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## Finals Frenzy Study Session Hopes To Help Students Succeed

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As the stress of finals week approaches, the Tutoring-Learning Center is providing students with an additional study resource known as "Finals Frenzy."

The study session will be taking place on Monday, Dec. 18, from 12 to 8 p.m. The event will take place in Room 018 of Albertson Hall.

The pressure of multiple exams, papers and due dates can be overwhelming for many students, leading the TLC to bring in multiple resources to help with the wide range of problems students may encounter.

For example, many students are assigned a research paper or final paper, in addition to or in place of a final exam. To help those students, the center will have writing consultants on staff during the study session. These consultants will be able to read, review and discuss student lab reports, research papers, final papers or any other writing assignment.

Tyler Olson, sophomore environmental law enforcement major, said, "Having to write a lab report can be really tough, especially when it impacts your grade so much. I'm glad I will be able to go in and have people who really know what they are doing review my paper so I can get that grade I really need."

In addition, the center will be providing tutoring for students who may need help in math, bi-

ology and chemistry. The tutors will help answer last minute questions and review topics that pertain to the students' finals.

Cole Ciochon, freshman soil and land management major, said, "Because I'm a freshman, I've never had tests that were this important and required this much effort. I'm hoping that going to these study sessions will help prepare me and help me feel a little less stressed."

However, while the center does provide one-on-one sessions throughout the semester, the "Finals Frenzy" study session will be more of a drop-in tutoring style format, similarly to the tutoring service provided on the second level of the Dreyfus University Center.

To help keep students motivated and their spirits high, the study session will not only be filled with learning but also snacks.

The Tutoring-Learning Center will be providing free snacks, such as hot chocolate and coffee to help keep students' stomachs full and minds a little less stressed.

Tanya Copas, the Tutoring in Math and Science Coordinator, said, "Finals Frenzy is an event hosted by the Tutoring-Learning Center to promote studying for finals in an inclusive, friendly and positive environment."

The session is open to all students and hopes to help as many students as possible. Whether a student has a quick question or is having trouble understanding a certain topic, all questions are welcomed.

## PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Monday, December 4

Staff member called to report suspicious activity in their office. They stated that before the weekend started there was an orchid on their desk and somehow over the weekend the orchid had disappeared and been replaced with, "an ugly plant and a watering can."

Tuesday, December 5

An individual in Baldwin Hall had been shining a laser pointer at individuals on the sidewalk.

Wednesday, December 6

Two callers reported a car alarm going off repeatedly in Lot Q.

Thursday, December 7

Staff member called to report that more of the purple rugs in the CPS were stolen.

Friday, December 8

Individual called to report a suspicious person sitting in a truck.

### 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.

The Pointer is printed Wednesdays during the academic year with a circulation of 3,000 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is \$10 per academic year.

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](mailto: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.

## THE POINTER

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## FOR RENT

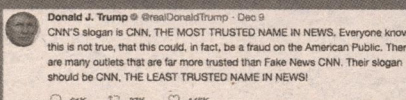
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### Tweet of the Week



### Two of Utah's National Monuments Reduced by Over 50 Percent

#### Trump Reduces National Monuments

On Dec. 4 President Trump signed two presidential proclamations that will shrink Bear Ears by 85 percent and Grand Staircase-Escalante by 50 percent. President Trump said this decision would, "reverse federal overreach and restore the rights of this land" to the citizens of Utah.

#### Trump Decides Jerusalem is Capital of Israel

On Dec. 8, Palestinians in the territories of Gaza and West Bank were injured by Israeli live fire and rubber bullets as they protested Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

#### "The President Cannot Obstruct Justice"

One of President Trump's tweets could be used against him as evidence for obstruction of justice. The tweet in question reads, "I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the vice president and the FBI." President Trump's lawyer, John Dowd gave an interview to Axios where he said, "the president cannot obstruct justice because he is the chief law enforcement officer under the Constitution." Contrary to what Dowd's claims, past presidents Bill Clinton and Richard Nixon have gotten into a great deal of trouble for obstruction of justice.



# 'Tis The Season For Twinkle Lights and Pluralism

OLIVIA DEVALK  
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As the holiday season approaches, buildings and dorms across the university are decorated with lights and greenery, and on Nov. 20, Human Resources sent out a reminder through campus announcements reminding people decorating for winter holidays to follow UW-System legal guidelines.

These guidelines aim to promote religious pluralism across the university, while still allowing students and employees to decorate their personal offices and rooms with any religious or holiday symbol they choose, so long as it complies with safety regulations.

Regulations on decorations in personal space would be an unconstitutional prohibition of free speech. However, the UW-System does caution that in the office of any higher ranking employees religious displays may not be interpreted as an endorsement by the University of a particular religion or religions.

In public spaces however, the University should be careful not to endorse a particular religion, as that goes against the separation of church and state. Religiously neutral decorations include Christmas trees, which courts have recognized as a secular symbol of the holiday season, are permissible in public spaces.

Religiously symbolic decorations like menorahs and nativity scenes may be displayed so long

as they appear as part of a larger, secular, display that celebrates pluralism or promotes tolerance and respect for diverse customs.

To prevent the appearance of endorsing a particular religion, the UW-System advises that any holiday display with an overtly religious symbol should include a religious symbol from another religion to avoid the appearance of endorsing one religion over another.

Jim Roecker, pastor at The Word on Clark Street, said that while his church does not preach pluralism, he understands why it is important for a university to display symbols of multiple religions on its campus.

"As just human beings, it would be wonderful to coexist, and we certainly do in a sense. But then it kind of downplays the differences though in religions because it doesn't matter what religion you look at, there is always, for each of them, one way or one book that they point to," Roecker said.

Whether the decorations are secular or religious, they are always beautiful.

