



Wausau  
**UW-Stevens Point**

## Teacher Connection

at the Wausau campus of UW-Stevens Point (formerly UW-Marathon County)

The faculty at UW-Stevens Point at Wausau, as members of the communities that support this campus, offer their **disciplinary and teaching expertise** through **Teacher Connection**. Our professors are available to speak with your classes in a variety of formats and lengths. They may also be available to speak about **careers** related to their fields of study and their career journeys. To learn more, please contact them directly.

Unless otherwise noted, most presentations are intended for high school students. Teachers can contact individual professors to see if presentations could be tailored for other grade levels.

For schools more than twenty miles away from Wausau, it is best to arrange for a *group* of professors to come on a special day – our “Road Show Edition.” To make arrangements, contact our Career Coach, Sam Cotter ([scotter@uwsp.edu](mailto:scotter@uwsp.edu)). We are also happy to accommodate visits to our campus, with class sessions incorporated into the visit.

Our **Teacher Connection** professors and their topics include the following:

**Brett Barker**, Ph.D., Professor of **History**, [bbarker@uwsp.edu](mailto:bbarker@uwsp.edu) or [brett.barker@uwc.edu](mailto:brett.barker@uwc.edu) 715-261-6250

- Civil War topics: Wisconsin in the Civil War, Women in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, The Ordinary Union Soldier. Other topics upon request.
- American Indian History: talks and discussions can focus on a time period, a specific tribe, or Wisconsin’s native peoples
- Slavery: an overview, the Middle Passage, the antislavery movement in the United States and Wisconsin
- The Story of How Wisconsin Abolished the Death Penalty in the 1850s
- The Home Front during American wars: American Revolution, Civil War, World War I, or World War II
- The History of Environmental Thought in the United States

Any of these topics can be aimed at any grade level and I have experience working with 4- 5th graders as well as high school students.

**Tim Buchholz**, D.M.A., Associate Professor of **Music**, [tibuchho@uwsp.edu](mailto:tibuchho@uwsp.edu) or [Tim.Buchholz@uwc.edu](mailto:Tim.Buchholz@uwc.edu)  
715-261-6246

- Choral Ensemble Master classes (including possible exchange with a UWSP-Wausau vocal ensemble)
- Choral Solo & Ensemble Coaching and Preparation
- Getting a College Music Scholarship: Effectively Preparing for Your College Music Auditions
- Beginning Vocal Improvisation: Anyone Can Scat Sing!
- The Evolution of Jazz Singing in America

**Eric Giordano**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of **Political Science** and Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service, [egiordan@uwsp.edu](mailto:egiordan@uwsp.edu) or [eric.giordano@uwc.edu](mailto:eric.giordano@uwc.edu) 715-261-62388

- International and comparative political topics ranging from global world order to comparative health policies across nations
- National security topics including terrorism, cyber-security, U.S. military strategy, threats from major nations such as China and Russia, global pandemics
- The roles of the Executive branch and Congress
- Constitutional questions around the Bill of Rights including first, second, fourth and other key amendments
- Campaigns, elections, redistricting, money in politics, and related topics
- Current research in citizen engagement and civic participation
- Provide training for students of all grades in dialogue and deliberation processes (have offered classroom training for teachers and students in several area schools)

**Ann Herda-Rapp**, Ph.D., Campus Executive and Professor of **Sociology**, [aherdara@uwsp.edu](mailto:aherdara@uwsp.edu) or [ann.herda-rapp@uwc.edu](mailto:ann.herda-rapp@uwc.edu) 715-261-6269

- The sociology of gender: an overview of the topic or specific subtopics (work, education, family, etc.)
- The social construction of environmental issues: which environmental issues do we worry about and why?
- Technology, social media and community: do cell phones, the internet and social media foster a sense of community or do they erode it?
- What can I do with a Sociology (or Human Services or Social Work) major? And how do I choose which university to attend for one of these majors?
- Discussion of contemporary or classic films or books, from a sociological perspective

**Douglas Hosler**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of **Philosophy**, [dhosler@uwsp.edu](mailto:dhosler@uwsp.edu) or [doug.hosler@uwc.edu](mailto:doug.hosler@uwc.edu)

- Why isn't philosophy taught in high school? (This is mostly guesses)
- Why is philosophy important to the curriculum – what does philosophy do? What does it add?
- Why do your grades tend to improve in college after you take philosophy?
- How can you prepare yourself for taking philosophy?

**Jeff Leigh**, Ph.D., Professor of **History**, [jeff.leigh@uwc.edu](mailto:jeff.leigh@uwc.edu) 715-261-6276

- Professional Development Programs for Teachers in World History. I am the past Director of the Marathon County History Teaching Alliance, which was an award winning k-12 professional development partnership with local school teachers and districts.
- General World History for all time periods
- More specialized presentations in Middle Eastern, European, and Russian/Soviet History
- Islam and religious history more generally

**Paul Martin**, Ph. D. Professor of **Mathematics**, [pmartin@uwsp.edu](mailto:pmartin@uwsp.edu) or [paul.martin@uwc.edu](mailto:paul.martin@uwc.edu) 715-261-6272

- The workings of a Pi Machine (audience: students in Physics and Higher Level Math)
- The number Pi. Methods of approximating it from ancient to modern.
- Archimedes and the area of a circle and the volume of a sphere.
- A tour through the mathematics in the future of STEM majors.

