

# the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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## INSIDE

### NEWS

VSIP minimizes involuntary terminations  
p. 4

### SPORTS

Swimming and Diving moves forward  
p. 7

### ENVIRONMENT

Wolf funds dwindling  
p. 5

### A & E

"Black Mirror" terrifies and entertains  
p. 10

## Job Growth From Renewable Energy Sparks Conservative Support

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Renewable energy has begun to gain the support of conservative groups as it becomes more economically viable. One such group is the recently formed Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum, which aims to educate conservatives about energy possibilities in the state.

According to their website, the organization supports the development of local clean energy, strongly emphasizing the economic benefits that renewable energy already has on the state economy, specifically through job growth.

On a national scale, renewables do make a strong contribution to energy jobs.

According to a 2017 report by the Department of Energy, solar technologies alone make up 43 percent of the electric power generation workforce.

This is more than coal, oil and natural gas combined

continued on page 8

## SGA Works with City to Create Off-Campus Housing Inspections



Some off-campus student housing on Briggs st. Photo by Nomin Erdenebileg

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The Student Government Association is working with the City of Stevens Point to create a voluntary housing inspection. SGA is hopeful that there will be implementation of this plan by June 1 of this year.

Other campuses in Wisconsin have already created an inspection process for off-campus housing, and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point will be the next.

This idea originated from looking at UW-Eau Claire's and UW-Oshkosh's off-campus housing inspections. Deaken Boggs, UWSP alumnus, was the student that made the change, and that's why some call him the "champion of housing."

This inspection process will involve landlords agreeing to have their housing units inspect-

ed by the city to ensure that the house is livable and safe for those leasing the property.

Currently, houses are only inspected by the city if a complaint has been made, but that occurs after someone has already left the premises. This way, housing can be inspected before anyone resides there, creating a safer housing unit.

Nicholas Kositzke, Legislative Affairs Director for SGA, said, "The inspection is only for safety, not aesthetics or technical violations, those are done by the city as it seems fit."

This will hopefully encourage renters to update and renovate their units for the benefit of those leasing the property. SGA is asking that the landlords pay the inspection payment, but Kositzke said, "in return [they] will receive preferential advertising at the student housing fair that we hold every semester."

Mark Kordus, Neighborhood

Improvement Coordinator for the City of Stevens Point, visited with SGA to discuss the program and explained to the members exactly what the city saw for the program. This allowed the city to get a student viewpoint on the project and what should be considered.

Mayor Wiza met with Boggs and Dyllan Griepentrog, Speaker Pro Tempore for SGA, to discuss that this project was one that he was excited for. Griepentrog said, "this is one of the first things on the Mayor's agenda that he wants to push through the city council this year."

Molly Hoffman, Dietetics major, said, "I've never rented a house that had safety issues, but I would be more likely to look for houses that are a part of the inspection program."

The City of Stevens Point and the students here at UWSP are hoping that this creates safer homes for students choosing to live off-campus. Kositzke said,

continued on page 4



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EDITORIAL

Who’s Ya Daddy? Not Me.

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While I was eating lunch and checking my emails, I found that my financial aid was being revised for the upcoming spring 2017-18 semester. Apparently I missed some child support payments on a kid I didn’t have.

The email was sent from the financial aid office simply informed me my award was changing. It said, “The financial aid office has been informed of your “delinquent obligor status; therefore, your financial aid has been revised to exclude state financial aid as is required by Wisconsin statute.”

I was shocked and couldn’t begin to imagine what that meant. I went through my head trying to think of things like parking tickets or even an accident I was involved with back in September. But all the tickets were paid for, and I wasn’t at fault for the accident.

So, I wondered how I could’ve been considered “delinquent”. I called the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Financial Aid Office on campus and re-read the email to a woman who was working at the desk and asked what it meant.

She said, “It says here you have been red flagged for a couple missing child support payments.” I told her that was a huge mistake because I was 110 percent sure I was not the father of any children. She agreed it was odd that this could have happened since my social security number was linked to my financial aid.

She told me they were simply following orders that the state had given them and that I would have to call the State Department of Higher education to straighten it out. They only execute the actions given to them and unless the department tells them to they can’t give me back my financial aid award.

With the semester starting in a couple weeks I was panicking. How much would I be losing? I can’t spare a cent. I work 50 hours a week in the summer across multiple jobs and that’s still not enough to pay for my education on its own. With all that, I still have to work full time during the school year.

The FA staff member was nice enough to give me the exact number of the department personnel that could help me, unfortunately the staff member of the department was gone for the day.

I left two voicemails, one right when I called and one- two hours later incase the woman I was calling had just gotten back. I tracked down

an email address on the departments website and left a lengthy email informing the woman of my circumstance.

The evening came, and I still hadn’t heard back. I knew I only had one more day before everybody would be off for the weekend. You can imagine I slept great knowing I might have to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket for the semester.

As soon as I woke up Friday morning, I called the number again and the woman picked up.

She said she had read the email and listened to my voicemail and like the woman in the financial aid office, agreed this was odd. However, she informed me that this was out of her hands. She only gives the order to the financial aid office, and I needed to call the county in which it happened.

So I called the Financial Aid office, they say call the state department. I call the state department, they cant do anything and tell me to call the county.

In my head I screamed “How do I call the county if I don’t even know why this happened to me?”

At this point my friends and roommates started cracking jokes about me being a father and presenting me with fake father of the year awards and sending me pictures of “best dad in the world” mugs.

The receptionist at the Wood County Child services that answered the phone connected me directly to the Deputy Director.

The case was actually in Milwaukee County and she too found it strange that my name wasn’t on the file, but the social security number was, and that number matched everything else in the state system.

She said what most likely happened was a typing error and that somebody didn’t confirm the name to the SSN. When the SSN was put into the system it red flagged my name thus causing the department to revoke my financial aid.

She emailed me a formal letter that stated I had no outstanding child support which I took to the UWSP Financial aid office to get back my much-needed financial support for the current semester.

I sighed in relief after two days of complete stressing that my financial backing would be lost because somebody being a negligent father in another county.

The moral of the story is: ask questions. If you are confused about Financial Aid, do not wait. Go talk to the people in the FA offices in the Student Services Center. They can even help verify you don’t have kids you aren’t aware of.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
REPORT

Sunday, January 21

Male called to inform Protective Services that a person was stuck in the elevator near the Quandt Gymnasium.

Staff member at Watson called to report a prank call. It was an automated voice message about the National Zoo and a loose tiger.

The odor of marijuana was reported from Knutzen and Smith halls.