Gabrielle Kittredge, senior early childhood education major and writing consultant, said she enjoys the decorations all around campus, but especially the lights hanging up in the Tutoring-Learning Center.

"I really like Christmas lights because they add a nice ambiance," Kittredge said. "In study spaces like this, it's calming."



Dorm decor gets students in the holiday spirit. Photo courtesy of McKenzie Noltner

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# STUDENT HELP WANTED

## Interested in Working for THE POINTER?

### 2 REPORTER POSITIONS OPEN

The position involves pitching story ideas, keeping up-to-date on campus and world news and events, attending weekly meetings and writing articles for publication in weekly editions of The Pointer. Previous writing experience and knowledge of AP style is preferred but will train the right candidate.

Interested applicants should email Co-Editor-in-Chief,  
Anyon Rettinger at arett489@uwsp.edu with questions or to apply.

### BUSINESS MANAGER POSITION OPEN

The position involves maintaining budgets, purchasing and ordering, documentation of both, as well as handling advertising and sales to outside entities. Suggested qualifications include a business background, particularly in accounting and finance areas, experience with business management, advertising, record keeping, billing, being a self-motivated worker and also an extroverted person.

Interested applicants should email Co-Editor-in-Chief,  
Anyon Rettinger at arett489@uwsp.edu with questions or to apply.



## Annual Tree Sale Benefits Local Teens in Portage County



Trees that are on sale at the YMCA in Stevens Point. Photo by Alex Grant.

**AARON ZIMMERMAN**  
REPORTER  
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The annual Christmas tree sale held at the Stevens Point Area YMCA helps raise money for the teen center.

For over 40 years, the tree sale has taken place at the YMCA, and it's not the average tree sale. Tiffany Praeger, the teen department director, has been helping the tree sale for six years.

"The proceeds go to our teen department programs. Kids in Portage County can come in and do different activities at the YMCA like swimming, movie nights, volunteer, playing video games or shoot some hoops," Praeger said.

She also explained that if families can't afford a membership or if they aren't able to pay for programs, they can apply for scholarships. Which is another thing that the proceeds go towards.

Both the tree sale and the ski swap that took place in November to help raise money for teen center programs and financial assistance for nonmembers or members unable to pay.

"One of the greatest things about our tree sales is that it's a community effort. We harvest our trees from a local tree farm in Almond, and Jaymar trucking donates their time to deliver the trees, and the teens are the ones who take charge of the sales by volunteering to work in the lots," said Praeger.

Praeger said that from start to finish, every part is done by the community.

"My other favorite part is getting excited and getting

ready for the holidays. The kids are excited and the people shopping for their trees are in a good mood and it feels good to help spread the holiday cheer," Praeger said.

Though Praeger runs many of the sales during the day, the teens are the ones who are working the sales in the evenings.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, over 33 million holiday trees are harvested and sold annually. How-

ever, that's still more environmentally friendly than fake trees because of the material that fake trees are made from.

According to the National Christmas Tree association, over 85 percent of artificial trees are shipped from China, which increases our carbon footprint. Artificial trees are also made from PVC which is a non-recyclable plastic that will stay in landfills indefinitely.

Anyone looking to get a

great tree that is harvested locally and helps a good cause can check out the Stevens Point Area YMCA.

Their hours are Monday through Friday 4 p.m.-8 p.m., Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Sundays 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. They have Balsams and Frasers with a wide variety of sizes and height. If anyone wishes to get a tree outside of those times, the YMCA still sells trees during regular business hours as well.



Trees that are on sale at the YMCA in Stevens Point. Photo by Alex Grant.



## Sustainability Programs Inspire Students

REBECCA SPENCER  
CONTRIBUTOR

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In 2016, a few majors emerged that emphasized the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point's attitude towards the importance of sustainability. Three new majors were implemented: a bachelor's degree in sustainable food and nutrition, a masters program in sustainable and resilient food systems and an educational doctorate degree in educational sustainability.

Jasia Steinmetz, professor in the School of Health Promotion and Human Development, is the coordinator of the M.S. in sustainable and resilient food systems. Steinmetz explained that climate change caused a change of resources.

World wide, there has been a decline in soil and water quantity and quality. Richer countries have a much bigger water and carbon footprint than poorer countries. Stienmetz said that with climate change, these lower income countries will be affected by sea level rise and the richer countries will want the crops they grow to feed their populations. In addition, the rich countries have bigger footprints that cause shortages in these poorer countries. The

lower income countries will want support, financial and other from the richer countries. They are experiencing lows yet those countries are not responsible for them.

