

SENIOR FAREWELL ISSUE!

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Herpetology Society Faces Possible Extinction.

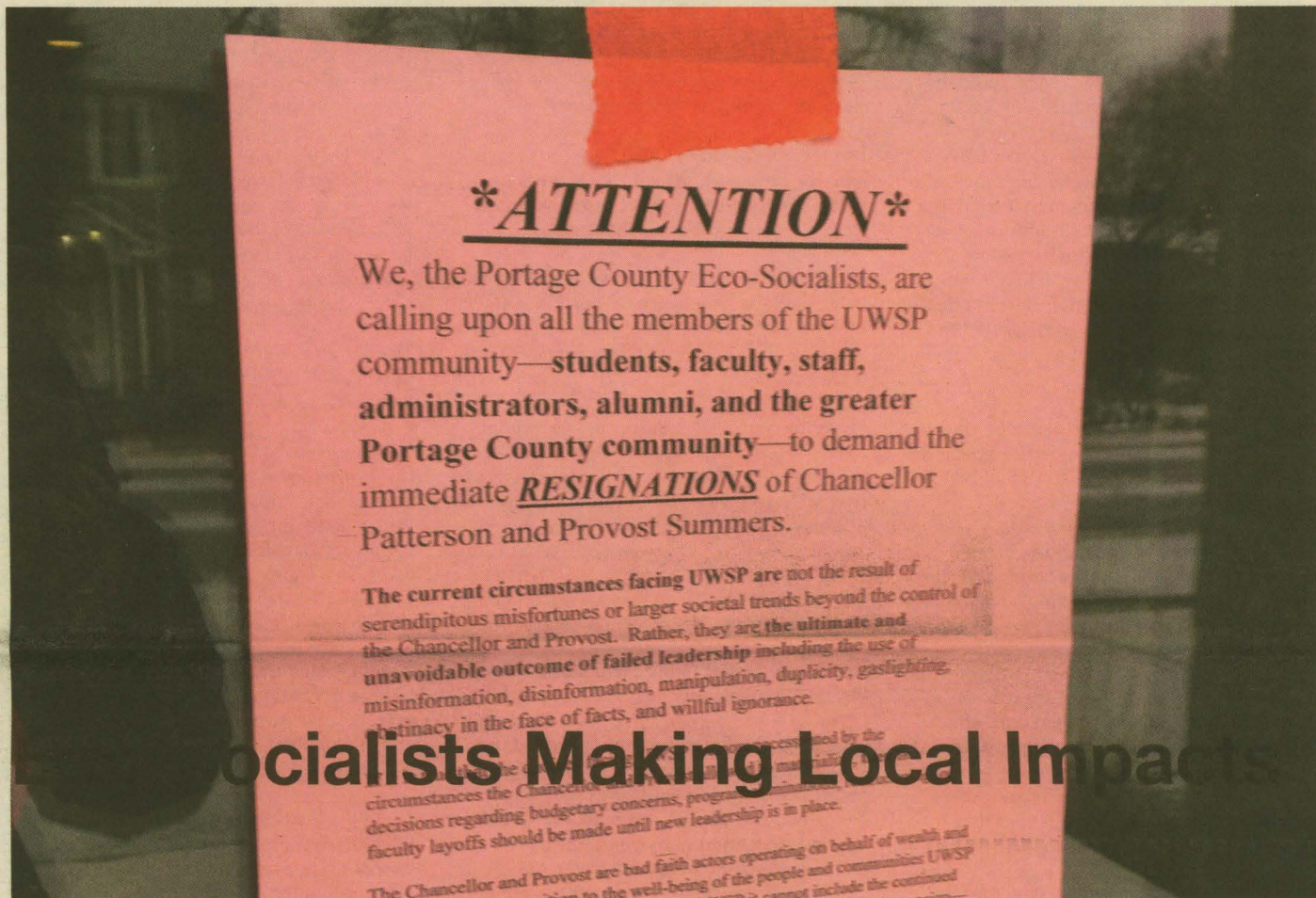
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Last week the UW-Stevens Point Herpetology did a presentation of the vivarium by covering it with black sheets to raise awareness of what could happen if the space would cease to exist due to cuts.

Megan Villand, A junior, Biology major and two-time serving President of the Herpetology society said that the core of the herpetology society's budget comes from Student Government funding.

"Last year our budget was

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Stevens Point's soil judging team won big at the recent regional soil judging competition in Prairie du Chien, coming in first place overall, the first time UWSP has won the competition since 1987. Photo courtesy of Tanner Olson.

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The group previously known as the College Greens – largely in support of the Green Party and its values – changed its name to the Eco-Socialists of UWSP on Oct. 24.

The group's Facebook page commented on this change. "We feel that by branding ourselves as 'Eco-Socialists'," the page stated, "the ultimate goal and purpose of our club is more accurately expressed."

The group's stated purpose has not changed. Its purpose is still "attempting to build a democratic society in which human needs matter more than corpo-

rate profits" and "providing students with an alternative voice that will truly stand up for the needs of the people."

"In organizing panels, events and spreading of information," said Ella Janson, President of the Eco-Socialists of UWSP, in an email to the Pointer, "the Eco-Socialists are able to highlight issues of injustice and speak to the importance of respecting both diversity and the environment."

The group is holding several events this semester. The Eco-Socialists of UWSP have already held five discussion-events wherein Clint Jones, lecturer of Philosophy delivered prepared lectures on social justice and ecological justice.

This spring, Cornerstone Press began to combine Jones's lectures – to the same group – into a book. The book became first in Cornerstone's new series, the "J. Baird Callicott Environmental Humanities Series."

This semester's final discussion-event will be Wednesday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. in CCC 101.

The organization also held a notable meeting this Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in CPS 210. The organization created video-statements in support of the resignation of Bernie Patterson, Chancellor, and in support of SPARC's recent open criticism of Patterson's administration.

The Eco-Socialists of UWSP

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Walker shouted down over GOP attempt to weaken his successor

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Demonstrators booed outgoing Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on Tuesday during a Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, at times drowning out a high school choir with their own songs in protest of a Republican effort to gut the powers of his Democratic successor.

The governor, wearing a Santa tie, appeared unfazed as he flipped the switch while one protester shouted "Hey Walker! Go home!" He left without taking questions from reporters about the bills being considered in the rare lame-duck legislative session. Walker, who has signaled support for the measures, later tweeted that he "can handle the shouts," but he urged protesters to "leave the kids alone."

Stung by their election loss last month, Republicans treated the lame-duck session as a final opportunity to use their political clout to weaken the next governor before time runs out. Democrats, who won every statewide constitutional office after nearly a decade-long GOP hold on power, derided the session as a cynical attempt to preserve the party's waning strength.

"If he wanted to put a stop to this, he could," said Russ Hahn, a 53-year-old attorney holding a sign that said "GOP Grinch Steals Democracy."

