Students Respond to Differential Tuition Referendum

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Students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point shared their thoughts on the future with differential tuition after the proposal asking for it passed in a referendum last week.

Students approving differential tuition was a major step in having it implemented at UWSP. If the UW System Board of Regents approve the measure, students will pay an additional $200 per semester in exchange for fewer bottleneck courses and hiring more professional advisers.

Differential Tuition Passes in Largest Student Turnout

Erin Gellings, freshman communication sciences and disorders major, said she voted in favor of differential tuition.

“I voted for it because I think it is really important that everybody has good advisers,” she said.

Allie Tripp, freshman interior architecture major, said she did not participate in the referendum but that she thought she probably would have voted against the measure.

“I don’t think it will effect me at all except I have to pay $200,” she said. “It has nothing to do with me.”

A total of 3,357 students responded to the online voting system, and 3,308 recorded a vote, marking a turnout of about 35 percent. The next highest turnout was in spring 2014 for the construction of a health and wellness building, which garnered a 16 percent turnout.

The proposal passed by 804 votes, with 2,056 students voting in favor and 1,252 against. This makes the referendum the largest student turnout in the past 10 years, said SGA President Katie Cronmiller.

The next step, Cronmiller said, is to report the referendum results to the UW System Board of Regents. The board will make the final decision on whether differential tuition will become a reality at the university.

Although the board can decide to vote on the proposal any time, SGA will be pushing the board to make a decision as soon as possible.

“We will be doing everything we can to get it on the December agenda,” Cronmiller said.

Regardless of the board’s decision, the vote is something all students should celebrate, Cronmiller said.

“I’m just really proud of our student body for turning out in the way that they did,” she said.

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Party.O Brings an Alternative to Classic House Parties

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It is no secret that many classic college parties consist of music, dancing and lots of alcohol.

But Party.O, a nonprofit organization, is helping students get that same college party experience except there is one catch. No alcohol is provided or allowed at its parties.

Jake White, founder and executive director of Party.O, was a non-traditional student at University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh when he came up with the idea to have sober parties. He had decided not to consume alcohol and was looking to still have fun during college.

"It is great in that it gives incoming students a chance to make connections in a safe and friendly manner," said Lien Nguyen, biochemistry major. "Incoming students tend to come to a university with a false pretense of what college life is really like, which could be staying out all night drinking and partying. But to have an org that says it is okay to party without alcohol or drugs states that, you don't need those things in order to have fun or make friends."

A classic Party.O house party includes lots of food, people and games, such as beer pong and water bowl, minus the alcohol. The sober parties have become huge events where many large food franchises, such as Jimmy John's, Little Caesars and Red Bull, sponsor food or drinks. Party.O provides an alternative to drinking culture.

"I am so excited to have parties without alcohol," said Mariah Pfundheller, special education major. "It will be great for students undergraduate and students of age that don't drink. It is also inclusive to different religions and cultures that don't drink alcohol."

Justin Spanbauer, drama major and former UW-Oshkosh student, transferred to UW-Stevens Point and is interested in developing a Party.O community with students' help.

"It's easy to choose to drink if the alternative choice is to not have fun. We want to provide a cool option," Spanbauer said.

Currently, there are 50 students who have signed up for the Stevens Point Party.O community. Spanbauer is in the early stages of developing this organization and is hoping to host sober events this upcoming spring semester. He is trying to build interest around campus to get more students involved.

"Campus has a lot of events that do not involve drinking and still allow you to meet new people and have fun. There's many options to have fun without drinking," says Tim Tieu, biology major. "It's more about people that you're with than the substances. It's not bad to drink, but this is a good healthy alternative."

To get involved in Party.O activities, students must be on the organization's texting list. An individual will get a text from partyo.org/nation and enter their birthday, e-mail and phone number to participate.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES
REPORT

Sunday, Nov. 8
A Neale Hall CA contacted Protective Services for assistance with a situation concerning alcohol and marijuana.

Monday, Nov. 9
A male individual reported his bike had been stolen while he was working in the Suzuki Center in the NMAC.

Tuesday, Nov. 10
The Stevens Point Police Department notified PS about a deer located off campus behind Kentucky Fried Chicken.

A Steinier Hall CA contacted PS after reportedly smelling marijuana in the dorm.

Wednesday, Nov. 11
PS was informed by a faculty member about a missing painting from the art department.

The DUC called PS about a male college student, who was seen between the DUC and Lot R, laying on the ground and rolling on the rocks in the parking lot.