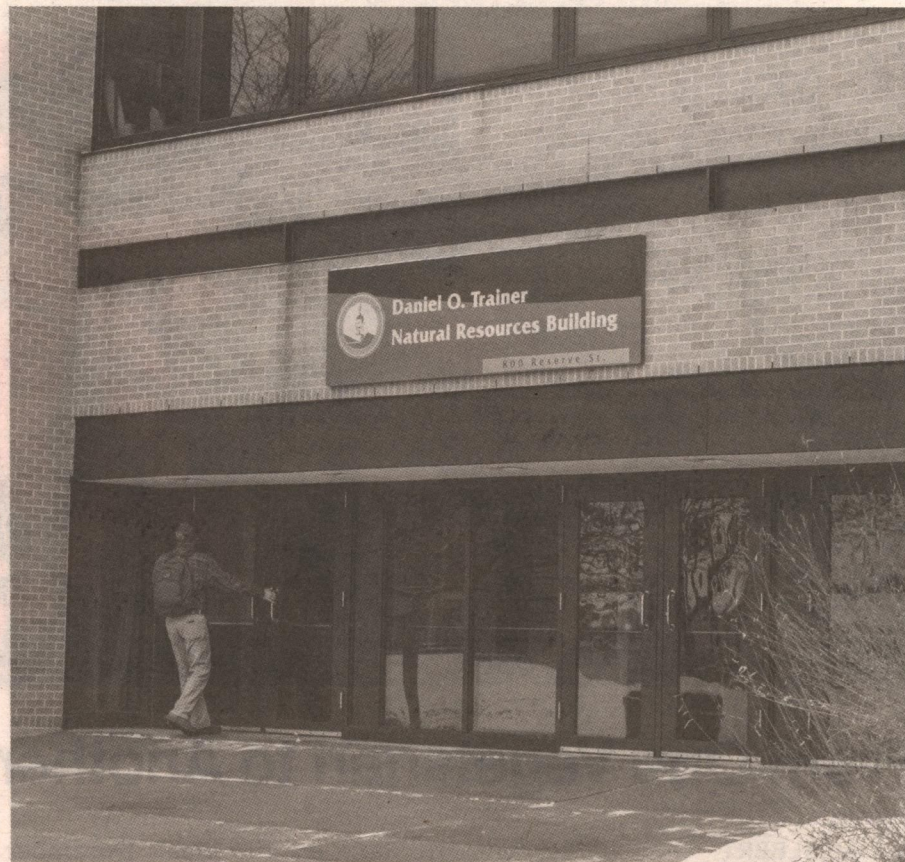
The country Bangladesh, for example, is experiencing higher sea levels and the fishermen are not able to fish. The ocean rising overtook fresh water with salt water and it effected everything. Part of the lands were described as "Swiss cheese." However, the bigger problem is the amount of people becoming climate refugees.

The new programs at UWSP aim to tackle many of these issues seen around the globe.

One such topic is the production of food and non processed foods such as locally grown vegetables. Ideally, students will learn from a system level to look at agriculture, ecology, social, cultures and understand how all that works together because everything is connected.

There is now both undergraduate and graduate programs for the food systems major. Sustainable food and nutrition students will become nutrition educators at the end of this degree.

Emily Szmanda, senior food and nutrition major, was eager to share her experience



UWSP has added a number of sustainability related majors since 2016, including, sustainable food and nutrition and a master's program in sustainable and resilient food systems. Photo by Ross Vetterkind

of becoming involved.

"I hope to make the environmental eating accessible to everyone and at the same time do something about the social injustice ingrained in our current food system," Szmanda said.

In her junior year, Szmanda took Ecology of Foods,

taught by Steinmetz, and said it changed her outlook on life.

"I think it's so important to keep the integrity of food intact especially in a society where convenience foods are at our fingertips," Szmanda said.

## Students Opt for Experiences this Holiday Season

MICHELLE WILDE  
REPORTER

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Some students are opting to give experiences to their loved ones this holiday season.

Janice Ian, senior environmental ethics major, said, "Every year, I struggle and debate on what to get my parents or really anyone who is no longer in college and making a decent living because I don't really know what they need. So this year, I decided to take my parents to go see Jerrod Niemann in concert since that is her favorite country singer."

Aside from not knowing exactly what relatives and friends might need or like, getting them an experience ensures valuable memories will be formed.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point alumnus Matthew Grutza said, "My co-worker at Syracuse University is moving to Montana in January and her favorite musical is 'The Book of Mormon.' So I am taking her to New York City to go see it. She already has enough stuff to move, so getting a material gift would make moving even harder. She is also not very materialistic so the shared experience would be more valuable and memora-



Gifts experiences rather than material items are becoming more popular. Trips to New York for a Broadway show are an exciting gift that some may be getting this holiday season. Photo courtesy of Max Pixel

ble."

Grutza said that his friend already has what she needs so he didn't think that he could find something she would need and use therefore the experience would be more valuable.

Scientists have conducted studies and say that experiences are better gifts. A recent study by researchers at San Francisco State University showed people "enjoy greater

well-being from life experiences and consider them to be a better use of money."

Holly Mckenna, junior elementary education major, said, "If I can't think of something someone would actually need or use pretty regularly, I will opt for an experience instead. Even if it's just a day trip to Madison or something. I hate to think of an object sitting on a shelf gathering dust. I'd much

rather make memories."

Mckenna said, "I don't want to contribute to regifting so I opted to take my best friend to her favorite restaurant in Madison for the weekend to de-stress from finals."

Over the past decade, an abundance of psychology research has shown that experiences bring people more happiness than do possessions.



## Editorial



Many vegetarian and vegan friendly dishes use root vegetables. Photo courtesy of Phil Roeder

### From One Vegetarian to Another: Getting Through the Holidays

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It's that time of year again for vegetarians, when we brace for interrogations on our lifestyle choices and get ready to load up on a few extra servings of mashed potatoes at holiday gatherings.

In my meat-and-potatoes kind of family, the turkey missing from my plate has caused plenty of explaining about my life-style choices and personal philosophy. It has also inspired a handful of concerned relatives to become novice dietitians, bombarding me with well-meaning but questionable nutrition advice.

All of this is par for the course as a vegetarian. So, while you may not be able to avoid being the punch-line of a few herbivore related jokes, being vegetarian does not mean you need to miss out on the host of delicious food the holiday season has to offer.

In the past, I have been guilty of making up for a lack of vegetarian options at holiday gatherings by eating obscene amounts of Christmas cookies. While I never had a problem with this arrangement, desserts are just the icing on the cake to the plethora of hearty vegetarian possibilities—yes, pun intended.

For me, holiday fare is all about comfort food. So, there is nothing like thick creamy soup

to stave off the bleak December chill. Traditionally, clam chowder has been a Christmas Eve favorite in my family. Since I do not eat seafood, I started bringing roasted-red pepper soup to the gathering.

