

the pointer

University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

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Student Books Reach Nicaraguan Students

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Spanish students at University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are opening a fresh page for children in Nicaragua.

For the past five years, Elia Armacanqui-Tipacti, Spanish professor, has teamed up with Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas to create books for those in need.

"Children in Latin America lack public and school libraries," Armacanqui-Tipacti said.

With the dedication and creativity of her Spanish 314 students, Armacanqui-Tipacti is changing that, one book at a time.

Stevens Point is the headquarters of Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas. The partnership between the distant states has existed for 53 years. Wisconsin/Nicaragua Partners of the Americas strives to enhance quality of life in both Wisconsin and Nicaragua by providing programs that promote sustainable community development and cultural awareness.

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Table Talk for Unity Encourages Awareness and Inclusivity



Inclusivity Vigil and Panel. Photo by Madison Andropolis

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Though this semester's theme is microaggressions, Table Talk for Unity has taken on multiple hot-button issues over the years.

Many of us have had an experience on campus that has made us feel uncomfortable. These incidents do not always need to be violent; sometimes it can be as simple as a muttered word, or exclusion from an opportunity. Microaggressions, or subtle and indirect discrimination, are unfortunately a common occurrence on our campus. In order to put an end to this negative phenomena, Table Talk for Unity is stepping in.

The initiative was founded in 2016 by Rasheeda Bryant, a health care administration major who regularly witnessed racially biased events happening on and off campus. Bryant could see that there was little to nothing being done to address these incidents, and after being personally targeted by one of her own professors due to her race, she decided something needed to be done.

"I said enough was enough. We continue a cycle of apologies, outrage and then we forget. To me, the foundation was cracking

and still is," Bryant said.

What started as a discussion with a few professors about the history of redlining and racial discrimination has blossomed into a week-long series of events highlighting different topics and questions brought forth by the students. However, a common theme has been present at each event: inclusivity. After all, the mission of Table Talk for Unity is to bring the UWSP campus together by facilitating an open dialogue between students, staff, professors and local businesses. It aims to provide a safe space to discuss things that happen in our campus community that may make us feel unsafe; whether that is targeted at race, sexual orientation, gender or something else; no topic is off limits.

This year's Table Talk for Unity, which took place in the Noel Fine Arts Center, featured an Inclusivity Vigil, followed directly by a panel discussion with both faculty and student members. Attendees were able to share instances of microaggression anonymously and ask questions of experts who were aware of the issues facing students.

Attendance was noticeably down from previous semesters. Director Christopher Benny cites the recent blow to the students'

spirit after rounds of budget cuts and the introduction of the controversial "Point Forward" plan.

"I've noticed with most events on campus [attendance] is going down. I think the morale is pretty low with all of the majors being cut and everything that's going on," Benny said.

But don't think these Table Talks will be disappearing any time soon. Though Benny is graduating soon, he plans to lay a foundation for activists who take on this challenge after him.

"That's why we founded the Alliance of Multiculture and Diversity Organization," Benny said. This organization will bring together over 18 organizations to form the alliance, ensuring a lasting place for students to come together and advocate for equal treatment and brighter futures for currently marginalized groups.

Table Talk for Unity was presented thanks support from Diversity and College Access (DCA), Campus Activities and Student Involvement (CASE) and the Student Government Association (SGA). For more information about how you can get involved with inclusivity on our campus, contact one of these organizations for more information.



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Attendance Policy Up for Debate

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For the past several years, a policy at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has divided the students and faculty, the attendance policy.

Students with the Student Government Association have made a joint effort with university faculty to amend the university's attendance policy. Faculty want to keep their flexibility, while students demand a uniform policy for the entire campus.

An attendance policy increases attendance and is a better predictor of academic success than high school GPA, standardized test scores or study habits.

A main predictor of attendance is student interest on the course topic and its relevance. Attendance can also be affected by students' feelings of inclusion.

UWSP requires professors to include a clearly outlined attendance policy in their syllabus on the first day of class. It is up to the professor to develop an attendance policy that best fits the course. Professors can choose if attendance is a portion of the final grade, if being late affects attendance as well as how and when students need to notify professors in the event of an absence.

Rhonda Sprague, professor of interpersonal organizational communication, teaches a number of classes, including Communication/Arts Management 100.

"For me, it really depends upon how frequently the class meets and how important I think it is that students are in class to get the information that they need," Sprague said.

Sprague has a strict attendance policy for her 100 level class and for good reason. Students are only allowed to miss one day of class. The course is

only eight weeks long and students don't have any outside work. All the required information is delivered in class by Sprague or guest speakers.

"Missing one day of class is the equivalent to missing a week of class," Sprague said.

In other classes, Sprague doesn't have an attendance policy; however, she might implement one.

"Sometimes when you give people too much freedom to make choices, they don't necessarily make the best choices for themselves," Sprague said.

SGA conducted a campus survey in 2017 inquiring for student opinions on attendance policy. The survey found that 91 percent of Pointers have no issue with the attendance policy as is.

One anonymous respondent of the survey stated, "If we are adults it should be up to us to decide if we are able to or unable to go to a class."

A universal policy for the entire campus is still far from being enacted. If adopted, this policy would eliminate faculty flexibility.

Alex Fredrich, junior environmental education/interpretation major, supports a uniform campus policy.

"A universal attendance policy would be nice because then I wouldn't have to remember all my professors' policies," Fredrich said.

The future of UWSP's attendance policy is still being discussed. Only some minor changes have been added for next fall semester. For instance, it is now required that individual students submit exceptions to a professor's attendance policy in writing to the professor.

It will take a number of years for a universal campus attendance policy to be developed and implemented. Even if adopted, it would still be under criticism.

PROTECTIVE SERVICES REPORT

Tuesday, April 22

Student called stating there was a person in Baldwin Hall who has been having a mental breakdown every day. The caller stated she did not feel safe and neither did another student.

Male called to report a boyfriend and girlfriend arguing in Thomson Hall and slamming doors.

Wednesday, April 23

Individual called stating there was a suspicious male by the west doors of Albertson Hall.

Protective Services called base reporting they were approaching two individuals who appeared to be sleeping next to the DUC lobby, by the US Bank ATM.

Thursday, April 24

Individual walked into PSS to report his bike was stolen outside of Hansen Hall. He stated that there was a security camera pointed directly at his bike, so it should be on video.

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.

The Pointer is printed Wednesdays during the academic year with a circulation of 3,000 copies. The paper is free to all tuition-paying students. Non-student subscription price is \$10 per academic year.

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.

THE POINTER

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Trump's National Security Ban Goes to Supreme Court

Does the president have the power to be discriminatory if he has good national security reasons to do so. The president's travel ban reached supreme courts. The travel ban would apply to Muslim's entering the United States. "Until our country's representatives could figure out what the hell is going on." His orders included new vetting measures to keep "radical Islamic terrorists," out of the country. Talk in the courtroom focused around answering whether the President's authority should have anything to do with his personal beliefs.

