Students Forced to Stay on Campus Next Year

If you graduated from high school in 2016, you are required to live in the residence halls in 2017-18.

WESLEY HORTENBACH
REPORTER
wesley.hortenbach@uwsp.edu

Living on campus, or at least paying to live on campus, will be required for sophomore students as well as freshman beginning next year.

Currenty, it is required for traditional freshman students to live in the residence halls for their first year. Although many return to the dorms, a portion of upperclassmen move off-campus in their preceding years of school.

Starting fall 2017, all freshmen and sophomore students will be charged with a housing payment even if they sign an off-campus lease.

This is because there are not enough students enrolled in the university to fill all the halls without having an enforced requirement.

Brian Faust, director of Residential Living, said he is worried about the department having enough money with fewer students because this branch of the school is financially separate from the rest of the university.

"This is the first year we are enforcing this because enrollment has dropped. Before, we were always able to fill our halls with traditional freshman and enough voluntary returners," said Faust. "With enrollment dropping, the number of students to fill our halls is not there any longer. UW-Madison has the opposite problem. There is not enough housing for all their students so they do not require freshman or any student to live on campus and the numbers balance out.

"The UW-system professors and the whole academic side receive taxpayer money to pay their bills. In housing we are considered in auxiliary, meaning we get no money from anybody else," Faust said. "Whatever money we have to spend is from the students that live in the halls."

This is not a standard for public universities nationally. Each state’s university system board of regents makes decisions regarding university housing. Freshmen and sophomore students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are already required to live on campus, but the rule has not been enforced.

"It’s a Wisconsin thing. Before here, I worked as a director in Kansas and all the money was part of one big pot where I made money and academics made money and it was used as needed. Here the pot is all just what I make," said Faust.

Even though the administration would like everyone to be free to make their own choices for their living, there are bills that have to be paid.

"I need to have money to pay my bills and you look at how we reinvented eight halls and built a new one," said Faust. "I have to pay the bank back every year so if my halls aren’t full I don’t have the money to pay that back which gets me and my department in trouble. So we are enforcing this requirement."

Frits Fritz, sophomore biology and psychology major, is currently living off-campus after purchased new items, which can potentially have heavy resource inputs, students who utilize the resource sharing room in Nelson Hall where students can drop off unwanted items and pick up other items for free.

One person’s trash could be another person’s treasure with the upcoming resource sharing room in Nelson Hall where students can drop off unwanted items and pick up other items for free.

The concept of a resource sharing room is similar to the way a thrift store works, except the items in the resource room will be free to students. There are no profits involved, besides the environmental capital gained by preventing items from entering landfills.

The resource sharing room is being created by the Office of Sustainability. When asked how a sharing room was tied to sustainability, Jenessa Gilarski the communication specialist for the Office of Sustainability said, "Basically it is kind of like the idea of reduce, reuse, recycle. Reusing items instead of buying something new will cut down on waste."

Instead of purchasing new items, which can potentially have heavy resource inputs, students who utilize the resource sharing room are encouraged to bring unwanted items to the room for others to use. The room is open to all students and is located in Nelson Hall.

Genie Adamski
ENVIRONMENT EDITOR
gadam59o@uwsp.edu

One person’s trash could be another person’s treasure with the upcoming resource sharing room in Nelson Hall.

The concept of a resource sharing room is similar to the way a thrift store works, except the items in the resource room will be free to students. There are no profits involved, besides the environmental capital gained by preventing items from entering landfills.

The resource sharing room is being created by the Office of Sustainability. When asked how a sharing room was tied to sustainability, Jenessa Gilarski the communication specialist for the Office of Sustainability said, "Basically it is kind of like the idea of reduce, reuse, recycle. Reusing items instead of buying something new will cut down on waste."

Instead of purchasing new items, which can potentially have heavy resource inputs, students who utilize the resource sharing room are encouraged to bring unwanted items to the room for others to use. The room is open to all students and is located in Nelson Hall.
The Pointer Names Successor to Current Editor-in-Chief

The Pointer has chosen Samantha Adamski, environment editor, to take over as editor-in-chief for the 2017-2018 school year. Adamski is currently a junior natural resources planning major, with an emphasis in social policy sciences and conservation planning, and a sustainable energy minor, at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

She began working for the publication in January 2016, and has continued to develop her reporting and editorial skills since.