Thursday, Nov. 12
Hall Directors from Thompson and Burroughs Halls wanted to conduct a report about an individual who they had said had been trying to break into their apartments and also going on their porches multiple times in the past few weeks.

A male individual from custodial management notified PS that the outside of Nelson Hall looked out of place. He had been wondering if someone tried to break in via the second floor balcony.

Friday, Nov. 13
PS was notified about an individual sleeping in a car in Lot T.

A Knothen Hall CA called PS regarding a situation with students in a room on the second floor of the dorm. The CA said she could hear the people in the room yelling about how drunk they were. Students in the room also refused to give up the alcohol when contact was made.

Saturday, Nov. 14
PS were notified and responded to a disorderly male near Lot V, on the corner of Isadore and Portage Streets.

Correction:
The photos in "Carlsten Gallery Exhibits Over Two Decades of the Pointer Press" printed in last week's issue were incorrect. They were of prints that are not currently on display at the gallery.

THE POINTER
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Photos by Lily Dettle
Students Strive to Achieve Work, School, Social Balance

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With the end of the semester in sight, it can be hard for students to balance their social life with an immense amount of school work. Here's what they're saying.

Adam Nicks, junior business major, said he maintains a healthy social life while getting all of his work done.

"I'm always pretty good at prioritizing my life and setting time aside for studying and setting time aside for fun. I think there is a balance in life, not everything is white and not everything is black. I work to reach towards that happy median," Nicks said.

Nicks said he admits being friends with his roommates is an easy and convenient way to maintain his social life.

"I think that everybody is kind of struggling with something. Some people are better at managing stress than others. I don't think that stress is always a bad thing. I think it can be a good thing because it can motivate you to get stuff done," he said.

Nicks said he suggests students struggling with their social life should try to make friends with people from their classes.

"Making friends with the people in your classes gives you a chance to have a social life, while studying and learning. It gives you a support group of people that are going through the same thing," Nicks said.

Jillian Demus, junior wildlife ecology major, said she spends most of her days studying and sets time aside in the evenings to hang out with her friends.

"On the weekends I don't study as much. That's another way that I let off some stress. Having one free day of doing no school work and chilling is nice," Demus said.

Demus said she suggests students who are overwhelmed with school work take one day to forget about their stressors and relax.

"When I'm studying all day I don't want to continue to do that or be alone all day. Socializing is just something that I feel is necessary in life," she said.

"I think I have a good balance between my school work and social life."

Derek Steger, junior graphic design major, said he does most of his studying and work from home.

"Being friends with my roommates allows me to hang out with their friends. It's nice because their friends will come over to our house, so I get to hang out with different people," he said.

Steger said he admits to sometimes sacrificing his homework for the opportunity to socialize.

"I'm on a computer a lot so it's important for me to make the time to have face to face connections. People are already on their phones a lot throughout the day as it is," Steger said.

Maintaining a social life is still important for students who are getting in the midterm rut.

Students Discuss Veterans' Lives, Trauma

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On the United States Marine Corps' 240th birthday and the eve of Veterans Day, the university's Veterans' Club members spoke at Coffee and Culture to discuss their time in various military branches, ranging from the Wisconsin National Guard to the U.S. Army to the U.S. Air Force. Some members said they stayed countryside, while others were deployed outside of the states to places such as Iraq and Kosovo.

When asked about what they missed most during their time serving, the speakers had staggering answers.

"Color. I missed seeing color. Because it's just dessert. It's tan. It's a boring color, and you see that for seven months straight," said Tegan Griffith about her time in Iraq. "I would cut pages from National Geographic, and I made this giant mural in my little plywood-but that was of water, flowers and bright colors."

Griffith served four years active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and currently studies communication at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Many speakers applauded UWSP Veteran Coordinator Ann Whip for her outstanding job of helping veterans adjust to campus life.

Christopher Slattery, U.S. Air Force member and history and political science major, commended Whip for her advisement, and he also recognized David Chrisisinger's First Year Seminar class for veterans.

Slattery recommended that all professors be aware of mental illness struggles veterans go through.

Cali Olson, a freshmen psychology major, attended this event for a class but found the panelists' stories influenced her more than she expected.

"It was really interesting to hear about the student veterans' transitions back to civilian life and how they feel about their college experience. Their stories and memories made me laugh. It was nice to get to know them," Olson said.

As for veterans seeking help or those who are just coming to UWSP, Whip has some advice.

