WELCOME BACK!

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Budget Cuts Affect Employment, Campus Services

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Although reduced, the state budget cuts are taking a toll on campus services and employment.

Last spring, Governor Scott Walker proposed a $300 million budget cut to the UW System, sparking panic about the loss of services and faculty across campus. The proposal included removing nearly $1.5 million in segregated fee funded programs at UWSP, for a total reduction of nearly $9 million.

In July, the state legislature approved a cut of $250 million to the UW system, $50 million less than was originally proposed. Funding was also taken from the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology, Environmental Education-Forestry and Environmental Education-Environmental Assessments, totaling $370,500 in reductions, while restoring funding for the Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility, Becoming an Outdoors Woman, Paper Machine Operations and Environmental Program Grants, totaling $654,500.

After much debate, the Budget Review Advisory Committee and Chancellor Bernie Patterson assessed the $9.8 million budget reduction the university currently faces. An additional $860,000 was freed up by the Voluntary Incentive Separation Program, of which 32 faculty members and staff participated, giving UWSP about $2.5 million to reinvest in programs across the campus.

Because of the cut reduction, the committee and Patterson decided to restore $1.3 million to faculty salaries, which is under 20 positions, $500,000 to student employment, $300,000 to marketing and student recruitment, $270,000 to Career Services and $120,000 to library resources.

“I am happy that the majority of money is going back to support our students,” said Katie Crommier, Student Government Association president and BRAC committee member. “Student jobs on campus make it easier for students to do well in college. This is where we live and where we go to school. Plus, it makes college affordable.”

Megan Mueller, a senior at UWSP, said one of her courses disappeared after she had registered for the fall semester. She hopes it will not affect her ability to graduate in December 2016.

“The instructor left the university, leaving me to scramble and find a replacement course,” Mueller said.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Wednesday, Aug. 23
Student called from the College of Fine Arts and reported flooding in a men’s bathroom stall. The stall had been flooding since the night before into the area outside of the bathroom.

Facility Services was notified and 911 was dispatched to N Hale Hall for a fire alarm in the dorm kitchen caused by burnt butter.

Thursday, Aug. 24
Security responded to a reported alarm in the Noel Fine Arts Center art gallery.

Friday, Aug. 25
Caller reported an apparent drunk and unstable man on Reserve Street between the Newman Center and the HEC. Patrol responded to the call and checked the area.

Protective Services responded to an employee who had locked herself out of the LRC.

Protective Services let two females out of the LRC after they had believed they had locked themselves in.

Saturday, Aug. 26
Officers responded to an elevator call from inside Hansen Hall. They reportedly heard voices but there was no response. Officers went to investigate and found no problems.

Sunday, Aug. 27
Parent called Protective Services to report his daughter had been contacted by a phone number claiming to be the FBI in Green Bay, who said she owed money to the IRS.

A reported strong odor of marijuana coming form inside Watson Hall.

Monday, Aug. 28
Protective Services was notified via public safety alert/scan of a 45-year-old man passed out in the CNR.

The Stevens Point Fire Department and Facility Services was called to an alarm from Thompson Hall. Caller said there was a gas smell in the lobby of the building.

The Heating Plant reported to Protective Services of a vehicle parked near the back door fuel tank with supposed questionable items in the back.

Tuesday, Aug. 29
Female student called Protective Services to report a fight between five individuals in front of Map Roach Hall.

THE POINTER
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Editorial Policies

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.
Students and community members enjoyed local parks, trails and waterways this summer, savoring the long days and hot weather.

Schmeeckle Reserve, local waterways and downtown parks are popular destinations for pedestrians, paddlers and hikers. Activities are steady even when the majority of students have left the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus.

Buckolt and Pfiffner Pioneer parks are among the most popular public spaces in town and are summer-activity hubs. The parks are home to summer events like Riverfront Rendezvous and concerts at the sound shell.

Ben Gutknecht, junior natural resource management major, said he enjoys the riverfront parks during the summer because they are easy to get to and they have views of the Wisconsin River.

"It's so close to downtown. It's perfect to take a walk through there when you're eating out with friends," Gutknecht said. "It's a really nice park, and it seems like there's always some activity down there during summer."

While local waterways are a fun way to stay cool, they also provide opportunities for diving and paddle sports. Bob Butt, owner of Dive Point Scuba and Adventure Center, said Lake Joanis and the Plover and Wisconsin rivers are popular areas close to town for water-related activities.

"It's been a busy summer," Butt said. "Stand up paddle boards have been big."