As the president of the women's rugby club, Adamski comes to The Pointer with a drive for high performance and experience in managing a student-run organization.

The change of leadership will occur in May when the current editor-in-chief, Samantha Bradley, will graduate with a major in English and minors in professional writing and Spanish.
Local Pregnancy Centers Offer Dramatically Different Services

SAMANTHA STEIN
NEWS EDITOR
sststein@uwsp.edu

On Division Street in Stevens Point, there are two family planning facilities that are dramatically different in the services they provide.

First Choice, a non-profit reproductive health clinic, is Family Planning Health Services, Inc., or fphs, a non-profit reproductive health clinic that provides low-cost services to both men and women.

This non-profit provides a variety of medical services including regular exams of the pelvic and breast, cervical cancer screenings and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. Pregnancy tests, as Student Health Services provides them for free.

First Choice has also supported pro-life events on the UWSP campus and is associated with the pro-life student organization, Pointers For Life.

Other crisis pregnancy centers that are similar to First Choice exist across the country, in every state. They are typically placed strategically near college campuses and in low-income neighborhoods.

Jen Sorenson, director of Student Health Services, said, "In all of our medical care, or not, it is a medical professional's ethical role to provide all options for whatever that medical condition is."

Sorenson stressed that it is not necessary for students to seek help off-campus for pregnancy tests, as Student Health Services provides them for free.

As college students are often undecided about how to proceed with an unplanned pregnancy, Sorenson said making sure to fully educate a patient is very important.

Delzell Hall screens their physicians prior to hiring them to ensure they are capable of providing unbiased, options and education to patients. They facilitate the decisions made by the patient about their own health, making sure all options are well-known, as is the responsibility of all healthcare professionals.

It is important for students to know about the resources available to them and the services they will receive.

Republican Healthcare Fails Trump's Administration

OLIVIA DE VALK
REPORTER
odevsg@uwsp.edu

On Friday, March 24, following President Trump's repealed campaign promises to repeal the Affordable Care Act, also referred to as ACA or Obamacare, the GOP Healthcare bill fell through after facing opposition within the Republican party.

The bill formally referred to as the American Health Care Act, also known as AHCA or Obamacare-lite, was created to replace the ACA put into place by the Obama Administration.

The AHCA was expected to cut the federal deficit but would significantly increase the number of Americans without health insurance.

Jen Sorenson, director of Student Health Services and physician assistant, said in regard to the bill's failure, "If it did not feel like there was a lot of thought given to the specific provisions of the Affordable Care Act that are working, I did not see the Republicans making a big effort to talk to the people, and find out what provisions they liked and wanted to keep."

Ron Brownstein, editorial director of Atlantic Media, said in an interview with Face the Nation that the core of the bill's failure was the fact that it clashed with voter interests.

The bill would have made healthcare premiums more expensive for older people regardless of income and would have also negatively impacted Medicare and Medicaid.

Brownstein noted that 60 percent of House Republicans are from districts that are older than the national average and the majority of Donald Trump's votes came from white people over 45 years of age.

"I mean, obviously there were some hiccups in Obama's plan, but over all it was successful. I think that without Obamacare, a lot of people are going to suffer and so I don't think Trump is looking out for the greater part of the population," said Mary Runnoe, senior psychologist major and former volunteer at a hospital.

The bill would have eliminated the requirement enacted under the ACA that all employers must offer healthcare to employees who work a certain number of hours per week. This change would lift current regulations which prevent students from working more than 25 hours per week.

The bill would have defunded contraceptives, making it more difficult for students to gain access to free birth-control.

Sorenson said this could lead to a spike in unplanned pregnancies occurring within the university, which hinders a student's ability to continue their education.

She stated that if you're going to cover medication for men, such as Viagra, then you really need to provide that same coverage for women on birth control," Sorenson said.

Despite the failure of the AHCA on March 24, President Trump and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan indicated that health care would not be revisited soon. Which, Sorenson said, will give more time for the ACA to develop and succeed.
continued from page 1

The Office of Sustainability has plans to collect items from students moving out of residence halls at the end of this semester to start stocking the resource room with goods.

