Facebook has recently admitted that approximately 87 million users, primarily in the United States, had their information collected and sold to Cambridge Analytica.

Only a small percentage of users allowed access to their profile information, through the use of a personality quiz developed by Aleksandr Kogan, data scientist at the University of Cambridge. People who took the quiz accidentally gave Kogan’s app access to not just their information, but the information of their entire friends list.

Facebook is working on security measures to prevent future data breaches, but in the meantime there are a few strategies for ensuring the security of user information on the platform.

A good first step is to review which apps and settings have been granted access. This can be done in Facebook settings on the “Apps and Websites” screen. This page makes it easy to ensure that only trusted apps have access to personal information. Unwanted or suspicious apps can be easily selected and removed.

continued on page 2

Undergraduates Present at the CNR Research Symposium

The College of Natural Resources was abuzz with activity last Friday during the annual Jim and Katie Krause CNR Student Research Symposium. Neatly dressed undergraduates explained their research to faculty, parents and fellow students who perused rows of posters.

Abbie Lee, senior water resources major, has chaired the symposium steering committee for the last two years. The committee meets all year beginning in September to plan the event. Lee said that this year’s symposium featured 91 presenters.

These presenters posed a menagerie of research questions from a variety of natural resource disciplines. Sam Sauber, Junior Wildlife Ecology Major, presented for the first time this year. His research investigated the difference in diet between urban and rural coyotes through stool analysis. Sauber said that the research process taught him about statistical analysis and has strengthened his interest in graduate school.

Fisheries was another discipline which was well-represented with a range of projects. Tymon Mauer, senior fisheries major and undergraduate researcher at the symposium, said that his research was a response to increasing interest by pond-owners in fostering more diverse fish communities. Mauer said, “there’s a lot of people more interested in stocking more native species from local streams and waterways that aren’t necessarily offered by hatcheries.”

Mauer’s research evaluated the fish community in one pond which had been stocked with 40 species of fish, the goal was to determine how balanced the community was and the success of different species.

Presenting at the symposium gives students the opportunity to be evaluated and receive feedback on their work. Lee said that each presentation is evaluated by three judges, one of whom is an expert in the discipline. The other two judges may be from other disciplines, giving students the opportunity to practice communicating to a more general audience. Lee said, “everyone gets their judge sheets back, so they grow, and they learn from how they presented and become better communicators of research.” Students have the opportunity to be awarded highest honors or honorable mention.

Lee, who presented two re-
Done using that app that tells you which character from Game of Thrones you are most like? Remove it.

Whenever accessing a new site or app, consider creating an account on the app or site rather than signing in with Facebook. Though signing in with Facebook is a convenient way to sidestep the process of creating a username and password for each new site, signing in with Facebook will in many cases give the app access to personal information gathered by Facebook for advertisers.

The amount of information Facebook has on a given user determines the precision of the ads the user sees on Facebook. Cambridge Analytica used this sort of data when they were hired by the Trump campaign in 2016 in order to more accurately identify the political leanings of Facebook users in the United States.

To limit the amount of data Facebook gathers from activity on third-party sites, heed to “Ads” in Facebook’s settings. The setting “Ads based on your use of websites and apps” is on by default. This setting is part of the reason why other web activity like Amazon purchases and Google searches tend to materialize as advertisements in the Facebook newsfeed. Click the setting and select the off option from the dropdown list in order to prevent this.

Additionally, whenever a user clicks on an advertisement or signs in to an app with Facebook, this information is stored in the “Your ad preferences” screen, under interests.

Over years of Facebook use, hundreds of “interests” can accumulate here, but they can be easily selected and removed. This is yet another way to limit the amount of data Facebook has for advertising purposes.

While this is not a perfect solution to the issue of Facebook’s relaxed security, these steps will prevent companies from getting their hands on personal data in the event of future Facebook breaches. Data most users assumed was private to begin with.

While this may seem trivial, it’s worth remembering that Cambridge Analytica used the information they gathered in order to try and influence voting behavior in the 2016 presidential election.

Correction

For 4/11 issue:

In the “Trump Proposed to Cut Funding for the Great Lakes by 90 Percent” article, the UWSP water lab consists of nine full-time employees and 15 students.