The fact that Walker was making no attempt to halt the effort "clearly indicates he wants to be able to control things outside the governor's office for the next four or eight years," Hahn said.

At one point Tuesday, the public was ordered removed from Senate galleries after repeated warnings to be quiet. Spectators shouted "Shame!" and hurled complaints at senators, temporarily halting debate. Less than an hour later, Republicans said they would let people back in.

The GOP proposals would weaken the governor's ability to put in place rules that enact laws and shield the state jobs agency from his control. Republicans also want to limit early voting to no more than two weeks be-

fore an election.

Republicans were still working to reach final agreement on what exactly they would pass. Leaders from both the Senate and Assembly negotiated into the night, giving opponents hope that the bills may be scaled back.

Walker burst onto the national political scene in 2011 with an aggressive anti-union agenda. Many of the same protesters who confronted him then returned to the Capitol on Tuesday — albeit in far fewer numbers. Protests in 2011 reached 100,000, but only a few dozen were on hand this time.

"The first thing Scott Walker did when he walked through the door of the Capitol was to create chaos," Democratic Sen. Jon Erpenbach said during Senate debate. "The last thing he is doing is creating chaos."

Democrats vowed to do all they could to stop the proposals, which would weaken both Democratic Gov.-elect Tony Evers and Attorney General-elect Josh Kaul.

Some hinted at filibusters or legal challenges and called the lame-duck session "illegitimate." Former Democratic attorney general and Gov. Jim Doyle said the moves were unconstitutional.

Never in Wisconsin history "has an extraordinary session been used to deny the will of the people and take away powers from the newly elected governor and newly elected attorney general," Democratic Rep. Chris Taylor said.

Despite the victories by Evers, Kaul and other Democrats, the party gained no ground in the Legislature and blamed partisan gerrymandering by Republicans for stacking the electoral map against them.

A GOP-controlled committee approved the measures late Monday after a nine-hour public hearing where only one person testified in support of one provision. The panel rejected a proposal to move the 2020 presidential primary date from April to March amid nearly unanimous opposition from the state's local election clerks.

"The people aren't asking for this," Taylor said during the hearing. "You did not run

on this. You didn't tell people you would do everything in your power to take away the power of a newly elected governor and attorney general. You rig the system when you win, and you rig the system when you lose."

Republican Rep. John Nygren, co-chairman of the committee, downplayed the proposals and said the goal was to establish balance in power between the Legislature and governor. Nygren said it was a positive step that would "bring us together to solve the problems of the state."

Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos told reporters that his constituents want him to protect everything the GOP has accomplished over the last eight years under Walker. The legislation, he said, ensures that Evers will have to negotiate with lawmakers and cannot unilaterally erase Republican ideas.

"We do not believe any one individual should have the opportunity to come in and with a stroke of the pen ... eliminate laws passed by our Legislature," Vos said, citing rules enacting voter photo ID, a key GOP initiative during Walker's two terms.

The last lame-duck session in Wisconsin was in 2010, when Democrats tried unsuccessfully to enact labor agreements.

The proposals to bolster Republican legislative power come after North Carolina lawmakers took similar steps two years ago. Michigan Republicans are also discussing taking action before a Democratic governor takes over there.

The Wisconsin GOP package would also weaken the attorney general's office by allowing Republican legislative leaders to intervene in cases and hire their own attorneys. A legislative committee, rather than the attorney general, would have to sign off on withdrawing from federal lawsuits.

That would stop Evers and Kaul from fulfilling their campaign promises to withdraw Wisconsin from a multi-state lawsuit seeking repeal of the Affordable Care Act. They made opposition to that lawsuit a central part of both of their campaigns.

THE POINTER

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This Week in SGA...

Brittney Barsi, Student Government Association Communications and PR Director

This semester has been a very busy and exciting one for Legislative Director Nicholas Kositzke and his committee.

For the first half of the semester, the Legislative Affairs Committee worked on Get Out The Vote (GOTV). The campaign started at the end of September. SGA and community volunteers tabled for voter registration in the Dreyfus University Center (DUC) for thirteen days. On the final day of tabling, SGA representatives and community volunteers moved their efforts outside to the Sundial. The Noel Family Foundation generously donated a party bus to help make the Get Out The Vote Sundial event happen. By

the end of the campaign, we registered around 440 students, which is an outstanding registration rate for a midterm election. This year, Stevens Point had a record number of registrations and early voting.

After registration ended, the Legislative Affairs Committee worked to prepare students for the election. A nonpartisan candidate guide was created and volunteers for Election Day were recruited. On Election Day, SGA provided a free shuttle service that took students to their polling location and volunteered at the DUC polling site.

Since the election, the Legislative Affairs Committee has been working hard to prepare materials for its lobbying efforts next semester. Currently, the committee is focusing on the budget and renovation funds for the Health and Wellness Complex and

The views and expressions written in this section are opinions of the UWSP SGA and are in no way representative of the views of The Pointer.

Albertson Hall (the library). In recent meetings, the committee has discussed how they want to take on these issues. In their meetings, they are creating comprehensive plans to prepare, which include gathering evidence of the need for renovation, testimony from the city, students, and UWSP faculty and staff, and strategies for delivering their message at the capitol.

We want to hear from you! If you are interested in getting involved in SGA stop by our office (DUC 052) or email us at sga@uwsp.edu.

Editorial Policies

The Pointer is a student-run newspaper published weekly for the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. The Pointer Staff is solely responsible for content and editorial policy.

No article is available for inspection prior to publication. No article is available for further publication without written permission of The Pointer staff.

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Letters to the editor can be mailed or delivered to The Pointer, 104 CAC, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI 54481, or sent by e-mail to pointer@uwsp.edu. We reserve the right to deny publication of any letter for any reason. We also reserve the right to edit letters for inappropriate length or content. Names will be withheld from publication only if an appropriate reason is given.

Letters to the editor and all other material submitted to The Pointer becomes property of The Pointer.

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held a protest against Point Forward on the same day of its release, Nov. 12.

"If you really want this university to be a great place to get an education, then it can't just be in service to private industry," said Justin Seis, 2018 alum and co-founder of the group, at the protest.

When asked how local activism has felt, Janson said it is "Extremely important. It's invigorating to be able to take part in actions that are aimed at dismantling injustice."

Concurrent with this group's name-change is the creation of a related community-group: the Portage County Eco-Socialists. The

Portage County Eco-Socialists created its Facebook page last month, on Nov. 18.

The Portage County Eco-Socialists has become more involved with its criticisms of Point Forward and Chancellor Patterson.

The Portage County Eco-Socialists, on the week following Point Forward's release, attached bright green papers to utility poles around the city of Stevens Point.

"The Chancellor and Provost are bad faith actors," claimed the papers, "operating on behalf of wealth and power in direct opposition to the well-being of the people and communities UWSP is meant to serve." The papers supplied the phone numbers of Patterson and Greg Summers, Provost, asking

readers to "call today and demand they resign."