Trump's Doctor not next Head of Veteran's Affairs

The nomination of Trump's personal doctor, Dr. Ronny L. Jackson, as the next Head of Veteran's Affairs has come to an abrupt stop. Dr. Jackson's nomination came despite his general lack of experience. A series of whistle blowers shutdown his nomination. The whistle blowers accused Dr. Jackson of fostering a hostile working environment, being drunk at inappropriate times, and inappropriately dispensing medications to members of the White House staff.

Tweet of the Week

Screen Capture from twitter.com

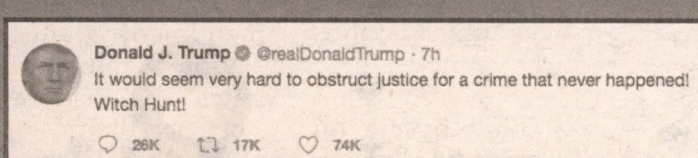




Photo courtesy of Adam Jones

NRA-University Comes to UWSP

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The National Rifle Association came to campus on April 25 to host their NRA-University seminar, an event promoted by the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point College Republicans.

The NRA arrived on campus in a cloud of controversy with reports that posters for the event had been torn down.

Nick Majerus, college republican, said, "We had a pretty amazing turnout. There were people standing in the back. It was easily over 100 people. With people tearing our posters down, we're glad the word got out there."

According to Majerus, around 50 posters for the event were torn down around campus.

However, at the event, any campus hostility toward the organization was absent.

The lecture hall in the Collins Classroom Center where the event took place was filled to capacity. With standing room only at the back, students were listening to the presentation from Suzanne Anglewicz, Midwest field coordinator and staff attorney for the NRA.

Throughout the presentation, Anglewicz spoke over the sound of crinkling paper and chewing as the appreciative crowd munched on free Jimmy Johns sandwiches.

The seminar covered a lot of ground, touching briefly on many subjects including media

bias, the second amendment and the NRA's stance on gun control implementation.

At one point in the slideshow presentation, there was a photo of a man holding a sign that read, "AR-15 as American as Apple Pie," with pictures of an AR-15 and an apple pie replacing those words respectively.

"I own an AR-15," Anglewicz said. "So, a lot of people say to me, 'Why? Why do you need one of those?' The first thing I say is 'Why does anybody need anything?' That's the wrong question to ask in the United States of America."

The tone of the seminar was instructive but also defensive. The NRA continues to attract considerable controversy on the national level, and Anglewicz spent a lot of time addressing problems with the way the media covers gun violence.

One argument against the second amendment Anglewicz addressed specifically was the claim that semi-automatic rifles like the AR-15 did not exist when the second amendment was written, and therefore, these weapons should not be protected by the amendment.

"Think about that with the first amendment. I can promise you that the founders did not foresee the internet, or Twitter or Instagram," Anglewicz said. "Are we saying you have no first amendment rights to express freedom of speech through those vehicles because it wasn't meant to be back then?"

Anglewicz also addressed



Photo courtesy of the National Rifle Association of America

Assault Weapons ban from 1994-2004, stating that the impact of the ban was, "absolutely nothing." According to Anglewicz, the ban was allowed to lapse because there was insufficient evidence for the effectiveness of the ban.

Anglewicz did not mention that part of the reason there was insufficient data is that, in 1996, Congress threatened to majorly cut the CDC's funding if they did not discontinue the funding of gun violence research. The CDC has not carried out this research for the past 22 years.

After the presentation, many

students lined up for the free one year NRA memberships that had been advertised on the posters, and it was difficult to even leave the room.

Majerus said, "At tabling, we definitely get some dirty looks, we've had some people come up to us and say that they aren't very happy with the NRA coming and some nasty comments on Facebook but other than that, it's been mostly positive. Obviously, there were no protesters at the event tonight and we're really happy with that."

continued from page 1

Every spring, students in Armacanqui-Tipacti's Spanish 314 class write and illustrate books for Nicaraguan children. About 60 books are sent over to Nicaragua each year, all with different topics chosen by the students.

The project gifts Nicaraguan children the opportunity to improve reading skills, while helping Pointers with Spanish grammar, vocabulary and writing skills.

"It is beautiful, it is encouraging, making a difference in education," Armacanqui-Tipacti said.

Riley Drechsler is a student involved in Armacanqui-Tipacti's

project. Drechsler finds this project as good review on her Spanish writing skills. Her book focuses on the four seasons in Wisconsin.

"It's a great opportunity to use the skills I've learned to be creative and of course to help people in Nicaragua by providing books," Drechsler said.

Alexis Bean is another student writing a book for Nicaraguan children. Hers is about a cat getting lost in the woods.

"In a lot of places, illiteracy is a problem," Bean said. "It feels good to be able to provide experience to literature and language."

In upcoming years, this pro-

gram may cease to exist, due to the massive cut of programs at UWSP expected to occur. All humanities degrees, including those in foreign languages, would no longer exist after 2020.

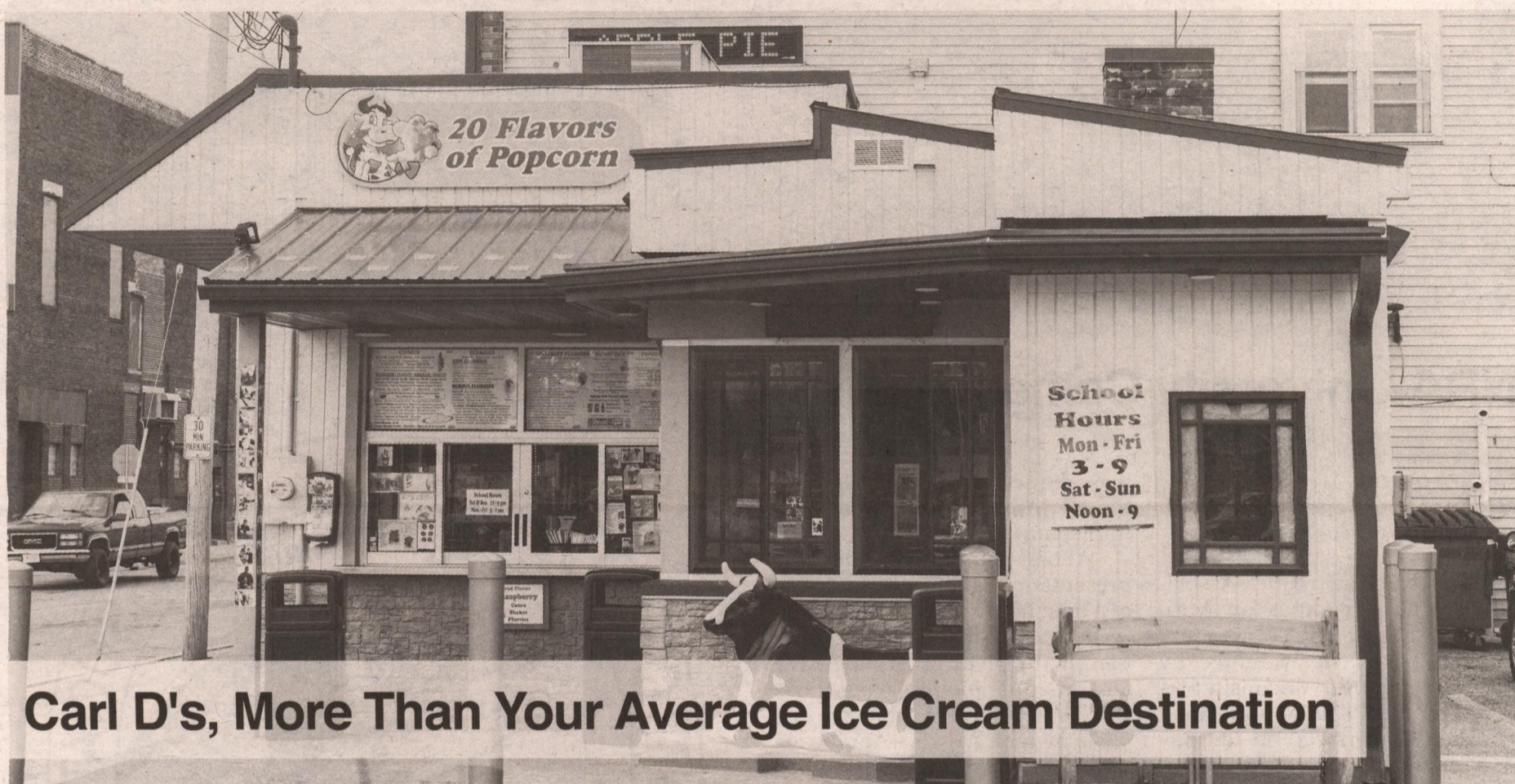
Many Pointers either have a major, double major or minor in one of the humanities programs.