"Come. Come and talk," she said.

Senator Julie Lassa, Representative Katrina Shankland and members from the Veteran's Service Office, Stevens Point Police Department, Portage County Sheriff's Department and the La Crosse Veterans Center attended this meeting.

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Of the six students surveyed by The Pointer staff, five did not participate in the referendum.

Kendra Kudla, freshman interior or architecture major, said she did not vote because she did not feel sufficiently informed.

"A lot of the information was confusing from my point of view," she said.

Tyler Bohr, freshman education and special education major, said he simply did not have enough information to make an informed vote.

Kaitlin Piette, sophomore international studies major, said she supported differential tuition but said she could not find the time to participate in the referendum.

But some students still found the results exciting.

"Hopefully my financial problems will be solved, and people will get out at the time they want and expect to be," Piette said.

Gellings also said she looked forward to the opportunity to graduate on time.

"Now I expect to get out in four years for sure," she said. "I guess I have higher expectations."
Research Project to Tap Health Benefits of Grapes

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A University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point research project may uncover the secret to producing a food supplement from grapes.

Resveratrol, an antioxidant believed to provide several health benefits like the ability to lower cholesterol, is found in high quantities in grapes.

Paul Fowler, director of the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology, became interested in the idea in 2013 and said the market for the drug is expanding. The institute is headquartered at UWSP, and Fowler said the chemical may be linked to lowering the risk of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

Bruce Okray is a professional grape grower from California. Two acres were cleared and planted per Skinner’s design with 1500 vines in spring 2014 in one of Okray’s fields.

The project was originally funded by a USDA grant, which supported institute activities. Because the grant expired, the institute now supports the project. Fowler contacted vegetable grower Dick Okray of Plover Vegetable LLC and UWSP foundation board member Dr. Paul Skinner, a professional grape grower from California. Two acres were cleared and planted per Skinner’s design with 1500 vines in spring 2014 in one of Okray’s fields. The project was originally funded by a USDA grant, which supported institute activities. Because the grant expired, the institute now supports the project.

Skinner received his undergraduate degree in resource management from UWSP and followed research on health effects of grapes since earning his PhD in agriculture from the University of California, Davis. He said his experience in Germany during the European environmental studies seminar with UWSP sparked his interest in grapes.

“One class in soils really got me started,” he said. “The broad background here allowed me to do several different things.”

Skinner’s career in consulting with grape growers has taken him to vineyards around the world. He sourced UWS’s grapes from growers in cold-climate states like Washington, New York and Minnesota.

“I’ve seen a lot of grapes growing in many different conditions. I’ve done quite a bit of work in China, and much of the country gets pretty cold,” he said.

Skinner’s work in China exposed him to eastern pharmaceuticals, including resveratrol. Most of the United States’ supply of the supplements come from Asia, and there are concerns about quality and consistency among products, he said.

Resveratrol, an antioxidant found in grapes, may be linked to lowering Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. Photo by Glen Moberg, Wisconsin Public Radio.

“Going to China, I got to see all those crazy pharmaceuticals,” he said. “It’s marketed as a wonder drug, but there’s no assurance of quality.”

Each part of the plant will be tested by staff of the institute in campus facilities. The grapes themselves will be produced when the plants mature next year, but initial results have indicated that the woody tissues of the plant are rich with resveratrol.

“The grapes are pruned each year,” Fowler said. “There is a pretty significant quantity in the prunings.”

Fowler explained how the chemical is extracted from the plant by cutting tissues into half-inch pieces and placing them in an accelerated alcohol extractor. Another method being explored is freeze drying and milling wet material, which tends to be somewhat less effective, he said.

“The accelerated process is kind of like a pressure cooker,” he said. “We’re trying to figure out where the opportunity lies economically.”

Fowler is happy with the way the project has progressed. The team was concerned about extreme winter temperatures, site infertility and potential damage from deer, but growth has been good.

Both Fowler and Skinner said they owe much of the success to efforts by Okray and his niece, Gabrielle Eck, who helps tend the vines. Okray and Eck receive no payment for their contributions.

“Dick was really enthusiastic about it,” Fowler said. “He’s looking for an angle on commercialization.”

Skinner is pleased with the efforts.

“Dick is a very innovative thinker,” he said. “He’s embraced a lot of risk.”

Fowler thinks the project could help bring attention to the science of extracting special chemicals from plants. The possibilities for new jobs and industries in the area are exciting, he said.

