Summer 2026

SPOTLIGHT ON COFAC

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

Note from our Dean...

It is with great excitement that we relaunch our College newsletter as a renewed way to celebrate the creativity, innovation, and accomplishments of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This publication will highlight the inspiring work happening across our programs, showcase the impact of the arts and communication in our region, and strengthen our connection with the communities we serve. We look forward to sharing stories of excellence, collaboration, and discovery while inviting you to join us in celebrating the many ways our College enriches lives through education, creativity, and engagement. Thank you for being part of our journey—we are excited to share all that lies ahead.

- Dr. Stuart M. Benkert

Symphonic Wind Ensemble to Release Professional Recording

Music students at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point were part of a professional music recording thanks to their professor receiving a Faculty Research/Creative Development Grant.

John Lynch, director of bands and a professor of music at UW-Stevens Point, was at the helm of a full-length recording of the symphonic wind ensemble titled "Endless Horizons". The album will include six total pieces, and features students in the top concert band at UW-Stevens Point, along with faculty soloist Brent Turney, director of jazz studies and professor of trumpet.

Lynch was inspired to record an album to feature the talents of UWSP musicians and share them on a national scale, in addition to providing an important professional experience for students preparing for careers in music.

"I've spearheaded seven professional recording projects over the course of my career and each time it's been a life changing experience for all those involved," said Lynch.

The project was recorded for 18 hours over three days in February and made possible with help from Los Angeles based recording engineer Christian Amonson (former engineer for the United States Marine Band), and producer Brad Genevro.

For the students involved, the experience provided a glimpse into a new professional outcome they may not have otherwise considered.

"This experience helped give us perspective on what we may want to do when we graduate," said music education major Aderyn Seefeldt. "Recording ensembles exist, and this experience opened the door for students wanting to continue. As a student participant, this was an incredible opportunity that most musicians never get the chance to do, and it pushed us in new and interesting ways. Having this album released would also mean putting our school name out there to a whole new demographic of people."

"It was a joy to collaborate with the students, my colleague Brent and our guest artists to create something lasting and meaningful to put out into the world," said Lynch. "The process, from the first rehearsal until "it's a wrap," was filled with growth for our students, and it is an experience we will always remember."

"Endless Horizons" is planned to be released on all streaming platforms later this year.

Tim Buchholz Receives University Service Award

Always looking for ways to give back during the past 13 years at UWSP, Tim Buchholz, Professor of Voice, was awarded a University Service award this spring for his efforts in raising more than $100,000 in student scholarships through the Rib Mountain Adventure Challenge Scholarship Fundraiser which allows him to raise funds for music department student scholarships at both campuses while highlighting a sport he loves, adventure racing.

"I was very fortunate to have parents who financially supported my higher education goals. Knowing most people don't have that privilege, I strive to use my time and skills to help raise money for music scholarships, community events, and bettering our community so others can have the same opportunities I did," Buchholz shared.

During his tenure, Buchholz's efforts have garnered over $264,000 in grants for projects related to UWSP music scholarships, community jazz events, and music department facility upgrades. In addition to finding ways to give back to the campus and community beyond fundraising, he also uses his skills to benefit organizations statewide. He has served in a leadership role of the River Valley Jazz Society since 2014, as the Wisconsin Choral Director's Association Vocal Jazz All-State Coordinator for the past 11 years, created and is director of the Wausau Vocal Jazz Festival since 2014, serves as the faculty advisor for UWSP's A Capella Club which has grown to six different student-led groups, and has assisted and helped prepare our UWSP students to compete in, and win awards, at regional and national competitions. His efforts also not only helped develop a successful Vocal Jazz program at UWSP, but also the addition of a Contemporary Voice program. When the Wisconsin Choral Director's Association considered eliminating the All Sate Vocal Jazz Ensemble as part of the yearly conference in 2014, Buchholz was crucial in working to continue this experience for high school and university musicians, running a successful event and chairing the All-State Ensemble every year since.