"Humanities have a great impact in education because the students become responsible citizens who are creative, ethical and a great critical thinker," Armacanqui-Tipacti said.

Fluency in a second language is a highly desired skill sought by employers. According to econo-

mists Albert Saiz and Elena Zoido, individuals capable of speaking a foreign language receive two to three percent higher pay than their counterparts who only speak English. Saving the humanities programs at UWSP will ensure Pointers as well as children 3,452 miles away, successful futures.

A showcase of the Spanish children books created by Armacanqui-Tipacti's students will be held on Thursday, May 3 in Room 336 of the Collins Classroom Center at UWSP from 11:10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Carl D's, More Than Your Average Ice Cream Destination

Carl D's located at 1232 Park St, Stevens Point. Photo by Ross Vetterkind

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Carl D's, a local soft serve ice cream shop has been serving the community for three years now, though Carl D's serves the community way more than just frozen treats.

Carl Debolt, owner of the shop answered the phone cheerfully saying, "Every day is a dream selling ice cream."

Among the many different flurry combos Carl D's also features over 20 different flavors of gourmet popcorn which are all hand made by Debolt and his staff at the shop.

Michael Lackey, 22, and a staff member at Carl D's said he recommends the triple play. A mix of caramel corn, cheddar and butter popcorn.

Perhaps the best thing Carl D's serves, is its own community with charitable donations all over the Stevens Point area.

"He's a giver. He loves to give," Lackey said.

Thank you cards cover a wall in the shop, from St. Josephs

Parish, to the Humane Society Of Portage County.

Saturday May 5, Carl will be serving cones for his fundraiser "Cones for Camp" with donations going to kids in the community so they can attend the YMCA Camp Glacier Hollow. They'll be serving mandarin orange and orange twist which Debolt said is the taste of summer.

Though they serve frozen treats, summer isn't the only time Carl D's is open. The shop also sells chicken noodle soup and chili as well as their ice cream during the cold months which some on Facebook are saying really hits the spot.

Carl D's was also open Christmas Day serving peppermint cones for the Salvation Army.

"We hope to make that a Christmas tradition," Debolt said. "I've always lived by the idea that if you can't help others out, what good are ya?"

He doesn't stop there though, he donates to the area schools in Stevens Point, both the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

and local public schools.

Carl D's is located near the Historic Southside Railroad complex and around the corner from Belts' Soft serve.

"Instead of opening another place that offered Bud Light or Budweiser, I felt like an ice cream shop was better," Debolt said.

Debolt said that the location was chosen because he thought the over flow from Belts could come over to his shop if lines were long.

"Think about car dealerships when they locate near one another, or Walmart for that matter. People want to be near those businesses because they help each other grow," Debolt said.

He explained that together, they help make that area the ice cream destination in Point.

All the baked goods for the flurries are made in the shop so they can be added to the flurries from the oven. Example ingredients include puppy chow, brownies, and now, chocolate chip cookies which are featured in their new product, ice cream sandwiches.

"We use real cheesecake chunks, never syrup" Debolt said. "The only flavors we enhance is our chocolate and our vanilla to help make it unique to our shop."

Be it popcorn, soup or love for the community, Carl D's serves more than just ice cream.



Photo by Ross Vetterkind

Schmeeckle Reserve Hosts "Plants: Food, Medicine, and Fun!"

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Many people do not know that some of the food they find while in the forest is edible or has important medicinal properties. Schmeckle Reserve held an event called "Plants: Food, Medicine, and Fun!" where the different uses and the importance of plants was explained.

Lauren Holtz, wildlife education major at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, hosted the program. The event had a "record turnout" according to Bernard Hlavac, a member of the Friends of Schmeckle Board of Directors. Holtz began the presentation by talking about her personal experience with plants and nature. She shared an anecdote from her childhood about how her family would mark their calendars for the day they would go foraging for Morel Mushrooms.

Holtz reacted to the event by saying, "It's really nice to see the community getting involved and wanting to learn more about what we provide at Schmeckle and learning about the great outdoors in general. I think that it was fun and people seemed to like it and get involved and it was really cool to see."

The event covered many topics about plants such as cattails, dandelions and wood violets.

The discussion began with edible backyard plants and ways they can be prepared. But, one must be aware of allergies and know their plant identifications well before foraging to ensure that it is done safely.

The program provided samples of food and drinks made from plants that were foraged by Holtz herself. The audience had the chance to sample cookies with Wood Violets on them and tea made with white pine needles. An informational guide was provided that included recipes such as cattail pancakes and wild leek soup.

Holtz also discussed the medicinal properties of some plants and their significance throughout history. Plants used to be relied on heavily before modern technology for medicinal purposes. According to Holtz, yarrow, typically known as the "Nosebleed Plant," played an important role in Civil War medicine.

The audience had the rare chance to go out into Schmeckle Reserve and go foraging for plants to create a flower press after learning the rules of foraging responsibly. Picking plants is normally not allowed on Schmeckle Reserve but for the sake of the presentation, the audience was allowed a limited time to pick some plants.

The program also provided an informational guide about

foraging that included rules such as "don't be greedy," "leave more than you take," "if there is a group of plants, harvest no more than one third," and "leave enough that it can reseed for the next season," among other guidelines on how to safely and responsibly forage.

This is just one of the many events offered through Friends of Schmeckle. For more information about future events at Schmeckle Reserve, visit <https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/schmeckle/Pages/programs/calendar.aspx>.



