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Just in CASE You Didn't Know about the New SIEO

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Two of the universities largest programming units, Campus Activities, and the Student Involvement and Employment Office have merged to create Campus Activities and Student Engagement, CASE.

The merge took place when Susan Lebow, the previous Assistant Director of SIEO, took a new position. Due to budget cuts associated with declining enrollment, the decision was made to merge SIEO with Campus Activities rather than hire externally.

Before the merge, Campus Activities oversaw Centerentertainment Productions, the Basement Brewhaus and many other spaces and events around campus. SIEO coordinated volunteer events and service trips, as well as ran the student employment page, Quest.

Greg Diekroeger, Assistant Director of CASE, said the merge "has actually created a lot more synergy for all of the areas. We are being forced to make sure that we are being really efficient in providing the services and

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SCULPT Continues Building the Art Community with Glass Pumpkins

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On Sat. Oct. 14, beautiful glass pumpkins were held on display by the UWSP student organization SCULPT, and available for purchase in front of the Noel Fine Arts Center.

This fundraiser is held annually and despite the windy conditions, which made artists nervous for their pumpkins, the students were enthusiastic to talk about their lovely fall creations.

James La:secke, senior 3D art major, explained how students go about creating the glass pumpkins. He said it's a process of blowing a bubble into a mold, then shaping the glass by rotating it and using other advanced tools. The stem is added after the body of the pumpkin is formed.

The pumpkins on display were noticeably unique, providing passers-by with a visual array of different colors and shapes. Their wavy, appealing designs thoroughly impressed community members who were awed by this interesting artwork.

Based on the quality of pieces, one would assume that making the glass pumpkins would be a very long, advanced process.

However, Lauren Mueller, senior 3D art major, said, "Each one only takes 10-15 minutes to make." She said that with time and practice this process gets easier, giving artists the ability to create a variety of different glasswork.

All of the proceeds made from the pumpkin sales went towards SCULPT. The organization's mission is to build the community through art and provide professional and educational opportunities to students. SCULPT puts their resources and financial budget towards providing art students with the ability to travel to conferences, bring in visiting artists and more.

"I've learned so much from artists who have come here in the past," said Mueller. These artists know how to get their work into galleries, and how to give students tips about what to do in order

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In Other News, New York Times Partnership Dropped

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The New York Times subscription was dropped from the Collegiate Readership Program this academic year.

Last year, the Student Government Association decided to cut the New York Times subscription from the college readership program to save money after a price increase.

Jordan Farrell, SGA Budget Director, said, “the price of the New York Times subscription went up by about 43 percent.” Because of that, SGA wouldn’t have been able to provide as many copies for students and therefore, the decision was made that they would cut the subscription.

“It was a give and take decision. SGA weighed the options then moved forward with the best choice,” Farrell said.

“On one side, the New York Times is a credible and popular newspaper but we need to spend that money sensibly,” Farrell said.

Farrell said, “each year the President and Vice president work with a USA Today representative to decide what is included with the contract.”

Originally the package included the Times subscription, USA Today, and a trial basis for a subscription app. “We at SGA feel that because every student pays into segregated fees, it should be used as effectively as possible,” Farrell said.

While the readership program lost the subscription, it’s vacancy is saving money that can be used elsewhere. As the budget director, Farrell manages the different funds on campus like the city bus contract which allows students to use their ID’s to ride for free as well as funding for student organizations, deciding what segregated fees go towards to help benefit the campus.

Farrell added that if students ever want to voice their opinions or concerns they can attend the public forums at the weekly meetings. SGA welcomes students to come in and talk. Meetings take place every Thursday starting at 6:15 p.m.

“The more student voice and opinion we have, the more we can better benefit the student body.”

Twitter Dispute with Senator Bob Corker

Trump got into a Twitter dispute with Senator Bob Corker over Twitter. Corker has recently become an outspoken voice against President Trump’s leadership. Trump tweeted that Corker didn’t have the guts to run for reelection and that he was also largely responsible for the “horrendous” Iran deal. Corker responded. “It’s a shame the White House has become an adult day care center. Someone obviously missed their shift this morning.”

Health Care Executive Order

On Sept. 12 President Trump signed an executive order intended to allow small businesses and potentially individuals to buy a long-disputed type of health insurance that skirts state regulations and Affordable Care Act protections. Under the president’s order, association health plans will be able to avoid many ACA rules, including the law’s benefits requirements, limits on consumer’s yearly and lifetime costs, and ban on charging more to customers who have been sick.