Small slips of paper had also been distributed inside campus buildings, demanding the resignation of Patterson and his administration.

The campus group – the Eco-Socialists of UWSP – denied correlation with these acts.

"Though the community and campus group often work in tandem with one another," stated the group's Facebook page, "the actions taken by the Portage County Eco-Socialists are not tied to the campus chapter."

The two groups have prioritized local involvement and community empowerment. Next month, the groups plan to hold a platform-building workshop for people interested in holding

public office.

"We want to start developing opportunities for the consciousness-raising about issues, dissemination about the accurate information about issues," said Jones in an interview.

The community group also aspires to include philanthropic activities such as teaching local citizens to compost, installing rain guards, and helping citizens to shovel snow in the winter.

"As a member of the community," said Jones, "I am much more concerned about whether or not I'm acting on behalf of . . . the Just. I sleep better at night knowing I've done the right thing – and I'm not concerned about what actual blowback might come from that."

Kim Suhr's 'Nothing to Lose' Launched by Cornerstone Press

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Cornerstone Press is hosting a launch party for the second book in their Legacy Series, Kim Suhr's "Nothing to Lose," on Dec. 6 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the Alumni room of the Dreyfus University Center.

Guests can arrive at 6 p.m. to eat, drink, socialize and pick up their pre-ordered copy until 6:30 p.m. They are also able to purchase Suhr's book even if they did not pre-order it.

At 6:30 p.m., Madeline Swanger, Director of Operations, Dr. Ross Tangedal, Publisher-in-Chief, Kim Suhr, and Amanda Sweet, an alumnus from UW-Stevens Point and English teacher at Stevens Point Area Senior High, will be speaking about their role at the press and what impact Cornerstone and "Nothing

to Lose" has had on them. Suhr will also read an excerpt from "Nothing to Lose."

After the speakers, guests will have more time to socialize with the author, staff, and purchase the book.

It's Dr. Tangedal's third year managing Cornerstone Press and compared to other years, he said it has been a very busy, but gratifying year for the press. He's very excited about the launch.

"We're diversifying. Students are getting more involved in a variety of projects that all have to do with publishing and print studies, and I couldn't be happier," said Tangedal.

Aside from meeting the author of the book, Tangedal said one of his favorite things about the launch is seeing how proud his staff is of their work.

"I want to see how proud they are. For all of them, this is

the first time [publishing a book] and I want them all to enjoy it. I'm like a proud parent," said Tangedal.

Madeline Swanger said, similarly, she is looking forward to knowing the hard work she and the staff did has paid off.

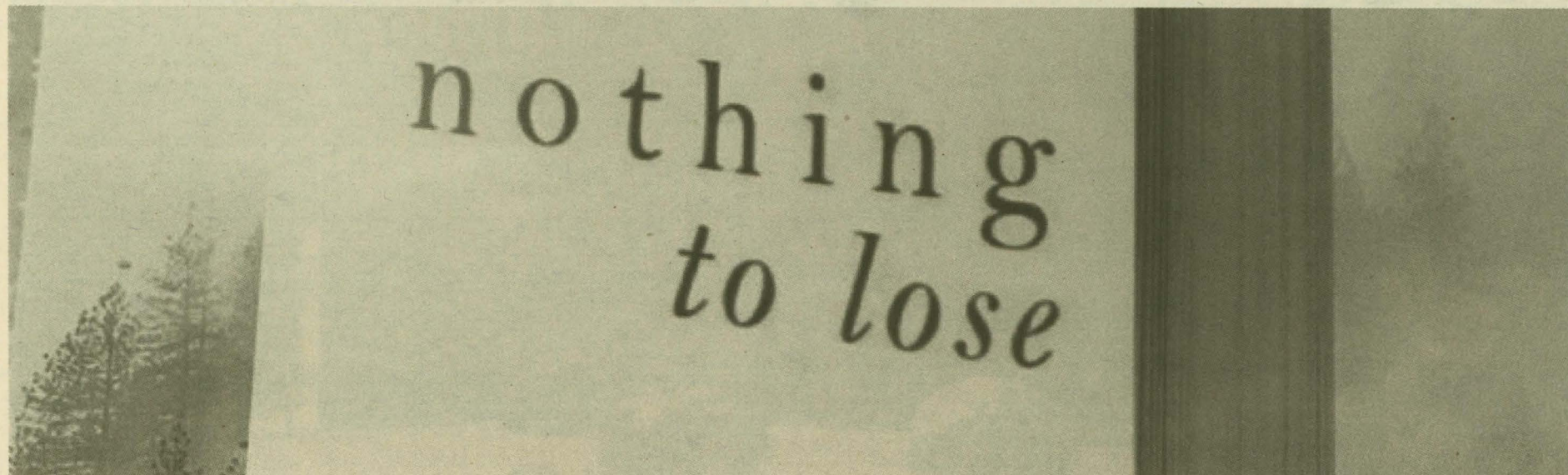
"Obviously the event itself is going to be great and I am so excited to take an evening to celebrate the book, Kim, and the entire staff, but knowing we made it and accomplished this huge feat is what I am most excited for," said Swanger.

Katy Nachampassak, Chief of Staff, said she is excited that she is witnessing someone's dream coming true.

"Our author has waited a long time for this to happen and it's amazing to see something that she put her heart and soul into come to life," said Nachampassak.

Kim Suhr lives and writes in her hometown of Wales, Wisconsin. Her work has appeared in Midwest Review, Stonecoast Review, Solstice Literary Magazine, Foundling Review, and more. She holds a Master of Fine Arts from Pine Manor College where she was the 2013 Dennis LeHane Fellow for Fiction. Suhr is also the director of Red Oak Writing and a board member of the Wisconsin Writers Association. She will be at the launch on Thursday, December 6th and also at a book signing Friday morning at Text Rental in the Dreyfus University Center.

"Nothing to Lose" is available for pre-order until Dec. 6 for \$12.00 including tax, but guests will have an opportunity to purchase the book at the launch for \$14.95.



Cornerstone Press is hosting a launch party for the second book in their Legacy Series, Kim Suhr's "Nothing to Lose". Photo courtesy of Amanda Greenthal.

SPARC Writes Open Criticism of Administration

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On Thursday, Nov. 29, the Stevens Point Academic Representation Council released an open letter to the UW Board of Regents that expressed a lack of confidence in Bernie Patterson, Chancellor of UWSP.

The letter brought forward a series of accusations against Patterson and his administration. These accusations illustrated cases of administration's supposed neglect and mismanagement over the last several years that Patterson has acted as Chancellor.

Mick Veum acted as spokesperson for a news conference on Thursday, Nov. 29, at 1:30 p.m. to mark the letter's release. Veum had been co-chair of the Program/Unit Discontinuance Consultative Committee, and member of the Academic and Budget Advisory Work Group.

