

Brewing: A Science and an Art and "The Menomonie Music Scene Finds a Home in The Abbey" won 2nd place awards for Best Entertainment Story at the Wisconsin Newspaper Association's Collegiate Newspaper Competition.

# Brewing: a Science and an Art



Bryce Parr –

Zymology, the science of fermentation, is an enigmatic blend of chemistry and art. For Wisconsin native Jon Christiansen, this means balancing the chemical processes with his own self-described by-the-seat-of-his-pants brewing. Christiansen spent years perfecting his skills as a brewer and zymologist since the age of 18. At the end of 2018, Christiansen and University of Wisconsin-Stout alumna Chelsea Rickert opened a new venture in brewing: Zymurgy Brewing Company. Zymurgy Brewing Company is located at the renovated auto shop at 624 Main Street in Menomonie.

Combining craft brews with a focus on the local community, Zymurgy hopes to offer crowds unique tastes and engaging events. “You have to do something. You can’t just be open,” Christiansen said. A lot of the ingredients used in Zymurgy’s recipes are locally sourced. Syrup, cranberries, honey and even coffee is sourced from Wisconsin to offer flavors unique to the community. “There are a lot of benefits to using local honey. It’s all about the community in general,” Rickert said. “You want to be community centered.”

“Jon is a diamond in the rough,” said bartender Kristen Hedge. “He has so much knowledge and is so willing to share it. Zymurgy has so much to offer and prove to the community around us. We’re living the dream and we work hard for it.”



Christiansen started his professional journey in Belgium in the spring of 2004 where he worked at Brewery De Koninck in Antwerp. After working for a few months, Christiansen immersed himself in the Belgian food and drink culture.

Christiansen attended the Siebel Institute of Technology, a brewing school in Chicago in the fall of 2005. In 2010, he left the Joseph James Brewing Company just south of Las Vegas in Henderson, Nevada to move back to the Midwest. Christiansen was the head brewer at Lucette until 2016 when he left to start work on opening Zymurgy Brewing Company.

The Brewery was well received on opening night despite a vicious snowstorm. "I was amazed at the amount of people coming downtown even though it was such a snowstorm. It was wild," Christiansen said. The brewery has regularly hosted events since opening including a brewery tour, holiday parties, beer release parties, musicians and a class on the various uses of hemp. "We want to do classes about fermentation. I want to do an intro to brewing. Chelsea and I might both do an intro to kombucha." Christiansen said.

They plan to invite guest speakers to host talks as well. "If it's something we are interested in, they can come here. It's a platform. We are open for all kinds of classes," Christiansen said. "We are also trying to associate with Stout a little bit through all this."

Christiansen plans to eventually fill all 15 of Zymurgy's main taps with Zymurgy beers while they continue to brew new and different flavors. "There's a list of 30 million things and we could check one thing off every day. We'd still find more to do after that."

# The Menomonie Music Scene Finds a Home in The Abbey



Bryce Parr –

Live music has become a regular occurrence at The Abbey Pub & Grub thanks to the help from University of Wisconsin-Stout business administration senior and So Called Productions member Dillon Carlson. The Main Street bar that previously featured the occasional DJ built a brand by consistently hosting local talent over the past year.

Carlson has been in charge of booking talent for The Abbey for a year, but Abbey Schmaling, owner of The Abbey, said there was a turning point and the scene grew from there. “Dillon reached out to me last year, and we had DJs a few nights. Then this year we had a very successful DJ night on the patio and it just became more consistent from there,” Schmaling said.

The success came after the closing of Rehab and left Menomonie without one of its most popular dancing venues. “With the whole Rehab fiasco, I saw an opportunity to seize the “dancing” bar. Abbey, the owner, also really showed a lot of trust in my vision to change the music scene in Menomonie and it paid off,” Carlson said.



“The music scene in Menomonie the last couple of years has been primarily underground. A lot of talented artists were playing house parties and not really getting any exposure.” Carlson said. He saw a need for a more accessible and consistent public venue in the local music scene.