Photo by Merita Mehmedi

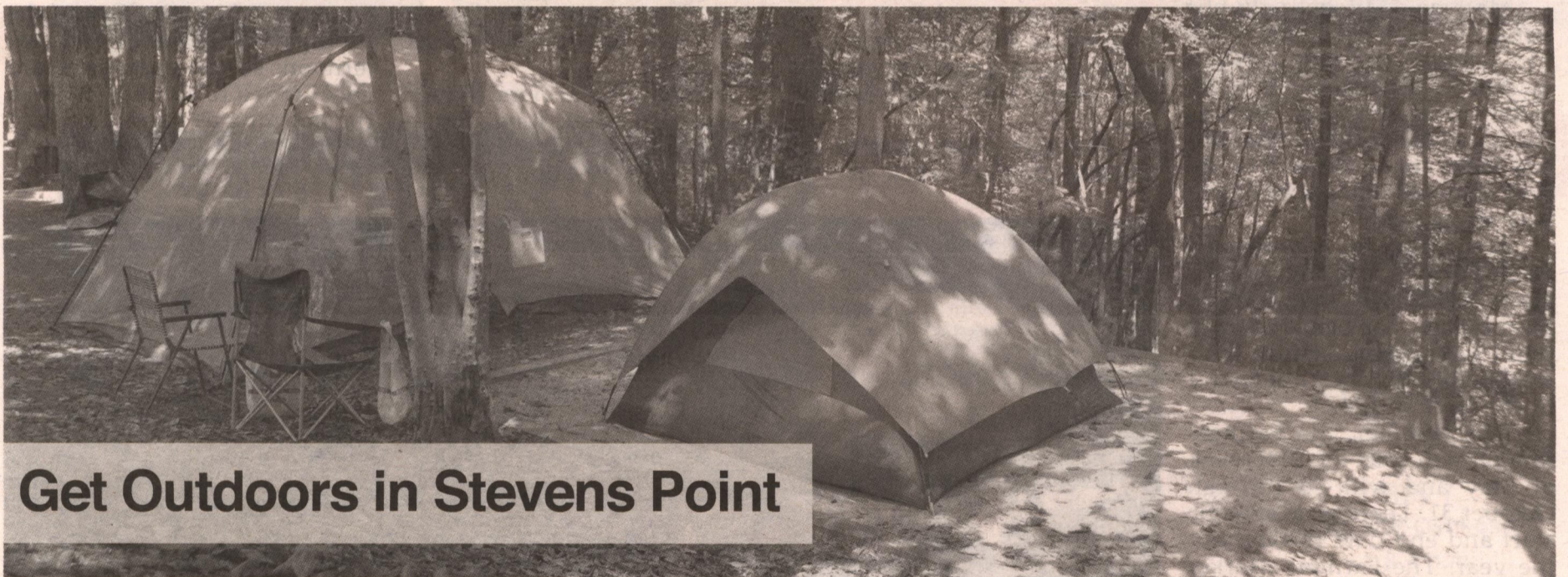


Photo courtesy of Virginia State Parks

Get Outdoors in Stevens Point

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Stevens Point has come alive again over the past few weeks, as the last stubborn feet of snow began to melt. As pale, tired college students finally emerge from their winter hibernation, the feeling of spring is infectious. You can feel the energy and excitement of the countless outdoor adventures summer holds.

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus is nestled between the Plover and Wisconsin Rivers, and is perfectly

situated for kayaking and canoeing. The Plover River is the prime spot for a relaxing float downstream. Canoe and kayak rentals are available at Iverson Park during the summer months. Nature Treks, the business which provides rentals at the park, has a shuttle service so that paddlers do not have to muscle their way back up stream.

The Wisconsin River, another nearby paddling option, is a good place to spot bald eagles. Conditions can vary depending on the weather and the river can turn precarious, especially on windy days. The university's

Outdoor Rentals program, run through Intramurals, also offers kayaks, canoes and canoe trailers.

The massive white pines on the banks of Jordan Pond, offer shade for hammocks, picnickers and bird watchers. Jordan County Park, two miles from Stevens Point, makes up 271 acres. The park is home to many birds. Loons and various duck species paddle around the pond while songbirds dart between the pines. The park houses a campground in addition to several canoe campsites along the Plover River.

Thirty minutes north, Rib

Mountain State Park in Wausau, offers a contrast to the area's typical central Wisconsin topography. Energetic hikers can summit the hilltops through the park's 13 miles of trails. The area is scattered with unique rock formations, and expansive vistas. The 60-foot observation tower on the hilltop amplifies the view.

Despite final exams and projects, the sunshine makes the outdoors nearly impossible to resist. The only solution is to grab both your textbook and a hammock and head outside.



Photo courtesy of the Stevens Point Farmers Market

Stevens Point Farmers Market Withstands Test of Time

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Mathias Mitchell Public Square in Stevens Point holds the longest running farmers market in Wisconsin. It is located in downtown Stevens Point, on the corner of Second and Main street just east of the Wisconsin River, off of Highway 66.

According to the Stevens Point Farmers Market Association, "The two square-block marketplace has been the focal point for farmers selling their wares since Mitchell donated it to the town in 1847."

This summer, the Farmers Market will start the first week of May and will go through October 31. There is no specific start and end date throughout the year. The Farmers Market is open any day that a farmer shows up, but most of the vendors will be there in that time period.

The late snow storm and cold weather has slowed down production of garden vegetables, such as cucumbers and tomatoes.

Daniel Mielke, Farmers Market manager and vendor, said that they were supposed to have tomatoes a long time ago, but the produce was lost due to the weather. Mielke predicted that some vendors won't start selling their vegetables until the middle of May or the beginning of June.

For the first couple of

weeks the Farmers Market will be selling meat, eggs, pickled and canned goods, spices and other pantry items.

"Farmers market is only as good as the customers that show up, so hopefully people will come and visit," Mielke said.

Amongst produce sold by familiar farmers, such as Po-

larek Farms and Maplewood Gardens, there will also be some new vendors this summer, which will include Farm Time Out Aquaponics, Lonely Oak Farm and possibly Free Life Farms.

While the Farmers Market is open all week long, Saturday is the major day that most of the vendors show up. The

farmers begin to set up at 6:30 a.m. and are ready to sell their produce at 7 a.m. The best time to visit the market is between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. Most of the produce is sold out by early afternoon, so the customers are encouraged to come as early in the morning as possible.



Photo courtesy of the Stevens Point Farmers Market

Pointers Sweep Scarlet Hawks in Weekend Baseball Series

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The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point defeated the Illinois Institute of Technology in each of its four matchups at University Field on April 28 and 29. The Pointers claimed their first pair of wins in Saturday's doubleheader by scores of 11-2 and 5-2 to cap off a successful Senior Day in Stevens Point. On Sunday, the Pointers completed the series sweep with 3-0 and 3-1 victories over the Scarlet Hawks.

GAME ONE

In Game 1 of Saturday's doubleheader series, Point was carried by a high-octane offense that tallied 11 runs through eight innings. Scoring contributions came from several different sources, including junior catcher Kyle Mrozinski, who initiated the scoring outburst with a first-inning RBI single to capture the lead for UWSP at 1-0. Freshman infielder Aaron Simmons and freshman outfielder Payton Nelson totaled three RBIs a piece. Junior outfielder Ryan Stanicek blasted a home run in the fifth inning and sophomore outfielder Neal Matson hammered a home run in the eighth inning. Starting pitcher Ben Miller also played a pivotal role in Point's 11-2 win as he kept the Scarlet Hawks off the scoreboard with a no-hit streak that lasted until the sixth inning.