Potential Gun Reform

Republicans may be open to banning bump stocks, a gun accessory used by the gunman responsible for the Las Vegas mass shooting. A bump stock helps the gun to fire rapidly again and again, nearly at the rate of a machine gun, raising the question, why was this legal in the first place?

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In rural Wisconsin, climate change can seem like nothing more than a policy battle waged between political adversaries in Washington D.C., but scientists expect to see significant changes in our own state in the near future.

A 2011 report by the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts predicted that the average state temperature will increase six to seven degrees Fahrenheit by mid-century. The report also showed that Wisconsin has seen an increase in average annual rainfall over the last 50 years and expects heavy storm events to become more frequent, with increased rainfall intensity.

Katherine Clancy, assistant professor of fisheries and water resources, said the shift in precipitation patterns has become apparent during the last ten years and will affect water quality and groundwater recharge. High intensity precipitation events are problematic because, high rainfall during a short period offers less opportunity for water to enter the ground, creating more runoff. This runoff in turn could carry sediment and nutrients into waterways which could lower water quality.

The shifting climate could be particularly threatening to species like brook trout who rely on cold water streams for habitat. According to the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts report, brook trout habitat could decrease by 95 percent if summer temperatures increase by just five degrees Fahrenheit.

Clancy said that stream temperatures could be raised even more with increased runoff inputs. This is because runoff could be warmed by running over concrete or from carrying sediments. Additionally, runoff could contain nutrients which encourage eutrophication, further degrading trout habitat.

Clancy also said one of the biggest problems climate change could bring to the state is flooding from high intensity rains, which current infrastructure may be ill-equipped to handle. She explained that much of our infrastructure is designed to handle rain events which were not likely in years past but are becoming increasingly common now. This makes the state's bridges and storm water retention ponds vulnerable.

Even so, Clancy believes climate change can be slowed. "Many of the things we would do to mitigate climate change have to do with basically just living a healthier, better, more sustainable, mindful life," Clancy said.
The Public Service Commission has approved a $15 million grant for the construction of a bioenergy system in Brown County.

The system will produce renewable natural gas from dairy farm manure and other waste, reducing the need to spread raw manure and protecting supplies of groundwater and surface water in northeast Wisconsin, according to a news release.

BC Organics' bioenergy project is receiving a grant from the state's Focus on Energy program. The program gets most of its money from the state's investor-owned utilities and provides incentives for energy-saving projects that otherwise wouldn't be completed.

According to a news release by the DNR, several beneficial impacts of the project include the production of green energy through the use of anaerobic digestion to produce biogas, primarily methane, from decomposing organic wastes. The biogas will run a generator to produce electricity resulting in less dependence on fossil fuel for the production of electricity. Use of this facility will mean less impact on neighbors during land application, and providing separated solids as an organic source of animal bedding for area livestock producers.

BC Organics Bioenergy Digester Proposal In-Progress

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A team of state officials unanimously recommended the project proposed by BC Organics. Even so, the project still must obtain various state and local approvals before the work can begin.

Russ Rassmussen, policy advisor to the secretary of the DNR said “the processes is still in the negotiations phase. We are still unsure where they want to locate it. We don’t know if it’s affecting any wetlands yet so applying for permits might be a step in the future.”

According to the PSC memo, the project consists of 27 consortium members and includes nine participating dairy operations, with a total of 22,882 animal units. BC Organics LLC would apply the $15 million grant toward a total project cost of $60.25 million.

Rassmussen said “if it all goes to plan, a lot of the impacts will be beneficial. The landfill will last longer, there will be extra gas in the pipeline, renewable energy produced, and liquid organic fertilizer is also produced.”

Another concern is the possibility of contaminating private wells. Southern Brown County is characterized by karst topography, a type of landscape known for shallow topsoil and porous bedrock according to a DNR report.

Sustainable Humans of Point

What does sustainability mean to you?

It means creating a world that can sustain not only humans but every other living thing on it as well as its resources through technology, inclusivity and diversity.

Why do you think sustainability is important?

I think it's important because we are living on a planet with finite resources and a thin veil of a livable climate which is degraded by human activity. We have the capacity to alter our world indefinitely and I think we are obligated to keep it livable for years to come.

In what ways do you practice sustainability in your life?

I ride my bike to campus, I turn off the water while scrubbing up in the shower or while brushing my teeth, I keep the lights off when not home. I reduce, reuse, and recycle, and I compost.

What do you think people in your community should do to be more sustainable?

