Kavanaugh’s Confirmation Isn’t a Win, Even for Republicans

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I wholeheartedly believe that the hearings surrounding Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s nomination into the Supreme Court will be remembered historically for years to come. Never has confirmation hearings been this saturated in the media; trying to avoid the news surrounding them was practically impossible. All this was in turn because of the bravery of a woman named Christine Blasey Ford. Dr. Ford is a professor of psychology at Palo Alto University with an impressive resume.

I knew what the backlash coming forward would bring. Although so much progress regarding procuring justice for sexual assault victims has occurred through the MeToo movement, with it came vitriol quarters of those detained came from Mexico.

Mayor Paul Soglin and Dane County Sheriff David Mahoney, along with activist groups such as Voces de La Frontera, accused I.C.E. of misconduct shortly after these arrests.

They claimed that the federal officers often came heavily armed and had intentionally falsely identified themselves as local police. Local law enforcement was never contacted nor warned of this impersonation.

Problems with I.C.E. impersonating police have been reported across the country for several years, but the act is still legal for areas within the 100-mile border zone. This zone constitutes any area within 100 miles of any border or major body of water in the U.S.

About two-thirds of the U.S. population reside within the 100-mile zone. The faculty of immigration enforcement is not limited to these zones, however, as unreasonable searches are still illegal.

Most of Wisconsin stands within the 100-mile border zone, including the city of Stevens Point. Last month, three UWSP students had traveled in a car with an undocumented resident of Stevens Point. These people were halted continued on page 8
Communication Week Returns Oct. 15-18

For students in communication and arts management, Homecoming Week has always been about more than just football, cornhole in the yard, and house parties - it has also been about opportunities to meet with and learn from successful alumni in their fields.

The Division of Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point is hosting its ninth consecutive Communication Week starting Monday. The event, which features classroom visits, networking hours, meetings with student groups and other activities for invited alumni guests, was re instituted in 2010 after being held regularly during the 1990s, according to Michelle Herman, administrative department assistant in communication and member of the division's marketing and promotion committee.

"It's a great way to bring alumni back to campus during our Homecoming week and let our students hear from them about their experiences and successes," Herman said. "Students get a lot out of it, and alumni couldn't be more thrilled with the opportunity to catch up with the campus and, most of all, to get to know current students."

Alumni represent a range of graduates from the recent to those who have been established in their fields for decades, Herman said.

The alumni also get a chance to socialize with faculty during welcoming sessions with coffee and during a daily lunch for faculty and guests.

Guests for Monday, Oct. 15, include 2002 communication graduate Kristen Biadasz and Emily Goretski, a 2015 arts management and Spanish graduate. Biadasz is senior product manager for professional development with Renaissance Learning in Wisconsin Rapids, and Goretski is programming and community engagement coordinator with Madison's Overture Center for the Arts.

On Tuesday, students will meet Matthew Gonring, a 1978 communication and political science graduate who is president of MP Gonring Associates in Libertyville, Illinois, and Dana Marie Sonnenberg, a 2016 arts management graduate who is a program associate with ArtsLab in Minneapolis.

Three guests will visit Wednesday, including Emily Glin ski, Zac Otzelberger, and Kassandra Sepeda.

Glin ski, a 2015 communication graduate, is a digital media specialist with Skyward in Stevens Point and also runs her own photography business. Otzelberger graduated with a communication degree in 2003 and is a marketing specialist and student marketing team manager at the University Centers. Sepeda is a 2013 communication graduate who is a producer and anchor at WSAW television in Wausau.

The week concludes Thursday with three more guests. Scott Clark, a 2010 communication graduate, works with Martin Security Systems in Green Bay. Lynn Kordus, who received bachelor's and master's degrees at UWSP in communication, as well as undergraduate degrees in English and secondary education, is a lecturer in communication at UWSP, UWSP-Wausau, and the UW Colleges. Jenna Craryton, a 2015 communication graduate, is assistant farm director for Mid-West Family Broadcasting in Madison.

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Cornerstone Press Launches
First of New Book Series

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Last Wednesday, UW-Stevens Point's Cornerstone Publishing launched a new book titled "Ecological Reflections on Post-Capitalist Society" by Clint Jones, a UWSP professor.

