographer. I really enjoy working with just the varying ages in the dance program. Being able to work with freshmen and sophomores that I usually wouldn't see in class and being able to rehearse with them. It just really brings everyone in our program together, and I especially because it is students that are working together there is just kind of this different atmosphere. It is really open and a lot of fun," Hein said.

Hein is excited for the audience to see the different creations of each student choreographer and how they culminate to make a harmonious production.

"The faculty and students just really respect one another and allow each other to develop as artists. There is just so much support from everyone that I feel comfortable being vulnerable and taking risks in my work," Hein said.

"Afterimages" will be performed Dec. 9 to 12 at 7:30 p.m., as well as Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. All shows will take place in the Studio Theatre inside the Noel Fine Arts Center.

Tickets can be purchased at the UWSP Ticket Office located in the Dreyfus University Center or by visiting the UWSP Box Office website.

Photos by Raju Karki