

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS

OF

2015

Embracing the Unexpected: Venturing Forward

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As I sit in the Communication Arts Center (my second home of sorts) on the Sunday night before my last full week of college courses, many thoughts are rushing through my mind. Should I go to a convenience store and get a Mountain Dew? Will it downpour on my way back? And finally, what will I be doing a year from now? What will my life be like?

The answer? I have no idea. And that's just the way I prefer it. I embrace the unexpected.

Instead of spending the weekend slaving away on my million and five papers and video projects,

I spent it finishing up my last wellness credit through a backpacking course up at Treehaven.

I never would have expected I'd use the facility during my years here, but I certainly enjoyed the campus and woods in all its glory. I met people I never would have otherwise and escaped "real life" for a little while. I got to adventure on my own, much like I'll be doing in a larger way very soon.

I came in as a freshman with a high school sweetheart and a vague idea that video journalism and anchoring might be a fun gig. I expected that in four years I would

be married and land a job at a small station somewhere. After three years, I am leaving the university alone with a passion for print journalism and the Fourth Estate.

Journalism is an honorable field. Now, many might disagree, but I will never give up. I will shamelessly bartend or sell overpriced cosmetics door-to-door on the side for McChicken money, but my aspirations will remain.

I want to report the news and contribute to a well-informed, well-educated society. I don't aspire for fame, and I don't want to be a talking head. I believe my wishes are

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GRADUATION 2015

EDITORIAL

Experience Holds More Value than a Degree

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UWSP students, faculty and staff take pride in knowing that many Pointers graduate in four years, which is a great accomplishment considering our issues with bottleneck courses.

I've been at UWSP for two years, and because of earning 30 credits during high school and enrolling in summer courses, I could graduate in one more semester. While I've considered the monetary benefits of graduating one and a half years early, I'm planning to stretch out my time and stay for three full years, without adding another major or minor.

This decision to stay at UWSP weighed on me heavily this year. I compared the benefits of each option, and while I felt pressure to graduate and begin my career early, I realized that I have more to learn and do at UWSP.

During the remainder of my time on campus, I hope to learn more about American literature and study Hawthorne and Melville during a major authors course.

I want to connect with other students, faculty and staff to learn and share their stories.

And I hope to strengthen The Pointer by focusing on our online content and publishing on a daily basis.

I want to spend this time learning more about myself and preparing for life after graduation.

Because we focus on graduat-



ing quickly, we sometimes overlook why students are here. I came to UWSP because we have strong academic programs and opportunities I wouldn't have at a larger school. I want to take advantage of the most I can here before leaving, and I need to stay longer than necessary to do that.

Graduating without delay, which Chancellor Bernie Patterson has made clear he values greatly, is important, but it shouldn't be our only goal. UWSP provides our chance to learn and grow, meet new people, understand the world a little bit better and prepare ourselves for our futures.

While a degree is important, we need to value our experience and education at UWSP more. It's important that students feel that they've prepared themselves to graduate and be successful in the future, no matter the time to degree.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES
REPORT

Sunday, April 26

Female called from the Suites about a man with black sweats and a white or gray sweater being loud and mooning people. He was last seen headed to Lot Q.

Monday, April 27

Facility Services staff member wanted to talk to an officer regarding suspicious items found in Nelson.

Male called to report a college-aged male who was shouting at his family as they loaded a bike onto a vehicle. He was shouting profanity and the caller was concerned for his safety.

Thomson staff member called to ask PS to pick up a box of marijuana and pipes.

The sheriff's office called to report a suicidal male in Schmeckle. He was last seen wearing a black tank top and jeans. He was threatening suicide via hanging.

Tuesday, April 28

Student contacted base to report a stolen backpack from the CMC lab on the third floor of the NFAC. His iPad was in his backpack and he used the Find Your iPad app, but the device was offline.

Wednesday, April 29

Faculty member called to alert PS that she had just kicked a student out of class. He was walking around the building and had a baseball cap on. She thought he needed to talk to someone.

Friday, May 1

Community member called to report young people outside the HEC at the pedestrian crosswalk who appeared to be disturbing and possibly attempting to damage the crosswalk sign.

Saturday, May 2

Steiner staff member called because residents reported a 40 to 45-year-old male subject standing outside pacing for more than an hour. Residents felt uncomfortable by his presence and requested PS come to the area.

Father of student called reporting receiving calls from his daughter's phone by her boyfriend. The father asked to speak with his daughter, but the boyfriend would not let her have the phone.