“This could be a flagship to look at other vegetables that are grown in the region,” he said. “We’ve got a lot of the major vegetables right here.”

Fowler said he’s even thinking of non-food opportunities associated with plant-derived chemicals.

“How do they form a part of an industrial chemical supply chain?” he said. “Those are areas that are growing pretty significantly.”

The team wants to increase student involvement with the project, both afield and in the lab. Skinner thinks UWSP is a ‘prime participant’ for the work and is ambitious about the future and possible collaborations.

“We could provide career opportunities that aren’t on the traditional path,” he said. “The challenge is to find your way into private world support of your own activities.”

Students, Faculty Discuss Wisconsin’s Hunting Tradition

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The week of Thanksgiving is a special time in Wisconsin. For nine days, men, women and children take part in one of the state’s biggest traditions—deer hunting.

Students and faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point discussed their hunting background and their plans to participate in this year’s hunt, which will run from Nov. 21 through Nov. 29.

Scott Hygnstrom, Douglas R. Stephens chair in wildlife and natural resources- deer hunting.

A UWSP student Zach Richards poses with his deer.

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pates in the annual gun season. "I never forget my first deer," Brault said. "It was a doe, probably 50 yards away. I was so nervous. I actually asked my dad if I was allowed to shoot it."

He admits part of the reason he hunts is because of his upbringing and the values instilled in him by his family. "I think there's less kids doing it now," he said, "My dad's dad used to do it. It's not something you'd do if your family wasn't into it."

Like many sportsmen, Brault's hunting experiences are about more than bringing home venison. He said he loves the time outdoors and the stories of memorable hunts gone by. "It's honestly not even about shooting a deer," he said. "It's about spending time with my dad and my family."

Like Brault, fisheries freshman Zach Mohr shot his first deer with a gun at age 12 but now prefers bow hunting. He bow hunts regularly near Stevens Point and said he is planning to hunt six of nine days during the gun season on his uncle's property in Sand Creek.

Rule changes requiring electronic registration of killed deer, enforced by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, have him concerned for the upcoming season.

The new rules may detract from the tradition of hunters registering their deer in-person at places like gas stations, he said, even though the DNR is encouraging business to maintain their role by offering internet and phone resources for registrants.

"It's easier for the hunter, but it takes the camaraderie out of it," he said.

Mohr hunts a variety of wildlife species throughout the year but said deer hunting is an ultimate thrill, sometimes making his hands and body shake.

"When you sit for two hours and then your heart rate goes so high, that's what I like," Mohr said. "It's exhilarating."

He recalled a memorable hunt when he predicted a buck to come through his area after some fellow hunters traversed an adjacent field on the closing weekend of the season. He only had to wait mere minutes before the ten-point crossed his sights.

"Everyone else was staying in that weekend," he said. "People thought the big bucks were dead. It was pretty awesome."

Andrew Ziel, sophomore urban forestry major, said his hunting tradition varies from year to year. He and his father normally hunt in the northern part of Iron County with his father's friend. Recently, his dad and the friend purchased another parcel in Trempealeau County, where they have hunted the past few seasons.

He said they still enjoy going to the Iron County camp because of the interesting experiences they have while visiting other deer camps of friends in the hunting party. He recalled the atmosphere at some northern camps he visited.

"Those guys would be partying and drinking and having a good time," he said. "One of them had a tip in the wall and the biggest wall of crazy deer mounts I've ever seen.

To get a little more time afield this season, Ziel said he plans to excuse himself from class a day early. He said he has noticed classmates do the same thing during other years, especially within the College of Natural Resources.

Ziel has some concerns about the new e-registration rules as well, but it can sometimes be a pain."

Despite his concerns, Ziel is excited for the season because its a chance to spend time with friends and family, obtain a meat supply and sit quietly in the woods.

"The meditation factor is pretty big for me," he said.
Football Ends Season on High Note, Winter Sports Start Strong

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Football Shuts out UW-River Falls

Recording a shutout for the first time since 2008, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point football team defeated UW-River Falls 44-0. The Pointers scored 24 points in the first quarter and during their first five possessions of the game.

On senior day, seniors Matt Sosinsky, Aaron Karlen, Dan Brown and Jesse Vervelde left their mark in their final game. Sosinsky caught three passes for 120 yards and three touchdowns, setting a career-high 12 touchdown receptions for the season. Vervelde made three field goals from 41, 26, and 26 yards to finish second in career points with 79 in school history.