Monday, January 22

Staff member of May Roach Hall called to report an individual walking out of the hall with a metal sword strapped to his back. Male was given a verbal warning for possession of a deadly weapon and the sword was confiscated.

Wednesday, January 24

PCCS called PS to report that an individual had made threats to a business on the corner of fourth and division stating, “He will mess them up.

Editorial Policies

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

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

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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 the property of The Pointer.

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“Cryin Chuck Schumer”

Democratic Senator Chuck Schumer faced intense scrutiny from President Trump and Dreamers after striking a deal to end the government shut down that would post-pone a decision on the Dreamers until after the Feb. 8 deadline. Trump tweeted on Jan. 26, “DACA has been made increasingly difficult by the fact that Cryin’ Chuck Schumer took such a beating over the shutdown that he is unable to act on immigration!”

What Trump Wants In a Deal

The White House announced they’d be releasing a framework of what Trump wants in a deal that would include letting the dreamers stay, a path to citizenship and \$25 billion for a border wall. Democrats may temporarily agree to border-wall funding to protect Dreamers with the hope of taking back the senate later in the year and cutting off funding again.

Tweet of the Week  
Screen Capture from twitter.com



Donald J. Trump • @realDonaldTrump • Jan 28  
Somebody please inform Jay-Z that because of my policies, Black Unemployment has just been reported to be at the LOWEST RATE EVER RECORDED!

63K 61K 220K



## EDITORIAL

## Students: Own Your Education

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"Education is not a product. The students are not customers. The professors are not tools. The university is not a factory," declare signs taped to faculty office doors in the Christopher Collins Classroom Center.

We all want to believe this, but the evidence around us shows we can't. And this means that students now have to start taking a much more active role in shaping the future of Wisconsin.

Budget cuts for fiscal year 2019 are forcing faculty and administration to examine majors and departments based on objective numerical data.

This objective view seems to be hitting humanities departments especially hard as enrollment in these departments has been declining across the country.

In response to declining enrollment, humanities departments are fighting to make

themselves relevant to students who often favor majors with a more narrow and direct career outcome.

In objective, numerical data, one number that is on the humanities side is cost. Humanities professors can be hired cheaper, and course materials are often books supplied by the students.

That being said, there is a symbiotic relationship between all departments and colleges. Majors outside of the College of Letters and Science fulfilling the general education requirements help to fill seats and keep a wide-variety of courses open for students in the college.

Eric Yonke, Dean of the College of Letters and Science, is in charge of overseeing budget cuts within the COLS.

"Faculty in the humanities tend to get a bit frustrated because they know that they do cost less and it's not the same," Yonke said. "Everybody inputs into the big pot, you know the tuition pot and then it is dispersed out."

Greg Summers, provost and vice chancellor of academic af-

fairs, said, "We're going to have to cut programs and by programs, I mean majors. There's no way we're going to have the same number of majors when we get through this restructuring."

The prospect of eliminating majors is anxiety inducing for faculty across campus. And one way or another, by the end of this fiscal year, our university will be altered drastically.

So, how did we get here?

The current structural deficit these cuts are looking to correct is due in part to a 15 percent drop in enrollment, from over 9,600 students to one just under 8,200 this fall. Additionally, Wisconsin Legislature has frozen tuition for the past five years, and state support has also declined by 25 percent in the past four years alone.

Currently, state funding makes up only 13 percent of our universities' entire operating budget and 36.5 percent of the GPR/Fee budget.

In contrast student tuition dollars make up 25.8 percent of the total budget and 63.5 per-

cent of the GPR/Fee budget.

In addition to state funding and tuition, the total operating budget includes federal funds, other state agency funds and program revenue.

The GPR budget is 40 percent of the total and covers instruction, general operations, student services, academic support, physical plant, utilities student services and building amortization.

"Education is not a product." But, if our university is going to be run like a business, students should have a bigger voice. The state is contributing to 13 percent of our total budget, but in some cases has 100 percent power in decision making.

The university exists for and because of us students. We should have a say in budget cuts. We can use our voice in Student Government, and by contacting state representatives and administration. Because at the end of the day, it's our university.



Photo courtesy of pexels.com

## FOR RENT

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## FOR RENT

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continued from page 1

"I don't expect much to change for the vast majority of housing units, but the landlords who sign on and have substandard housing, I would hope that this program changes that."

Along with the off-campus housing inspection, SGA is in the process of creating a housing education program to inform students about moving off-campus. SGA has been working with Katie Munck, student lawyer on campus, along with the student legal society. Griepentrog said, "This program will teach students about renting houses, signing leases and looking for properties

to rent."

Anna Juppe, pre-nursing student at UWSP, said, "It was super confusing the first time I signed a lease, so I think this program would be beneficial to students."

Griepentrog hopes that the education program will give students the chance to learn more about living off-campus. Kositzke said, "I hope it helps the student body in general, we're here to work for them and anytime we can score a win for the students, it's a win for us."



Some off-campus student housing on Briggs st. Photo by Nomin Erdenebileg

# Incentive Program Helps Alleviate Pressure of 2.5M Debt

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The Voluntary Separation Incentive Program will help the University save money with the 2.5-million-dollar budget cuts being made for the fiscal year.

The program will help with redirecting positions to focus on priorities, changing needs or strategic objectives of the university and achieving other cost savings or efficiencies. It will also minimize potential involuntary terminations.

Eric Yonke, Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences said, "the basic intention is that if a staff member is able to take retirement early, the incentive they will receive is a small pay out."

This means accepted applicants can choose to receive a

lump sum paid to them or a contribution to their Health Savings account, or Wisconsin Retirement System account.

But the staff member must qualify for the VSIP before they can apply for it.

Most of the criteria outlined on a document from Human Resources states that in order to qualify they must be currently appointed as of April 3, 2017, as a faculty member, academic staff member with an indefinite, rolling horizon or fixed term renewable contract, unclassified limited appointee or university staff member that is not on as temporary staff.

Applicants must also be at least 55 years of age prior to July 1, 2017. They must have at least five years of service with UW-Stevens Point on or before July 1, 2017.

The decision-making process depends on eligibility criteria being met. Campus Deans and Vice Chancellors will then evaluate applications received in relation to VSIP objectives and make recommendations to the Chancellor.

Once the Chancellor makes the decision and communicates it to the applicant. If an application is not accepted, the employee may reapply after 30 days of the Chancellor's notification of the decision.

Pam Bollard, head of Human Resources for campus said, "qualification does not guarantee the acceptance of the application."

"Really the ultimate decision comes down to the staff member because once the Chancellor accepts the application the staff member can still back out and choose to stay if they wish," Bollard said. "They have until they

sign that document to make the decision."