THE POINTER

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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.

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

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Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to The Pointer, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to pointer@uwsp.edu. 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.

BEHIND
THE BAR

Bulletproof coffee has been a trend that doesn't seem to be going away. Health enthusiasts argue the frothy drink helps burn fat, wards off caffeine crashes and boosts energy. This creamy, fatty combination might be just what we need to make it through finals.

Bulletproof-Style Coffee

1 cup hand-brewed coffee

1 tablespoon butter

1 tablespoon coconut oil

Mix coffee, butter and coconut oil. Blend well. Enjoy.

The Pointer does not promote the consumption of alcohol for people under age 21. When consuming alcoholic beverages, please drink responsibly.

Rethinking a 'Victory Lap'

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I'd like to congratulate my colleagues and classmates who are graduating because it's a great achievement and a milestone in most people's lives. I'd also like to share my opinion on the subject of graduation and rethink what it means to spend more than four years achieving it.

As my fourth year of studying forest management at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is coming to an end, I am not preparing for graduation, rather, I am preparing for one more semester of class.

I realized my graduation would be delayed during an appointment with my adviser in the fall of my junior year. We scoured the cryptic

document called a Degree Progress Report and discovered I had taken about a semester worth of extra-curricular classes that didn't count toward my degree. I had been taking German and intro-level math instead of courses in the forestry major.

I wasn't particularly concerned with the news because I had friends in the same situation and the thought of spending more time in Stevens Point was comforting. Taking more than four years to graduate, after all, isn't so uncommon, right?

My junior year came and went and it wasn't until the end of the fall semester of my senior year that I realized I wasn't as eager to stay another semester as I had thought. I began to feel like the extra time would be a good chance to squeeze out the last bits of college life I know and love, but it may not be the "victory lap" I had imagined.

This realization came on the heels of a summer internship in northern Wisconsin, which helped me mature as both an individual and a professional. I came away from that experience feeling like I had a better understanding of what I needed to do to be successful; I became more aware of my preferences, goals and abilities. In essence, I had grown up a bit.

I built on the internship the following fall and set my sights on grad-

uation. I left my campus job for two others that were better suited to help me grow. I spent less time blowing off assignments and spent more time doing them.

Most recently, I have scaled back some of my club sport commitments and ruthlessly sought summer jobs across the country. I have constantly been busy and certainly stressed, but noticed I was most bored, anxious and unsatisfied when I had nothing to do. My efforts have been successful. I have accepted a summer job, and I feel ready for graduation.

I feel ready for graduation not only because I have stepped up my game as a student and a professional, but because I'm anxious to start a career and college can be a pain. I want financial stability, a permanent job and home. I also want a regular schedule that doesn't require taking quizzes on D2L.

I'm dreading the thought of moving my furniture and belongings in and out of an apartment next semester for what seems like the thousandth time in four years. I'll have to pay another security deposit, which I probably won't get back. I'll add to my mountain of debt by paying for a semester of classes that stand between me and a full-time job. To top it off, I'll be spending the last semester without some of my closest classmates and

friends because they have graduated and left town.

I feel there is something unnatural about graduating in four and a half years. It's like throwing a wrench into the four-year degree plan you buy into when you decide which university to attend after high school.

At the same time, one more semester feels completely natural. Whether I admit it or not, college life is all I've known since graduating high school, and Stevens Point feels like home. I'd be lying if I said I didn't enjoy drinking cheap beer on weekdays. I'd also be lying if I said I can't wait to graduate because the truth is, I can wait.

I'm looking forward to my final semester not as a "victory lap," but as a final opportunity to take advantage of the information, people and resources associated with a college experience. It'll be my final chance to make sure I am ready for a career in my field and it will be a last moment to be immersed in study before life's other challenges take priority. Learning, of course, does not end after graduation, but the situation is different.

Stevens Point has been and will continue to be good to me. I'm excited for another semester at The Pointer and UWSP. I can rest easy at night knowing tests, assignments and most importantly, dollar bottles are in my future.

A Note to Allies, Trailblazers

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I think I'm supposed to be telling you something nostalgic and sentimental this issue, so here's to meeting expectations, both yours and mine, and getting mushy.

I will be finishing college in just three academic years. I am not telling you this to sound exceptional because it's totally feasible. I fully believe you can do it if you set your mind to it, continue on an efficient path, and have the desire to complete college in this speed. I say it because I think part of me is still in disbelief that I'm

finishing school this May.

