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Community Damages Should Be Reevaluated

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Students living on campus sign an agreement with Residential Living upon move-in that includes policies on alcohol, visitors and damages. While many of such policies are clear and do not require often debate, the policy on community damages is a source of discontent for students.

Residential Living’s handbook states that each resident is charged with common area repair or replacement costs on a pro-rated basis based on the damage location. Location determines whether a wing, floor, or whole building is charged.

Many students see a small charge, usually around $5 each semester according to Mike Zsido, the assistant director of building services. Many students accrue about the same, ranging from $5 to $15.

However, the policy is still questionable in fairness. It allows irresponsible students to escape blame by forcing others to pay for their actions if they are unwilling to admit mistakes.

Living in a residence hall is like renting a hotel room. Guests pay a flat fee for a night, and if any damages occur during their stay, an additional charge to cover the cost of repair or replacement is accrued. It is understandable that such charges cannot be eliminated.

Currently, the Residence Hall Association is reevaluating community damages policy. It is looking at taking funds from the original policy to cover the damage, then distributing money to students who have damaged a common area.


difficult to gain admittance to during a condensed format.

Winterim Offers Time to Play Catch-Up or Get Ahead

MYKAYLA HILGART
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Winterim courses allow students to transition between first and second semester by packing in the credits in two and a half weeks.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offers courses in the classroom and online, with most students taking one or two classes. The 2014 Winterim lasted from Jan. 21 to 15.

Biology Professor Todd Huspeni is the Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Programs. He has taught many Winterim courses. Huspeni said enrolling in Winterim has many benefits. During this short time, students focus on a particular class and strategically plan to take courses that may be difficult to gain admittance to during the regular semesters. He said field courses especially lend themselves to a condensed format.

"It is important to remember that these courses are designed to meet the same credit hour requirements as a 16-week course," Huspeni said. He advises students against taking on more than they can handle.

"With an intense course like this, missing a single day of class can really add to the challenge," Huspeni said. "Every minute is precious."

Huspeni said these courses challenge professors as well.

"It requires professors to engage with students quickly and be creative in addressing content and learning outcomes," Huspeni said. "It is a fantastic opportunity."

Even after graduating in December, communication major Brent Lindholm needed extra 300-level credits to attain his degree.

"It is super nice that there are opportunities like a short Winterim class to fulfill a need like that quickly and easily without having to sign up for a whole extra semester of college," Lindholm said. "Winterim is only a couple weeks long, so it is a fantastic opportunity."

Sunday, Jan. 18
Staff member from Pray-Sims called to report the smell of marijuana coming from a room.

Monday, Jan. 19
Smith staff member called to report someone “obnoxiously” knocking on the door.

Female called to request a jump for her silver Buick Rendezvous in Lot H.

Front desk at Hansen called to request a jump for a gray Dodge Caravan in the circle outside.

Tuesday, Jan. 20
A CPS professor called to report a male walking into the building with a large duffle bag. When confronted, he continued walking to the third floor.

Two individuals came in to report stolen property.

Wednesday, Jan. 21
Staff member from Smith called to report a marijuana smell.

Thursday, Jan. 22
Watson staff member called to report a fight on the north side of Lot P next to the martial arts studio. She said the two took off after a bus drove by.

Friday, Jan. 23
PS received a call from an elevator in the DUC with no answer.

Hyer staff member called to report an argument in a room disrupting other students.

Saturday, Jan. 24
PS received a call reporting a highly intoxicated male stumbling around Debot wearing a tan Carhartt jacket with brown hair.

A caller reported a vehicle heading south on Isadore with an unconscious-looking individual inside.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in Lot V. It had been sitting there for a long period of time with occupants.

Protective Services ensure campus safety

The Pointer is a student-run newspaper published weekly for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The Pointer staff is solely responsible for content and editorial policy.

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Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer become the property of The Pointer.
**New Semester, New Approach**

**SOPHIE STICKEMAIER**
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With the arrival of the spring semester comes a plethora of alterations and solutions the Student Government Association hopes will intrigue students and raise awareness on various issues.

"One of the biggest goals we have for this semester revolves around the implementation of differential tuition," said Chris Slattery, the president of SGA.

Differential tuition is an additional fee applied on top of general tuition. The lack of revenue production is the main cause for the discussion on non-academic fees.

"We can use that money to hire more professors," Slattery said. "If we had more professors, we’d be able to open up more bottleneck courses, therefore making it possible for students to graduate earlier."

Bottlenecks are courses students need to graduate but cannot easily get into.

"The freeze in tuition means we have to pay less initially, but pair that with the funding and it’s a double-edged sword," Slattery said.

Another issue SGA is taking into consideration is the standard attendance and make-up policy.

"We’ve been evaluating the current attendance policy and picking out certain things that need to be changed," said Tyler Forsythe, the student life and academic affairs director.

Forsythe explained there is back and forth discussion between SGA and Faculty Senate to compromise regarding the campus wide documents.

"Before I was president, I found massive discrepancies in what the university says regarding make-up work versus what teachers are requiring," Slattery said. "We want to be sure that students are able to achieve academically."

Forsythe said another goal he has for his role in the Academic Affairs Committee revolves around the use of the sun dial space. He explains that there is a plan to one day turn the space into a quad, but for the time being the committee is exploring other temporary options.

"Right now the sun dial is deteriorating so we did some research to find out what students thought should be done with the space," Forsythe said. "I thought it would be cool to create an ice rink there in the winter, but we found most students were in favor of holding concerts and entertainment there in the spring."

However, the largest change Slattery hopes to see this semester revolves around student interaction with SGA.

"A lot of what I hear about SGA is that it’s a type of club that’s too snobby, too big for its britches, and that’s just not the case," Slattery said. "I want students to knock on my door and speak out. I want them to be comfortable enough to approach me about anything."