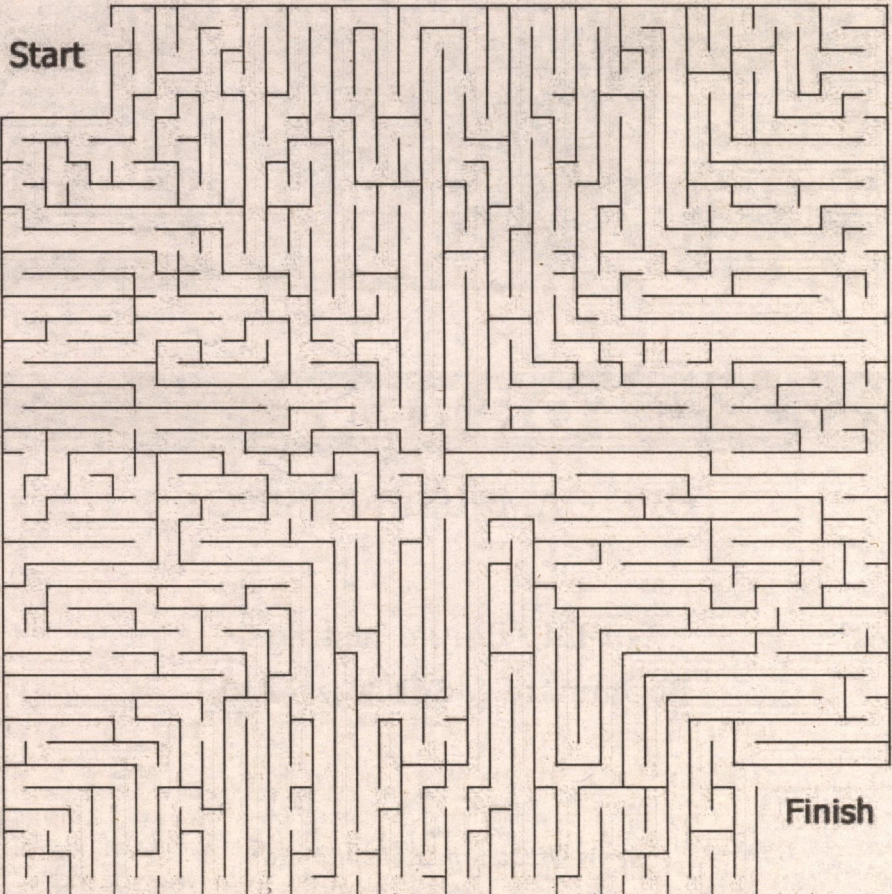
Bollard also said that the VSIP program has been around UW-Stevens Point since about April 2015.

"About 32 applicants were accepted in the program that first time around," Bollard said.

In Dec. 2016 when the program was run again Bollard said that about 15 applicants were accepted. As of right now there are about 16 applicants that have been accepted, and the opportunity to apply for the VSIP will close on March 1 of this year.

Bollard said that right now, based on the October 2017 payroll, which is the benchmark for employee counts, UW-Stevens Point has 1,117 full time equivalent positions.

5	3			7				
6			1	9	5			
	9	8					6	
8				6				3
4			8		3			1
7				2				6
	6					2	8	
			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9





## Assembly Bill to Restrict Wolf Management



The proposed Assembly Bill 712 would prohibit state management of the wolf population and investigations into wolf killings. Photo courtesy of Eric Kilby

**KATIE SHONIA**  
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A proposed Assembly Bill 712 and its companion Senate Bill 602 attempt to make substantial changes to the management of the wolf population in Wisconsin.

According to the Wisconsin State Legislature website, the bill prohibits Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources from expending any funds for the management of the wolf population other than paying claims

laws relating to endangered species of wolves. This involves restriction of funding towards any educational activities or management research of these animals.

Scott Hygnstrom, Director of the Wisconsin Center for Wildlife, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point professor, Wildlife Specialist and Douglas R. Stephens Endowed Chair in Wildlife, taps into some of the possible reasons for the bill.

"The wolf population goal for Wisconsin is 350 wolves, but we currently estimate that there

the notion that wolves could not thrive in areas with human activity.

"Turns out [wolves] are much more adaptable than we thought" Crimmins said.

There have been records of wolf attacks across the state of Wisconsin. There were about 100 complaints of wolf depredation by farmers last year and about 37 confirmed cases of cattle or calves being lost. While that loss is significant from the individual farmer's perspective, this represents a very small number of the statewide cattle population.

"A few people in Northern Wisconsin are having significant impact", Hygnstrom said. "From my perspective, and I work in wildlife damage management, it is our state's and my responsibility to help those individuals who are most impacted by problem species."

The passing of the Assembly Bill 712 would hinder the state's ability to manage wolves by the Department of Natural Resources.

In addition, the passing of the bill would be a major setback from a scientific perspective, as it would mean no more funding for the research procedures relating to wolves and tracking of important information, such as diseases in wolves and data on individual wolves and wolf packs.

Crimmins encourages UW-Stevens Point students and community to get involved in the proceedings and public hearings about the bill.

"If you have an opinion about it and you have the capacity to express that opinion, I would encourage folks to do that" Crimmins said.



Legislators supporting Bill 712 hope to put pressure on the federal government to delist the wolves as an endangered species. Photo courtesy of Max Pixel

under the endangered resources program for the damage of private property and domestic cattle caused by the wolves.

The bill prohibits Wisconsin DNR law enforcement officials from enforcing the laws relating to wolf management or assist federal authorities in the enforcement of any federal or state

are 925 to 950 wolves," Hygnstrom said. "There are perhaps two to three times as many wolves as there should be based on tolerance of wolves in Wisconsin".

Shawn Crimmins, assistant professor of Wildlife Ecology, explained that the initial wolf population goal was based off



Supporters of Bill 712 argue that there are too many wolves in the state and are causing damage to farmland in northern Wisconsin. Photo courtesy of Steve Felberg



## Look Into Sports

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### O'HERON HELPS LIFT POINTERS OVER EAGLES

Junior forward Canon O'Heron recorded a career-high 26 points in a 76-62 road victory over UW-La Crosse on Saturday, Jan. 29, as the team rebounded from a loss earlier in the week to UW-Oshkosh.

O'Heron shot 11 of 14 from the field and made all three of his free throws, while also grabbing five rebounds, picking up a steal and blocking a shot.

Senior guard M.J. Delmore and junior guard Nate Dodge each scored 18 points and were both perfect from the free-throw line.