Call your local representatives over sustainability matters, join an organization furthering sustainability, and vote locally and federally for representatives who share sustainable ideals.
UWSP Celebrates Campus Sustainability Month

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October is Campus Sustainability Month and the Office of Sustainability has put together a calendar of local events to help the community celebrate.

Claire Gorman, junior health promotions and wellness major at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, is the student special events coordinator for the Office of Sustainability. She has been helping to compile the events listed in the calendar and plan the events sponsored by the Office of Sustainability.

"This calendar is just a comprehensive list to get people more aware of sustainability happening in the community," Gorman said.

During the first week of October, the Office of Sustainability hosted an Instagram Photo Challenge.

"We had people submit photos of their favorite water picture and they tagged us in social media. We printed them off each day and we put them on a banner," Gorman said.

On October 25, Sustainability Day, the banner will be displayed at the DUC so people can vote on their favorite. The winner will receive a prize.

The Office of Sustainability will also be hosting their annual Sustainability Fair on Oct. 25.

Gorman said, "We will have different vendors from the community and campus organizations with booths and tables set up around in the Laird Room to promote sustainability and what we're doing in the community and on campus."

The public can look forward to the presence student organizations like the Waste Management Society, the Land Conservation Society, as well as community organizations like the Central Rivers Farmshed at the fair.

The Office of Sustainability will also be hosting a showing of the movie, "After the Spill," in the DUC Theater at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 24.

Popcorn from the Stevens Point Area Co-op and Point Root Beer will be provided. Attendees should bring their own cup for root beer.

While the Office of Sustainability is doing a large portion of promoting Sustainability Month at UWSP, they are not sponsoring all the events listed in the calendar.

Other events being promoted for Sustainability Month include the Students for Sustainability farm tours being offered throughout the month, a candlelight hike in Schmeekle, Tap Talks at Central Waters, and more which can be found on their Facebook page, and on posters hanging around campus.

Gorman said, "we are, as a campus, really sustainability focused. So, the purpose of making this a big deal is to get more people involved. There are a lot of people who are involved already, but we want to get even more awareness from different people."

Sports

Student-Athlete Profile: Sarah Peplinski

Sarah Peplinski, a Stevens Point Area Senior High School alumna, is the current goal keeping for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's soccer team. Peplinski is enrolled as a senior at UWSP and is majoring in Philosophy with a concentration on religious studies.

The 22-year-old played Women's Soccer for San Jose State Spartans her freshmen year of college before transferring to Ohio State in 2014, then landing back in Stevens Point and becoming a Pointe Pin 2016.

What is your favorite class?
A tie between religious studies and chem classes.

Favorite animal?
Otters, when I was little, I remember going to zoos and aquariums and I liked to go watch them.

City or country?
Country, that's where I grew up.

What does soccer mean to you?
Soccer's been a huge part of my life and just all of sports that I have played in general have really helped develop who I am as a player and a person.

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Waterski and Wakeboard Club Makes Splash

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As most students are aware, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offers an incredibly wide variety of clubs to join, appealing heavily to the immense range of interests across the student body.

One club that has achieved the Stevens Point Involve­ment Network’s main goal of a tight-knit bond and a fun environment over the past several years is the Waterski and Wakeboard Club.

The SPIN-sponsored club consists of exactly what would be expected: individuals participating in what they love.

On top of weekly practices and splashing in the water, the team participates in occasional tournaments.

Although Stevens Point has never been a predominant powerhouse, participating in the National College Water Ski Association competition. They often go up against UW-La Crosse, UW-Eau Claire, UW-Platteville and Marquette, as well as teams from Iowa, Minnesota and more.

This season, beginning in early September, the Pointers took part in the Hawkeye Ski fest in Evansdale, Iowa over the span of Sept. 9-10. Placing ninth of ten teams, the team took away more than just results from the three-event tournament.

The three events in the tournaments are slalom, trick and jump. Slalom is an obstacle course for skiers. This event offers buoys that the skier must get around as the boat speeds up, or the skier falls. The longer the distance, the better. In trick water skiing, the skier is scored on the tricks pulled off during a run. Finally, jump water skiing is the most technical of the three events, as it takes much concentration and skill. The skier must attempt to quickly jump, move and maneuver during a run.

Tournaments in the NCW­SA consist of many events outside of the water.

There are activities that usually involve campfires, themed hangouts and socializing among all competing teams.

The idea of the tournaments is for members to learn more about the sport, bond with teammates and opponents and try to develop both their knowledge and skill of water skiing.