Flavorful, rich and smoky, red pepper soup is not only delicious but very simple to prepare. To make, sauté half an onion and 2 cloves of garlic. Add a large can of tomatoes, a jar of roasted red peppers and one large teaspoon of each dried basil, oregano and fennel. Let everything cook together for 10 minutes and then add three-quarters of cup of heavy cream and puree until smooth. If the soup tastes bitter, add a teaspoon of sugar. Garnish generously with black pepper. If you are feeling lazy, you can cheat by mixing roasted red pepper marinara sauce with cream to your desired consistency—no one will ever know the difference. Serve with fresh bread. Bonus: the aroma may even make your meat-eating family members jealous.

Another vegetarian delicacy everyone can get on board with is fondue. My grandma's cheese fondue has become a New Year's Eve Tradition in our family. My grandma shared her recipe with me, which has been used so much over the last 50 years that the writing is barely legible. To make, warm two cups of wine to

bubbling in a saucepan. Add two cups of Gruyère cheese and six cups of Swiss. Incorporate cheese one handful at a time, stirring continuously. It is crucial to stir diligently to avoid ending up with one massive glob of cheese. Mix one-quarter teaspoon of nutmeg and one teaspoon of cornstarch into a quarter cup of sherry. Add black pepper to taste. Serve warm with cubes of crusty French bread for dipping. \*The original source of this recipe is unknown.

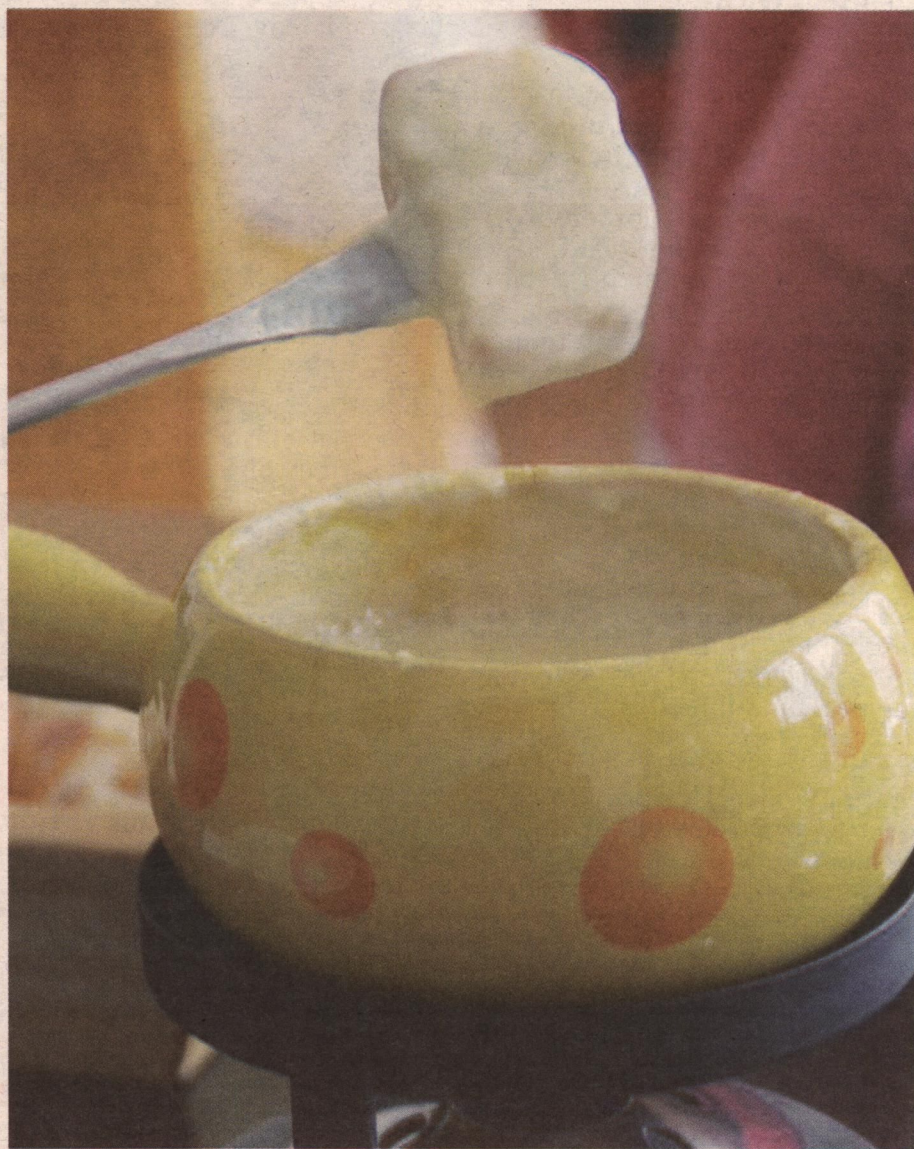
Another holiday potluck strategy is to steal the show with fantastic sides. As the resident vegetarian, you are tasked with assuring that vegetables get their

fair representation. 'Tis the season to embrace root vegetables, and I encourage you to think beyond the basic potato. While sweet potatoes, winter squash, rutabaga and beets may be a step away from the traditional, they bring festive color to holiday dishes.

Its up to you how fancy you want to get, as the countless vegetarian and vegan bloggers have proved, the skies the limit. The internet can provide inspiration for re-creating vegetarian versions of practically any dish imaginable. Its time to get creative. Happy cooking and happy holidays!



Roasted red pepper soup is one of many vegetarian friendly dishes. Photo courtesy of Burnadette Wurzing



Cheese fondue is a fun and vegetarian friendly dish for the holiday season. Photo courtesy of Pixabay



## Look Into Sports

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### WOMEN'S HOCKEY CLAIMS PAIR OF ROAD VICTORIES

Pointer women's hockey extended its winning streak to four with victories over Saint Mary's University on Friday, Dec. 8, in Winona, MN and Augsburg University on Saturday, Dec. 9, in Minneapolis, MN.