Stevens Point led over 38 min-

utes of the game and took a 42-34 lead into halftime as O'Heron made 6 of 7 field goals.

Dodge and O'Heron combined for 25 points and shot 9 of 13 from the field in the second half to help the Pointers pull away for the win.

The Pointers remain atop the WIAC standings with a 7-1 conference record.

UWSP men's basketball returns home to take on UW-Whitewater on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

### WOMEN'S HOCKEY SQUANDERS EARLY LEAD IN LOSS TO EAU CLAIRE

The UWSP women's hockey team opened a three-game series against UW-Eau Claire with a 4-3 road loss on Saturday, Jan. 27, to drop its conference record to 1-3-1.

Freshman forward Shannon Motzko scored the Pointers first goal during the 11th minute of the first period and senior forward Ali Biagini netted the second during the 17th minute to give Stevens Point a 2-1 lead heading into the second period.

The two teams traded goals as Eau-Claire answered Stevens Point by scoring a goal of its own during the third minute of the second period. Later in the peri-

od, sophomore defenseman Alex Grubbs found the net during the 10th minute to regain the lead for Point 3-2 heading into the third period.

Stevens Point failed to score the rest of the contest and surrendered two more goals, including the game winner in the closing minutes.

Junior goaltender Sydney Conley secured 46 saves in the loss.

Stevens Point will head to Eau Claire on Friday, Feb. 2 to resume the series. Game time is set for 7 p.m.

#### Current Standings

UW-River Falls	5-1-1	15-4-2
UW-Superior	3-3-1	14-7-1
UW-Eau Claire	1-3-1	12-6-3
UW-Stevens Point	1-3-1	11-7-2

### UWSP TRACK AND FIELD OPENS SEASON WITH STRONG SHOWING

Another season commenced as the men and women of the Pointers' track and field teams participated in the WIAC Triangular in Platteville on Saturday, Jan. 20, with the men taking first place with a score of 123.5 and the women taking second with a score of 92.

Matt Stelmasek (8:48.69, 3000-meter run), Evan Torgerson (49.93, 400-meter dash) and Travis Wollenberg (1:59.06, 800-meter run) each pocketed a first-place finish in their respective events.

Hannah Mertens (26.42, 200-meter dash), Bailey Wolf (10:38.75, 3000-meter run), Anna Hogan (10.89 meters, triple jump)

and Brooke Wellhausen (2:22.58, 800-meter finals) took home first place in each of their events for the women's team.

The men and women look to carry the momentum into their next competition as the team heads to Whitewater to compete in events that span Jan. 26-27. The weekend begins with the Whitewater Multi Friday, Jan. 26 at 1 p.m., followed by the men competing in the "Squig" Converse Invitational later in the day at 5 p.m. and wrapping up with the women competing in the Whitewater Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 12 p.m.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL USES STRONG START TO STIFLE EAGLES

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point women's basketball team outscored UW-La Crosse in three of four quarters en route to a 73-54 home win on Saturday, Jan. 31, including a 23-point first quarter.

The trio of seniors Taylor Barrett (16 points), Lexi Roland (12 points) and Mickey Roland (10 points) led the Pointers in scoring, while combining for 23 rebounds and 10 assists.

Stevens Point used a 15-0 run

during the first quarter to expand its lead to 20-9 as the women would not relinquish the lead for the duration of the game.

UWSP now sits in the sixth position in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference with a 3-5 conference record and six games left on its schedule.

The women's basketball team will travel to take on UW-Whitewater on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

#### Current Standings

UW-Oshkosh	6-2	16-2
UW-Whitewater	6-2	16-3
UW-River Falls	5-3	14-5
UW-Eau Claire	5-3	13-6
UW-La Crosse	5-3	12-7
UW-Stevens Point	3-5	9-10
UW-Platteville	2-6	6-13
UW-Stout	0-8	7-12

### MEN TAKE DOWN LA CROSSE IN DUALS

Men's swimming and diving cruised past UW-La Crosse 162-79, while the women's team fell to the Eagles 159.5-81.5 at the home duel on Saturday, Jan. 27.

Sam Jekel, Reilly Donnellan, Grant Moser and Jack Englehardt combined to reign victorious in the 400-yard medley relay with a time of 3:27.34.

Jacob Aegerter, Englehardt, Moser and Jekel pocketed the top

spot in the 400-yard freestyle relay with a time of 3:08.39.

Freshman Sydney Richetto secured the lone victory for the women with a time of 57.15 seconds in the 100-yard freestyle.

UWSP Swimming and Diving hosts its final event of the regular season on Friday, Feb. 2 as UW-Milwaukee travels to Stevens Point. Events are set to begin at 5 p.m.

### SQUIRES TAKES HOME FALLS AWARD FROM PETE WILLSON INVITATIONAL

Junior Dan Squires received the Jack Schwartz Award for Most Falls in Least Time with five falls in 12:56 as he helped Stevens Point secure an eighth-place finish among a field of 35 at the Pete Willson Invitational over the weekend in Wheaton, Ill.

Squires took third in the

184-pound weight class bracket by winning two matches on Saturday.

Freshman Matt Berlin finished fourth in the 133-pound bracket with two 3-1 victories on Saturday.

The Pointers finish off the regular season with a home match against UW-La Crosse on Friday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m.

#### Current Standings

UW-Whitewater	4-0	9-5
UW-La Crosse	3-1	9-4
UW-Eau Claire	2-2	10-5
UW-Platteville	2-2	3-3
UW-Stevens Point	1-3	6-9
UW-Oshkosh	0-4	4-9





The UWSP swim team prepares for practice at the UWSP Aquatics Center. Photo by Sydney DenHartigh

## Swimming and Diving Teams Hope to Make a Splash in Conference Championship

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As the regular season of swimming and diving nears an end, the men and women of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point look to finish strong and prepare to shift their attention onto the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) Championship.

Both teams have fared well this season, according to head coach Al Boelk, who attributes much of its success to continued health and a focused mindset.

"It's been a good year. We had a very good training in fall; we've stayed healthy and focused," Boelk said. "We do a mid-year rest-and-shave meet which went about as good as it ever has... more best times and good swims than the average."

Senior swimmers Brandon Richardson and Erica Perkins attribute much of this success to strong performances from the team's new additions.

"We have a really strong group of incoming freshmen," Richardson said. "They've responded to the challenge."

Perkins agreed that the freshman have played an important role on the team.

"We've gotten a bunch of new freshmen to step up," Perkins reiterated. "Especially in the bigger meets we've had."

As the team looks ahead to the conference championship and potentially the national championship, they do so with a few goals in mind.

