Last spring the Office of Sustainability announced that the university obtains 100 percent of its electricity from renewable resources. However, electricity is not the only energy needed on campus. Heating is the other requirement and at the moment the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s heat source is not renewable.

Cold Wisconsin winters require a lot of energy to warm buildings. This is done with the George Stein Building on the North end of campus. This power plant produces steam which heats university buildings. The resources utilized to generate the steam are primarily natural gas and coal. Occasionally, oil is also used as a supplemental backup fuel.

Residential halls have some solar thermal panels on their roofs which provide hot water to residents. This cuts back on the demand for steam from the George Stein Building. The building was installed during a state-wide scare of an energy deficit. Two power plants in the state were down for repairs during a hot summer which had a lot of people using high-demand air conditioners.

To prevent a blackout, the state continued on page 5.
Ingredients for a Diverse America

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Though the travel ban and its implied origins met heavy criticism, and protest formed across the United States, the ban is not drastically different from the overall history of the American immigration policy.

In K-12 schooling America is often described as the melting pot, the place people of all ethnicities and religions come to live and work together.

In contrast to this idea, from 1770 to 1953 immigrants had to be "white" in order to become citizens of the United States. In 1822, Takawo Ozawa, a Japanese immigrant, sued the federal government for citizenship claiming he qualified as "white" and lost. A second similar case followed shortly after Ozawa's where citizenship was also denied.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 is in line with the trend of keeping people out, and was renewed multiple times before legislation passed to permanently keep Chinese immigrants out. This was repealed in 1942.

Even "white" immigrants from Europe were regularly discriminated against in the early days of melting-pot America.

Irishmen, Italians, Greeks and others were discriminated against in one way or another, leading to the development of nationality-centered neighborhoods. This was drastically worse on the west coast against people of Asian descent, especially during WWII.

Japanese Internment camps happened per order of President Roosevelt, a leader who is remembered with adoration and pride in American history.

The Immigration Act of 1924 placed a quota on the proportions of certain immigrant groups which could enter the United States. Since the proportions were based on a population census that was completed just before the sharp spike in immigration arrivals to the United States, many people were prevented from coming to the United States based on those skewed numbers.

This act was not overturned until 1965.

Trump's travel ban was not far off from where immigration policy in the United States once was. However, Lee Willis, department chair and associate professor of the history and international studies department, said "it is a stark change in American immigration policy," from where it has been heading.

Willis said Trump's ban was not unheard-of but the quick change of direction in policy contributed to the shock of it.

The United States still has some of the most inclusive immigration laws in the world, but this dramatic order was difficult for some to wrap their heads around.

Trump said after his travel ban was defeated in the circuit of appeals that immigrants from the seven listed countries will be extremely vetted before allowed entry.

President Obama had already implemented strict vetting procedures on refugees and immigrants when he was in office.

Trump followed up by saying Christians would be given priority over Muslims when trying to enter the country from the countries in his executive order.

This is in disagreement to the First Amendment which protects the right to religion for citizens, and many found Trump's comment unconstitutional and out-of-line with American principles.

The travel ban has been defeated by the courts due to the states of Washington and Minnesota being "substantially injured" by the policy, even if only enacted temporarily.

Though Trump's policies are not as unprecedented as they may appear, people across the nation have taken a stand against them, and have succeeded.
Transgender Visibility Campaign Sheds Light on Important Topics

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As a result of misinformation or lack of information, misconceptions about the transgender community are often made. Transequality.org describes transgender as a term used for individuals whose gender identity is different from those that tend to identity with the sex that they are born with.

Michelle Fournier, Gender and Sexuality outreach coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, stresses the importance of understanding that gay individuals have different world experiences than transgender individuals. "There's this acronym LGBTQ+ and we all kind of get lumped into the acronym but all of the identities are very different," Fournier said. According to Fournier some of the common misconceptions about transgender individuals is that identifying as transgender is a "phase" or a "choice." Also, transgender individuals are often wrongfully portrayed in the media. "Because it is so complex, I feel that a lot of people are intimidated and are afraid of making mistakes and they don't approach the topic," Fournier said.

The transgender visibility campaign gives students an opportunity to learn more about the transgender community and become more comfortable approaching the topic. Lyn Ciurro, senior communication sciences and disorders major, is the executive coordinator at the Women's Resource Center and co-founder of the transgender visibility campaign. Ciurro identifies as non-binary. According to transstudent.org identifying as non-binary can be an expression or presentation of either a transgender or cis-gender individual. An individual that identifies as non-binary does not always also identify as transgender. Ciurro said that campaign members have organized a week full of events that empower and educate individuals. The campaign puts on events every semester. This semester, Ciurro and other members of the campaign are planning a day-long event.

The event will feature speakers and artwork by and for transgender individuals. Ciurro said that both students and community members have had positive reactions to past events. There is not a set date for the event, but it is expected to occur in late March or early May.

Sophie Hart, the other founder of the campaign, has worked alongside Ciurro in putting it all together. Last semester, as part of the campaign, Hart posted a series of informative videos educating people on the transgender community. Hart discussed topics such as gender, sex, and proper pronoun usage.

Hart is working to set up two separate programs focusing on how to interact with transgender individuals in both medical and mental health settings. The programs do not have dates yet, but are expected to happen this semester.

