

the pointer

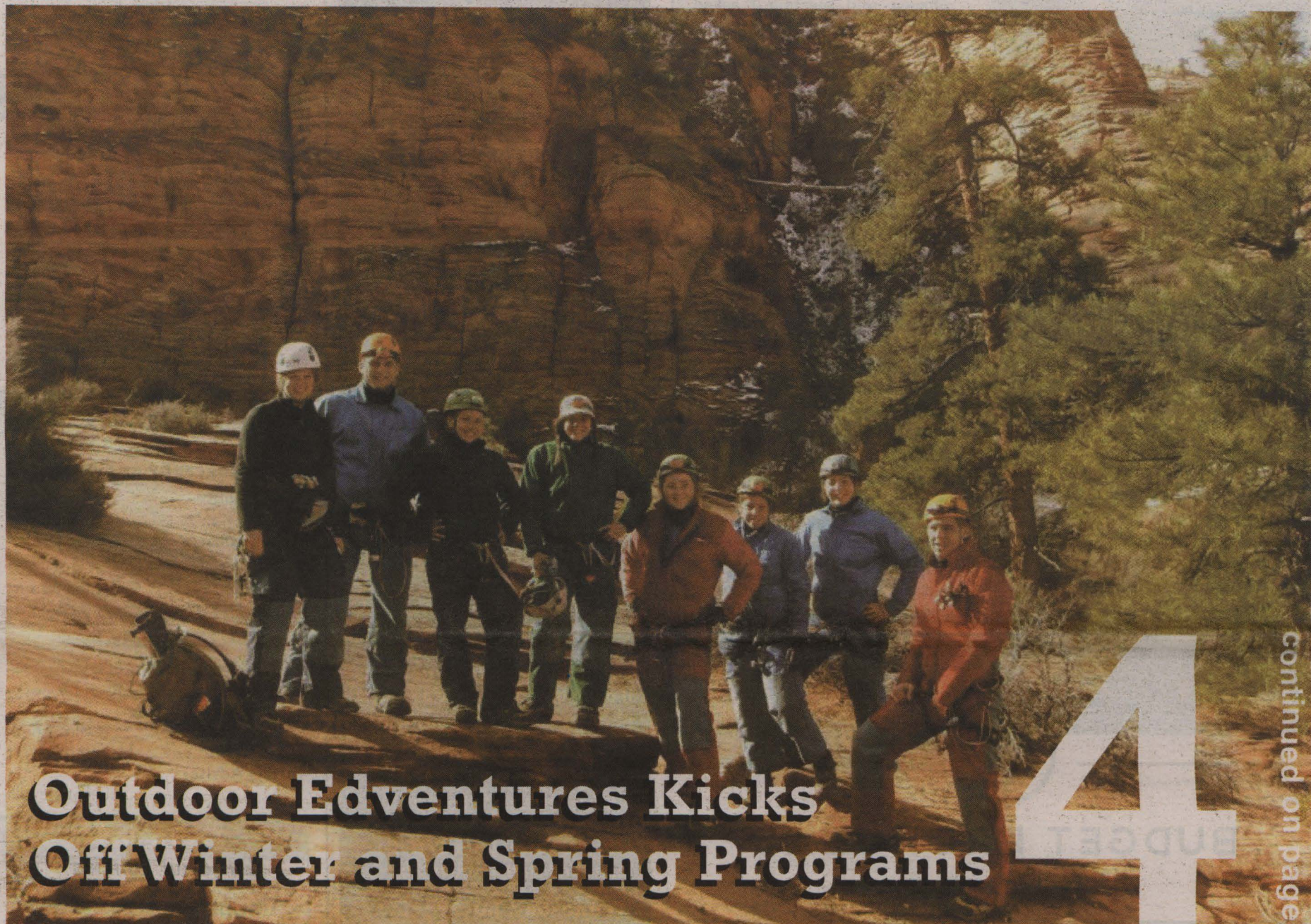
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

February 5, 2015

thepointeruwsp.com

Volume 59 | Issue 16

STAY INFORMED ABOUT
BUDGET CUTS
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Outdoor Edventures Kicks Off Winter and Spring Programs

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Winter is still here, but spring is around the corner. Outdoor Edventures is offering a variety of affordable outdoor programs during spring semester, ranging from night skiing at Granite Peak to spelunking at Mammoth Cave in Kentucky.

Outdoor Edventures, located on the lower level of the Allen Center, provides camping and recreation equipment year-round to students and non-students alike.

Programming and trips have grown over the years, and the staff hopes to get students involved while keeping costs low.

"Our whole goal is to have students get out and explore the world

around them," said Mike Piekenbrock, the recreational activities coordinator.

Piekenbrock is in charge of planning trips and clinics while overseeing student trip leaders. Creating new and exciting programs can be challenging, so he relies on his staff for ideas.

"When I first started, it was just me trying to generate ideas for more trips," Piekenbrock said. "We've got a great group of students. They've got a finger

on the pulse of the college community."

Among the programs planned this semester are ice silo climbing in Iowa, cross country skiing at Apostle Island's ice caves and a weekend canoe trip down the Namekagon River.

The longest and farthest trip of the semester will be a camping trip to Zion and Arches National Parks during spring break. Last year, the spring break trip to the Florida Keys

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EDITORIAL

Proposed Budget Cuts Spark Conversation

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With Gov. Scott Walker's proposed budget cuts of \$300 million looming over our heads, we need to prepare for devastating blows to the University of Wisconsin System and to UW-Stevens Point.

Students have received emails from administration and SGA President Chris Slattery explaining the proposed cuts and how we can inform ourselves about the issues. Students and community members should use such opportunities to meet with administration and SGA to share ideas.

When Chancellor Bernie Patterson spoke to SGA Senate on Thursday, Jan. 29, he asked what at UWSP needs to be saved.

The answers were overwhelmingly in favor of supporting academics and services that help students succeed. Many SGA members supported anything that directly impacts students and encouraged Chancellor Patterson to consider outsourcing

jobs like payroll and health services.

During said meeting I asked, "Would administration consider a pay cut to save faculty and staff positions because they directly work with students?"

The chancellor's response was the same as nearly all questions regarding cuts or postponements. "Everything is on the table," he said.

While I doubt that cutting administration pay will actually occur in place of laying off faculty, cuts such as these should be considered.

Already considered options are postponing sabbaticals, which cost between \$150,000 and 200,000 annually according to Provost Greg Summers, and eliminating First-Year Seminar courses. Such actions, however, would replace only a small portion of the budget.

Students need to visit SGA and write to administration and The Pointer to share thoughts on what needs to be preserved on campus, and we must remember that any budget cut will impact our lives as students as well as the community.



BUDGET PROPOSAL UPDATE

University Prepares for Substantial Cuts

MYKAYLA HILGART
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Now that Gov. Scott Walker officially released the state budget proposal on Feb. 3, administrators are working with students, faculty, staff and the community to prioritize in preparation for the state support loss.

Walker claims his plan will help deliver "the American dream" to those falling short the past few years. Republicans and Democrats alike have expressed concern over the proposed 13 percent cut to the University of Wisconsin System over the biennium, saying it is too large and would do damage to both the university and state economy.

"This is a historic cut," said Katrina Shankland, the assembly district 71

representative. "We believe it is the largest to the UW System. There is just nothing left to cut that won't severely compromise the quality of UW education."

She said because UW-Stevens Point does not have differential tuition, it does not have the same competitive advantage of other four-year universities. 10 of the 13 four-years have it.

"What we don't know is still much, much more than we do know," said Greg Summers, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. "There is a very lengthy legislative process that has yet to unfold. It's important that we not treat the proposal as if it is written in stone."

Summers said even though approved numbers will not be released for months, the focus of UWSP has to be

continued on page 3

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Sunday, Jan. 25

May Roach resident called stating a female resident had locked herself in the first floor bathroom and was unresponsive to knocks from the CA.

An unidentified man was found sleeping on a sofa in the west wing of the NFAC.

A female called about a hit and run in Lot T. A vehicle hit her car while she was away. Another individual witnessed the accident and wrote a note with the license plate number and description and left it on her car.

Male called stating he was being yelled at by a red two-door lifted truck when crossing Portage.

Female called worried about her roommate's suicidal thoughts.

Monday, Jan 26

A wallet found outside Debot was returned to its owner.

Tuesday, Jan 27

Watson staff member called reporting a male student with chest pains. He did not want to wait until the morning to check it out, but did not have a vehicle to get to the emergency room.

Female called stating there was a silver pickup truck parked outside the DUC when she left. As she crossed the road to the LRC, the driver turned off the lights and started following.

Wednesday, Jan 28

Male called to report he was receiving threats via email and Skype. The individual told him if he did not send \$500, a photo would be posted on Facebook.

CPS faculty member called to report her missing purse. She said it was either taken out of the cafeteria or her unlocked office.

Brewhaus worker called requesting a disruptive male be escorted out of the building. He was screaming and swearing on the phone and the caller did not feel comfortable with him there.

CORRECTION:

In the Jan. 29 issue in "Gov. Walker's Budget Purposal Raises Concern," the cut is aimed to save tax payers \$150 million annually.

In "350 Stevens Point Addresses Wisconsin Frac Sand Mines," Bob Gifford is the treasurer of the Wisconsin Green Party.

THE POINTER

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No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without expressed written permission of *The Pointer* staff.

The Pointer is printed Thursdays during the academic year with a circulation of 3,000 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is \$10 per academic year.

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

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

Student Elections Fast Approaching

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Student Government Association election campaigning begins Feb. 6, with elections allowing students to choose their president, vice president and up to 30 senators.

"The president and vice president applications are out, so people are getting signatures to get their names on the ballot," said Leah Aeby, the SGA chief of staff. "There will be no campaigning until all the signatures are turned in and the judicial branch clarifies that all the signatures are valid."

Students must collect 40 signatures to get their name on the ballot for Senate, while the presidential positions require 200 signatures. Campaigning will run from Feb. 9, to March 6, and students will have from March 7, to March 12, to cast votes via email. Results will be released within 24 hours after ballots close.

Aeby said there is a \$200 fund

set aside that will be evenly distributed among campaigning individuals. Candidates are not allowed to use outside funds so each individual is on an "even playing ground."

“

You are going to become engrossed with every single aspect of this university.

- Chris Slattery, the SGA president

"People are often worried about money, and I don't think money makes the campaign," Aeby said. "I think that it's all about what you have to say."

SGA President Chris Slattery

explained the job of SGA president involves working with administration to see how state issues affect students.

"The budget dropped on Tuesday, so we're trying to figure out how to

Wisconsin System is one of the many situations that require on-the-fly decisions in these leadership roles.