The team does not have many upcoming meets scheduled, because the water is soon to freeze over in the Midwest. But the bonding and fun is just beginning. Come spring, regional and national competitions begin, which is where the best and most entertaining skiing occurs.

More information is available on the Waterski and Wakeboard Club’s SPIN website.
Look Into Sports

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point righted the ship with a home victory over UW-Eau Claire, snapping a two-game losing streak and claiming its first conference victory of the season on Saturday, Oct. 14.

The Pointer’s rushing attack led the team to the win with 266 yards on offense. Running back Shamaj Williams added 266 yards on 20 attempts and scored a touchdown as he seemed to establish himself as the lead running back.

Stevens Point’s passing game continued to struggle as quarter-back Matt Urmanski completed only 9 of 20 passes for 109 yards.

Williams helped put the game into the first quarter. Urmanski scored both of his rushing touchdowns before halftime and kicker Hayden Neidert added a field goal to make the score 17-3 at the game’s midpoint.

At the end of the third quarter, Neidert hit another field goal to widen the score to 20-3.

Williams added a field goal to make the score 23-3 before half-time.

Stevens Point women’s volleyball took down UW-Oshkosh but fell to UW-Eau Claire during week six with its first two conference wins of the season over UW-Eau Claire 2-1 on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

The Pointers claimed victory over Oshkosh, 3-1, on Wednesday, Oct. 11, in the annual Blackout game.

The women’s team finished with a 23rd finish out of 38 teams. The top three finishers for the UWSP men were: Alex Egbert (79th), Matt Stelmsnek (109th) and Robert Lutz (131st).
STUDENT HELP WANTED
Interested in Working for THE POINTER?

ONLINE EDITOR
The Pointer is looking for a new Online Editor.

The position involves social media management, website upkeep, publicity work and collaboration. Time management skills required. Previous experience in management, with social media, web development or design, WordPress, and AP Style recommended but not required.

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

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SECTIONAL EDITOR
The Pointer is looking for a new Arts & Entertainment Sectional Editor.

The position involves planning and pitching story ideas, editing articles, keeping up-to-date on campus events, attending weekly meetings and writing articles and editorials 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.

REPORTER
The Pointer is looking for a new reporter.

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.
What Goes Into Field Guide Illustrations

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College of Letters and Sciences is hosting a monthly lecture series in the Pinery Room of the Portage County Public Library.

The purpose of the lecture series is to give every person that comes some knowledge on a subject they may not know much about, regardless of education or background.

October’s lecture was held on Tuesday, Oct. 10.

The lecture was titled “The Art, Science, and Philosophy of Field Guide Illustration.” It was given by Justin Sipiorski. Sipiorski is an associate professor of biology at UWSP.

The lecture was a unique and interesting take on field guide illustrations from Sipiorski’s perspective.

“A lot of this will be from my experiences, which is not necessarily conventional,” said Sipiorski.

It may have not been conventional, but Sipiorski has the background to make for an educational lecture.

He has graduate training in population genetics and molecular systematics. He also has done hundreds of illustrations for field guides. Sipiorski’s lecture entailed his beliefs into the three parts of field guide illustration.

“My thesis tonight is that field guide illustrations contain artistry, scientific information and philosophical constructs,” said Sipiorski.

The lecture entertained the thought that science, philosophy and art are all factors in the creation of field guide illustrations.

The philosophical aspect of field guide illustrations is human’s inherent need to identify organisms into species.

“We can ascribe species to groups of organisms, but those are ultimately a human construct,” said Sipiorski.

This organizing of organisms into species is also within the biological part of illustrations. There has been a long history of scientists and philosophers trying to understand what exactly constitutes a species.

There are multiple concepts that have been brought up as possibilities of how to correctly label a species. These range from ecological to genetic concepts.

“My short discussion on this is that yes, it is art and yes, it is fine art,” said Sipiorski.

He showed pictures of his own work. He showed the specific detail in every single illustration and discussed how he had to take multiple different sources and create an illustration that captures what most organisms of a species look like.

Sipiorski’s illustrations have been on display in multiple field guides including the Peterson Field Guide to Freshwater Fish. He also illustrated the children’s book “Fish Hotel.”

The next lecture in the College of Letters and Sciences Lecture Series will be “Planning and Public Interest in a Developing Country” by Assistant Professor of Geography Ismaila Odogba. It will be held on Nov. 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Eric Yonke introduces Dr. Justin Sipiorski in the Pinery room of the Portage County Library for his community lecture on “The Art, Science, and Philosophy of Field Guide Illustration.” Photo by Ross Vetterkind
RHA Trivia Night: All About The 90s

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On Thursday Oct. 12 in the DUC Laird Room, the Resident Hall Association and Center-entertainment Productions hosted their first RHA Trivia Night for the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s homecoming week.