The book launch took place on Wednesday, Sept. 26, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., in Michelson Hall of the Noel Fine Arts Center. The book is the first in Cornerstone's new series that will be dealing with environmental issues: The J. Baird Callicott Environmental Humanities Series.

The event held four speakers: Ross Tangedal, Publisher-in-Chief at Cornerstone Press; Christian Diehm, Environmental Ethics coordinator; J. Baird Callicott, a leading environmental philosopher; and Clint Jones, author and lecturer of Philosophy.

At the event, Jones gave a lecture detailing an in-the-works post-existentialist ideology that he referred to as ecostenchialism. "If you're not worried about global climate shift, you're not paying attention — that goes without saying," said Jones at the launch.

Jones's lecture approached climate-change from the perspective of humans' understanding of themselves. Jones said "Monsters are fanciful creatures — the products of imaginations beset on wonder and fear. Is that not a description of our current circumstances? Does climate change not besiege us with wonder and fear?"

"The book was developed from a set of lectures that Dr. Jones gave to a wide range of people — from students, to community members, to faculty," says Tangedal. Jones began work on his book in March and based it on the 12 lectures he had been invited to give at College Greens meetings.

The lectures Jones had given were often either prompted or improved through his audience's feedback. "It's kind of weird to call it a lecture, because it's not really it's meant to be a discussion," says Jones. "It's very much a project of dialogue."

"The effect of the book should really be that it's like you're in a good class," says Tangedal. "It's as if you're engaging with a teacher who's working through very complex ideas in a way that is both approachable and thought-provoking."

The ideas of "Ecological Reflections" primarily tackle the unsustainability of capitalist societies today. "Capitalism is running amok," says Jones, "What we need is a sort of a way forward — a way to think our way out of this problem?"

Cornerstone began development on the book in April, and a small team of students worked on the piece with Tangedal over the summer. Ken Larson created the cover's artwork, Richard Wilkosz designed the cover, Alexis Neeley was copy-editor, and Maddie Swanger proofread the book.

"The whole project is a student project," says Jones, "this project is 95 percent student-driven and five percent faculty-driven."

According to their website, Cornerstone's new series will publish "a collection of essays by an emerging or established scholar in environmental studies each Fall," directed and reviewed by a team of faculty from UWSP.

Cornerstone Press is one of four student-run publishing houses in the country. The organization was established in 1984 and has published 39 titles to date. "Ecological Reflections" is the 39th Cornerstone publication.

Since neither Jones nor Callicott will collect any royalties, all proceeds from "Ecological Reflections" go back into Cornerstone's operating budget.

Callicott, the namesake of Cornerstone's new series, is a prominent figure in environmental philosophy. He worked at UWSP from 1969 to 1995, where he taught the world's first course on environmental ethics in 1971. He also once served as president of the International Society for Environmental Ethics.

Callicott is currently a Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at the Institute of Applied Sciences in the University of North Texas.

Jones is currently working on another lecture-series that will be a continuation of "Ecological Reflections." He is also finishing a book on apocalyptic ecology, that "will hopefully be out next spring or summer."

Cornerstone's next publication is expected to come out this December.

"I'm terribly proud of the book, of our association with Dr. Jones," says Tangedal.

continued from page 1

by supposed police, who identified multiple warrants for the undocumented person. The person was arrested, and I.C.E. then detained the individual.

"Our undocumented community is pretty worried right now — and so are our students," says Lizette Rivera, Director of UWSP's Diversity and College Access. "We have students who are undocumented here, or, at least their parents are undocumented."

Last week, the Student Government Association and Inclusivity Council held tabling in the DUC. Volunteers handed out informational papers and "Know Your Rights" cards to students.

The small cards were available in English, Spanish, and

Hmong. One side briefly lists the constitutional rights of the holder, regardless of citizenship. The holder can also give the card to police or I.C.E. officers, as the other side features a statement of refusal to consent to any unlawful search or questioning.

"On Monday, Diversity Council held a special meeting with the UWSP Police Chief, Tony Balz," said Trisha Lamers, chair of the Diversity Council. The Diversity Council plans to work with UWSP Police to "ensure the physical and psychological well-being of our students."