Mathew Buchman shared "As Music Department Chair, I have the privilege of an eagle-eye view of my colleague's professional service. Dr. Tim Buchholz stands out in the area of service in unique and impactful ways in both volunteer and official capacities."

With a lengthy list of accomplishments, Buchholz "Sees service and giving back to the campus and community as a great joy and privilege. Volunteer activities fill my heart and soul like nothing else. I am so happy to be an active member of the campus and the community at large."

How do gifts impact our students?

Recent gifts to COFAC have directly impacted both student classroom needs and student experiences. The painting area received a gift to purchase new tabourets and easels – replacing the equipment that was decades old and in poor condition. A gift to media studies made it possible for 8 students to travel recently to Los Angeles – meeting with industry leaders, networking with alumni, and spending time touring professional studios.

Not only that, but the COFAC Fund for Excellence supports national accreditation in all visual and performing art—the only institution in the state of Wisconsin to achieve this distinction!

COFAC is fully accredited by the:

- National Association of Schools of Art and Design
- National Association of Schools of Dance
- National Association of Schools of Music
- National Association of Schools of Theatre
- Council for Interior Design Accreditation

Because of these accreditations, your gift truly goes the extra mile in providing students with the experiences they need to learn and grow. Your gift can make a big difference, no matter the size.
Click to learn more about supporting our students!

Fall Semester COFAC Events

COFAC continues to bring creativity to life through an exciting lineup of performances, exhibitions, and special events. Whether you're passionate about theatre, music, dance, or the visual arts, there's something for everyone in our vibrant arts community.
Click here for tickets to all events.

Theatre and Dance

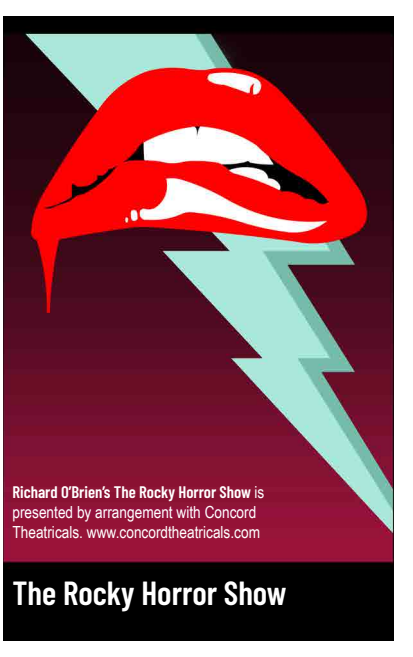
This season celebrates courage, boldness, and the unbreakable human spirit. **Defiant Hearts** radiate through all seven productions with characters, stories, and images that explore, reflect, and transform our world.

Michael Estanich, Chair
Department of Theatre and Dance

Studio Theatre
By Clifford Odets
Directed by Dana Dancho

A play by American playwright Clifford Odets, **Waiting for Lefty** is about a group of exploited taxi drivers debating a strike during the Great Depression. The play features vignettes that reveal the struggles of the working class against economic hardship and corruption. Waiting for Lefty is a powerful mosaic of the American working class deeply relevant to today's society and one of the most celebrated and significant plays of the modern American theatre.

October 2 -4 & October 8-10
First Nighters event October 2



Jenkins Theatre
Music, Book and Lyrics
by Richard O'Brien
Directed by Mark Hanson
Music Direction by Kyle Norris

Winner for the Evening Standard Theatre Award for Best Musical, **The Rocky Horror Show** premiered in 1973 and is a cult classic rock musical by Richard O'Brien. Enjoying a resurgence on Broadway for a limited run and a featured film staple of Halloween, The Rocky Horror Show follows strait-laced couple Brad and Janet who stumble upon the castle of the scientist Dr. Frank-n-Furter, leading to a night of B-movie-inspired sci-fi, horror, and sexual liberation, featuring iconic songs like "Time Warp" and "Sweet Transvestite". The show, is known for its audience participation and promises to be a raucous evening of fun for UWSP!