Carlson’s team has grown since he began working with the pub. The team consists of Carlson, So Called member Brandon Berg, local producer Nolan Hall, and social media manager and DJ Jacob Doherty.

“It’s getting people involved in expressing themselves and sharing positive experiences with one another.” Said Doherty, who frequently plays at the Venue.

“The scene in Menomonie is so different from other music scenes, if artists show me they can perform, you have potential to grow, and you have a passion for music it’s more than likely you [will] get booked to play at The Abbey.” Carlson said.

On Feb. 2, The Abbey, partnering with Toppers Pizza and Rehab, will host the first Abbeypalooza Music Festival. The festival will feature one night of beer olympics and more than 20 artists on two stages.

Carlson and his team want this to be the biggest music event of the year, so they are bringing in a professional sound system and stage setup. Registration for the beer olympics is \$25 per person and ends Jan. 19. The winner will receive a \$100 cash prize. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Stepping Stones of Dunn County.



# Chippewa Valley's Hard Rockers Return Stateside



Bryce Parr

Returning stateside from back to back tours in China and Australia, the members of melodic hardcore band Conveyer are glad to be back on home soil in the Chippewa Valley. They kicked off the first show of their U.S. tour at the Memorial Student Center last Thursday, Oct 5.

"I love playing Stout. This is my favorite place to play," said Conveyer bassist and University of Wisconsin–Stout alumni Jake Smith. "There aren't a whole lot of places outside of this area that we can go to and always pick back up with people where we left off like it was the day before," Vocalist Daniel Adams added, "We really appreciate you guys."

The band's Chinese tour spanned 1,331 miles from Beijing to Guangzhou over the course of five days in August. "They were super stoked on everything. Even kids who didn't speak any English were just stoked on an American hardcore band being there," Smith said.



"The schedule we had to keep with China was insane," Adams said. "7 p.m. load in, walk down the street to the hotel to drop off our stuff, go back to play the show, sleep for five hours, and board a plane or train the next morning to do it again," Adams added.



"Culturally those kids out there (China) are not as spoiled as we are. [Chinese fans] don't have a show happening every day," Adams said. American culture tends to give way to a cool kid cliché and sometimes fans feel like they are too "cool" to let loose at a show. "They are definitely still cliquy in the way that we are, but they don't care about it," Adams said. "Everyone was just there having a good time," Smith added.

In China, the only way for most consumers to get American music is through piracy and proxy servers. "From what I've heard, if someone comes here they just buy a bunch of music to throw up on a piracy website," Smith commented.

Conveyer discovered their album, "When Given Time to Grow," was trending on Chinese file sharing sites. "Two years ago, we were playing Indianapolis and Skip (a friend) pulls me aside and said 'I just want you to know your record is the biggest hardcore metal record in China.' I said 'what are you talking about?' He pulls up the file sharing site and shows me the statistics and I was like 'Whoa dude, sick!'" Adams said.

The Australian tour was longer, but had a more relaxed schedule than China. The tour was part of a tour trade with Australian band Vices. "Our second day in Australia, the drummer of Vices hooked up a koala sanctuary visit. I remember being sixteen and seeing all these [pictures of] metalcore bands going to Australia holding koalas and I thought 'man, one day—one day I'll hold a koala,'" Adams said.

Vices will be joining Conveyer during the third week of the 5-week U.S. tour in New Hampshire. The tour will conclude with a show Nov. 1 in Nashville, the 'Music City.'



# Minneapolis Indie Group Early Eyes Finds International Fans



Bryce Parr –

Young Minneapolis indie group Early Eyes played at the Memorial Student Center at their Dec. 6 show. Performing energetic indie-pop with a taste of jazz and funk influence, the group has seen rising success after releasing two EPs and a single this year.

In 2016, Bassist Des Lawrence, Drummer Wyatt Fuller and vocalist Jake Berglove got together for a one-off show. That night the group created a Facebook page on a whim, and after a positive online reception, decided to continue with the Early Eyes project. Guitarists Joe Villano and John O'Brien were added to the roster, and Early Eyes cemented themselves in the Twin Cities music scene.