I remember going into college in September 2012, thinking I would probably have to stay five years. I thought I would be going into the theatre program here, but I continued with communication and am so pleased with what's come of my over-all experience.

Remembering joining the Pointer elicits feelings I cannot put into the best words I'd like to communicate because the profound impact it has had on my college experience, more like my life experience as a whole, has been exceptional.

Upon arriving at the university that September, I didn't know who I would be or what I would do. I had an idea, but I'm not that person. I don't remember who I wanted or expected that person to be.

I'm me, and I'm graduating the same way I came to college: not knowing where I'll end up or what life will bring. To me, that's exciting; that's what it's all about. I've always been one for a challenge in academia and work. Maybe that's why I've ultimately decided to relocate to New Jersey for a job in fashion.

I will be creating social media accounts and a blog for two sis-

ter companies, Veond LLC and ELIETIAN. I am excited to be near Manhattan and to help these brands grow using what I've learned from the programs here and from working for organizations like the Pointer and SPTV. I foresee great potential, and I hope my inklings are correct.

I don't think anything is certain. We can't predict the future, though we might try. We must live in the present. You'll be told this oodles and oodles of times in your life, and if people aren't telling you yet, make them start, or start telling yourself. Don't just try to live presently; do it. Look your life in the eyes and tell it "I'm here, I'm now and this is me." Be a friend to your own experience, whatever that means.

I urge you, graduating or not, to do the things you want. It's your life. College has taught me a lot. Managing type 1 diabetes, creating MissTrendShe.com, joining the Pointer, working for campus media, and on and on, has been a collective of personality, experience and work. It's been me, and from here on out, I'll be exploring me in a new way.

I hope, whatever the summer brings, you can explore new parts of yourself too, and if you ever need

help, I'm always open to networking. Seriously, don't hesitate to reach out.

Also, to visiting potential students or to incoming freshman picking up the Pointer for the first time, don't believe admissions counselors who tell you the saying "Have a Schmeekle Day" is a thing. It isn't. I think they're telling you with the best intentions to start an affirming trend, but in the past three years of being here I haven't heard anyone say it, so I'm just offering a fair warning to you.

I truly feel life should be about helping others and supporting one other, regardless of the path you're pursuing. They say Pointers are trailblazers, and as a soon-to-be alumna, I hope to build upon this legacy of the university's alumni and say I'm going to be an ally to you, too.

Whoever you are, I'm rooting for you. You can do it, whatever it is, whatever you want it to be. Thanks for everything- for your readership, for your support, for your teachings and for your kindness. I will never forget this part of my life. I can't believe I'm about to say goodbye, and it is a good goodbye.

GRADUATION 2015

College: an Intricate Balance

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Navigating college makes a tricky balance between being a dedicated student and a delightful merrymaker.

College is the time to prepare yourself for your future career, but it also marks the last few years of freedom before you must buckle down and prepare for said career.

I like to think that during my time here at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, I found my own version of that balance.

When I started at UWSP, I was an awkward freshman with rusty study

habits and few friends.

Slowly I learned proper study habits and built a circle of friends that I will miss after graduation.

As a member of the women's track and field team, I continued with my passion for hurdling, while I further developed my passion for writing.

I explored Stevens Point in the efforts of finding the perfect study spot for sunny afternoons and the best shops to frequent downtown.

When I transitioned from the dorms to off-campus housing, I was lucky enough to acquire four of the best roommates anyone could ask for. With these girls, a boring night of homework requires multiple ice cream breaks and a power outage calls for a game of Go Fish by candlelight.

After I finished trudging through the required General Degree Requirements, I settled into my major and began building the resume, which I hope will help me enter the career world.

I studied abroad in Australia, conquered the Tough Mudder, joined intramurals and learned how to cook.

Now as I prepare to graduate in

just one short week, I look to pass my wisdom on to those who come after me.

However, I do not wish to reiterate the cliché advice passed on by every graduate.

I would like to encourage a balance. In fact, I would put emphasis on taking a break from studying to have some fun.

You have your whole life to build your career, and in the grand scheme of things, a lower grade every now and again won't make or break your future.

Sometimes you need to set down the homework and hang out with your friends. Soon you will be scattered around the state, country, and, in some cases, the globe.

Spend the extra money to travel through school, whether it's a day trip nearby or months abroad. It may seem like a lot of money now, but it will never be that cheap again, nor will you be able to take the time off.