Aeby and Slattery agree that the main quality they hope to see out of future representatives is a commitment to the students.

"It's important to make sure students are being heard," Slattery said. "As a representative, you will also have to be comfortable sitting in a meeting with Chancellor Patterson and Al Thompson, people who run the university, and be able to pipe up about pressing issues."

Slattery suggests all students go to SGA's website to explore the governing documents of the university and ensure a basic understanding of parliamentary procedure.

"To be a successful executive, you need to be passionate about finding solutions to the different issues on campus," Slattery said. "You are going to become engrossed with every single aspect of this university."

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on maintaining the quality, accessibility and affordability of education.

Through forums and committee meetings, administration aims find out what programs and services need to be protected the most. A decision will be made in the coming weeks about the mathematical formula used to allocate the cuts.

"This will not be across the board," said Chancellor Bernie Patterson on Jan. 30, during the first of several public forums. "While across the board sounds fair to everyone, it is not strategic. We have to think about what we can stop doing so we can keep doing things that we all agree have to continue."

Greg Diemer, the vice chancellor for business affairs, said it is still unknown whether there are any specific colleges or departments that will be more susceptible to cuts.

Summers said administration is beginning to think about cuts to the operational budget of UWSP that will be permanent in nature and allow advancement without the extra revenue from the state.

"We have to start looking for one-time dollars that will stretch our timeline for meeting that base cut," Summers said.

One immediate change made going forward is the issuing of one-year contracts as opposed to two or three-year contracts for faculty. Summers said this is meant to maintain flexibility.

Discretionary Merit Compensation and Discretionary Equity or Retention Adjustment, which had only applied to classified staff, has been suspended indefinitely by the Office of State Employment Relations. This was the mechanism by which staff received salary adjustments or one-time lump sums.

In addition, the UW System has recommended a freeze on out-of-state

travel, promotions, salary adjustments and hiring positions not considered critical.

"We are reviewing all the open positions and those decisions about which ones will be filled will be made by the vice chancellors in consultation with me," Patterson said.

Travel for recruitment purposes will not be curtailed, but the \$250,000 spent per year on out-of-state travel has been a topic of conversation. Summers said administration does not see those in line for a promotion being halted.

Summers has begun a conversation with governance groups about the possible suspension of sabbaticals. He said they are an integral part of the teaching and learning mission of the campus, but the \$150,000 spent per year is being taken into consideration. The Freshman Year Seminar courses, while showing notable success among students, are also a costly endeavor seen as a potential source for cuts.

Being that planning for the new science building is 35 percent complete, Summers said it is unlikely to be cut. There is no official word on whether the proposed Health and Wellness Center will go through.

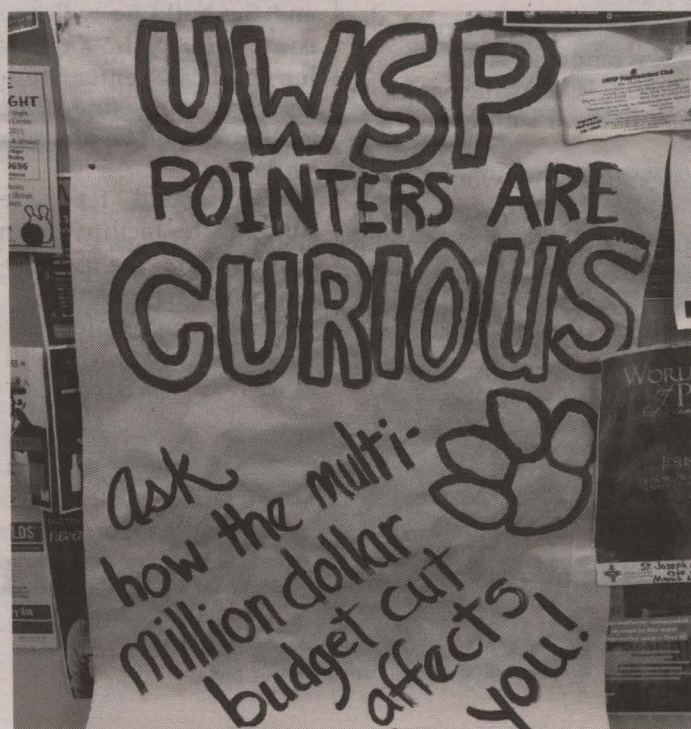
Students at the Feb. 4, open forum expressed concern that many of their peers are still unaware of the depth of the cuts proposed, and said that might be the reason for the "lack of action."

Student Government Association President Chris Slattery said the organization is regularly updating its Facebook page and sending student-wide emails containing accurate, neutral information so students can form their own opinions.

Dawn Henke, a senior sociology and social work major, already graduated with one degree from UWSP and is returning for a second. She spoke up at Wednesday's forum,

explain it to students while getting feedback from them," Slattery said.

Gov. Scott Walker's budget proposal including the \$300 million biennium budget cut to the University of



saying students need to band together in support of the UW System.

"We need to be advocates for social justice," Henke said. "On Feb. 14, at noon, at UW-Madison at Liberty Hall, we are getting together and rallying. We are going to have our voices heard. It's Valentine's Day - what's a better way to spend it with your significant other? If you're single, give me a better way to meet somebody."

As students, she said it is important to think about younger siblings and the quality of educators and materials that will be provided to them. She also emphasized recognition of how much time and work faculty put into their professions.

On Feb. 4, Patterson was in Madison with Rob Manzke, the chief of staff, and Ryan Kernosky, the SGA director of legislative affairs, speaking with key legislators about the proposed

cuts. This weekend, Slattery will be in La Crosse for UW Student Reps, a gathering of student government leaders within the System. He will be discussing differential tuition and the effect the cuts could have on the System and UWSP in particular. SGA will be lobbying in Madison throughout February.

To stay up to date as more details are released, there are three upcoming open forums:

Monday, February 9, 9 to 10 a.m., Alumni Room, DUC

February 11, 6 p.m., DUC 374

February 23, 6 p.m., DUC Theater

Attendance is also encouraged at SGA Senate meetings. During the open forum portion, individuals can provide senators with opinions and suggestions. Meetings are Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. in the DUC Legacy Room.

NEWS

continued from page 1

was extremely popular and doubled in size to accommodate extra participants.

"The trips are all-inclusive," Piekenbrock said. "The prices include everything but food."

Piekenbrock encourages people of all experience levels to try something new.

"We want to teach new skills," Piekenbrock said. "Whether you're beginner or expert, we'll accommodate you."

Andrew Sprutta has been a part of staff for three years and is an experienced guide. He will be guiding trips this spring and is thrilled to have the opportunity.

"The trips are for any skill level," Sprutta said. "We use a common adventurer model on our trips."

A common adventurer model allows anyone on the trip to opt out of certain activities if he or she is not comfortable. Sprutta said trip itineraries are subject to change but typically do not.

"There's the group, there's the weather and the place," Sprutta said. "We make the best of every day of the trip."

Safety is a primary concern, and adventurers are assured guides are well trained. Staff are certified Wilderness First Responders.

"Any of the staff who're interested in guiding get comprehensive training," Piekenbrock said. "Our participants can be confident that our staff know how to react."

An adventurous trip would not be complete without fond memories and dirty clothes, both of which Sprutta said are part of the programs.

"You go out and you get in the van with people you don't know," Sprutta said. "When you come back, you're giving people hugs and planning trips for next weekend."

Healthy Living with a Pricetag

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Students looking to stay healthy are excited that construction on the Health and Wellness Center is scheduled for fall 2017, with a plan to open in December, 2018.

"The Board of Regents approved the project this past fall, and next it will go to the State Building Commission to be reviewed in March," said Jen Sorenson, the administrative director of Student Health Services. "If it gets approved at that point, then we would put out a request for bids from architectural firms to develop the final plan."

Chancellor Bernie Patterson said in a public budget forum Jan. 30 that administration does not see plans being halted due to Gov. Scott Walker's proposed cuts to the UW System.

The facility has an assigned space of 93,133 square feet and will occupy the women's soccer field. A turf soccer field with a running track will wrap around it to the east, and the building will house a four-court gym, cardio and strength center, child care center, Student Health Services, counseling clinic, Outdoor Adventures office and group fitness rooms.

Segregated fees are already funding the facility, but no student will be charged a user fee once construction is complete.

"The segregated fee applied to students' tuition will gradually increase each year as we move

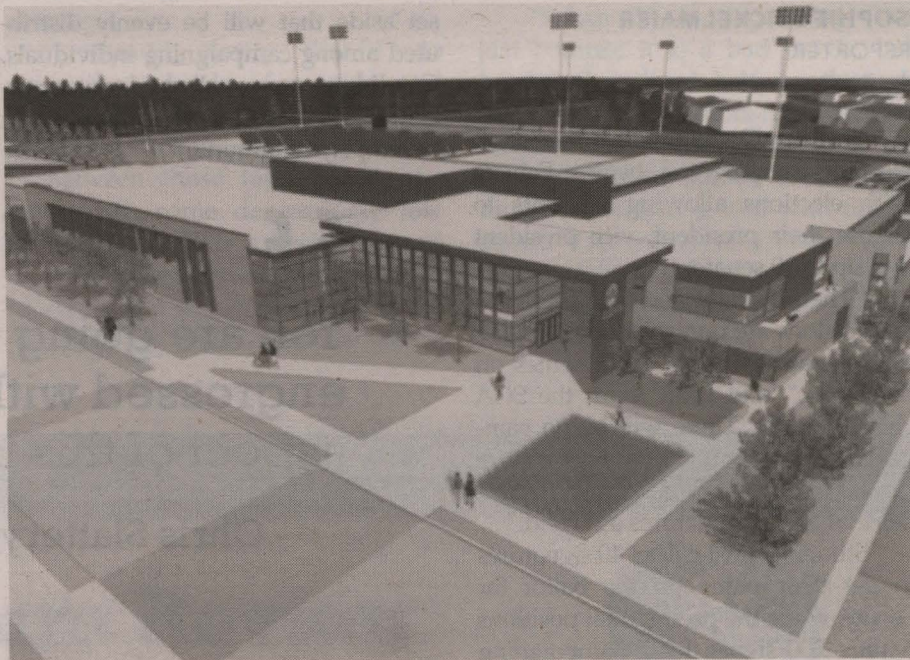


Photo courtesy of uwsp.edu

A digital rendering of the Health and Wellness Center.

toward occupancy," Sorenson said. "This way, the students who will be using it will be paying more than the students who probably won't."

Tuition was increased by \$50 for the 2014-2015 academic year. Tuition will increase by \$125 for the 2015-2016 academic year and eventually stabilize at \$275 per academic year for the next 30 years.