The idea of the resource room came from a survey which was sent out to multiple student organizations. In the survey, organizations were asked what they thought the best use of the extra space in Nelson hall would be. Options varied from an extra study space to the chance to have an upcycle room.

Solarski said, the idea to offer the room for common use was because the Office of Sustainability wanted to provide valuable service to students. Since the Office of Sustainability is an administrative section of campus, the staff was looking for a way to involve and engage with students.

While the room has no official name yet, another survey was sent out to multiple student organizations for naming ideas. The official name for the resource sharing room will most likely be announced the week of April 10.

Website Puts Sustainability at Student’s Fingertips

OLIVIA DE VALK
REPORTER
odeval99@uwsp.edu

The interactive website run through the Office of Sustainability and McKinstry, Inc. allows students to see the energy usage of every building on campus.

The website tracks energy usage in real time, enabling visitors to compare electricity, CO2, steam and chilled water usage for each building compared to the previous the day, week, month or year chosen.

All information on the website is updated automatically through a Johnson Control Metasys system that tracks the University’s energy consumption.

According to Shelly Janowski, sustainability program and policy analyst for the Office of Sustainability, this information has always been tracked by the Facility Services department.

“By tracking and displaying our energy consumption, we can see the cumulative impact of our behaviors on campus, building by building. Everyone has a role in our campus energy conservation effort,” Janowski said. “Our goal is to provide real-time energy measurement visualization, along with historical data, so that building occupants can change their consumption patterns.”

Every building on campus has the potential to be tracked, including dormitory buildings. This feature allows students living on campus to see and interpret energy usage and create a visual graph of ways that student actions directly impact that usage and the environment.

Mary Runnoe, senior psychology major, said, “I think it would be a good way to put into perspective the environmental costs of what it takes to run a building, and it would be cool to see ways that your actions can make a positive impact on that.”

Vince Helgerson, senior history major, said, “If people saw how much power they actually use, they would be more self-conscious about it.”

The website is accessible to anyone who wishes to learn more about the University’s progress towards clean energy.

This accessibility is not always put into context. The website measures CO2 output by its weight, which may be confusing for students unfamiliar with the concept of measuring gas by weight.

To put this in context, Janowski said that the average American adds 18 to 20 tons of CO2 to the atmosphere every year, while the world average is only 4.8 metric tons per year.

According to the Environmental Defense Fund one ton of CO2 is about the size of a balloon with a diameter of ten yards.

The University plans to be Carbon neutral by the year 2050.

The Office of Sustainability’s energy tracking website can be found at bedashboard.com.

North Wind Renewable Energy Becomes Employee Owned

NAOMI ALBERT
REPORTER
nalbe205@uwsp.edu

As of this April, North Wind Renewable Energy has made the transition to a 100 percent employee owned cooperative.

This Stevens Point based company specializes in the installation and design of solar electric systems. North Wind’s clients include businesses, farms and homes across the state.

Doug Stingle, a consultant for North Wind, said that becoming an employee owned cooperative is a goal which the company has been aiming for since its inception in 2007. He said that being a cooperative allows all employees to work together, giving them each an equal say in the company’s decision making.

Stingle said the company has strengthened their focus on solar electric system installations, a market which he feels is growing in Wisconsin. He said that last year in 2016 was the best year for solar installation for North Wind as well as the entire state.

Stingle said, “there’s lot of high hopes for 2017 being as good if not better of a year for installing solar. The costs have continued to go down remarkably on the equipment while utility rates continue to rise making the investment in a solar array more attractive pretty much every day.”

On a national level, the U.S. Energy Information Administration forecasts that between 2016 and 2018 the solar sector will grow the fastest in comparison to other renewable energy sources.

Despite this growth, the administration predicts solar will make up 1.4 percent of all utility-scale electricity in the United States in 2018.

A 2016 analysis by the U.S. Energy Information Administration found that coal fuels over half of Wisconsin’s electrical generation. Since Wisconsin has no coal mines, all coal fuel must be sourced from outside, primarily from Wyoming. Natural gas accounts for most of the remainder of electricity generation, with renewable sources making up less than 10 percent of electricity generation statewide.