GAME TWO

Pitching continued to be a strong point for UWSP in Game 2 of Saturday's series, as the team allowed just two runs through eight innings. Starting pitcher Tristan Brewer pitched six innings and recorded four strikeouts in the 5-2 victory. Point scored its first run of the game on a sacrificial RBI from junior shortstop William Iloncaie in the third inning. After allowing a game-tying run to the Scarlet Hawks in the fifth inning, sophomore infielder Tommy Duddleston responded with a RBI single to regain the lead for Point at 2-1. Later that inning, Mrozinski drove in two runs on a single to right field. In the seventh inning, Stanicek hammered his second home run of the day to extend Point's lead to 5-1.

GAME THREE

The star of starting pitcher Cole Erickson shone brightly in Game 3 with eight strikeouts and a 3-0 shutout of the Scarlet Hawks in Sunday's first matchup. Freshman outfielder Payton Nelson grounded out a RBI to give UWSP a 1-0 lead in the first inning. In the seventh inning, the Pointers scored on a sacrificial RBI from Stanicek. Later in the inning, Duddleston drove in the team's final run on a single to left field.

GAME FOUR

In Game 4 of the series, UWSP prevailed 3-1 thanks to a dominant pitching performance from starting pitcher Nathan Mulzer, who totaled a career-high 13 strikeouts. Junior outfielder Ryan Stanicek was the sole source of offense for the Pointers as a second inning RBI double and seventh inning home run amounted to UWSP's total of three runs for the game. UWSP baseball will conclude its regular season with conference play against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on May 4 and 5 and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh on May 7 before partaking in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament on May 11 through 13.

THE POINTER IS HIRING!

Available Positions:

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at UW-Whitewater
1 & 4 p.m.

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Must be 18 to apply
Call 715-344-9310 or email kkolton@pointbeer.com

Mission IMPROVable: Spies Steal the Stage in Improv Show

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Imagine you're doing laundry but the basket is a unicorn, the clothes are cheeseburgers and the machine is made out of squirrels. That's just one of the scenarios the award-winning comedy group "Mission IMPROVable" underwent at the Encore at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point on April 27.

The Improv group consisted of four members who referred to themselves as "agents" and called each skit they did "missions" to continue with the theme of their group name "Mission IMPROVable." The name is a homage to the "Mission Impossible" spy movies, which debuted in 1996.

The high-energy program began and ended the same way: with high fives. Before the show started, an "agent" went around and high-fived every individual member of the audience to excite the crowd and keep the energy levels up. After the show ended, the agents waited outside of the exit to high five each audience member again to close the night off on a positive note.

The entire show from start to finish was unscripted and based on random suggestions from the audience. The entire one-and-a-half-hour show was unrehearsed which was very impressive considering the material they had to come up with on the spot.

A particularly humorous moment was when an audience member suggested that Schmeckle Reserve be the setting for the next "mission," but the "agents" did not know what that was. The "agent" referred to it as "Shmilly-Willy Reserve" and "ate" something off the ground to impress a girl with his "forestry

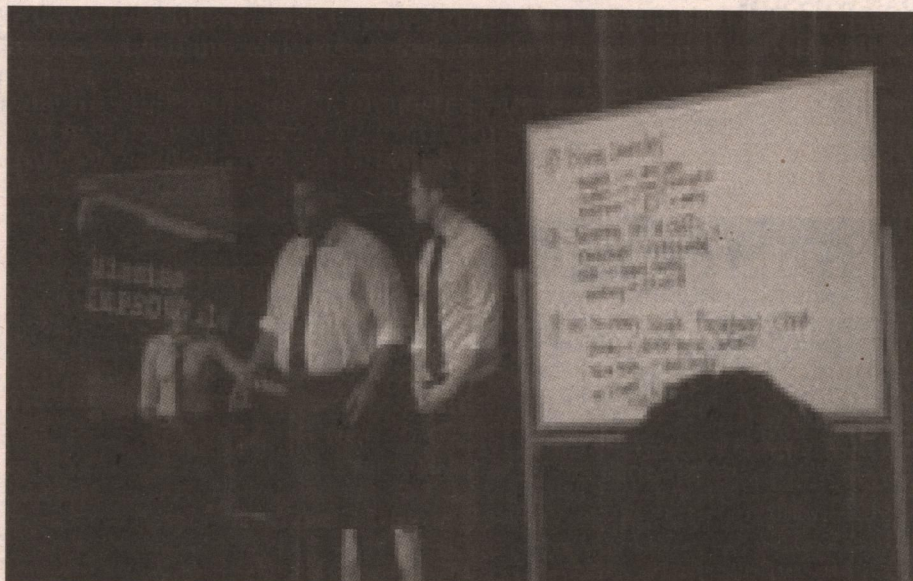
skills." No props are involved so both the "agents" and the audience must use their imagination to see what strange situations they are getting themselves into.

Audience members also had the chance to become "agents" themselves. An interactive element was included into the show when the "agents" asked for brave volunteers. The volunteers got on stage and became part of the improv process by being given random situations from the audience and reacting to them. For example, a volunteer and an "agent" got into an argument over who ate the last slice of five-dollar pizza.

This show demonstrates the impressive mental capacity and creativity of improv actors because what they do is not an easy task. Everything that they do and say is on the spot and based on completely random suggestions from the audience. One must have a lot of skill and training to be able to react to fictitious situations in a humorous way. The laughter was consistent throughout the night, so one could say they did their job well.

"Mission Improvable" is based in Chicago and has traveled around colleges throughout the country. The group has won several awards such as "2016 Best Comedy Artist" and "2011 Winner Best Comedy Performer" from the Campus Activities Magazine Reader's Choice Awards according to Bass Schuler Entertainment.

Those interested can visit <http://bass-schuler.com/mission-improvable/#> for more information about "Mission IMPROVable" and what they do.



Agents perform on the fly at Mission IMPROVable on April 27. Photo by Merita Mehmedi

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EVENTS

Thursday,
May 3

**Black Panther
Showings**

DUC Theater

7-9:15 p.m. and 9:30-
11:45 p.m.

**Wind Ensemble and
Concert Band Concert**

Michelson Hall- NFAC 270

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Friday,
May 4

Company

Studio Theater
NFAC

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Saturday,
May 5

**Black Panther
Showings**

DUC Theater

7-9:15 p.m. and 9:30-
11:45 p.m.

Company

Studio Theater
NFAC

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Sunday,
May 6

Company

Studio Theater
NFAC

2-4 p.m.

Tuesday,
May 8

Senior Showcase

Michelson Hall-
NFAC 270

7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Jazz Ensemble
Concert**

Michelson Hall- NFAC
270

7:30-9:30 p.m.



Songs of Spain: Ellen Ryder Fuses Music and Travel

A sunset view overlooking the Ría de Vigo in Vigo, Spain. Photo by Ellen Ryder.

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University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point student Ellen Ryder presented and performed a unique recital in late February inspired by her recent study abroad experience in Spain, sharing stories, memories and songs from the trip but also music she has been working on at UWSP.