"We're going to wrap up these next two meets and after that we have a conference meet where we're trying to win for the 19th time," Richardson said.

"After that, we're going to try to get some guys and girls to nationals."

Added Perkins, "We're hoping to get third or higher at conference."

Boelk believes that health will be a critical factor in determining the team's postseason success.

"We have a couple of weeks back to back and then the conference meet. I hope we can stay healthy and stave off the flu epidemic," Boelk said. "If we can stay doing what we're doing, I think we'll be pretty all right."

Richardson and Perkins both stressed the importance of strength and conditioning workouts when discussing the team's preparation for the conference meet.

"These next two weeks are crucial for lifting weights," Richardson said. "Lifting and

core work will be important to stay in shape."

Boelk expects his team to be well prepared for the conference meet because they've been working for months already.

"Our season is long. We start in September. What we've been doing to set ourselves up in February is the systematic preparation that we've done for months," Boelk said. "We just need to rest up and make sure we're ready for February."

The Pointers will conclude its regular season with one final meet against UW-Milwaukee on Feb. 2, before they travel to Brown Deer, WI., next month to compete in the conference championship.

The championship series kicks off on Feb. 15, and runs through Feb. 17.

## Sports Events

### Men's Basketball

Jan. 31,  
vs. UW-Whitewater  
7 p.m.

Feb. 3,  
vs. UW-River Falls  
7p.m.

### Swimming & Diving

Feb. 2,  
vs. UW-Milwaukee  
5 p.m.

### Men's Hockey

Feb. 2,  
vs. UW-Stout  
7 p.m.

Feb. 3,  
at UW-Superior  
7 p.m.

### Wrestling

Feb. 2,  
vs. UW-La Crosse  
7 p.m.

### Women's Hockey

Feb. 2,  
at UW-Eau Claire  
7 p.m.

Feb. 3,  
vs. UW-Eau Claire  
2:30 p.m.

### Women's Basketball

Jan. 31,  
at UW-Whitewater  
7 p.m.

Feb. 3,  
at UW-River Falls  
3 p.m.

### Track & Field

Feb. 3,  
Pointer Invitational  
10 a.m.



continued from page 1

which together account for 22 percent of the employment in this sector.

Even so, renewable energy still makes up a fraction of the total energy produced.

The Energy Information Administration reported that in 2016 renewables still made up around eight percent of electricity generation in Wisconsin, while the vast majority of the state was powered by coal.

Shiba Kar, assistant professor and sustainable energy specialist, said that there are still policy barriers which may deter investment in renewables. He said that the energy market is highly influenced by subsidies which affect what type of energy production is competitive or not. For this reason, he said leveling the playing field would help new technologies emerge.

"The question is how much we are putting in this renewable and emerging industry versus how much we are subsidizing the fossil fuel industries," Kar said.

Seth Huttner, senior natural science major, and member of College Republicans feels that conservatives should have a voice in the energy discussion. He said that he is open to renewable energy as part of the energy equation as long as the shift is driven by the market.

Huttner said, "It comes down to this for me, I want something cheap, plentiful and reliable."

