



## College of Fine Arts & Communication University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point

### Winter 2019

# Message from Dean Valerie Cisler

Greetings to our College of Fine Arts and Communication Students, Alumni, Friends, and Supporters!

For those I haven't had the opportunity to meet, please allow me to introduce myself: I am a Wisconsin native (Manitowoc) and bring to UWSP an educational background as a musician with 23 years of experience in higher education as a Professor of Piano/Pedagogy and ten years in various administrative positions including department chair and state leadership with the Nebraska Music Teachers Association. I was drawn to the position of Dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication for a number of reasons—primarily for the quality of the faculty, students, and programs within the college and a strong desire to return to my home state. I have received nothing but a warm welcome from all on this campus and the community.

Now, having spent nearly a year-and-a-half on the UWSP campus, I can say with confidence that the reputation of the College of Fine Arts and Communication is well-deserved. I have had the opportunity to attend student research presentations; master classes and presentations by faculty, alumni and guest artists; dance, theatre and film productions; art exhibitions, music recitals and concerts, scholarship fundraising and award events; along with a significant number of educational outreach events that include the international American Suzuki Institute, the Very Young Composers program, festivals, workshops, youth camps, and state conferences. We host more than 400 events every year, bringing thousands of all ages to the campus. Among the four degree-granting colleges, the College of Fine Arts and Communication serves in a unique, dual capacity, both as a curricular home to the university's arts and communication programs and in an equally impactful capacity as an effective bridge to the Stevens Point community and the region.

Members of the business community express a keen and growing interest to enhance access to the arts beyond the campus in collaboration with faculty and students from the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Given that economic indicators support the importance of the arts as a primary draw to prospective employees as a measure of quality of life within a small community, faculty and staff of the college are committed to continued extension of their time and talents beyond the classroom in support of a thriving arts community. All acknowledge their dual roles as teacher/scholars and outreach ambassadors for the campus. In light of this unique identity, our curricular choices necessarily need to balance the career goals of our students in relation to our service to the broader university and the community-at-large.

In all cases, I have been truly impressed by the quality of work by our faculty and students. What is even more heartening is to hear from colleagues across the campus and community members is how much they cherish what this college brings to the region. The

College of Fine Arts and Communication is seen as the hub of creativity, of energy, of vibrancy, of culture—a true Partnership for Thriving Communities. Despite the budget challenges we face, I have never swayed from feeling that I made the right decision to become part of this incredible college.

In this newsletter, we are pleased to highlight a number of new college initiatives to further engage the community and our alumni. These include a newly formed College of Fine Arts and Communication Advisory Council, the development of a Point-to-Point Connections program, along with select student and alumni accomplishments and college news.

I hope to have the opportunity to meet with each of our COFAC friends, alumni, and supporters at events in the future. We are all part of an engaged and thriving community that we hope to strengthen through your participation. If you have an interest in joining our new Advisory Council or our Point-to-Point Connections program, I would love to hear from you!

Wishing you all the very best for this New Year!!

**Valerie C. Cisler**, Dean  
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# Announcements

## College of Fine Arts & Communication Proposed School of Design

Faculty members from two departments at UW-Stevens Point voted unanimously to establish and develop a new School of Design, joining nationally-accredited curricular programs in Art, Graphic Design, and Interior Architecture. The proposal has also passed all university level committees and has the approval of the UWSP administration. In keeping with the administration's call for clear professional pathways, the formal proposal has been forwarded to the UW System and is set for consideration by the UW Board of Regents in June.

The proposed unit will feature a shared, interdisciplinary core curriculum and hands-on professional development opportunities to ensure that students develop common skills, concepts, and experience with key technology as they explore professional pathways. Expanded studio options will include curricula in media arts and theatre design with projects designed to promote innovative collaboration and enhance problem-solving skills needed for successful careers in all fields of art and design. Faculty mentorship and experiential learning opportunities with active outreach to the community will be at the heart of the School of Design's mission.

We are working on fund-raising to successfully launch this newly proposed school. Areas such as faculty positions, facilities renovation and equipment to create a Maker Space and Design Innovation Center, and student scholarships are among the focal points of our campaign. Please look for more updates in the future!