**Kristine Prah**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of **Biological Sciences**, [kprahl@uwsp.edu](mailto:kprahl@uwsp.edu) or [kristine.prah@uwc.edu](mailto:kristine.prah@uwc.edu) 715-261-6283

- Microbiology: microscopy, epidemiology, the microbiome of humans, probiotics and prebiotics
- Antibiotic Resistance: how microorganisms become resistant, how antibiotic resistance spreads, and how to slow the spread of antibiotic resistance
- Genetics: stem cells, epigenetics, DNA fingerprinting, and gene cloning

**Sarah J. Rudolph**, Ph.D., Professor of **Communication and Theatre Arts**, [srudolph@uwsp.edu](mailto:srudolph@uwsp.edu) or [sarah.rudolph@uwc.edu](mailto:sarah.rudolph@uwc.edu) 715-261-6290

- Preparing to Audition: Whether auditioning for a competitive university acting program or for a role at school, learn techniques for presenting yourself and showcasing your vocal, physical, emotional abilities to bring meaning to material. A variation on this workshop offers ways to use theatre activities to build confidence in any kind of public performance, particularly public speaking.
- Trends in Contemporary Theatre: Explore the range of theatre active today: from the Broadway Blockbuster to experimental theatre, from the highly structured to the improvisational, exploring everything from the most profound to the broadest physical comedy. Lecture/discussion can be adapted to the specific needs of your class, group; and can include reading and improvisation.
- Representation of Mental Illness on Stage: Some say that those with mental illness are the last "safe" population to mock, ridicule. Much thought has been given to how race/ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation is featured in television, film, and stage. Fascinating dynamics exist in the shifting perceptions of mental illness as it becomes better understood and less taboo.
- Devising Short Plays: Explore the various ways to turn your ideas into performance. Students will have the opportunity to work on creating new material or refining material that is in process. These presentations/workshops can be adapted for students in late elementary, middle, and high schools.

**Aaron Steffen**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of **Astronomy and Physics**, [asteffen@uwsp.edu](mailto:asteffen@uwsp.edu) 715-261-6364

- History of Astronomy (Going from an Earth-centered view of the Universe to the view we have today)
- How we explore the Universe with astronomical instruments (telescopes, spacecraft, satellites)
- Specific interactions between spacecraft and planets (Voyagers 1 & 2, Juno's visit to Jupiter, Cassini's visit to Saturn, etc...)
- Mars and the rovers exploring it
- The Apollo space program
- The life cycle of stars
- Black holes and strange physics of space

**Jill Stukenberg**, MFA, Associate Professor of **English**, [jstukenb@uwsp.edu](mailto:jstukenb@uwsp.edu) or [jill.stukenberg@uwc.edu](mailto:jill.stukenberg@uwc.edu) 715-261-6277

- Creative Writing workshops for all age and skill levels. Workshops might focus on: image, sensory details, compelling characters, point of view; or genre types: poetry, short story, creative nonfiction, short plays. Also: How to read and understand poetry, Ways to approach revision, Mining life for material.
- Brainstorming sessions. I can facilitate sessions to help your group come up with new approaches, paper topic ideas, or solutions to problems. Sessions can also promote group cohesion or out-of-the-box thinking, or simply help participants think in general about their own creativity and ability to think divergently.
- Evaluating websites: How to judge the credibility of what you find online.
- Writing introductions and conclusions to academic essays.
- Punctuation primer: when and how to use commas, dashes, semi-colons, and colons and for what effects in writing.
- Judging. Writing, art, debate, pie-eating. I may be able to serve as a judge or help draw up a rubric (criteria) for use in judging.

**Paul Whitaker**, Ph.D., Professor of **Biological Sciences**, [pwhitake@uwsp.edu](mailto:pwhitake@uwsp.edu) or [paul.whitaker@uwc.edu](mailto:paul.whitaker@uwc.edu) 715-261-6284

- Entomology = insect biology: presentations can focus on particular insect group, insect ecology, agricultural pest management, interactions between plants & insects, invasive species, or perhaps other topics. (any age group)
- Plant biology: presentations can focus on particular kinds of plants, plant structure & function, ecology of seeds & seedlings, plants whose seed dispersers went extinct during the last ice age, or perhaps other topics. (any age group)
- Organic agriculture: what it is, what it isn't, what the science does & doesn't tell us about how it compares to conventional agriculture. (high school)
- Reef madness: a historical perspective on competing theories on the origins of coral reefs. (high school)

**Penny Workman**, Ph.D., Associate Professor of **Chemistry**, [pworkman@uwsp.edu](mailto:pworkman@uwsp.edu) or [penny.workman@uwc.edu](mailto:penny.workman@uwc.edu) 715-261-6316

- “Let it glow: Chemistry of Things that Glow in the Dark.” Demos can (and probably should!) be included. A room that can be made completely dark or very close is necessary for the demos.
- Polymers. Can include hands-on activity (making slime or silly putty).