The women took down Saint Mary's 4-2 as three of the four points scored by the Pointers came on power plays.

UWSP's Mackenzie Kratch, Cara Lemirande, Maddie Schlossmacher and Ali Biagini each scored a goal.

Junior goaltender Sydney Conley was credited with the

victory while grabbing 29 saves.

The Pointers defeated Augsburg 3-1 during the team's final game before the end of the semester.

Ellie Punnett, Lemirande and Biagini each scored a goal for UWSP.

Conley took home a second victory while securing 42 saves to bring her weekend total to 71.

Women's hockey will now have nearly a month off before returning to the ice to face the College of Saint Benedict in St. Paul, MN on Friday, Jan. 5. Game time is set for 7:30 p.m.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL BRINGS HOME WIN FROM OUT OF STATE MATCHUP

UW-Stevens Point women's basketball left North Central College in the dust with a 68-44 road victory to raise the Pointer's record to 4-3 overall as the end of the semester looms.

The voyage to Illinois saw Point outscore the Cardinals in three out of four quarters.

Stevens Point Senior Taylor Barrett scored a double-double with 11 rebounds and 13 points.

Freshman Ashley Leiterman tied Barrett's total points with 13 of her own and added four assists.

The Pointers got off to a fast

start as it scored 23 points in the opening quarter and then stood behind strong defensive play as the team held the Cardinals to single digits in the second and third quarters.

The Cardinals matched UWSP's fourth quarter point total of 15 but the Pointers had already established a 24-point lead by then to walk away with the victory.

The Pointers will be back on the court as it hosts Ripon College on Friday, Dec. 15. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

### UWSP SWIMMING SWEEPS OSHKOSH

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams completed its first dual sweep of the season as the Pointer men won 174-64 and women won 129-113 over UW-Oshkosh in Oshkosh on Friday, Dec. 18.

Owen Gluck (three-meter diving event), Gabe Castillo (100-yard breast stroke), Jackson Aton (100-yard freestyle), Ryan Altaweel (200-yard IM and 100-yard fly), Jared Chatterton (1,000-yard freestyle), Vincent Giallombardo (200-yard freestyle) and Riley Patton (50-yard free style) each took first in their respective events for the men's team.

Miles Townsend, Jackson Aton, Josh Gunther and Caleb Meixner came together to finish first in the 200-yard freestyle relay, while Riley Pankratz,

Jeremy Meerstein, Townsend and Andy Schuetz formed a team that finished first in the 200-yard medley relay.

Jackie Braun (one-meter and three-meter diving events) and Breanna Ruffolo (100-yard breaststroke) took first in their respective events for the women's team.

Sydney Richetto, Taylor Pehrson, Murron Roff and Margaret Hoover teamed up to finish first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The swimming and diving teams will have a month off for winter break before hosting the Point Invite at the UWSP Aquatics Center beginning on Friday, Jan. 18, at 10 a.m.

### MEN'S HOCKEY TOPS CONCORDIA WITH STRONG FINISH

The UWSP men's hockey team used a pair of goals in the third period to secure a home victory over Concordia University 5-3 on Friday, Dec. 8, to boost its overall season record to 8-3-2.

The Pointers got into the scoring column first with a goal by sophomore defenseman Drew McLean during the fourth minute of the first period.

After a goal by Concordia in the second period, junior defenseman Stephan Beauvais scored on a power play during the 6th minute of the second period to put the Pointers back on top 2-1.

McLean scored his second goal of the night at the 9:18 mark to widen the lead to 3-1.

The lead would fail to stand long as the Falcons scored back-to-back goals at the end of the second period to tie the game at

3. Early in the final period, Stevens Point's freshman forward Zach Zech scored the tie-breaking goal as he was assisted by fellow forward Kelly O'Brien and defenseman Ryan Bittner.

Junior forward Tanner Karty put the game on ice for the Pointers with a goal right before the end of regulation. Karty was assisted by forwards Logan Fredericks and Willem Nong-Lambert.

Senior goaltender Max Milosek collected the win while securing 27 saves.

The UWSP men's hockey team will be back on the ice on Wednesday, Dec. 13, as the team hosts Adrian College in the last hockey game before the end of the semester. The match is set to begin at 7 p.m.

### DODGE SETS RECORD IN WIN OVER HOPE

Junior guard Nate Dodge made 10 shots from beyond the arc to set the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's basketball single-game record for three-point shots made as he helped the Pointers pick up its first home win of the season against Hope College 91-77 on Saturday, Dec. 11.

Dodge scored nearly half of UWSP's points as he dropped 42 on the Flying Dutch, the second-most points scored in a game in team history.

Junior Brett Tauber led the Pointers in blocked shots (two) and rebounds (eight), while fel-

low junior Drew Fredrickson led the team in assists with seven.

Stevens Point's defense held strong in the first half as it surrendered only 33 points to put UWSP up by 12 at the break.

The Flying Dutch scored 44 in the second half but the Pointers scored 46 to ensure the victory.

The Pointer men's basketball team will return to its home court to host Lawrence University on Wednesday, Dec. 13. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

## Sports Events

### Men's Basketball

**Dec. 13,**  
**vs. Lawrence College**  
7 p.m.

**Dec. 16,**  
**vs. St. Thomas**  
7 p.m.

### Wrestling

**Dec. 13,**  
**at UW-Eau Claire**  
7 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

**Dec. 15,**  
**vs. Ripon**  
7 p.m.

### Men's Hockey

**Dec. 13,**  
**vs. Adrian College**  
7 p.m.

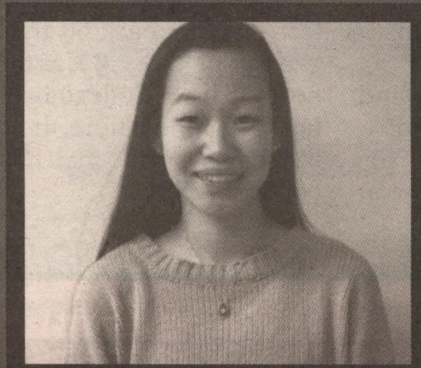


## Humans of Point: Students Share Festivity

The students of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are excited for the upcoming holiday season. In this article, there will be interviews from a few of the students at UWSP discussing their favorite holidays and why they cherish them. Although we celebrate the same holidays, we set our own traditions among our families, making them special to us all.