Hart is passionate about the positive impact that the transgender visibility campaign has and will continue to make on campus. The service it's doing is very pronounced because over the last few years I have noticed transgender people coming out generally and privately in larger numbers," Hart said. "I would say that there is more trans people on campus than even I initially suspected."

Youth Oppressed and United puts YOU at the Center of Activism

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A girl sits in her dorm room tuning her trumpet when a note is passed underneath her door which reads, "stop your stupid noise, if you want to be noisy like all them other Mexicans go somewhere else."

This true story and many others like it compelled Vanesa Hernandez-Cevallos, sophomore psychology major, and her friend Eimie Vazquez, sophomore sociology major, to start Youth Oppressed and United.

Hernandez-Cevallos serves as the group's president, Vazquez as the treasurer and Ron Strege, director of Nontraditional Student Services, as the advisor.

Plans for the organization began in the summer of last year with a text exchanged between Vazquez and Hernandez-Cevallos.

This text sent them off and running as the new school year began to create a group focused on activism that was modeled and inspired by a club at their high school.

The activist group strives to be a voice of empowerment for all marginalized groups on campus—whether it be women, people of color, immigrants or the LGBT+ community.

While many organizations already exist for marginalized groups around campus, YOU has found its own unique niche. It is not a social group like the Black Student Union or the Latino Student Alliance, nor does it respond to instances of injustice in the way that Inclusivity Committee does.

Instead, YOU members will work to create change before problems arise.

"We're trying to be more proactive instead of reactive" Hernandez-Cevallos said.

Currently the group is working to get the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point certified as a sanctuary campus by the end of the spring semester.

Sanctuary campuses are any college that adopts policies to protect students who are undocumented immigrants—the University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of several campuses around the state which do this.

Strege said the group is necessary because, "some people are tired of talk and they want to see action."

Vazquez and Hernandez-Cevallos expressed that the biggest struggle they face is reigniting in their enthusiasm to focus on one task at a time in order to not spread themselves too thin.

"We're your voice if you can't speak," Vazquez said, "we're your voice, we stand up for you."

Those interested in joining can find Youth Oppressed and United on Facebook and SPIN @uwsp.you.
Campus Is In Clear, EPA in Fear

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President Donald Trump and the EPA have moved forward in their effort to ‘terminate’ the Environmental Protection Agency through funding cuts and staff removal.

The nomination of Scott Pruitt for head of the EPA put environmentalists on edge. Pruitt’s name is linked with 14 lawsuits against the agency he now heads.

The EPA has impacted the United States’ carbon footprint history, supporting bills like the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. Whitehouse.gov states the Trump administration continues to support these actions despite dense funding cuts and ideological opposition.

The EPA’s government organization is also directly linked to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

In the 2016 year, UWSP was awarded the “Green Power Partner” through the EPA which connected the university to the government agency and its overall message.

Justin Seis, senior sociology and philosophy major, is an Office of Sustainability employee.

Seis said, “I don’t think the actions against the EPA will directly affect the university’s sustainable message and goals.”

However, this new direction does put the university’s goals for a sustainable future free of carbon emission and fossil fuel at odds with the message of the federal government.

Stated on the official White House website, “The Trump Administration was created to change the course and direction of America. The shale oil and gas revolution. The Trump Administration is also committed to clean coal technology and to reviving America’s coal industry, which has been hurting for too long.”

“The impact of cuts toward the EPA is going to be slow and slow moving,” said Professor Bradley Mapes-Martins, associate professor of political science.

“What we can look to is public pressure in support of the mission of the EPA. Climate change has to be a political issue.”

Similar responses could be seen in the general student body.

Leah Smith, junior business major, said, “I think it’s important to recognize climate change now, more than ever. We should recognize this problem and, as a university, we should take measures to combat the actions against a sustainable future.”

Despite the changing rhetoric of the United States government, UWSP continues to strive forward in the fight against climate change.

Student government passed a statute saying we support divesting from fossil fuel. That’s taking a stance. If it’s not something we are taking lightly,” said Seis. “Students, in some meaningful ways, are making their voices heard.

Both Seis and Mapes-Martins tapped into the theme, “it’s not political,” meaning that climate change is not an issue based on a party ideology.

It is important to recognize the large uptick in phone calls and attendance at town hall meetings because of this growing concern, Seis mentioned.

Students at UWSP and all over the country are making sure climate change is removed from the political spectrum.

Jokingly, Mapes-Martins said it would be interesting if all climate activists picked a party to support, “then it could no longer be a partisan issue.”

The university’s path toward a sustainable future will not be thwarted by the federal government, but politics can cause tension and difficulty on the way there.

Prospective Border Wall Threatens Endangered Wildlife

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In January, the heavily debated border wall got one step closer to becoming a reality when President Donald Trump signed an executive order for its immediate construction.

The economic and social implications of the wall inflamed discussions across the country of the Trump campaign’s, but little publicity has been given to its effect on the border region’s wildlife.

Shawn Crimmins, professor of wildlife ecology, said it’s unlikely a wall of this scope would bode well for wildlife since many species rely on connections with other populations and habitats, which the wall would obstruct.

One such species Crimmins mentioned are jaguars, which are federally endangered in the United States.