Trump’s Spending Bill Disappoints Conservatives

President Trump recently signed a trillion dollar spending bill that failed to include funding for the creation of a border wall. Ann Coulter, conservative social and political commentator, said on Fox News, “We thought he was, perhaps not the world’s greatest negotiator, but a negotiator.” Coulter went on to add, “All of this can be done under his powers as commander-in-chief if he cared and if he wanted to do it. Unfortunately, I think the fact that he signed this bill is the last straw and it echoes that he never wanted to do it.”

Caravan of 12,000 Migrating to United States

Every year for the last several years there has been a sharp increase in Central American migrants who make their way north towards the United States. This year, as in years past, a group of migrants from Central America are making their way north to seek asylum or as a form of activism. This time however, they are joined by a reporter from BuzzFeed documenting their journey.

Tweet of the Week

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump - 4h

A TOTAL WITCH HUNT!!!
General Education Committee Responds to Point Forward Proposal

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On Friday, April 6, the General Education Committee met and finalized a letter expressing concern over the Point Forward proposal put forward March 5 which proposed to eliminate 13 majors in the humanities, social sciences, and art disciplines.

In the letter, the committee addresses the fact that they were not consulted about the Point Forward Proposal at all prior to its March 5 announcement. The primary concern of the committee is the elimination of general education and liberal arts courses. While IAS colleagues are highly qualified and effective teachers, increasing their number risks a higher rate of turnover, which leads to greater challenge in finding well-qualified replacements. This is particularly concerning in the areas of U.S. Diversity and Global Awareness. Increasing reliance on part-time and transitory instructors also threatens the loss of institutional knowledge. Instructors need a solid knowledge of our programs. We hope that some of our students will be best served by interacting in a classroom or an office with other students and a qualified, dedicated instructor.

We also ask the Provost in particular to move the target date for presenting a formal proposal for program elimination to October 1. This is more appropriate for a proposal in which students have a profound interest, and allows more time for the development of a revised plan.

Share with this committee and the working group on GEP/Associates with the same goal in mind. As you have for changes to the GEP and the Associates Degrees, we would like to remind you that the faculty and specifically the GEC has purview over changes to the GEP.

Explore relocating the GEP administratively from University College to an academic college, which would provide a more natural home for an academic program.

Please stop saying that the GEP is a "failure" (as reported in the SGA minutes of March 8). We more than anyone else on this campus understand the problems that exist. If we all can work together, the problem is hurtful to the many people who have worked to create it, as well as improve it, and teach it—and it is simply inaccurate.

The letter also asks for the committee to put forward the Academic Affairs Committee to be put forward by the Aademic Committee on Oct. 1. The current deadline has been indicated by the Provost as being Oct. 1. Bowman hopes the Academic Affairs Committee has time to put forth a strong counter statement. Moving the deadline back to October 1 will avoid confusion. The committee also hopes the Academic Affairs Committee will have time to put forth a strong counter statement. Moving the deadline back to October 1 will avoid confusion.

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Walking the Steps of a Campus Ambassador

AARON ZIMMERMAN
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On March 3, Admissions had over 1100 people come to Admitted Student’s Day. Campus was packed full of excited and nervous prospective students, many of which had realized too late to campus solely because they had such a great experience when they visited.

The most rewarding moment of the job is a after a day like that which ends with tours. We had parents come up to us, telling us their student is choosing UWSP because of their tour and experience that day. It’s heartwarming to know that we make such a difference but it also shows how important this function of the admissions department is.

Most people think we only give tours but we do a lot more. We represent the university wherever we go. We greet visitors during check in for their visits, sit on panels to answer questions about student life, residential living, employment and more, facilitate one-on-one meetings with prospective students, dine with students and families during a full day experience, helping to make them feel more comfortable with not only us but the campus, guide special groups like high school groups and classes around campus as well as escort and orient new faculty and staff members to areas on campus they are unfamiliar with.

In almost all cases, ambassadors are the first impression many have to UWSP.

When I give tours, I personally like to add tips and advice for students who are starting college life. Tips and tricks like ways students can save money, how to cut lines by ordering tickets online, or just living a happy college life no matter what university they may end up at.