The evening was complete with free popcorn, prizes for trivia winners and a chance to earn valuable homecoming team points.

One of the questions the trivia members were prompted to answer was, “In the 1999 movie Fight Club,’ Brad Pitt says, ‘Welcome to Fight Club. The first rule of fight club is...’” Knowing how to finish this sentence is an indication that a student would enjoy trivia night. All of the trivia questions were geared towards the 90s theme of the evening.

RHA and Center-entertainment decided to throw a 90s trivia night to stick with the decades theme of this year’s homecoming week, “Blast through the Past.”

To keep players honest, points were withdrawn if any trivia team member was caught using a cell phone to look up answers, contributing to the throwback.

Trivia was played in three rounds of ten questions, and prizes were given out to first, second and third place, compliments of RHA. The top teams from the RHA Trivia Night Knight-ten Hall (first), Thomson Hall (second), and Hyer Hall (third).

Along with their prizes, participating teams also scored points towards winning a trophy for competing in the Sunday through Friday decade themed homecoming events.

Samantha MacGlasshin, a junior biochemistry major and RHA special events chair, said, “I like to see different members of the college coming together.”

Alison Brugger, senior human technology interaction major, is an executive officer and has been a part of RHA for three years. “Everyone’s so nice, we love doing programming like this,” Brugger said. “Getting into the halls and getting to know the delegates, it’s kind of like one big family.”

MacGlasshin also said many of these homecoming teams are represented by different resident hall’s halls, clubs and campus organizations. This makes it easy for newcomers to branch out and discover different ways to get involved around UWSP.

“Get your to meet different people on campus that you might not otherwise, which is really cool,” MacGlasshin said.

A lot of thought and planning goes into putting on UWSP’s homecoming week. Kaitlyn Michlig, senior broad-field social science and history education majors, is the homecoming coordinator through Center-entertainment Productions and has contributed many hours of hard work to make 2017 homecoming week a blast.

“It’s been great seeing lots of students enjoy it, we’ve had a great turn out all week. People really love what we do,” Michlig said.

Michlig agrees that it makes all the hard work worth it to see students having fun at events like RHA Trivia Night.

Encouraging students to participate in future RHA and Center-entertainment events like Trivia Night, MacGlasshin said, “Come out, have fun and meet new people!”

And, of course, 90s trivia teams will now always remember the first rule of fight club is you don’t talk about fight club.

A-Cappella Is Coming Back with a New Group

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point a-cappella club is gearing up for a great 2017-2018 season with a brand new group.

UWSP A-Cappella has not been around for long. It got its start in spring of 2015, but in its short time, it has grown exponentially and become an important part of UWSP.

This year, a fourth a-cappella group was formed, called Sforzando.

Sforzando is new this year. It was added as opportunity for some students to try some more challenging arrangements,” said Rob Goszkowicz, mathematics and computer programming majors and co-founder of UWSP A-Cappella.

“When I first got on campus in 2015, only On-Point, the male ensemble existed under the Aca-brella. So I attended the a-cappella open mic night and me and a few girls I went to high school with, and a few more people I actually met that day sang and decided to start the Point Pitches,” said Katrina Reigh, junior arts management and drama majors and ensemble representative of the Point Pitches.

“Since then, we have had auditions at the start of every semester and the Point Pitches and the other ensembles on campus have really blossomed and grown,” said Reigh.

After the formation of the Point Pitches, TBA was formed. TBA was created to allow more people to get involved in a-cappella and to have a group that was co-ed.

This year, we have a new group called Sforzando, and they are also a mixed group,” said Sophia Laabs, sophomore and performer in the Point Pitches.

Sforzando is special in that it was founded for performers that want to try more difficult arrangements.

Together, the four groups are what make up UWSP A-Cappella, a club that provides a fun and interesting way to be involved in college.

“I really enjoy the friendships that are made. The girls in my group feel like my sisters. People who enjoy singing should try out. It’s such a fun rewarding experience,” said Laabs.

Auditions for this semester have already occurred, but UWSP A-Cappella has auditions every semester. Even if someone is interested in a-cappella, but is not sure the groups that have formed is right for them, that student still can get involved.