### JULIA CHENG

is a junior majoring in accounting & business management.



Julia's favorite holiday is Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year is a holiday that celebrates the new year. This is Cheng's favorite holidays because of the family gathering, food, and decorations.

"People travel far to be with their families, this is one of the two biggest holidays," Cheng said. "Chinese New Year is very important to our culture, it's a time when family can get together".

Chinese New Year is a 16-day holiday and changes every year, along with the zodiac animal. This year, Chinese New Year will take place on Feb. 18 and the zodiac animal will be the dog.

Cheng said, "New Year's Eve we put up red decoration for luck, that includes red lanterns and firecrackers that go off on New Year's Day."

Red is also a prominent part of the holiday attire.

Another Chinese New Year tradition is the passing out of red envelopes filled with money to children. This symbolizes luck for the upcoming year, and parents recommend the children save it.

The dinner table will feature vegetables and fish on this holiday. The fish also represents luck, whereas "a surplus of fish means your family won't go hungry."

### BRIGITTE BENITEZ

Vargas is a senior business administration and Spanish major.



Brigitte is from Luvianos, Mexico, and her favorite holiday is Christmas.

Benitez-Vargas said Christmas "provides inspiration for humanity. It's not the presents or the decorations. It's the fact that people come together as a community."

At her home there are "lights everywhere," including light projections that illuminate the trees. Santa Clauses and penguins make it look "like a Christmas museum."

At Benitez-Vargas' dinner table, there are tamales, pozole and tamarin water. For desert, her family has cheesecake and arroz con leche, which is a sweet rice with milk.

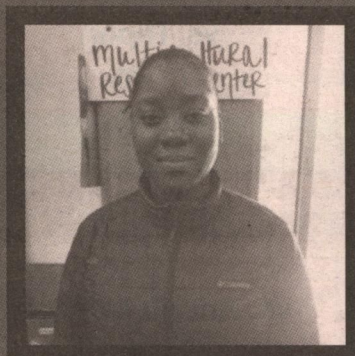
When opening presents, Benitez-Vargas and her family all wears pajamas.

"My mom wears this Santa Claus hat and this big red robe and hands out presents as if she's Santa," Benitez-Vargas said.

To top off their Christmas, the family watches "homemade movies that include a recap of special events, holidays and highlights of that year."

### IMANI CHRISTIAN

Imani Christian is a junior computer information systems major.



Her favorite holiday is carnival.

Carnival is the Caribbean celebration of freedom from slavery by those who live in the West Indies.

"At carnival, there is partying, parades and listening to music," Christian said.

The streets are decorated with the theme of that year, the streets are painted with colors.

"It's a great time full of fun," Christian said.

The holiday takes course over a couple of weeks. There is always entertainment and Jouvert (a huge street party). In Jouvert, people are dressed by their bands (colors varying by the persons group) and extravagant garments.

At Christian's dinner table, you can find "the national dish, saw fish and ducana" (dish of grated sweet potato and coconut with spices). On each island the dish differs.

"The longer the tradition continues, the bigger the holiday becomes" Christian said, and she anticipates when she will be able to attend another one.



# Humans of Point: Students Share Festivity

JERRON BALDWIN

is a senior communication major.



Jerron Baldwin is from Kenosha, and his favorite holiday is "Hallelujah for the Holidays."

Hallelujah for the Holiday starts on Thanksgiving and ends after Christmas. "I look forward to the family prayer right before opening presents on Christmas. This has been a tradition since I was little," Baldwin said. Baldwin said this is his favorite holiday because "everyone is happier and contains a positive attitude, and all the food." At the Baldwin dinner table, there is slow roasted ham, roast, mac and cheese, collard greens, yams, hot water corn bread, German chocolate cake, coconut cake, lemon cake, cheesecake, banana pudding and bread pudding.

STARZ WINT

is a sophomore nursing major.

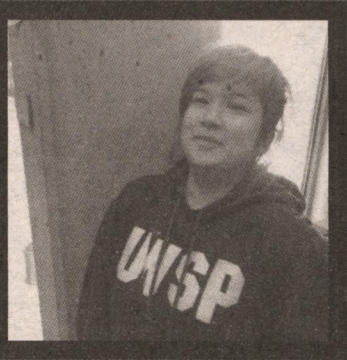


Starz Wint is from Hartford, CT, and her favorite holiday is easter.

"It's a really strong memory I have from living in Connecticut," Wint said. "One of the few times my family would get together, we have a cookout and Easter eggs hunts at my school." At their dinner table, you'll find Jerk chicken and cup soup (soup that nobody knew what went into it and nobody questions either). A few other reasons this is Wint's favorite holiday is because it allows for her to bond with her family, as well as set standards for when she has her own. "I think holidays are more about family than anything else," Wint said. "It's an occasion that forces us all to be together". Everyone has their own reasons for loving the holidays they celebrate, but one thing remains the same: holidays bring out the best in people.

HANNAH CASTANEDA-HUTCHINSON

is a freshman wildlife ecology major.



Her favorite holiday is Halloween.