**Gov. Walker’s Budget Proposal Raises Concern**

**MYKAYLA HILGART**
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Gov. Scott Walker announced his State Budget Proposal on Jan. 27, which includes a biennium block grant from the state, allowing plans for the UW System to receive a two-year tuition freeze. After the freeze, the UW System Authority institutions will be allowed to adjust tuition based on demand, creating a more competitive market.

Miller said the authority is unlikely to go through because legislators will not want to lose control of tuition.

"He would essentially repeal Chapter 36, which is the statute on the UW System," Miller said.

This statute has rules enacted by the Board of Regents.

The UW System would have independent authority to establish policy on employee matters, including sick leave, tenure and shared governance. Miller said these are important issues that affect the university’s ability to attract quality faculty and keep them at UWSP.

"Our salaries have not increased in well over 10 years," Miller said.

He said when the university does not attract top-notch faculty, there is a loss of quality programs, which leads to a loss of students - it is all a balancing act for a mid-size university in a rural area.

"Education has huge economic benefits, and that is especially true for a small community like Stevens Point," Miller said. "This would reverberate through the rest of the community."

The Student Government Association is already looking at lobbying efforts and what the best options are for the university and future students.

"The state wouldn’t have to pay, but these costs don’t go away," said Chris Slattery, the president of SGA. "The tuition would be frozen, but at some point there would be a structural deficit."

Slattery thinks the autonomy could have benefits and drawbacks.

"It’s the devils in the details," Slattery said.

As far as Walker’s aspired presidency goes, anything could happen.

He really isn’t up on foreign policy, which will be a struggle for him," Miller said. "He thinks being hard will get him far, and he will not admit that he is essentially a part-time governor."}

UWSF will be holding forums to engage students and community in the budget conversation:

- **Friday, January 30:**
  - 2 to 3 p.m., Alumni Room, DUC
  - 6 to 7 p.m., Alumni Room, DUC
  - 10 a.m., Civic Center, DUC

- **Wednesday, February 4,** 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., MPS 116

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

The goal of these forums is to answer questions, provide updates, review what is known yet and explain the next steps. It will also offer a time to voice concerns and suggestions.

In addition to this effort, Chancellor Bernie Patterson or Provost and Greg Summers, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, will attend governance meetings to answer questions and provide information as it is available.

Patterson and Legislative Liaison Rob Manzke have two scheduled days of visits with key legislators. Patterson said it is important to encourage open and honest dialogue while remaining true to UWSF’s mission and values during this trying time.
so short that you barely even realize it was a class.”

Lindholm took Music 305, Jazz History for Musicians. He said the class was fully online, and the professor was easy to contact, allowing him to work whenever he wanted.

“I don’t know about other classes, but I am sure they aren’t impossible because it isn’t a full semester. It isn’t the teacher’s job to make it as hard on students as possible,” Lindholm said.

He said these courses teach students how to study and receive knowledge independently. Lindholm also mentioned two drawbacks of the online format. The first being the possibility of having difficulty getting community to help each other with questions.

Senior David Leverett took the online Political Science 391, American Political Thought, to fill his Interdisciplinary Studies requirement.

“This class was a lot of reading, but I even did well with a learning disability,” Leverett said. “I have taken Winterim classes every year since I started and found that I like the online part, and to being able to get rid of a course or two that I don’t want to take during a regular semester.”

Leverett recommends online courses because it allows students to take classes and still have a break from physically being on campus. Winterim is also an opportunity to be on campus when few students are present.

“There are a lot of benefits to working on your own if you are self-motivated,” Leverett said. “If not, Winterim might not be for everyone.”

Junior Nicole Krokoz, a family and consumer sciences major, took two Winterim courses in order to graduate a semester early: Sociology 368, the Sociology of Mental Health, and Family and Consumer Sciences 444, Helping Relationships: Skills for the Helping Professions.

While taking these classes, Krokoz said one drawback of online classes is that they have few lectures, putting more emphasis on the textbook and other supplemental readings.

“This time commitment combined with work caused a hectic life for Krokoz. I didn’t find either one super difficult,” Krokoz said. “It was just very time consuming, and there is a lot of reading involved.”

Krokoz said one drawback of online classes is that they have few lectures, putting more emphasis on the textbook and other supplemental readings.

“I did enjoy it somewhat and do recommend it,” Krokoz said. “To be honest, though, it’s no walk in the park, and it goes by super quick. You have to really want to take the class and have to dedicate a lot of time and focus. There isn’t a lot of time to get adjusted; you have to go into it ready to work really hard. However, if you take it seriously and work hard, it is very beneficial.”

SOPHIE STICKELMAIER

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The Central Wisconsin Mathematics League has been shaping lives of students from 22 different high schools throughout the area for the past 45 years and continues to impact gifted students today.

Nic Woyak, a mathematics major and senior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is a former competitor who was largely impacted by his participation in the league. For his freshman year of college, Woyak received the Howard Thoyre First Year Mathematics Scholarship, a privilege previously participated in the league. Woyak explains his choice to major in mathematics revolves around his interest in calculations rather than teaching. Woyak received the Howard Thoyre First Year Mathematics Scholarship, a privilege granted only to those who had previously participated in the league.

“I would say the league was directly responsible for my choice of major,” Woyak said. “It challenged me in a way that really piqued my interest, making me realize how much I liked math and how good I was at it.”

Throughout high school, Woyak competed against larger schools for three consecutive years. He won first place in 2009 and 2010, adding to his high school’s prestigious reputation.

“The schools are divided into four different divisions depending on their enrollment sizes,” Woyak said.

“I attended Tri-County High School, which is currently the smallest division and has now won 15 years in a row.”

