Welcome!

The Division of Communication at the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point is proud to welcome outstanding alumni back to campus for Communication Week 2019 from October 14-17. This special event allows current students to interact with former UW-Stevens Point communication and arts management students who have achieved great success in their professional careers. Returning alumni serve as guest speakers in communication and arts management classes and student groups during these four days. They will also meet with students outside of the classroom and with members of student organizations to share insights and offer career advice.
Nick Graves
Marketing Manager
Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Nick grew up in Marshfield and found a passion for playing hockey early on. During his junior year of high school, he moved away from home to pursue Junior Amateur hockey until committing to play for the UWSP men’s hockey team from 2009-2013. While attending UWSP, he completed a bachelor of science degree in communication with an emphasis in media studies.

For the past 6 years Nick has been working in the marketing field. He is currently marketing manager for a group of four businesses: American Security Cabinets, American RX Group, Repeat Rewards and Prophase Marketing in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Formulating business marketing strategies and advertising content for a variety of different industries is what Nick is tasked with on a daily basis. Among the companies he has worked with are CVS Pharmacy, Walgreens, Covanta, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Western Star Trucks, and Palfinger.

Jake Kujawa
Communications Coordinator
University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Jake says he “decided to try something new” and enrolled at UWSP. He began his college career as a wildlife ecology major and, after two years, switched to a communication major with an emphasis in media studies. “While I loved studying the sciences of the natural world, I ultimately found my home refining my skills in the sciences of media—including having an absolute blast along the way!”

After graduating in 2015, he worked in many different jobs, including the service industry, education, private contracting, freelancing, and digital marketing agencies. “All of these workplaces provided unique experiences for me to learn, grow, and develop my abilities to communicate ideas as well as share them effectively,” he says.

When not at work, Jake can be found drawing and creating stories, writing and playing music, doing anything outside, cooking or eating constantly, and enjoying the company of friends and family. He says he loves “great movies, great music, and making life a great adventure.”

9:30 - 10 a.m.  COMM 105: Foundations of Media Production  CAC 300
10 - 10:50 a.m.  COMM 212-1: Writing for Strategic Communication  CAC 301
11 - 11:50 a.m.  COMM 212-2: Writing for Strategic Communication  CAC 301
1 - 1:50 p.m.  Networking time with students  CAC 227
2 - 3:15 p.m.  COMM 334: Writing for PR  CAC 202

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Ashley Wunrow  
Talent Acquisition Specialist  
TDS Telecom, Madison

Ashley graduated as an interpersonal-organizational communication major in May of 2016. While attending UWSP, Ashley worked as a team leader at Target, where she also completed her internship. Upon graduation, Ashley relocated to Madison and accepted a position as a Recruiter with Maxim Healthcare Services, where she recruited healthcare professionals for both home health patients and staffing partners in the greater Madison area. After a year and a half in her role with Maxim, Ashley accepted a position with TDS Telecom, where she works today as a talent acquisition specialist. In that role, she recruits for information technology and sales professionals who work in more than 30 states.

Kyle Zdroik  
Account Manager  
Sentry Insurance, Stevens Point

Since 2014, Kyle has been involved in the direct-writer workforce with Sentry Insurance. His career in sales began in Milwaukee while he was still an undergraduate working on his degree in communication, which he earned from UW-Stevens Point in December 2012. He manages business insurance clients from the Greater Milwaukee area with a primary focus on manufacturing and dealership industries.

While attending UWSP, Kyle says, the Division of Communication introduced him to many of the tools he uses in his career, including interviewing, sales, and training. Kyle says he loves working in sales because it allows him the freedom and flexibility to build his own schedule. He enjoys collaborating with business owners to build trust in a relationship, allowing him to tailor an insurance policy unique to their needs.

In 2017 and 2018, Kyle earned multiple “Leaders Trip” awards for his sales performance – awards given to the top 20 percent of sales producers for Sentry’s direct writing salesforce.
Emily Volland
Director of Community & Programming
100state, Madison

In her current position, Emily works closely with area entrepreneurs, startups, and creatives to support and encourage the growth of the Madison-entrepreneurial ecosystem, while fostering a community of inclusivity, innovation, and collaboration.

Prior to joining 100state, Emily worked in the events department at Overture Center for the Arts, as event and marketing coordinator with Jazz at Five, and as a private music instructor and director. Emily says that it is through these roles that she discovered her passion for people, new ideas, and initiatives, and finding unique and valuable ways to bring them together.

Outside of work, Emily says she is “an avid traveler, napper, and musician.”