"I had a lot of good memories growing up," Castaneda-Hutchinson said. "My dad would dress up, and because he's short everyone would think he's my mom's son, we got a lot of candy." "Halloween is fun in general, it gives me an opportunity to express myself," Castaneda-Hutchinson said. "I like being able to dress up as whatever I choose, and people accept you." "My favorite costume was my Red Robin costume in eighth grade," Castaneda-Hutchinson said. "Now that I'm an adult, it still fits but way better than it did as a child."



# One-up Santa with These DIY Gifts

ELIZABETH OLSON  
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Whether you're on a budget this holiday season or looking to channel your finals week stress into crafting, these do-it-yourself gifts are sure to be a hit with your friends and family.

## For That Friend Who's Always Cold: Hand Warmers

### Materials:

- Fabric scraps
- Needle and thread  
(or sewing machine)
- Scissors
- Rice
- Funnel



### Directions:

Cut two pieces of fabric and place them with the patterned side together.

Sew around all four sides, leaving a 2 inch gap on one side. Clip off the corners to cut down on bulk.

Use the hole to turn the fabric right side out.

Fill the warmer with rice using the funnel (a rolled up piece of paper works if a funnel is not available).

Sew the hole closed.

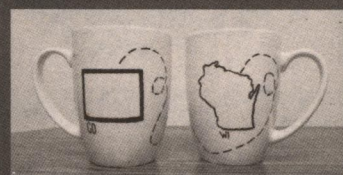
(Optional) For added reinforcement, stitch around the outside of the warmer as well.

Microwave for 20 seconds and enjoy the warmth!

## For That Long Distance Friend: State Outline Mugs

### Materials:

- 2 White mugs
- Sharpie Marker
- Pencil
- Printed outline of desired states
- Oven



### Directions:

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F.

Wash the mugs.

Using the pencil, scribble on the back side of the printed outline. Then place the outline where desired on the mug and use the pencil to trace the outline of the state. The pencil markings should transfer to the mug, creating a template.

Draw over the pencil template with a Sharpie marker, then add a swirling dotted line coming from the state to the side of the mug.

Repeat steps 3 and 4 with the second mug and state, connecting the lines where the mugs meet when placed together.

Bake the mugs for 2 hours at 250 degrees F. to set the marker.

DISCLAIMER: These mugs should only be hand washed.

## For That Friend Who's Always Hungry: Chocolate Covered Pretzel Rods

### Materials:

- Pretzel rods
- White chocolate
- Milk or semi-sweet chocolate
- Sauce pan
- 2 Metal bowls (smaller than the pan)
- Parchment paper
- (optional) Crushed candy canes, nuts, or sprinkles



### Directions:

Fill pan with water 1/2-1/4 full. Place metal bowl in the water.

Put one of the chocolates into the metal bowl and begin heating the water, stirring the chocolate as it melts.

Once completely melted, either dip or drizzle the pretzels in chocolate, leaving one end plain. Lay them on a sheet of parchment paper.

Repeat with the other chocolate, drizzling the contrasting color over the first chocolate.

(Optional) Sprinkle candy canes, nuts, or sprinkles on the pretzels while the chocolate is warm.

Wait until the chocolate hardens, then gift an assortment in a decorative bag.

## For That Friend Who Loves to Cook: Painted Wooden Utensils

### Materials:

- Wooden cooking utensils
- Acrylic paint and paint brushes
- Zinsser Bulls Eye Shellac and Sealer (aerosol can)
- Newspaper
- Mugs/large glasses



### Directions:

Lay down newspaper (recycled issues of The Pointer work great) in the painting area.

Paint half of each handle and add a contrasting color stripe at the top to create a color block design. These can be free-handed for a more homemade look, or the end can be taped off for a clean line.

Put utensils in mugs/large cups with the handle up to dry standing up.

Once dry, use aerosol sealer only on painted section to prevent paint from chipping off.



# Fun and Games Found in Downtown Stevens Point

CALVIN LEMIEUX  
REPORTER  
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As the semester comes to a close, students might find themselves looking for affordable entertainment as a well-earned reward for a grueling study session or just something to ease those “finals season” nerves.

Two Stevens Point establishments are on deck to provide for the needy entertainment enthusiast, whether they’re on the lookout for games, comics, new friends or perhaps just a warm cup of coffee.

Galaxy Comics, Games, and More is a small business located on Clark Street in downtown Stevens Point. Photo by Ross Vetterkind

Galaxy Comics, Games, and More, located at 925 Clark Street, is a descendant of Galaxy Hobby in Plover, which has served the Stevens Point area for more than 25 years. Visitors of the store will be greeted by walls lined with board games, card games, comic books and pop culture collectibles in an open, friendly space. The staff are personable, helpful and deeply knowledgeable about their products. Separate from the showroom is a play area, where patrons can play games they’ve brought themselves or borrowed from the shop’s library.

“We always have open gaming at the store,” said Jeremy

Mosier, boss of Galaxy. “You can come in any time we’re open. We have a game library full of games that you can always play. We have rotating specials on our clearance table throughout the holiday season. We’ve been bringing in a lot of the newer games that have come out this holiday season. We’re always doing Magic [The Gathering] drafts, casual events, things like that throughout the week. If anything, just check out our Facebook, and you’ve got our calendar right there on the side tab.”

For video gamers and coffee drinkers, Tech Lounge at 1036 Main Street offers a casual, relaxed environment with a coffee bar and all of the latest games available to play right there in the shop. Customers can purchase time to use any of Tech Lounge’s gaming computers, loaded with popular titles, or the newest consoles with any game in their selection.

Co-owner and operator Chad Fisher opened Tech Lounge in 2008, and is looking forward to the establishment’s 10th anniversary in August 2018.