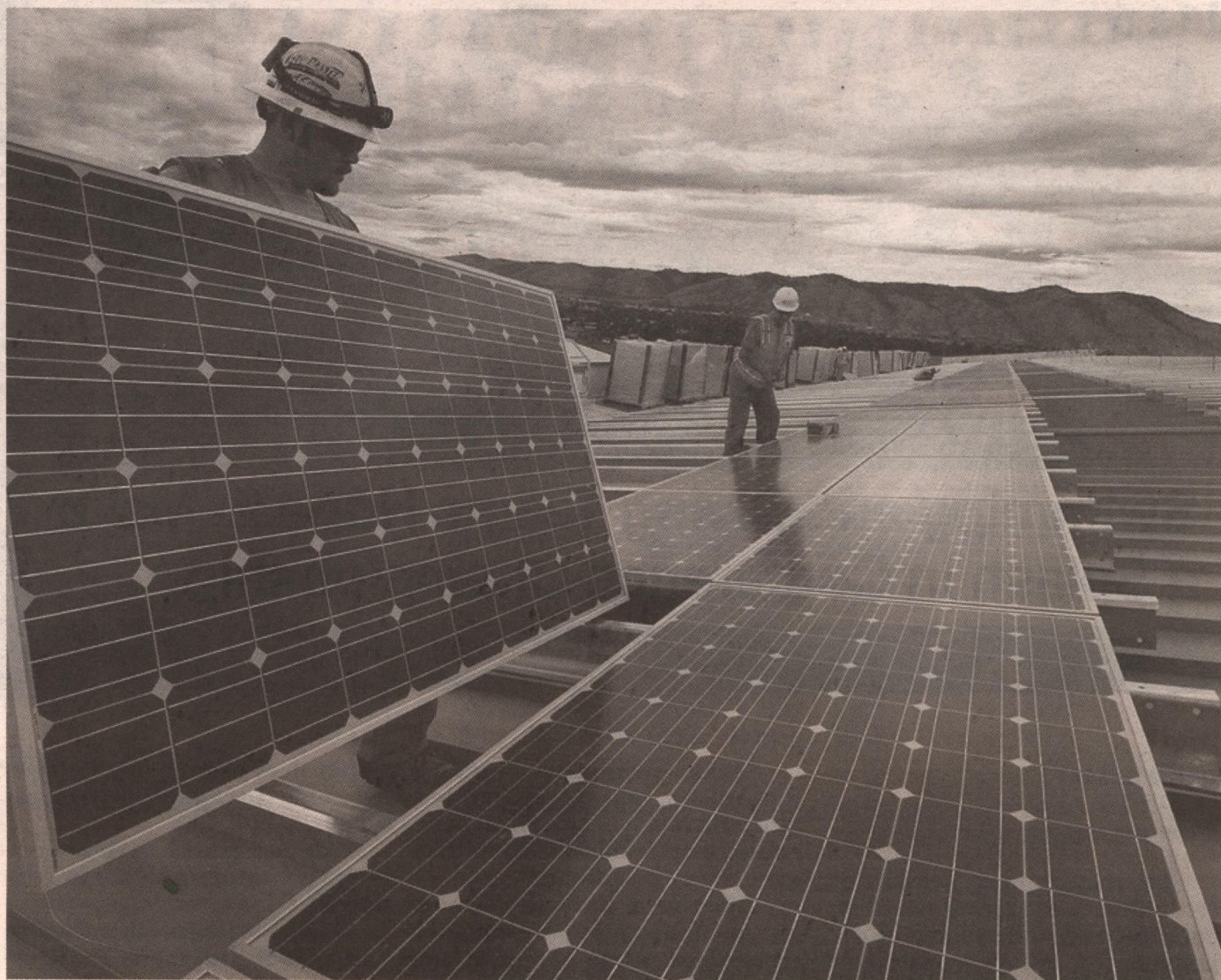


Photo courtesy of Dennis Schroeder

## STUDENT HELP WANTED

### Interested in Working for THE POINTER?

#### 6 REPORTER POSITIONS OPEN

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

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

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O	E	L	C	L	O	N	I	O	N	T	O	R	H	TV DINNER
L	L	B	R	E	A	D	B	U	R	G	E	R	S	CASSEROLE
I	O	N	C	R	R	D	D	N	E	N	S	L	A	BREAD
N	R	E	A	R	F	E	O	T	N	T	P	T	G	PORK
O	E	T	C	O	A	O	A	I	L	I	E	T	O	NOODLES
R	S	U	E	U	D	D	D	L	C	U	G	S	D	FAST FOOD
A	S	N	H	L	T	V	I	R	O	R	H	C	T	LETTUCE
C	A	A	E	R	T	T	P	S	O	F	E	L	O	ROLLS
A	C	S	A	T	T	S	E	O	H	A	T	R	H	STEAK
M	E	U	S	R	E	R	O	L	R	P	T	O	R	SPEGHETTI
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														SALAD
														FRUIT
														HAM

CASE and Greek Life Welcome You to the Spring Semester with Community Involvement Opportunities

CALVIN LEMIEUX  
REPORTER  
calvin.lemieux@uwsp.edu

Campus Activities and Student Engagement (CASE) is hosting the Spring 2018 Involvement Fair on Wednesday, Jan. 31 to provide a platform for recruiting student organizations and interested students. Boasting over 110 student organizations in attendance, the involvement fair will sprawl throughout the Dreyfus University Center Encore, Laird Room and Concourse to accommodate each one with a space to reach out to students in the community. From interest and hobby clubs to professional, academic and political organizations, all student organizations are welcomed to set up a booth at the fair to reach out to the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Stevens Point community. Touting the motto "Explore. Experience. Engage.", the involvement fair promotes the many benefits of joining student organizations. "It's the single biggest event to find out about the majority of the student organizations we have on campus," said Leigh Jentz, program assistant for CASE. Over half of the student organizations on campus attend the Involvement Fair, so students are able to get a good view of what opportunities are available to them and relate to their academic or professional interests. "I highly encourage students to join student orgs," Jentz said. "It's just another piece in their toolkit, another way to add to

the classroom learning as you can get into the student organization, network with the students that are also in the same [major], with the faculty or staff member that's advising, with the faculty members in that major, you can interact with them more outside the classroom." Jentz also pointed out that many organizations organize speakers to provide students with an outlet to learn from professionals in their field. Other opportunities include conferences which enables members to travel and network with the field outside of the immediate campus community. "[We] always encourage students to join another organization, a fun or hobby one that they have, just to get another network of students," Jentz said. "Usually there are a lot of fun,

cool opportunities with those." Recruiting for fraternities and sororities also begins on Feb. 9 in the DUC with the "Meet the Greeks" recruitment kickoff. Fraternities and sororities will be present to answer questions and distribute resources for students interested in or considering Greek life on campus. Additional information about the events can be found on the Stevens Point Involvement Network (SPIN) website. The involvement fair begins at 6 p.m. on Jan. 31, and Meet the Greeks begins on Feb. 9 at 5:30 p.m.



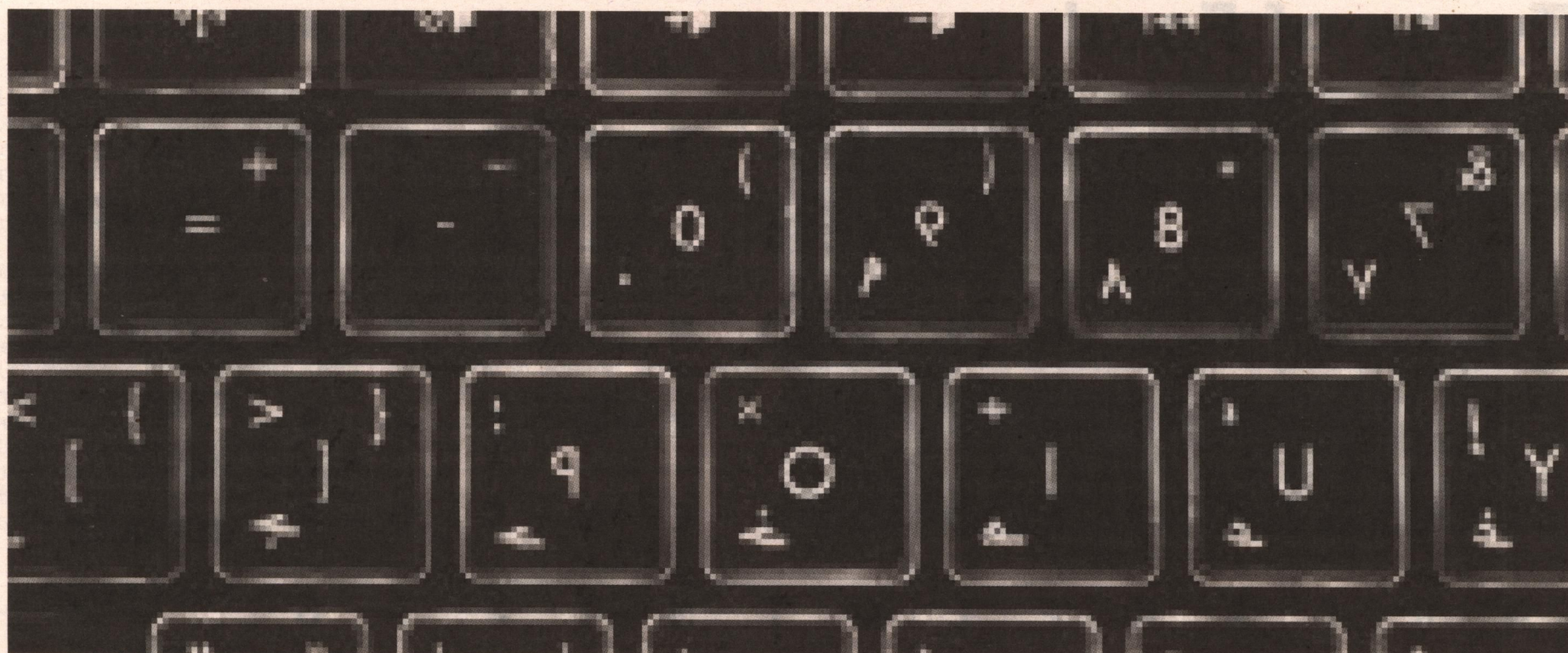


Photo courtesy of pixnio.com

## Humanity vs. Technology: Review of “Black Mirror”

ELIZABETH OLSON  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR  
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Albert Einstein is quoted as once saying, “It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.” Nearly 70 years later, these words are taking on new life in the form of the hit Netflix original series, “Black Mirror.”