Previously, jaguars were thought to have been exterminated from the United States due to over-hunting in the 1900s. However, hope for the population has been revived by researchers published in the Journal of Mammalogy indicating that this border/habitat could become increasingly important to the species.

This is because Mexican jaguars are threatened by habitat loss and hunting, while in the United States, they would have access to ample public land and federal protection. Furthermore, the report suggests population changes could cause more harmful conditions, the northern most part of the jaguar’s range which includes Arizona and New Mexico, could become crucial for the species’ survival.

A variety of other species could also be driven north to compensate for a changing climate and a wall would impede this transition, making it more difficult for organisms to adapt to a changing world.

Although many endangered species in the region are the most threatened by disturbances, a wall could affect a wider range of animals.

Robert Longsinger, professor of wildlife ecology who spent much of his career in the Southwest, said that even plentiful populations are at risk.

Longsinger said that by severing the connections between populations, “you ultimately reduce genetic diversity related to fitness and disease. Over time, we could be making those animals more susceptible to disease and population decline.”

On the other hand, Crimmins said that it is difficult to project the impact the wall would have, but he feels it would be a barrier of this scope since perhaps the Great Wall of China.

However, the wall could potentially cause the loss of a keystone species in which case Crimmins said, “We could see a cascading effect of species loss and loss of biodiversity.”

Although the 650 miles of fencing currently in place along the 1,900-mile border already fragments the wildlife populations, Trump’s proposal will likely be far more devastating for animals. This is because he plans to create a wall rather than a fence, which would be much higher, making it virtually impossible for any animal without wings to pass.

The zone’s wildlife are made more vulnerable by a 2005 act, which allows the Department of Homeland Security to ignore federal, regional, or local laws. This act is like the Endangered Species Act when constructing a border wall. This gives little room for the wall to be constructed in an eco-friendly manner.

Both professors are doubtful about what could be done to lessen the wall’s impacts on wildlife, since passages which would allow for the flow of wildlife could ultimately be utilized by undocumented immigrants, thus compromising the wall’s purpose.

Wild jaguar on the endangered species list. Photo courtesy of outofonline.com
Greenpeace Campaigns to Protect Newly Discovered Amazon Reef

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Greenpeace, an environmentally minded non-government organization, has recently released photos of the newly discovered Amazon Reef in hopes of publicizing the location.

The reef was first stumbled upon in 2012, but its existence was only officially announced in April of 2016 in the journal Science.

With a size 3,600 square miles and depths that range from about 160 to 330 feet, this reef is large enough to be considered its own biome.

The existence of the Amazon Reef has had researchers rethinking the fundamentals of possible reef locations. Since this reef was located where the Amazon River dumps into the ocean, it is muddled with sediment and runoff from the river, making light scarce which was previously thought to limit aquatic life.

The novel nature of the Amazon Reef has people excited about the possibilities for exotic undiscovered lifetforms and has them anxious to learn more.

Nils Asp, from the Federal University of Para, is a researcher who is trying to map out this new discovery. So far only about 5 percent of the reef has been mapped, meaning research is only just beginning.

Despite how little is known about the reef, there are already concerns about potential oil drilling.

Oil companies, Total and BP, are in the process of seeking approval for exploratory drilling in the area. No timeline has been released in regards to when approval might be gained or denied, but Greenpeace suggests it could happen anytime this year.

By and large, students on campus seem to be in favor of protecting the Amazon Reef, but those hearing about it for the first time have mixed feelings.

Dylan Couch, English major, said, "For once the ocean should have precedence over human consumption of oil. It seems like so much is happening with the oceans now, with acidity levels and reefs being destroyed because of climate change or oceanic changes. It's a no-brainer like it."

These concerns are not unfounded.

For the Greenpeace website, underwater oil drilling is especially risky due to the continuous leakage of an oil leak which could disrupt many habitats.

Additionally, such a spill could not be cleaned to complete satisfaction with current technology.

This threat is greater because of the above average amount of runoff which clouds the water.

Reef's are known for being centers for biodiversity, a feature which promotes resilience to changes in the ecosystem. The health of a reef has significant impacts on surrounding ecosystems which raises the stakes of this reef's protection.

Being Cyclist Friendly is the Point

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The City of Stevens Point was recently ranked fourth on a list of Wisconsin cities with the most citizens biking to work.

The ranked list came from a 2015 American Community Survey on towncharts.com. The city with the highest percent of citizens biking to work was Lake Delton where 8 percent of a citizen's commute by bike.

Stevens Point had half Lake Delton's with 4 percent of commuters traveling via bike.

Teri Jennings, professor of Anthropology and Member of the Bike and Pedestrian committee of Stevens Point said the city features wide roads, minimal hills, and a compact layout all of which encourage the use of bicycles.

The compact layout of the city means that people live closer to their place of employment, providing good opportunities for alternative forms of transportation.

According to the towncharts' website, Stevens Point ranks first in promotion of citizens with a commute time of less than five minutes with six percent of its citizens. Stevens Point rated second in proportion of citizens with a commute time between five and nine minutes with 26 percent of citizens having a commute time that falls within that range.