"We will be bringing a non-profit agency that does advocacy work for undocumented people" says Rivera. "We are bringing them in November to do a Know Your Rights campaign."
No School Like the Home School: A Look at Homeschooling in Wisconsin

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Sometimes homeschooling works out just fine. After twelve years of parentally guided education, a student emerges, well-adjusted and ready for the world. So is homeschooling a legitimate alternative to public and private schools? We’re here to say that it is, if a somewhat risky alternative.

Anybody who was homeschooled themselves will already be familiar with the specific stare people give you when they find out you were homeschooled. It’s as if somebody had whispered in their ear that you were the last of a rare and exotic species.

But really there’s nothing exotic about homeschooling. What could be less exotic than spending every second of every day at home with your brothers, sisters, and parents?

For homeschoolers, most days after grade seven are spent with a stack of text books,cloak-tered away in a bedroom or family room, reading and working in more or less silence.

Whether or not this course work will be graded at all varies greatly from family to family. Parents that choose to homeschool their kids are rarely trained teachers, and often, grading algebra or history assignments can seem like a massive undertaking, especially in your larger households.

Does neglecting grading of assignments constitute a shirking of responsibility on the part of homeschooling parents? That’s not for us to say. However, we can say that a large number of homeschooled students in Wisconsin will graduate from high school in June 2019 with soaring duplicitious GPAs.

However, there are many families that take the grading of coursework extremely seriously. But the lack of seriousness with which many families treat this issue is a small wonder in a state like Wisconsin where there is so little oversight required for homeschooling.

The only state provided oversight is a form that must be filed with the Department of Public Instruction for each child before Oct. 15 of every school year. On this form you certify to provide 875 instructional hours, but nobody will ever know if the real number was closer to 700.

Some states send a teacher to the home to verify the course work is sufficient, or require mandatory testing of homeschooled students, but not Wisconsin.

This freedom can at times feel like a blessing to the student. Want to go to a friend’s house on Friday instead of doing school? Just double up on Thursday.

But homeschooled life is not all getting done with course work early. Often it can be agonizingly boring. For reasons that will not be hard to understand, friend groups among homeschoolers tend to be small and close knit.

Up until 2015 in Wisconsin, homeschooled students were not allowed to participate in sporting activities at public schools, a law that served to exacerbate the difficulty homeschooled students experience finding avenues for socialization.

Poor oversight, and difficulties with socialization are the two primary concerns that people have about homeschooling. It is not easy to ensure that what is being taught, is what should be taught. Perhaps this is why homeschooling is illegal in Germany.

Until Wisconsin changes the law and requires more oversight, choosing to homeschool remains a gamble. It’s hard to ensure that homeschooling is done correctly, and requires a lot from the parents and children alike since nobody is there to ensure that the lessons are taught effectively, or that the students are getting the socialization they need.

We feel homeschooling is a fine alternative when done right, but in Wisconsin, it is very easy to do it poorly.

Review of the Common Ground Cafe

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It may seem like an average campus cafe from the outside, but Common Grounds cafe in the Biochemistry building is anything but.

I went there on a Friday afternoon around 12:30 p.m. and was immediately greeted with the fresh aroma of coffee. It was not busy at all and I was able to get a good view of the menu before making a choice.

The employees there answered my questions and were very helpful. They were also in high spirits with laughter and smiles all around.

The menu itself is clever and modern. They serve an abundance of coffee, tea, lattes, smoothies, and hot chocolate, and these are all labeled as elements on the periodic table. They are color-coded, with coffees, teas, and lattes being a nice seafoam green; bakery items and extra shot/flavor options in a true royal blue; mochas in a forest green; smoothies in a warm, tropical orange/yellow variance. The composition of the menu itself is digital, which allows easy reading and minimizes glare despite being illuminated by natural light.

They also serve special monthly drinks. This month they have a super seasonal pumpkin cara-mel cheesecake, butterscotch caramel, and caramel butter rum just to name a few.

Another unique choice they offer are Zest bars, cookies, and cakes which I find awesome and a great way to connect local businesses with campus.

I ordered a tropical twist smoothie and a gluten free brownie. The tropical twist was a combination of raspberry and mango—a beautiful combination of sweet and tangy. All smoothies are served in a 16 oz cup. The brownie was super rich in flavor and melt-in-your-mouth. It was dusted with powdered sugar which added a little extra sweetness but not too much.

I definitely like the array of choices better than the Home-grown Cafe in the Dreyfus University Center.