As the cost of renewable energy like solar decreases, and demand for more sustainable options continues, it is likely that renewable energy sources will continue to become increasingly important in Wisconsin.
Earth Week on Campus

NAOMI ALBERT
REPORTER
naibezo@uwsp.edu

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will host a range of events in honor of Earth Day the week of April 17-22. Jenessa Gilarski, sophomore health science major and communication specialist for the Office of Sustainability, says that the theme for this year’s Earth Week is diversity.

Diversity may be a word that is rarely associated with sustainability, but Gilarski pointed out that it still relates to the concept.

“A lot of people don’t know that social justice is one of the aspects of sustainability, because you think of it as being about plants and trees, but it’s like ‘oh planting trees and recycling’ but there’s also a lot more to it,” Gilarski said. 

For this reason, the Office of Sustainability and Student Government Association have chosen a diverse array of speakers to offer their perspectives on sustainability throughout the week. These talks will occur Monday through Thursday night at 6 p.m. in Room 116 of the College of Professional Studies.

Environmentally minded student organizations are also getting involved. On Tuesday, April 18 the Office of Sustainability will keep students updated on Earth Week events through their Facebook page and SPIN. They also plan on releasing a calendar outlining the many opportunities that week. The events aim to appeal to a wide range of students.

Shelly Stein, president of Students For Sustainability, and junior soil and land management major, said the group plans to plant a new harmony elm. The sapling elm tree will be planted in the same bed that previously contained the iconic pin oak which was infected with oak wilt and had to be cut down over winter break.

The planting will occur at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 22 behind the DUC at the site of the old pin oak.

At think Earth Day is important because it’s a holiday with the intention of specifically acknowledging our natural world, Stein said. “I think that a bigger problem we are facing in the future is people being out of touch with their natural environment. Earth Day is a public event that’s asking people, who maybe otherwise wouldn’t, to acknowledge our planet.

The Office of Sustainability

Local Farms Offer Community-Supported Agriculture Shares

CONNOR SCHOELZEL
REPORTER
Connor.L.Schoelzel@yahoo.com

With summer just around the corner, many Stevens Point residents are looking forward to local produce from their shares in CSAs, or Community-Supported Agriculture.

CSAs are a way of connecting individuals directly with local farmers and local produce.

At the beginning of the season, a farm will sell shares of their crops, usually in full or half shares. Once the crops start producing vegetables, those who purchased shares will receive boxes of fresh local produce on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.

Field Notes Farm is a local certified organic farm out of Custer, which offers CSA shares for their produce.

For Dalton, one of the owners of Field Notes Farm, explained how CSAs are beneficial to both farmer and community member alike.

“A farmer needs the support of community members financially to purchase the seeds and to know what to plant. The community helps to provide that, and the farmers provide the food and often the opportunity to go out and experience what food growing looks like,” Dalton said.

In addition to being able to buy shares with money, many farms, like Field Notes Farm, offer the opportunity to invest in a worker’s share. This means that you can trade a few hours a week at the farm in exchange for your box of local produce.

CSAs encourage environmentally friendly farming practices, such as being able to avoid monocropping, or growing only a single type of vegetable.

Because we’re not trying to grow a single crop, there is a built-in resiliency in the model of growing,” Dalton said.

Dalton is optimistic for this year’s growing season, saying that they hope to sell 1000 lbs of sugar snap peas this year between CSA shares and three different farmers markets, including the Stevens Point Farmers’ Market.

Anybody interested in being involved in local CSAs can find the 2017 Central Wisconsin Farm Fresh Atlas online, which lists local farms, CSAs and farmers’ markets for all of central Wisconsin.
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point softball team dropped all four of its weekend games over the weekend in its first Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference action of the season.

Stevens Point traveled to UW-River Falls on Friday in a two-game series. UWSP lost a shoot-out in game one of the series, ending with a score of 9-8.

The Pointers took an early lead in the first inning with an RBI walk. UW-River Falls countered with two runs of their own in the bottom of the first.

Stevens Point took back the lead with a home run in the second by Alyssa Cooper.

The lead did not last long as River Falls hit a grand slam to take back the lead 6-4.

The Falcons held onto a tight lead, winning game one of the series 6-4 and sweeping the series.

On Saturday, Point traveled to Menomonie to take on the UW-Stout in a two-game series.