The Stevens Point Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, formed by the mayor in 2015, is happy with the current success of its efforts in Stevens Point are happening, but hope to continue their pursuit of excellence with added bike lanes and the addition of metered parking throughout the city.

Jennings said that with the hopeful addition of bike lanes citizens could bike safely down major streets such as Stanley and Division. While the addition of metered parking would deter the unnecessary use of cars—effectively encouraging more people to bike.

Young millennials and professionals want a community with bike lines and sidewalks to support pedestrian activities.

Jennings said making the community attracted to this demographic is one of the biggest goals she had in mind who are looking to employ these people.

By taking these actions Jennings said the city can create, "a community where everyone can get around the way they want to get around."

Ellie Corbin, senior geography major worked with the Committee to ensure the continued popularity of biking in Stevens Point.

Corbin recently completed a 60 hour internship with the Bike and Pedestrian Committee to create a map of bike routes around the Stevens Point area based on the cyclists comfort level.

"I think the reason Stevens Point might be considered so bicyclist friendly is because it's the people that demand it," Corbin said. "As long as we continue to have students, faculty and community members demand a bicycle friendly city, we hope that it will continue to go that way."
SPORTS

Look Into Sports

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The UW-Stevens Point men's basketball team closed out, perhaps, the most challenging season in program history with an 88-78 win over UW-La Crosse in an entertaining, up-tempo seniors night affair.

Leading the way for the Pointers was senior Bryce Williams, who went out in style on the tune of 21 points on 8-13 shooting. Ethan Bublitz ended his senior night season with 18 points and eight assists in the victory.

The Pointers, who entered the game winners of four of their previous five games, started their five seniors: Williams, Caden United, Brad Freeborn, Jared Ogston and Aaron Reizlaff.

Freeborn's trifecta got the Pointers on the board, and Williams scored a quick five points to deadlock the game at 12 apiece.

Zach Goedeke, the reigning WIAC player of the week entering the game, then scored five straight points of his own to give UWSP an early 17-16 lead. Consecutive threes by Mj Delmore and Bublitz gave the Pointers their largest lead of the first half at 23-18.

After nearly countless ties and lead changes, Mark Nelson's three with 40 to go broke a 43-all tie, giving UWSP a lead entering the second half.

Bublitz's layup with 5:10 to go tied the game at 73, after which the Pointers closed the game on a 13-5 surge. Another Delmore three gave UWSP the lead for good at 76-74, as he, coupled with Goedeke's jumper and Williams' final trifecta in a UWSF uniform helped the Pointers to seal the deal and send their seniors out right with a final victory.

The Pointers' finishing season at 14-10, with a 5-6 record in conference play.

The women's team finished with 240, was sparked by Isabella Weekly's first-place finish in the high jump at 5-10.75. Weekly won the event with a big 13.83 victory in the long jump.

UWSP representatives placed first and second, respectively, in both the 60-meter hurdles, as Jacklyn Butler won the event with a time of 7-50.01. Weekly also won in the 60-meter hurdles, as Jacklyn Butler won the event with a time of 7-50.01. Weekly also won in the long jump with a time of 5-10.75.

The Pointers also won the 4x400 relay, as the team of Kathy Diers, Sarah Vils, Lea Trempe and Hannah Mortvedt placed in with a time of 3:58.04. Abigail Clement won the 200-meter dash, as the aforementioned Butler and Lydia Ulrich finished in second and third, respectively, in the event.

The Pointers also claimed the top seven spots in the 400-meter dash, as Trempe, Vils, Diers, Mertens, Mackenzie Peters, Rebecca Alter and Tahlyn Selinsky finished the event in that order.

Other notable finishes include Jordan Tyskie's second and fourth-place finishes in the weight throw and shot put, respectively. Tatyana Setola also finished third in the 60-meter dash as well as Emily Schaebecker who finished third in the 800-meter run.

Meanwhile, the men won their field as well.

MEN'S SWIMMING WINS 18TH STRAIGHT WIAC TITLE

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point men's swimming and diving team won its unprecedented 18th straight conference championship Saturday. The team finished with a total of 971.50 points en route to a 251-point margin of victory.

Owen Gluck, who was named Diver of the Meet, continued his dominance as he won both the one and three-meter diving events. Ethan Bott also continued his winning ways, taking first place in the 200-yard backstroke and finishing in the 400-yard freestyle with a time of 1:49.90. He also earned UWSP's 18th straight victory in the 200-yard breaststroke.

The women's team finished fourth in the 400-yard freestyle relay, as they placed fourth in the 200-meter breaststroke and third in the 200-meter backstroke.

Darian Ward won the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 8.46, while running the 1,500-meter dash in 4:14.01. Ward also won in the long jump with a mark of 6.82 meters.

Jory Williams won the high jump, as the 2016 national qualifier and finished with a distance of 14.29 meters.

Reece Reierst and Kyle Nowak finished as first and second in the shot put event, while Logan Heil and Reierst finished first and second in the weight throw.

The Pointers' mark at the lead before settings in Braxton Bernhagen, Abraham Schroedl and Jordan Lee claimed the top three spots in the high jump. Also, Jessep and Tanner Aker placed second and third, respectively, in the 200-meter dash, while Jesse Johnson took home second in the pole vault.

Jepsen also finished third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 23.21 seconds.