Go to campus events, performances and movies. Not only have you already paid for them with segregated fees, but these opportunities will not be available to you again.

Go for a walk in Schmeekle.

Who knows where you'll end up after graduation, so do not take nature for granted now.

Most importantly, remember you are young. Don't force yourself to grow up too quickly.

Make sure when your graduation is mere days away, you are satisfied with your college career and have not missed out on anything.

Find your balance and thrive within it.

THE QUICK AND DIRTY:

Fun Facts!

1.) Sperm travels 28 miles per hour. Once it enters the vagina, it slows down. Imagine 4 lanes of traffic merging into one.

2.) Greek couples have sex 138 times a year. Greece comes in first with couples who have the most sex per year, while Japan places last with 45 times per year.

3.) 75 percent of Japanese women own a vibrator. The worldwide average is 47 percent.

4.) The average heart rate for men and women during an orgasm is 140 beats per minute.

5.) Schwangerschaftsverhütungsmittel is the German word for contraceptive.

6.) The founder of match.com, Gary Kremen, lost his girlfriend to a man she met on match.com.

7.) One percent of women can reach orgasm through breast stimulation alone.

8.) The earth could be repopulated to its current level using the number of sperm that could fit into an aspirin capsule.

9.) 2/3 of runners admit to having sexual thoughts while running.

10.) A Scottish study found that following sexual release, people had an easier time public speaking.

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I Am a Writer

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I will say this right away: money is not something I obsess over. That is not to say I am not responsible with it. I am clarifying that I do not mind having a career that does not generate tons of money that some people dream of.

Journalists do not make a lot of money. However, there is an appeal of attending events and meeting new people. Maybe I am attracted to the sense-making aspect of journalism because I have yet to make complete sense of my own life.

I have always had a passion for writing, but when I was in high school certain relatives told me I would never make money as a writer. All they cared about was money, but I envisioned having a little more ful-

fillment in my life. Almost all of my relatives thought the idea was silly, except for my mom.

I used to stay up late and watch "Saturday Night Live" with my mom when I was in high school. She would tell me, "Emily, I can envision you being a writer for Saturday Night Live. You have such good humor and are able to create such interesting stories."

This was not exactly journalism, but she was supportive of my career choice and knew I could succeed.

Originally, I was enrolled in UWSP as an English major, but with nagging comments from friends and relatives at that time, I temporarily trashed my dream of becoming a writer. I settled for biochemistry because everyone said it was where the jobs and money were.

I was good at chemistry and decent at math, but my heart was not there.

In the first semester of my junior year, I knew I needed to get back into writing. I was getting a 'D' in calculus and barely scraping by with a 'C-' in human physiology. This is coming from a former 4.0 student.

I was doing poorly because I was not happy. After talking on the phone with my mom for two and a half hours in the basement of Smith Hall, I decided I had to switch my major to something that would help me become a journalist.

In October 2013, I remember talking with Carol Lanphear-Cook in

Student Academic Advising Center and she told me a Communication major with a media studies emphasis would be the best fit for me.

My journey to become a journalist really took off when my adviser Steve Hill told me to attend one of The Pointer meetings. I began as a contributor who mostly wrote for Pointlife or Arts and Entertainment.

I began earning A's in classes again because I was happy with what I was doing. In the summer of 2014 I found out I was going to be the Pointlife editor, and I could not have been happier.

This past year, I wrote 40 articles within the first semester, lost track in the second and edited countless articles. It was so much fun for me, I forgot I got paid. It is not about money for me. It is something I enjoy doing and I do not think I could live without.

This weekend, my mom came to the Communication Awards Banquet and said she was so proud of me. I am excited to walk on May 16, but at some points I thought, "I have to go to another event? Just mail me my damn diploma."

It has been a whirl wind during college and I am ecstatic to step into the next phase of my life.

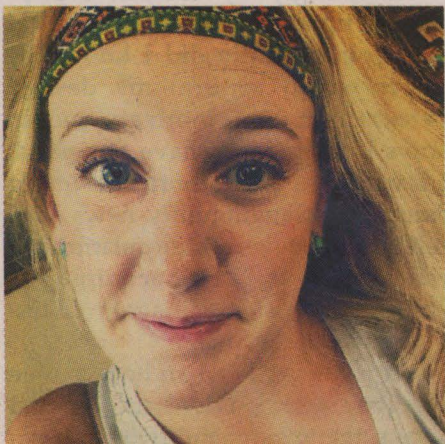
After I graduate, I will be searching for a job which will hopefully be as fulfilling as my position was at The Pointer. I am a writer and nothing can change that.