They also serve salads, bagels, donuts, muffins and some Coke products.

The only complaints I have are that it’s a little expensive (my total was a little over $8.00) and the smoothie, delicious though it was, was extremely sweet and I was unable to finish the whole thing.

Overall, Common Grounds cafe is innovative and contemporary, serving everything students need to get through the day.
Curbside Compost Pickup Comes to Stevens Point

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Two local farms, Rising Sand Organics and Whitefeather Organics, are partnering to offer a compost pick-up service in Stevens Point. Each Thursday they collect five-gallon buckets full of compost from homes around town.

The waste is taken to Whitefeather Organics where it is composted further. Eventually the compost will be used to fertilize fields at Whitefeather Organics and Rising Sand Organics.

For Kelly Adlington, from Rising Sand Organics, diverting waste from landfills is an important motivation for composting. Adlington, a UWSP alumna with a degree in waste management, described visiting closed landfills, which must still be monitored for the gas they continue to emit.

"There is all this infrastructure that needs to exist to be monitoring all this stuff and make sure that it's not contaminating groundwater and the air and the environment in general. People live around landfills, people drink groundwater around landfills and what creates this gas is mainly organic material," Adlington said.

Landfills do produce large amounts of greenhouse gas. The Environmental Protection agency lists landfills as the third greatest human contributor to methane in the country. Organic waste is the source of this pollution, emitting large amounts of methane and carbon dioxide. While both these gases contribute to climate change, methane is particularly powerful, trapping over 28 times more heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, according to the EPA.

Though the amount of food we throw away may seem insignificant, it adds up, accounting for 22 percent of municipal solid waste. When it comes to our daily trash, food is the largest contributor in comparison to any other individual item, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

This large proportion of organic waste could be diverted from landfills entirely and used as compost. This would drastically reduce the amount of greenhouse gases produced by landfills.

Even so, most cities do not have a separate compost collection. Rising Sand Organics and Whitefeather Organics aim to fill this gap by giving Stevens Point residents an avenue for their compost.

Susanna Baker, junior waste management major, is the compost intern at Rising Sand Organics. She describes composting as an imitation of the natural process. "It turns a linear process into a cycle again which is the way things are naturally supposed to be and it creates food again," Baker said.

Growing food is exactly how the farms plan to use the compost, which will be applied to their fields to grow vegetables. Adlington said that from a farmer's perspective, compost has immense value as a fertilizer. "We will be creating a really positive impact by creating this compost that we are going to use for organic vegetables," Adlington said.

Baker and Adlington said the service has been met with an enthusiastic response. Their clients now include forty Stevens Point residents and five businesses: the Stevens Point Co-op, Main Grain, the Wick- ed Willow, Father Fats and Rockman Catering.

Pickup is available on a weekly or biweekly basis. The service costs $11.38 per month, for biweekly pick-up, or $109 for a year. Adlington said that interested students may be able to exchange work for free pick-up. There is also a free compost drop-off location on Union street which can be used on Thursdays. Those interested in the compost service can email kelly@risingsand.com or visit risingsand.com.
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SPORTS REPORTER
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Sports reporter Dana Bautch got the chance to sit down with with Freshman Cross Country runner Kalena Clauer for this weeks Pointer Profile.

What major are you? Chemistry.

When did you start running? When I was a freshman in high school.

How does having cancer and missing half a lung affect your running? It's much more difficult [to run with half a lung] than everyone else has to deal with. Like obviously, people will be asthmatic or if you are out of shape its hard to breathe well I'm missing a little over half of my left lung, I had it removed when I was 15 it was a congenital issue, surgery didn't go well there was a whole disaster with that, I remember what it was like to have both lungs and I don't feel that way anymore. It hurts to run but you kinda just get used to it. I'm used to running when my body isn't working so like I just get used to it. There is nothing you can do. there are still times where I'm like 'gosh I used to be able to do this but you kinda just get used to it. There is nothing I can kinda just quit running which is fine everyone would understand but I don't think I would ever understand. I would be sad and obviously, I can just start over like no one says that I have to be faster than I was before. Every year after a different treatment or surgery I'm like 'alright it's day 0 we are going to see how fast you can get and the next day you just work for it.