Although Veum played no part, he had agreed to represent concerned faculty at the conference and support the letter. "It [the letter] is factual; it is not hyperbolic; it is not embellished," said Veum.

The document began circulating via email on Monday, Nov. 19, to accumulate signatures from faculty and staff. The letter also brought attention to the fact that many UWSP faculty fear the consequences of retaliating against administration.

Those who wished to remain anonymous were allowed to verify

their agreement through Andy Felt, President of SPARC, as an anonymous signature.

Ultimately, the letter gained 293 total signatures: 107 faculty and staff, both current and retired; 44 students; and 142 others. About half of the signatures were anonymous.

Notably, the SPARC website also hosts a document that provides fully-sourced evidence for each accusation made in the letter.

The letter claimed that Patterson and his administration, since his hiring in the early 2010s, "had ample reason to anticipate the budgetary problems we now face." In fact, several popularized demographic analyses predicted enrollment declines and increases in graduation rates since 2008.

At a meeting with COFAC faculty to discuss the campus's restructuring on Monday, Nov. 19, at 4 p.m., Summers indirectly disagreed with these claims.

Summers said, "You know that I've been raising this issue for a long time . . . I think, frankly, the campus has been in some denial about the precariousness of our position. I'll shoulder some of the responsibility for that, but I've been trying really hard to get people to say, 'enrollment decline's a real possibility.'"

The letter also claims that, until recently, "UWSP suffered from chronic financial mismanagement."

These failures were brought to the public's attention in June only when the UW-System had conduct-

ed an audit, under which UWSP received an "unsatisfactory" rating – the worst possible rating for most audits.

The letter also calls attention to a recent scandal within the Division of Student Affairs. "In 2018, we learned that for years, the Assistant Dean charged with Title IX enforcement, including the investigation of sexual harassment, was himself a serial sexual harasser."

The letter claims that Troy Seppelt, Dean of Students for Student Affairs, and Al Thompson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, "then helped him [the Assistant Dean] secure comparable jobs at two other institutions."

Shawn Wilson, the assistant Dean in question, had moved to a position of equal authority in Illinois's Knox College, until moving to another position of equal authority at UW-Eau Claire in August of 2017.

Those who hired Wilson at UWEC had asked one of Wilson's former supervisors at UWSP for a standard reference check. At the time, Seppelt and Thompson were Wilson's direct supervisors.

The unnamed supervisor neglected to mention to UWEC Wilson's history of sexual harassment – although both of Wilson's supervisors had been made aware of the allegations during Wilson's 2015 investigation.

The letter from SPARC goes on to address the administration's neglect to reduce non-instruc-

tional staffing to a level equal to peer UW institutions, to address the administration's misuse of recently-made governance committees as "an empty charade," and to question the Chancellor's sincerity in claiming to maintain the liberal arts.

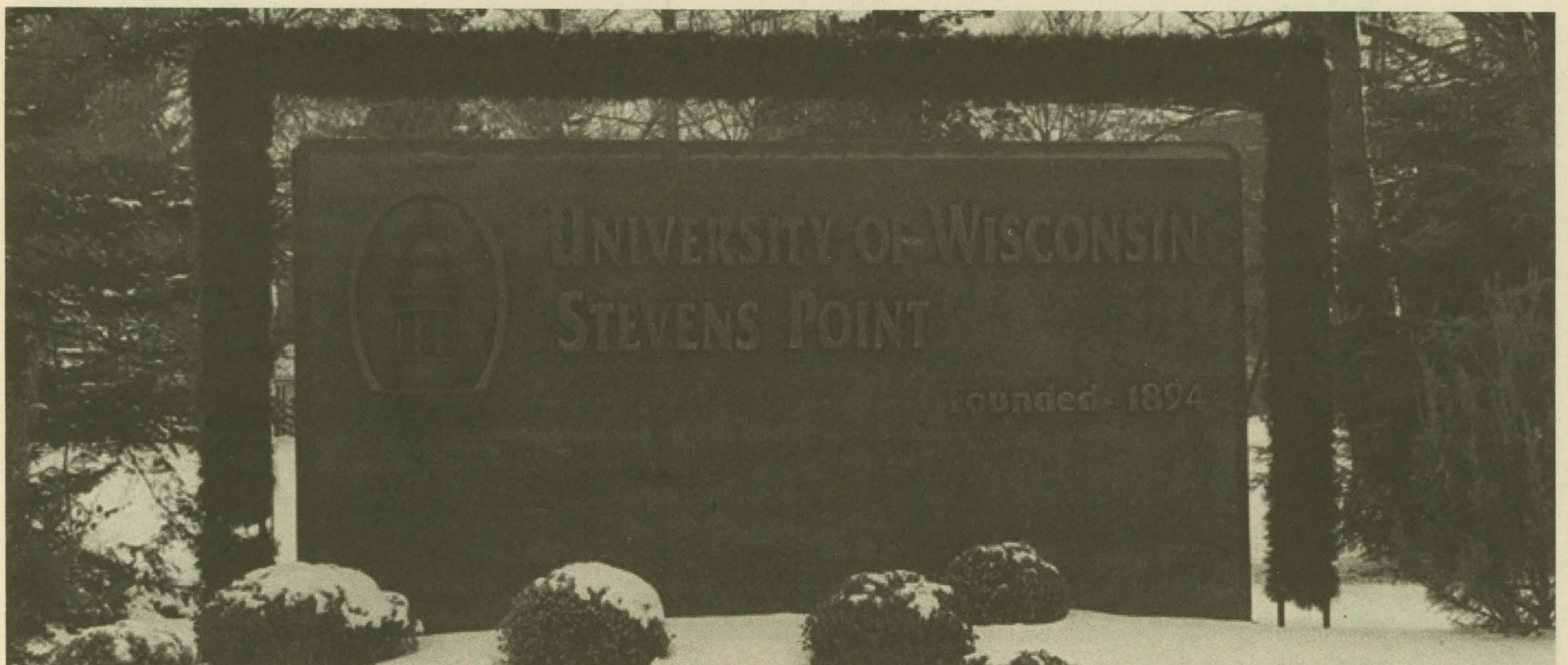
The open letter's final criticism states that the proposal doesn't account for UWSP's problem. Both the Spring and Fall proposals fall short of solving UWSP's budget problem by millions of dollars.

Both Summers, and the proposals themselves, have claimed that Point Forward is not meant to address UWSP's budget crisis.

"There are no easy ways to reduce our structural deficit," the letter concludes, "but Chancellor Patterson's leadership has only worsened our plight. We love this institution, our students and this community. We appeal to you, the custodians of the University of Wisconsin System, to give us the leadership we need to keep UWSP strong for years to come."

However, other UW schools have already attempted the route of collective disapproval.

The Wisconsin State Journal brought attention to the fact that, in December 2017, a majority of UW-Superior Faculty Senate had also voted "no confidence" toward the university's administration. The chancellor of UW-Superior has not changed.