This British science fiction series has grown in popularity since its release of the first season in 2011. The highly anticipated fourth season was just dropped on Dec. 29, 2017, and received a 93% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

“Black Mirror” is an anthology series, meaning each episode is stand-alone and features a different cast. While each episode is distinct, they all seem to ask the same question: Is technology harming or helping the world?

Every episode of “Black Mirror” is set in an alternate present or the near future and centers around some form of technology. In most episodes, the technology is fictional, but it’s easy to imagine something similar integrating into our society in the not too distant future. This is what makes the show so eerie.

“Black Mirror” is often compared to the popular anthology series from the 1960s, *The Twilight Zone*. Both shows are dripping with satire and aim to create a commentary on weighty subjects like war, politics, the justice system or modern society.

The title of the show has a double meaning. One literal meaning references the “black mirrors” found in every living room, office and palm: powered-down screens.

Another interpretation of the title is that “Black Mirror” serves as a metaphor for the show’s very purpose. It reflects our modern society, but with a

dark twist. Every episode exhibits the harmful side effects of seemingly innocent and helpful technology.

With only six episodes in the fourth season and 19 in the entire series, it’s an easy show to binge watch on a cold, February weekend. However, viewers should be warned that the dark, nihilistic nature of the show is more digestible when broken up in multiple viewings.

The unique style of an anthology series allows first time viewers to start wherever they choose, and season four might just be the best place to dive in.

“Black Mirror” is notorious for unpredictable storylines that push the boundaries and strike a healthy dose of fear into the audience. Season four breaks from this trend and delivers some much-needed hope.

The creator and writer of “Black Mirror,” Charlie Brooker, went on record with *Digital Spy* and explained that the rational behind this tone change stems from the feeling of chaos and division most Americans are experiencing.

“If you’re living in a dystopia, you don’t necessarily want to look at another one. So I sort of thought, let’s maybe not make them all [depressing]. Although, the thing is, you have to be aware that a lot of people tune in for that. So you still want to give them that,” Brooker said.

This promise of hope is manifested in episodes like “USS Callister” and “Hang the DJ.”

“USS Callister” is the first episode in the season and is by far the most comedic episode in the series.

Some viewers are calling “Hang the DJ” the “San Junipero” of the fourth season. This is a reference to the wildly popular and Emmy Award winning episode from the third season, which centered around an 80s themed love story.

To please those who tune in for the depressing narratives that “Black Mirror” fans have come to expect, season four provides bleak episodes like “Crocodile” and “Metalhead” that seem to go from bad to worse.

Those who oppose “Black Mirror” assert that the show is unsettling, and some might even say disturbing. However, fans argue that it’s this feeling of being unsettled that makes watching the show enjoyable.

The show’s use of satire opens up a dialogue about a lot of subjects that are often difficult to talk about, such as the harmful effects of social media or the questionable ethics behind artificial intelligence. The dramatic, sometimes gruesome situations serve as a warning and wake up call.

Above all, viewers should remember to always let their humanity exceed their technology.

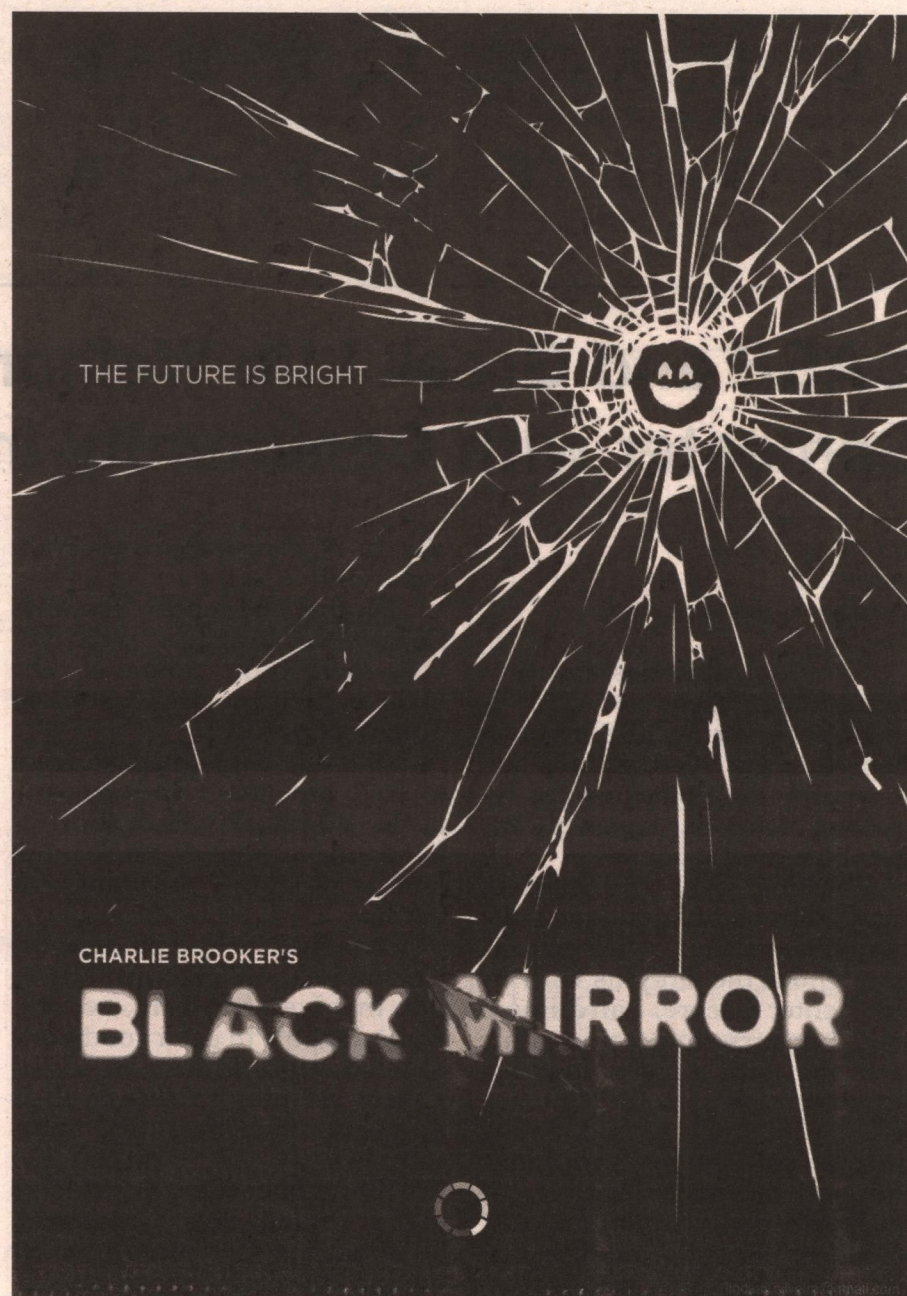


Photo provided by flickr



Humans of Point

BETHANY HASENBERG

is a junior majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders with a minor in Psychology.