Some of the selections featured from her travels included a set of songs, *Parábolos*, from a Spanish composer, Jesús Legido, whom Ryder met.

"A semester before I went, I emailed him after seeing his website online. He said that he would be delighted to give me some of his music and to sit down and talk about it with me," Ryder said. "I specifically chose *Parábolos* because the text is by my favorite Spanish poet named Antonio Machado."

Ryder lived in Valladolid, Spain, for the semester before exploring more of Europe and North Africa. While reflecting on her travels, she explained how it also influenced her musicianship.

"Being in Spain has taught me even more that music and language go hand in hand and that both are intrinsically connected to the Spanish culture," Ryder said.

Ryder is a junior, double majoring in Spanish education and vocal performance music. Music majors often give a recital or two throughout their time at UWSP for department faculty, family



Photo by Katy Radiske

and friends. These performances are also open to the community. The student gets to pick the music they want to perform, often in a variety of languages.

Ryder said one of her favorite genres of vocal music is German art songs, specifically Schubert lieder.

"I love the text and sensitivity of an art song," Ryder said.

Ryder also noted that operatic music, such as arias, is a fun challenge for her because she gets to portray different characters. All music performed is written by the great composers throughout time but Ryder also composed a piece herself.

"I sang a song that I composed myself during my time abroad. I took a poem by Machado that I deeply connected with and made it into a song," Ryder said.

She explained that music has always been a creative outlet and a comfort to her throughout childhood and her education. In college, she realized she wanted to share the impact music had on her with the world.

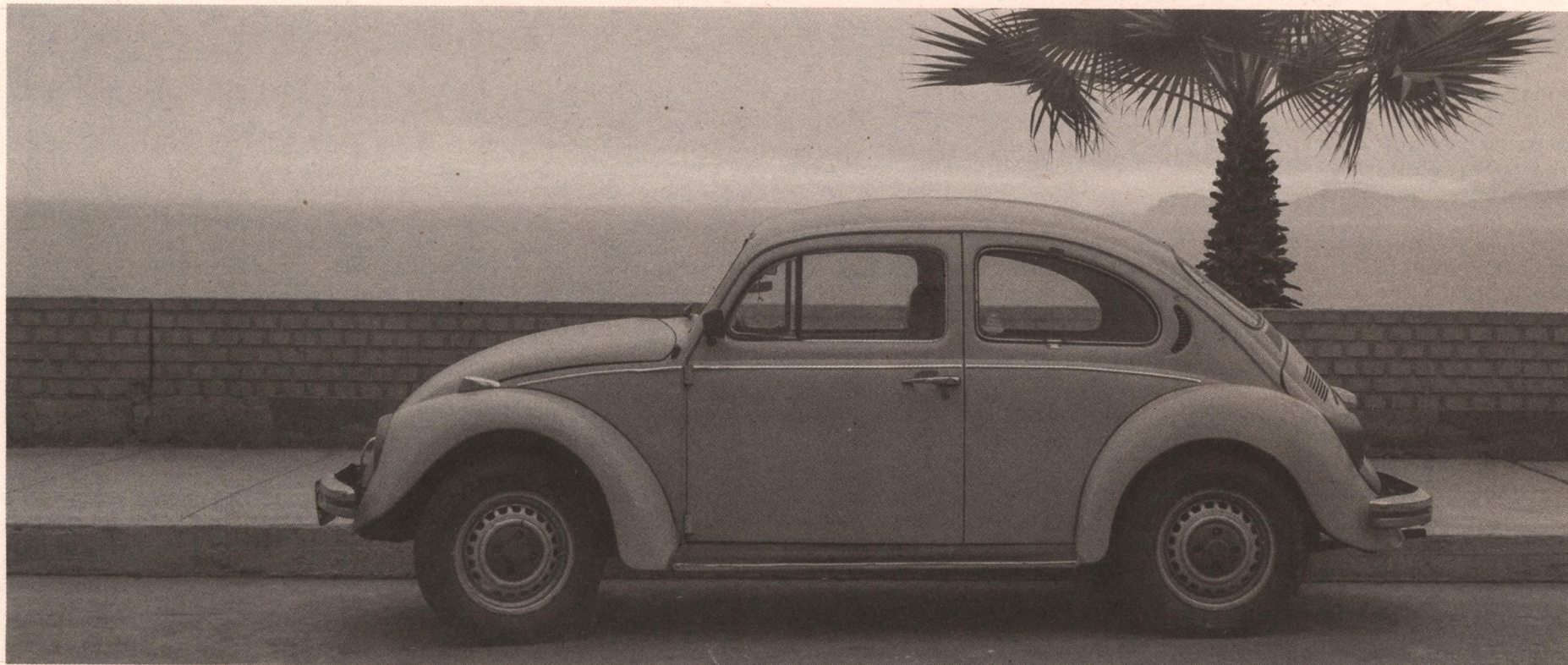
"Music has the tremendous ability to unite us as people and to help us understand ourselves and our feelings," Ryder said. "I am called to be a musician because I feel the need to make music not only for myself, but for the world."

However, being a musician isn't without its challenges. Ryder eloquently explained the constant revision and refinement many artists face with their craft.

"Talent is nothing without a strong work ethic and a drive to improve yourself every day," said Ryder. Students who show progress in the music program are the ones who are approved to give recitals.

Ryder expressed that the best part about studying both music and languages is that her work is never done. "Everything that I learn benefits what I do as an artist, performer, and Spanish speaker," Ryder said.

In the fall, Ryder plans to perform another recital. She said a goal is to one day sing with a full orchestra. Until then, she is enjoying her time at UWSP and taking every opportunity she can to perform.



Photos by Casey French

Pointer Spotlight: Casey French

ELIZABETH OLSON
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Since graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 2014, Casey French has set his sights—and his camera lens—on the world.

During his time at UWSP, he majored in international studies with a minor in Spanish, but that wasn't always the case.

"When I transferred from UW-Fond du Lac to Point, I initially went for natural resource management. It wasn't a good fit for me and my first semester was tough," French said.

"So I changed to International Studies and my professors shaped my understanding of the world around me. It opened many doors for me and I owe all my success and accomplishments to UWSP. I don't think I would have been where I am at without them."

While French is interested in seeing the whole world, Latin America holds a special place in his heart. His love and appreciation for Latin American culture inspired him to specialize his studies in Latin American history and politics.

