A PARTNERSHIP FOR THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Vibrant Communities

Create flourishing local cultural centers with world-class opportunities in the arts and humanities.
A vibrant community includes lively, varied cultures and supports a life of expression, appreciation, and reflection. We support exploration, creation and experimentation in a range of cultural areas, such as the arts, humanities, media and design. We prepare our students for numerous career opportunities, as well as deeper personal enjoyment and interaction with diverse cultures. Our students and graduates add their visions, voices and patronage to the communities in which they work and live.

Through programming, visiting artists and partnering with local businesses, organizations and UW-Stevens Point colleges, COFAC helps to achieve UW-Stevens Point’s A Partnership for Thriving Communities charge to create world-class opportunities in the arts and humanities for our students as well as the surrounding community.
Students studying in our college have the opportunity to work with and learn from many leaders in their field of study. Visiting artists and speakers work with students in the classroom, in the studio, and during master classes. Many of them also hold public lectures and performances, during which members of the community also benefit from our esteemed campus visitors from around the world, which have included:

Department of Art and Design
Amos Kennedy, Jr.
Adam Holtzinger
Amanda Campbell
Andréé Valley
Brittany Kalscheur
Buz Spector
Carolyn Monastra
Catherine Chauvin
Corning Museum of Glass Artists
Donald Young
Dr. Eugene Wang
Eddie Dominguez
Eric Madsen
Eric Rohmann
Ericka Walker
Fahmin Rashad
Franz Liszt
Fritz Schröder
Gary Baseman
Guerrilla Girls
Harold Boyd
Ina Kaur
Jim McClown
Joey Lynch
Johannes Felscher
Jon Chapman
Kayla Bill
Keith Wilson
Kelly Lutz
Marcia Pastiorius
Mark Ritchie
Martha Gluckowaki
Matt Eskiuche
Michael Barnes
Nick Cave
Patrick Dougherty
Petruha von Rintlis
Planet Propaganda
Rhea Edge
Richard Finch
Robin Cass
Robynne Raya of Modern Dog
Someoddpilot
Shah Roberts
Steve Feren
Studio Dunbar
Sydney Schuster
Tanner Stoffregen
Thomas Radeff
Tim Curtis
Tim Utz
Truman Low
Urs P. Twellmann
Walter Nohadly
Xu Bing

Division of Communication
Dr. Jason McGrath
Francesco Taboada
Glen Nowak
Jean-Michel Couteau
Jim Fleming
Kelly McEviers
Ken Burns

Department of Music
Anzia Saxophone Quartet
Baljinder Sekhon
Bernhard Scully
Bob Becker
Bobby McFerrin
Bud Boyar
Count Basie Orchestra
Craig Jessop
Craig Kirchhoff
Cullen Sutherland
Dan Janik
Danny McCaslin
Donny McCaslin
Fry Street Quartet
Göteborg Brass Band
Gro Sandvik
Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra
Jill Felter
John Daniel
K.S. Vaishali
Katherine Goedter
and the Prairie Song Project
Lin Foulk
Mara Beckman
Matt Wilson
Michael Lidow
Nathaniel Barrett
Peter Ziotrisk
Philip Glass
Qi Shu Fang Peking Opera Company
Sara David Scehner
Scott Barnhart
Sotto Voce Tuba Quartet
Steffen Harris
Susie LaBian
Teredon Gully
Ted Nash
Tresillo
William Barnewitz
Winton Marsalis
Yo-Yo Ma & The Silk Road Ensemble

Department of Theatre and Dance
Aaron Felske
Aria Gray
Andrea Burns
Andrew Cao
Arthur Kopit
Arturo Fernandez
Azaren Barton & Artists
Benjamin Wardell
Bette Stephens
Billy Siemffeld
Brandi Coleman
Claudio Muñoz
Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood
Dave Cemmons
Eddy Ocampo
Erin Carlisle-Norton
Giordano Jazz Dance Chicago
Houston Ballet II
Hubbard Street 2
Jason Robert Brown
Jennifer Rudin
Jump Rhythm
Jazz Project
Katy Othwein
Kristen Hollingsworth
Lily Cai Dance Company
Luc Varner
Luke Miller
Luna Negra Dance
Lynn Schwab
Mari Fujibayashi
Mark Simon
Martin Ortiz (Giordano Dance Chicago)
Melinda Myers
Melissa Hart
Michelle Faw
Olivia Rosencrantz
Patrick Strong
Patti LuPone & Mandy Patinkin
Rena Shagan
River North Dance Company
Susan Marshall & Company
Tappage
Whitney Montrose