“A big reason people use the store this time of year is to try before you buy,” Fisher said. “You’re making a big investment, whether it’s for yourself or as a gift, when games cost up to \$60. We let people try them out before they go and buy them. We’re looking forward to another year downtown. It’s a great community and we love being here. There are a lot of open-minded people in this area and just the right amount of weirdos.”



Galaxy Comics, Games, and More is a small business located on Clark Street in downtown Stevens Point. Photo by Ross Vetterkind

## FOR RENT

### UNIVERSITY LAKE APARTMENTS

Now leasing for 2018/2019 school year.

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## FOR RENT

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS				
Wednesday December 13	Thursday December 14		Tuesday December 16	Tuesday December 19
<b>Henry Leavitt recital</b>  Michelsen Hall, NFAC  7:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.	<b>2018 Juried Student Exhibition Reception</b>  Edna Carlsten Art Gallery  4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	<b>Percussion Ensemble, Decades Series - 1940's</b>  Michelsen Hall, NFAC  7:30-9:30 p.m.	<b>Winter Commencement</b>  Noel Fine Arts Center 121 - Drawing Lab 2  10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	<b>SAL Life Drawing Sessions</b>  HEC  6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
		<b>Centertainment Special Event - DIY Holiday Ornaments</b>  DUC Encore  8:00-10:00 p.m.		





## Cornerstone Press Launches The Appointed Hour

The Appointed Hour, released December 7, 2017, for sale in the Encore the night of its release. Photo by Ross Vetterkind

**AARON ZIMMERMAN**  
REPORTER  
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Students who took part in Cornerstone Press with the book "The Appointed Hour" celebrated the book's official launch Thursday, Dec. 7.

"We were not expecting what we stepped into," Travis Leopfe, book designer, said in his speech.

Leopfe and the rest of the student's in the fall 2017 section of English 349: Editing and Publishing worked as a class to take "The Appointed Hour" from manuscript to published book.

Jeffrey Snowbarger, English professor, explained that the word "fiction" comes from the Latin word "Fictus," which translates to "to form" and that's what the students have done with this book.

"Tonight, you are here to enrich your intellect and deepen your sense of the world," Snowbarger said.

Dr. Ross K. Tangedal, project director and publisher-in-chief of Cornerstone Press, read passages that were descriptively written and full of emotion. The book itself was written by author Susanne Davis who traveled from Connecticut to see the launch and speak at the event.

"I'm overwhelmed by your warmth. As someone who spends a lot of time with words I should be able to say it better," Davis said.

Davis teaches at Trinity Col-



The Cornerstone Press team poses for a photo at the book release on December 7, 2017. Photo by Ross Vetterkind

lege in Hartford, CT, and at the University of Connecticut. "The Appointed Hour" is her first published book.

"I love the levels of enthusiasm the students have. It truly has given the book its emotion. To see how much effort, they have put into this project," said Davis. "It's my greatest hope that people's hearts will be moved by this book."

The book is one of the few in the country to be published by a staff of students. Cornerstone Press is the only such press in the University of Wisconsin system, giving the students involved a

uniquely hands-on publishing experience.

"It's not easy getting a whole book published in four months with a staff that changes every year," Tangedal said. "The learning curve for the staff is always a challenge as well."

Cornerstone Press has published 39 books since the press was founded in 1984.

"And we are not slowing down anytime soon," Tangedal said.

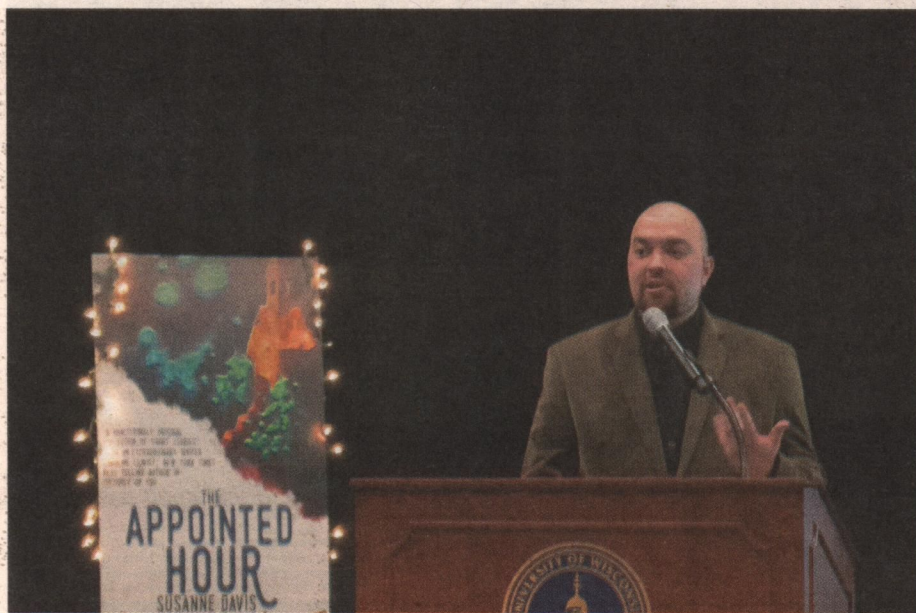
Hannah Wiedmeyer, associate designer, said, "I went to Worzalla when the book was in the process of being made, and it

was pretty exciting to see it getting created."

Wiedmeyer also explained that it can be a challenge getting the word out about the book as well as coordinating events with non-press people. It can also be challenging for people with busy lives and full-time college students.

"The Appointed Hour" is a collection of twelve interconnected short stories that looks into the roots of small-town life in rural America.

The book is available for order on the Cornerstone Press website.



Caleb Baeten, president of Cornerstone Press, introduces Susanne Davis, the author of "The Appointed Hour." Photo by Ross Vetterkind



Susanne Davis, author of "The Appointed Hour," talks with a member of the audience. Photo by Ross Vetterkind