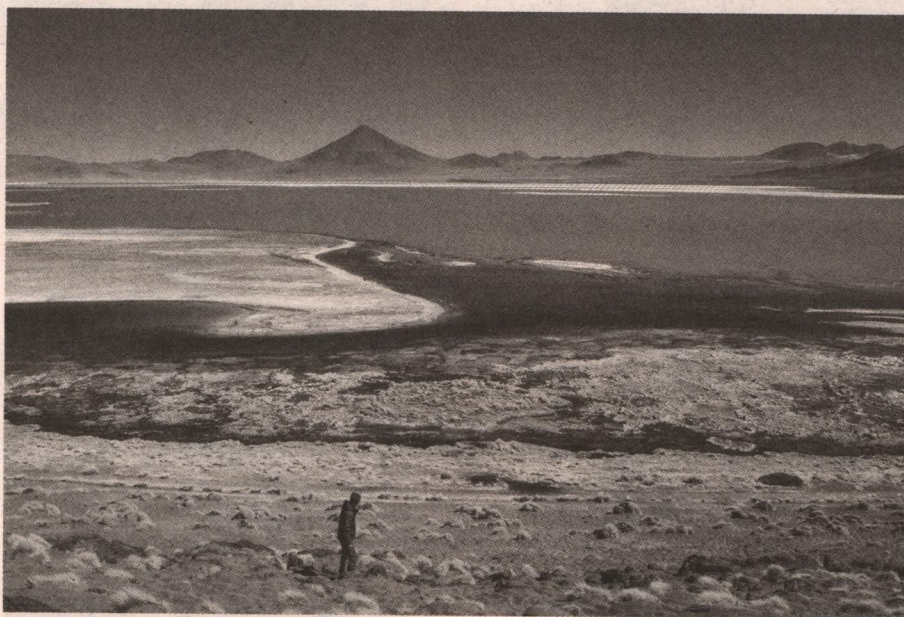
As his interest in the world grew, so did his desire to capture it in photographs.

"Photography stumbled into my life by accident. It just became this natural thing for me. I never took classes—and it showed initially—but through trial and error, I discovered how passionate I was toward documenting the world around me," French said. "My first time abroad really enhanced these feelings, because I wanted to show my family and friends back home that there is

more to see outside the U.S."

This first experience abroad was to Colombia in 2014, following his graduation. What started as a trip ended up being a five-month stint in South America where he set out to capture the beauty in the landscapes, architecture and vibrant life of the local people.

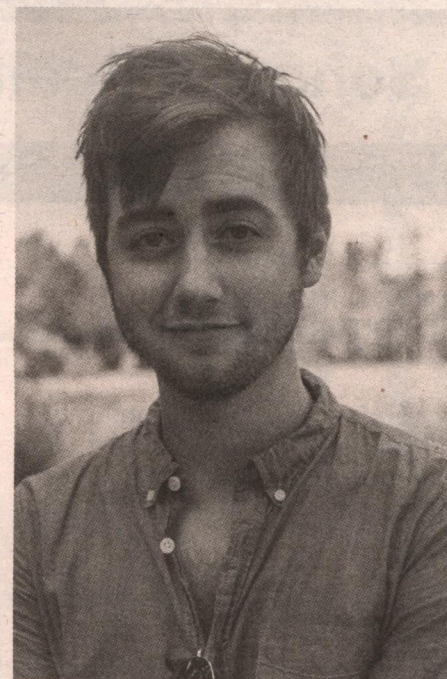
"When I travel, it is not a vacation, but an opportunity to capture a foreign world. Instead of waiting for a scene to occur, I jump into the thick of it and



walk constantly until my feet can barely support me. I am always moving, always curious what is around the corner," French said.

French is currently incorporating his love of photography into his job working at a Fond Du Lac homeless shelter by photographing and documenting the stories of the people living there, similar to the work that Brandon Stanton does on his popular photoblog, Humans of New York.

French's work has been published multiple times by Footprint Travel guides and has been selected as National Geographic's photo of the day. His



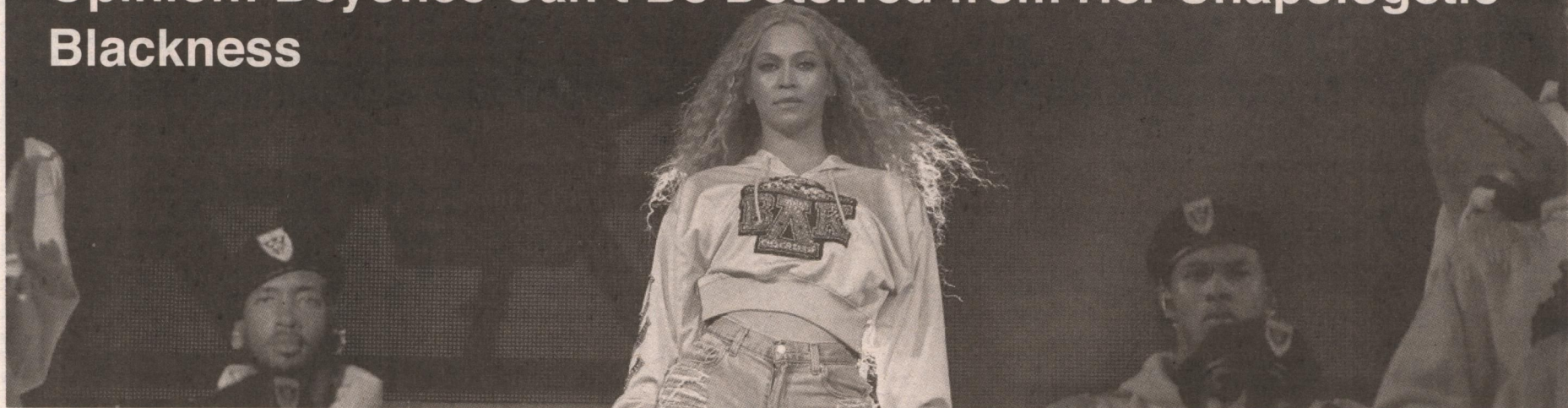
work is also displayed and sold at various galleries across Wisconsin.

While selling work and being part of galleries is valuable experience, French doesn't see his art as just a business venture. To him, photography is personal and representative of his experiences in life. If his prints don't sell at a gallery, he is just as content hanging them on his own wall.

The passion and mindset French has towards photography is best summed up by his advice to any aspiring travel photographers: "Although most of my photographs are premeditated, some of my absolute favorites are spontaneous. Be aware of your surroundings, because maybe the shot you're looking for is behind you. Most importantly, these experiences are yours forever. Always shoot for yourself."

More of French's photographs and information on his upcoming gallery shows can be found at www.caseyfrenchphotography.com.

Opinion: Beyoncé Can't Be Deterred from Her Unapologetic Blackness



Larry Busacca/Getty Images for Coachella

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I impatiently stayed up until 1 a.m. to watch Beyoncé perform at Coachella on April 14. I knew it was going to be momentous performance when she wrote a post on Facebook where she urged fans to get hydrated and to make sure their phones were charged. For a woman who is known for surprise releases without notice, her fair warning could only lead us to imagine the legendary performance she was about to give us.

And deliver she did: I was legitimately shaken afterwards. It was the dead of night, and I was enchanted by the performance I just witnessed. The set, the dancers, the reunion of Destiny's Child, appearances from her sister and husband; no holds were barred.

The performance will be hailed as one of her best performances, no doubt, but also as a turning point for Beyoncé. It will mark the time she let it be fully known that she was going to celebrate her blackness unapologetically.

Beyoncé's theme for her performance was a tribute to "Historically Black Colleges and Universities," or HBCU's for

short. These institutions were havens for black students wanting to further their education. They were established before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, with the purpose of African-Americans creating their own space of higher learning while they were barred from other institutions.