The Thursday show was Early Eyes' second show at the University of Wisconsin-Stout campus. Since opening for Whosah at the 2017 show, the band has gigged extensively and toured from the Midwest to Maryland.

The show in Maryland was a turning point for the group. "It felt like as soon as we started playing, everyone was there for us. It's so flattering and nice, we are all still getting used to it. We were just a bunch of kids from high





school that played music in our basements thinking 'I would love to do this someday,' and now people are out there singing our lyrics," said Berglove. "You just have to come with good energy and people will give it back," said O'Brien.

It wasn't always that smooth for Early Eyes. After their inception, the band didn't have a vehicle to move gear. They would use whatever was available. "We would steal a cart from our dorms, pile in our gear, and get on the train," said Berglove.

According to the group, Berglove, who attended a performing arts high school and won second place in the National Endowment for the Arts songwriting competition, was the main songwriter during the group's first year. Now they write collaboratively. "We've entered the zone of all writing songs together," said O'Brien.



Early eyes draws influence from many genres, but they agree that they are heavily influenced by pop and jazz. "We don't look to artists, we look to conventions. There are a lot of things in our music that is unconventional in indie-rock, but only because they are conventional in other genres," O'Brien said.



Early Eyes has found fans from all around the world. "Penelope" was streamed heavily in London after its addition to a summer indie playlist on Spotify, and the group has an unlikely following in South Korea. "We got this care package from South Korea. They had so many snacks. You know those Cheeto puffs they have? Banana flavored," said Lawrence. They also received a scrapbook of handwritten notes and collages from their South Korean fans.

Early Eyes also reportedly has many fans in Indonesia. An Indonesian band covered the track "Penelope" for a high school competition. "They won the competition. [The song] has been tested, it's a winner," said Lawrence.

"It's so humbling. There are so many people who are nice to us and supportive all over the country and they all live big enormous lives and you get to meet them all and be friends and it's really magic and fun. It's an indescribable feeling," said Berglove.

Although Early Eyes hopes to tour in Asia, the group is currently planning a North American tour to support their upcoming full-length album.

# The Art of Play

Bryce Parr –

The work of University of Wisconsin-Stout alumni Ryan Foose and Eliza Wheeler is currently on display in Furlong Gallery leading up to Art & Design Week. Both artists are scheduled to talk on campus about their experiences and advise students on finding their own way.



Wheeler is a 2006 graduate of Stout's graphic design program who has been working as a full-time illustrator and author since 2013. Her original artworks and illustrations for various picture books and middle grade novels are currently featured in the gallery alongside a sneak peek of her current project, Illustrations for "When You Are Brave" by Pat Zietlow-Miller.

Wheeler is hosting her talk on Feb. 13 at 5:45 p.m. in 178 Micheels Hall. "I'm hugely honored to be invited back to Stout to share my work in the gallery and with the students," Wheeler said. "The art department has grown in wonderful ways since I was at Stout."

Foose graduated in 2011 with a double major in graphic design and industrial design before earning his master's in graphic design at North Carolina State University. "Stout has been producing good artists for decades. They finally planted a flag. I feel really proud to know the school itself has taken a step forward. They finally got that designation as an art and design school," Foose said.

Foose is currently the head of brand development with Minor League Baseball. His exhibit in the Furlong gallery features hat and jersey designs as well as some of his work with the "Copa de la Diversión."

"It's always interesting to look at illustrations compared to processed work," said UW-Stout Student Maryrose Stattelmann. "With illustration it's interesting to see the little details. Nothing is there by accident."

Foose says he found success by being in the right place at the right time. "One of the hats was sold to the VPO of marketing at Minor League Baseball. I was a local that was all about pushing sports with a user experience," Foose said.



Foose has worked with IBM as a user-experience designer and established his own design company, Foose Sports Design, in 2013. His designs are worn by teams all around the country.

"You have a very awesome opportunity to creates something new every day. Some projects are fun, some are tooth and nail and some will be something nobody has seen before." Foose said.

He will host his lecture on Feb. 21 in Ballrooms B and C in the Memorial Student Center as a part of Art & Design Week.