Aber Suzuki Center
Christian Howes,
Improvisation class
Daniel Myer, composer
Dr. Shinichi Suzuki
Eiko Suzuki Kataoka & Masayochi Kataoka, violinists
Frye Street Quartet
Lorre Trytten, violin
Lydian Trio, Almita Vamos, Violin, Roland Vamos, Violin, Tonya Carey, cello
Peter Thomas, cellist
Sezio Arama, pianist
Toshio Takahashi
Wendy Warner, cellist
William Preucil, Jr
Yo-Yo Ma & the Silk Road Ensemble
Yukari Otani & Nagisa Shimizu, pianists

with the UW-Stevens Point student master class participants.
"Invent your life." Those three words from legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma rang very true for a student taking part in the Sentry Insurance Invitation to the Arts outreach events. "I was having a difficult time in college and thinking about dropping out. Taking part in the masterclass session and speaking with Mr. Ma made all the difference for me."

Four days of events showcased the Silk Road Ensemble with Yo-Yo Ma, which presented to more than 1,600 fourth through sixth graders, 400 Aber Suzuki Center students and their families, 1,000 university students, and 670 community members.

Ma founded and is the artistic director of the Silk Road Ensemble, a collective of internationally renowned performers and composers from more than 20 countries who collaborate on a diverse range of musical and multimedia projects. The group is widely recognized for their strong commitment to educational programs.

UW-Stevens Point music students began working on their pieces six months before the visit in the hopes of being chosen to take part on stage in the masterclass session. "A trio I was working with was approached by Professor Miles (UW-Stevens Point Department of Music) to see if we were interested in being considered for the possibility of playing for Yo-Yo Ma," said music student Brittany Mesumeci. "Our trio began to meet two or three times a week to prepare and two weeks before the event we found out we were selected to play in the masterclass."

Mesumeci’s experience was deeply meaningful. She did not have the opportunity to have private lessons, play in youth orchestra or even to own a violin until her senior year of high school. Not having come from a musical family, she credits and is grateful to her public school teachers who encouraged her to pursue her passion for music.

"If anything, I hope this experience encourages communities to continue to support the arts in public schools. I would never have had the chance to play for Yo-Yo Ma if my public school educators hadn’t poured their love of music into my life," Mesumeci said.

Elementary students’ reactions ranged from "so cool," to "I learned a lot about music from all over the world." Their music teachers were star-struck. "I can’t believe we have the opportunity to interact and have our students learn from these artists," one elementary teacher said. "We are so lucky to live in a community that supports the arts in this way."

Pat D’Ercle, director of the Aber Suzuki Center, also spent months choosing students to participate in the masterclass as well as choosing pieces for the students to play. "It is such an honor to be able to work with these musicians. The students and their families were able to attend a masterclass titled Arranging Workshop for Young Musicians along with the local Central State Chamber Orchestra Students."

In its nine-year span, the generous support from the Sentry Insurance Foundation has provided thousands of local students, from grade school through college, opportunities to interact with outstanding professionals in the fine arts. For some of them, such as the student who was thinking about dropping out of college, this experience has been life changing.
Patrick Dougherty, award-winning and internationally acclaimed environmental sculptor, was in residence at UW-Stevens Point March 31-April 20, 2013. During his time in Stevens Point, he worked with UW-Stevens Point students and community volunteers to create a large-scale sculpture just outside the Noel Fine Arts Center on campus.

“Patrick’s work had the effect of building community through a shared experience of creating art together,” said Kristin Thielking, professor in UW-Stevens Point’s Department of Art and Design, prior to Dougherty’s visit. “We enjoyed the experience of working together on what can be seen as a symbol of the great potential of interdisciplinary and inter-community collaboration and a celebration of our connectedness.”

Dougherty has created more than 200 large-scale sculptures in locations around the world. The piece, “Garden of Curiosities,” created during the residency used maple, willow and dogwood saplings, which were harvested sustainably and in an environmentally sensitive way from the local area. The piece is meant to be dismantled and recycled after approximately 18 months.