October 23-25 & October 28-31
First Nighters event October 23

Studio Theatre
Choreographed, Designed,
and Directed by Students

Featuring work from dance majors and minors, costume, lighting, scenic design by student designers. It's a special evening of dance fully created by students. It celebrates experimentation and the variety of dance styles and choreographic approaches.

November 20-22

Click to see the entire 2026-27 Theatre and Dance season shows!

Theatre & Dance Season Packages Available!

Our **First Nighters Package** begins with a pre-show cocktail hour and cash bar, and an exquisite, show-inspired meal expertly prepared by our OnPoint Catering followed by the opening night performance of the five featured mainstage and studio theatre productions. Our **Full Season Package** includes discounted tickets to all seven performances in the season. Patrons select their preferred date and time for each individual show.

Music

September 5 & 6	Riverfront Jazz Festival (Pfiffner Park)
October 7	Wind Symphony and Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert*
October 15	Symphony Orchestra Concert*
October 21	Campus Ensembles Concert*
October 23	UWSP Combined Choirs Concert*
October 24	UWSP Alumni Choral Event (all day event)
October 27	Shared Jazz Ensembles Concert*
October 31	Low Brass Day (all day event)
November 6	Guest Artist Dr. Sarah Hetrick Concert
November 7	Saxophone Day (all day event)
November 12	Guest Artist Dr. Nicholas Phillips Concert
November 14	Double Reed Day (all day event)
November 14	Suzuki Music of the Masters Fundraiser
November 17	Guest Artist Recital Denis Levillant and Jean-Michel Goury Concert
November 18	Saxophone Studio Recital*
November 19	Music Education and Audition Day
November 19	Wind Symphony Concert*
November 20 & 21	Conducting Symposium
November 21	Percussion Ensemble Concert*
November 23	Symphonic Wind Ensemble Concert*
November 24	Jazz Ensemble Concert*
December 2	Campus Ensembles Concert *
December 5	Symphony Orchestra Concert*
December 7	UWSP Vocal Jazz Concert*
December 8	Jazz Band Concert*
December 11	Tuba Christmas (special event)

Music events are in Michelsen Hall, Noel Fine Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.
* = ticketed event

Carlsten Art Gallery

School of Design and Communication Faculty Show July 7-Septmber 3 Artist Reception: September 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Visiting South Korean Artist - Keun-Byung Yook September 22-October 30 Artist Reception: September 24, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Paris Exhibit November 10-December 5 Artist Reception: November 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday 12-6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - There is no charge to visit the Carlsten!

We've had a busy summer!

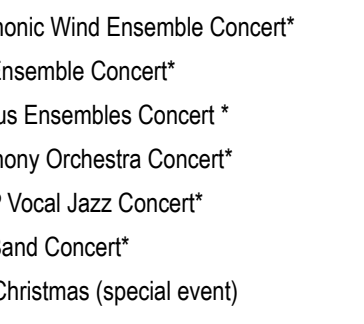
We welcomed hundreds of summer campers to COFAC over the past few months! Youth were on campus to study music, musical theatre, dance and filmmaking during their summer breaks.

photos left to right:
top-American Suzuki Institute, Point Music Camp, Summer Dance Intensive
bottom-Musical Theatre Camp, Filmmaker's Camp

Homecoming & Spud Bowl - Saturday, October 10

OCT 10

Come and visit us at the COFAC table Saturday morning at Goerke Park before the Pointers take on UW-Stout - mark your calendars, bring your Pointer pride and get ready for a full day of fun! But Homecoming isn't just about the game, it's about celebrating the Pointer family, reuniting with old friends, and visiting your alma mater. We can't wait to see you - ROLL DAWGS! **Click to view the UWSP Homecoming & Family Day events.**



Follow us on social media for up-to-date COFAC news!

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Connect with us via text!
Text UWSP to 715-447-7465 to join our Text Point chat and get updates on Pointer alumni news and events!
Alumni Association
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point