"I understand that we're receiving a segregated fee so that future students will be able to receive a free membership," said Lauren Carlson, a senior wildlife ecology major. "But I'm not a huge fan because we won't be the ones expe-

riencing the new addition."

Sorenson said money is for the \$39 million price tag of new center.

"This price includes all of the medical facilities for the Health Services clinic, improvements to the outdoor space and the fitness equipment within the facility," Sorenson said. "This space and the turf soccer field will extend the season and extend accessibility for students."

Sorenson said having Health Services in the same building as the recreational facilities will enhance the ability to provide wellness programming for students.

University of Wisconsin Students Track Coyotes, Foxes

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A team of students from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, is conducting research on foxes and coyotes in hopes of learning how the animals and humans can peacefully coexist.

Forest and wildlife associate professor David Drake and his students are humanely trapping the animals, running tests, then fitting them with tracking devices. WISC-TV reported the goal is to learn about traveling patterns, diseases the animals might have, and how they interact with other animals and humans.

"These animals are moving into these areas where people are living," Drake said. "If that habituation continues and the animals continue to lose their fear of humans, in extreme cases these animals can

start becoming aggressive."

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources said residents should stay a safe distance from foxes and coyotes, and should not feed them.

"You don't want to encourage any contact with the animals. For the most part if you see a coyote you would act around them just like you would a strange dog," said Andy Paulios, the wildlife biologist at the DNR.

Middleton police said they have had several reports of sightings of foxes and coyotes in the city. In each case, there has been no human interaction. Police encourage people to be careful, but say there's no cause for alarm.

"The nature preserve is there for people to observe and see the animals and they are among the animals that you are going to see

and they will wander up in the yards," said Sgt. Donald Mueller of Middleton police.

Drake hopes these sightings will help spread understanding about the animals.

"It's fun to give people practical knowledge that they can use in their everyday life. To improve their quality of life but also enjoy the wildlife around them," Drake said.

Everything
a Pointer Needs

University Store & Text Rental
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

The Buzz Hits Campus

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With full-time class schedules, part-time jobs and extracurricular activities, students may have trouble finding time to keep up with news.

The new smartphone app, The Buzz, is specifically designed for these busy college students.

"I had classes where I had to constantly reference the USA Today paper, and I hated having to go out my way to pick it up, so now I have it on my phone," said Maddie Marshall, the communications and public relations director of the Student Government Association. "The app suits the way students absorb news and media in general."

The Buzz was created through USA Today's Collegiate Readership Program, which gives students from over 350 different campuses access to national news. This program allows students to pick up The New York Times, USA Today, and the Stevens Point Journal free of charge.

"We work closely with USA Today



Photo UWSP, The Buzz

to incorporate Pointer content into their news feed," Marshall said.

Now available for free on iPhones and Androids, the app allows students to scroll through recent stories from both The Pointer and USA Today.

News, campus life, sports, tech and study abroad are all topics covered in the news feed.

"This app allows us to link a bunch of different things on campus in one easy place," Marshall said. "Our

generation is such a media focused culture, so this allows students to have access to local campus news without even leaving their residence hall or home."

Every six or seven articles are links that bring readers to pages on local topics. Currently, there are links to the Bring A Buddy campaign and SGA updates on budget issues.

"I think The Buzz sounds pretty cool, the USA Today not so much, but I'd like to have that type of access to The Pointer," said junior Andrew Sprutta. "I think it's a good way to get information out there to the student body."

Some students are intrigued by the notion of local campus news at their fingertips, while others are still skeptical.

"I don't think I'd really use it because I get most of my news and information from Tumblr and podcasts," said Amanda Guth, an art major.

Marshall explained SGA's current motive is to communicate with students so they stay informed about national and local issues.

New myPoint Feature Proves Useful

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The Office of the Registrar has rolled out a new option on myPoint that allows every currently enrolled student to "shop" for a Degree Progress Report, generating a view of what course requirements would exist for a different major and/or minor.

This report allows students to see how their current and previous coursework aligns with their desired transition. It can also be a technique to see how much longer additional majors or minors would take to complete. However, only one major and one minor can be ran at a time.

The report runs with the

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's current requirements - the General Education Program and all updated major and minor requirements.

This feature makes no permanent change to students' chosen program or academic record - it is simply a "what if" tool. Students will still need to consult an academic department to make any official changes. The registrar recommends that students consult their adviser when making final decisions regarding switching or adding majors and minors.

The DPR Shop report had previously been available only to advisers and office staff.

"We had talked about it for a while, but there was actually a

request from SGA to open it up, so that kind of pushed it a little higher up on the priority list," said Anne Eckenrod, the business automation specialist in the registrar.

SGA President Chris Slattery said he had personally wanted to see what switching majors would be like, and wondered why the feature was unavailable to students.

"Advisers are willing to help, but their schedules are packed with other responsibilities as well," Slattery said.

He said all it took was a walk over to the registrar and a conversation to get the ball rolling.

A trial run of the feature was done winter break by students under the GEP enrolled in Winterim that Eckenrod said went very well.

"We received a lot of positive feedback from students saying they loved it," Eckenrod said. "Students with double majors have to run two, so that's kind of a pain, but that's just a bug."

She said the registrar strives to give students access to as much information as they can.

"Sometimes majors and minors are really closely related, so adding another one might not increase your credit load too much," Eckenrod said. "It's good for students to have that flexibility. With this feature, they can play around with it and see."

She said if students have any issues reading their DPR, they can either ask their advisor or contact the registrar.

SHOP YOUR DEGREE PROGRESS REPORT

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NEWS

Walker Backs Off Removing 'Wisconsin Idea' From UW Mission

SCOTT BAUER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON (AP) — Gov. Scott Walker abruptly backed off Wednesday from a contentious plan to eliminate the University of Wisconsin System's public service mission statement known as the "Wisconsin Idea" and replace it with the charge of meeting the state's workforce needs.

Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said in an email late Wednesday afternoon that the change was a drafting error and the Wisconsin Idea will remain in the state budget.

"The Wisconsin Idea will continue to thrive," she said.

A UW website dedicated to the Wisconsin Idea describes it as "the principle that the university should improve people's lives beyond the classroom." It has been a guiding principle of the university, extending to teaching, research, outreach and public service.

Walker, a likely 2016 Republican presidential candidate, had tucked the wording change into his nearly 2,000-page budget proposal on Tuesday but

did not mention it in his 25-minute speech to the Legislature.

The governor, who does not have a college degree, has proposed \$300 million in cuts to the UW System in exchange for more autonomy and freedom from state oversight. He presented it as a bold idea that will give the university the freedom it wants from state oversight to chart its own future.

Walker angered faculty and staff, though, by suggesting they don't work hard enough and should teach more classes. His proposal to delete the Wisconsin Idea generated more anger from the university community.

"The Wisconsin Idea is embedded in our DNA," said UW President Ray Cross in a statement. "It is so much more than words on a page. It is the reason the UW System exists. It defines us and forever will distinguish us as a great, public university. Wisconsin must not abandon this core principle and value."

After Patrick announced Walker had backed off the change, Cross issued a one-sentence statement thanking him for his commitment to the Wisconsin

Idea.

"It didn't shock me he would propose such a thing but I'm glad he's willing now to write it off as a drafting error," said Assembly Minority Leader Peter Barca, D-Kenosha.

The proposed change had caught Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos by surprise.

"If there's going to be a rewrite of the mission statement of the University of Wisconsin, there must be a robust public discussion before any changes are made," he had said in a statement.

Walker had wanted to insert language in the budget stating the university's mission was "to meet the state's workforce needs." He wanted to remove language saying UW's mission is to "extend knowledge and its application beyond the boundaries of its campus" and to "serve and stimulate society." He also wanted to remove the statement "Basic to every purpose of the system is the search for truth."

The governor wanted to further remove language saying that inherent in UW's mission "are methods of instruction, research, extended training

and public service designed to educate people and improve the human condition."

State Sen. Jon Erpenbach, a Democrat from Madison who, like Walker, did not graduate from college, had called the change "ridiculous."

"The issue gets to the heart of what the university system is as a whole and what it's supposed to be and what it offers," Erpenbach said. "I can't think of any reason for any governor to do that."

The proposed funding reduction, meanwhile, is becoming one of the largest fights this year in the Legislature. While the \$300 million cut would amount to a 15 percent reduction in state aid, it's 2.5 percent of total funding for UW.

Both Republicans and Democrats have expressed concerns about the size of the cut, while reaction has been generally favorable to giving UW more freedom. Some conservatives have worried that allowing UW to set tuition without legislative approval or caps could lead to huge spikes. Tuition would be frozen the next two years under Walker's budget.

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Defensive Assistant Will Lead Whitewater Football Dynasty

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHITEWATER (AP) — The search for a head football coach to lead the six-time national champion University of Wisconsin-Whitewater is over.

