2018-2019 Community Lecture Series

All lectures are held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Portage County Public Library in the Pinery Room.

September 11, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Bats Under Threat — Are Wisconsin’s Bats Disappearing?
Chris Yahnke (Biology)

October 16, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
The Future of Human-Technology Interaction
Tomi Heimonen (Computing and New Media Technologies)

November 13, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
The Great War in the Midwest:
Publishing John Herrmann’s Foreign Born
Ross Tangedal (English)

December 11, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
Ethics and Conscious Machines
Joshua Horn (Philosophy)

February 12, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Barbies or Monster Trucks?
The Role of Gender in Children’s Toy Interests
Erica Weisgram (Psychology)

March 12, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Science Fairs in the Age of Sputnik
Sarah Scripps (History and International Studies)

April 9, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
The Critical Function of Critical Thinking
Dona Warren (Philosophy)

May 7, 2019, 6:30 p.m.
Clean Water, Safe Water:
The Basics of How Water Laws Impact What You Drink
Brad Mapes-Martins (Political Science)

All lectures take place at:
Portage County Public Library
Pinery Room
1001 Main Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481
715-346-1548

For more information on the Community Lecture Series or to view past lectures, please visit:
www.uwsp.edu/cols/lectureseries

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Sponsored by the
College of Letters and Science
The College-at-the-Core

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Welcome to the Community Lecture Series! The UW-Stevens Point College of Letters and Science is delighted to once again offer this sampling of expertise and talent from members of our faculty and staff. Now in its 11th year, the Community Lecture Series has been a great way for our college to engage with the community, promote dialogue and advance life-long learning.

Whatever your interests may be, we trust that these lectures will inspire and challenge us all to see the world from new perspectives. We’re proud of the knowledgeable and dedicated scholars who come from throughout the U.S. and the world to make Central Wisconsin their home. What better way to meet and hear what makes our faculty such passionate teachers?

We cordially invite you to attend one or more of these free lectures. Join us and see what UW-Stevens Point has to offer!

Sincerely,

Eric Yonke, Ph.D.
Interim Dean
College of Letters and Science
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

www.uwsp.edu/cols/lectureseries

2018-2019 Community Lecture Series

Bats Under Threat — Are Wisconsin’s Bats Disappearing?
September 11 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Chris Yahnke (Biology)
Bats provide important economic benefits for us including feeding on mosquitoes that can transmit disease and feeding on pests threatening crops. In the U.S., bats are under attack from two different sources: A fungus infecting small bats that hibernate in caves, and the growing number of wind turbines affecting the larger migratory bats. Learn how bats in Wisconsin are responding to these threats.

The Future of Human-Technology Interaction
October 16 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Tomi Heimonen (Computing and New Media Technologies)
Technologies such as artificial intelligence and virtual reality are changing how we communicate, play and work. How are these advances affecting everyday interactions in our homes, workplaces and on the road? What are the potential drawbacks of relying on technology?

The Great War in the Midwest: Publishing John Herrmann’s Foreign Born
November 13 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Ross Tangedal (English)
Foreign Born, John Herrmann’s novel of the Midwestern homefront during the Great War, went unpublished during his lifetime. Beginning in 1925, Herrmann drafted a searing tale of the paranoia, nationalism and anti-immigrant sentiment that plagued the American homefront from 1914-1918. This presentation will cover Herrmann’s literary style, his “new” novel and what it takes to excavate, edit, design and market the lost novel of a forgotten writer.

Ethics and Conscious Machines
December 11 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Joshua Horn (Philosophy)
The last century has witnessed great developments in our philosophical understanding of the nature of consciousness. This discussion will trace how humans have applied such insights in an attempt to create conscious machines, and consider what sort of ethical responsibilities we should have to these entities.

Barbies or Monster Trucks?
The Role of Gender in Children’s Toy Interests
February 12 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Erica Weisgram (Psychology)
Across psychological literature, gender differences in children’s toy interests have been found to be large and consistent. This presentation will be a discussion of the factors that contribute to gender differences in children’s toy interests and how these differences may affect child development.

Science Fairs in the Age of Sputnik
March 12 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Sarah Scripps (History and International Studies)
Over the course of the 20th century, generations of American children conducted their first experiments by crafting science fair projects. This talk evaluates this phenomenon as part of broader American fascinations and fears of science in the era of Sputnik.

The Critical Function of Critical Thinking
April 9 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Donna Warren (Philosophy)
Critical thinking is increasingly important in an ever more complex world. Learn how UW-Stevens Point is working to integrate purposeful critical thinking instruction throughout its curriculum. Attendees will learn critical thinking concepts and skills.

Clean Water, Safe Water:
The Basics of How Water Laws Impact What You Drink
May 7 6:30 p.m. at the Portage County Library
Brad Mapes-Martins (Political Science)
In the 1960s and 1970s, federal and state laws were written to protect and improve water quality. Today, ensuring safe water from the tap is more complicated. Learn about the patchwork of laws that impact what you drink, whether from a municipal supplier or a private well.