When I was a student touring different universities, a bus driver in Milwaukee once told me he loved his job, and, “if you love your job you won’t work a day in your life.” I found this to be super true when I started working for Admissions. The job is enjoyable because I get to share the best parts of the university and all the reasons I love it with new people every day.

Every job has its day that isn’t the greatest however, I for one once had a tour where a prospective student just wasn’t interested in campus and his guardian bashed everything I said because some other college that wasn’t even in Wisconsin had better facilities and more to offer than ours.

Another time a parent of the student was an alumnus of UWSP and was super excited for her daughter to go here, however the daughter clearly didn’t want any of it.

It’s hard when people from other UW’s say UWSP “sucks” or that they think their university is far superior. In high school people in my hometown of Wisconsin Rapids said it was the last place they would want to go.

Working as an ambassador, I tell people I’ve fallen in love with UWSP. With every tour and every visit, we help with, I am reminded by myself and my coworkers why UWSP is so great through the stories we share with visitors and with one another.

With every tour and every visit, I am reminded that my colleagues and coworkers why UWSP is so great the school it is because of the relationships we get to start building between visitors and campus.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am a retired professor of English at the University of Nevada, Reno. I’d like to submit the following poem to your paper. I have appended the short-short story by Borges to provide context for the poem. I hope you see fit to publish it, as it addresses a problem not only of your university but of our whole culture.

Thanks,
William Wilborn

ON EXACTITUDE IN SCIENCE (BORGES)

...In that Empire, the Art of Cartography attained such Perfection that the map of a single Province occupied the entirety of a City, and the map of the Empire, the entirety of a Province. In time, those Unconscionable Maps no longer satisfied, and the Cartographers Guilds struck a Map of the Empire whose size was that of the Empire, and which coincided point for point with it. The following Generations, who were not so fond of the Study of Cartography as their Forebears had been, saw that that vast map was Useless, and not without some Pitilessness was it, that they delivered it up to the Inclemencies of Sun and Winters. In the Deserts of the West, still today, there are Tattered Ruins of that Map, inhabited by Animals and Beggars; in all the Land there is no other Relic of the Disciplines of Geography.

— Suarez Miranda, Viajes de varones prudentes, Libro IV, Cap. XLV, Lerida, 1658
UWSP Celebrates Earth Week

NAOMI ALBERT  
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At the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, students take Earth Day seriously, so seriously that it has stretched from just one day to weeks of celebration. This year, the Office of Sustainability has published an Earth Week calendar which spans the entire month of April, with most events occurring from April 11-28.

The Fair and Local Fair will be one of the first events to kick off Earth Week, it will feature locally owned businesses whose products are either fair trade or locally sourced, as well as sustainably focused student organizations.

Justin Sies, senior sociology and environmental ethics major, is the chair of the Fair Trade Committee which organized the event. Sies said that they are focusing on both fair trade and local businesses because people buy these products for the same reason; they want to feel connected to the product and know the producer is treated fairly.

Sies feels that fair trade and local products tie into both environmental sustainability and social justice.

"Fair trade is as much about social justice as it is about environmental protection as it is about worker protection and local sourcing is also a much better way to think about protecting the environment because you are reducing the number of miles something has to travel to get to where you are. Typically, if you can source the materials locally then you are less dependent on getting things from cheap labor or from far away places," said Sies.

The Fair and Local Fair will take place on April 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the DUC Laird room.

This is different than the Eco Fair, a long-standing Earth Week tradition on campus, which is organized by the Environmental Educators and Naturalists Association. Rachel Loomis, junior environmental education and interpretation major and president of EENA, said that Eco Fair has been taking place since the 1970s.

Loomis said that this year's theme "what is in your backyard?" focuses on connecting people to the community that surrounds them. To do this, the fair will host a variety of unique vendors, from the Raptor Education Group, Inc. which focuses on wildlife, to Farmshed which works with local food systems, among many others.

The Eco Fair will take place from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the DUC Laird Room. The fair will be followed by a concert featuring two local bands, Native Zoo and Kyerokaya, who will play from 8-11 p.m. in the DUC Encore.