Following graduation, Woyak hopes to receive his PhD in mathematics and build a career around optimization problems such as adjusting routing numbers for stores and businesses.

“It is important to be self-motivated and independent in an online class, and I am sure they aren’t impossible because it isn’t a full semester. It isn’t the teacher’s job to make it as hard on students as possible,” Lindholm said.

He said these courses teach students how to study and receive knowledge independently. Lindholm also mentioned two drawbacks of the online format. The first being the possibility of having difficulty getting community to help each other with questions.

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Parks and Recreation Maintains Ice Rinks During Warm Weather

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People who enjoy winter sports may be disappointed with this year's winter weather. Snowfall is down and temperatures have been warmer than last season, but skaters continue to enjoy public rinks in Stevens Point.

The Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department builds and maintains four rinks within the city in hopes that skaters can enjoy them all season long.

Some of the largest rinks are at Goerke Park, which features a large oval rink, a hockey rink with boards and a staffed warming house with bathrooms.

Rinks at Emerson Park include a small oval rink and a lazy river-style loop. McKinley Elementary and Iverson Park both have oval rinks.

Scott Halverson, a parks maintenance supervisor, explained the construction and maintenance process.

"Obviously we need to have cold weather," Halverson said. "It is ideal to have four to six inches of snow."

Halverson said when temperatures are consistently below freezing, park staff begin flattening and compacting snow using its water tank truck. Once the truck has made a smooth enough surface, the driver begins laying ice.

"The truck is specially designed to flood rink," Halverson said. "The water is warmed by the truck and is spread by a bar on the back."

It can take several days of flooding to achieve an ideal rink surface and may be slowed down by snow and thawing.

"The truck keeps adding water until there is a smooth surface and there are no more bumps," Halverson said. Once the rinks are open and people begin skating, staff perform daily maintenance by brushing snow off with a rotating sidewalk broom and re-flooding with the tank truck.

Halverson said staff occasionally level the ice surface using an old zamboni blade pulled behind a tractor. Regular maintenance helps keep rinks in good condition on occasionally warm days, but when temperatures rise above freezing for consecutive days, ice can become rough and unpleasant for skating.

"About a month ago, we were in a tough spot," Halverson said. "A prolonged warm spell made it nearly impossible to build and maintain ice. Luckily for skaters, low temperatures returned, and staff could continue maintenance."

"This time of year is still decent for anticipating cold weather," Halverson said. "Halverson said around the middle of February is when he usually expects weather to warm up and ice to start melting in small amounts, though it is not always the case."

At some point, all efforts are stopped to maintain the ice because it is too warm.

"If we get a warm spell and lose the majority of the ice, then we know it's only a start," Halverson said. Senior Darrek Sams wishes the ice conditions were better this winter, but says he will make the best of it.

"I skate almost every day," Sams said. "I love hockey, and it's fun to get out here with my friends and shoot some pucks. It's disappointing when you get to the rink and the ice is rough or there's water on it, but that's just the way she goes." Sams says there are casual pick-up hockey games at Goerke Park nearly every day.

"It's nice to see the kids out here having fun," Sams said. "It's a good time."

Students Amidst Attacks in France

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Students who have chosen to study abroad in France this semester are facing a unique situation.

Jennifer Kozuch is a sophomore studying clinical laboratory science and French at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She is one of 10 students from the UW System who is studying abroad at the University of Caen this semester.

Kozuch was in Chicago on Jan. 7, which was the day of the first terrorist attack in Paris at the satirical magazine office of Charlie Hebdo.

17 people were killed over three days with one attack ending in a standoff after a gunman took hostages in a Paris supermarket. Upon her arrival in Paris, she noticed increased security.

Kozuch said after the attacks, France activated the country's nationwide security system, Vigipirate.

"You can think of Vigipirate as being vigilant," Kozuch said. "It's important to stay vigilant and be cautious, especially during these times with the attacks. So, with Vigipirate, we would see signs around that say that, and there would be increased security at the most treasured museums and monuments."

For Kozuch and other UWSP students, the march on Jan. 11 in defiance of the attacks was the one event that changed the students' plans. The students were unable to make it to a scheduled theatre performance.

Instead, they decided to join the march.

"It was incredible to see the unity of the French and how they came together to stand up for their rights and for their country," Kozuch said. "It was a very peaceful march, with a feeling of solidarity. There were several leaders from various countries who came out to support the cause as well."

She believes the recent attack in France has resulted in a time of mourning for the country.

"17 people in all were murdered," Kozuch said. "That is definitely something to mourn about. So, even though life still goes on and people went about their daily lives, it's important to note that they are indeed mourning these deaths by paying respect with the march and the Je suis Charlie signs."

Despite the recent tragedy in France, Kozuch has been enjoying herself. She is living with a host family and is excited to learn about French culture.

"I have learned so much in a short period of time and it has been an incredible experience," Kozuch said. "I have enjoyed how diverse my classes are with other students from around the world. I feel like I can learn a lot from them."
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UWSP Sports Succeed over Holiday Break

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

On the women's side of basketball, the Pointers had a record of 3-4 over break with tough losses, including a 60-58 loss to top ranked FDU-Florham in the D3hoops.com Classic in Las Vegas. UWSP had a 12-2 run that fell short on a missed three pointer at the buzzer. Leading UWSP in scoring and rebounds this season is the duo of senior Kaityn Jacobs and junior Allie Miceli. Jacobs averages 10.1 points and 8.3 rebounds per game, while Miceli averages 9.6 points and 7 rebounds per game. UWSP won two conference games with a 54-47 win over then eleventh ranked UW-Oshkosh, as sophomores Sarah Gamillo and Lauren Anklam each scored a team high 14 points. The second conference win was a 67-48 defeat over UW-Whitewater as Anklam scored a career high 19 points to lead UWSP to a win. The women's basketball team now has a record of 9-9 and 4-5 in the WIAC.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Over break the men's basketball team played with a 7-2 record and no losses at home. Ranked number 15 in the nation, the Pointers won big games over a seven game winning streak, including two road wins during a trip to California. UWSP defeated Pomona Pitzer 57-49 and Claremont-Mudd-Scripps 71-65. In Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference play, UWSP posted a 5-1 record, with the only loss from the defending national champions UW-Whitewater in a 59-44 defeat.