To donate towards UWSP School of Design, select other specific fund on the UWSP Give Now website and enter Art & Design Enhancement Fund (4624) and complete the rest of the form. To give to other COFAC funds, follow the instructions on the back page.

## Very Young Composers Program Receives a NEA Grant

The UWSP Very Young Composers of Central Wisconsin was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Faculty Emeritus Robert Rosen, Executive Director of the program since its inception in 2010, expressed his delight of the support and national attention this program has received.

The mission of Very Young Composers of Central Wisconsin is to provide an interactive pathway for children to listen, explore, and reveal the essence of their own voice through the creation of original music. The four-week after-school class held in January is open to all 4th and 5th grade students in Central Wisconsin. No prior experience in music is necessary.

The Young Composers create their original compositions with the assistance of volunteer University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point music students, acting as Teaching Artists. The Teaching Artists do not focus on instructing the Young Composers how to compose music. Their role is more that of a scribe, faithfully putting the musical ideas as imagined and described by the Young Composers into standard musical notation for later performance by the Teaching Artists. The Young Composers create their music for any combination of usually six to seven instruments. At the conclusion of the class their compositions are performed by the Teaching Artists in a public performance with each Young Composer introducing their music.

Selected Young Composers are then invited to orchestrate their compositions for wind band or orchestra. The fully orchestrated compositions are performed in the spring by the Stevens Point Area Senior High Orchestra and Wind Ensemble.

## Announcing the establishment of a COFAC Advisory Council

In the summer of 2018, the college launched its first Advisory Council including members from the regional community. The Bylaws state the Purpose and Objectives of the council:

The purpose of the COFAC Advisory Council shall be to assist the UWSP College of Fine Arts and Communication (Art & Design, Communication, Music, Theatre & Dance, and Suzuki programs) to achieve its primary mission to provide an excellent fine arts and communication education for UWSP students (inspire • create • achieve) and to enhance outreach programming for artistic, cultural, and educational activities that serve the Central Wisconsin community. The main objectives of the COFAC Advisory Council are:

- to provide a forum for open communication between the College of Fine Arts and Communication and members of the Central Wisconsin community;
- to advocate for programs and activities in the arts and communication among alumni, the business community, government agencies, and community members of the region;
- to assist the college in its efforts to effectively market its curricular program offerings and outreach activities;
- to assist in the recruitment and retention of excellent students and faculty to the UWSP campus;
- to engage in creative discussions and support for constructive initiatives that will enable the college to enhance its quality and reputation throughout the region and on a national level; and
- to provide financial support and assist the college in broadening its network of supporters.

To see who is on the Advisory Committee visit: <https://www.uwsp.edu/cofac/Pages/COFAC-Advisory-Council.aspx>

If you would like to formally join the advisory council or know of anyone who would have an interest in supporting our mission, please let us know!

## Alumni Engagement: Point-to-Point Connections

We are in the process of developing a new program to connect current COFAC students with alumni in their fields of interest called COFAC Point-to-Point Connections. Many students are not aware of the opportunities available to them and would be very grateful to receive additional advice from a trusted fellow Pointer. We believe that by establishing relationships with successful Pointers in their fields, our students will have the opportunity to ask questions and to learn about a wide variety of potential career options, to receive advice on skills to best prepare for the future, and to establish potential professional connections within the field. In times where young students and parents are concerned about college costs and their future success, we hope to help ease their concerns by letting them know that this program is available.

In talking with several alumni over the past many months, we have found that many are interested and willing to participate in this new mentorship program which we plan to launch in the fall of 2019. If you would like to volunteer for this program, please fill out [this form](#) or visit [www.uwsp.edu/cofac](http://www.uwsp.edu/cofac) to sign up to participate. We look forward to hearing from you!



# Student and Alumni News

## Anya Pustaver Laird Award Winner

Following graduation in May, Anya went to the Harrower Opera Summer Workshop in Atlanta, GA where she performed the role of Amy in Mark Adamo's contemporary opera Little Women. She then traveled to New York City to study with Metropolitan Opera soprano Elisabeth Stevens and prepared audition repertoire for young artist program applications and auditions. She was awarded second place in the "Artist of the Year" competition which is part of the International Great Composers Competition.