The shop rents paddle boards, kayaks and scuba equipment, and Butt recommends getting out during the fall because temperatures are more comfortable.

"Fall is kind of the best time of year for paddling actually," Butt said. "The diving gets better as you move into the fall too because the water clears up."

Kyle Schilling and Trevor Parsons are UWSP students and trail rangers at Schmeeckle. They said summer generally means fewer visitors but more routine visits by community members.

"I think it's the best place to go if you want to just get away and relax," Schilling said. "It's pretty quiet during the summer."

Less traffic also allows maintenance crews to work on trails in the reserve. Work has been focused on overhead safety and pathway maintenance including boardwalks.

"We did a lot of upkeep on trees this year," Parsons said. "It's been mostly preventative maintenance."
Jirschele Given the Nod of Approval as New Baseball Coach

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Pointers baseball has had a winning culture for as long as most can remember.

New Head Coach Jeremy Jirschele has been highly involved in this success and plans to keep the winning culture alive in his new role.

Jirschele had been an assistant coach under Pat Bloom, former head coach, for the last four years at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. Bloom left in June to coach at Washington University in St. Louis.

Keeping the new hire in house could help maintain the continuity in a program that has been a top team in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference for most of the past decade, including three NCAA tournament appearances during Jirschele’s four years on staff.

Jirschele played college baseball at UW-Oshkosh, where he set the WIAC record for career doubles and was second in career hits. He was also one of two Wisconsin players to be named to the DIII All-Decade Team for the 2000’s.

As a student, he earned two WIAC Position Player of the Year, which lead to two First Team American Baseball Coaches Association All-American honors.

The Kansas City Royals selected Jirschele in the 30th round of the 2005 Major League Baseball Draft, and he was in the organization for three seasons before transitioning into coaching.

Before coming to UWSP, Jirschele coached at Wausau West for three years, where he led the Warriors to two state tournament berths.

Fall ball has started for Jirschele’s squad, and he will be rounding his team into form going into the spring season.

The Pointer baseball team stands in the dugout.

SPORTS SCHEDULE

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Photo by Jack McLaughlin
The Pointer baseball team stands in the dugout.
Crow Begins Journey as New Women’s Soccer Coach

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Dawn Crow knows a thing or two when it comes to being successful within the highest levels of women’s soccer.

Crow is taking on her newest challenge as head coach of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women’s soccer team this fall.

She has a long list of achievements throughout her career, including four national championships during her time at the University of North Carolina. Not only a coach, Crow was a member of the U.S. Women’s National Team, as well as playing professionally for the former Charlotte Speed.

Crow also has coached in a variety of positions for schools at the Division 1 NCAA level. More recently she had been coaching at Plano East Senior High School, where she lead her 2008 team to the school’s first-ever state appearance. During her time in Plano, Crow was also a youth coach for the MLS team FC Dallas, where she was the 2009 runner-up for Dallas Club Coach of the Year.

Although soccer is a focal point of her background, Crow was initially intrigued with the coaching job here at UWSP for reasons that had nothing to do with soccer.

“It had a lot more to do with family,” Crow said. “We just had twins. They’re 14 months old now, and in Dallas, I was doing a whole bunch of stuff and didn’t feel like I was making the best use of my time and valuing my family.”

Crow heard nothing but positives when considering coming here to take over the head coaching position, but the job did have one twist.

“The worst thing I heard is it’s in Central Wisconsin,” Crow said jokingly.

The advantages of other key areas within UWSP helped attract Crow.

“Obviously the success of the athletic department was big, as well as some recruiting advantages such as tuition and admissions,” Crow said.

Crow plans to instill her own style into the program and build off previous successes.

“We’ve got to change the mentality that has kind of developed,” Crow said. “On the back of our practice shirts it says ‘nobody has ever drowned in sweat.’”

For someone who has been at the highest levels of soccer for a majority of both her playing and coaching career, Crow said coaching at the Division 3 level is refreshing.

“For me it’s another shot at coaching in college. The Division 3 mentality and complexity of D3 life of a student-athlete is something I love and peaked my interest in this job,” she said. “It says a lot about these student-athletes because they don’t have to be here, but they want to be here, and I absolutely love that.”

Photo courtesy of athletics.uwsp.edu

Crow works with players on the field.

Photo courtesy of UWSP Sports Information

Crow works with players on the field.