Claire Gorman, junior health promotion and wellness major and student special events coordinator for the Office of Sustainability, said that the Earth Week Planning Committee, a collaboration of various groups on campus, has been planning events since the beginning of the school year. Gorman encourages students to like the Office of Sustainability Facebook page to stay up to date on events.

Loomis said, "It is awesome to be part of a university that takes such pride in their earth week."
Schmeeckle Appreciation Day and Other Volunteer Opportunities During Earth Week

KATIE SHONIA
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This year’s the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will host a variety of educational presentations and entertainment events to celebrate sustainability. Schmeeckle Appreciation Day is part of this series of events.

Schmeeckle Appreciation Day is organized by the Coalition of Organizational Leadership in UWSP’s College of Natural Resources and will take place on Friday, April 13. The event will last from 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. at the Schmeeckle Reserve.

According to their SPIN page, the purpose of COOL is “to bring all student organizations with shared interest in Natural Resources together in order to share ideas and resources and to help create better on and off-campus opportunities for their members.”

The projects organized by COOL are meant to benefit the university, its students, and the surrounding community.

The purpose of Schmeeckle Appreciation Day is to gather campus and the local community in efforts to clean up areas of the reserve. It was organized for the first time last year as an effort to give back to the reserve. Interested volunteers are encouraged to meet at 2 pm at Schmeeckle Reserve Visitor Center and help remove invasive species and provide trail maintenance.

After the clean-up, volunteers are invited to a bonfire with a potluck and s’mores.

Schmeeckle Reserve staff will provide all the necessary tools but volunteers are encouraged to wear clothes that can get dirty and closed toe shoes for safety.

Megan Espe, the Schmeeckle Outreach Coordinator said that at this point the event is tentative, due to the large amounts of snowfall that occurred over the weekend as well as the rain predicted on that Friday evening.

Enroll today! UW-Stevens Point Summer Sessions
Share your summer stories!

Register at uwsp.edu/summer

Photo by Ross Vetterkind
Finding the Fits: Five Round 1 Draft Options for the Green Bay Packers

With the NFL Draft approaching in less than three weeks, the Green Bay Packers have likely identified a shortlist of players who could be available when their team is on the clock at pick 14 on April 26.

Below is a list of five players who could be on that shortlist with accompanying analyses of their skill sets and prospective fits with the team.

**BOSTON COLLEGE EDGE, HAROLD LANDRY**

The desire to move Clay Matthews to inside linebacker and a need for depth and talent at outside linebacker could make Landry a prime candidate for Green Bay’s first-round pick. Landry seems like an ideal fit for the Packers given his experience as a hand-in-the-dirt defensive end and stand-up outside rusher.

Landry’s game is predicated on defeating offensive tackles with speed and flexibility around the edge. At 6-foot-2, 252 lbs., Landry could struggle to shed bigger blockers in the run game, but with stout run defenders like Mike Daniels, Kenny Clark and Muhammad Wilkerson to handle most of the dirty work up front, he can be tasked with fewer run responsibilities and be allowed to focus more on what he does best: rushing the passer.

**IOWA CORNERBACK, JOSH JACKSON**

Iowa’s Josh Jackson could be another intriguing option for the Packers in the first round given their glaring need at cornerback. The former Hawkeye would likely seize the vacant starting boundary cornerback job opposite Kevin King, although he will likely require some time to refine his press and off-man coverage skills. Jackson lacks ideal long speed (4.56 40 yard dash) to run with receivers down the field in man coverage, but his combination of size, fluidity, zone instincts and ball skills give him a high ceiling as an outside corner.

**OHIO STATE CORNERBACK, DENZEL WARD**

Arguably the best and most pro-ready cornerback in the draft, Denzel Ward would project as a day 1 starter for the Packers in the slot or on the boundary. Ward is at his best in close man coverage where he can effortlessly mirror and match receivers out of their releases and blanket receivers at any level of the field with excellent route anticipation, transitional quickness and fantastic vertical speed to carry receivers down the field. At 5-foot-11, 183 lbs., Ward is a little undersized and a little underpowered, but his leaping ability (39” vertical) and physicality in coverage allow him to compete with bigger receivers at the catch point.