Don't Be Afraid to Find Yourself

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As I am writing this, I am thinking about how today marks exactly two weeks until I am officially done with college. This chapter of my life has flown by and has without a doubt been truly remarkable. I will say it had its ups and downs, but I like to think of the fonder times when I recollect.

I have gone to school for four years in pursuit of my degree but have only attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for two. I started my journey at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where I earned my associate's and decided to transfer to UWSP to pursue my bachelor's.

Moving to a much smaller community and not knowing a soul was one of the hardest challenges I've

ever faced. There were some days at first when I felt like I barely had a conversation with someone. It took me a few months to really get my feel of the place I now called home. By the time Thanksgiving rolled around, I felt much more comfortable with what I was doing and started making a few good friends.

I would have to say last year was the year of my life: the year when I made the most changes to myself and what I was doing. I started becoming more active in organizations like The Pointer and SPTV, and I figured out what I really want to do "when I grew up."

I came into my first meeting at The Pointer and was a little nervous. I soon realized how different and similar newspapers could be. Right away I noticed the set up of the paper being much different than the paper I was an editor for at Kirkwood.

The people in the newsroom almost mimicked each other. It's a little hard to explain the way a newsroom works to outsiders, but believe me when I say most newsrooms are similar. Certain editors want things one way and their visions are completely pinpointed, while others are a little more free to let the writers explore.

When I ventured to SPTV, I really just wanted to know more about it and see what the TV business entailed. I started showing up

to news shows and taking volunteer positions until I eventually applied to be a news producer. Once I found out I obtained the position, I felt torn. Do I keep writing for The Pointer or just focus on this? I decided to focus on learning the ropes as a news producer for awhile and then started to contribute to the paper.

With all of my experience in both realms of journalism, I've decided that eventually I want to be a multimedia reporter for a daily news publication. I am hoping with my position I have lined up at the Northwood Anchor in Northwood, Iowa that I will still be able to do some multimedia reporting as well as writing.

Aside from focusing on my studies and involvement in the Pointer and SPTV, I have gained some amazing friends and had some unforgettable memories. My word of advice to all you freshmen, get out there and socialize as much as possible. It may be hard at first adjusting to new territory, but you can do it.

Meeting people in a new location and not knowing whether they will like you is scary but so exhilarating all at the same time. No, not everyone will like you. That's true in any situation. Those people who do like you, and who you decide to create friendships with, will make your time in college worthwhile.

College is the only time you can go out as much as you want and

maybe be a little reckless. I have had a few times where I would go to class still reeking of booze and bad decisions and get away with it. Why? Because everyone has done it at least once.

No, I don't think you should forget about your studies, but balance is key to a memorable college experience. How many times can you say that you stayed up until 7 a.m. and walked to Perkins in the pouring rain with your best friends? I can tell you it's only happened to me once. Also, if you get the chance to go to The Store and ring the bell, do it. I am telling you to live a little. Do things that you wouldn't normally have it in yourself to do.

Be able to stand up for what you believe in and make your own path. This is the molding time in your life where you can figure out what you want to do and who you want to be. Both of these concepts can be ever evolving, but I would take this opportunity to lay down some stones and start following your path.

For me, I have started to pave my way in journalism and figure out who I am as a person in these four short years. Now, I think I may actually know who I am, and I've learned that by standing up for what I believe in and really weighing all the options in situations. Take this opportunity to learn who you are and try not to be afraid of it.

Learning from Life's Existential Crises

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For as long as I can remember, I have been counting down to the last day of school. Graduating from university used to seem like a far-off event that would never happen, but now here I sit. Just over a week away from walking across the stage and receiving my bachelor's degree. I was beyond ready to graduate and finally get out of school, but now that it is staring me in the face I can admit I am nervous.

In the four years I have attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, I have been able to do some amazing things and meet some truly extraordinary people. I met my two best friends freshman year, I helped publish a book, I made life-long connections while studying abroad, and I had the privilege of working for this wonderful publication. I am so grateful for the people I have had the pleasure of learning with and the people I complained about reading middle English with. And of course, I cannot leave without giving many, many massive thanks to the professors and professionals who kept my love of literature alive and gave me the support I needed to follow my dreams.