Personal Goals?
I've never run a 6k before, so I would like to be able to complete all of the races its a pretty achievable goal for me. Right now is my first year ever trying to compete in cross country without a thyroid which obviously I lost that due to my cancer surgery so this is completely new to me. running like this it's gonna be harder without knowing what I can do so I have no specific time goals because of that.

When did you have your thyroid surgery done?
I have thyroid cancer so you just take out the whole thyroid. My surgery was done in February and I have radiation in March so everything is very fresh this year.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years? I'm a chem major so I'd like to continue advancing in that career sense. I really like chem, I have to deal with it constantly so when you deal with it you want to learn more about it so I'd like to be able to just handle my condition more. And continue my advocacy of childhood cancer and stuff like that.

In May this past year, you did a fundraiser that raised over $6,000 for Milwaukee Children's Hospital. Are you going to continue to do fundraisers like this?
Yeah, I'd like to continue to do as much as possible. Obviously, September just ended which is childhood cancer awareness month so our cross country team just did something on our Alumni Meet. Among our team, family, and track team we raised just about $400 for childhood cancer so we sent that also to children's hospital. So just small stuff but just spreading awareness and being able to talk about it is just as important. Money is not the most important thing.

What is your favorite part about Cross country?
I just think its a really cool sport most people see 'oh you're a runner? that must suck' when like the thing is it doesn't. Like yeah running 12 miles is hard, I don't think there is a single runner that is going to deny that but you feel so validated when you are done like 'oh my god I just did that' and your whole team is with you, it doesn't matter how fast you are just the fact that you are out there. It's a very family vibe and it's really fun.

FAVORITES:
Color: Orange
Food: Frozen Raspberries, they are way better when they are frozen it's like candy
Animal: Alpacas

Pointer Profile:
Kalena Clauer

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Does missing half a lung affect your normal life? It does and it doesn't like you get used to it. I've been like this for three years now and I mean there are still times where I'm like 'gosh I used to be able to do this and now I can't. Sometimes I have to fight just to get each breath in, it just depends on the day. It's hard but you get used to it. There is nothing I can change about it so I kinda just accepted the fact that it's gonna be hard and that's all that you can do.

What pushed you to keep going after you had your lung surgery? I was kinda in denial, I was just kinda denying the fact that I would change. And then I did a year of running and it was really hard and really emotionally draining and then I realized like yeah it's gonna be different but if I give up I feel like then you're just kinda accepting the fact that this illness is changing who I am as a person and sure I'm gonna have this illness for the rest of my life and once you realize that then I can kinda just quit running which is fine everyone would understand but I don't think I would ever understand. I would be sad and obviously, I can just start over like no one says that I have to be faster than I was before. Every year after a different treatment or surgery I'm like 'alright it's day 0 we are going to see how fast you can get and the next day you just work for it.

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Tackling Breast Cancer

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With the beginning of October comes the start of Breast Cancer Awareness month. To start the month off, the Pointers (1-2) hosted the annual pink game against UW-Platteville (2-1) at Goerke Park on September 29. The UW-Stevens Point football team tackled breast cancer while helping raise awareness for a cure at the game.

The game started off tough with the Pioneers getting an interception in the first quarter that was returned to the Pointer three-yard line. The next play resulted in a touchdown for the Pioneers. The Pioneers added another two touchdowns to their score during the second half but OJ James blocked the extra point on the second touchdown for a score of 20-0. Late into the fourth quarter Matt Urman-ski went 86 yards and completed the drive with a 26-yard pass to Steve Herra for the Pointers only touchdown, the extra point was no good.

Despite the cold, the stands were packed to watch the Pointers take on the Pioneers but the audience was let down when the Pointers lost their first WIAC game of the season 20-6. Even though the Pointers had a disappointing game the day was still a success with money being raised by the t-shirt sales and the silent auction for the Pointers game day jerseys.

After the game funds were presented to support cancer research and facilities. $48,622 was presented to the Breast Cancer Family Foundation, $1,000 was given to the American Family Children's Hospital in honor of the Wilson Family whose six-year-old child was diagnosed with cancer. Another $1,000 was donated to the Grant County Cancer Coalition on behalf of Lisa Burant, mom of UW-Platteville's #71 Brett Burant, a breast cancer survivor.
of malicious lying; sprinkled with victim blaming, and accusations of sexual assault. For any person who has survived a sexual assault, hearing people discredit you and blame your own actions is a disgusting feeling. But hearing this from the leader of the free world—it's soul-crushing.