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Newest renovated hotel in Stevens Point

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FROM LONDON with love

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Drumming my fingers on the counter of an upscale London hotel, a million things are running through my mind. How could our taxi driver bring us to the wrong hotel? On top of that, why would I agree to pile my luggage into a separate taxi entrusting that the other driver would simply “meet us there”? After landing in London, my University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point travel partners and I were told to go to St. Giles hotel, where we would be staying the following night. We were unaware that there are two St. Giles hotels: one in central London and one ten minutes from the airport. An hour later, we found ourselves separated from the rest of our group and our luggage. Fortunately, after a few calls and after receiving assurance our bags had arrived at the correct hotel, I let out a deep breath and felt my heart start beating again. In the taxi ride back, I began to think about a book I read prior to departing for my semester abroad.

The author emphasized that the plans we make for ourselves are almost never cohesive with real life. By releasing this emotional attachment to plans, it is much easier to remain calm when they suddenly change. These evidently hapless accidents usually turn out to be more interesting than our original plans.

After recalling this piece of advice I couldn’t help but laugh at the panic I endured minutes before. Odds are this will not be the last seemingly unfortunate event that will occur in my next four months abroad. Which in retrospect, is probably the most exciting aspect of this experience.

The best part is I will be sharing every success, disaster, embarrassing mishap and change of plans with you. Stay tuned, Pointers, I feel we’re going to have a perfectly chaotic adventure together.

Book Review:
‘Your Voice is All I Hear’

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Hitting bookstores on Sept. 1, “Your Voice is All I Hear” from Leah Schier barely kept me interested but left me near tears by the end.

Throughout the entire first half I thought about putting the book down, not finishing it and walking away. But I’m glad I didn’t.

The main character, April, falls in love with Jonah, the new guy in school. He starts to act strangely as time passes, talking when no one is in the room and listening to voices. Shortly after, he has a Schizophrenic episode which ends with his mother calling the police.

The first half of the novel moved quicker than I would have liked, as Jonah went from acting normally to needing hospitalization in just a couple chapters. However, Schier seems to give a fairly accurate portrayal of Schizophrenia since Jonah has both good and bad days.

Even though Schier portrays Schizophrenia accurately, I found most characters to be very stereotypical, especially in the beginning. I felt I always knew exactly what each character was going to do in any given situation. There was the mean girl, the outsider, the best friend, the love interest. Everything was formulaic.

Although I was frustrated throughout the middle portion during which April’s character struggled to deal with her boyfriend’s illness, the ending redeemed the novel.

Up until the last third of the story I was certain I would rate this book two out of five stars. However, in the last couple chapters my heart went out to April and Jonah. They had been through so much, and yet the ending was still heartbreaking.

This novel has its ups and downs, but when it comes down to it, the ending did not completely compensate for the horrible beginning and stereotypical characters. “Your Voice is All I Hear” gets three stars out of five.

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New Director of Bands Has Big Goals

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Michael Butler, the newly appointed Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music, has high hopes and goals for the future of the music department.

Butler said he hopes to “continue to pursue musical excellence. To continue to pursue what I love. This isn’t really a job. It’s what I love doing and to be able to continue to do that until I can’t anymore.”

Beginning his career as an educator in 2006, Butler was still a graduate student at the University of Florida when he taught conducting and led the concert band. He went on to teach at two different high schools in Daytona and Orlando, where he had the opportunity to perform with his students at Carnegie Hall.

Butler returned to the University of Florida for the past three years with the intentions of working on his doctorate, teaching music courses and guest conducting various ensembles. Although the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is a much smaller university than he is used to, Butler does not feel hesitant about the transition.

“(UWSP) is not that different than my undergrad experience and is one of the things that certainly appealed to me looking at this school and talking to the committee members,” he said.

Butler noticed that, similar to his undergrad, UWSP has a strong music department, a close knit group of students and collegial faculty. “I thought this was pretty representative of something that I wanted to be a part of,” he said.

Along with his energetic passion for music, Butler has many ideas he hopes will allow the music department to reach new heights and help push students to new levels of musicianship. He hopes to expand performance opportunities for the bands and said he will look into various possibilities, such as playing at the state conference, festivals and other prestigious venues. He also wants to collaborate with the dance department.

Not only does Butler want to develop the music department, he hopes to reach out to university students who are not currently involved with music on campus.

“We have 9,000 plus students here. If you think about how many of those students were involved in their high school band program, it’s probably a significant chunk, and out of those that are not involved here at UWSP in the band program, I bet quite a few are pretty talented. We would love to have them here,” he said.

Photo by Allison Birr
Butler directing at Convocation practice on Sunday evening.
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