Of all the players featured on this list, Ward is perhaps the least likely to be available when Green Bay is on the clock at pick 14. As a result, newly-minted general manager Brian Gutekunst may need to package a few of his 12 draft picks to move up for Ward.

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**FLORIDA STATE SAFETY, DERWIN JAMES**

Though maybe not a glaring need, Morgan Burnett’s departure in free agency could open up the possibility of a safety at pick 14. The Packers did just draft safety Josh Jones in the second round last year, but he’s more of a hybrid box safety/linebacker. Derwin James could add a different dimension to Green Bay’s safety unit and his versatility could make him a valuable chess piece in Mike Pettine’s multiple defenses.

While at Florida State, James showcased the ability to play multiple positions—namely strong safety, free safety, nickel corner, edge rusher and dime linebacker. James’s ability to patrol the middle of the field and matchup with tight ends, slot receivers and running backs in man coverage could help the Packers neutralize coverage mismatches.

**GEOGRAPHIC LINEBACKER, ROQUAN SMITH**

Traditionally, the Packers haven’t valued off-ball linebackers in the first round of the draft, but a three-down linebacker with the rare skill set of Roquan Smith could entice them enough to pull the trigger at 14. At Georgia, Smith excelled in every aspect of the game whether he was asked to stop the run, drop into coverage or rush the passer. Smith’s incredible lateral range and speed allow him to make plays all over the field. His fluid hips and plus instincts allow him to handle coverage responsibilities as well. Smith’s biggest knock is that he struggles to shed blocks at the point of attack when offensive linemen are able to get their hands on him, but that weakness could be mitigated if he’s allowed to roam free behind Green Bay’s stellar defensive line unit.

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Look Into Sports

DAN WUSSOW
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Sports Events

Track

April 13 & 14, at Platteville Invite

TBA

Softball

Current Standings

UW-Eau Claire: 2-0, 14-8
UW-Whitewater: 2-0, 9-7
UW-River Falls: 0-0, 15-5
UW-Oshkosh: 0-0, 13-6
UW-La Crosse: 0-0, 13-9
UW-Stevens Point: 0-0, 11-12
UW-Stout: 0-2, 12-5
UW-Platteville: 0-2, 9-9

Baseball

Current Standings

UW-Whitewater: 6-0, 14-2
UW-Stevens Point: 4-0, 12-4
UW-La Crosse: 3-1, 11-6
Illinois Tech: 1-5, 9-11
UW-Oshkosh: 0-0, 13-2
UW-Platteville: 0-4, 6-14
UW-Stout: 0-4, 3-12

Trivia Invades UWSP

SARA SUCHY

Despite the snow on the ground and the chill in the air, one sure harbinger of spring has fallen, upon Stevens Point, Wis., or as it is known to some “Trivia Town, USA.” It must be spring, for the 39th annual Trivia competition is upon us. For some, this means 54 hours of Google, carry out pizza and copious amounts of drinkable caffeine all while listening to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s own, 90 FM radio station and watching Student Television.

This is an extra special year for Jim Olivia as it is his 30th year at the helm of the Trivia competition writing the questions and coordinating the event.

Writing questions for trivia is a yearlong process for Olivia. He takes notes all year long on just about everything he sees in preparation for writing his notoriously difficult questions for each year’s contest.

“I pick up candy wrappers, take notes on cereal boxes, moves... just about anything,” said Olivia. Then in January, with his massive volumes of notes in hand, Olivia and a friend sit down every Saturday and Sunday to start writing questions for the April contest.

It took Olivia three to four years to adjust to writing questions once the Internet became a major factor. Prior to Google and Wikipedia, teams would have volumes of encyclopedias, tons of books and movies among other resources to answer questions.

“I didn’t write the questions as tough before the Internet,” said Olivia, “But the teams soon find out that the Internet doesn’t have everything; it helps, but it doesn’t have all the answers. The best teams are the ones that have the best notes.”

After 30 years of being involved in trivia, OZ, as his fans affectionately call Olivia, has seen trivia evolve quite a bit, but the essence of the game has stayed the same.

“It’s always chaotic and that’s what’s cool about it,” said Olivia.