Trump mocking a sexual assault victim at a rally to the cheers and rapturous applause of his supporters isn't a win. And even though Republicans may believe rushing Justice Kavanaugh's confirmation to be a win for their Party, they are dead wrong.

Senate Republicans and Democrats agreed that Dr. Ford's testimony was credible. But, many claimed that Justice Kavanaugh's passionate defense of himself came off as credible as well. Regardless of your own opinion, I do know this: no matter if Dr. Ford was mistaken about certain aspects of her story, if she made it up entirely, or she was completely telling the truth, the dire consequences for anyone looking to come forward are concrete.

Trump has made it clear that those who publicly come forward to reveal the perpetrators of their assault are liars who aim to destroy people's lives and reputations. With victims who come out against people widely recognized in the public eye, and especially those in powerful political positions, this target is amplified. They believe people are willing to air false demons publicly for political gain, infamy, or just because they are "really evil people."

Being a victim of a traumatic sexual offense knows no partisanship. For every victim who comes forward from now on, Trump's comments will embody their worst fears. Republicans aren't immune to the reality of sexual assault, and I can only hope that the ripple of the president's comments don't crest into a wave of shame. Our culture is already swaddled in victim blaming and the outright denial to consider that someone they know has committed a sexual offense, and we don't need another blanket.

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**Provost Updates The Campus on Budget Cuts Yet To Come**

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Professors, students, staff and community members gathered in the Alumni room on Friday at noon to hear from Provost Greg Summers about updates on the budget cuts that will be coming to the University.

"There are no decisions being made yet, we are just here to update you," said Summers. Summers informed everyone that the deadline for the proposal has been bumped from Oct. 12 to Nov. 9 and that is the latest the university can legally submit a budget, so all decisions have to be final by that date.

One of the issues Summers talked about is we are still spending more than we earn. One of the ways that UW-Stevens Point is trying to curb that, is to compare itself to other UW's to help find logical, fair and rational ways they can reduce spending with the least amount of damage.

Summers outlined that the goal for the coming years is to bring the student population back up to 8,000 and keep a retention rate each semester with this semester dipping into 7,700. The enrollment three years ago reached up to 9,500 but due to the drop in high school graduating class sizes, enrollment has dropped some.

"If we continue the way we are going it will continue to decline. That is if nothing changes," said Summers. "If it's going to be the most unacceptable things this campus has ever gone through, it already has been right? But please understand that there is going to be a lot on the table that will not come to fruition and that we need to approach this with patience and with a constructive dialogue," said Summers.

While many are interested in future meetings that will further the discussion on the cuts, Summers explained that some request discretion while they handle the cuts and process as they move forward but he hopes to continue a transparent dialogue.

Summers pointed out that now is the time we need to work together instead of panicking about who or what will be cut.

"We cannot have another collective freak out like last year," said Summers.
Student-written Play “Halifax” Debuts at Staged Reading

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On September 29 in the Noel Fine Arts Center, the cozy room of NFAC 290 hosted a staged reading of a student playwright’s work. “Halifax” is the one-act play written by Sophie McIntosh, a junior BA Drama major at UWSP.

The event was held in collaboration by the Players Student Artistic Alliance. The staged reading was organized for McIntosh to share her new work and to continue developing the piece after an audience feedback session.

The play focused on the character Adrian, played by junior acting major Tess Bents. Adrian finds herself in a state of limbo between life and death after taking her own life. In this world of in-between, she meets Halifax, played by junior musical theatre major Katie Kallus. Halifax is the all-knowing, gender-less entity that greets Adrian.

Halifax, although presented as a female, reveals they were a man born in the 1800s who died and was given the responsibility of guiding millions of people into this realm and onto the “next step” of their life.

Halifax has the power to transform their physical form into whatever they believe will help them connect with the person they’re guiding.

Adrian is told she can ask any three questions she’d like—the hope being to bring peace to whoever enters this realm and to ease their worries about the mortal world. In Halifax’s experience, questions typically focused on how one’s family is doing after they have passed or the friends they left behind. For Adrian, she’s pressuring to know worst day of her sixth-grade enemies’ life or how many Pringles she’s had in her lifetime.

