

# SPOTLIGHT ON COFAC



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



## Dr. Valerie Cisler to Retire

After eight years of service to UW-Stevens Point, College of Fine Arts & Communication Dean Valerie Cisler will retire at the end of June. She announced her intention to retire this past November in an email to the college's faculty and staff. [Click to read](#) Dean Cisler's retirement announcement from the Provost's recent Academic Exchange newsletter.

We wish Dean Cisler all the best as she moves on to this next stage and thank her for the eight years of service to UWSP and COFAC.



## Opera Outreach Includes More Than 1,000 Regional Students

More than 1,000 students in grades 4 through 9 enjoyed a one-hour, family-friendly, English-language adaptation of this year's sold-out main stage opera, "The Magic Flute."

Teaching Assistant Professor Natalie Cummings shared "Our talented student director, Ben Franklin, along with the cast, have been hard at work creating a dynamic and hilarious experience. We reached around 1,000 children in grades 4 through 9, along with their teachers and chaperones, through four field trip performances in Stevens Point and Wausau. In addition, we also offered two FREE public performances to give our wider community the opportunity to enjoy the show."



The eight students that make up the cast of the outreach performances also participated in the mainstage performance in April and have continued their hard work rehearsing for this outreach version of the show. The UWSP Opera Workshop is hoping to continue this program and offer outreach performances again with the 2026 production next spring.

## Professor Tyler Marchant Named to Wisconsin Arts Board

Tyler Marchant, Professor of Theatre, Acting and Directing (UWSP'95, BA Theatre Arts) was recently appointed by Governor Evers to serve a three-year term on the Wisconsin Arts Board. The Wisconsin Arts Board is the state agency which nurtures creativity, cultivates expression, promotes the arts, supports the artis in education, stimulates community and economic development and serves as a resource of people of every culture and heritage. Board members are Wisconsin citizens recognized for their accomplishments in the arts, humanities, business, education or public service. The board includes members from urban and rural areas across the state and from diverse racial, economic and cultural backgrounds. Board members set policy for the agency and approve funding recommendations made by the peer review panels. The members meet a minimum of four times per year, and all meetings are open to the public.



## Spring Semester Guest Artists/Speakers/Masterclasses

**Christiane Noll** – Tony Award Nominated Broadway Actress. Held a masterclass with vocal students.

**Dr. Jason Alder** – World-Renowned Clarinet and Saxophonist – Taught masterclass and also held a public performance.

**Mafer Gugliemina**, Clarinet and Saxophonist, and Joe Lecher, Pianist – Taught a masterclass and also held a public performance.

**Michelle Grabner** – Guggenheim Fellow and Crown Family Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and **Brad Killam**, Professor at College of DuPage – Carlsen Gallery exhibit, student question and answer session, and gallery talks.

**Johannes Wallmann**, Jazz Piano and **Dennis Mitchellfree**, Saxophonist – Recording Artists – Taught a masterclass and also held a public performance.

**Kate Warren**, College Lecturer in Music at Ocean County College (New Jersey) and featured French horn soloist for the Broadway show "Blast!", held a horn masterclass and performance during HornFest.

**New York Voices**, internationally acclaimed jazz vocal group, held masterclasses with voice students on the Stevens Point campus and a public performance at the Wausau campus as well as serving as clinicians for the Wausau Voca Jazz Festival

Trombonist **Ryan Christianson** of the Dallas Brass, masterclass and public recital.

**Mercer Patterson Quintet**, New York City-based contemporary jazz group, mini-performance, and Q & A on early career development

**Chris Gleason**, Arts & Creativity Education Consultant, Wisconsin DPI, presentation titled "Keys to Success: Characteristics of Excellent Teachers"

**Kristin Dittlow**, concert pianist and vocal coach, held a Opera Boot Camp Vocal Coach for students performing in "The Magic Flute"

**Faith Hatch** (UWSP '19, Jazz Studies) multi-genre vocalist, pianist, and guitarist based in Milwaukee, masterclass and public performance

**Dr. Jennifer Collins**, recipient of the National Association for Music Education George N. Parks Award for Leadership in Music Education, presented and also held a question an answer session with the UWSP choirs.

**Jason Alder**, low clarinetist, masterclass and short performance.

**Tim Fuchs**, New York City based performer, musical theater masterclass and question and answer session with senior showcase students.

**Angie Novak**, Sentry Insurance Facility Planning, **Schawn Jubert** and **Julie Diesch** of Atmosphere Commercial Interiors, presentation and review of the student Steelcase Furniture design project.