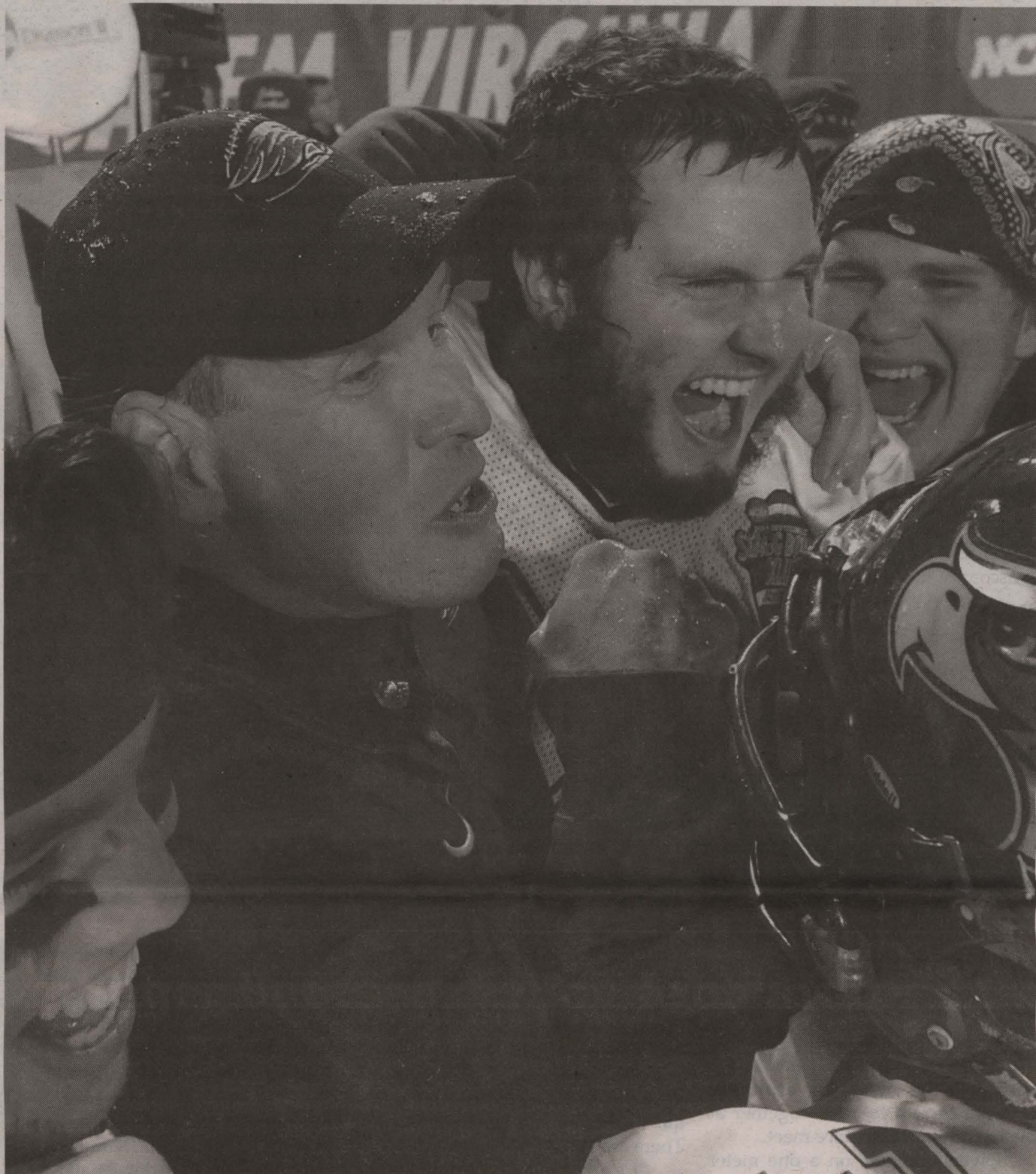
Defensive assistant coach Kevin Bullis will inherit the football dynasty, along with great expectations. The Division III Whitewater has the nation's longest winning streak (32 games) to go with its six national titles in the last eight seasons.

Bullis has served as interim head coach for the Warhawks. He becomes the 21st head coach in the 121-year history of UW-Whitewater football.

He replaces Lance Leipold, who left to take the same position at Buffalo after beating Mount Union in the NCAA Division III title game last month. He finished a remarkable eight-year run with a 109-6 record.

AP Photo/Don Petersen

In this Dec. 19, 2014 file photo, Wisconsin-Whitewater head coach Lance Leipold, center, and his players celebrate Whitewater defeating Mount Union in the NCAA Division III championship college football game in Salem, Va.



The Classic End that was Super Bowl XLIX

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Another year and another Super Bowl Sunday has passed as the New England Patriots defeated the Seattle Seahawks 28-24 in a classic.

Super Bowl XLIX was the fourth Super Bowl championship for New England head coach Bill Belichick, quarterback Tom Brady and the Patriots organization. Conversely, it was almost the second championship for Seattle; however, the Seahawks fell one yard short after quarterback Russell Wilson threw an interception that will be remembered for years. Seattle was one yard away from being the first team to repeat as champions since the Patriots did it in the 2003 and 2004 seasons.

Super Bowl XLIX ended as a coronation of Tom Brady possibly

being the greatest quarterback of all time, a debatable topic that will go on forever. With his third Super Bowl MVP, Brady showed his greatness in the big moments as he brought his team back from a 24-14 deficit in the fourth quarter. He executed two scoring drives on one of the greatest defenses in history to win. Throwing 37 of 50 for 328 yards for four touchdowns is one of the best performances in Super Bowl history. Instead this game will be known for Seattle's decision to throw the ball at the goal line.

After the incredible acrobatic catch by Seattle wide receiver Jermaine Kearse, it seemed inevitable Seattle would score giving New England déjà vu by losing another Super Bowl in Phoenix Stadium because of an incredible catch.

The question remains as to why Seattle elected to throw the ball at the goal line instead of handing the ball

to the best power back in the NFL, Marshawn Lynch. All night, Lynch could not be stopped, averaging 4.3 yards a carry. Yes, the stats show Lynch was one of five scoring from the one-yard line during the season; but when the game is on the line one would think a team would go to their best player. Seattle's best player did not get the ball.

Hall of Fame head coach Vince Lombardi once told his Packers team, "If you can't get a yard you don't deserve to be a champion." The Seahawks did not get that yard, as a result they will not be called champions and hoist the trophy that bares Lombardi's name.

Seattle head coach Pete Carroll took credit for the final play call, so did offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell and Wilson, who took credit for the pass. After the game, Carroll said that what he saw the Patriots had for a defense wasn't right for a

run play.

Carroll's thoughts were made clear during his post game press conference.

"It's not the right personnel for us to run the football. So on second down, we throw the ball really to kind of waste a play," Carroll said.

Why a head coach has the mindset of wasting a play, down four points, at the goal line, in the Super Bowl does not make sense. With one time out left, one would think a team would run it on second down. If stopped, they could call timeout, pass on third down, and then make the tough call on what to run on fourth down. Yet Carroll is a Super Bowl winning coach, who has coached football longer than many fans have been alive. Carroll knows more than anyone else watching on a screen in their living room.

SPORTS



Two Sports, One Pool

REBECCA VOSTERS

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The men's and women's diving team may be at the other end of the pool than the swimming team, but both are excited to work together at the upcoming conference meet.

Divers compete on a one meter board and a three meter board.

"We compete six or 11 dives on each board and each dive is assigned a degree of difficulty, which is multiplied by the judge's scores to form a total score," said Deavonte Smith, junior captain.

There are five different categories that a diver has to follow during a meet, including forward, back, reverse, inward, and twisters.

Head coach Sara Schierl offers well-rounded training to her divers. Every Sunday, her husband comes in and works on a weight lifting program with them.

It is typical for divers to have a gymnastic background. Earlier this season, Schierl had a Division I gymnastic trainer come work with them.

"A gymnastic background is common, but we'll work with anyone willing to give it a try work hard and be part of a team," Schierl said.

Beth Schaffer became the assistant coach this year. She was on the team last year and offered to help out after her eligibility to compete ended.

"After competing for four years,

I still wanted to be part of the team," Schaffer said. "I offered to help out and she suggested I be the assistant coach. She's really busy so it works out. I help out and she can take off when she needs to."

Schaffer finds the coaching side quite different and has learned a lot. There are still a few challenges.

"I started out as a teammate for a lot of them, so it's hard for them to see me as a coach," Schaffer said. "I want to be able to maintain the friendships I had with them while still being their coach."

Schaffer led a ten day training trip in Hawaii over winter break, which gave divers the opportunity to train outside.

"Monday through Friday, we had practice at least once a day with a couple two-a-days," Schaffer said. "We did a lot of things on dry land. We worked out in outdoor gyms and climbed Koko Head and Diamond Head."

The divers also ride the Green Circle together annually and participate in a mud run in Schierl's backyard.

Fun and games aside, the divers are preparing for the conference meet that is a few weeks away.

"We had a diver receive a nine on a dive and had two NCAA divers of the week," Schierl said. "They were Sean Cloghessy and Jackie Braun. Jackie was five points away from qualifying for conference, which is impressive for a freshman."

For the conference, the Pointers can send divers in sets of threes. As a result, the top three scoring divers will go to the meet at the end of February.

"Looking at conference, our number one goal is to stay healthy," Schierl said. "Number two is to focus on details and take things one dive at a time."

"I just want to keep them positive," Schaffer said. "Diving is mentally challenging, and if you're not there mentally, then you can't force yourself to do it. So the biggest thing is to keep the pressure off."

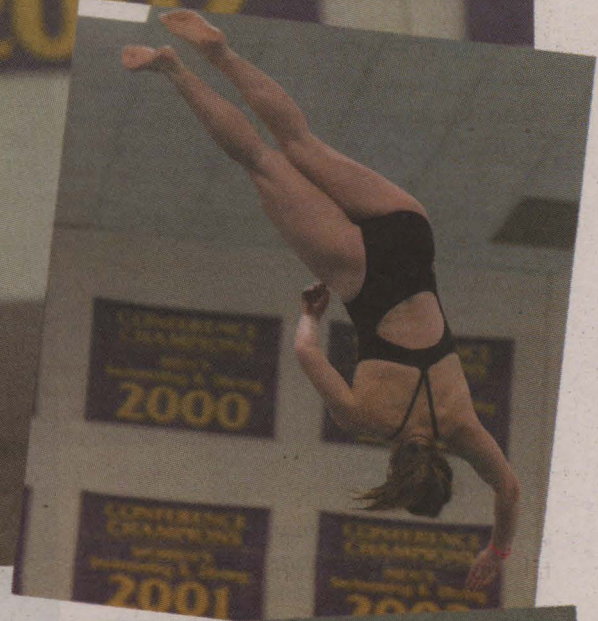
Smith's favorite part of diving is overcoming the mental blocks and challenging himself with new dives.

"Every diver goes through many mental obstacles before physically throwing themselves off a springboard," Smith said.

The team is always looking for divers with or without experience. Schierl encourages anyone who is interested to come to the captain's practices at the beginning of the season to try it out.

"We have fun at our end of the pool and have great rapport with the swimmers at the other end," Schierl said.

Photos by Jack McLaughlin
Diving is a unique sport with so many flips and twists.



UWSP Sports Continue Winning Ways

MARTY KAUFFMAN

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's men's basketball team is on a three-game winning streak with two wins on the road. UWSP defeated UW-Lacrosse 63-44 on Jan. 28, which included a 27-0 run to give the Pointers a 31-9 lead in the first half. Senior forward Alex Richard scored a game-high 15 points with eight rebounds. Along with Richard, guards Austin Ryf and Sean McGann each added 11 points. Against UW-Eau Claire, Richard again led the way with 11 points to help the Pointers grind out a 49-40 win. UWSP improved its record to 15-4 and to 9-1 in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

On the ice, the men's hockey team continues to dominate the competition as the Pointers defeated Bethel 9-4 during Put a Check to Cancer Night Jan. 31. Junior forward Joe Kalisz led UWSP in scoring with three points, including two goals and one assist. The depth of the UWSP roster showed itself as 15 Pointers tallied at least one point. Forwards Alex Kromm and Evan Dixon each scored a short-handed goal, while forward Logan Lemirande earned playmaker title with three assists. Goaltender Brandon Jaeger won his twelfth game, during which he recorded 11 saves. UWSP rose to third

in the rankings this week as the team prepares to play a home series against UW-Stout.