In August, Anya began a Master of Music in Vocal Performance at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she is studying with Professor Mimmi Fulmer. She also began rehearsals for the lead role of Poppea in the opera L'incoronazione di Poppea by Claudio Monteverdi for University of Wisconsin-Madison Opera, directed by David Ronis.

In September, Anya performed in the UW Opera Props Showcase Concert and was chosen to work with Metropolitan Opera tenor Kyle Ketelson in a masterclass. In spring 2019, Anya will perform with the Madison Opera in their spring production of Dvorak's Rusalka — "time to learn some Czech!"

Learn more about the Melvin R. Laird Exceptional Artist Award and previous winners by visiting <https://www.uwsp.edu/cofac/Pages/GivingBack/laird.aspx>



## SAVE THE DATE!

All former and retired faculty members from the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the Division of Interior Architecture are invited to attend a COFAC Former/Retired Faculty Member Social on June 20, 2019. Gerry McKenna has already arranged his summer travels to join us! Details to follow soon.

Please feel free to contact Maggie Marquardt if you have any questions at [mmarquar@uwsp.edu](mailto:mmarquar@uwsp.edu).

### Student

## HIGHLIGHTS

- **Students in Graphic Design** helped launch the new brand for [Everything Points Here website](#) promoting Portage County
- **Art students** in JinMan's class are collaborating with [CREATE Portage County](#) installed 3D works as part of Sculpture Quest, a first-of-its-kind geocache artventure. (Faculty members JinMan Jo, Matthew Groshek, and Keith Kaziak are among the artists whose work is featured in Sculpture Quest.)
- **Jesse Brinkman** (Communication) is heading up a student volunteer team working to develop a student-run film festival [Spectral Film Festival](#) in April 2019. This involves event planning, marketing, and curating (they already have over 1,800 submissions!)
- **Allie Farrell** (Communication) presented a paper in film studies at the national Film & History Conference in Madison, WI.
- BA Drama major **Josiah Turner** has been accepted into the Kennedy Center Playwright Workshop. Josiah traveled (all expenses paid for travel, housing and during the residency) to Washington D.C. in May. He was chosen to develop his play [Uncle Tom's Nephews](#) with a professional Dramaturg, Director and Actors. This is an incredible accomplishment, as only five students were selected from the entire country for this prestigious residency.
- **Meghan Wagner**, Arts Management wrote an [article](#) about her experiences as a student intern at the Corning Museum of Glass. This past summer she designed and installed a [labyrinth art installation](#) at [UWSP Treehaven](#).

## College of Fine Arts and Communication Distinguished Alumni Award

Six alumni and two distinguished friends of the university were honored for achievement and service at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point Homecoming weekend. The Distinguished Alumni Awards banquet was held Saturday, October 20, at the Dreyfus University Center.

Cindy Ratzlaff, '74, Allentown, Pa., the College of Fine Arts and Communication, president of Brand New Brand You Inc.

To hear Cindy's story, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBX-4u8d3qc>



## UWSP Trailblazer Award

The Trailblazer Award is bestowed on an alumnus who, since graduating less than 10 years ago, has achieved outstanding professional accomplishments in his or her area of study, employment or research. This year's award was presented to Gerald Avery Jr., '08, North Hollywood, Calif., a current cast member of "Hamilton" and past cast member of "Motown the Musical" and "Spider-Man Turn Off the Dark."

To hear Gerald's story, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgclGeK1E1M>



For more information about the Distinguished Alumni Awards, contact UW-Stevens Point Alumni Affairs at 715-346-3811 or go to <https://give.uwsp.edu/alumni-awards>.

## Silvia Bond

BFA Acting Alum Silvia Bond ('16) was accepted into arguably the most prestigious acting apprenticeship in the country at the Actor's Theatre of Louisville. She follows other UWSP Alumni in this apprenticeship: **Maggie Raymond**, **John Ford Dunker** and **Calum Bedborough** (Calum will be coming to campus in February to offer masterclasses to current students.) It is quite unusual for this apprenticeship to accept students before completing an MFA or building significant theatrical experience. All of our students have gone into the program either directly from their undergraduate experience or very soon after graduating.