The play grapples with Adrian coming to grips with her death, humanity, and existentialism with touches of humor to break the tension.

The feedback session had McIntosh asking specific questions to the audience that would help improve her work; questions such as whether the humanity of the characters come through, or if the language of a specific character comes off as agender as intended. These questions guided the audience with their criticism and feedback.

McIntosh also allowed the audience to reply with any comment or criticism they had outside of her questions, which allowed new insights to be revealed to the playwright. “I always find stage readings so helpful,” said McIntosh. “It’s getting to hear the words—just makes so much of a difference compared to seeing them on paper.”

McIntosh also noted how she got her start into playwriting, stemming from seeing one of the most popular shows on Broadway today.

“I saw the Hamilton Original Broadway Cast. I was able to get in because my uncle knew a guy. And it was amazing! And literally the day after I saw Hamilton, I decided to start writing. And I wrote that day and I’ve written every day since. It was such an important moment for me.”

Review: ‘A Star is Born’ Glimmers Above Your Average Remake

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Although the film has already received an avalanche of critical praise, I am also here to confirm that the hype is true: “A Star is Born” is simply spectacular.

The directorial debut of actor Bradley Cooper is a successful revitalization of the iconic films that preceded it and showcases some of the best performances seen this year.

“A Star is Born” is the third remake of the classic movie. The original film debuted in 1937 starring Janet Gaynor and Fredric March. This iteration of the movie ditched the concept of a film actress’s rise to fame and instead follows the premise of the 1976 version: we follow the rise of an unknown musician who becomes a bona fide pop star while an established legend grapples with their own career fading away.

Cooper stars as the rugged cowboy-type Jackson Maine, a singer-songwriter struggling with substance abuse. Lady Gaga stars as Ally, a singer-songwriter who waitresses during the day and sings at a local drag bar at night.

Maine discovers Ally at a drag bar after he finishes performing for a sold-out crowd. Maine is smitten with her after watching her perform her rendition of “La Vie En Rose”. And I will admit that you will be too after watching that very performance. I had goosebumps by the end of the number. If you didn’t already believe in Gaga’s star power, you will after this film.

The rest of the film follows the rise of Ally’s career and the decline of Maine’s. Gaga essentially plays a fictional version of her own rise to stardom, but this is not a detriment as I feared it could be. It provides a rich background for her to craft from and allows Gaga to create a raw, powerful performance.

Cooper brings his all in a performance that is multifaceted and nuanced. Cooper dives deep into the implosive nature of Jackson Maine.

The film is a love story at its core, and the movie depends on this starstruck tragic love story to explore its themes of fame and addiction. An un-compelling chemistry can doom the film immediately (I’m not naming names, but the 1976 remake knows what they did). Aside from being just a beautiful couple, Cooper and Gaga display some of the best on-screen chemistry I’ve seen this year.

The soundtrack is perfect and compliments the characters so well. The songs are powerful descriptors for pushing characters and their development further. Whether it’s notting Allie’s newfound confidence in her songwriting and performing ability, showcasing diving headfirst into love without a thought of the consequences, or reflecting on the struggles with progressing forward when you’re stuck in a rut of self-destructive behavior—the music speaks for itself.

“A Star is Born” is an instant classic. From the nuanced acting to the powerful soundtrack, the movie justifies itself among the legacy of its predecessors. If these fantastic performances are not nominated for any Academy Award, the committee and I are going to have a little chat.
Comparatively few people would consider themselves connoisseurs of poetry, especially on the Stevens Point campus. It has long been true that as soon as someone says the word poetry, most experience something along the lines of their eyes glazing over paired with traumatic memories of high school English class.

Rupi Kaur, a Canadian poet originally hailing from India, is here to shatter that misconception. Her two New York Times bestselling poetry collections, Milk and Honey and The Sun and Her Flowers broke records and brought poetry into the forefront of American culture.

Kaur, a child of Indian immigrant parents, didn’t learn English until she attended elementary school in Canada. Her struggles with finding identity, romantic relationships, and continuously defining what it is to be a woman in our modern culture are common topics of her poems.

Kaur has done today what seems to be becoming near-impossible: she has made poetry appeal to multiple generations. Her poems are short, sparse, and often feature more white space than words. It is this meticulous attention to always choosing the right word, or as few words, that lets the poems linger in your mind long after you have read them.