On Thursday, Nov. 29, the Stevens Point Academic Representation Council released an open letter to the UW Board of Regents that expressed a lack of confidence in Bernie Patterson, Chancellor of UWSP. Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Wolfe.

EDITORIAL



Rettinger on Silberplatten. Photo courtesy of Anyon Rettinger.

Climbing in the Alps? Check that off the bucket list.

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I visited Switzerland a few weeks ago in the prime of the fall season. The country is incredibly beautiful all year round. In fact, since skiing and Switzerland are so synonymous, I figured it would be snowy and cold, at least in the mountains. However, it's the opposite. Most places were very green and lush. Now in late November, it's starting to get snowy there as winter approaches.

Lake Zürich views from the top of Grossmünster Church. Photo by Anyon Rettinger.

I flew into Zürich and spent my first day there. The temperature was in the high 60's and it was sunny therefore it felt a lot warmer. I walked around the city, stopping in parks, along the river, exploring the old town as well as the historic city center. A cathedral tower gave me some beautiful panoramic views of the city, river, Lake Zürich and even the moun-

tains in the distance for only a few hundred stairs to climb and five Swiss francs.

After a day well spent in the city, my destination was east into the Alps for a more rural spot. I took a train for about two hours through the countryside into the mountains on the border of Austria, Lichtenstein and Germany. Trains stop in larger cities so navigation to small towns and villages is done by connection buses.

I stayed in Unterwasser, a very small town, about an hour away from Lichtenstein, which the bus drove past on my bus ride through the Alps. I arrived at night allowing me to see city lights as I passed from town to town and down below.

I could faintly make out the funicular lines on the mountain peaks to the south but other than that, light was a premium except for the moon and what seemed like an unbounded sky of stars above.

The next two nights, I laid on the ground for a while under the stars, just taking in the incred-

ible views of constellations in the night sky that I don't think I've ever seen and I felt I had great vantage back home at UWSP. This is something that I liked a lot about Point, I could always see quite a bit more stars at night than in my home town but Switzerland is by far the best. I wish I had a way to capture an image but unfortunately, I didn't have a camera that could do it justice. I guess that made it even more precious.

In the morning, I packed a bag of some snacks and a bottle of water to fuel me for the day because I had one goal in mind, to climb to the top of tallest mountain at the edge of Unterwasser. According to the street signs in the foothills, I climbed mount Silberplatten though strangely enough, it isn't shown on a map.

Almost four hours went by as I made my way through the foothills until I was practically scaling the sides because of the steep incline that met me as I reached the peak. I knew I was near because the air changed dramatically. The temperature dropped almost 10 degrees

and the wind that had been whipping around the mountain suddenly disappeared.

Just then, I stood triumphant at the top of Silberplatten. I felt like I ran a marathon uphill because in a lot of ways I did. I was well over 7000 feet in the air, my heartbeat was racing from the moment I started climbing and I felt this profound accomplishment, sitting there taking in the views.

The guest book on top of Silberplatten. Photo by Anyon Rettinger.

I could see the Alps that border Germany, Lichtenstein, Italy and miles across the west towards France. To the south, the Churfirsten range, a group of peaks, was at eye level now instead of being so high above me. Everything seemed so far away and so small which gave me a good perspective, both literally and metaphorically. I spent maybe an hour up on top, signed a guest book I found attached to a post and began my descent.

Climbing in the Alps? Check that off the bucket list.

11 Football Players Receive Awards

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The UWSP football team's season may be over but they are still picking up awards and getting recognized for their efforts during the season. There are 11 players that have been recognized with 10 players being named to the All-WIAC list. Seniors Christian Almonte and Steve Herra landed on first-team honors. Almonte received a second-team award in addition to Jalen Burks, Victor Ponterio, and Ryan Strick. Mitch Overbeck, Sam Shafer, Omarri Johnson, OJ James, and Boyd Delebreaux were named to the All-WIAC honorable mention team. Noah Pulsifer was given the WIAC All-Sportsmanship team laurels.

In addition to being named to first-team honors, while snagging his first offensive selection, and a second team award Almonte also was named to the D3Football.

com All-West Region second team and became the second UWSP player to earn the WIAC Special Teams Player of the Year honor. Almonte is the only player in the conference to complete a kickoff return for a touchdown and one of only 12 players in the country with multiple kickoff return touchdowns this season. Also throughout this season, Almonte earned WIAC Special Teams Player of the Week honors twice.

Delebreaux added two honors to his resume this season. In addition to the All-WIAC honorable mention team, he was also named to the 2018 Google Cloud Academic All-District VI first team. The defensive end led UWSP with six sacks and a total of 53 tackles for the season. Delebreaux also earned WIAC Special Teams Player of the Week in the last game of the season.

Herra is named to the All-WIAC first team as a follow up on landing honorable mention last year. Herra finished with a career-high

47 passes.

Burks, after starting nine games at left tackle, experienced his first league laurels.

Ponterio finishes his first season at UWSP with a league honor. Throughout the season he was named to the WIAC Special Teams Player of the Week twice. He made nine field goals in the season and totaled 47 points at the season end.

Strick after being named to honorable mention team last year has now been named to second-team honors as he leads the conference in tackles, 116. Strick also recovered a fumble, had an interception and had three sacks this season.

Overbeck earns his second spot on the WIAC honorable mention team after starting ten games at right guard.

Shafer's resume grew this year as he earned honorable mention team honors. Behind Strick, he had the second most tackles on

the team with 74. Shafer intercepted the ball twice this season, had a forced fumble and blocked a kick this season.

Johnson grabbed honorable mention award for the first time. He had six interceptions this season leading all WIAC players and even brought one back for a touchdown. He picked up WIAC Defensive Player of the Week honors after he completed two interceptions in the game against Dakota State. Johnson had 43 tackles this year and a fumble recovery.

James experienced his first career honor after being named to the honorable mention team. He added four interceptions and 29 tackles to his career stats.

Pulsifer played several roles for the Pointers his senior year, spending time as fullback, tight end and center in the nine games he played earning him the WIAC All-Sportsmanship team accolades.

Four Soccer Players Receive Honors

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Four of the UWSP women's soccer team players were named to the United Soccer Coaches All-North Region teams at the end of November. Meaghan Ambelang and Maddy Hardyman grabbed second team honors. Lexi Pawlowski and Kaitlyn Hess placed on the third team.

Ambelang, an outside back, started all 18 matches in the season. She assisted the team's defense with a league-best goal against average, .57. She also gave three assists, a tie for second-most on the team. Ambelang earned WIAC Defensive Player of the Week honor in October. When asked how she felt about placing onto the second team she said, "It was a surprise, it is kind of humbling because I kind of assumed that upperclassmen would get it because they have been here longer and they have worked longer and here I am getting it."

