



KELLY BROCHTRUP

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator at Holy Family Catholic Community

“The Philosophy/Religious Studies program at UWSP is more than just learning theories. Studying philosophy/religious studies provides training in logic and opens you up to thinking about the world through different lenses.”

*2019 Graduate, Traditional Student
Communications with Interpersonal/Organizational emphasis
and Philosophy with Religious Studies Concentration*

WESLEY SWEET

Army Artillery Officer
Graduate Student in Theology

“Joining the Philosophy and Religious Studies department felt more like joining a family. Not only did this family welcome me in and was supportive, but challenged me to be better - a better learner, a better critical thinker, and a better individual who can think clearly, logically, and differently.”

2018 Graduate, Non-Traditional Student
Philosophy and Religious Studies, with a minor in Military Science



CONOR HANSON

**Campus Pastor/Lay Catechist at
UW Whitewater**

“It was just a tight knit Philosophy Department community. There was so much interaction with the professors that I just loved. It helped me engage with the material more in depth and embrace the willingness to explore other things and perspectives. They were so supportive of whatever it was you were pursuing and wanted to facilitate the development of that passion and field of study, which was absolutely wonderful.”

2019 Graduate, Non-Traditional Student
Philosophy



Isaiah George

Team Lead at Epic Systems, Madison WI



"Most of my job is to facilitate understanding between different groups of people. For example, I'm regularly coordinating between my company's software developers, customers, and our executive leadership to ensure we are solving the root cause of problems. My philosophy degree, and particularly the religious studies emphasis, taught me how to study, understand, and communicate the perspective of others."

2017 Graduate

Major in Philosophy, Bachelor of Science in Psychology
Emphasis in Religious Studies

Sarah Strauss

Psychotherapist

“My degree in religious studies has changed how I approach my work with clients, and how I approach relationships with people in general. My background with my studies in Philosophy and religion has grounded my current practice as a therapist.”

2017 Graduate

Philosophy Major with an Emphasis in Religious Studies



Robert Strauss

Job Coach for adults with disabilities at a Nonprofit

"It [Philosophy] helps you think about what's important. If you're doing Philosophy for the love of wisdom, it helps you figure out what you want to do. And that's pretty helpful in choosing what career path you want to go down."

2017 Graduate

Philosophy with an Emphasis in Religious Studies



Dr. Tarryl Janik

PhD in Cultural Anthropology at UW-Milwaukee (2023) and an adjunct Anthropology instructor at the College of Lake County and Waubensee Community College

"The philosophy and religious studies classes I took at UWSP prepared me not only for graduate school, but also for the work force. I still utilize everything that I learned as an undergraduate at UWSP and strive to pass on this knowledge to the next generation."

2015 Graduate, Non-Traditional Student
Major in Philosophy with an Emphasis in Religious Studies





RYAN SCHWOBE

**System Security Analyst – UW
Hospitals & Clinics**

“Learning Philosophy will only enhance what you are already doing because it removes you from normal conversations and encourages you to open up in new ways. There is always something to explore, and UWSP’s Philosophy Department was a safe space to pursue and embrace that collective growth, discussion, and civil discourse.

*2015 Graduate, Traditional Transfer Student
Philosophy with Religious Studies Concentration*



Sunny Schneider

Waukesha PD Neighborhood
Engagement Unit Specialist

"I truly loved my time and appreciated all the opportunities at UWSP. It's a wonderful city and staff and it really did set me up for success."

*2012 Graduate, Non-Traditional after 2 years in
U.S. Army, stationed in Germany and Iraq
(outside Baghdad during Iraq War) and
2 years in National Guard
Major in History and a Minor in religious Studies
and Anthropology*



Robin School

Bank Manager Vice President

"The philosophy program taught me so many critical skills that have served me well in my career, including Logic, how to spot flaws and fallacies in an argument, critical thinking, and differing points of view in both religious and spiritual points of view. Philosophy majors learn how to break a problem or statement down to its core, and truly analyze the structure and rationale behind it. A double major in Philosophy and Business taught me how to approach a problem or challenge logically and ethically and gave me the business background to then apply that solution in a profitable and strategic way."

2011 Graduate
Major in Philosophy with an Emphasis in Religious
Studies, Major in Business



***SARAH NEWBY**

**Executive Administrative Partner for
Integrations and Pipeline – Exact Sciences**

“My Philosophy degree framed the proactive mentality that I carry with me now. Not only do the concepts that I learned help me navigate different situations and perspectives, but my professors instilled an attitude of energy and motivation within my studies which has given me a great foundation for the rest of my life.”

*2010 Graduate, Traditional Student
Philosophy with Religious Studies Concentration*

***JEREMIAH BOWDEN**

**Professor at Cornell College &
Owner of HH Hinder Brewery**

"I would have to say the biggest impact from my time at UWSP came from the care and guidance shown to me by Dr. Warren and Dr. Keefe who instilled in me the belief that each of us is able to make a difference in the lives of others."

2008 Graduate, Non-Traditional Student
Philosophy: Religious Studies
PhD of Religion - Claremont Graduate University



Katie Rosenberg

Mayor of Wausau

"Right now, we're living in a time when everybody has instant reactions to everything. We're on social media, so we're instantly reacting. We're kind of mean to each other, and Philosophy gives you that opportunity to slow down and really consider what you're thinking about, and what is the context that brought you to this place. And, that world view that there are other ways of thinking that are correct. So, I think that [Philosophy] has offered me an opportunity to have an open mind. That's really what you need in local government, especially right now our population is super diverse. We have a diversity of income levels, and we couldn't be more different sometimes. But, understanding that we're all coming at it and we're trying to do what's right in this world has been really helpful to have that background [in Philosophy], I would say."

2006 Graduate

Major in Philosophy with an Emphasis in Religious Studies





***AMANDA MEIDL**

**Coordinator of Reading in the Disciplines
& World Languages Tutoring - UWSP**

“Philosophy challenges you in ways that other disciplines don’t, and at the same time it is something that is interwoven into every other discipline because it is ultimately the foundation of humanity.”

2005 Graduate, Non-Traditional Student
Philosophy Major with Religious Studies & Environmental Ethics Emphasis
Women’s Studies Minor

Brent Sirvio

Digital Content Creator for an Inbound Marketing Agency

"In one of my first days and first courses on campus, Dona Warren said, "Philosophy goes well with everything." I've found that to be entirely true.

Philosophy is so much more than arguing about what other people have been arguing about for centuries, it's about approach: thinking clearly and accurately, and then being able to articulate these ideas with clarity and rigor. That training, coupled with robust experience in the religious studies program, allowed me to develop strength of rhetoric balanced with understanding and empathy -- skills which have been essential in my professional life, particularly now in digital marketing as a writer, editor, strategist and mentor.

Philosophy does go well with everything, and I cannot more strongly endorse UWSP's philosophy program and its related concentrations, either as a dedicated field of study or a complement to any program the university offers."

2005 Graduate

Philosophy Major with an Emphasis in Religious Studies





Dr. Ryan O'Leary

**Lecturer in Religious Studies and Academic
Success Associate with UWSP at Marshfield**

"I am often inspired by the way Albert Camus expressed the connection between philosophy, idealism, and justice in his book, *The Rebel*, where he wrote these words: "In the light, the earth remains our first and our last love. Our comrades are breathing under the same sky as we; justice is a living thing." My study of religion and philosophy has taught me to think more deeply, recognize that ideas cannot be separated from their history, and live more intentionally according to my ideals."

2003 Graduate, Non-Traditional Student
Double Major in Philosophy + Philosophy with an
Emphasis in Religious Studies