What class are you most excited about this semester?

Honestly, Physics 115: Acoustics. It's going to suck a lot, but I love math and I'm excited to see how I can challenge myself to do well in the course.

Who has been your favorite professor in college so far?

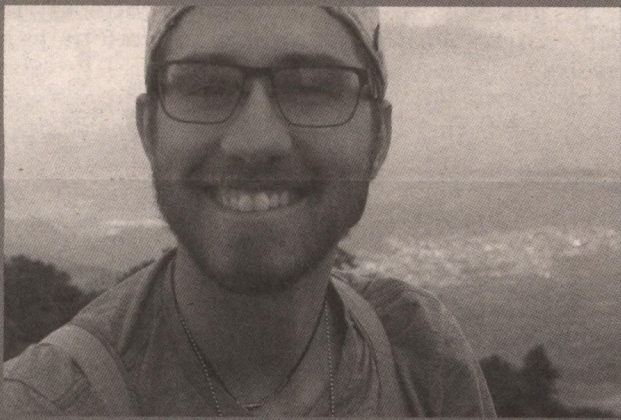
Definitely Dr. [Maggie] Watson[, professor of communication sciences and disorders]. I had her the last two semesters, and I feel like I've connected with her really well! She's a great professor overall, and cares for her students.

Where's your favorite place to study?

Any place with a whiteboard! That way I can see everything I need to know for an exam at the same time. Plus, who doesn't love drawing on whiteboards?

JOHN FLOOD

is a junior majoring in Chemistry.



What class are you most excited about this semester?

I am most excited about the Religious Studies course I'm taking this semester. We are studying the religion and society of ancient Israel. Not only am I excited to explore and learn about a different culture, I'm looking forward to seeing how it will deepen my understanding of the Old Testament scriptures.

Who has been your favorite professor in college so far?

Agh, this question is hard. I've had so many great professors! I think a favorite was my freshman math professor, Bob Vandenheuval. He had an amazing way of helping us learn course material and kept us entertained with his incredible humor and wit.

Where's your favorite place to study?

On the second floor of the library, back behind the archives. There are some desks with an incredible view of the campus. Not only is it quiet and secluded, but it's a great place to people watch during my study breaks!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

Thursday  
February 1

Poker Night

DUC Encore

8-10 p.m.

Friday  
February 2

UWSP Jazz Festival    Comedy Kickoff:  
   Pete Lee

Michelsen Hall, NFAC

7:30- 10 p.m.

DUC Laird

8- 9:30 p.m.

Saturday  
February 3

Arts Bash

NFAC Courtyard

7- 10 p.m.

Alabaster with Captain  
Coopersmith

(Blues Funk)

DUC Encore

10-12 p.m.

Sunday  
February 4

Planetarium Show: Clouds  
of Fire    An Afternoon of Song

Blocher Planetarium, Sci  
Building

2- 3 p.m.

NFAC 221

4- 6 p.m.

Tuesday  
February 6

Sustainable Film Series:  
"The True Cost"

DUC Theater

6:30- 8:30 p.m.





## Students Experience Tropical Ecology in Costa Rica

Photograph taken by Abby Olson.

**DASHANAY SCOTT**

REPORTER

[dashanay.scott@uwsp.edu](mailto:dashanay.scott@uwsp.edu)

Students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point were provided with the opportunity to study abroad in Costa Rica this winter break. The study abroad course was a three-week program with a focus on tropical ecology in Costa Rica. While studying abroad, students visited multiple ecosystems and saw countless animal species.

This study abroad experience was open to all UWSP students with at least a 2.5 GPA. Community members and students attending other universities could have applied, but UWSP students were given priority. After completing the course, students earned three credits in natural resources.

The Costa Rica study abroad course includes three credits towards the student's degree, lodging, airfare, mandated health insurance, lectures and tours. Prices per credit differ for out-of-state and reciprocity stu-

dents. The cost of this trip also varies by the student's financial aid package for the school year.

The academic leaders for this trip were Mike Demchick and the CNR study abroad coordinator, Jessica Tomaszewski.

Ricky Xoing, senior fishery and aquatic sciences major, and Abby Olson, senior ecosystem management and restoration major, were two students who took the trip to Costa Rica this year.

Xoing wanted to take this trip to learn more about the conservation methods in Costa Rica, and Olson had wanted to take the trip since her first year at the university.

During the trip, students got to experience multiple ecosystems.

"You get the experience five different micro-climates ecosystems that are only a few miles apart," Xoing said.

Both students loved the country scenery, and one of Olson's favorite experiences from the trip was visiting the Continental Divide, although "the

weather wasn't ideal to see the horizontal rains," according to Olson.

These students loved their "hands on experiences and getting down and dirty with na-

to say helped us reciprocate that same energy."

The food was great in Costa Rica, and the students were never hungry. All of their meals were



Photograph taken by Ricky Xoing.



Photograph taken by Ricky Xoing.



Photograph taken by Ricky Xoing.

ture," as Xoing said. They were able to see multiple species within the different ecosystems, at one point, the students had to draw pictures of plants in the forest.

Over the course of the trip, the students visited agriculture research facilities and went on countless student catered tours.

The tour was another aspect of the trip Olson enjoyed.

"David Norman, our tour guide, was a highlight to the trip," Olson said. "That he displayed interest in what we had

served with rice, beans and fruit.

"I learned some items, like fish, we take for granted here are treated as a luxury there," Xoing said.

Students who take part in the Costa Rica study abroad trip experience the world through a new lens.

Questions about this trip or any other upcoming study abroad trips may be directed to the Study Abroad Office via email at [study.abroad@uwsp.edu](mailto:study.abroad@uwsp.edu) or phone at 715-346-2717.