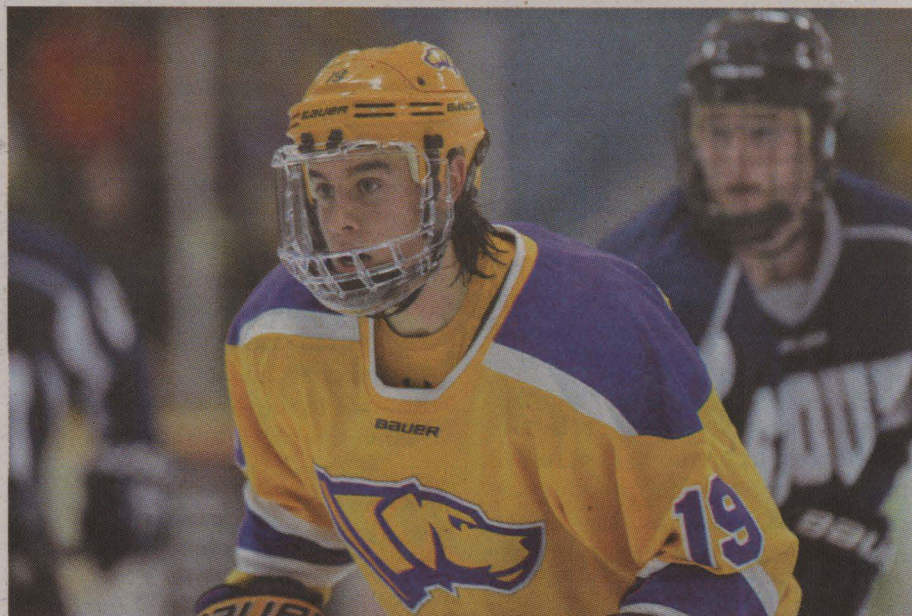
Along with the men's team, the ninth ranked women's hockey team defeated UW-Eau Claire 4-1. Junior forward Shauna Bollinger continues to stay hot with her second game of two points in four games, with a goal and an assist leading UWSP to victory. Defenseman Megan Menotti, forwards Meredith Ingbreton and Ali Biagini each added a goal. In net, goaltender Janna Beilke-Skoug had a stellar performance with 29 saves, improving her record to 12-6-2. The team travels to UW-Eau Claire and Adrian College for its next games.

The up and down season continues for UWSP women's basketball as the team went 1-1 last week. The Pointers suffered a 51-41 loss to UW-Lacrosse as UWSP was held to a season low of 23.2 percent scoring average. UWSP rebounded the following game with a 56-43 win over UW-Eau Claire as the Pointers held Eau Claire to 24.1 percent scoring. Sophomore guard Lauren Anklam continued her hot streak as she scored a career-high 24 points, including five three-pointers, leading all players. With a 10-10 record and 5-6 in WIAC, the Pointers face UW-River Falls and UW-Platteville in their next two games.

On the mat, the UWSP wrestling team finished 14 out of 32 teams at the Pete Willson Wheaton Invitational, courtesy of the freshman class. Ben



Photos by Jack McLaughlin



Vosters finished in fifth place, at 125 pounds, to lead the Pointers with a 6-2 record at the event. Cody Nielsen finished seventh, at the 184 pound level, with a 4-3 record while Dan Squires posted a 2-2 record at 165 pounds.

Both track teams were in action with indoor competitions. The men's team finished fourth out of nine teams in Whitewater, while the women placed third. The men's team was led by junior Matt Gerber, who finished first in the 200 meter dash with a

time of 22.41. UWSP also had a first place finish in the 800 meter run by sophomore Michael Evans posting a time of 1:56.29. The women's team was led by sophomore Sarah Vils, who finished first in the 400 meter dash with a time of 1:00.63. Lauren Dille won the 5000 meter run with a time 18:14.93. The Pointers also had second place winners Ana Breit in the mile run, the 4x400 meter relay team, and pole vaulters Shannon Burke and Audra Weis.

Less Break, More Bonding

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It is not unheard of that student athletes return early from breaks to compete, practice and bond with teammates. For most athletes, breaks are considerably shorter than other student's.

Most sports require athletes to return to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point early for at least one break. Fortunately, most athletes see it as normal.

"To be honest, I don't mind, especially coming back early in the fall for cross," said Amanda Ross, senior cross country track and field athlete. "It's nice to get settled in a week before classes start and hang out with the team before life gets crazy with school."

Senior hockey goalie Brandon Jaeger agrees that he likes spending time with his team. He said it was like playing Juniors again, an amateur hockey league that hockey athletes compete in between high school and college.

"I love playing hockey, and it's to be here to not do both student and athlete," said Jaeger. "I can focus on hockey and nothing else."

Coaches and athletes also use the extra free time to their advantage.

"I work on my shot a lot and my individual game," said Jamie Destache, senior basketball shooting guard.

There are also a few perks that come along with an early return to campus.

"This past winter break, we were in Las Vegas for four days and that was awesome," Destache said.

Last year, the men's hockey team spent its spring break in Maine becoming second in the nation at the national tournament.

"We didn't have spring break last year because of nationals, but it's worth it," Jaeger said.

All three athletes mentioned that some of the extra time is used to catch up on television shows and watch movies. Ross also said she likes to earn a little extra cash.

"Some years, I took a winterim class as well, but I usually just rack

up as many work hours as possible," Ross said.

One of the toughest aspects of the athletes' lifestyle is the limited amount of time that they get to spend with their loved ones.

"The older I get, the more I realize how awesome my family actually is," Ross said. "With grad school in the near future, I know my time spent with them is limited, so it's always hard to leave."

Destache agreed.

"It's hard seeing friends and family doing a bunch of stuff and not being part of it," Destache said.

With a large percentage of the student body gone, the teams compete with a portion of fans missing.

"We try not to schedule any games during break," Jaeger said. "Students are a big part of our fan base and a home game without most of them is a bummer. We want to take full advantage of home ice."

Shortened breaks are something that athletes become accustomed to.

"I don't know what else there is," Destache said.

Ross said commitment to the

team helps.

"I chose to do this sport, and I knew this was part of the deal when I committed to the team," Ross said. "If it was really an issue, I would've quit. We commit to our teams and each other."

Destache's eligibility to play will be gone next year during her last year of school. She is not sure what she will do with the extra time.

"I'll probably get a job and log more athletic training hours during Winterim," Destache said. "It will be weird. Usually I get antsy a few weeks after the season ends when the excitement of having free time wears off."

Many student athletes do not mind giving up some aspects of student life for sports.

"When I was injured all of last year, I got to experience what it was like to not be a team or roster," Ross said. "But in the end, I couldn't quite give up competing even if that meant losing study time, weekends and breaks again."

ENVIRONMENT

From Stevens Point to Hawaii, a Lesson in Marine Ecology

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In the midst of yet another Wisconsin cold snap, biology students enjoyed a southern sun.

From Dec. 28, to Jan. 11, Chris Yahnke, an associate professor of biology, and Emmet Judziewicz, a professor of biology, led a group of students to Hawaii as they have each year since 2011. The group stayed on Hawaii Island, or the Big Island, and worked on fencing at the Nature Conservancy and snorkeling among dolphins in the Pacific Ocean.

The trip is a course in marine ecology available for academic credit, but students have hands-on learning experiences. In a unique assignment, students put together presentations on topics related to marine ecology and presented them in relevant areas on the island.

Kevin Schmidt, a biology major, gave his presentation on Parrotfish near the bay in Kona.

Hawaii held surprises and firsts for students as well. Schmidt was

surprised by the extent of volcanic rock covering the island and many black sand beaches. In addition, encounters with sea turtles and humpback whales were new to many students.

"Learning in the field gives you direct insight into the behavior of these animals as opposed to trying to visualize it through text or preserved specimens," Schmidt said.

This especially applied to schools of fish encountered while snorkeling.

At the Nature Conservancy, students worked with local organic farmers putting in fencing. Fences keep out invasive wildlife such as pigs and goats. In fact, the only native mammals to the island are bats.

Invasive plants are also a problem. Judziewicz said many tropical plant species Hawaii is known for are actually not native to the island.

Students also visited the Mokupapapa Discovery Center, an affiliate of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Students dissected the contents of a Laysan albatross stomach with the help of Etta Karth, an education

specialist. Yahnke said many inorganic substances and even a paper label were found in the boluses.

"Thousands of albatross die each year from a full stomach of plastic or from chemicals that leak when ingested," Karth said.

Debris from as far away as the Great Lakes can be found washed up

on Hawaii's shoreline.

Yahnke said the overall goal of the trip was to show students the vast differences in culture and ecosystem of an island community and the mainland.



Photo courtesy of UWSP
The group of students who traveled to Hawaii during winterim to study marine ecology.

Natural Resource Students Begin Summer Job Search

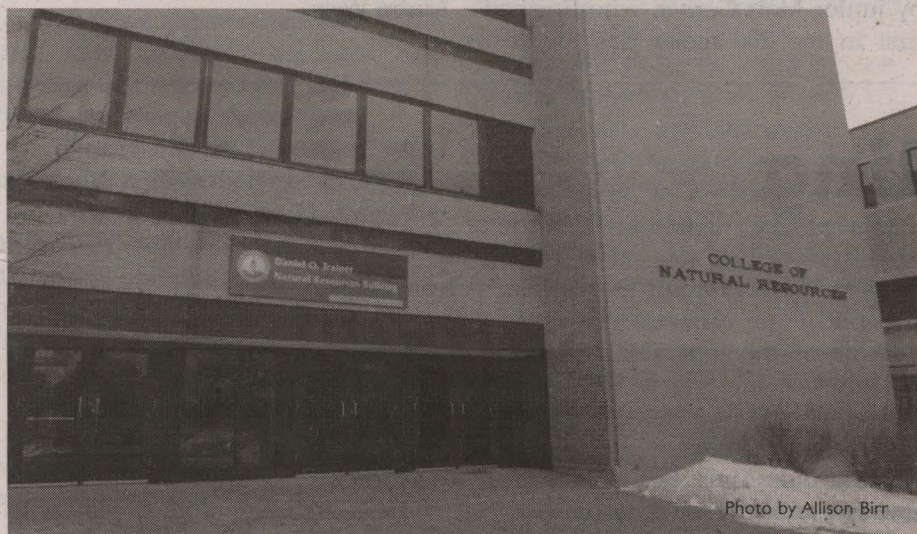


Photo by Allison Birr

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Graduate jobs for students pursuing careers in natural resources are particularly in demand as resource managers plan to hire seasonal employees for summer.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is regarded as one of the best undergraduate natural resource colleges in the country and has a reputation of producing top-notch students equipped with field skills.