Hardyman was the lead scorer with nine goals and eight assists. She earned WIAC Offensive Player of the Week honors in September after her first hat trick. She said, "It's an hon-

or it feels really good to be named to this team because it is a recognition that you are doing things right. You gotta be playing well when the coaches recognize you like that." Hardyman led the league with 3.72 shots per game.

Hess assisted the Pointers to get 0.57 goals against average. The outside back started all 18 matches and scored four goals. She was named WIAC Defensive Player of the Week honors in October.

Pawlowski had the lowest goals against average, 0.60, and best save percentage, 0.882, against all WIAC goalkeepers. She was tied for lead shutouts in the league with eight and was named to the WIAC Defensive Player of the Week twice during the season.

UWSP is tied with UW-La Crosse for the most amount of all-region selections in the WIAC schools.



Meghan Ambelang earned WIAC Defensive Player of the Week honor in October. Photography by Kylie Bridenhagen

Gehl named to AVCA All-American Second Team

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The UW-Stevens Point women's volleyball team is celebrating as their outside hitter April Gehl, a junior, was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-American second team on November 13th.

Gehl said that this made her feel good about herself and her abilities. She also said "I couldn't have done it without my teammates though. I just have like a really good connection with our setter so she helps me to develop into the player that I am along with the rest of our team."

Gehl had a record-setting junior year with the UWSP volleyball team.

Gehl was named the Sports Imports/ AVCA DIII player of the week in early October and had received her second-straight All-WIAC team selection in November as well.

Gehl finished the season with the second most kills in the country, 582. She recorded 25 double-doubles.

She hopes to make it on the team again next year saying, "I mean this year my goal was to just make the team no matter what team I was on. So being that I got second team now my next goal is to make first team next year."

April Gehl is the 12th UWSP volleyball recipient of the AVCA All-American award.



Outside hitter April Gehl, a junior, was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-American second team on November 13th. Photo by Kylie Bridenbagen.

Pointer Profile- Sydney Richetto

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When did you start swimming competitively? When I was like five I started competing. So I've been swimming for a long time.

What made you decide to start swimming competitively? I played a lot of sports I mean I played soccer, I alpine skied in high school, I played tennis. Swimming was just my favorite so I stuck with it.

What would you consider a successful season for you? Just having fun and doing my best and hopefully getting some best times. If you don't have fun in this sport it's not really worth doing, so definitely just enjoying my time.

Where do you see yourself in five years? I am actually biochem for pre-med so I will be in medical school still. I want to do anesthesiology.

What is your favorite part of the sport? It's amazing exercise. I love competing, in general, the team atmosphere is really fun. A lot of the people here are similar to me so it's just like having a family here on campus. I think part of the reason I love swimming

so much is because it helps me to manage my time. It keeps me on task. It helps me to continue to work hard in all areas. So I think that will help too when I am in med school and I am dying.

All About Sydney

Year: Sophomore

Major: Biochemistry

If you could go anywhere where would you go? Ireland, their culture is really fascinating and it's a really pretty place to be

Favorite color: Green

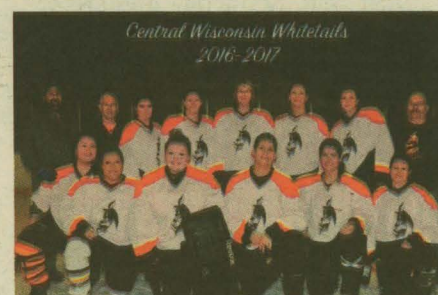
Favorite animal: German Shepards



Leran more about sophomore swimmer Sydney Richetto.

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GSRC Provides Alternative Support System for Queer Students

CAMERON CIESZKI
REPORTER
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Throughout the fall semester, the GSRC has been providing support groups for Queer students on campus.

The program is titled "Support Groups @ 4pm." Posters spread across campus detail three separate support group categories: Transgender, Coming Out, and Queer and Trans People of Color. Each category has three dates throughout the fall semester, with each date taking place in either October, November, and December.

"They are focused on building resiliency through mutual-

ly-identified folks...each group is focused on building a community, talk through current issues, group support, guidance, and advocacy," says Sylf Bustamante, Gender and Sexuality Resource Center Coordinator.

On the poster, no specific location is listed, and for a carefully considered reason: the privacy of the students attending. These support groups act as resources for those who are requiring guidance. Students who do not wish to reveal their struggles with sexuality or gender identity are given a right to confidentiality and a space to congregate anonymously.

The support groups are a great alternative to the UWSP

Counseling Center, which can get pretty busy through the year.

"We typically are busy the first three months of the semester," said Mary Bakken, Office Manager and Receptionist for the UWSP Counseling Center. She noted that early in September, the services pickup in demand mostly with freshman, who are seeking mental health professionals to talk about the nerves of the new school years or trouble meeting new people.

"It is my desire to start bridging the groups with the counseling center to provide additional support. Hopefully we can come to some common ground, but I believe these groups are necessary to start

allowing folks a place to vent, feel in community, and unwind," said Bustamante.

The remaining support group dates are Dec. 11 for the Queer and Trans People of Color group and Dec. 12 for the Coming Out support group.

For privacy reasons, please contact the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center for room locations for these meetings.

Should Machines Have a Consciousness? Series of Events on Campus Aim to Find Out

MICHAELA KRAFT
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
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The 2014 movie "Ex Machina" highlights some of our greatest fears: what happens when the line that divides the human and mechanical experience becomes blurred? Can machines become self-aware, full functioning members of society? Will we one day forget if we find ourselves speaking with a human or an artificial intelligence?

The story follows a young man working for an internet corporation who is summoned by its reclusive CEO to his home to perform a Turing test. A Turing test is an examination searching for intelligence in a computer, requiring that a hu-

man being should be unable to distinguish the machine from another human being by using the replies to questions put to both. Seemingly a simple test, the young man's job is made harder when he discovers the artificial intelligence is modeled to resemble a beautiful and charismatic young woman.

Throughout the course of this technological thriller, both men come to realize just how intelligent and cunning their test subject is, and face her sinister intentions as they come to grips with the choices they have made.

Though the movie is made for Hollywood, the ominous questions still remain. After all, technological innovation is increasing at an alarming rate, and we must begin to think

of conscious machines as a serious possibility.

Due to the relevance of this particular discussion, UW-Stevens Point will be hosting a series of events to explore this issue.

The first is a screening of the aforementioned "Ex Machina" on campus. Presented at 6:30 in the DUC this Tuesday. This movie serves as a precursor to the December 11th Community Lecture series event "Ethics and Conscious Machines", presented by Joshua Horn at the Portage County Library.

Horn is a Philosophy professor on campus, and his lecture will include the advancements we have made over the last cen-

tury in our philosophical understanding of consciousness, as well as our quest to create a conscious machine and whether or not there will be ethical responsibilities we owe to these entities, should this happen.