The College of Fine Arts and Communication collaborated with the College of Natural Resources, Schmeeckle Reserve, Treehaven, Fiskars of Wausau, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Frances for their support of this project.

The completed sculpture has been a popular site for photos and visitors since its completion. “It’s great to look out the window and see a group of elementary students running through the sculpture and enjoying it,” states Jeff Morin, dean of the college. “This piece was meant to be interactive and it certainly has served that purpose in its first few months.”
Art and music students in grades 9-12 from across the United States travel to Stevens Point to learn and collaborate with others in their respective areas for a week each summer during Camp COFAC.

Vocalists, composers and instrumentalists of strings, woodwinds, brass, percussion and piano immerse themselves in music, working closely with faculty members on their primary instrument in daily classes and group lessons as well as large and group ensembles. Evening recitals and recreational activities are also held throughout the week, which concludes with a public concert.

Studio artists have five days of instruction, which includes daily studio workshops and an evening drawing workshop, as well as open labs and social events. Studio classes include glass fusing and slumping, metal casting and relief sculpture, mixed media painting and assemblage sculpture. The camp concludes with a gallery exhibition of the works created during their immersion.

For many of the students attending camp, they may have not thought about attending college to pursue their dreams. In order to keep this opportunity open to all students, a number of scholarships are offered through the Department of Public Instruction, the College of Fine Arts and Communication, and UW-Stevens Point Continuing Education.
A problem has turned into an opportunity—and produced a new, economical art paper for student and faculty use—thanks to a unique collaboration between departments at UW-Stevens Point.

During the past three years, the Wisconsin Institute for Sustainable Technology (WIST) has partnered with the Paper Science and Engineering Department and the College of Fine Arts and Communication. Together, they created Riverpoint paper, an art paper that is produced on campus and distributed nationwide.

These three entities came together in order to create a high-quality, archival art paper at an economical cost for students and faculty in the visual arts. This goal was attainable due to University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s on-site pilot paper machine.

“I thought, they make paper, we need paper,” said printmaking professor Robert Erickson, who was one of the first individuals involved with the creation and distribution of RiverPoint paper. “So they took a piece of paper that we normally use, which is a little heavier paper than normal, analyzed it and they made an experimental sheet.”

Paper was produced in small trial runs, each of which was then tested by both students and faculty to ensure quality and performance within various media.

“It took us about three or four iterations of the paper to get it where we wanted,” Erickson said. “Once we got a sheet of the paper we thought looked good, we decided to take that publicly and begin to market it.”

Though the project began simply, originally aimed to only aid UW-Stevens Point students, the paper being produced was so successful that now it is made widely available.

“It started out as an interesting student project, but got to the point where we achieved the properties we were looking for in terms of how it looked and performed, that we were interested in seeing if there were other opportunities besides just using it exclusively on campus,” said Paul Fowler, the executive director of WIST.

RiverPoint Paper was introduced in 2014 at the Southern Graphics Council International Conference in Milwaukee, Print: MIKE, where actual artists and designers were able to work with the product and gauge its value.

“We used that as an opportunity to essentially do a soft launch of RiverPoint. We wanted to get paper in the hands of artists and printmakers and ask ‘do you think this paper is good enough that you would use it if we made it widely available?’” Fowler said.

According to Fowler, the experience was extremely beneficial and sparked a considerable amount of interest.

“As a result of that initial contact, we’ve now made some runs of RiverPoint and sold it and shipped it to customers in 15 states, so there’s real potential for expansion,” Fowler said. “We’re really excited about the prospect that it has, and we’re really only scratching the surface.”

Erickson went on to note that aside from its commercial potential, RiverPoint Paper has also succeeded in its original goal of catering to UW-Stevens Point students.

“We’re able to get the paper at a greatly reduced cost here, so students are able to buy it relatively cheap, which means that’s an expense they don’t have to bear, but also they get the chance to be much more experimental. If you know you’re spending so much money, you’re always more cautious, and they can explore and make mistakes because it’s not costing as much.”

“RiverPoint has exceeded all expectations,” Fowler said. “It’s providing a great value paper, it’s providing a great substrate for students to do their creative work on, it’s providing real-world work experience for paper science and engineering students, and it’s providing the opportunity to do some great design work around RiverPoint.”
Musicians are often inspired by nature, literature or life events. Music professor Charles Rochester Young composed a piece inspired by all of these for the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra.