It was the fourth loss for UWSP in its last 40 WIAC games. Despite the loss, the Pointers rolled through the competition with wins over UW-Platteville, UW-Lacrosse, UW-River Falls and two wins over UW-Oshkosh. The second win over UW-Oshkosh was a thrilling 69-66 overtime victory, courtesy of a half-court buzzer beater by senior forward Alex Richard. Richard leads UWSP in scoring with an average of 13.3 points per game, while junior guard Stephen Pelkofer averages 12.4 and seniors Joe Ritchay and Austin Ryl average 11.3 and 10.8 points. The Pointers currently have a 14-4 record and an 8-1 conference record.

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

UWSP women's hockey is having another solid season. The team's record being 12-6-2 with a 3-3-2 WIAC record. Over the last month the Pointers are 4-3-1, and going 3-1-1 in home games continuing their winning ways at home. UWSP split a home and home series with St. Norbert to kick off the New Year with a 5-2 win at home, and 5-2 loss at St. Norbert. The following week, UWSP swept St. Thomas with a 3-1 win, and 3-2 comeback win in overtime courtesy of junior forward Shauna Bollinger. In the final regular season series with conference rival UW-River Falls, the Pointers lost 3-2 and tied 2-2. This season UWSP is led by senior Amanda Walker who won the 200 free, 500 free and 1650 free. Along with her three event wins, the relay 4x100 relay of Walker, Emily Nienhaus, Katelyn Homeyer and Cassie Matthys won with a time 4:05.61.

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

In the pool, the men's swimming and diving team won the Point Invite on Jan. 24 over UW-Eau Claire, while the women's team finished second to Northern Michigan University by 1.5 points. Leading the men's team was Hans Peters who won three individual events in the 200-yard individual medley, free and butterfly. Other winners included Justin Fernandez in the 400im, Ethan Bott in the 200 backstroke and Matthew Parks winning the 1650 and 500 free events. The women's team was led by senior Amanda Walker who won the 200 free, 500 free and 1650 free. Along with her three event wins, the relay 4x100 relay of Walker, Emily Nienhaus, Katelyn Homeyer and Cassie Matthys won with a time 4:05.61.

IF YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY...

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Freshmen track athletes Tanner Akers and Anna Hogan competed in their first collegiate meet on Jan. 17, months before they would have started their season in high school.

For most collegiate athletes, the transition from high school to collegiate sports can be tough. Seasons are two to three times longer at the collegiate level.

"The length of the season is a big change," Akers said. "We have a whole indoor season instead of just a few meets at the beginning of the year."

"The length of the season is a big change," Akers said. "We have a whole indoor season instead of just a few meets at the beginning of the year."

The workouts are also harder.

"They're easier than I thought they would be," Hogan said. "I thought I would be dying, not as bad but it's a lot more jumping. We jumped maybe once a week in high school, and now we have at least two jumping workouts a week."

"Muscle memory helps and eventually my body will get used to it," Akers said. "The upperclassmen seem used to it."

Akers said he knew he wanted to compete collegiately in either football or track and field. He decided on the latter.

Hogan saw success her senior year, so she joined the team at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. She does not regret the decision.

"My favorite part is all the new things I'm learning," Hogan said. "My entire running form has been changed, and I learned so much more about jumping in just a few months."

Akers said he likes having a coach specific to every event, and he could already see improvement in his starts with the one-on-one contact.

Both Hogan and Akers said they liked how welcoming the upperclassmen were.

"It's nothing like high school," Hogan said. "They give me suggestions better form and other advice."

The time consumption was an adjustment for both freshmen. However, Akers said he almost feels less busy than he was in high school.

"I was a three-sport athlete in high school, but one thing I find different is that I actually study in college," Akers said. "In high school, I could take a bad quiz or test and do better on homework, but now quizzes and tests are the only grades that count. I find myself studying for three hours at a time."

Hogan said her time management skills improved, and now she manages to work a few hours a week. She also shared her least favorite part of the sport.

"I don't like how quickly you get shin splints," Hogan said. At the meet on Jan. 17, Hogan triple jumped, while Akers ran the 60 meter dash as well as the 300 meter dash, a unique distance for the meet.

Both athletes were satisfied with their first ever collegiate performances.

"I was a little nervous, but I was very excited," Akers said. "I feel like I did fairly well for the first meet. I definitely found out what I need to improve on throughout the season."

Hogan said she felt pretty laid back heading into the meet because she only performed in one event. However, once she started jumping her adrenaline kicked in.

"Considering I'm a freshman and I have a lot to learn when it comes to jumping, it was an okay day," Hogan said. "My goal for the next meets are to keep seeing improvement in my form and distances. As long as I am fixing the problems that I am working with now, I will be happy."
Men's Hockey Working Toward National Goal

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January 29, 2015

After splitting a recent match with No. 3 ranked University of Wisconsin-River Falls, the Pointers hockey team is ready for the rest of the season.

The Pointers faced UW-River Falls for the first of two game series on Jan. 16. With less than a minute left in play, Kyle Brodie scored the only goal of the game to lead the team to victory.