Other notable performances by the Pointers, who will be back in action on Feb. 24 and 25 in the WIAC Championships at Menomonie West, include Noah Scharer finishing third in the 100-meter dash, while Nathan Dom also took home third-place honors in the 3000-meter run. The team of Matt Sosinsky, Takuto Kobayashi, Michael Poix and Jayden Jesse also placed third in the 4x400 relay.

The women's team finished fourth in a five-team field on Saturday. Bre Parent placed a pivotal role in the Pointers' performance, as she placed third in the 500-yard breaststroke and placed third in the 200-yard backstroke and placed third in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:02.94.

Other notable finishes included Engebretson coming in second in the 100-yard backstroke as well as Joel Harris and Justin Fernandez placing fourth and fifth, respectively, in the 200-yard breaststroke.

The women's team finished fourth in the 4x400 relay, as the team of Bridget Flesher, Erica Perkins and Kaia Yezell placed third in the 4x400 relay.

For more on UWSP athletics, visit uwspathletics.com.
The UW-Stevens Point women's basketball team fell at UW-La Crosse, 57-51, in the team's regular season finale on Saturday.

Senior guard Lauren Anklam scored 20 points on 8-16 from the field, but the Pointers, who shot just 31 percent on the afternoon, never led in the game as they trailed 20-7 at the end of the first quarter.

UWSP battled back, trimming the margin to seven by halftime, trailing the Eagles 31-24 at the break. They got within as few as three points on a pair of Lexi Roland free throws with 2:25 in the fourth quarter, but UWL held on to secure the victory.

Despite the rare struggles of senior Autumn Hennes, who shot 0-10 in the loss, the Pointers, who finish the regular season at 17-8 and 9-5 in WIAC play, made a valiant effort against a fellow nine-conference win team in UW-La Crosse.

UWSP, third-place finishers in the WIAC during the regular season, will begin conference tournament play at home against sixth-seeded UW-River Falls on Wednesday. The game is scheduled for a 7 p.m. start in the Berg Gym.
Women's Basketball Players Reflect on Their Athletic Careers

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Seniors Autumn Hennes, Lauren Anklam, Taylor Douglas and Sarah Camillo are nearing the end of their college basketball careers at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Hennes said that her four years of playing basketball at the collegiate level have taught her not to take playing the game for granted.

Playing basketball has not been without its struggles for Hennes. During her career, she has endured an ACL and two wrist surgeries. Her ability to bounce back after her surgeries is one of her most notable successes as an athlete.

Anklam said that competing in the NCAA tournament last season was a big career highlight. She adds that each season the team takes on a different personality, but as an upperclassman, she has tried to remain positive for the younger players.

Anklam is appreciative of the skills that she has gained from playing basketball since it has helped her form strong relationships and communicate more effectively.

"It teaches you hard work, time management, how to be competitive and how to mentally handle things in everyday life, not just on the basketball floor," Anklam said.

Douglas is proud to have played college basketball for four years, even though there were times where she struggled to stick with it.

As her final season wraps-up, Douglas reflected on the aspects of college basketball that she will miss. Besides her teammates and coaches, Douglas said that she will miss the dedicated fans that she has become familiar with throughout her career.

She has been able to step out of her comfort zone as an athlete and become more confident communicating with teammates, coaches and professors.

"I think I've built a better work ethic because of basketball. I am a lot more competitive outside of basketball, and I strive really hard because of playing basketball," Douglas said.

Camillo has been playing through the pain of a torn ACL this season. She tore her ACL in August but has not missed any games this season, waiting until March to undergo surgery.

Camillo did not let her injury stop her from playing and was proud to make it to senior night, which she described as a great experience.

Shirley Egner, head coach, expressed that all four seniors are loyal and dedicated athletes.

Egner said, "It's been a great opportunity for me and Coach Gilbert to work with these four women who have given our program everything we've asked of them.

If Music Be the Food of Love, Play On, Marie

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Three beautiful things appeared on the stage of Michelsen Hall Saturday night: a young musician, her violin and the music they created together.

Marie Von Rueden gave her junior violin recital on Saturday, Feb. 18.

Von Rueden is a junior at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point pursuing a bachelor's degree of music in violin performance. She has been playing violin since she was four years old.

"The violin is special to me because it's a unique instrument in the sense that it can display a variety of emotions very well and is capable of communicating the thoughts and feelings of those who shared their stories through composition," Von Rueden said.

This versatility of the instrument was displayed in the pieces Von Rueden performed at her recital.

The first piece was Ciaccona from Partita II BWV 1004 by Johann Sebastian Bach. Von Rueden's unaccompanied performance brought to life the emotion she described through sweeping melodies that seemed to come from more than one instrument, a secondary melody Emitting from the lower strings of the violin.

Von Rueden's second piece conveyed a completely different feeling to the audience. The second movement of Edward Grieg's Sonata No. 3, op. 45, Allegretto expressivo alla Romanza demonstrated Von Rueden's ability to use a variety of techniques and collaborate with her piano accompanist, Tatiana Woller.

After the intermission, Von Rueden performed three movements of the Concerto in D minor, Op. 27 by Jean Sibelius.

