



## University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

College of Fine Arts & Communication  
Department of Theatre & Dance

Stevens Point WI 54481-3897  
715-346-4429; Fax: 715-346-4794  
E-mail: [theatre@uwsp.edu](mailto:theatre@uwsp.edu)  
[www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance](http://www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance)

2013-2014 Academic Year

Welcome Prospective Dance Students!

UWSP's dance program aspires to create a dynamic culture in which students are inspired to achieve full physical expression, technical and stylistic range, and anatomical efficiency. We are dedicated to artistic experimentation and contemporary inquiry that is culturally relevant and historically grounded, preparing students to communicate, contribute and lead as global citizen artists.

In 2005 the dance program moved into world-class dance facilities in the \$26 million Noel Fine Arts Center addition. Our exceptional new studios have professionally sprung floors with maple and Harlequin Cascade surfaces, expansive windows, state of the art sound, video and projection systems, and a convertible performance lab. The Noel Fine Arts Center also houses several computer labs that are available to students for general coursework and multimedia experimentation.

One of the unique aspects of UWSP's dance program is our breadth of offerings. Students train in four techniques—ballet, modern, jazz, and tap – and pursue rigorous study in dance composition, dance history, movement analysis, and interdisciplinary studies. Each year students have many opportunities to perform in a variety of venues – Jenkins Theatre's proscenium, our state of the art black box studio theatre, and in our convertible dance studio/performance lab. Performance events include *Danstage*, our faculty and guest choreographed concert; *Afterimages*, our student choreographed concert, our main stage theatre & musical productions; studio concerts produced by Players, the student run theatre and dance organization, in repertory projects, solo and group composition showings, and in camera dance screenings. Students also participate in the American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA) regional conferences, and present their original research at the National Dance Educators Organization (NDEO) conference. In recent years students trained with Susan Marshall & Company, Hubbard Street 2, Houston Ballet II, Chicago's Jump Rhythm Jazz Project, Eddy O'Campo, Aszure Barton & Artists, and Luc Vanier and former Trisha Brown Company member Melinda Myers.

The range of the dance curriculum inspires students to integrate their knowledge and experience of dance with other art forms and academic fields. Graduates of the dance program are pioneers in creating dance and theatre companies, they perform with regional, national and international dance and theatre companies, and screen their camera dances nationally and internationally. UWSP alumni own and manage dance studios, become artistic directors, and earn graduate degrees from respected graduate programs.

### Admission & Scholarships

All students interested in being accepted into the dance major or minor programs are required to complete an on-campus audition and interview. Auditions dates are February 7, 14 and 21, 2014 for acceptance into the program fall 2014.

All required application materials, should be postmarked no later than Monday February 3, 2014, or hand delivered to the Theatre & Dance Office, 161 Noel Fine Arts Center, by 4:30 p.m. that day. Detailed information and application materials are available online: [www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance](http://www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance).

The dance program offers three scholarships based on ability and potential in dance to qualified high school seniors accepted into the dance major program. Additional scholarships are available for returning students. All students auditioning for UWSP's dance major program on each of our three February audition dates will

be considered for an incoming dance major scholarship; there is not a separate scholarship application or an additional scholarship audition process.

The dance faculty considers the following elements of your application and audition:

- In your written application – your ability to clearly and completely communicate your ideas and goals;
- During your audition – your ability to engage with new ideas and information, your capacity to embody the material presented, both physically and intellectually, and your knowledge of and ability in at least 2 of the 4 techniques offered at UWSP (ballet, modern, jazz and tap);
- In your prepared solo – your ability to communicate through movement; and
- During your interview – your ability to articulate your reasons for studying dance at the university level.

### **Prepared Solo**

As part of the audition, all dance major and minor applicants are required to perform a one-minute solo that highlights their performance skills. The applicant or someone else can choreograph this solo. Applicants should provide any sound accompaniment in CD or iPod format. Please prepare to stay within the one-minute time limit. The solo may be excerpted and the music cut from an existing longer work, or you may prepare a solo that is intended as a one-minute dance.

### **Letters of recommendation**

Your application should include two letters of recommendation (signed and dated) from individuals able to assess your abilities. We accept email letters of recommendation (mail to: [dance@uwsp.edu](mailto:dance@uwsp.edu)).

One letter should be written by an academic teacher or advisor who is able comment on your ability to be successful in university-level academic coursework; the second letter should be written by a primary dance teacher who is able to comment on your ability and potential to be successful in a university-level dance program.

### **Technical Proficiency and Course Placement**

Students who wish to be accepted into the dance major program are required to have proficiency in two of these four areas: ballet, modern, jazz and tap. For the minor program, proficiency in one of these areas is required.

Students in our program develop the ability to work as a part of an ensemble, the ability to work openly and honestly with other dancers, and the ability to be flexible in the artistic process with choreographers, directors, rehearsal assistants and peers. Therefore, we do begin all new students in our 100-level technique courses.

Students must be accepted to UWSP prior to the dance audition dates in February. There are a few seats available each semester for non-dance majors and minors in introductory level classes. Upper-level courses are not available to non-majors or minors.