“The A-Cappella organization actually works in a really interesting way. It’s one of the many student organizations on campus and it acts as something that we call an ‘Aca-brella,’ as in ‘umbrella,’ meaning that anyone can create an ensemble under the ‘umbrella’ if they have four people and the roles of a treasurer, president and ensemble representative are filled,” said Reigh.

The first outing of UWSP A-Cappella will be in the Alumni Room of the Dreyfus University Center. It will be held on Dec. 2 at 6 p.m.
to make the right choices in their own art careers.

Mueller explains that with art, and especially with glass blowing, have wonderful facilities at UWSP, but after graduation there's a sense of 'now what?' With SCULPT, students are able to get the guidance and experience they need to be successful.

Victoria Hansen, senior 3D arts major, said that SCULPT prepares students in a way that classes can't. It's because of fundraisers like the glass pumpkin sales that SCULPT can for the station.

People can get involved in several ways. There are 11 paid executive staff members, five of which have teams. These are the music, production, promotions, news and sports teams. Each has weekly meetings. In addition to this, there are monthly general staff meetings every first Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. in Room 333 of the Collins Classroom Center.

“Tune in to 89.9FM OR Online @ 90fm.org"
Chef Kenny: Helping Students Reach a Healthy Lifestyle

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Chef Kenny Minor is an author, chef, and entrepreneur from New York City. After being featured on the Food Network series Chopped, he began an outreach program called “Eat for Life” to help create a healthier lifestyle for at-risk youth. Hoping to help both struggling and aspiring students, the chef was brought on campus to do a variety of events centered around creating a healthy lifestyle.

Chef Kenny Minor holds events ranging from a “Smoothie Demo” to a Q&A session for prospective students. Each event focused on helping students transition to a healthier lifestyle, informing, or demonstrating a new healthy technique. According to the College of Professional Studies, the event “Smoothie Demo,” allowed students to learn new smoothie recipes like the “Going Green Smoothie” and the “Very Berry Turmeric Smoothie,” and of course, there were free samples!

“When you eat for life in the ‘Now,’ food becomes a way to connect with your truest self and your health goals,” said Minor on his webpage, located on Vimeo.

However, these events did not just focus on the food aspect of health. One of the goals of Chef Kenny’s outreach program is to help others transition into a healthy lifestyle with exercise too. At the events, he described many exercises that are beneficial to the body and why they will work well.

“As a family and consumer sciences major, I thought his events were very interesting. He made me feel very excited for my future career” said a student who attended Chef Kenny’s Q&A event.

Fire Works Light Up Portage County Art

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Any person in the central Wisconsin area that is looking for a unique and fun night of art need look no further than the events CREATE Portage County offers.

CREATE Portage County is a nonprofit that aims to bring art to the culture of Portage County. CREATE helped in the creation of the Stevens Point murals and the Sculpture Park.

The most recent event was on Saturday, Oct. 14 and was entitled Fire Works.

“Fire Works is a family-friendly art experience that gives community members the opportunity to make and take art. For the month leading up to the event, we encourage community members to paint 8 X 10 canvases (provided by CREATE) which are then displayed on a gridded gallery (lit by bonfires) the night of the event. Attendees are given coordinates that match them to a piece of community-produced art that is theirs to keep or exchange,” said Greg Wright, Executive Director of CREATE Portage County.

Fire Works is a relatively new tradition. This was only the second year it was held, but there are plans for the event to continue in future years because of the success and fun of the event.

“The vibe is pretty great. We take over a farm for the night—so we are out in nature, heated by bonfires, listening to live music, and drinking fresh-pressed cider. It feels like everything that is great about Portage County. People of all ages gather to enjoy art, food, music, nature and each other,” said Wright.

The event did not just showcase art, but let members of the community get involved in making the art.

“Anybody can be a Fire Works artist. That is part of the fun. The event was motivated by recently released NIH research that discussed the health benefits of actively producing art. We wanted to give the community an excuse to tap into their inner artist. We have professional, amateur and first-time artists of all ages make paintings for the event,” said Wright.

The 215 pieces were on display at Whitefeather Organics in Custer, Wisconsin.

“We wanted farm-fresh food to be a part of the event both to highlight the amazing locally-sourced culinary arts scene in Portage County and to offer another readily available health benefit of living in Portage County. Whitefeather put its pizza oven just in time for last year’s event to be their first public pizza night, so we were eager to take advantage of that partnership opportunity. We fell in love with the team at Whitefeather during that first event and realized this needed to be an annual thing,” said Wright.

Fire Works is what CREATE Portage County is all about. It makes a place for a variety of people from all over Portage County to come together to appreciate art.