As a continuation of her first two pieces, this concerto brought together the variety in musicality and technique that Von Rueden displayed. From deep to driving, each movement created a different emotion, bringing in a little bit of everything: low and high notes, broad and precise bowing as well as fleet and elongated melodies.

"Through violin has been a part of Von Rueden's life since her early years in a Suzuki program in Milwaukee, her journey is far from complete.

I decided to pursue music in college when Professor Bjella approached me in high school at the American Suzuki Institute summer camp and told me he would like to have me as a student if I was interested in studying music in college," Von Rueden said.

She also hopes to continue her studies of music in graduate school.

"I had a requirement for my major, Von Rueden began work on her pieces for the recital seven months ago. It wasn't until two months over she began working with her accompanist.

After months of work, she had to do a recital hearing where she played her pieces with the accompanist for two professors who had to approve it in order for her to perform.

Von Rueden's recipe for success at the recital was practice, something she typically does for four hours every day.

"Part of preparing for a recital is being able to build up the endurance to make it through," Von Rueden said.

With all of Von Rueden's success and talent, it is difficult to say where she'll go from here. The one thing that is certain is that what she does will be carried out with talent, love and a quite a bit of hard work.

Von Rueden said, "It's such a pleasure to play violin that for me it is truly a gift to be able to give that gift of music to others."

"Music in itself is another language," Von Rueden said. "It's so important because it expresses so much that we aren't able to communicate through words. The composer Claude Debussy once said, 'I believe with all my heart that Music remains for all time the finest means of expression we have.' Music really does express so much and can connect people in a very profound way.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
DUC Theater
7 - 9 p.m.
9:45-11:145 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEB. 23

Chinedu Unaka (Comedian)
Encore DUC
8 - 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 24

Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them
DUC Theater
7 - 9 p.m.
9:45-11:145 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

G Yamazawa
Encore DUC
8 - 10 p.m.
Intermediary: A Peek At Chinese Video Art

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When walking through an art gallery, most visitors expect to witness paintings or drawings and would be surprised to find videos and digital images being displayed instead of these classic art forms. Breaking this generalization, Intermediary is a showcase of video art from China and is being displayed in the Emma Carlson Art Gallery on campus.

Seven different artists are featured in this exhibition: Ma Qiusha, Li Binyuan, Li Ming, Lin Ke, Mao Ying, Ye Funa and Zhang Xinjun. Each of their individual video pieces seem to represent the constant social and economic changes that people living in China go through every day.

Another interesting aspect that the exhibit touches upon is the fast-paced advancements in technology across the globe, and in China specifically. These particular artists have been able to expand their creative outlets by making these pieces of video art.

Ellen Larson, guest curator at the University of Pittsburgh, said, "Their increased access to technology and new forms of digital communication provide them with tools to document their lives at the same time establishing their individual voices and identities within an increasingly pluralistic space."

All of the videos vary in content but seem to fall into two distinct categories: the everyday world and the fantasy world. "Intermediary exists at the intersection between social reality and fantasy, exploring the many strategies contemporary Chinese video artists use to navigate their way through the mundane, chaotic and often uncontrollable situations that characterize contemporary Chinese Society," said Larson.

A particularly beautiful piece called "Freedom Farming," by Binyuan focuses on the hard and physical labor that some in China face every day.

In this piece, Binyuan gains ownership of farmland his father left him after his father's death. Binyuan depicts his own laborious work and struggles through showing his personal experience of physically throwing his body into the farmland for two hours straight to level out the soil.

One of the fantasy pieces, "Nailhenge: A Small Victory," created by Funa requires the use of a computer and bulky headphones.

The video takes the audience on a fictional journey where a group of tourists find Pandora's box. When opened, displays of intricately colored fingernails are depicted as a Stonehenge-like monument.

All of the realistic pieces of video art are located on the right side of the gallery, most visitors expect to witness art from a traditional Chinese gallery, but seem to fall into two distinct categories: the everyday world and the fantasy world.

"The exhibition offers snapshots of interior and exterior realities and emotional states, real and imagined environments, as well as actual and virtual spaces, all constructed during a time of tremendous social and physical change."

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Sign Language Club Comes In Handy

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Primarily used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing, American Sign Language is a complex language that includes signs made by moving hands, facial expressions and body language.

The purpose of Sign Language Club at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is to help create awareness of Deaf culture and individuals who are Deaf or hard of hearing.

Annie Carlston, junior public relations position for the club, said they hosted a deaf panel this past December where they asked deaf and hard of hearing individuals to speak. "Every year the club volunteers at the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Annual Family Conference. They supervise children by leading them in fun activities while their parents learn about resources available to them."

The Sign Language Club's main project this semester is their 2016 mashup themed music video.

"In this video, the club selects a song, translates the song into sign language and teach it during their meetings. They even get into a circle so everyone can see each other and dance along."

Members who attend meetings also learn the alphabet, greetings and holiday signs.

Babiarz said they want to let everyone know ASL is a resourceful language to know. It comes in handy because many people use sign language as their primary language.

Taran Brody, senior CSD major and treasurer, has learned more about Deaf culture and the differences they have from people who can hear. "When Deaf or hard of hearing individuals meet someone else who knows ASL, they appreciate the ways members of society serve them instead of having to conform to a noisy world."