I have had the last month to re-acclimate myself to living in the United States and think about life after graduation. Most of the thoughts I have are ones of terror: fearing the unknown, wondering where the years went and how I got to be so old. I am such a small little pebble in this big wide world, so am I even worthy of success? How do I get to a place where I belong? Et cetra, et cetera, et

cetra. Sometimes I find myself seriously disinterested in things I used to love and become immobilized by existential crises.

It is in those times that I sit back, breathe, and remember: There is always hope.

The unknown will always be a constant as you can never know what life will hold. That is not something to fear. Grab a battering ram and break through the fear that blocks the metaphorical door to your future. Self doubt may come with that fear of the unknown. Stare your self doubt down, stick your finger in its face, and tell it that you are a fantastic human being. You have skills and you have worth and you will do amazing things. And yes, mortality can be hard to swallow sometimes. Very often I forget that I am 21 years old and not 86 years old. We are all still so young and there is plenty of time to live, to experience, to learn.

After graduation, I am packing up and moving eastward. Though I do love this state and it is where I grew up, I have never truly felt a sense of belonging here. However,

I do know that I belong in England as it is where I was born and will forever hold the largest place in my heart. With that, I am consciously making a change and taking steps to get somewhere I love. I am doing it to make me happy because life is far too short to stay in a place you do not feel like you belong just because it is safe and comfortable. Do something that scares you as it may turn out to be the best decision you will ever make. Send a love letter, move across the country, audition for the principal role of a Broadway production. Whatever it is you feel passionately about, do it.

Growing up and being in your 20s is terrifying, but it is also the best time of your life. All of us will take missteps and none of us will be immune to sadness, but we all have the power to do something. Chase your dreams, never stop learning, wear sunscreen, and, most importantly, find what makes you happy and allows you to live the best life for you.

Congratulations, class of 2015! May you continue to blaze all the trails life takes you on.

GRADUATION 2015

Defining a Pointer

CARLY CAPUTA

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What is a Pointer? You hear this term tossed around a lot when you attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, but no one really tells you exactly what it is.

Is it the little metal thing on a compass? A hunting dog? I honestly thought it was just someone who points when I first heard the term.

It is all of these, but it is so much more.

A Pointer is someone who makes it to an 8 a.m. class when it is -36 degrees outside without the wind chill, which happens way more often than it should.

They are the people who have overload credits, two jobs and somehow find time to binge on 10 hours of Netflix in a single weekend.

A Pointer is someone who shows no shame in owning seven different articles of camouflage clothing. They are also the people who have no problem running around in seven different fabric patterns with no shoes on.

A Pointer is the person willing to move across the state, across the country, across the world, to follow

a dream, whether that is choosing to come study at UWSP or taking the risk after graduation to move to a great unknown.

A Pointer is someone who truly loves this university. There is a certain nationalism here, shared among these people. They realize that UWSP may not be the most well-known and prestigious university on the planet, but they love it anyway.

A Pointer is someone who embraces this university to its fullest, getting the most out of the time at UWSP, no matter how long or short that may be.

You don't become a Pointer from enrolling here at UWSP. You have to earn it.

The fact is there are people who graduate not knowing the true meaning of their title.

My freshman year here, I had a fascination with the compass rose design. I drew it on everything: the margins of my notes, napkins at Upper Debot, even on a couple walls around campus... but I could never bring myself to draw the arrow. It had something to do with not knowing where I was going in life.

Four years and a college career later, I am an entirely different person graduating with a completely different major. I am packing to leave the state I had sworn never to leave and somehow I am writing an opinion for, ironically, The Pointer. But one thing remains the same.

I still draw these same compasses, and I still leave out the arrow. I really don't need it. I am my own Pointer.

I promised I wouldn't write about myself for this, so I will end with a separate parting note. This campus is so fantastic. Embrace it... be a Pointer.

continued from page 1

simple and attainable.

I definitely didn't plan on graduating as a junior - mainly because I didn't know it was possible. After packed semesters and summer and winter courses, I can honestly say it was worth the crazy schedule and gallons of caffeine. At 21, I'll be debt-free and starting a new chapter with the job I hoped for in a place where I don't know a soul.

That's not to say I didn't have a social life while I was here. I learned more about life and myself in these three years than in my childhood and adolescence combined. I sowed wild oats I didn't even know I had and met some of the most amazing people, all while this school and city grew near and dear to my heart.

My life has been a series of unexpected happenings. As a freshman, I never would have imagined I would have the opportunity to cover Gov. Scott Walker's proposed budget cuts to the University of Wisconsin System, an issue of great public interest. Not only is it a resume-booster, but it has truly prepared me for my desired career and affirmed what I want to do.