On defense, the team recorded a season-high of nine sacks. Brown had a career-high of three sacks, while Karlen had two. Karlen finished the season tying the school's single-season sack record of 11.

Running back DeJuan Wright ran 17 times for 109 yards, and UWSP totaled over 500 yards of offense with 267 in the air and 270 on the ground.

Men's Basketball Opens with Win

Coming in as the reigning national champion, the UWSP men's basketball team defeated former conference foe UW-Superior, 69-61.

Seniors Stephen Pelkofer and Sean McGann led the Pointers to the win. Pelkofer recorded his first career double-double. Pelkofer also scored 20 points with 10 rebounds and five assists, while McGann scored 18 points and tallied five rebounds.

UWSP dominated down low in the game outscoring the Yellowjackets 36-16 in the paint. For the game, UWSP shot a field goal percentage of 51.9, while UW-Superior shot 45.7 percent.

UWSP next plays St. Olaf at home on Nov. 18.

Women's Basketball Routs Finlandia

Junior guard Autumn Hennes scored a career-high of 22 points to lead UWSP to a 92-45 win over Finlandia.

After missing all of last season, Hennes shot 9-for-10 and 3-for-4 from the three-point line leading a hot Pointers offense. Junior guard Sarah Carmilto scored nine points in the first quarter and finished with 15 points for the night, while junior guard Lauren Ankland added 11 points.

UWSP shut out Concordia-Moorhead and Saint John's University.

Over the weekend, UWSP men's hockey crossed the border into Minnesota and came out with wins against Concordia-Moorhead and Saint John's University.

UWSP shut out Concordia-Moorhead 5-0 as the team scored two power-play goals, and sophomore goaltender Max Milosek recorded his first career shutout.

In net, Milosek made 23 saves, including 11 in the second period. Senior forward Joe Kalisz scored two goals in the game, while junior forwards Eliot Grauer and Kyle Sharkey each added a goal.

The next night, UWSP defeated Saint John's 3-2 courtesy of two goals scored by Grauer, including the game-winner with 8:02 left in the third period. Down 1-0, UWSP scored twice in 44 seconds from a power-play goal by Grauer and the first career goal from sophomore forward Zach Badalamenti.

In net, freshman goaltender Jesse Cordichuck made 28 saves for the win.

UWSP next plays against Marian University at home on Nov. 20.

Women's Hockey Splits Series with UW-River Falls

In an early season series against conference rival UW-River Falls, UWSP women's hockey won the first game 2-1 and lost the next game 5-1.

In the win, UWSP took advantage of its power-play opportunities, scoring courtesy of senior forward Rachel Reynolds. Senior forward Emily Lester added a goal, while senior forward Shauna Bollinger added two assists, and sophomore goaltender Lisa Fowler made 24 saves for the win.

In the 5-1 loss, senior forward Haley Rock scored the lone goal, while Fowler made 30 saves.

UWSP next plays against UW-Superior at home on Nov. 20.

Photos by Jack McLaughlin

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The Pointer
UWSP Football Finishes Strong After Up and Down Season

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High expectations were all around the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point football team coming into the year, but after a number of heartbreaking losses, a 5-5 record is what the team finished with.

It seemed as if every game the Pointers played came down to the final quarter, and some went their way while others did not. This was most evident by a three-game losing streak in the middle of the season to three ranked teams, despite the Pointers leading each game going into the fourth quarter.

"I think the overall feeling throughout this team was somewhat disappointing, you know. We had a goal to win the WIAC championship and give ourselves a chance at a playoff berth," said senior defensive back Matt Gaffney.

Losing all of these close games was especially difficult for the Pointers knowing that they were in each of those games for a reason, and that reason was because they were talented enough to compete with the best.

After winning the NCAA Division III National Championship, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point mens’ basketball team is back and looking to duplicate last year’s magical run.

This team will look very different than the team last year, after three key starters, Alex Richard, Austin Ryf and Joe Ritchay, all graduated. But this is nothing new for the Pointers.

"Yeah, we did lose four key seniors, and the previous year we lost three as well, including two All-Americans, so every year in this program we are going to lose good seniors. Coach expects us to step up into that role even if we didn’t get a lot of playing time before because every day in practice we were going up against great players," said senior guard Sean McGann.

McGann will be asked to be a leader for this year’s campaign and realizes his challenge may be a little bit more difficult than years past.