Dr. Melinda Vokoun, an assistant professor of forestry, recently became

co-coordinator of forestry internships. Vokoun also advises UWSP's chapter of the Society of American Foresters.

As co-coordinator, Vokoun is a contact for the United States Forest Service and other organizations that hire college students. She helps disperse job announcements to students within various forestry disciplines.

Vokoun said employers are anxious to hire UWSP students.

"This is the time to be doing it," Vokoun said. "Some of our contacts could be hiring as early as November next year. Apparently the competition for you guys is fierce."

Like most faculty who distribute

job announcements, Vokoun targets the broadest range of forestry students.

"Anything I get, I take the shotgun approach," Vokoun said.

Email is a simple and effective way to reach students looking for jobs; however, students can search elsewhere.

Academic advisors can be excellent resources for leads on jobs, and many maintain bulletin boards in the Trainer Natural Resources building, with several announcements posted at all times.

Lisa Moehlmann, a peer advisor at the College of Natural Resources Student Success Center, said she refers job-searching students to The CNR Reporter: a weekly newsletter distributed by email to everyone in the CNR. Each issue has information on current events, student organizations and jobs.

Moehlmann said many majors require students to complete a summer internship before graduating.

Dr. Shelli Dubay, an associate professor of wildlife, advises students majoring in captive wildlife management.

"The ownness is on the student to land the internship," Dubay said. "I think an internship is extremely

valuable."

Dubay said internships help with future job interviews.

"They're not going to get hired without some experience," Dubay said. "It shows that you have the initiative to do something in your field."

Dubay regularly refers students to The Texas A&M Job Board, where employers post job announcements for temporary and seasonal positions around the world.

"You should definitely have your resume ready," Dubay said. "I think our students compete quite well."

Dubay said students are sought after because of their field camp experience at Treehaven.

"Don't be afraid to put yourself out there," Vokoun said. "The worst they can say is 'no,' and don't be discouraged. If you really don't know where to start, put on a nice shirt and a pair of khakis and go to the CNR career fair."

The CNR career fair is scheduled for Feb. 19, in the Laird Room of the Dreyfus University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will provide students an opportunity to meet potential employers.

POINTLIFE

A Life Not Lost from Brain Trauma

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A life can change forever in a matter of seconds, and the Everman family is proof of this undeniable fact of life.

When Brett Everman was just 22 months old, the trajectory of his life was altered in a car crash that left him with a traumatizing brain injury.

19 year-old Brett now gets around in a wheelchair and speaks through a DynaVox, a communication device

that generates speech based on symbols and pictures he chooses.

He also speaks through his mother Kareen Everman, who works tirelessly every day to encourage and push him to achieve.

"It's been crazy adapting to everything with him," said Britteny Lardinois, Brett's respite care provider. "The things Kareen has to worry about are things no one even thinks about, like how many steps there are in getting Brett into his chair."

In order to make life as easy as possible in the given circumstances, the Everman family, including Lardinois, has made many changes.

"Everything is modified for him," Kareen said. "We have a modified home, car and life."

Although life is not easy for Brett or his caregivers, the challenges they have faced are countered with Brett's kindness, sense of humor and smile that lights up a room.

When asked how he is doing, Brett is positive.

"I feel good," Brett said.

Brett is so full of joy that it is

easy to forget about the struggles he faces. He is happy and passionate about what and who he loves. He talks about monster trucks, NASCAR, and bowling. He tells jokes and laughs along with everyone else. His personality goes on for miles.

Kareen shared advice she had for mothers in situations similar to hers.

"Take it one day at a time," Kareen said. "Get plenty of sleep, take deep breaths, accept help when you need it, and make friends with your pharmacists. Enjoy your child and love them."

Internships Enhance the College Experience

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Students looking for internship opportunities have many campus resources to utilize.

Lorry Walters, the associate director of career services, suggests that students connect with employers through CareerPoint found on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's website, under career services.

"Here at Point internships are decentralized," Walters said. "We have a list on our website of who all

the internship coordinators are. They give us information, and we post it on our website."

Tom Wetter, the health promotion internship supervisor, believes internships are great ways to push students further.

Health promotion and wellness majors are required to have an internship to graduate. Wetter helps interning students.

"I would say, this is certainly true for health promotion students, doing an internship is the most important academic experience that will lead to a job or job prospect," Wetter said.

"Internships don't guarantee jobs afterwards, but many of the students get employed at their internship site or they make connections."

Wetter enjoys seeing how students evolve after interning.

Jackie Schommer, a senior majoring in health promotion and wellness, is currently completing her internship in Boulder, Colorado. She is interning at the parks and recreation department through the City of Boulder.

"You have a lot more responsibilities as an intern than as a student," Schommer said. "You

have strict deadlines, and you have to manage your time very well. You use everything you learn within your four years of college in an internship."

The Central Wisconsin Collegiate Job Fair on Feb. 24 in the Dreyfus University Center will expose students to employers, who are looking for both employees and interns.


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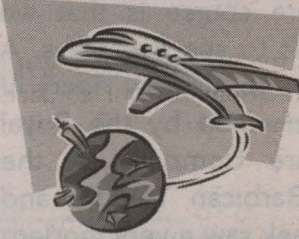
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POINTLIFE



Photo courtesy of Natalea Wright

Natalea Wright and her girlfriend Elli Nowak.

Traveler Loses Vacation High

EMILY SHOWERS

POINTLIFE EDITOR

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While studying in Germany and Poland for a year, Natalea Wright discovered it was not the places she visited, but what she overcame that shaped her experience.

Her first semester, Wright studied language at the University of Marburg in Germany. She studied at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland her second semester.

"Don't get me wrong," Wright said. "Germany and Poland are beautiful countries, but humans fall into a routine and life begins to feel like it does any where else."

Wright did not view her routine as negative, though. Her purpose for studying abroad was to live independently in a different country and solve problems.

A major problem Wright tackled was when she had to acquire a visa in order to enter Poland. The Polish embassy was in Berlin, eight hours from where she lived in Marburg.

After traveling eight hours by bus, Wright discovered she did not have

proper documents to enter because the bank statement she brought was not stamped and her passport photo was invalid. She could not enter Poland.

"Most of the time, those documents are taken care of by the study abroad office here," Wright said. "But I had to figure out how to do it in Germany."

Wright then struggled to communicate with an embassy worker, and in addition to invalid papers, she had not received an email from the Jagiellonian University containing additional documents, proving she was enrolled.

"To be honest," Wright said. "I cried. I didn't know what I was going to do. I needed this in order to be in Poland."

Wright went to the embassy three times to clear up the legalities before receiving her visa.

"There was a lot of legal stuff involved," Wright said. "I thought I had done everything correctly."

This venture taught Wright to fend for herself, something she said a classroom could not teach her.

"I was put to the real test," Wright said. "You had to put together your own puzzle to live."



FROM LONDON with love

CARLY KEEN

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Being an English major in London comes with so many perks.

I'm currently enrolled in two courses, London in Literature and Shakespeare, and already have taken field trips to supplement the readings.

In the literature course, we just finished reading Oliver Twist and visited the Charles Dickens

museum, which, incidentally, was his actual home. In a few weeks, we're visiting the Sherlock Holmes museum and the Imperial War Museum.

The amazing part of my Shakespeare course is that we actually get to see live plays. A few weeks ago, we saw Henry IV Part II performed by the Royal Shakespeare Company at the beautiful Barbican Theatre and just last week saw a very modern performance of Romeo and Juliet

at the New Diorama Theatre.

I was so impressed with the adaptation of Romeo and Juliet because the group breathed beautiful new life into a play that millions of students dread reading each year. It was almost like seeing it for the first time.

Here, our class time is called a "seminar" and they last for three hours. They are very heavily discussion based. There are only 7 people in both of my courses, which really helps breed good discussion. I'm finding that it is much easier to participate here than at UWSP for reasons I can only make guesses at, but am enjoying it all the same.

The work environment is also different. Where I work, there are no cubicles, just rows of tables and computers. Every hour at least two people make

themselves tea and one will ask if anyone else wants some.

I was asked last week if I wanted coffee and finally felt like part of the group. What took me aback the most was how freely they used language. European mouths flow with expletives to an extent that I've never seen back home. Yes, people swear at work, but they really go all the way here.

One of my colleagues said that I must not be a Northerner as I always wear my coat indoors, but I don't think they understand how much we know about the cold. I can't complain about the weather here though, as I am not knee deep in snow. The rain is more than welcome.

OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

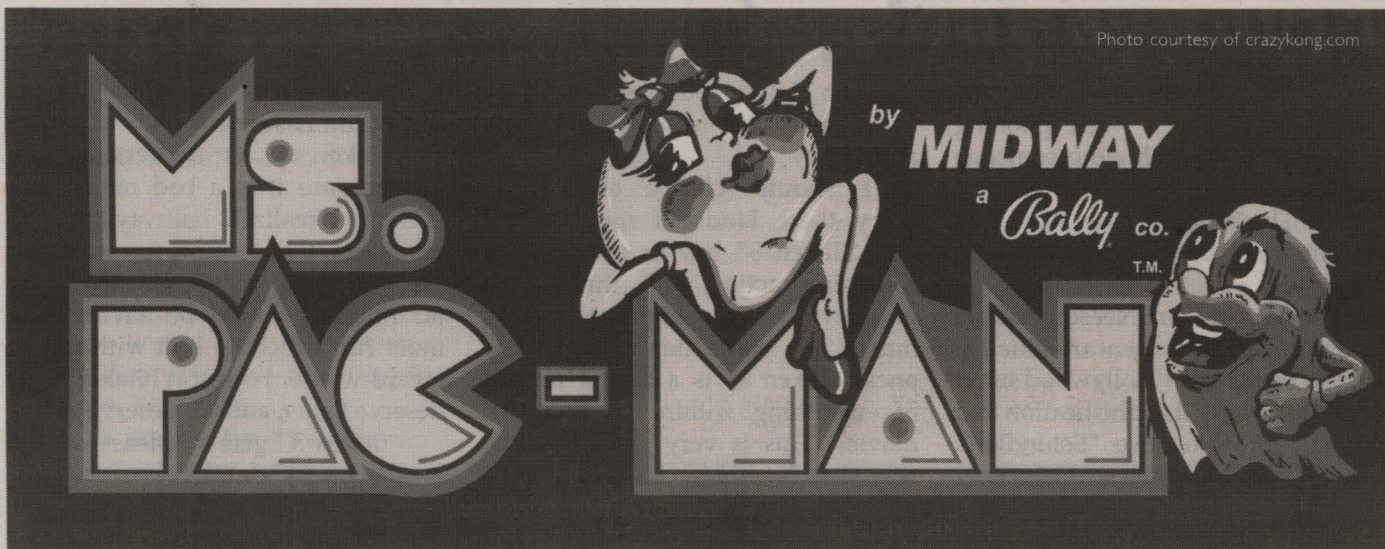


Photo courtesy of crazykong.com

Of Plumbers and Princesses: Love, Sex, and Video Games

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Love and romance are probably not the first things that come to mind when you mention video games. Most video games seem more like blood sports than they do tales about fulfilling relationships.