Stout started the game with a 3-0 lead on a three-run home run in the first inning.

The Pointers only managed one run in the game, coming in the third inning off of an RBI single by Katie Uhlenbrauck.

The Blue Devils scored twice in the fifth inning to help seal their win, 5-1, in game one.

Game two proved to be a closer, but Stevens Point still fell, 6-3.

State and Uhlenbrauck were active at the plate, both collecting RBIs in the third inning to close the Blue Devils lead to 4-3.

The Blue Devils scored once in both the fourth and sixth innings to win and sweep the series.

The Pointers will play their first home games of the season on April 14 as they travel to UW-Platteville for a pair of doubleheaders.
The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point track team traveled to La Crosse on Saturday, April 8, for the Ashton May Invite and came away with favorable results.

The day was highlighted by Jesse Johnson setting the pole vault record for UWSP. Johnson recorded clearing the bar at 5.01 meters.

Jerry Williams finished first in the triple jump with a distance of 14.73 meters.

Mackenzie James won the long jump for the Pointers with a distance of 7.43 meters.

The men finished third overall in the invitational.

Jordan Tyjeski won the discus for the women with a distance of 43.39 meters. Her victory comes a week after she finished in the top five in the event at the Carroll Invite.

The Pointers will be back in action April 13-14 as they travel to Platteville for the Platteville Invitational.

---

**Enroll today! UW-Stevens Point Summer Sessions**

Share your summer stories!

- **Sun**
- **Fun**
- **Summer Courses**

Register at www.uwsp.edu/summer
Rugby Teams Reunite with Former Players for Alumni Game

CAROLINE CHALK
REPORTER
ccchalk@uwsp.edu

After a successful fall season, the men’s rugby team will participate in a friendly competition with their former players at their annual alumni game.

Brady Lepak, senior and president of the men’s rugby team, said that the tentative date for the game is May 6.

According to Lepak, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men’s rugby team formed in the 1970s. Some of the original players on the team still return for the alumni game.

“This alumni game is a way to not only meet past players, but it’s a way for a lot of the guys to network. The alumni are always interested in what our players are going for,” Lepak said.

Lepak said that the alumni have always shown support for the players on the team and celebrate the team’s successes.

“This alumni game is a way to not only meet past players, but it’s a way for a lot of the competitive season, it gives them an opportunity to share stories and talk about their season with former players.

“I have gotten to see old guys leave and new guys come. It’s your family away from home. They are always going to be there for you no matter what,” Lepak said.

Trevin Oertel is a senior that plays both flanker and wing for the rugby team. Oertel described the alumni game as a family reunion.

“Once you are in the club, and you put in your time, it’s part of you for life and you can’t get away from it,” Oertel said.

Like the men’s team, the women’s rugby team is also planning an alumni game.

Drea Sortillon, senior and a captain for the women’s rugby team, has been on the team for four years and said this is the first alumni game she will be participating in.

According to Sortillon, the team did not have an alumni game for the past couple of years because they had difficulty getting alumni to attend the game.

“I think it was just hard connecting with alumni and bringing them back. We have a lot of people that recently graduated and we are really close with them, so it was easier to get a group this time,” Sortillon said.

The women’s team also had a successful season this fall, placing third in the conference.

“I think for having a fresh roster we did great, I think we went above the bar that was set for us,” Sortillon said.

The women’s rugby team can also be seen competing against their alumni on May 6.

FOR RENT
CANDLEWOOD
Tons of apartments available for next school year in all price ranges!
See them all at rentcandlewood.com
or call 715-344-7524

FOR RENT
POINT PLACE APPTS
6 bedroom/2 bath available for next year.
12 and 9 month options.
ALL BASIC UTILITIES INCLUDED.
In-unit laundry, off street parking.
See them all at rentcandlewood.com
or call 715-344-7524

FOR RENT
SUMMER STUDENT HOUSING AVAILABLE
ONE SIDE OF DUPLEX AVAILABLE.
4 BEDROOM. RENT $1250 PER MONTH.
AVAILABLE MAY 1, 2017 TO AUGUST 30, 2017
MAY 15, 2017 TO AUGUST 30, 2017
EVERYTHING INCLUDED except ELECTRICITY
KITCHEN APPLIANCES INCLUDED
ALSO AVAILABLE. 30 X 30 FOOT GARAGE
CONTACT BONNIE@ 715-887-2514 or 715-323-7209

Next Friday, repeat the cycle all over again.
I've got all weekend! I've got time!
Let’s Talk About Sets, Baby

SYDNEY DENHARTIG
REPORTER
sdenh7-2@uwsp.edu

The Noel Fine Arts Center houses many pieces of art and modes to enjoy it, one being the theatres where student productions are shown each semester.