"That Friday night was a good hockey game," said head coach Chris Brooks. "Two teams battled to the finish, and we managed to get the late power play good to win the game."

The following day, the Pointers lost the second half of the series when UW-River Falls broke the 1-1 tie and pulled away for a 4-2 win.

"The second night we were more offensive than Friday and had more scoring chances," Brooks said. "We just didn't capitalize on all those chances."

Junior captain Evan Dixon is excited to see the team learn from those games and use them to improve. "River Falls is a good team, but splitting isn't where we want to be," Dixon said. "We're going to beat them when we see them in a few weeks and continue to grow as we get closer to the tournament."

In its most recent games against UW-Superior, the Pointers came home with a pair of victories. These victories are just one step toward the team's national goal. Last season, the Pointers lost to St. Norbert in its final match of the year to become second in the nation. However, with such a small conference, every victory is important if the Pointers want to see the national tournament again.

"Every game is a huge game, and we have to be at our best every day as we head toward that final tournament," Dixon said.

The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference is not big enough for the conference champion to receive an automatic bid to the national tournament. Only the best teams are selected for the tournament. Factors such as a head-to-head record and strength of schedule will be taken into account.

"We got a bid last year, and the key factor may have been record against UW-Eau Claire who was also under consideration," Brooks said.

Dixon said he wants to see the team put in quality time. "We have to show up every day with a purpose and work extra hard," Dixon said. "We have to pay attention to the little things every day, on and off the ice."

Brooks wants the team to be successful and to see the senior class step up. "All of our seniors have played a big part in success since I started four years ago," Brooks said. "We're one third of the way done with regular season play, and we're tied for the conference title and working on improving every day."
350 Stevens Point Addresses Wisconsin Frac Sand Mines

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The controversial petroleum and natural gas pumping process known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has strong roots within Wisconsin's sandy soil.

Environmental activist group 350 Stevens Point is drawing attention to sand mines in western Wisconsin that currently hold 75 percent of the frac sand market throughout the United States.

During fracking, millions of gallons of freshwater and chemicals are mixed with thousands of tons of sand. The mixture is injected at high pressure into the earth, and the pressure of the liquid against the rock creates fractures deep underground.

The sand is essential to the process because it holds the fractures open while natural gas and petroleum are pumped out.

Some consider fracking to be the most efficient way to obtain natural gas, which is said to be the cleanest fossil fuel. Others think the process threatens our fresh water supplies and needs more regulation.

"350 Stevens Point is primarily concerned with the question of climate change," said Bob Gifford, the treasurer of 350 Stevens Point and president of the Wisconsin Green Party.

"We're concerned with sand mining in Wisconsin because it not only consumes immense amounts of energy. It's also demolishing a lot of land in Wisconsin," Gifford said.

350 will visit a frac sand operation near Black River Falls and attend a town meeting in Huston where a company named Unimin will propose the construction of a new sand mine.

If the town approves, the company will use heavy equipment to extract immense amounts of sand from the landscape, load it onto trucks or rail cars and ship it hundreds of miles to the nearest fracking operation.

"Cailie Kafura, the president of 350 Stevens Point, explained how Wisconsin is indirectly supporting fracking and the nation's reliance on fossil fuels. "We're the middle men," Kafura said. "We're tripping to stop that." Kafura and 350 are focused on divestment from fossil fuels. The student organization is part of a larger activist organization.

350 aims to lower carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere to below 350 parts per million, which is considered the level needed to stabilize climate conditions.

Wisconsin's sand resources have become a direct, driving force in the fracking process, which adds to the carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, industrial sand, which is used to obtain oil, has been produced in Wisconsin for more than 40 years.

The number of mines has increased dramatically in the last five years, and Wisconsin now has more than 100 sand mines, most of which are located in western counties.

"The newest wells they're doing take ten thousand tons of sand," Gifford said. "It's an entire train full. They're going down to the bedrock. I haven't seen any plan for restoration."

Public safety concerns people living near mines. Airborne silica dust from the enormous quantities of sand can blow over nearby homes. The dust is a known carcinogen that can cause lung problems.

"How much emphysema and lung disease could this cause?" Gifford said. "No one knows."

Kafura reinforces 350's activist orientation and encourages people to learn about this issue.

"This isn't just some words being thrown around," Kafura said. "A lot of people don't realize how this affects them personally."

According to Gifford, it is not apparent that the Wisconsin DNR is trying to slow down the creation of industrial frac sand mines in the state.

"That's pretty infuriating for people living in the western counties," Gifford said.

A Partnership in Bettering the Community

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The abandoned greenhouse on Briggs Court has been going through a slow and steady transformation since 2011.

Central Rivers Farmshed explains on its website that the Greenhouse Project has been an ongoing endeavor to strengthen the community's relationship with food in all forms.

The CPS Cafe and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point have long been a part of this project in various ways. Layne Cozzolino, the executive director of the Farmshed, said a large donation came from the Student Government Association at the start of the project, and students from all colleges frequently intern and volunteer.

Cozzolino said the greenhouse is not expected to be fully functional until next year, but the space is being utilized. Community members are welcome to join the Community Potluck Series the second Tuesday of each month.

In addition, The Green Collective will use the space to grow vegetables with a plant sale taking place on Memorial Day.

The project has plans to purchase unsold items from the farmers market and make them available for sale at the food pantry. The site will be used to educate the community on food preservation through programs led by students and trained volunteers.

Students studying wellness at UWSP are offered a unique opportunity for hands-on training with a practicum in the CPS Cafe. Student involvement at the greenhouse will serve to strengthen this program, said Megan Ball, a dietetics major and student manager at the cafe.

Ball looks to be involved with future programs in the greenhouse. She said it is important for students to work with the community because it allows students to gain necessary skills not attainable in a classroom.