Commissioned by the Community Foundation of Central Wisconsin, Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors, Ellis Stone Construction Company and the UW-Stevens Point College of Natural Resources, Young composed the piece, “Enchanted Moonscape,” which debuted at the final concert of the 2013 season for the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra.

The concert celebrated the life and work of central Wisconsin environmentalist, Frances Hammerstrom, whose book, “Walk When the Moon is Full,” inspired Charles to create the symphonic work.

Described as a “delightful, true story of moonlight walks taken by Frances Hammerstrom with her two children, Alan and Elva, during each of thirteen full moons,” the composition depicts a single night’s walk. Frances authored the book when her grandchildren were old enough to be taken on their own moonlit adventures.

Charles’ program notes for “Enchanted Moonscape” ask the audience to “imagine what curious children might experience on their first moonlight walk. Have you ever wondered what you might experience outdoors at night? Join us on this magical journey into the night to discover the possibilities.”

The concert was just one piece of the activities inspired by this book. New events for the Prairie Chicken Festival, which educates people about how to save the habitat where the prairie chicken lives, ranged from local food to the arts.

Experts spoke about grassland and wildlife conservation during on-farm educational demonstrations. Birding tours were held and the public was invited to reserve spots to sit in viewing blinds at the Buena Vista Wildlife Area during the two-day annual spring festival.

Artwork inspired by the book and created by Lora Hagen and Pauline Merry Pray was exhibited at Gallery Q in Stevens Point. “I like to put together glass, stone, tile, and ceramic pieces and this let me do all of that,” says Pauline. “I hadn’t explored the moon as imagery before. Once I started working on all of this, I was seeing moons all over the place.”

All the events converged into a new awareness for the environment. As the program for the concert states, “Fran’s lesson: do what you love and share your expertise, so that when you are no longer able to, others can pick up the baton, create some new music, and play a new song. Fran would have enjoyed being here for a world premiere of a special commission based upon one of her books.”
For the past 43 years, thousands of Suzuki students, parents and teachers have called Stevens Point home during the American Suzuki Institute’s two week-long sessions held each summer. The institute was the first Suzuki summer program established outside Japan.

Immersing themselves in the philosophy and teachings of Shinichi Suzuki, participants from the United States and up to six different countries take classes in violin, viola, cello, bass, piano, harp, guitar, voice, and chamber music as well as teacher training sessions. Special guest artists each year also offer training sessions as well as concerts during their stay.

This past summer, violinist Steve Zander, an Aber Suzuki Center alumnus, was included in the guest artist lineup. A member of the Santa Barbara Symphony, Zander has collaborated with principal members of the Boston Symphony, Houston Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and with members of the Pro Arte Quartet. He can be heard on many film and television soundtracks, including “Rango,” HBO’s “The Sunset Limited,” “Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides,” “A Good Day to Die Hard” and on episodes of “Perception” and “Revenge.”

After all that studying and practice, the Suzuki students are eager to show off what they’ve learned. An important part of the Institute is the free public concerts that are held daily on campus. Not only do their families get to hear what they’ve learned, the community is invited to come and hear these talented children as well.

“Many think the American Suzuki Institute is the place for talented and motivated children. It is, and it’s also the place to become talented and motivated. For one week, everyone plays an instrument or sings and has fun doing it,” said Pat D’Ercole, director of the Aber Suzuki Center and American Suzuki Institute, which the center sponsors. “This immersion experience is about music, as well as being with families and teachers who believe every child can learn to make music, that making music nurtures the development of character and compassion, and because of that the world will be a better place.”
A program that started in the planning stage during the winter of 2010, with the first class in January 2011, has grown so quickly that there is now a waiting list for seats.

Very Young Composers is led by Bob Rosen, who places UW-Stevens Point undergraduate music majors in groups with area fourth- and fifth-grade students. The goal for each of the elementary students is to create an original composition in four weeks while working with the university student assigned to their group. The elementary student then gets to take part in the performance of their piece. A UW-Stevens Point chamber orchestra plays their composition for an audience while they conduct from stage.

“The past two weeks, I have seen a side of our son that warms my heart as a mother. He is singing all the time, humming a little tune, and is eagerly composing at his keyboard. His instructor is so patient, showing understanding, and is an effective educator as well as a mentor and positive role model for my son,” stated one parent.

“This type of feedback,” states Rosen, is “very typical of what we hear from parents.”