## Student Successes and Awards



### ADDY Awards

Three UWSP Graphic Design students were recognized at this year's American Advertising Federation (AAF) ADDY Awards competition. Lauren Laatsch, Riley Olbrantz, and Emma Sprenger received accolades for their exceptional work, which was among the 180 submissions from both students and professionals in the state-wide competition.

### IIDA-WI Award

Senior UWSP Interior Architecture students Sklyer Mulder and Amelia Retzlaff recently won first place in the Student Hospitality/Retail Category at the International Interior Design Association-WI Celebrate in Design Awards. This award celebrates the talent and hard work of the student members and is open to all IIDA-WI student members attending a Wisconsin college or university.



### NATS Success

The UWSP Voice and Contemporary Voice areas are excited to share the news with you of our recent NATS (National Association of Teachers of Singing) successes at the North Central Regional level. Each of these UWSP Winners have advanced to the NATS National Preliminary round!

## Spring 2025 Chancellor's Leadership and Albertson Award COFAC Recipients

### Chancellor's Leadership Award recipients

**Serena Alexander**

Theatre Arts - Drama (BA)  
Psychology - Human Services (BS)  
Women and Gender Studies (Mn)

**Maddie Baeten**

History and Social Studies Education (BS)  
Arts Management (Mn)  
Political Science (Mn)

**Jenna Barwick**

Communication - Professional  
Communication (BS)  
Religious Studies (Mn)  
Media Studies (Mn)

**Jarita Baido**

History (BA)  
International Studies (BA)  
Philosophy - Religious Studies (BA)  
Art History (Mn)  
Media Studies (Mn)

**Brayden Bellile**

Music Education (BM)  
Jazz Studies (Mn)

**Chloe Carrillo**

Music Education (BM)  
Social Studies (Mn)

**Hailey Fuller**

Arts Management (BA)  
Professional Communication (Mn)  
Media Studies (Mn)

**Nolan Naniot**

Business Administration (BS)  
Economics (Mn)  
Music (Mn)  
Physics (Mn)

**Jack Orlando**

Communication - Professional  
Communication (BS)  
Media Studies (Mn)  
Music (Mn)

**Amelia Retzlaff**

Interior Architecture (BFA)  
Professional Communication (Mn)

**Leo Rivera-Pacheco**

Political Science (BS)  
Media Studies (Mn)

**Austin Vanderloeh**

Music Education (BM)

**Cynthia Yang**

Media Studies (BA)  
Business Administration (Mn)

### James H. Albertson Medallion Recipients

Spring 2025

**Alanna Phillip**

Arts Management (BA),  
Business Administration (Mn)

**Cynthia Yang**

Media Studies (BA),  
Business Administration (Mn)

Established with the endorsement and encouragement of former Chancellor Lee Sherman Dreyfus, the Chancellor's Leadership Award is intended to recognize and honor the numerous graduating seniors who have contributed significant leadership, have demonstrated meaningful university and community service and involvement and who have shown a commitment to personal growth throughout their career at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

### 2025 Melvin R. Laird Exceptional Artist Award Winner: Serena Alexander

*This award annually recognizes and rewards an exceptional graduating UWSP student in performing or visual arts by providing a \$5,000 investment in his or her potential to become a successful leading artist in his or her field. Established by the Hon. Melvin R. Laird and members of the Laird Endowment Advisory Board, the award serves as a continued commitment to the Laird Art Leadership Day program associated with Laird Leadership Day. The Hon. Melvin R. Laird was the former U.S. Secretary of Defense under President Nixon and Wisconsin's 7th Congressional District representative.*

After graduating this spring with Drama and Psychology majors, Serena plans to move to New York City this fall and use the award for an outdoor immersive production of Dave Malloy's "Ghost Quartet." She is excited to enter the independent/self-produced theatre scene in New York while also working as a director and stage manager in the city.



## Days of Giving Results

Thank you for making the 2025 Days of Giving (D.O.G) a success! With the help of a matching gift of \$5,000, this spring's campaign not only reached but exceeded its' goal to support COFAC student scholarships.

A special thank you to Susan Gingrasso, David & Amy Bakken, William Schierl, Sarena Melotte, Dianne Somers and Sue Buck as the matching gift of \$5,000 helped kickstart our campaign. Thank you to all our donors who not only helped reach our \$10,000 goal, but donated additional funds to support students for a total of \$12,870 this spring!

Your gifts will help to provide COFAC scholarships to support students as they prepare to become trailblazers.



THE DAYS OF GIVING  
D.O.G.

April 3 – May 6,  
2025

#UWSPGivesBack | uwsp.edu/DOG

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View our events calendar at: [www.uwsp.edu/events](http://www.uwsp.edu/events) or [click here](#)



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Text Point chat and get updates on

Pointer alumni news and events!



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University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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