She has also accomplished quite a bit for herself; she has recently made the list of Forbes 30 under 30, as well as outselling the infamous Greek epic poet Homer.

Included with some of the poems are small illustrations, drawn by Kaur and indicative of the piece. Like her poetry, they are simple lines that come together to form something beautiful. While criticized by some for the simplistic nature of her poetry, Kaur sees it as straightforward and accessible.

With the release of The Sun and Her Flowers, Kaur has launched an American tour to promote the new publication. I was lucky enough to attend her performance at UW-Madison this weekend, and was able to hear her poetry from her own mouth.

Though Kaur spoke Punjabi for much of her young life, there is no accent to be found. Instead, her voice is smooth and calming, though her words are a call to action. They are not always radical, but are indicative of life, in all it’s heartache and happiness. I was mesmerized. How could this short young woman, gently swaying in her long beautiful skirt, have reached so many people?

I think Rupi Kaur’s success lies in her ability to know universal truths, and communicate them. For someone whose mother speaks broken English and who speaks English as a second language herself, she is able to study and guess at some of the great themes of human nature: love, loss, and family. Her work will continue to resonate with both students and members of other generations for years to come, due to its strength, simplicity, and authenticity.
Hold The Dark: Review

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“Hold the Dark” is the latest effort of rising directorial star, Jeremy Saulnier. Saulnier first turned heads back in 2013 with “Blue Ruin,” and again in 2015 with “Green Room.”

These two muscular thrillers established Saulnier as a director of lean, visceral action, and white knuckle suspense. These two films gained almost unanimously high praise, so “Hold the Dark” had high standards to measure up to.

While “Blue Ruin,” and “Green Room” trade on the claustrophobia of their simplistic settings, “Hold the Dark” is a darker and more complicated affair. The film opens on a stark Alaskan landscape, beautifully photographed by Magnus Norden Hoff Jonck, and these vistas remain constant, and imposing throughout the film.

The film’s lead actors all deliver solid if muted performances, Jeffrey Wright in particular being a standout as Russell Core, a writer, tracker, and estranged father; brought to Alaska at the request of Medora Slone (Riley Keough), a grieving mother who wants Core to hunt the wolves that took her son. From there, things get weird.

Alexander Skarsgård portrays Vernon Slone, a war weary and combat hardened soldier returning from the Middle East. Skarsgård’s character is nearly silent, but radiates quiet menace as he towers over everybody he shares the frame with.

Throw these characters together, add a pack of wolves, and an almost primordial Alaskan setting, and you have the makings for a tense two hour thriller.

Occasionally the film flirts with cliche, and at a few moments the seriousness of some of the dialogue can come off a bit overwrought, but considering the price of admission, thank you Netflix, these are minor quibbles.

Saulnier’s direction in “Hold the Dark” retains the punch that made his earlier films so gripping. Where there is violence in the film, it is well executed and you feel it. Judging by the film’s current 5.9 out of 10 on IMDB, you probably feel it a bit too much for some viewers.

The intense violence of the film will be a turn off to some, just as the lack of answers at the end of the film’s twisting journey will be. However, for those who appreciate a little lingering mystery after the credits roll, you can’t do much better than “Hold the Dark.”

“Hold the Dark” is currently streaming on Netflix, and with Halloween just around the corner, this primer for the scare season could be just what you’re looking for.

Rogers Cinema Series Goes ‘Way Back’

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A new movie series by Rogers Cinema named “Way Back Wednesdays” promises to show classic throwback movies every Wednesday.

Being promoted at the Stevens Point Rogers Cinema 7 and the Marshfield location, the movie series focuses on showing popular classic movies, with tickets going for $5 per ticket.

Previous movies shown as part of the series include the swashbuckling Raiders of the Lost Ark, and the blockbuster thriller Jaws.

An employee of the company confirmed that while they are still planning their October selection of movies, they have procured the popular Stanley Kubrick horror flick “The Shining” for one of their weekly selections.

Movies are selected on a weekly basis, being chosen on the Monday of a new week. Be sure to visit the Rogers Cinema website or the beforementioned locations for information on the movie of the week.

For more information, you can call the Rogers Cinema 7 location at 715-341-7500.
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