More than 120 elementary students have taken part in the program, led by 38 volunteer UW-Stevens Point music majors during the program’s first three years. “Many of the volunteer Teaching Artists have served for two or more years and the classes since the first year have all included three to four returning elementary students.”

The experience, while valuable for the young composers, is also just as valuable for the Teaching Artists. “They gain insights into how the fourth- and fifth-graders think about and communicate their creative ideas. They also discover that the Young Composers can imagine music they themselves are unable to demonstrate. They come out of the experience knowing that elementary students can compose music without previous background training and with hands-on experience on how it can be done. The Teaching Artists also come away with much greater personal confidence in their ability to connect with youngsters at a deep creative level,” says Rosen.

The program has branched out in other ways in the community. Not only do students from the UW-Stevens Point Concert Band and Campus Band play pieces from the Young Composers, but the Stevens Point Area Senior High Wind Ensemble and Symphony Orchestra have also performed pieces composed by these elementary students.

Recently, the Very Young Composers program was awarded a grant from the Community Foundation. The Wisconsin School Music Association also selected the program for the prestigious Melvin F. Pointous Creative Sparks in Music Education Award.

Another parent stated, “What a treat to see this new side of our son we don’t always get a chance to see. I am hoping that after this experience with the Very Young Composers program, he will continue his newfound passion for music and composing.”
U.S. veterans of five wars shared their experience during a series of free public events in collaboration with UW-Stevens Point and Mid-State Technical College.

The “Visions of War” series was held with veterans who served in World War II, the Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Iraq War, and the Afghanistan War, sharing their experiences of war through art, film, poetry and discussion.

Events included:
• UW-Stevens Point’s Eighth Annual University Eventing, “Rally Round the Troops,” a lecture by Professor Susan Brewer of the History Department.
• A “Vets Talk” panel discussion featuring local veterans who fought in World War II, the Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War and the Iraq War.
• A show in the Carlsten Art Gallery titled “Visions of War: Artists as Soldiers/Soldiers as Artists.”
• Film screenings of the Academy Award-nominated documentary “Poster Girl” and “Iraq Paper Scissors” followed by a discussion with Sara Nessess, director of both films, and Robyn Murray, the veteran featured in “Poster Girl.”
• An artist talk with Aaron Hughes, artist and Iraq War veteran, whose work was featured in the Carlsten Gallery exhibit.
• A poetry reading by Brian Turner, a published and award-winning poet and Iraq War veteran.
• The last event, a film screening of “Operation Homecoming” was followed by a wrap-up discussion with the Vets Talk Panel, which featured firsthand accounts of war and coming home.

Artwork by veterans in the Carlsten Gallery during “Visions of War: Artists as Soldiers/Soldiers as Artists”
Internships are powerful experiences—they allow the intern to improve skill sets, build their portfolio, test drive a job and also build professional connections and references. Our internship partners also benefit from the new skill sets these interns bring to their company as well as having a pool of potential candidates that they have “tried out” should they be hiring.

COFAC students have the opportunity to work as interns in their chosen field to gain real-world experience. Not only does this assist the student in their studies, but also helps open doors when they graduate and are looking for employment. In today’s competitive job market, many employers prefer graduates who have demonstrated their abilities in a successful internship.

Many students complete an on-campus internship first, then seek an off-campus internship, which can sometimes even mean traveling to another country such as England, Ireland, or Australia to complete an internship. While students may find their own internships, university internship coordinators are available to assist in placement.

Emma Ashton-Roberts, COFAC’s Internship Development Manager in London, England, recently sent a message about a former student: “I met with one of your former students last night, who was hired as a regular employee at her internship site due to the excellent work she did there. When I visited the company she works for, it was incredibly rewarding to see how much she is a valued member of the team and that she will be responsible for training any incoming intern.”

Combined with their classroom instruction, these internship experiences prove to be invaluable as students prepare for the next step after graduation.