Most recently, "The Miracle Worker," allowed set designers the opportunity to research and create a historically accurate set.

Joe Klug, assistant professor of scenic design, described how the creation of a set is important to the show. "The script is like a roadmap," Klug said. "It has all of the answers of where you're going to go and what you're going to be discovering along the way."

Sets allow the play to tell a visual story side-by-side with the actors on stage, which Klug described as involving an intense amount of research.

"It is important to be historically accurate to make it feel real. We want the performers to feel like they're in the time period, to help them discover their character," said Klug. "We look at the daily life of people during the time period and then begin the designs."

Beyond set designing, there are other vital aspects to be looked at such as the props that appear on stage. Claire Allard, theatre design and technology major and prop master, said, "Miracle Worker was so prop heavy. The prop master was in charge of all of the dishes, the food on the plates. Some of that was actually real. We made eggs every night for each show."

Allard went on to mention the research that goes into props as well. Something as simple as a teddy bear needs to be researched when working on a period play.

"In the production of Helen Keller we had to make sure everything was historically accurate," Allard said. "We couldn't even give her a teddy bear because they were not invented until Teddy Roosevelt became president."

How actors interact with props drives the plot and allows the audience to connect with what is happening on stage.

Nina Barresi, junior musical theatre major, said, "Props are really important. All the technology helps the actors get into the world of the play. While playing a cop I had to use handcuffs all the time. They were vital to the story and the point of the plot."

There is constant communication happening between actors and set designers to ensure the production is the most accurate for the audience.

"In Miracle Worker, we asked the actress if she knew how to cross-stitch already, if not we needed to make it appear as if she did, which would change the prop," Klug said. "It is most important with food. If I have an actor or actress who is allergic to something then obviously I can't have that on stage."

Set designs and props help to create a story. In this way, the actors in the show go hand in hand with those who create the set.
Battle of Bands Diversifies Point's Music Scene

KAITLYN WANTA
REPORTER
kwanta93@uwsp.edu

This year's Battle of the Bands first place winner, Jaded Living, described by band members as "progressive rock 'n roll with hard rock and metal elements," and second place winner, Elk Startled by Thunder, a punk band will be performing their music on April 15 in the DUC Encore to showcase the best that the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has to offer.

Battle of the Bands is a yearly event where bands compete for the title of Best Band based on musicality, style, stage presence, song writing and crowd reaction.

Winners are selected by a panel of qualified judges to determine the best bands Stevens Point has to offer. This year's judges included two staff members from 90FM. One of the winners from last year's Battle of the Bands who is a recent graduate of the music therapy program, and a worker that has attended every show.

First place winner, Jaded Living, includes Jacob Ramsey as guitarist and vocalist, Pete Koconis on bass and David Lawrence on drums. Jaded Living started in fall 2015, however, after months of not being a band, Ramsey wrote a collection of songs while visiting his friends and family in Illinois.

While listening to music by Grateful Dead, the band name, "Jaded Living," came to Ramsey as a complete surprise.

Koconis and Lawrence joined Ramsey for makeshift practices in Ramsey's basement.

In their fifteen minute Battle of the Bands performance, the band members believe their originality, energy, confidence and crowd response was what put them above the other bands.

"The crowd response, I think, was what really won it for us," Lawrence said.

Jaded Living is a band that plays based on how they feel in the moment, causing them to have a different sound each time they perform and leaving their audience not knowing what to expect.

"I just kind of strategically chose songs that I felt were going to be really good for the crowd," Ramsey said.

Regardless of their recent ban from Gus's On Main, their energy and intensity will be directed into the upcoming release of their EP, "Slosh," and their initiative, "Up From The Basement." The EP, predicted to come out fall 2017, is meant to showcase the diversity of the music scene in Stevens Point.