"Community involvement is one aspect for us to experience different opportunities for careers, and to better understand our individual passions," Ball said.

When the greenhouse does reach its first fully-functional, day, the immediate goals of the project will be to support local producers and encourage cooking and preserving food.

In addition, Cozzolino said people can plan around seasonality and save money by buying in bulk. From programs like this, the local community will find camaraderie with their neighbors and develop a plant well as being a part of reducing food waste.

There has been a healthy relationship between the university and Farmshed for years, and it is likely to grow stronger with time.

"We are grateful for the students and faculty who have helped Farmshed through our growth," Cozzolino said.
Matthew Jedlicka Freed by Photography

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Matthew Jedlicka’s semester resolution is to start a photography website, specializing in fashion photography and head shots that are stylistic and beautiful. Jedlicka began Jedlicka Design on Facebook and said he received positive feedback about his ventures. He noticed a lot of traffic on his Facebook page and that encouraged him to continue developing photos. His friends support him a lot but unfamiliar faces have also stumbled upon his craft.

“T’ve been working with my friends so far, so people have been really responsive to the material,” Jedlicka said. “I hope that continues, even if the faces are foreign to them.” In addition to a growing audience, Jedlicka’s photography has personally impacted him. He said photography possesses a freeing quality. “It allows me to create a world with the one I’ve been given,” Jedlicka said.

In addition to opening his mind, photography sharpened Jedlicka’s senses. “It also opens up my eyes and mind to the world around me because I’m forced to pay attention,” Jedlicka said. “Things you never think could be significant are suddenly very important. It’s kind of making me a hoarder.”

Jedlicka’s photography can be viewed at Jedlicka Design on Facebook.
Robert Goszkowicz
Creates UWSP's First 
a Capella Group

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Junior Robert Goszkowicz has gone above and beyond with his semester resolution by forming a male a cappella group on campus with his brother, freshman Ryan Goszkowicz. Students inspired Robert to create the group when they expressed interest in a cappella.

Robert has experience with a cappella because he teaches a fundamentals of a cappella course at the the Playhouse Theater Group to 8 to 10 year-old children. From his experience, he foresee some future challenges.

"When teaching children, the hardest part is being able to know what each child is capable of," Robert said. "When transitioning to collegiate a cappella, I anticipate, once again, the challenge will be figuring out what everyone can do at first."

He wants to create an atmosphere where each member can share past experiences to enhance the group.

"Our motto is collaboration," he said. "One could try to teach a cappella, but it is about taking people's different experiences and creating a single group out of it."

Robert looks to other colleges as a model for his group.

"I would love to see a female a cappella group on campus," he said. "And perhaps a third co-ed group as well. It would be nice to have some joint concerts.

Robert said the a cappella group is transitioning to a recognized student organization and plans to conduct auditions one week after the group becomes official.

Robert Goszkowicz

Students Participate in Medieval Foam-Fighting

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During warm weather, it is not uncommon to see students dressed in medieval clothing, fighting with foam swords on the fields near Debot, participating in Belegarth. Benjamin Vogel, the secretary for the Belegarth club, said it is a medieval fighting sport with weapons being foam shields and swords.

"We try and get a lot of people to try it out," Vogel said. "We usually have 20 to 30 people who come to practices once a week. It's fantastic when the die-hards show up all the time."

Vogel considered the sport to be recreational because, unless there is a competition, no one wins. "It is a physical work out," Vogel said. "People will come in and be exhausted after five minutes."

Kathy Kling, the president of the Belegarth club, organizes practices and ensures other officers keep up with their positions.

Despite the heavy workload, Kling enjoyed seeing her hard work pay off. She explained the difference between Live Action Role Play and Belegarth.

"It's not really a LARP-ing kind of situation," Kling said. "Belegarth itself is just the sport factor of it. We all dress up for it, but that's more because we are doing medieval fighting."

Kling said students in the club are from all different majors, but it is open to community members as well.

"Belegarth is international," Kling said. "You can find it anywhere you go. It's a large community. I plan on continuing doing Belegarth outside of college."
Adult Acne, the Colorful Mess

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You’ll grow out of it, they said. It’s perfectly natural, they said. Well, here I am with a face full of adult acne vulgaris being extremely natural with no light at the end of the benzoyl peroxide tube.

My face started breaking out when I was around twelve years old, before most of my peers did. To this day, I recall a female classmate telling me I should really do something to treat and cover up my unsightly blemishes. This was before I started applying pounds of makeup to expertly conceal the casualties of enlarged, clogged pores. Those monsters on my chin were there for everyone to see.

That is one of the major misconceptions about acne I think - that the sufferer is unclean and therefore ridden with pimples. I don’t even want to know how many collective hours of my life I have spent scrubbing my face and applying various ointments and creams. Even worse, how many hours have I spent covering and setting with concealer, foundation and powder? If I could take back all the money I’ve spent on products and cosmetics, I could go somewhere really nice for spring break this year.

The acne continued to prevail all throughout middle and high school with slight reprieves here and there, but I was never really clear. For most of my adolescence, I did not have a clear spot on my forehead. It was glorious, and I felt like I could take on the world with my porcelain skin, recklessly and slightly, from the start.

It was nice while it lasted, but I came back to Stevens Point and my army of invaders attacked full force, this time with a vengeance. I broke out like I never have before, the redness spreading on every inch of my face and down my neck to my chest and back.

While it has calmed down now, I am left with the aftermath of marks that will take months, possibly even years, to fade. I have since seen a dermatologist and received a prescription. Time will only tell what that will do.

While I know my condition is not as severe as others’, it has been enough to cause hours of obsession and worry throughout the years.