I fell into fumbling, awkward teenage love, then quickly realized I wasn't quite ready for the commitment of a serious relationship. Consequently, I certainly wouldn't have expected to host an SPTV talk show giving love and dating advice (which is oddly popular with random dads on YouTube).

On the same topic, I definitely wouldn't have imagined that I'd go on an extravagant date with a complete stranger in Los Angeles. Talk about reckless.

More recently, I would have never expected that I was capable of staying up all night and then driving to Milwaukee in the wee hours of the morning for what turned out to be a truly life-changing trip and job interview. Yelling along with the radio to stay awake proved worth it when I landed a city reporter position at the Gillette News Record in Wyoming.

As an extroverted people person who mostly leans left politically, I'll be moving to the least populous state that also happens to be very red, in search of my next adventure. Whether we're talking about college, life, love or anything else, it's all about embracing the unexpected. Heck, maybe I'll even find a cowboy who knows what the Oxford comma is. You just never know.

Don't squander your time at this university. If there's something you want to do, by golly, go do it. The majority of people probably would not expect a bubbly, sometimes ditzzy-sounding girl to have great interest in covering government and politics, but lo and behold, here I am.

My involvement in student media is something that happened naturally. I would even say most of it fell directly into my lap.

I started out anchoring at SPTV, then stepped into a staff position as business director, keeper of the

coin, working with the Student Government Association and managing the station's budget - not what I aspire to do with my life, but a great experience.

Seemingly by chance, I happened upon my first meeting at The Pointer. Little did I know, the paper would confirm my desired career path and motivate me in ways I never could have imagined. I started out as a reporter covering campus and community news, and fell into the news editor position the following year. Then I acquired the environment section, again seemingly by pure chance.

It has truly been an honor to be involved with student media, and I take the responsibility very seriously. I know that those we pass the torch to will continue to serve the student body through reporting and investigating.

It's borderline ridiculous how things have wonderfully fallen into place during my time here. On top of my student media responsibilities, a great internship at The Portage County Gazette transpired out of the blue this semester. I started worrying that I wouldn't be able to fit in an internship before my early graduation, but this one was just the ticket. I further refined my skills and learned from great, supportive mentors who I couldn't be more thankful for.

Responsibilities are fantastic, but at the same time, don't squander these years in terms of reckless shenanigans. What will you remember more 50 years from now? Fretting over a D2L quiz or running wild through the streets in the rain with your best friends? Take the chance while you have it.

Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and just go for it. Life is short and college is shorter, especially if you jam everything in as I did. It's simply too short to be unhappy. Live for the moment and reach as far as your little heart desires.

Don't fret over what other people think of you. It's not worth your time and will only make you miserable in the end. If you're not someone's cup of tea, then too bad for them. Be your own shot of whiskey. One of life's greatest accomplishments should be self-acceptance and being unapologetically you.

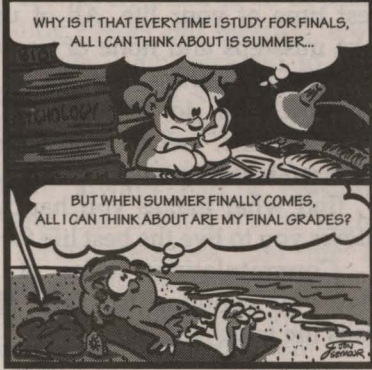
Sure, your impression matters to employers, but the right one will look past initial awkward nervousness and see your passion and drive for what you do.

To wrap up this rambling, sometimes cheesy reflection, I'd just like to say thanks to everyone who has helped me along or offered support in any way - family, friends, professors, co-workers, friendly cashiers and plenty of other strangers along the way. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

As for you Pointers who will remain here or have yet to arrive, good luck and Godspeed. Go forth and blaze the trail less traveled by.