"We are a very young team. I would say one of our weaknesses is that right now we don’t have a ton of experience on this team, but I think that could also benefit us because these young guys are going to be hungry to prove they can play, too," McCann said.

Both McGann and forward Ste­phen Pelkofer were regulars in the rotation on last year’s team and they know they still can rely on their teammates for help.

"Steve and I realize that more is going to be placed on us this year, but we know it isn’t anything we aren’t capable of. We are going to expect out of our teammates some of the things we did for last year’s team," McCann said.

Pelkofer agrees.

"We know we have to take ownership of this team, but we have played in many big games in our career that we can do that as our other teammates gain some experience as well," Pelkofer added.

"Losing those games like we did made this especially tough because we know that there isn’t a difference in talent between us as the Pointers and the rest of the WIAC. As everybody knows, a football game comes down to a few plays most of the time, and we simply didn’t make the plays to decide the outcome of the game," Gaffney said.

The Pointers finished out the season Saturday with a 44-0 win over UW-River Falls on Senior Day, clinching their second consecutive season of a 500 record or better.

"A shutout win to close out the season here at Point was big and gives this program continued momentum into the offseason and eventually entering next year," Gaffney said.

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UWSP Basketball Begins Season as Defending Champion

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After winning the NCAA Division III National Championship, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point mens’ basketball team is back and looking to duplicate last year’s magical run.

This team will look very different than the team last year, after three key starters, Alex Richard, Austin Ryf and Joe Ritchay, all graduated. But this is nothing new for the Pointers.

"Yeah, we did lose four key seniors, and the previous year we lost three as well, including two All-Americans, so every year in this program we are going to lose good seniors. Coach expects us to step up into that role even if we didn’t get a lot of playing time before because every day in practice we were going up against great players," said senior guard Sean McGann.

McGann will be asked to be a leader for this year’s campaign and realizes his challenge may be a little bit more difficult than years past.

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Both McGann and forward Ste­phen Pelkofer were regulars in the rotation on last year’s team and they know they still can rely on their teammates for help.

"Steve and I realize that more is going to be placed on us this year, but we know it isn’t anything we aren’t capable of. We are going to expect out of our teammates some of the things we did for last year’s team," McCann said.

Pelkofer agrees.

"We know we have to take ownership of this team, but we have played in many big games in our career that we can do that as our other teammates gain some experience as well," Pelkofer added.

UWSP opened up with a 69-61 win over UW-Superior, in which they started freshman Ethan Bublitz, junior Jared Gertzson and junior Brad Freeborn, in addition to Pelkofer and McGann. The starting lineup will be fluid throughout the non-conference season to figure out specific roles for each player.

Despite a lack of experience, the overall expectation has not changed one bit, Pelkofer said.

"We have great expectations for this team. We want to win another WIAC conference championship and make yet another deep postseason run," Pelkofer said. "It will be a tough challenge as always, but we are ready for it." McGann is just as optimistic.

"As a program we want to compete for the WIAC Championship year in and year out. Right now we are a long ways from doing that, but that will continue to be what we strive for as a program," McGann added.
Review: ‘Peanuts’ Shells Out Plenty of Nostalgia

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Only the coldest, most bitter of cynics could dislike “Peanuts.” Who among us has not crumbled bashfully before the majesty of the “little red-haired girl” in our lives? Who has not had a metaphorical blanket we clutched like Linus? Perhaps most of all, who among us has not felt like the ball we were about to kick has been pulled away at the last second again and again?

The comfort and relatability of this series has stuck with people for several decades. With the release of “The Peanuts Movie,” that tradition looks to continue for at least one more generation of kids who have yet to discover the “Great Pumpkin” in their own lives.

When this film was first announced, many people feared that it would go the way of films based off of “Garfield” or “Alvin and the Chipmunks” by taking a classic animated series and distorting its essential nature with modern sensibilities. “The Peanuts Movie” avoids that trap, though, by honoring the heart and soul of its source material.

There are no forced attempts at making the characters modern. You will not see Lucy using Snapchat or Peppermint Patty with a selfie stick. You will hear a bit of modern music, but essentially, this is the Peanuts gang our parents loved, many of us have loved and now, many of our children will love.

The only real problem here is that the movie shows up like the old friend you love catching up with after all these years, but who has no particular place in your current life. The movie will be a nice trip down memory lane, but after that, it will likely be forgotten.

“The Peanuts Movie” is a warm, safe way of introducing the series to a new generation. That being said, it attempts to do little more than that, failing to achieve much artistic success on its own merits.