In the meantime, after being self-conscious for so many years, I have finally accepted my face as it is - more colorful than most. If I need to go somewhere without makeup, I do it. If someone at the grocery store is appalled by a few red marks on my face, then they are the one with the problem - not me.

There are bigger things to worry about in life than imperfect skin. Where will I move after college? Who will be the next president? These questions will be upon us before we know it, crystal clear skin or not.
'American Sniper' Presents Loaded Questions

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"American Sniper" is a hard movie to watch and an even harder movie to review.

Many have used the film as a weapon in their political war games, taking shots at the film for glorifying a supposedly brutish assassin, or taking shots at detractors for disrespecting a supposed American hero.

"American Sniper" does not fit well with the extreme opinions on either side. Careful viewers will note that while it is generally positive portrayal of Chris Kyle, a U.S. sniper during the Iraq War, it is not a ringing endorsement of his actions, and especially not of the war he participated in.

Kyle and his brothers in arms are often portrayed like superheroes, displaying the logo of Marvel's "The Punisher" on their uniforms and vehicles. As a result it is easy to forget that director Clint Eastwood is not making the same comparison. He intends to show us how these men thought of themselves.

The superhero mentality is often a boon on their missions, allowing them the confidence to get the job done, but it is also a bane that makes them foolhardy. At times, Kyle puts himself and his men in unnecessary danger because of it.

The film, and particularly Bradley Cooper's amazing performance, does a great job of subtly portraying the negative impact of soldier life, but the negative effects might even be too subtle. I felt as though every other person in the theater was someone's racist grandpa missing the point, and watching Chris Kyle in the same way they would watch Rambo.

This is a movie about a man with an obsession with being a hero which causes him to lose his humanity.

Why then were there people around me who were cheering for him to continue loosing said humanity? If this was meant to make people think about the negative toll war takes on soldiers, it may have failed half of its audience by not making a more definitive point.

Nevertheless, "American Sniper" is entertaining and thoughtful cinema for those willing to look deeper than the blind patriotic veneer. The best part is deciding how you feel about the questions it presents. It is also Bradley Cooper's second best performance of 2014, and gets seven Rocket Raccoons out of 10.

Are Melanistic Deer in Schmeeckle?

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It's no surprise to any student roaming through the thickets of Schmeeckle Reserve that the deer are plentiful and even overwhelming.

We can scarcely turn a corner and not come face-to-face with a buck and his harem. Commenters point out that deer know they are safe from hunters in the reserve and come from all over Wisconsin to live in peace.

One particular evening I was on my way to Lake Joannis, and I could see the glimmer of the water straight ahead. I listened rather carefully while in the woods so I might catch sight of some wildlife. I heard a rather loud rustle not 2 feet behind me and turned quickly, thinking I'd see the color of a rabbit reeding into the tall grass.

To my excited surprise, I found a large eight point buck staring me down in the middle of the wood-chipped walkway. I froze, not entirely sure if I should be afraid of this daunting animal that was twice my size. I had seen does in Schmeeckle before but never a grown buck. It didn't seem abnormal to me. I thought I was likely to see one, given the number of ladies abounding.

What struck me most was the extremely dark color of this deer's pelt. It was nearly black but with normal signs of a whitetail deer on its belly. It was as if the deer had fur stained with wood varnished from staining.

A walker approached and the big boy went springing away into the brush. I asked my dad what was so different about that specific deer, and he said it was a "swamp buck."

I brought it up to a friend who said deer can be melanistic, which is a rare genetic mutation much like albinism. Further reading pointed me to partial melanism, which keeps the whitetail characteristics with profoundly darker browns in more than one shade. These deer are most commonly concentrated where water collects and where swamp-type land offers darker cover in areas like Texas. Though Texas boasts more melanistic deer, they are all across the continent in various forms.

I may not be able to prove my encounter was with a melanistic buck, but it is possible. I'd like to believe it to be true. Nowadays real, large, and enchanting confrontations with the world of nature and science are few and far between. Either way, swamp or melanistic, it was a true, majestic Wisconsin buck.

Fine Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Grammy-Nominee to Perform at Jazz Festival

FROM THE POINTER NEWSROOM

Grammy-nominee Miguel Zenón, an acclaimed saxophonist and composer, will perform at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, with his quartet, in Michelsen Hall on Jan. 30 for the 24th annual Jazz Festival.

"Zenón fuses elements of Puerto Rican music with American Jazz," said Matthew Buchman, the director of jazz studies. "His quartet features a pianist, a bassist, a drummer and he himself plays the saxophone."

Middle school, high school and university jazz students have the opportunity to perform and receive feedback from clinicians during the festival. Throughout the day, students are also exposed to successful jazz musicians like Zenón and his quartet.

Zenón is inspired by his Puerto Rican heritage in music, especially for his latest project. "His most recent project is called 'Identities are Changeable,'" Buchman said. "It focuses on Puerto Ricans who live in New York and how they see themselves, whether that is as Puerto Ricans, New Yorkers, Americans or some sort of combination."

Buchman had high hopes the festival will impact the community in a positive way.

"The main thing we hope to do is to inspire people," Buchman said. "We hope that Miguel's performance not only inspires young jazz musicians to continue with their studies, but that it also inspires the public."

Zenón's music is available online but Buchman stresses there is no substitution for a live performance.

Tickets for the event are available at the University Ticket and Information Desk and cost $15 for students and seniors and $18 for adults.

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The Dodos ‘Individ’ Album

**reviews**

The Dodos formed in 2005 as a two-piece band that sought to incorporate percussionist, Logan Kroeber’s East African Ewe drumming techniques with singer and guitarist Meric Long’s experience performing in metal bands. Conceptually, it’s bit difficult to imagine. In reality however, it’s almost hypnotic.