"Ethics and Conscious Machines will be presented at 6:30 pm on Tuesday December 11th at the Portage County library. The event is free to both UWSP students and the public.

Though the concept of conscious machines may be one that is difficult to wrap one's head around, it is clear that as a society we are approaching that possibility. These two relevant events will help attendees to wrap their head around this massive concept.



Due to the relevance of this particular discussion, UW-Stevens Point will be hosting a series of events to explore this issue. The first is a screening of the aforementioned "Ex Machina"



Mariah Carey's "Caution". PC: iTunes.

Review: Mariah Carey's 'Caution' is a Redemptive, R&B Groove

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Mariah Carey, a diva of extraordinary proportions, has never been shy of controversy. Aside from her powerhouse vocals, Carey has been recognizable for her hilariously shady antics. From the iconic meme "I don't know her," in reference to Jennifer Lopez, to when she told MTV that she hadn't paid attention to Madonna since she was popular when Mariah was in seventh or eighth grade, her comments have notoriously drummed-up fodder for conversation.

But since 2014, that controversy has shifted from her over-the-top personality to a perceived loss of the singer's vocal abilities. We all know the video that started this: a performance in 2014 of Mariah Carey's Christmas classic "All I Want for Christmas Is You." A video on YouTube of the performance with the ironic clickbait title "BEST VOCALS" has over 3 million views;

it's a supercut of the singer's worst vocal moments.

The 2014 Rockefeller Center performance armed the internet plenty of ammunition to criticize Mariah's vocals, and in many performances since, technical difficulties and lip-syncing had led the public to believe her legendary 5-octave range has completely deteriorated.

Her latest album, "Caution," crushes this myth. Although Mariah's voice isn't like it used to be in her prime, she uses this to her advantage by exhibiting her lower range while also delivering some strong vocals we've come to expect from her. "Caution" is a simple kiss-off to her haters, detractors, and critics, and does so like no one else but Mariah Carey can. The album is a lean 10 tracks and features more cohesive production than 2014's scatterbrained "Me. I Am Mariah...The Elusive Chanteuse."

The album is particularly surprising because of Carey's continued

artistic development almost three decades into her career. While Mariah has participated and even set precedents of modern music, never has an album in her discography sounded so current. This is thanks to the variety of producers she enlists on the project like Skrillex, Timbaland, Jermaine Dupri, and Nineteen85. Carey also shares co-producing credits on the entire album.

The album opens with "GTFO," the first promotional single. The song is a slinky, moody R&B track featuring a scorned Mariah asking a lover to get out of her Beverly Hills mansion.

Carey also shines in "A No No," a track sampling Lil' Kim's "Crush on You." The song is an unabashed banger, with help from Kim's sample and Carey's playful lyrics. "Parlez-vous français? I said 'non' / Lemme translate it, I said 'no'."

The Blood Orange-produced track, "Giving Me Life," provides new territory for the

Elusive Chanteuse; the track is a moody slow-groove, featuring a slick switch-up near the end of the song.

Although the album breaks new ground for Carey, she still provides some of her signature power ballads in tracks "With You" and "Portrait." "With You" even has Mariah bring out her synonymous whistle register at the song climax, reminding listeners that she's still got that it-factor that jump-started her career in the early 90s.

While the album may not come close to her classic records of the past, the record is a valiant effort that provides Carey with a redemptive arc. In my opinion, it's her best album since her 2005 comeback album "The Emancipation of Mimi," and showcases that after all these years and some missteps along the way, Ms. Carey is still a force to be reckoned with.

continued from page 1

cut in half and this year we were just able to make ends meet. If we get another cut again our fear is that the herpetology society won't be able to provide the proper care for our animals," said Villand. "We were just barely able to keep up and that's including money we got from membership dues, donations and fundraising."

Villand explained that the Herpetology Society does save and cut costs where possible. For example, they get a lot of their produce from Trigs. Trigs donates bruised or blemished produce they don't sell, and the society uses

what they can from this collective box of damaged produce to feed the animals.

"There isn't always a guarantee we will get things that are edible, so we do have to supplement that with food we buy," said Villand. "We also keep our own insect colonies that we use to feed the animals as well, but that only does so much for so long."

Devon Bonikowske, Junior, and budget director of Student Government Association said, "student organization funding is based on segregated fees, because of the continued drop in enrollment our budget to student organizations has been getting smaller

and smaller."

Villand explains that if it came down to it, it would be a very hard task to re-home all 50 of the animals that the vivarium.

"A lot of the animals need special care, food and treatment. It would be extremely difficult to find a place that wouldn't just dump them if they got sick of them," said Villand.

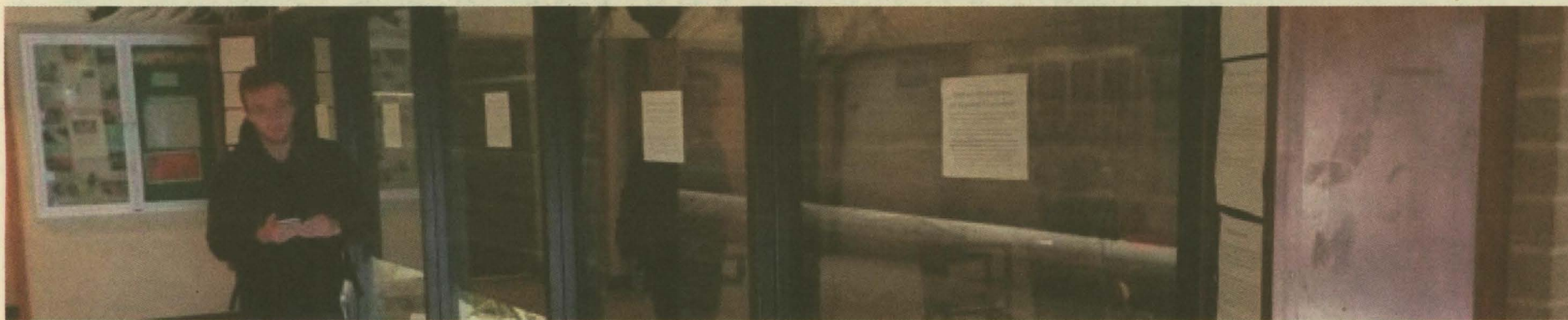
Villand also said that if the society were to cease to exist then it would hurt some of UWSP's hands on learning experiences.

"We use the animals to educate community members and even entry level biology classes. But

most importantly younger kids to teach them about the environment and how to be good stewards for them," said Villard. "This is a real live thing they can see, touch and learn about."

Villand said that even just having the vivarium as a place people can see the animals helps educate the public.

"When we did the demonstration, it was so touching the amount of notes we received from people who weren't members of the Herpetology society, weren't even a major in the College of Natural resources, but they appreciated the space, loved the vivarium and adored the animals," said Villand.