Preparing for graduation, Holdosh shares her vision for the club after she leaves. "We've been so successful because we've had a strong group of students that just really felt connected and wanted to learn more, so we have more participation," Holdosh said. "I just really hope that continues and I hope this club gets bigger because I love it."

Sign Language Club's next meeting will be March 6 at 7 p.m. in CPS 230.
Public Library Proves Best Things in Life are Free

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The Portage County Public Library, just off campus at 1001 Main St., houses a variety of resources that benefit the community and university students.

The library is free to use and students can acquire library cards, even if they aren’t from Stevens Point, with presentation of proper ID. It is also part of the South Central Library System, a consortium of 47 libraries in southern Wisconsin.

A card from any of the libraries within the system can be used at the Portage County location. As a member of the South Central Library System, the Portage County Public Library has a wide variety of resources available to patrons.

In contrast with the scholarly nature of the University Library, Portage County Public Library has a large offering of non-academic material.

The first floor houses the fiction section, including new releases and popular titles, as well as expansive DVD and CD collections. Patrons can place holds on items from other libraries or items that are currently available.

In addition to the nonfiction and young adult sections on the second floor, the Reading Room offers local and national newspapers and popular magazine titles. The Genealogy Room is also a resource that can benefit students by having materials on Portage County history.

Samantha Smith, marketing intern for the Portage County Public Library, said, “If someone is trying to write about a past environmental project, the Genealogy Room is definitely a resource.”

The basement of the library holds the Youth Services Department which is an excellent resource for university students studying education. Their collection contains picture books, fiction and nonfiction books for youth and teacher resources.

A Portage County Public Library card also gives access to an online collection, accessible through OverDrive.

The software can be accessed by download for both computers and mobile devices, such as smartphones and e-readers. OverDrive offers both e-books and audiobooks for download that are “returned” after the loan period, just like a physical library item.

In addition to free resources, the library also offers programs, internships and volunteer opportunities.

Programming, including monthly book clubs, are scheduled events. Internships are available based on interest and library needs.

The Portage County Public Library also provides a different study space for university students, especially those who live downtown.

The library has study rooms that can be used on a first-come, first-served basis or by reservation via phone call.

“There are study rooms which I know during midterm and finals can be very hard to find at the campus library,” Smith said.

The Portage County Public Library is an easily-accessible and diverse resource for students to use in addition to the materials available to them in the classroom.

The library is open Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

To browse the Portage County Public Library collection or learn more about the library visit them on Main Street or at their website, www pocolib.org.

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Friendly Neighborhood Artist, Tim Zeszutek

LHEA OWENS
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If a tall, dark figure is spotted lurking the halls of the Noel Fine Arts Center late at night, fear not. It is likely Tim Zeszutek, fifth-year senior graphic design major and Bachelor of Fine Arts with an emphasis in 2D art.

Zeszutek’s following of students and faculty supporters has grown substantially throughout his years on campus as he continues to work diligently towards his future in the art community.

Starting his legacy at an early age, Zeszutek said what made him decide to attend the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was the experiences and relationships he gained while attending Camp COFAC.

This camp, hosted every summer at UWSP, is geared towards high school students wishing to gain valuable technical skills, knowledge and skills from the professors teaching in the NFAC.

“When I started college and ran into all the professors that I studied under at this camp I was like, ‘Hey, do you remember me,’ and they looked at me like, ‘no...’ That was a little disheartening,” Zeszutek said. “Mark Bruegeman, said he remembered me. I still don’t think he did! I am great friends with him now, and we have lunch at least once a month to talk, or to work on different projects.”

Zeszutek’s artistic style follows the line of surrealism and focuses on the concept of his memories. He is interested in what makes a person who they are deep to their core and how our memories are a catalyst that drives us through life.

“That’s really why I take the faces out of the people in my work and replace them with something when I see a painting with somebody in it and they have a face, then that’s that person,” Zeszutek said. “It’s a kind of barrier that stops at that person, so by taking the faces out I felt like people would be able to relate easier to the memories that I was having myself.”

Zeszutek takes his art seriously and said that he believes that when it comes to hard work, you get out what you put in.

“I’ve put so much work into my art and have had so many long nights,” Zeszutek said. “Don’t get me wrong, I’ve made some really crap paintings, sculptures and drawings, but every single piece that I have made I’ve learned something from, so you definitely need to put in the work.”

One of Zeszutek’s biggest inspirations stems from Bruegeman and the connection he has created with his retired professor.

“I really took to him and he’s one of the reasons I got so excited helping kids work with art. I would help with different high school visitation days where they would come for a couple of hours and we would teach and have programs for them to do.”

Zeszutek said, “He was definitely an inspiration to how I go about art; how I view it, teach it, and how I talk about it with other people.”

When speaking about his future plans after graduation, Zeszutek plans on taking a year off of school and getting a design job to pay for school bills, but this isn’t the finish line for his large aspirations.

“My plan, hopefully, is to go to graduate school in two years for painting because I really feel like I should be a professor,” Zeszutek said. “That’s just what the universe is telling me, so even if that’s when I’m 60 then that’s when it’s going to happen.”

Zeszutek remains optimistic and insightful when faced head first with nerves about entering the art industry where financial stability might be a roadblock.