Compared with other releases from The Dodos, “Individ” has much more atmospheric presence. Whirling guitar licks punctuate throughout the album. The opening track, Precipitation, is a perfect example of this. The song begins with a guitar sounding more like cello bowing while notes for a Timothy Leary conducted orchestra, the calm before the storm.

It’s almost a full minute before this is accompanied by an intricate finger-picking pattern, the first instance of a drizzle. A few measures later, percussive elements are added to the mix. The song steadily a crescendo until the storm breaks loose. The meter changes from six to four, and a much deeper drum sound is complemented by cymbal crashes and more stern vocals, Thunder and Lightning. Then without much warning the song, or storm, is over.

Another notable song on the album is the track “Bastard” which caught me a bit off-guard with its slow tempo. However, it served as a necessary break from the fast-paced syncopation from the rest of the album. If you are a fan of bands like Animal Collective, Grizzly Bear or Alt-J, The Dodos should be right up your alley.

If you’ve never listened to 90FM, now is as good a time as ever. 89.9 is your radio dial. Broadcasting 24/7 in high-definition and now 3-D.

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**Alumna Tap Dances for Gillette Venus**

**JULIA FLAHERTY**

Alumna Morgan McMahon recently booked a commercial tap dancing for Gillette Venus, as part of its #UseYourAnd campaign, which encourages women to be more than one thing.

“It’s a cool, inspirational thing, I wasn’t really aware I was a part of until the commercial was released,” McMahon said. “It was asking girls to be smart and something else or beautiful and something else, because you’re not always one thing. You’re not just a one-dimensional label.”

McMahon graduated from the Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2014. After landing an internship in New York that summer, McMahon decided to reside there permanently, having had the plan to relocate to the East coast since grade school.

“It’s always been a plan,” McMahon said. “I just never thought I’d actually follow through with it.”

With a background in dance and not in acting, McMahon found the audition process for Gillette Venus a bit weird.

“It was kind of funny,” McMahon said. “They put me in front of a camera and asked me to describe myself, which was strange. When I got a callback out of that, I talked about my family, my life here and other things.”

When casting directors asked McMahon to dance, she chose to perform tap.

“They were kind of confident,” McMahon said. “I ended up booking it, which was really cool,” McMahon said. “It was me and probably ten other girls on the shoot with all different talents. I got to tap dance by a skyline in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.”

McMahon felt privileged she was given little direction for the commercial.

“They didn’t direct me in any way because no one really knew about dance,” McMahon said. “It was actually really cool because I could do whatever I wanted. It was super fun, and it’s a commercial that’s out there now that will help women feel confident.”

After filming, McMahon was contacted several times by Gillette Venus, who required her approval to use her photograph in its campaign.

“They had to contact me for every little thing that was going to be used, like my face or picture for a thumbnail,” McMahon said. “They had to ask if it was permitted, so it was kind of crazy. I would love to do things like this again in the future.”

McMahon fits Gillette Venus’ campaign slogan, well, as she currently holds many titles.

“I do marketing for the American Tap Dance Foundation and Reception, which is kind of what came out of the internship,” McMahon said. “I am also starting to get certification to be a Pilates instructor through a place called The Lab in Brooklyn.”

This April, McMahon will also commit time to working with a dance company from San Francisco that is starting a New York branch.

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Arts Bash Welcomes Fresh Faces, Modifies Traditions

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Arts Bash 2015 will put a spotlight on new faces within the Stevens Point community as those involved prepare to put a twist on its twelfth year, offering new foods and programs to guests.

The evening will begin with a student fashion show. Guests will have the opportunity to win a custom-made necklace in a raffle. The student fashion show. Guests will have the opportunity to win a custom-made necklace in a raffle. The student fashion show. Guests will have the opportunity to win a custom-made necklace in a raffle. The student fashion show. Guests will have the opportunity to win a custom-made necklace in a raffle.

"She'll be doing a short performance to kick off that part of the evening," Erwin said. "For people who enjoyed seeing her in practically every performance we had when she was a student, they'll be excited to see her back, as we are. She's an amazing actress and singer."

During her time as a student, Berglund always looked forward to being a part of Arts Bash and now anticipates it with even more verve.

"It's been wonderful to have been invited back to get to celebrate the department, which has been such a formative part of my life," Berglund said. "I never thought I would get to go to another one, so this is just awesome."

About 150 pieces of student work will be shown in the Carlsten Art Gallery that evening. The popular "Blood, Guts and Gore" will allow guests the chance to don fake scars, cuts or even give the illusion of impaled glass.

"It's just the craziest thing," Erwin said. "I think you're never going to see or do in your life unless it's Halloween or something special like that. Theatre students in the stage makeup area volunteer to do it every year."

Guests can also have their portraits drawn by art and design students. These events, including food and beverages, are covered by the cost of a ticket.

"I always call it a ten-ring circus because there's so many things going on that night," Erwin said. "Arts Bash does not just attract locals. Erwin said people travel from as far as Florida to attend. She anticipates 800 guests will be circulating at this year's bash."

"It really shows what we're capable of and welcomes guests with open arms to the Noel Fine Arts Center. It shows them all of our student work," Erwin said.

"Eventually that endowment fund will be large enough to give out typically what we would if we still held the event, which is our hope, and we're getting closer every year," Erwin said. "Every year it keeps growing, so until that stops we'll keep doing it."

Erwin estimates over 100 people have come together to help make Arts Bash a success this year.

Students, faculty and staff are prepared, and excited, to welcome guests through their doors to celebrate an all-encompassing look at their passions and hard work.

"It's just celebrating the arts in all forms: culinary, visual, performing, everything," Erwin said. "I really think the theme is to just come and experience what we have to offer and have a great time. It's a really fun evening."