Last week the UW-Stevens Point Herpetology did a presentation of the vivarium by covering it with black sheets to raise awareness of what could happen if the space would cease to exist due to cuts. Photo Courtesy of Markus Uitz

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"Widows" has a lot on its mind, and manages a staggering amount of commentary without sacrificing in the story department.

Widows Review

TANNER OLSON
NEWS EDITOR
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Let me just start by saying that his film is definitely worth your time and money. Director Steve McQueen helms this ambitious crime thriller with such precision and style that "Widows" manages to rise above the conventions of a somewhat tired genre. While on the surface this looks like a typical thriller, McQueen has delivered something that is anything but conventional.

"Widows" has a lot on its mind, and manages a staggering amount of commentary without sacrificing in the story department. The plot starts out in territory that will not be unfamiliar to fans of the thriller genre, get X before Y

to prevent Z, but quickly evolves into a discussion of gender dynamics, racism, police brutality, American gun culture and political nepotism.

All of these ideas are investigated, yet somehow the film never comes off as preachy or preoccupied. With a less capable filmmaker, juggling all of these ideas while telling an interesting crime story would be impossible, but McQueen pulls it off flawlessly.

Much of the success of the film can be attributed to the power of the performances, which are stellar across the board. There are many standouts in this ensemble, the first and foremost of which being Viola Davis. Davis gets many opportunities to show off her talent here and never buckles under the weight of carrying a scene on the strength of her

emotion alone.

In any other film Daniel Kaluuya's menacing performance would be the stand out, but with so much talent on screen, he manages instead to be a particularly bright star in brilliant constellation, rounded out by the likes of Cynthia Erivo, Elizabeth Debicki, Colin Farrell, Michelle Rodriguez and Robert Duvall.

While "Widows" is concerned with many societal issues, the relationships between men and women get the most attention. The convention of husband as provider is flipped on its head as the women of the film constantly confront and overcome the violence and misogyny of their male costars.

When considering the brutality of the world of "Widows," the oppressiveness of the film's male

villains and the indomitable force of the female heroes, favorable comparisons to "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" series spring immediately to mind.

In the end, the story does a great job of weaving the many disparate plot threads into one coherent tapestry, a feat that is impressive yet unsurprising when you consider that Gillian Flynn ("Gone Girl") co-wrote the screenplay.

In a somewhat stagnant year for film, "Widows" stands out as one of the best of the year and a clear reminder of why it is such a joy when directors like McQueen step away from their traditional dramatic work to apply their talents to a more conventionally entertaining film. Go see this one; you're going to like it.

EDITORIALS

Picture of a Graduating English Major

TANNER OLSON
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Graduation is in the near distance and it's strange to think that my time at UWSP is about to end.

So many positive experiences characterize the many years I've spent at UWSP, whether it's meeting some of my very best friends or spending a semester in Ireland. I've read the best books of life while at UWSP, and developed a love for cinema that has me constantly spouting movie trivia at unsuspecting friends and family. The impact that my education at UWSP has had on me as a person is profound, and I consider these experiences invaluable.

Overall my time with UWSP has been positive, but the last year in particular has been significant for the tumultuous role that the current budget crisis played in my education. I sat in my classes and knew that if the administration had their way, I would be one of the last students to ever take literature classes at UWSP.

I'm glad that the English major was not listed for discontinuance on the latest iteration of the Point Forward proposal, but damage has already been done. The administration's appraisal of the value of the original 13 majors to be cut will stick with me, just as it will stick with UWSP.

Wherever I end up after graduation, I'll carry with me the fact that my alma mater wanted to kill my major. A fact that burdens me with the responsibility of legitimizing my education in an attempt to prove that fixed career pathways are not a necessity for a successful future.

The Point Forward proposal has brought with it a lot of negativity, but there has been positivity as well. Seeing the way that this crisis transformed many of my fellow students into rebels and activists has been truly inspiring, and proof to me that the university's lack of faith in its humanities students is completely unwarranted.

As a result of my time as a humanities student at UWSP, I've not only gained skills that I believe will serve me well in my future career, but I've

become a more moral person as well. With only a few days left at UWSP, I can say that I am a better person because of the time I spent here, the classes I took, and the people I met along the way. I'm happy to call myself a Pointer, even if I don't agree with a lot of the choices the university leadership has made recently.

With my time at UWSP coming to an end, I'm concerned that this budget crisis will leave the university so transformed that future students will not be able to have the same positive experience here that I have, or even worse, they won't want to give UWSP the chance.

I'm excited to move forward with my career and to live each day as a testament to the value of my education. I have to keep my post-graduation plans pretty vague, but I will be putting my degree to use and genuinely doing some good, which is more than enough for me.

Thanks for everything UWSP!

Ben's Senior Profile

BEN ZITOUNI
SPORTS EDITOR
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As I'm writing this, graduation is eleven days away and I still can't believe how fast my time here at UWSP has gone by. I remember as a freshman how worried I was about getting from one side of campus to the other in time for classes, how I would be able manage my time between classes and having a social life while also doing all the things I needed to do to prepare myself for the future.

As I look back on my time as a Pointer, it's been filled with ups and downs. I joined SPTV as a freshman and have been a part of it since then, some of my closest friends were made being a part of SPTV, those friendships and connections have led

to a potential job for me post graduation as well as helping me get an internship while in school. Being a part of SPTV has readied me for my career in the broadcast news field after school, it's also given me confidence that I can accomplish the goals I have set for myself.

At the same time, there's been some down times during my time here. For 2017-18 school year, SPTV was not given a budget by the SGA for reasons that I still don't understand, going into this year, there was uncertainty surrounding the budget for The Pointer, but Al Thompson stepped up to provide a budget for The Pointer so we would have enough money to print the paper and pay the executive staff members. There's uncertainty surrounding the future of the communication department which is hard for me to

handle. As a freshman I wasn't sure what to expect from college professors, but now as I'm graduating school I can't imagine not having classes with the communication professors I have. The passion and time and effort they put in to their classes is something that I'll always be grateful for.

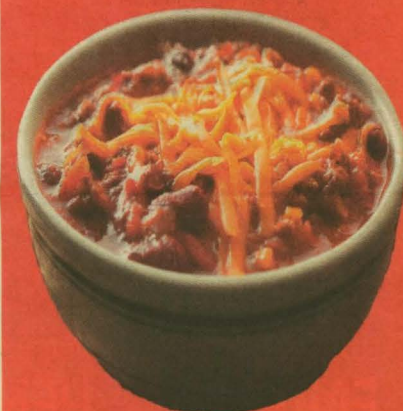
If there's any advice I want to pass on it's this: don't sit and wait around for things to happen, go out and make things happen for yourself. If you want feedback on your work, send an email to a professional in the field you want to break into and ask that person to look at your work. While you're in school, join student organizations on campus no matter what your major is. I got my start in a student organization and it's shaped the person I am and set up many opportunities for me.



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