**VISIT:**  
[www.uwsp.edu/cofac/calendar](http://www.uwsp.edu/cofac/calendar)

to check out all that is happening in the College of Fine Arts and Communication Spring 2019

## Call For Alumni News

We invite Alumni of the College of Fine Arts and Communication to share news with us. We plan to include feature stories in upcoming newsletters and would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact our Marketing Specialist, Julie Sittler, [jsittler@uwsp.edu](mailto:jsittler@uwsp.edu) to nominate a fellow Pointer graduate or to provide an update on your career highlights.

# On the Horizon

## Communication

Faculty members from the Division of Communication have recently proposed a **new 3-year bachelor's degree program in Strategic Communication** to better serve the regional community needs. The proposed program combines essential skills from Interpersonal and Organizational Communication and Public Relations areas to develop competencies in audience analysis, strategic messaging and writing, critical thinking, persuasion, group interaction, professional oral communication, among other career-related skills. The division has further proposed to offer this program on a year-round basis, allowing students from Stevens Point, Marshfield, and Wausau to complete the BS Communication degree in three years.



## Music

The Department of Music is in the process of revising its **Master of Music Education** degree program to be delivered **fully-online starting in the Fall of 2020**. The faculty recognize the challenges music teachers face in pursuing graduate study due to distance, family and job obligations, and time constraints. The department has a long tradition of excellent preparation of students in music education and can boast 100% placement in teaching positions. We hope that music teachers from throughout the state and region will consider this unique opportunity as an extension of our commitment to enhancing educational opportunities for working teachers.

# Please Support The College of Fine Arts and Communication

COFAC is in the midst of transformation as the entire campus has been challenged with a significant budget deficit. We are very proud of the long-established, excellent programs in the college and hope that you will consider helping us maintain our presence in the community. Remember, the better our students and graduates do, the better your alma mater looks in terms of quality and reputation. Helping your school helps you!

There are a number of ways you can help. To make a gift to the college or any of its departments, please go to the following website: <https://give.uwsp.edu/give-now> Below are fund numbers to which you can make a donation.

### College of Fine Arts and Communication

#### **2617—College of Fine Arts and Communication Scholarship:**

Provides student scholarships in departments of Art & Design, Communication, Music, and Theatre & Dance, as well as for students in the Aber Suzuki Center.

**4259—COFAC Fund for Excellence:** Helps ensure the college can address critical needs, enhance programs, support faculty development, and provide student scholarships.

**4234—COFAC Great Artists and Speakers Fund:** Brings guest artists and speakers to UWSP for direct interaction with students, campus, and the community.

**9145—Camp COFAC Fund:** Supports pre-college students' participation in summer camp programs offered by UWSP COFAC Continuing Education.

**8165—COFAC Creative Fund:** Supports projects that are interdisciplinary between departments in the college as well as across campus and with the community.

### Department of Art & Design

**2494—Art & Design Arts Bash Scholarship:** Created with proceeds from the annual Arts Bash fundraising event to support scholarships for students in Art & Design.

**4624—Art & Design Enhancement Fund:** Supports student scholarships, guest artists, supplies, faculty professional development, and other priorities in Art & Design.

### Department of Communication

**4285—Communication Development Fund:** Supports student scholarships, guest speakers, faculty professional development, and other department priorities.

### Department of Music

**2112—Music Department Scholarship:** Provides scholarships to students in the Department of Music.

**2205—Soiree Musicale Scholarship:** Created with proceeds from Soiree Musicale and Experience to support scholarships for students in the Department of Music.

**4131—Friends of Music:** Supports student scholarships, guest artists, faculty professional development, and other department priorities.

### Department of Theatre & Dance

**2516—Theatre Arts Scholarship:** Created through proceeds from ticket sales to provide scholarships for students in Theatre & Dance.

**2496—Theatre & Dance Arts Bash Scholarship:** Created with proceeds from the annual Arts Bash fundraising event to support Senior Showcase, student attendance at conferences, and scholarships for students in Theatre & Dance.

**4618—Backstage Fund:** Supports student scholarships, production enhancements, guest artists, faculty professional development, and other department priorities.

### Aber Suzuki Center

**4853—Suzuki Education Enhancement Fund:** Supports programming and scholarships for the Aber Suzuki Center.