During the Trivia weekend, Stevens Point plays host to over 400 teams and thousands of Trivia players all calling in to 18 phones in 90 FM’s office on the first floor of the Communication Arts Center.

“We never know how many people we are going to get,” said Olivia, “We capped at 572 teams... that was too many for us to handle.”

To help bring down the numbers, the station raised the price from $20 to $30.

“That knocked about 100 teams off and that was good for us,” explained Olivia.

Olivia’s advice to anyone who wants to do well in his trivia competition might surprise some people.

“Watch plenty of TV; it’s the best thing you can do with your life, it’s better than studying,” said Olivia.

This year’s Trivia competition will kick off this Friday, April 11 with the annual trivia parade starting at 4:00 p.m. in Lot Q. The first question will be asked at 6:00 p.m. on Friday night. Eight questions are asked every hour until Sunday morning. It’s just a guess, but the first answer might be “Robert Redford.”
The Importance of a Press: Cornerstone Press Continues to Impress

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For the past 34 years, a classroom full of students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has helped publish books annually by working with various authors, all the while learning valuable lessons about the editing and publication process through Cornerstone Press.

The press receives no funding from the University and is entirely self-sufficient. The press maintains its independence by using the money it makes from selling books and reinvesting it into the next project, thereby creating a cycle of books every year.

The latest publication, Susanne Davis’s “The Appointed Hour,” was met with great success. The work that Cornerstone Press has put out shows the dedication and professionalism that students have to offer.

“Getting to work with UWSP students and staff on every step of the process from cover design and edits to marketing the finished product, I see that the writing and acceptance of the manuscript is not a final step for the author but at best, a first step of bringing a book and a career to life,” said Davis.

Alexis Neeley, copy editor of Cornerstone, said, “We are so proud of what we’ve accomplished. I wasn’t really sure what to expect, but I think everyone involved is so pleased with the book’s success and wants to see it continue to succeed. Our goal is to sell 500 copies by mid-March. At that point, we’ll offer a second print run, which will be a first in Cornerstone history.”

Another first for Cornerstone is the new Amazon storefront that has recently been created to make it easier to find Cornerstone Press in the world. Cornerstone Press is an organization that is unique to campus and the UW System as it is the only student-run publishing press of its kind in the state. The press unites people of different backgrounds and skill sets in order to help the dream of an author come true and publish their work. As Tangedal said, “I’m ecstatic and it’s only going to get better.”
46th Annual Festival of the Arts Provides Strong Case for the Visual Arts at UWSP

MICHAELA KRAFT REPORTER mkraf374@uwsp.edu

On Sunday, April 8, the Noel Fine Arts Center was transformed into an art aficionado's paradise. With dozens of vendors in every nook and cranny of the building, one could quite easily have become lost among the artwork for hours. It seemed as though there was not an inch of space that was not covered in art—lamps were displayed hanging from the ceiling! Upon first glance, it was as though the NFAC radiated a vibrancy that could only come from people experiencing original art together. But there was an immediacy to the celebration this weekend; a desperation. What started nearly half a century ago as a celebration of the arts has now become an outcry for their safekeeping.

It is difficult to live in or near Stevens Point without being aware of the recent challenges the university faces in regards to a major drop in enrollment. A proposal has been presented which would involve cutting certain majors and adding to others in hopes of a more successful university. Unfortunately, this plan involves cutting many of the Humanities, including Art and Design.

However, it's impossible to keep good artists down, and Sunday's event was proof of that. All were in good spirits, and the energy in the NFAC was hopeful and energetic. For those who are unaware of just what the Festival of the Arts is, the festival showcases dozens of local and regional artists who sell their original work on site. There are also children's activities, a popular art raffle, and various awards presented throughout the day. The artwork ranges in both price and style, and often sells quickly.

The Festival of the Arts not only celebrates professional artists, but UWSP students as well. Nearly all areas of the College of Fine Arts were represented this weekend. Fine Arts students were able to sell their work, while those in the Theatre and Dance Department were able to advocate for their extracurricular program that provides creative opportunities for students; Players Student Artistic Alliance. Exceptional students in each area were given awards on behalf of the festival.

