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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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 graduating 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.

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.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Sunday, April 26

Female called from the Suites about a man with black sweat and a white or gray sweater being loud and menacing 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 Schneecke. 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 NFC. 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.

THE POINTER

Editorial

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

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

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 totaled 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 my first internship help 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 graduation. I left my campus job for two classes, some of my club sport commitments, and a blog for two sisters’ companies, Veond LLC and ELEIETIAN. 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.”

I’m here, I’m now and this is me.

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, 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 this part of the book, don’t believe admissions counselors who tell you the saying “Have a Schmeeckle Day” is a thing. It isn’t. I think they’re telling you with the best intentions to start an affirming narrative, but 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.

Whatever 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.

A Note to Allies, Trailblazers

JULIA FLAHERTY
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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 overall 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 sister companies, Veond LLC and ELEIETIAN. 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.

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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, I’ll be exploring me in a new way.

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College: an Intricate Balance

REBECCA VOSTERS
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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.

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 vision 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 the world of writing. I was failing a "C" 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 Lanphere-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 has been a whirlwind during 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.

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.

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

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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

EMILY MARGESON CONTRIBUTOR emargs634@uwsp.edu

As I am writing this, I am thinking about how today marks exactly two weeks until I am officially done. I will say it has flown by and has without a doubt been truly remarkable. I have only attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point for two years in pursuit of my degree but have made 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 have the privilege of working for this wonderful publication. I am so grateful for all of these experiences and I wish there are many more to come. The people in the newsroom almost mimicked each other. It’s a little hard to explain how a newsroom works to outsiders, but believe me when I say most newsrooms are similar. Certain editors want things one way, and their opinions are completely pinned down, whereas others are a little more free to let the writers explore.

When I ventured to SFTP, I was just beginning to know 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 SFTP, 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 reeling from 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 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, I have a better understanding of who I am and try not to be afraid of it.

Learning from Life’s Existential Crises

CARLY KEEN MANAGING EDITOR ckeen607@uwsp.edu

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 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. As I prepared for my 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 all of these experiences and I wish there are many more to come. The people in the newsroom almost mimicked each other. It’s a little hard to explain how a newsroom works to outsiders, but believe me when I say most newsrooms are similar. Certain editors want things one way, and their opinions are completely pinned down, whereas others are a little more free to let the writers explore.

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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.
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 this university 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 falling 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 deftly starting my 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 did I cover a resume-booster, but it is truly prepared me for my desired career and affirmed what I want to do.

I fell into fumbling, awkward teenery, 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 leads 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 need to do, go do it. The majority of people probably would not expect a bubbly, sometimes ditzy-sounding girl to have great interest in covering government and politics, but to anyone who knows me, this remains the same. 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 semester and summer and I will forever be grateful.

Seemingly by chance, I happened upon my first meeting at The Pointer. Little did I know, the experience would push me to define my 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 for a 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 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 paper, the impossibilities, 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 find a job in an internship and unsure how much the 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 partying or 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 find a job in an internship and unsure how much the 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.

Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there and just go for it. Life is short and college is shorter, especially if you were able to squeeze 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.

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.

Here are your impressions for employers, but the right one will look past initial awkward nervous­ness and see your passion and drive for what you do.

To wrap 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, friends of friends 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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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. AviL Dancer - "Ist 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 recklouse. All of this culminates and somehow gives his album a truly ‘60s/’70s vibe.

5. My Morning Jacket - "Water(atr"
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 - "Gelert"
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. Mika Cronin - "MC Ill"
Even though this is West coast rocker Mika 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.

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 Banhart.

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.