Second place winner, Elk Startled by Thunder includes Baily Sexton as guitarist and vocalist, Atticus Polsansky on bass and Nathan Klink on drums and vocals.

The name, "Elk Startled by Thunder," originated from the founder spending time in a national forest and literally seeing an elk startled by thunder during a storm.

The band also has an environmental focus that is encompassed into the lyrics of their songs.

Preparing for Battle of the Bands three weeks ahead of time, members of Elk Startled By Thunder believe they placed because they did not waste any time, performing six songs in fifteen minutes.

Baily Sexton said Battle of the Bands is fun because there is typically not much crossover in the music scene of Stevens Point.

"That's really cool because you'll have people who listen to one band that might not necessarily know the other ones and they get all genres of music," Sexton said.

In the future, Elk Startled By Thunder plans to master their first album to show who they are and would like to see more mosh pits at their shows.

On April 15, attendees can expect to hear loud, messy and fun music as well as "something special" from Sexton and the rest of this year's Battle of the Bands winners.
Pride Week Set to Shine Bright and Proud

WESEL HORTENBACH
REPORTER
whort335@uwsp.edu

April 10 was the start of pride week and, for some students, the start of movies, prom and much more.

On Monday night, in partnership with the Black Student Union and Centertainment, the Oscar winning movie Moonlight was shown to a nearly full house in the Dreyfus University Center.

Moonlight is extra special to students because there is rarely a mainstream movie featuring a protagonist who is both LGBT and a person of color, even rarer for it to win best picture at the academy awards.

Pride week is an annual series of events put on by the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Because there are always new board members, each year has its own unique charm.

To put an emphasis on transgender issues, this year’s theme of pride week is “Alec in Cenderland.”

This theme will focus on informing students about what being transgender means and clearing up misconceptions.

Lena Blaschke, junior international studies and communications major, is on the board of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance and is putting on Tuesday’s event, Trans Tea & Cookies.

“Trans Tea & Cookies is a time for people not necessarily a part of the trans community to ask questions about what it really means to be transgender. We will also be talking about different issues facing trans students in the world today,” said Blaschke.

Wednesday is Bi-ing time. This is not a knockoff version of a singles auction. Students of all identities are able to sell their time to the highest bidder.

Kade Johanning, junior web & digital media design major, is arranging Thursday’s event, pride prom.

Pride prom is a dance night that could be potentially more inclusive than what was held at some high schools.

Johanning said, “People can come of any sexuality, people can come wearing any outfit, and people can come with any date they would like.”

Pride prom will include drinks, snacks and everything else to recreate the prom experience.

Friday night is the finale of the week.

Both Alan Gustamante, senior history and international studies major, and Griffin Morrison, sophomore English major, are organizing this year’s pride show.

Formerly, this show was exclusively a drag show but, in the sake of inclusivity, it will be open to all talents as well as drag.

“The pride show is a great way for us all to show off our talents and to impress oneself,” said Morrison.

Some in the queer community find the concept of drag to be problematic.

“Drag practices are great but they often come as having drag queens and transwomen lumped together as the same thing,” said Blaschke.

“Not all drag performers are transwomen and not all transwomen dress in drag. It’s not that drag performers are being discriminatory, but the concept at large can come across as misleading to outside viewers who otherwise wouldn’t be aware of the difference.

All events for this year’s pride week begin at 7 p.m. in the Dreyfus University Center and students of all identities are invited.

Centertainment’s Paint Night: Glassware Goodies

LHEA OWENS
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
lowe775@uwsp.edu

On Thursday night, brightly colored paint pallets and a variety of different glassware littered the tables throughout the Dreyfus University Center’s Encore.

Centertainment Productions hosted Paint Night, inviting students to take some time out of their busy schedules to have some fun painting glasses.

Tessa Tranel, junior music education major and travel and leisure coordinator for Centertainment, was in charge of the event.

Tranel said that a wine and paint night she experienced in Milwaukee inspired the idea for the event.

“I thought the idea of painting wine glasses was a really cool idea, but people have already taken that idea and used it before for past events,” Tranel said. “I saw that someone did wine glass painting night and I thought, ‘Wait, it doesn’t just have to be wine glasses, it could be other forms of glassware too’!