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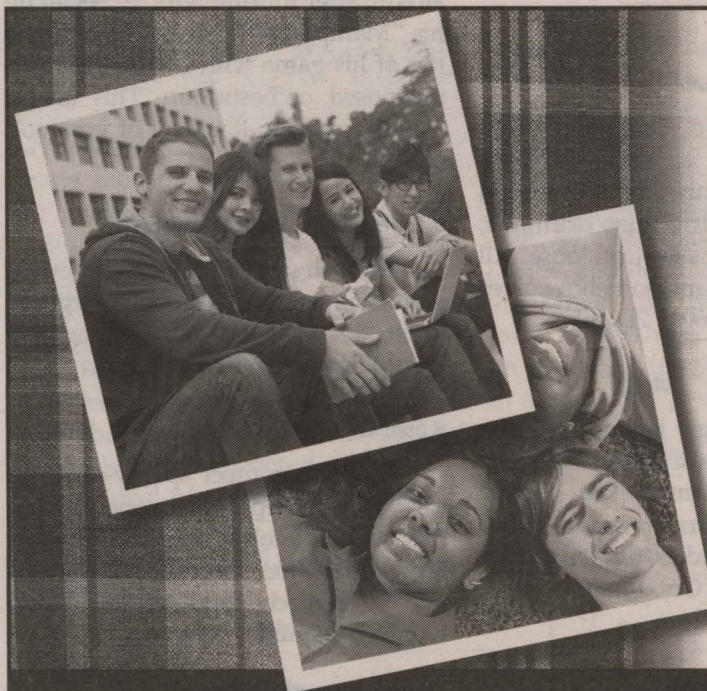
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90FM Summer Playlist



DAN WATERMAN
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In no particular order, here are some artists and albums that will make waves in the music ocean this summer. There's a plethora of fantastic music fresh out of the oven, so here's a baker's dozen to feast your ears on.

1. *Alabama Shakes – "Sound and Color"*

Brittany Howard, singer and guitarist, has one of the best voices in music right now. R&B, soulful and bluesy, this album presents a darker side than its debut album, "Boys and Girls" from three years ago.

2. *Courtney Barnett – "Sometimes I Sit and Think and Sometimes I Just Sit"*

Barnett, an Australian native, has a stream-of-consciousness style of songwriting that's infectious, quirky and sarcastic. Enjoy responsibly with Vegemite.

3. *Guantanamo Baywatch – "Darling... It's Too Late"*

Featuring my favorite band name

of 2015, this album will make you shake like a fool. Twangy doo-woppy style instrumental jams are mixed with party surf-rock anthems. If this album were a child, it would be a son of a beach.

4. *Avid Dancer – "1st Bath"*

This is Jacob Summers' first release. He is a once-sheltered fundamentalist Christian kid turned world-champion drum-line drummer, ex-marine and Alaskan reckloose. All of this culminates and somehow gives his album a truly '60s/'70s vibe.

5. *My Morning Jacket – "Waterfall"*

My Morning Jacket is the quintessential rock band of our generation. Front-man Jim James' songwriting is as ripe as a summer berry and the band is tighter than a small coat on John Goodman.

6. *Wand – "Golem"*

Get ready to have your brain blown out your coccyx region. Wand is loud, abrasive and raunchy. You could tell the band, but they would probably tell you to suck an egg.

7. *Mikal Cronin – "MC III"*

Even though this is West coast rocker Mikal Cronin's third solo album, after touring with Ty Segall on his "Manipulator" release, he is at the top of his game with exceptional self-composed orchestration. This album is guaranteed to touch all of your soft spots.

8. *Lower Dens – "Escape From Evil"*

This album sounds like how it would have felt to lose your virginity in the '80s or at least what I imagine it would have been like.

9. *Sam Cohen – "Cool It"*

Folk songs meet spacey-synth in this futuristic epic. The songs within this album evolve and converge in larger-than-life grand crescendos, which anybody fond of Pink Floyd would be familiar with.

10. *Blur – "The Magic Whip"*

This is the '90s powerhouse's first album in a dozen years. Since the band's last release, front-man Damon

Albarn has put out solo albums and produced a little known project called "Gorillaz." This album, however, was conceived over five days in Hong Kong after a canceled Japan tour in 2013.

11. *Modest Mouse – "Strangers To Ourselves"*

Well, we'll all float on and eventually find us as "Strangers to Ourselves." After replacing everybody in his band, "Good News For People Who Love Bad News," Isaac Brock is pretty much left to his own devices, which includes quite the potty mouth.

12. *Vetiver – "Complete Stranger"*

If you're down to chill, all of Vetiver's albums are refreshing. "Complete Strangers" is no exception; think The Shins meets Devendra Bonhart.

13. *Staves – "If I Was"*

Wisconsin native, Justin Vernon (Bon Iver, Volcano Choir, Gayngz), produced this album. Featuring three fantastic UK vocalists, Vernon invited them to his Eau Claire studio, and the rest is history.