Katelyn Werner
Box Office Manager
St. Norbert College, De Pere

Katelyn Werner is a December 2015 graduate of the arts management program. While studying at UWSP, she had internships at the Central Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, Playhouse Theatre Group, UWSP Theatre Department, and Hoxton Hall in London, England. After graduation, she spent a year at Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as the box office manager before moving to De Pere to serve in her current box office manager role at St. Norbert College. In addition to working at St. Norbert, she is the administrator for the Civic Symphony of Green Bay. In these two roles, she has had the opportunity to be part of many conversations surrounding the arts in the greater Green Bay area and finds herself looking forward to helping this community prosper in the arts.
Kelly Hayes
Independent Producer
Los Angeles

Kelly Hayes is an independent producer working in feature film, scripted television, and digital series. He started working in the camera department before switching gears to producing. Kelly began working for The Walt Becker Company as a creative executive before becoming director of development and production.

Kelly’s latest film is “Mope,” based on the true story of aspiring pornographic actor Steve Driver, which premiered at the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. While at Walt Becker, he helped produce the box-office hits “Wild Hogs” and “Old Dogs.” Kelly was instrumental in the development and sale of “Boys Are Stupid, Throw Rocks at Them!” at Universal Pictures and the Blacklist script “Doppelgangers,” written by Evan and Shea Mirzai. Kelly is currently producing the feature film “Spiral” and developing numerous other projects.

In television, Kelly has led the sale of numerous projects, including “Thunderballs” at Spike, “Black Girls are Easy” at VH1, and “Glory Daze” at TBS. He produced the Fox Digital series “Bad Samaritans,” which is streaming on Netflix.

Ryan Pasbrig
Retail Omni Channel Operations Manager
Duluth Trading Co., Madison

Ryan graduated from UWSP in 2010 with a degree in communication and an emphasis in media studies, minoring in political science. During his time at UWSP, Ryan participated in student radio with 90FM, broadcasting basketball, football, and baseball games and as a fill-in host of Sports Beat. Ryan was also an intern at Sports Radio 1250AM in Milwaukee.

In 2012, Ryan started working for Duluth Trading Company as a backroom operations manager in Port Washington. While in this role, he helped create the retail store backroom operations and helped open seven new stores around the country. After stops in Downers Grove, Illinois (2016), and Louisville, Kentucky (2017), Ryan moved back to Wisconsin as retail omni channel operations manager. In this role, Ryan works to create a seamless experience for customers by giving them more opportunity to experience Duluth Trading over multiple channels while also working to improve processes and efficiency for store teams. Two major accomplishments in this role have been launching an online pickup program in 55 stores nationwide and creating a new handheld user interface app to help improve process efficiency in store.
Ben J. Fischer  
Photo and Videography Specialist  
Aspirus Heath Care, Wausau

A native of Antigo, Ben has always had a passion for sports and digital media story-telling. After two years at UW-Marathon County, he transferred to UW-Stevens Point in 2005. During his final semester of undergraduate studies at UWSP, Ben took an internship in the sports department at WSAW-TV in Wausau. Upon receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Communication (media studies emphasis) in May 2008, Ben accepted a position as a video journalist at WSAW-TV.

He spent almost two years in this role before moving to Madison to pursue other career endeavors, including health insurance and human services. After three years there, he returned to WSAW-TV in September 2012 as a sports video journalist and anchor. Seeking an opportunity to strengthen his academic knowledge, Ben transitioned to a part-time WSAW video journalist and was accepted into the Division of Communication’s graduate program at UWSP in 2013, taking a position as an instructional assistant for COMM 101, the public speaking class. He earned his Master of Arts in May 2016. He used his extensive academic experience to earn a position in Marketing/Communications at Aspirus, Inc., where he is the photo and videography specialist for the Aspirus Health Care System. Ben is also an adjunct faculty member in video production at Northcentral Technical College.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 – 8:50 a.m.</td>
<td>COMM 107: Foundations of Media Writing</td>
<td>CAC 300</td>
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<td>9 – 9:50 a.m.</td>
<td>COMM 356-2: Video Production Advanced</td>
<td>CAC 112</td>
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<td>Cinematography</td>
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<td>11 - 11:50 a.m.</td>
<td>COMM 106: Foundations of Media History</td>
<td>CAC 202</td>
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<td>1 - 1:50 p.m.</td>
<td>COMM 356-1: Sports Production</td>
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<td>2 – 2:50 p.m.</td>
<td>COMM 363: Haunted Cinema</td>
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