The film earns 7 “rocks in the Halloween sack” out of 10.


PAUL GROSSKOPF
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In 2011, Davey Wreden took the gaming world by storm with “The Stanley Parable.” Much of the appeal stemmed from its fascinating exploration of storytelling in video games and the conflict that arises within a story when a reader or viewer is given the ability to shape the experience alongside the author.

This created a kind of maze within the game’s narrative structure, in which the frustrated narrator actively critiques the player as they continuously violate the narrator’s instructions for traversing through the game’s world. He laments that the player is ruining the narrator’s story.

This interest in questions of authorship and storytelling within video games once again takes center stage in Wreden’s newest release, “The Beginner’s Guide.” Without giving too much away, the game’s premise centers around Davey Wreden himself narrating and manipulating the player’s travel through a collection of games made by a fellow developer named Coda.

The experience quickly becomes a captivating journey into the process of game development, with Wreden giving the player an insider’s perspective on functions of puzzles, mazes and the intricacies of pacing. Wreden also elaborates on the various freedoms and limitations a game’s engine has in constructing its world and the ways in which the player can interact within that space.

This insight into the thought process of the game’s creator opens up a great deal of discussion about a developer’s relationship with the player and the way this interaction makes the player in many respects the co-author of the game they are playing. After all, while my interpretation of “To Kill a Mockingbird” certainly impacts the experience I have within the novel, the words on the pages will remain the same regardless of who is reading it.

This in turn raises many interesting questions about interactivity and the way in which communication functions within the medium of the video game. How does my relationship to an author change when their story becomes both a vehicle for them to speak to me and simultaneously a vehicle for me to speak with them? And what sorts of rules or limitations define the terms of this communication?

These questions and their potential answers along with many, many more are waiting for you in the labyrinthine corridors and passageways of “The Beginner’s Guide.” So step inside, and experience the maze for yourself.
Album Review: “Paper Mache Dream Balloon”

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ince the Australian band King Giz­
zard and the Lizard Wizard formed in 2010, they have released two EPs and two albums every year since 2012, making “Paper Mache Dream Balloon” their seventh album and the second one this year.

Usually described as psychedelic grunge, this album breaks away from their traditional sound, making it more reminiscent of ’60s psych pop than grunge. It sounds more held together and planned out than some of their previous work with grunge, which is typically more chaotic.

Listening to the album’s first single and title track, published in August, “Paper Mache Dream Balloon,” is enough to understand the overall happy vibe of the record, filled with harmonica and flute harmonies.

This music might make you want to dance around in a hippie commune, but if you listen closely you’ll find that the lyrics have a darker undertone, which explains titles such as “Cold Cadaver,” “Bloodstain,” or “Dirt.”

The album begins with the jazzy track “Sense,” which correlates with their previous record “Quarter!” nominated for Best Jazz Album of 2015 by ARIA.

The 5th track of the album titled “Trapdoor” feels out of place. It consists of repetitive lyrics, and an overall darker tone that strongly contradicts the happier vibe of the album. Stu McKenzie is quoted saying he “wanted to make an album with a collection of short unrelated songs,” yet tracks 9 and 10, named “Time = Fate,” and “Time = $$$” seem to go with one another, both sounding like they came out of the Beatles’ album “Magical Mystery Tour.” The final song, “Paper Mache,” perfectly concludes the album by bringing all the sounds heard throughout the piece and putting them into one instrumental track.

According to Rolling Stone on their review of the album, “Paper Mache Dream Balloon” is considered their best album yet. Overall, this album is recommendable if you’re into psychedelic, happy hippie sounds.
EMMA ST. AUBIN
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When most individuals in the health field think of the World Health Organization, they may think of global health policy or of doctors traveling to Sierra Leone in the Ebola crisis. But when I think of the organization, my mind will always return to the summer of 2015 and my internship in Switzerland.

Let’s rewind a bit. I spent 2011 until 2014 as a reporter and features editor for The Pointer, and it’s been almost a year and a half since
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Acting Alumni Finding Success in The Big Apple

MARY KNIGHT
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Waking up at 4:45 a.m. is typical for television host Andrea Boehlke. A graduate of University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Boehlke is now a co-host for People Now, an online morning talk show for the celebrity and human-interest publication, People Magazine.

She graduated in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in acting. After graduation, Boehlke moved to New York City to pursue a full-time career as an actress.

