

OF WIZARDS, WITCHES AND WISCONSIN

UWSP PENDULUM SWINGS DOOR
TO HOGWARTS WIDE OPEN



Move over, Platform 9¾. Pendulum 11.25 is stepping into the spotlight as the most recently revealed portal to England's famed Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point officials announced earlier this month that the Foucault pendulum, housed in the Science Building, was living a triple life. In addition to marking Earth's rotation and telling time, the cable-and-bob device also gives those of the wizard persuasion express access to their beloved school in the Scottish Highlands.

As every wizard knows, achieving passage from a portal-equipped pendulum involves positioning oneself at 11.25 degrees from the pendulum's position at the top of the current hour—an homage to the rotation-confirming angle achieved by French physicist Leon Foucault during the demonstration of his original pendulum in 1851.

Those who study the nature of wizardry further believe the degree of aperture also could relate to the age of admission at Hogwarts, which is between 11 and 12 years of age. Furthermore, 11 a.m. is the traditional departure time of the Hogwarts Express from Platform 9¾ at London's King's Cross station. Wizardologists believe that the significance of 11 would hold "across the pond" in America as well.

The UWSP pendulum had become the focus of an intensive on-campus investigation last semester after a Muggle student claimed she had missed a final exam because she got "sucked into another dimension" and couldn't make her way to the proper classroom. Immediately before the alleged incident, the student had

tried to retrieve her phone, which had dropped between the bars and Plexiglass surrounding the pendulum display.

"I crammed my hand in there as best I could," she said. "The next thing I know it's an hour later and I'm sitting in an empty classroom on the third floor, on the complete opposite side of the building."

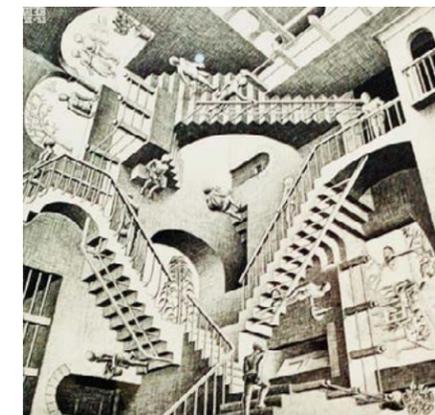
Members of UWSP physics department faculty conjecture that, as a Muggle, the student did not realize that she had passed through the portal. Furthermore, using a bunch of math that went totally over this reporter's head, the professors deduced that she was then subsequently deposited any old place the universe felt like dumping her.

The magical nature of the pendulum had been alluded to in a March 1993 Pointer article written by student staffer Chris Kelley. "Tale of the time machine" is quick to counter its own headline and lead, which hint at the pendulum's wondrous transport capabilities, with a hasty explanation that the structure tells time rather than moves people through the spacetime continuum. There's even a playful juxtaposition with a Mickey Mouse wristwatch to further throw readers off the scent.

Coincidentally—or not—the Pointer article was written during the academic tenure of renowned wizarding-world hero, Harry Potter, who is celebrated for defeating the evil [name redacted on principle].

Pendulum 11.25 is now thought to be behind several occurrences of students and staff getting temporarily "displaced" within the Science Building's somewhat convoluted halls. Experiments are under way to determine whether toggling between the university's Muggle environs and the Hogwarts portal creates

a totally new dimension wherein the building expands and room numbers repeat themselves. Based on anecdotal evidence from those who have gotten lost in the building, researchers expect results that are "Escheresque" in scope.



M.C. Escher's "Relativity", lithograph print, 1953

The UWSP Foucault pendulum has been a source of fascination and learning since it was installed in 1964. How many of those years it has been an active portal to another world is anyone's guess.