They make things more unique, Tranel supplied students with glassware like mason jars, little glasses and an assortment of corked bottles. She also supplied an array of colored paints and brushes for creators to paint with.

Tranel believes that painting can be therapeutic, especially with students prepping for their inevitable final exams a month and a half away.

“Being a college student is stressful,” Tranel said. “I mean you’re constantly around people doing homework and school related tasks, but you can come here to do something that is completely not related to school, your major or what you’re studying it’s kind of a nice escape.”

At the event there was not specified structure to what the attendees could paint like you would usually see at painting events, so painters were able to stretch their creativity to the maximum.

“It’s honestly just about them doing their own thing,” Tranel said. “They went in and made some pretty unique and awesome creations. I hope that by giving them the freedom to make what they want they will have more fun this way.”

There were about 75 students in attendance, excitedly buzzing around their tables and talking to new people as they worked on their take home creations.

Quinten Tyra, freshman soil and land management major, said that he attended the event on a whim when his friends invited him saying they weren’t going to study that night.

“At first I thought it was going to be something like stained glass, but when we got closer to the entrance I saw people with the glasses they were providing and the paint,” Tyra said. “I was like, ‘Oh this might actually be cool and I definitely don’t really want to study right now.’ I honestly just wanted to try something new.”

Madeline Ahrens, freshman paper science and engineering major, also attended the event for the simple fact that she loves to paint.

“I don’t think there are enough opportunities in college to be creative, financially, so programs like these are great,” Ahrens said. “I think I’m going to plant a flower in my glass after I’m done with it.”

With the constant struggles college students go through on a daily basis, Tranel hopes students will walk away with a fun and lasting experience.

Tranel said, “I hope these students think that coming to this event was a good use of their time, that they had fun and that now they have a cute little souvenir to take home with them.”
International Dinner: 47 Years of Making Connections

OLIVIA DE VALK
REPORTER
odevaasg@uwsp.edu

On Saturday, April 8, students from all over the world united to celebrate diversity at the 47th Annual International Dinner.

This year’s dinner theme, “Destinations: Off the Beaten Path,” was chosen to recognize that some of the most beautiful aspects of a country lie off the beaten path.

The dinner is a celebration of the diversity of students who attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Melanie Snyder, junior English major and dinner attendant, said, “There was a real feeling of connection and movement in everything that evening. It felt impossible to simply be a spectator and not also be actively engaged in what was being offered.”

The sold-out dinner served 342 people and featured student performances, a silent auction and a fashion show.

Michelle Wilde, senior psychology major and president of International Club, said that International Dinner helps to represent students from diverse backgrounds by allowing them to represent themselves and their countries.

The dinner opened with the traditional flag ceremony, which gives students the opportunity to carry the flag of their country on stage and wave it in unison with the other flags. This year’s ceremony featured the flags of 35 countries.

Laura Campo, sophomore sociology major and outreach coordinator for International Club, organized this year’s flag ceremony to the beat of Pitbull’s “We are One.”

Campo said the flag ceremony is imperative because, “It’s important to represent those students that we have because then they feel that they are accepted.”

This year’s dinner was unique because it was the last dinner for two of the club’s long-standing advisors, Maria Mace and Remya Sarma-Traynor.

In honor of their commitment to inclusivity and the success of the club, Chancellor Bernie Patterson lauded their efforts in his address to the audience.

The menu represented a broad spectrum of foods from places all over the world such as Spain, Korea, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Vietnam and Mumbai.

Ketevan Shonia, junior occupational therapy major and cross-organizational event coordinator for International Club, co-chaired the foods committee.

The crowd favorite of the night was a drink called the Brazilian Vitamina, which consisted of ripe avocados blended with milk and sugar.

Other foods included traditional Spanish cold soup called Gazpacho and a dessert enjoyed across South America, Arroz Con Leche.

After the dinner, students performed traditional and modern songs, dances and skits.

The performance portion was concluded with an energetic dance put on by the officers of International Club and choreographed by Apoorva Sarmal, the vice president.

“It’s a very nerve-wracking and high-stress experience but my favorite part is when the I-dinner actually happens and watching everything actually unravel,” Shonia said. “At the very end you really feel part of the team and part of the community.”