While on campus, she was involved in many student organizations including the student television station SPTV and Players, the student theatre group. Boehlke acted in several theatre department productions including "Inspector General," "Almost, Maine," "Hair" and "Dog Sees God."

Gary Olsen, design and technology professor and chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, interacted with Boehlke in rehearsal and said he knew her future would be exciting.

"She was just great fun. She is just one of those people who works tremendously hard, and you just want them to succeed. It's really neat to see that she is doing so in a lot of different areas," Olsen said.

But living in The Big Apple was not necessarily a natural transition for Boehlke, who grew up in humble Random Lake, she said.

"Every morning I feel like I'm going to screw it up, and then I end up pulling it together, so something about that keeps drawing me in," Boehlke said.

She has been with the magazine for a little over a month and said she enjoys the variety of people she interviews, from Grammy-award winning celebrities to everyday people.

"Just the eclectic group of people we interview is so amazing. Every interview is so different, and I love the spontaneity. I absolutely love the live element. It's so stressful, but something about that is really fun," Boehlke said.

After arriving at the Manhattan studio at the crack of dawn, she talks with writers and producers about the upcoming show for the day and then goes to hair and makeup. At 7:30 a.m. they begin filming any pre-taped content and then the show goes live at 8:30 a.m.

She has interviewed a variety of celebrities including Harry Conick Jr., Debra Messing, Snooki and Jwoww.

"I grew up reading People Magazine, and I just never thought I would work for them. So getting hired at People Magazine as a host, it's just a little surreal. I'm already five weeks in, and I can't believe I'm interviewing celebrities, like big celebrities," Boehlke said.

Eventually, she hopes to be a content creator and a producer of her own show and possibly have her own channel. She enjoys traveling and talking to people, so a job that incorporates those things would be great.

But for now Boehlke is content with where she is.

"There are actually these amazing stories that we cover and that kind of traffic really speaks to me. I get really emotional because I realize we are covering things that matter, and yes, we cover celebrity stuff, but we kind of cover the whole range of everything that is going on," Boehlke said.

Looking back on her time at UWSP, Boehlke wishes she had been more vulnerable and open to challenging herself in auditions and extra-curricular activities.

"I think I would have forced myself to be more bold. I am a very outgoing person, but I have always been a little shy, shy in terms of showing off my talent. I have always been such a perfectionist and always been very afraid to fail," Boehlke said.

Once she transitioned into the working world, she decided to take more risks and take advantage of every opportunity. Boehlke thinks this mindset has positively influenced her career and helped her accomplish many goals.

"I firmly believe you should love what you do for work, so if you're not having fun, find a career that better suits you. Life is short," Boehlke said.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

**NOV. 18**

6 P.M.
Planes, Trains and Rickshaws
DUC, Laird Room

**NOV. 19**

9:35 A.M.-11 A.M.
Arts Wash 2015
DUC, Encore

8 P.M.
Comedian Larry Omaha
DUC, Encore

**NOV. 20**

8 P.M.
Lakin w/ Loren DeLonay
DUC, Encore

7:30 P.M.
UWSP Symphony Orchestra and Concert
Choir- Beethoven Symphony #9
Michelsen Hall
Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Performs Music For Elderly

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The residents of Northridge Assisted Living were taken back in time by the men of Phi Mu Alpha.

The local chapter of this nationwide music fraternity consists of 15 University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student musicians who share a common love of music as well as the desire of providing service to the community.

At least once a semester the fraternity travels into the community to share their love of music with others.

On Saturday, the men of Phi Mu Alpha visited the Northridge Assisted Living Homes to bring music to individuals whom they felt needed it the most.

To appeal to the residents, the fraternity formed a small jazz combo which played a collection of jazz standards from the 1920s to 1960s.

Jacob Opperman, the fraternity’s music coordinator, noted how rewarding it was to be able to perform for the residents of the home.

“It was really cool watching them sing along with the music and get lost in it and get transported back to when they were young,” Opperman said. “You could see the nostalgia on their faces.”

After playing over ten jazz standards, the fraternity joined together to sing several songs from the same era.

Nick Verheyen, UWSP’s chapter president, said these moments are what being a Sinfonian is all about.

“It was a great feeling to give back to the Stevens Point community, especially those at the nursing home,” Verheyen said. “We could see how much the residents, and the staff appreciated our visit which was real heartwarming for everyone in the fraternity.”

In December, Phi Mu Alpha will join together with the other chapters in the state to sing at the Children’s Hospital in Madison.