Admission into the dance **major** program is based on academic acceptance into UWSP, a completed dance program application, an interview with the dance faculty, and a successful dance audition. Prospective majors must place into a minimum of two of the following four courses: Dance 106: Ballet IB, Dance 104: Modern IB, Dance 214: Jazz II, and Dance 215: Tap II.

Admission into the dance **minor** program is based on the same criteria as the major, but with placement into a minimum of one of the following four courses: Dance 106: Ballet IB, Dance 104: Modern IB, Dance 214: Jazz II, and Dance 215: Tap II.

All Dance program auditions are held in the Noel Fine Arts Center dance studios, located in the northeast corner of the first floor.

## February 7, 14 and 21, 2014 Audition Schedule

9:45-10:00A	Faculty and dance audition candidate introductions
10:00-11:30A	Ballet class
11:30-12:00P	Modern combinations
12:00-1:00P	Jazz and Tap combinations
1:30-2:00P	Break/Lunch
2:00-3:30P	Major candidates' prepared solos and interviews with dance faculty. Minor candidate's prepared solos and interview with dance faculty.
3:30-3:45P	Wrap-up session Final schedule to be determined by number of applicants

All students will be notified regarding their dance program admission status within three weeks following the February 21 audition.

### During your visit to UWSP

During the audition day, family members and others accompanying applicants will have an opportunity to talk with current UWSP dance majors and tour our facilities. We encourage you to stay and attend an evening performance of one of our department productions or college events. Department production and ticket information is available on our Web site: [www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance](http://www.uwsp.edu/theatre-dance).

### FACULTY

**Joan Karlen**, *Professor and Dance Program Coordinator* specializes in multimedia work for dance. At UWSP she teaches ballet and jazz technique, dance composition, and the Dance Program's Interdisciplinary Seminar. She is in the process of becoming a certified Balanced Body® Pilates Instructor. Joan's teaching has been recognized with the student-nominated University Leadership Mentor Award, University of Wisconsin-Stevens point's Teaching Excellence Award, the Who's Who Among American Teachers Award, and the UW-System Teaching Scholar Award.

Joan has presented her video and computer generated dances throughout the United States and in Portugal, Germany, the UK, Cairo, Egypt, and Buenos Aires, Argentina. During fall 2012 she was an invited Interaction Design artist in residence at The Banff Centre, Alberta, Canada. Joan has been active with Dance Films Association's Dance on Camera Festival (Lincoln Center, NYC) as a selection jury member, forum panelist and workshop presenter. As a performer she originated several roles with New York-based companies, throughout the US and in Argentina. Joan earned dance degrees from The Juilliard School and New York University. She danced professionally in New York and regionally before joining UWSP's Theatre & Dance faculty.

**Michael Estanich**, *Associate Professor*, teaches contemporary modern dance technique, composition, dance teaching theories, repertory, dance history and movement analysis. He earned his MFA from The Ohio State University and his BFA from Denison University. Michael's creative research currently examines ideas of space, architecture, landscape, and habitation, often resulting in collaborative experiences between dance and sculpture. Before coming to UWSP, Michael danced in Chicago, IL for six years and toured nationally with Mad Shak Dance Company. He has been a guest artist at several colleges and universities, including OSU (2006 and 2008). He teaches annually at the American Colleges Dance Festival and Trollwood Performing Arts School in Fargo, ND. He is co-artistic director of RE | Dance, present his original choreography in theatres in San Francisco, Chicago, and at the Minnesota and Chicago Fringe Festivals.

**Jeannie Hill**, *Associate Professor*, teaches tap, jazz musical theatre dance composition and career seminar in addition to choreographing for Danstage and musicals at UWSP. In 2010 Jeannie founded Point Tap Festival, a three-day summer workshop gathering tap dancers from Wisconsin to Marseille! She has enjoyed a varied international career and continues her affiliation with Chicago's Jump Rhythm Jazz Project as guest teacher, performer and choreographer. Jeannie holds a BA in theatre from the University of Vermont and an MFA in dance from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Peck School of the Arts.

**Pamela Luedtke**, *Lecturer*, is a modern dancer in the techniques of Hanya Holm and Martha Graham. She was a soloist for the Mary Anthony Dance Theatre in New York City for nine years. Pamela's choreography has been performed in New York, Washington DC, California, and Wisconsin. Pamela is certified in Educational Kinesiology (Brain Gym), and is in the process of becoming a certified Balanced Body® Pilates Instructor. At UWSP Pamela teaches ballet. She is the founder and director of Point Dance Ensemble.

**John Strassburg**, *Staff Accompanist*, provides accompaniment for ballet, tap, and modern classes using acoustic piano, percussion, and electronic instruments. John composes, arranges, and records music for UWSP students, faculty and regional dance companies.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information. We look forward to meeting and working with you.

Best regards,



Professor Joan Karlen  
Dance Program Coordinator  
Department of Theatre and Dance  
Noel Fine Arts Center  
1800 Portage Street  
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
Voice/Fax: 715/346-3982  
dance@uwsp.edu

College of Fine Arts and Communications - *inspire, create, achieve*