“I’ll be honest, I’m not financially stable now, but I’m doing my best,” Zeszutek said. “I’ve talked to a bunch of different artists about this, and I think it’s just one of those fields where you have to roll with the punches. I’ve learned that with shows I’m not always going to get into every one. I’ve accepted that, and I think artists need to understand this fact.”

Zeszutek appreciates the immense amount of experience and opportunities he has received at UWSP and has recently had the privilege of winning third place with one of his prints in a national show called New Impressions.

“Winning a national show is really impressive, and it’s even before I’m graduated, so I’m really happy with that,” Zeszutek said. “Still waiting to hear back on a couple of other shows though, so it’s always fun. I just try to go for every opportunity I can.”

With a bright future ahead of this young artist, Zeszutek said that he started out the same way everyone else does, with stick figures and crayon drawings of houses.

When speaking to young artists, and echoing the words of Vincent Van Gogh, Zeszutek said “If you hear a voice within you say, ‘You cannot paint,’ then by all means paint, and that voice will be silenced.”

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Tim Zeszutek painting in the DUC cases. Photo by Nonnie Entwelling
The Lonely Forest: A Bass Beat in a Silent Forest

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"Adding Up the Wasted Hours" is an exciting album with solid rock beats featuring The Lonely Forest. This album will help listeners jam the night away or provide some exciting studying music.

Coming out of Washington, the indie pop band will have you grooving to their beats. At the beginning of the album, "Lovric's" will get you pumped up with a fast-paced song. The track opens with the band layering their instruments up: keyboard with percussion rim shots, then guitars. By the pre-chorus, they all come together and start getting into the groove.

This song talks about the giddiness of being in love and the general sense of feeling speechless or in awe of your significant other. It is a short song, only lasting about 3 minutes and 10 seconds long. It ends with fading voices, which leads the listener into the next track.

"Neon Never Changes," the fifth song on the album, contrasts the giddy, grooving feel of the album with an eerie opening. Beginning with an echoing keyboard synthesizer riff, the listener is sent into an outer space vibe. This theme continues throughout the track.

A heavy bass beat interjects throughout the song until the second verse when everything continues at the same time. This song is significantly different from "Lovric's." This song depicts darker, sadder tones about being alone and the outer space sounds pair nicely with the hollow lyrics. Towards the end, "Lavender Dress" will calm listeners down and soothe them back into a relaxing state.

As one of the more relaxing songs on the album, it is also quite short, lasting just above 40 seconds. The band uses only an acoustic guitar and gentle strums fill the air as their voices float above it. The voices eventually meet in harmonization about halfway through the track. When the guitar cuts out, a very slow, quiet crescendo of haunting music comes through, finishing out the song and pushing right into the next song, "Warm/Happy."

This song brings back the happy tones from the beginning of the album and leaves the listener less haunted. Filled with solid beats, The Lonely Forest will have you rocking out with them and their indie pop sounds. With a wide variety of lyrics and similar rock beats throughout, you'll enjoy yourself with this band.

Humans of Point

HANNA MAUEL
is a junior family and consumer science major

How often do you find yourself attending a UWSP sporting event and which are they?
I try to go to the hockey games as much as possible and the track meets because I find them to be the most interesting. Other wise I haven’t been to that many.

Is there a sporting event at UWSP you’d like to attend more of in the future and why?
I would like to attend more soccer games because I find them to be interesting and high energy.
Mandolin, guitar and a little bit of electricity created folkie tunes brought to campus Thursday night by Gin Mill Hollow and Fruition.

The opening band, Gin Mill Hollow is an acoustic folk rock trio out of Madison. Marc Norman, songwriter, guitarist, double bassist and vocalist for Gin Mill Hollow, is quite familiar with the university, having graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2002.

Their melodic yet driving sound set the tone for the evening's performances, allowing the audience to bob their heads and tap their feet to the music. The show picked up speed and momentum as the night wore on, yielding more people out on the dance floor.

“This is a beautiful love song by Dan Plourde because he loves you guys,” Joshua Guidice, Gin Mill Hollow mandolin player, said of his bandmate before they played the opening song from their Love Is King album, “Prescription for Love.”

The interval between acts was filled with chatter and The Beatles' music playing over the room. Ben Majeska, concerts coordinator for Centertainment Productions, then welcomed Fruition to the stage.

“Fruition is probably one of the top bluegrass bands touring nationally right now,” Majeska said. “If you’ve played there, you’ve made it,” Majeska said. “They’re the first band that has played at Red Rocks and come here. That’s my favorite thing about this show. It’s a pretty big deal.”

Najah Alboushi, a continuing student studying art, attended Thursday night's show.

“Fruition brought a powerful sound with music similar to Gin Mill Hollow, but with an extra punch of rock. The band has played twice at Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison, Colorado. If you’ve played there, you’ve made it,” Majeska said. “They’re the first band that has played at Red Rocks and come here. That’s my favorite thing about this show. It’s a pretty big deal.”

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“I came with a friend, but the band is pretty good and the music is fun,” Alboushi said. “Centertainment does a good job of bringing in cool and fun bands.” Centertainment provided a unique opportunity for a headlining band to come to campus.

“They’re only growing bigger and getting more popular,” Majeska said. “They’re one of those bands that, in a few years, you’ll never see a five dollar show like this.”