Our students have completed successful internships with a wide variety of organizations and businesses, including:

- Abrahams Design
- American Cancer Society
- Art in America
- Arts Alliance of Portage County
- Barrington Stage Company
- Beyond Communications, Ltd.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Club
- British Museum
- British Parliament
- Carleton Art Gallery
- Central Wisconsin Children’s Museum
- Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra
- Columbia Artists Management
- Comedy Underground
- Crumpled Dog
- Disney
- Feast Creative
- Gallery Q Artist’s Cooperative
- Green Bay Press Gazette
- Harley Davidson
- Hennepin County Trust
- Kennedy Center
- Lands’ End
- Mayor of Chicago’s Office
- Milwaukee Brewers
- Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
- Morris Visitor Publications
- MTV
- National Geographic
- Navy Pier
- NBC News
- Oshkosh Truck
- Penguin Books
- Point Dance Ensemble
- Red Cross
- Red Shoes PR
- Riverfront Arts Center
- Riverview Hospital
- Saatchi Gallery
- Salvation Army
- Scarabocchio Art Museum
- Smithsonian
- Soiree Musicale
- Spirit Advertising
- Target
- Travel Guard
- United Way
- Grand Theatre
- YMCA
It may be a stretch to think of a former bakery as a go-to place for art, but that’s just what the Scarabocchio Art Museum (SAM) has become. The museum and its contents were generously donated to the City of Stevens Point by Dr. David and Alyce Smith. Dr. David Smith, a former UW-Stevens Point art professor, chose the name Scarabocchio, Italian for "doodle," because doodling is the basis of his artwork’s patented technique.

As a partnership between the city of Stevens Point and UW-Stevens Point, SAM has been reorganized under the direction of gallery curator, Brian Borchardt, since reopening in 2011. SAM is not only a place for the public to enjoy student and professional artwork, but also serves as an experiential learning center for students studying Arts Management. The students who work as interns at SAM learn how to prepare, promote and set up gallery shows, run events, and also learn about the day-to-day work behind running a gallery.

Students in the Department of Art and Design may also be involved and learn in the gallery. “SAM gives students the unique opportunity to learn how to market and sell their artwork,” Brian says. “This is an experience that cannot easily be taught in a classroom setting and gives the student artists the knowledge necessary to succeed after they graduate.” As an artist himself, he is able to assist the students in the “how to” as they work together to prepare and sell the artwork. “In the past three years, we have been able to offer a large selection of student artwork for sale at SAM.”

The space has been utilized for more than art shows. Collaborative art and music shows, classes, presentations, meetings and even a visit from former Wisconsin Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton have taken place in SAM’s flexible space — not bad for a former bakery.
More than $169,000 in scholarship assistance was provided to students in the College of Fine Arts and Communication in 2013.

The College of Fine Arts and Communication hosts three scholarship events each year. These three events provided more than $37,000 in scholarships and student enrichment opportunities in 2013.

- Music of the Masters, benefits students at the Aber Suzuki Center
- Arts Bash, benefits students studying within the departments of Art and Design and Theatre and Dance
- Soirée Musicale, benefits Department of Music students

276 scholarships were awarded in 2013
- 38 in Art and Design
- 139 in Music
- 25 in Communication
- 38 in Theatre and Dance
- 36 in the Aber Suzuki Center

Scholarship awards range from $50 to $5,000

Private support through charitable gifts, endowment earnings and grants provided the financial support for approximately 78 percent of the funds used for scholarships in 2013.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED 2013

SCHOLARSHIP SOURCES
“I just saw a need for a scholarship and decided to make it happen,” Matthieu Vollmer, who graduated from UW-Stevens Point in May 2010, explained. “There wasn’t a specific scholarship for members of the Public Relations Student Society of America here on campus.”

Gathering a group of fellow alumni, Matthieu began to raise funds to award the scholarship through the UWSF Foundation. UW-Stevens Point alumni who studied public relations in the Division of Communication and were also members of PRSSA were the first donors to the scholarship fund.

“Alumni recognize the financial struggles that may be associated with students who are actively involved in groups such as PRSSA and realize that offering monetary assistance to those students will help them to excel,” Matthieu stated.

The scholarship, awarded to a Sophomore or Junior Communication student who is an active member of PRSSA, was first awarded in the spring of 2013 during the annual Division of Communication Awards Banquet.

Matthieu went on to say, “It just feels great to help out a student with a scholarship. I know that it really helped me to receive them when I was in college.”

Kathryn Weast (Communication, 2013) the first recipient of the scholarship was thrilled. “I cannot express my appreciation deeply enough. This helps motivate me to follow my passion not only for public relations, but also for the communication field in general. I believe now, with more conviction than ever, that this is the right path for me.”