Curiously, though, some of the earliest history of video games as they made their way into the mainstream via arcades and home consoles actually treat love as one of the central themes of gaming.

Bally Midway's 1982 release of Ms. Pac-Man may be one of the first overt attempts at telling a story in cut-scenes in an arcade game, and it is a story of romance. After completing a couple of the game's mazes, the player of Ms. Pac-Man is rewarded with a brief "movie" called "They Meet" in which Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man appear on the screen, each one running from ghosts. The two bump into one another and a heart appears above the two as they see each other for the first time.

Two more of these short vignettes appear if you clear several more mazes. "The Chase" represents the

courtship of Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man as they chase after each other from one end of the screen to the other. This relationship is consummated in the final intermission, "Junior," as a stork arrives with the couple's first baby Pac-Man.

Now it is true that most arcade games of the time at least featured narrative premises. For example, Space Invaders represents the premise of stopping a space invasion through its graphics, though the game never explicitly tells you this, nor does it ultimately have a way of resolving this invasion. It is a game that repeats the same process of clearing waves of aliens over and over again until you run out of your three lives. The only ending really is your own death. What was unique about Ms. Pac-Man was that instead of merely being a game about running through a maze and chomping on ghosts, it also attempted to connect the character of Ms. Pac-Man to the title hero of Namco's 1980 game Pac-Man by developing a fairly simple little plot about the relationship between the two characters.

The neat thing for players was that in addition to scoring points, the

purpose of every other prior arcade game, they also found an additional narrative motivation for playing the game, seeing the next scene. Narrative motivations have become the norm in contemporary video games in series like Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto, or Assassin's Creed, but such motives were more of a novelty at the time in most games.

Well, a novelty of sorts. If a game had a narrative premise, some of the most successful games and some of the ones that remain classics are the ones that feature the pursuit of love as the primary motivation for the player. Nintendo seemed to create a cottage industry out of games about saving princesses and other women in peril in games like Donkey Kong, Super Mario Bros., and The Legend of Zelda.

Unlike the relationship of Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man, though, the narrative premise was not a motivation to play in order to finally merely witness a consummated relationship. These games featured a male character pursuing a female character as the object of the game itself. It was something for the player to do, not just to see. "Sorry, Mario, your princess is in another castle!" became a call to arms for further heroism and adventure beyond simply hoping to beat the high score on an arcade game.

Also, unlike the relationship of Pac-Man and Ms. Pac-Man, these games featured the very traditional idea of romance being a social act in which men pursue women and women serve as the reason to motivate men to act. As far as games go, the commonality of plumbers saving princesses as the best and most obvious way to represent romance in a game might be attributed to the assumption that boys were the primary demographic of video games and that they might want to fulfill just this role. What romantic relationships might motivate a female player seems to be a more recent idea that might best be answered by games like The Sims, Mass Effect, and Dragon Age, games that boast much higher female demographic numbers than older games seemed to assume were out there.

Even in the last decade, despite changing demographics in the video game marketplace, probably the most common motivators in the plots and gameplay of video games can be broken down into one of two basic tropes, to either save the world or to save a princess. From the Prince of Persia to Bioshock 2 and Bioshock Infinite, many male characters seem most often motivated to feats of extraordinary athleticism and violence by the need to save a woman in peril, even if she doesn't always wear pink and isn't necessarily named Peach.

Even in the latest game starring Lara Croft, the 2014 reboot of the Tomb Raider series, the most famous female protagonist in video games concludes her adventure by saving a helpless girl.

While media like video games might be cutting edge, traditional stories about the nature of romance frequently remain embedded within this new medium, one in which boys are expected to demonstrate their worth through acts of physical prowess and girls are expected to wait for those boys to come and get them.

Staying Involved While Studying Remotely

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Many universities offer distance learning, which allows students to obtain a degree from across the state.

The Collaborative Degree Program is designed for students who choose not to move on campus, like me. Students take classes online through universities such as the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, UW-Colleges Online and in person at area two-year campuses.

Being a distant student has its positives, but some students find it hard to stay connected with people. However, there are simple ways to

solve this problem.

Online classes feature discussion boards. Students can post questions or participate in weekly talks to earn attendance points and common questions about course materials are also asked in the discussion area.

During the first week of class, students are often required to introduce themselves. The majority mention where they reside as a way to connect with other students in the area.

From where I live in Appleton, the drive to Stevens Point takes a little over an hour. That's a pretty manageable drive.

The larger events that take place

on campus are a great and fairly simple way to stay connected. UWSP does a great job of featuring upcoming events on its website. After finding the website, it takes two clicks to look at a calendar of events. Admission costs are usually low, if not free, which makes attending recitals, art shows, concerts and plays an easy way to stay involved.

The drive for big hockey or basketball games is easy, too, and some events are available to watch live online. You can watch without leaving the comfort of home. Find the athletics page, scroll down to the banner across the middle of the page and click "live events." There

is an option to watch past events on demand, and streaming audio is available if you prefer to listen to the game while looking at the statistics live.

A more hands-on approach to involvement is what some students crave. All you have to do is email the person in charge of a club or organization and tell them you'd like to join or see if there is anything you can do remotely.

If you want to be more involved, but the idea of trying to figure out how is daunting, take it step-by-step. There are other students in the same boat. You just have to branch out.

OPINIONS & EDITORIALS

Review: Neeson has Dignity 'Taken' Away

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To the makers of "Taken 3," I do not know who you are. I do not know what you want. If you are looking for compliments, I do not have any. What I do have are a particular set of writing skills, writing skills that are a nightmare for people like you.

The original "Taken" film was best known for its iconic phone scene, parodied above. My first thought

was to make a joke about how the makers of "Taken 3" were phoning this sequel in, but phoning someone implies a certain level of effort and respect. This movie is more like a guy sending you an unsolicited nude on OkCupid.

The days of Liam Neeson making thoughtful entertainment are gone. He used to be the man Hollywood hired when they wanted sophistication and gravitas for films like "Schindler's List" or "Les Misérables." He is now

the man Hollywood hires when they want an old guy to scowl and shoot at things.

I should clarify that I do enjoy these kinds of movies, and that "Taken 3" has its moments of satisfying action and thrills, but in between those high points, the movie hits some depressingly low ones. "Taken 3" is a boring retread of everything within the first two movies. This is very similar to the way that Neeson's career is now a

boring retread of everything we got from Clint Eastwood.

"Taken 3" is depressing; not just because it is a bad movie, but because I realized halfway through that I actually had more fun watching Neeson share the screen with Jar Jar Binks. I should be having way more fun watching him with fellow award-winner Forrest Whitaker. They deserve better, and we deserve better.

"Taken 3" gets a "please do not make a part 4" out of 5.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Viet Cong Self-titled Album Review



Photo courtesy of wikipedia.org

DYLAN SHANAHAN
STATION MANAGER 90FM

Viet Cong's new self-titled album is darker than the winter equinox.

This is their first studio album from Jagjaguwar Records. The band formed from the remnants of the art rock band, Women, with members Matt Flegel on bass and vocals and Mike Wallace on drums.

The two are joined by Scott "Monty" Munro on guitar and synthesizer with Daniel Christiansen on guitar. Together, they recorded in a barn-studio and delivered one of the most thrilling records of 2015.

Viet Cong's sound is similar to Women in its brevity and guitar sound, but they have made a conscious shift from the kiddy xylophones to a newly found acoustic landscape as its black canvas. The vocals are a unique piece of this band's sound with deadpan delivery and what seems to be a more washed out version of Paul Banks.

The band's single "Continental Shift," released some time ago, is a great example of what they can do. However, the single does not include an abundance of synthesizer, which is a seminal part of its new progressive styling. This 7-song LP ends with the song "Death," which is dedicated to their ex-guitar-player Christopher Reimer who died in his sleep in February 2012.

"Death" is an 11-minute epic starting with dreamy guitar sounds, cuing a spaced out drum-roll, and Flegel's vocals. From there the crescendo takes you to the brink of life, continuously building and building on a repetitive drum track, only to spin wildly out of control for a good five minutes of straight noise, droning guitars and time fluctuations.

Just as you thought oblivion has commenced, the track dramatically shifts toward the end to a more upbeat version of its former self. Almost like a stage of acceptance, the last minute is Flegel's final desperate attempt to get across their artistic statement before the album ends.

This post-punk band has made a statement topping the charts of the 90FM's top 10 during its first week of rotation. You can catch great music like this on 90FM 24/7 over the airwaves or online with the Tunein App.



- 1 **Andrew St. James**
The Shakes
- 2 **Viet Cong**
Viet Cong
- 3 **Elvis Perkins**
I Aubrade
- 4 **BC Camplight**
How to Die in the North
- 5 **Until The Ribbon Breaks**
A Lesson Unlearned
- 6 **Twerps**
Range Anxiety
- 7 **Panda Bear**
Panda Bear Meets The Grim Reaper
- 8 **Dodos**
Individ
- 9 **Violent Mae**
Violent Mae
- 10 **Traveling Suitcase**
Nobody Wins

Audio Alliance to Enhance Student Nightlife

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Audio Alliance is bound to satisfy students' cravings for more local nightlife when it provides fresh musical experiences featured at Snow Flow, Saturday, Feb. 7 at Bruisers in downtown Stevens Point.

Danica Nikezic, the news director at 90FM, said nightlife could be enhanced for students through Audio Alliance.

"Right now, there's just Centertainment Productions, which is great, and there are bars downtown, but I think we need more," Nikezic said.

Snow Flow will feature electronic dance and hip-hop genres and performances by the hip-hop duo

The Palmer Squares and chill funk DJ Nasty Beat. Audio Alliance seeks to promote local musicians at the event.

Nikezic believes that with the right support from students, organizations like Audio Alliance will thrive in the community.

"Half of what Audio Alliance does is promoting, documenting and coordinating events," Nikezic said. "The other half is the work of the students attending the events and sharing their experiences."

Colton Oltesvig and Joey Garofano, the Audio Alliance event coordinators, elaborated about how Audio Alliance benefits a community like Stevens Point.

Through the organization, they hope to provide a larger influx of live performances to students and community members, network with

campus organizations, emphasize diversity and contribute unique ideas to the atmosphere of the city.