For those who were watching their pocketbook a bit more closely, there were many vendors in attendance who presented opportunities to get involved with the arts without spending a cent. These included representatives from local galleries, creative spaces, and from the initiative to re-imagine our public spaces and parks in Stevens Point.

It is worthy to note that the Festival of the Arts receives no direct funding from UWSP. Instead, it is funded solely by area businesses, patrons, and volunteers. The strong presence of artists and patrons of the arts is a testament to the community's support for a strong artistic presence in Central Wisconsin. We must assure that UWSP continues to be a place for the arts to thrive for generations to come.

Stevens Point Laughs with The Second City

ELIZABETH OLSON ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR eloisa2@uwsp.edu

A man and woman performing an interpretive dance about Nickelback while wearing red Spandex suits may seem strange, but that's just the tip of the iceberg at a Second City comedy show. Theater @ 1800, located in SentryWorld, played host to the six-member touring comedy group on April 7.

The Second City started as a comedy theater in Chicago in 1959 and has since grown to become a comedy enterprise that includes theaters in Toronto and Los Angeles, as well as touring shows. Many comedy legends got their start with The Second City, including Bill Murray, Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Steve Carell and Stephen Colbert.

The show performed in Stevens Point, titled "Look Both Ways Before Talking," featured some sketch comedy, but most actually relied heavily on improvisation.

To begin a new segment, the troupe would set the scene, introducing themselves as "couple at a dinner party" or "protestants on The Bachelorette." They would then take suggestions from the audience to fill in details and create the characters.

Suggestions for The Bachelorette contestant's last relationship ended ranged from decapitation to being part of a Chumbawama cover band. The mix of characters all interacting with each other without a clue of what's going to happen next was exciting and hilarious to watch.

Carefully written, memo- rized and performed comedy shows exhibit the attention to detail that great comedians possess, but improvis is a very different form of comedy. Improv is all about quick thinking and reacting to whatever situation is unfolding.

Essentially, improv is just fun. People making stuff up on the spot and other funny people reacting to it. Sometimes the comedians are just as confused by what's happening as the audience is, but there's something innately special about that shared experience. It feels customized and fresh.

The set of The Second City show consisted of four chairs on the stage, and the use of props was very limited, so every player was not afraid to use their body to express what was happening in the scene.

One member of the troupe, Jenelle Cheyne, stood out for the humor she conveyed simply through her actions and body language.

The biggest and longest sustained laugh of the night was while watching Cheyne stare blankly at the crowd and imitate a giant, inflatable tube-man dancing in the imaginary wind outside of a car dealership. The energy she exuded while she flapped and twitched was reminiscent of Steve Martin standup circa 1979.

The Second City was the premier and leading theater in improv back when they first opened, and that tradition holds up nearly 60 years later. To learn more about The Second City and their upcoming shows, visit their website at www.secondsociety.com.

The event was hosted and sponsored by CREATE Portage County. Executive Director Greg Wright introduced the show, welcoming everyone and explaining what CREATE is all about.

CREATE Portage County's mission is to inspire and support out-of-the-box thinking in the Stevens Point community.

"The more you invest in creativity, the more people want to be creative," said Wright, explaining why they see an importance in raising and allocating funds to support creative thinkers.

Funds raised go to projects such as new murals around the community, events and shows such as this one, as well as many other artistic outlets.

To find out how to become a partner with CREATE Portage County or learn about their upcoming events, check out their website at www.createportagecounty.org.
"Everybody deserves a great love story." The tagline to the Greg Berlanti-directed film "Love, Simon" seems to critique the over-saturation of heterosexual love stories in media. Doesn't the LGBTQ community deserve that same cheesy love story that we all fantasize about? 20th Century Fox, the studio behind the film, believes so.

"Love, Simon" features actor Nick Robinson in the titular role. The story follows Simon Spier, your typical teenage boy who lives in a suburb of Atlanta. He's got great friends and a loving family; what more could he be going for him? Well, there's just one teensy, little secret: he's gay.

Simon faces the pressures of wanting to come out, but feeling the doubt and fear that many members of the LGBTQ community face.

