

# SPOTLIGHT ON COFAC



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



## COFAC Alum Jessie Fritsch ('06) Receives Pointer Impact Award

The Pointer Impact Award, created by the UW-Stevens Point Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2020, honors alumni doing good works for their communities and beyond. Whether it be through volunteering or as part of their career, Pointers shape the world in many ways and this honor is to celebrate those achievements.

Read about Jessie's post-graduation story [here](#).



## Copernicus Cultural Foundation Receives Bridge Builder Award

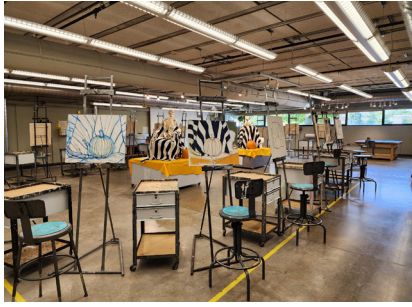
The Edmund and Kathryn Bukolt Trust/Copernicus Cultural Foundation of Stevens Point was recently recognized as the latest inductee into the UWSP Bridge Builders Society. This society acknowledges donors, organizations, and businesses who have provided in excess of \$1m of support to UWSP.

In addition to funding scholarships in the College of Fine Arts and Communication and the Aber Suzuki Center, The Copernicus Foundation established the Bukolt Endowed Professorship in Cello in 2021.

Dean Valerie Cisler (center, top photo) is shown holding the scale replica of the cupola that sits atop Old Main, UWSP's first building. Fashioned out of solid tungsten and fabricated locally by Marten Machining, one is presented to each Bridge Builder inductee.



## COFAC Fall Open House/Student Showcase



Families, alumni, and community members joined us during Family Day in October, which was part of Homecoming Week, to experience student work and see performances from across COFAC. Visitors were invited to experience open studios, student work displays, videos and live performances during this annual event.

Thank you to our donors, whose generosity allowed us to award two \$500 scholarships via a drawing of COFAC majors during this year's open house.



## Welcome New Students!



We welcomed 197 new students to COFAC this fall! Students took part in Welcome Week, getting to know our campus, and then finished the week by spending some time getting to know their COFAC faculty and peers during the college information session and ice cream social on Convocation Day.

## Student Artwork Displayed as Part of Universities of Wisconsin Sustainability Summit



21 of Assistant Professor Andy Gambrell's Color Theory students were part of the **Universities of Wisconsin Sustainability Summit: A Confluence of Research, Teaching, and Community Partnerships**, displaying their work during the Poster Session at the food + farm exploration center in Plover. The project centered on the visual phenomenon of color mixing and the final pieces model mindfulness in making art through the use of sustainable materials while celebrating the natural beauty of Central Wisconsin. Congratulations to all on being chosen as part of this important summit!

## Concert Choir Selected to Compete at WCDA

The UWSP Concert Choir under the direction of Assistant Professor Matheus Cruz was selected over the summer to sing at the WCDA Winter Conference in Appleton, WI taking place January 10-11, 2025 at Lawrence University. The choir will be performing selections from their fall concert "Children, A Creature of Peace."



The Wisconsin Choral Directors Association (WCDA) is a non-profit professional organization whose membership is composed of choral musicians from schools, colleges, universities, churches, community and professional groups, and the music industry. WCDA is an affiliate of the American Choral Directors Association, one of the largest professional organizations for choral directors in the world with a membership of over 18,000 directors representing one million singers.

## Guest Artists/Speakers/Masterclasses This Fall

COFAC has been busy this fall welcoming guests to work with our students.

Some of our guests so far this academic year include:

- Sophie McIntosh** (UWSP Alum, BA Drama '20) "Eleven Weeks of Nuclear Summer" playwright, who assisted in directing performance and worked with students during masterclass sessions.
- Jacqueline DeMuro** – San Francisco Cabaret artist "Side by Side by Sondheim" cabaret sequences and two workshops: one cabaret and another songwriting.
- Dr. Nicholas Roth** – Drake University - Piano masterclass and performance with CWSO.
- Ben Kurowski** (UWSP Alum, Comm/Media Studies '14) Visited media studies class to speak about his work experience and experience in the major at UWSP.
- Anthony DiSanza** – UW-Madison - Percussion masterclass and public recital.
- Joseph Connor** – Lawrence University - Saxophone masterclass with UWSP Saxophone Studio
- Arts Management Classes** - Jim O'Connell invites 2-4 guests per week (many times UWSP alums) to his classes to share information about careers in arts organizations and answer student's questions.
- Carlsten Gallery** - guest multimedia artist Samuel Karow's work on exhibit and artist talk.
- USAF Band** - public free multimedia artist Michelsen Hall.
- Georgia Mobley** (UWSP Alum, Acting/Dance '23) and **Tyler Jung** (UWSP Alum, Musical Theatre '23) worked with dance students during a masterclass.
- Emma Gersten** - Chicago Symphony Orchestra Second Flute - Masterclass with students in Flute Studio and public recital.

## Giving Tuesday - December 3!

Your donation to the COFAC Fund for Excellence during this year's Giving Tuesday will help students as they prepare to become trailblazers, not only regionally, but throughout the world as they learn from highly respected faculty and programs.

Gifts will help COFAC support students' dreams come true as funds are used for all student support, including enhancing learning environments, bringing in guest artists, and direct scholarships to all COFAC students.

You don't need to wait for Giving Tuesday to make a difference for COFAC students! Take part in the campaign today by [clicking here](#) to make an online gift.

## Lyssa's Story

Lyssa Edwards, who will graduate this December with a Bachelor of Music in flute performance, shared in her video how being awarded monies from the COFAC Fund for Excellence made a difference and helped support her future goals. [Click to hear](#) Lyssa speak about the impact of the award she received in Spring, 2024.

## Edna Carlsten Gallery Hosts Dia de los Muertos

Presented by the UW-Stevens Point Multicultural Resource Center and Edna Carlsten Art Gallery, the "Dia De Los Muertos" exhibition was held October 29-November 7 in the Carlsten Gallery, with a Ofrenda Reception on Friday, November 1. "Dia De Los Muertos", or Day of the Dead, is traditionally a two-day holiday that reunites the living and dead. Families and friends create ofrendas (offerings) to honor their loved ones that have passed. These altars are typically decorated with bright yellow marigold flowers, photos of the departed, and the favorite foods and drinks of the one being honored. The offerings are believed to encourage visits from the land of the dead as the departed souls hear their prayers, smell their foods and join in the celebrations.