The rigorous selection process assures that the right person receives the scholarship. Public relations emphasis students with a grade point average of 3.0 or higher are sent a letter inviting them to apply as well as an application form. Students may also be nominated by a faculty member for the award. The applications are then reviewed by an independent committee of PRSSA alumni and recommendations are made to the Awards Committee. The final decision to award the scholarship is made by the Awards Committee and the PRSSA faculty advisor.

“We’re raising funds for the second scholarship and hope to expand to offer more than one scholarship a year in the future,” Matthieu says, looking forward. To give to the PRSSA Scholarship, please contact the UWSF Foundation.
Stevens Point native and University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point music major Alexandria Mueller has always wanted to create emotional and inspiring scores for films.

“I truly believe in magic,” said the 2013 graduate. “How else can you explain why hearing certain music can make you relive childhood memories, move you to tears or fill you with triumph — or why an ascending minor second makes you fear going near the ocean?”

Mueller is closer to her goal after receiving the third Melvin R. Laird Exceptional Artist Award, given annually to recognize an exceptional graduating UW-Stevens Point student in performing or visual arts. The award provides a $5,000 investment to help the recipient become a successful leading artist in his or her field.

Mueller used the funds to attend a prestigious Film Scoring Program at the Seattle Film Institute. Directed by Hummie Mann, the program is taught by professionals in the field. It enabled her to further her studies and develop invaluable relationships and contacts beneficial in pursuing her career in film composition.

“My career goal is to compose music for the kind of films I am inspired by and create a total experience for the audience,” she said. “I want to ignite the audience’s imagination to help film transcend the level of mere entertainment and become a transformative experience.”

Established by the Honorable Melvin R. Laird and members of the Laird Endowment Advisory Board, the Exceptional Artist Award serves as a continued commitment to the Laird Art Leadership program associated with Laird Leadership Day. Laird was the former U.S. Secretary of Defense under President Nixon and Wisconsin’s 7th Congressional District representative.

While studying at UW-Stevens Point, Mueller was consistently on the Dean’s List, volunteered with the Very Young Composers project and won many awards, including the Kenwood Symphony Composition prize and Wind Ensemble competition. She has also had three of her compositions published by Alliance Publications while still an undergraduate.

After attending the Pacific Northwest Program, Mueller plans to begin work scoring student films, independent films and also applying for nationwide scoring competitions.

“The best advice I ever received about starting out was that composers don’t get jobs, they get gigs,” she said. “I imagine my career will be a mixture of commissions for concert music, teaching Suzuki violin and viola and also arranging and composing for various media projects including film, video games and advertising.”
Alexander Landerman had a rocky start academically. “I was kicked out of kindergarten, failed first grade, and spent most of second grade in the hallway,” he said. Junior high and high school involved more recreation than the other three R’s of education.

If that doesn’t sound like a deserving winner of a first-time entrepreneurial award, consider this: Landerman now has his own art studio. He exhibits his charcoal drawings and letterpress art in galleries across the country. He was awarded “Best of Show” at the Stevens Point Festival of the Arts in April, 2013, the latest in a long list of accolades.

“Art was really a refuge for me,” Landerman says of his early years growing up near Stevens Point. “I was always drawing things. I was really forced into this because this is all I was good at.”

In high school, he realized he needed to improve his 2.8 grade point average if he wanted to go to college. He took night classes at Midstate Technical College then enrolled at UW-Stevens Point, initially planning to major in business. He took an introductory art class his first semester and met Mark Brueggeman, senior lecturer in the Department of Art and Design.

“Mark Brueggeman was the first person who took me under his wing. He said, ‘why are you here? Why are you doing what you’re doing?’” Those questions and encouragement from faculty, staff and students in the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the art community helped guide Landerman to pursue his passion.

Caren Heft, senior lecturer and Edna Carlsten Gallery director, was his mentor. “She forced me to explain myself. If I wanted opportunities, she would help me.”

Heft taught a letterpress class and he loved the art form. Landerman asked her to employ him as a personal studio assistant. In exchange for four hours of work each day, he would be allowed to use her studio equipment for four hours. He used her extensive collection of wood type from old proofing presses to create a letterpress art series. He also draws expressive portraits and bold gestural images of animals using charcoal and other mixed media.

Landerman’s drive to learn from other artists, to exhibit and promote his art, and run a small business is rare in undergraduates. Heft said, “Alex is one of the most outstanding students I have encountered. He has a clear vision for the future and his place in it. He works extremely hard, focused on becoming a self-supporting professional artist.”