He develops an online crush with another anonymous, closeted gay student under the pseudonym "Blue." They email each other back and forth, sharing their interests, favorite snacks and their own personal fears of coming out of the closet.

When another student named Martin (played by Logan Miller) finds the email conversation on a public computer Simon forgot to log out of, he blackmails him into setting him up with Simon's best friend, Abby (played by Alexandria Shipp). If he doesn't comply, Martin will out him to the entire school, along with his emails to and from Blue.

The movie centers on Simon investigating who his anonymous crush is while navigating school, bullies, his friends and ultimately being blackmailed. The result: a good-natured, sincere film that while groundbreaking in certain aspects, is average in others.

It should be noted that "Love, Simon" is the first ever mainstream gay teen romance film. This alone is a gigantic feat, and it should be celebrated, marking a starting point where queer films can begin to be properly funded and supported by larger movie studios.

Because "Love, Simon" is associated with this cultural milestone, it brings forth the irony of how much the film could have pushed through some boundaries of gender and sexuality in society but did not.

Simon is played as homo-normative, meaning he is straight-acting. Homo-normative aspect brings in a certain standard of acceptability they must adhere to.

This isn't to say that Simon needed to be flamboyant, sassy gay guy; not all gay men are feminine. But, it should be noted that Simon fits within a straight-laced character archetype, but sort of acts as a vessel to make gay people seem palatable to the target audience.

The movie is a little heavy-handed in letting the audience know that Simon is just like any other person, but it can't let his character, or the story speak for itself. It sells the audience short, who will no doubt connect with Simon and provide comparisons themselves.

On the flip side, the wide appeal of Simon does in fact work to combat specific stereotypes of gay men in media. The homo-normative aspect brings in a large audience and can help illuminate some of the experiences associated with being gay in 2018.

Speaking of those illuminating experiences, the movie reaches sincere emotional heights that speak to the heart of being LGBTQ. Simon coming out to his parents (played by Jennifer Garner and Josh Duhamel) is touching. A scene between Simon and his father was especially moving and hopeful. Within my experience in the theater, the audible sniffles and sobs were enough to prove the connection the movie builds with its audience. Although many members of the LGBTQ community may not have had a positive outcome within their own coming out, the movie helps solidify that the world is changing.

With the issues of representation and its own saccharine sweetness aside, this movie is important. It represents the era we live in now, where we've made so much progress in our representation of LGBTQ people in media. It's a feel-good movie that celebrates the progress we've made, while also showing the potential future that LGBTQ people hope for.
Humans of Point: SGA Edition

Get to know Brailey and Dyllan, the SGA President and Vice President Elect!

BRAILEY KERBER

is a junior elementary education major with a minor in English as a Second Language.

What’s your favorite study spot on campus?

My favorite study space on campus is OSF in the basement of the DUC. It’s always warm in there and there is a lot of room to spread out my notes, books and computer. There is also enough room to work on group projects or study with friends!

Why did you pick UWSP?

I picked UWSP after meeting with Maggie Beeber, the elementary education adviser, and she told me that I would get experience in my field as soon as first semester freshman year. None of the other schools I was looking at could offer me hands-on learning that quickly.

If you could change the school mascot, what would it be?

Oh jeez, that’s a tough question. I think I would change it to the Stevens Point Pterodactyls because I don’t think there are other schools that have a dinosaur as their mascot so it would set us apart.

DYLLAN GRIEPENTROG

is a freshman political science and communication major with an emphasis in public relations.

What’s your favorite study spot on campus?

Naturally I’d say the Student Government Office because I basically live there. But if I had to choose another it’d be the Basement Brewhaus. I love the feel of the room, it’s super relaxing and allows me to focus on whatever I need to get done! Also I’m a sucker for jazz, and they have Jazz Nights every other Monday.

Why did you pick UWSP?

This was actually the only campus I applied to. I originally wanted to be a history teacher and I knew that UWSP was known for being a teaching school. When I came to campus, I fell in love with it. It felt like home!

If you could change the school mascot, what would it be?

Narwhal. I for some reason think narwhals are really cool and you don’t see them as mascots very often. There is no other animal on the planet that has a giant tooth sticking out of their face.... Super cool!