"A reason I joined Audio Alliance and wanted to host events was because I always had to travel at least two or three hours, if not more, to attend a musical event in or near Stevens Point," Oltesvig said. "I definitely enjoy the location of Stevens Point because it is right in the middle of the state and is surrounded by plenty of smaller towns. With Audio Alliance, people won't have to drive as far to attend a concert of this magnitude."

Doors open for the event at 7 p.m. Music begins at 7:30 p.m. and will continue through the night until 2 a.m. Tickets are available for purchase at the door for \$15 or \$10 ahead of time.

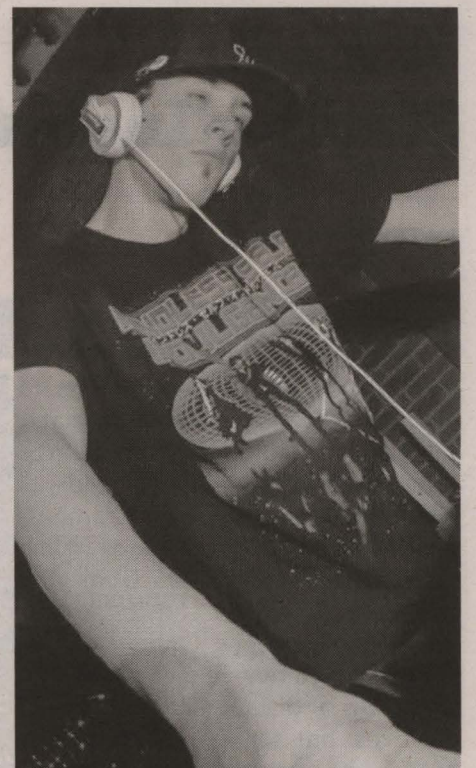


Photo courtesy of Audio Alliance

Clutter Pours Heart into Music

ANNA WELTON
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Singer/Songwriter Josh Clutter played at The Encore in the Dreyfus University Center on Friday, Jan. 30 to share his music.

Music has been an integral part of Clutter's life since childhood.

"I had a lot of time on my hands and no hobbies, so I picked up a guitar when I was 11 years old and just poured hours and hours into it," Clutter said. "It became my thing. When I was 14 or 15, that's when I said 'I want to be in a band, I want to do this for a living.' Going on tour became my daydream, and I daydreamed about it every day until I was 18. Music has always, undoubtedly, been my career path."

Clutter planned to attend college for music but was given an opportunity to go on tour and record an album with a band around the same time. He followed through with the latter.

Clutter toured with this band for three years before breaking out on his own two years ago to write and record his own songs.

"My first gig as a singer/songwriter was at a coffee shop in Minneapolis about three years ago," Clutter said. "They only paid me about \$50 but I was like, 'I'm getting

paid to play my guitar. This is sweet. I've made it.'"

Clutter admitted it was nerve-racking to transition from being a part of a band to going out on his own.

"My first show was atrocious," Clutter said. "I was shaking because I was so nervous. It's taken me a very long time to learn what to say and how to act on stage. I'm still figuring it out."

When Clutter began writing, he focused on relationships and love.

"I think love songs are the entry-level for most singer/songwriters," Clutter said. "Everyone goes through love, relationships and heartbreak, so it's easy to write about because everyone can relate."

Clutter expresses himself through music.

"I recently wrote a song called 'Lonely' that I released on Youtube," Clutter said. "It's probably the most honest song I've ever written. I really just poured my heart into that song."

Clutter has released two EP albums and is writing a third.

"I think my third record is going to be a lot more acoustic driven," Clutter said. "It's going to have a lot more of a natural organic sound as opposed to a big, full band sound, or at least that's what I'm thinking as of now."



Photo by Allison Birr
Joey Bonner performed in The Encore,
Friday January 30th.

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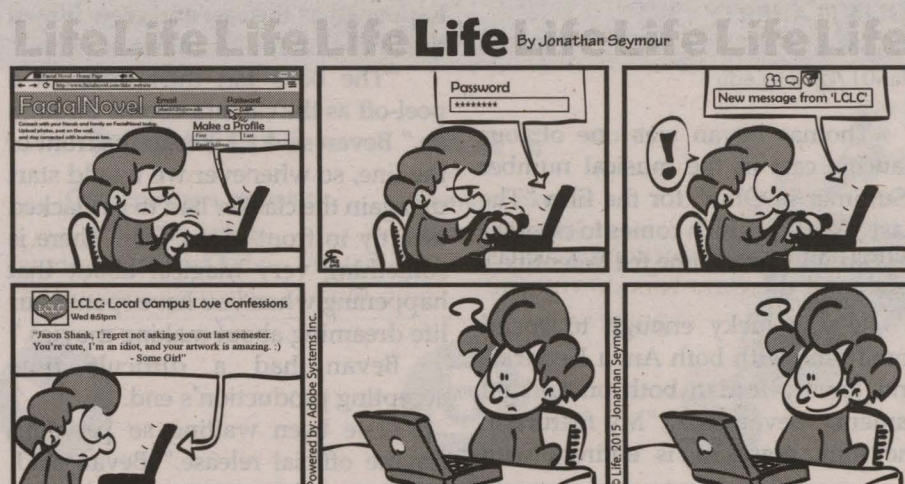
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COMIC



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Photo by Carly Caputa

Arts Bash 2015 Fueled by Community Support

JULIA FLAHERTY

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Arts Bash 2015 cast a spell on guests dressed in cocktail attire for a night of song, dance, visual art and tastes of the community.

Alan Patrick Kenny, an assistant professor of musical theatre, worked with Mark Hanson, the musical theatre program coordinator, to organize the showcased musical performances.

"We picked songs that have been previously performed during past semesters and in classes, as well as songs that we have been working on with our students in voice lessons," Kenny said.

Kenny was especially proud to see his former student, Allegra Berglund, emcee this year's bash. Berglund performed "Let it Go" to start the night.

"We thought we would have a

laugh having her sing 'Let it Go,' because of course no one has heard of that," Kenny said. "It was a silly way to start off the event, and she sung the crap out of it, so we are very happy to have her back."

On the second floor of the Noel Fine Arts Center, guests enjoyed food and drink from a variety of local establishments, which included Nancy Lemke's Custom Cakes, Point Brewery, Indulgence Wine Bar, Sugar Doll and more. Guests could have their portraits drawn by students, participate in "Blood, Guts and Gore" and walk through the Edna Carlsten Art Gallery.

Caren Heft, the director of the gallery, expressed her joy about how the Stevens Point community has supported its members as well as University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point students by purchasing their work.

"There's mobs of people here tonight to support artists for scholarship funds," Heft said. "That's pretty amazing the community supports our students to this extent."

Heft said this is the best positive feedback the community can offer artists.

"It's fantastic and we're really lucky," Heft said.

Emily Strzyzewski, an Arts Bash intern, helped organize artwork shown.

"Arts management majors need to go out and find internships, so it's a degree requirement," Strzyzewski said. "Students can go to Arts Bash for a great opportunity as event planning in the arts field. Arts Bash and arts management majors go together really well, so I'm really glad I got this internship."

This was Strzyzewski's first time at Arts Bash. She was happy to be

there as an intern assisting Bobbie Erwin, the College of Fine Arts and Communication marketing specialist, to make this year's bash successful.

"I'm a senior and all the years I've wanted to, but I couldn't swing the ticket price, so I thought I would help out with the event" Strzyzewski said. "I didn't know I'd be able to go, but now I'm here and it's really cool. This is a fancy, crazy, awesome event."

Kenny added that Arts Bash not only supports scholarship funds, but also musical theatre and acting majors' senior showcases.

"Arts Bash is really important in funding their trip to New York City, so they can get themselves in front of casting directors and agents," Kenny said. "It's crucial for their profession, therefore it's vital that Arts Bash continues to fund that, and we are so grateful everyone came to support us."

Alumnus Dances in 'The Last 5 Years,' Anticipates Premiere



Photo by Kevin Thomas Garcia

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Thomas Bevan was one of four dancers cast in the musical number "Summer in Ohio" for the film "The Last 5 Years," which comes to cinemas on Feb. 13, just in time for Valentine's Day.

"I was lucky enough to spend some time with both Anna Kendrick and Jeremy Jordan both on and off camera," Bevan said. "My feature in the film, however, is entirely with

'Cathy.'"

Bevan is a 2010 graduate of the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. He explained filming was often tiring, but fun.

"We had a long day of shooting the same choreography over and over again," Bevan said. "By afternoon, we were so tired we started a little motivational catch phrase, 'What would Beyonce do?' Before every take we would just say 'Beyonce, Beyonce, Beyonce,' and it seemed to work, since we survived the day."

Bevan's favorite moment on set happened as the cast and crew filmed the final shot for "Summer in Ohio."

"The boys fan their arms in a peel-off as the camera zooms through us," Bevan said. "I was in the front of the line, so whenever we would start up again the clacker had to be clacked directly in front of my face. There is something very magical about that happening when you have spent your life dreaming about making movies."

Bevan had a difficult time accepting production's end.

"I've been waiting so patiently for the official release," Bevan said.

"We finished filming in the summer of 2013."

Bevan's time on set lasted four days. This encompassed two days of rehearsal in New York City: one of those days rehearsing with Kendrick, the other without. One day rehearsing camera angles and dividing the choreography into various filming segments, and one day actually filming the number.

Bevan said his time at UWSP taught him a lot about how to present himself and maintain a professional work ethic.

"It is impossible to pick a single example of how UWSP helped prepare me for my life in New York City," Bevan said. "I'm eternally grateful."

Bevan is grateful for professors who believed in him, called him out on his mistakes and pushed him.

"That kind of support fills you with the confidence you need to succeed," Bevan said. "That mentorship is what I remember most fondly."

Shortly after shooting, Bevan joined the Broadway National Tour of "Chicago" for a year as the character,

The Spirit of Fosse. He is also an understudy to Amos.

"I am now signed with a new agency and fill my time between regional work and traveling the world singing with a Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons tribute group," Bevan said.

For those aspiring to journey to New York City and be part of the entertainment industry, Bevan offered his advice.

"You are not the best and you will never be the best, so push yourself to become your best and don't worry about anyone else," Bevan said. "There are so many talented people in this business. All you can do is bring your A-game and hope you have the special something that the faces behind the table are looking to find."

Bevan will fly to Los Angeles, California for the film's premiere on Feb. 11. He is excited for audiences to feel the film's passion.

"I can't wait for audiences to go on this emotional rollercoaster with us," Bevan said. "It was a love project for the director, Richard LaGravenese. You can feel the heart and soul he poured into it."