Landerman was awarded the first-ever Hipstamatic Entrepreneurship Award from UW-Stevens Point. The award will annually recognize and award $5,000 to an exceptional graduating student in UW-Stevens Point’s Department of Art and Design.

The award was established by two entrepreneurial UW-Stevens Point alumni, Ryan Dorshorst (class of 2006) and Lucas Allen Buick (class of 2005), both of whom now reside in the San Francisco, California, area. They created the Synthetic Infatuation design firm after graduating and developed the Hipstamatic iPhone application, among others. The award’s intent is to jump-start a graduate’s entrepreneurial venture.

“This is one more way the university has shaped me. This award will help me focus fully on making artwork,” Landerman said. He will buy equipment and supplies needed to continue his business, the Art of Alexander Landerman.

“Everyone I worked with closely was very supportive of me,” Landerman said, also acknowledging the college’s dean, Jeff Morin; Art and Design Professor, Rob Stolzer; and Brian Borchardt, the Scarabocchio Art Museum curator.

“I came into this program and became a very different person,” he said. Instead of being told what he couldn’t do, UW-Stevens Point faculty and the arts community had such a positive effect on Landerman that they are part of his growth and success. The message he received here was: “If you don’t do well, you’re not living up to the potential we see for you.”
David Hopp, a native of Escanaba, Michigan, is at the height of his academic career. He never envisioned himself going beyond the Bachelor’s degree adventure to pursue a Master’s degree in Communication Studies. But the strong desire to “give back to the world through education at the college level” guided him to the graduate program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. The beauty of his journey, however, goes beyond academia. David chose to integrate community involvement into his graduate studies workload through volunteering and promotional work with the College of Fine Arts and Communication. He believes together, these experiences are some of the best ingredients to continue giving back to communities during his career and beyond.

A graduate of Grand Valley State University, David brings a well-rounded and progressive attitude to the community. He travels around the globe visiting friends and experiencing new cultures. He recently spent one month backpacking around Ireland and England and frequently travels across the United States attending conferences and participating in cultural events such as Broadway plays, benefits and as an occasional pianist.

“Being a communication major, I believe that traveling is the perfect chance to exercise what I’m learning, but it involves a lot of talking. I made the trip to Europe all about the people I met. I wanted to bring my adventures and conversations to my community and integrate them in parts of my teaching career,” David stated.

David will finish the two-year graduate program in the spring of 2014. He chose UW-Stevens Point above other well-known universities because of the small and intimate graduate classes and the opportunity to get hands-on experience through a teaching assistantship awarded to outstanding graduate students. He also chose UW-Stevens Point because of the opportunity students have with the community of Stevens Point. David exercised this opportunity by knocking on the doors of St. Michael’s Hospital and offering his services to volunteer through the Patient Advocacy program.

“I’ve always been fascinated with communication between patients, nurses and doctors and this is what drew me to the hospital. After a couple days of interacting with patients, I knew I needed to be there for them any way that I could,” said David.

Not only does David give back to the community through his volunteering, he also promotes and encourages student community involvement through an internship with the College of Fine Arts and Communication. David works on the Performing Arts Series, and develops and implements strategies to encourage student participation and attendance.

“The events in the series involve participation from both my fellow students and the community. It is a chance for the two crowds to interact as part of one big, happy, community family,” said David. He believes stronger communities thrive when people from all ages gather and laugh together.

Inspired by his work in communication as well as volunteering in the medical community, David has applied and been accepted to the Pre-Medical Program at Northwestern University and will enter the next phase of his post-graduate education there starting this fall.
Ranked among the top ten regional universities in the Midwest, the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point offers a top quality education across a wide range of nationally recognized programs. Students from 35 states and more than 38 countries choose to make Stevens Point their new home each year, and their reasons for coming are as diverse as the majors we offer. We are a leader in environmental initiatives with a nationally recognized College of Natural Resources within one of the greenest colleges in the nation, according to the Princeton Review. We are one of only 30 universities in the nation whose fine arts programming is accredited by all four National Associations. Education, health science, health promotion, communications and business are also highly popular here. Located in one of the safest and scenic areas of the country, you’ll enjoy an extraordinarily high quality of life and a wide variety of extracurricular activities. Apply now!

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