The performance featured a large marching band comprised of Black men and women, who added a vibrant energy that revitalized and reimagined the classics from her catalog. The performance incorporated elements of HBCU culture and highlighted Black power. From the inclusion of interlude quotes from Malcolm X, to imagery of Nefertiti, an Egyptian queen who represents Black roots to royalty. Beyoncé performed "Lift Every Voice," otherwise known as the "Black National Anthem," and gave homage to Black dances like stepping and the swing surf.

Beyoncé is the first ever Black woman to headline the festival. She referenced that we still have a ways to go regarding representations and thanked the women that paved the way for her. This was especially powerful given the circumstances surrounding the festival.

Most of Coachella's attendees are Caucasian, and it is in-

herently political to present a performance dedicated to a culture that is not readily known by the audience. She didn't cater her set for wide appeal. This performance was an ode to Black people; a celebratory embrace of the width and depth of our culture.

Mrs. Tina Knowles-Lawson, Beyoncé's mother, revealed behind-the-scenes information that I think helped color the importance of this performance. She stated that she initially brought up her hesitations about the production to her daughter. She was scared that the majority Caucasian audience wouldn't get it. Beyoncé assured her that given the platform she cultivated for herself, she has "a responsibility to do what's best for the world and not what is most popular."

She desired to celebrate Historically Black Colleges, shining a light onto them and their rich culture. She hoped young audience members would be inspired to research these references and see how cool they are for themselves.

Although she has been exploring themes of Black power and feminism in her last two studio albums "Beyoncé" and "Lemonade", this performance made a specific statement of

the future of Beyoncé's brand. This performance proudly proclaimed that she cannot be deterred from celebrating her blackness anymore. And this leads me to wonder about future performances, particularly her upcoming tour with her husband, Jay-Z.

On the Run II is the upcoming joint tour by Beyoncé and Jay-Z. A sequel to their previous joint tour, On the Run, the duo will begin performances on June 6 starting in Great Britain.

With her Coachella performance in mind, I can guarantee this is only the beginning for a liberated Beyoncé; a woman who has reached a comfortable place in her career that allows her to explore creatively without censorship. It will be fascinating to see her explore themes regarding her identities as a black woman, a mother and wife. Especially after the reveal of Jay-Z's infidelity in the past.

In a speech that Malcolm X gave in May of 1962, he famously stated, "The most disrespected woman in America, is the black woman... The most neglected person in America, is the black woman." For Beyoncé to cultivate the power she possesses in our society is a testament to her hold on pop culture and her own sheer will.

The Song Goes On with A Cappella UWSP

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Since the creation of A Cappella UWSP, concerts by the musical groups have been incredibly popular. With a noticeable trend of selling out a majority of their semesterly concerts, this year, they decided to do two concerts in one semester's time.

The Sham-ROCK performance took place on March 14 and was a wildly successful concert, featuring all four ensembles performing on one stage for the first time ever. The next approaching concert, The Song Goes On, will be taking place on May 5 at 6 p.m. in the Laird Room of the Dreyfus University

Center.

The Laird Room is the largest venue that A Cappella UWSP has ever held a performance in. After being forced to turn away audience members due to the sold out concert in December, the executive board opted for a larger venue, which seats close to 400 people, double the size of any venue they've had in the past.

Once again, all four ensembles will be featured performances.

Sforzando, a co-ed ensemble, will open the concert and will be followed by an equally amazing co-ed group, No Strings Attached. On Point, the all male ensemble, will perform next, before a brief intermission. During

the break, audience members are encouraged to donate while light concessions are served. Merchandise from ensembles will also be for sale during this time.

Following intermission, Aca-Workshop, a non-auditioned group that focuses on developing the basic skills associated with a cappella singing, will perform a short set. The last official ensemble to perform will be The Point Pitches, an all female ensemble.

After all ensembles have performed individually, everyone will gather on stage for a group song. This year, the song is "You Will Be Found" from the Tony award winning Broadway musical, Dear Evan Hansen.

The powerful arrangement was composed by A Capella UWSP President Stephen Calgaro and is sure to bring tears to the eyes of audience members.

In addition, a portion of profits made from this concert will go to The Trevor Project, which leads the way in suicide prevention among LGBTQ+ youth around the country.

Tickets are currently on sale at the DUC Ticket and Information Desk, or online at http://uwsptickets.universitytickets.com/user_pages/event.asp?id=649&cid=36. They are \$9 for adults, \$5 for seniors/students/youth, and students can get a ticket free the day of the concert with a student ID.

CREATIVE CREATIONS: OUR LOCAL BREAD MAKER

Alyssa Giaimo
Reporter
alyssa.n.giaimo@uwsp.edu

"The discovery in every loaf fuels me."



Photos by Manuel N Silva

Matt Groshek is both a charismatic and passionate UWSP graphic design professor and a sourdough master. His connection to food has always been alive and budding and his kitchen is a testament to it all. Living in his childhood home, Matt tends to his and his partner's chickens for farm fresh eggs, his bees for local honey, and his land for mushrooms, rhubarb, apples and more. The building inspiration from friends, books and communities inspired Matt to finally open his micro-bakery.

Wild Rise Artisan Breads currently has ten individuals buying a Community Supported Agriculture share of his perfected loaves.

The micro-bakery uses wild yeast cultured for over 15 years, organic Wisconsin local flour from Great River Milling Company and years of dedication to create something unique and delicious every single time. Matt discusses how the process of bread making is this perfect combination of science and alchemy. With every ingredient precisely weighed and handled with

care, the development of flavors excites him. Even each changing season calls for different reactions and accommodations to the reactive dough. When bubbling and growth is en sue, Matt is sure to finish the loaves' transformation in a prepared cast iron vessel. This type of baking re-infuses the moisture within the loaf and takes only 40 minutes to cook.

A favorite moment for Matt is appreciating the loaf's essence when it's cooling. "It's singing! You can hear the crust."

Matt creates a variety of loaves, from a classic sourdough, to rye-coriander-orange, each allowing for something new to marvel over. The deep caramelized crust is one you wouldn't forget, as it's strength coupled with the soft and chewy center is perfect for all kinds of eating. Matt's favorite way to eat his bread is by lightly pan searing it and rubbing fresh garlic on it and a drizzle of olive oil. He also enjoys it with soups, pastas, as a grilled cheese sandwich and more.

Matt is a unique professor and shows his students his personal side and how these other interests make him a multi-dimensional creative. By sharing his passion for baking bread, students are able to see that this form of creativity helps him as a designer and an individual.

As each day calls for discovery, maybe a slice of Matt's bread is all we need.

To find out more about the budding Wild Rise Artisan Breads, feel free to contact wildrisebread@execpc.com.

Photos by Nomin Erdenebileg



Humans of Point:

AMBER MATHISON

is a sophomore biology and wildlife ecology major.



Now that finals are getting closer, what's your favorite way to de-stress?

I like to read a lot! I'm a pretty avid reader.

What's your favorite study spot on campus?

I study a lot in the library on the first floor, or outside on the tables.

Which class has been your favorite this semester?

That's a tough one because I don't really like any of my classes right now. I'd say NRES 251. I have soils, which I didn't really know much about soils until I took that class and I wouldn't have taken it if it wasn't required. So, I'm very interested in it now.