



Connections

Spring 2022

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

www.uwsp.edu/cols

Cornerstone Press and the Next Chapter

The manuscripts that students pore over each week as part of their work for the Cornerstone Press will someday make their way into the hands of readers, in the form of short story collections, memoirs, collections of essays, and books of poetry, anywhere in the world.

Like everything else in the digital age, the book industry is virtual, with the shift to publication on demand. Gone are the days of having to estimate demand for book titles and warehouse a stockpile of copies. Cornerstone is now working through Ingram Content Group—covering the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.—handling orders through a streamlined new distribution system. Coupled with the capability to order directly from the press, with physical titles available in its Collins Classroom Center office, distribution has made the press a truly national publisher. It was one of the changes made in efforts to expand the nearly 40-year-



old student-staffed press and keep the business going virtually during the pandemic.

Press director and publisher Ross Tangedal, assistant professor of English, working with students in Book and Publication Design spring course.

The press started in 1984 as a one-book-per-year course experience. This past year, the press churned out an impressive 17 titles. Students enrolled in one of the three yearly courses working for Cornerstone rotate into various student publishing roles with books in various stages of development. Now, a year-round publishing operation, the press is forecasted to clear \$30,000 in revenue by the end of the academic year.

“We have a model to keep students engaged and develop really good books across the country,” said **Assistant Professor Ross Tangedal, English**, director and publisher of Cornerstone Press.

It is up to the students to manage each author’s needs, provide feedback and edits, and produce high quality books. The press has landed on a structure that finally feels sustainable, Tangedal said.

Students now get to experience a more fully realized publishing environment, where 15-20 titles is no longer the exception, but the rule.

Tangedal is the ringleader, making sure the students perform their various tasks and stay on deadline. Cornerstone’s book production is now scheduled out through 2024. From the author meetings to content editing, matching cover concepts to the manuscripts, working on initial proofs, revising proofs, and more re-vising, each book is a journey.

At the end of the process, the student team gets a momentary break to celebrate the shared experience of a book launch, most recently the Takwa Gordon memoir, *Body Talk*.

“You get a new perspective from the launch but it’s just as exciting for the authors,” said Amanda Leibham, Cornerstone’s production director.



Production director Amanda Liebham holding the book cover art she designed.

The senior was majoring in graphic design when she started in the fall editing and publishing course at Cornerstone. As it has for so many students, Cornerstone changed her career aspirations. Leibham added on her double major—English: Writing, Editing, and Publishing.

The focus of the spring class emphasizes production, layout, and book cover design. A highlight of the experience for Leibham is seeing her own original designs gracing the book covers over the past year.

Professor Tangedal relates to the excitement of the final product in print. He put out his first solo-authored book, *The Preface: American Authorship in the Twentieth Century*, last year with Palgrave Macmillan.

“To work on it, make it better, seeing your name on the book is one of the most gratifying experiences ever and, it never gets old,” he said.

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Your Gift Makes a Difference!

To create a legacy at UW-Stevens Point, please contact Tony Romano at 715-346-3406 or email tony.romano@uwsp.edu.

Thank you for your consideration!

DISCOVER YOUR PURPOSE

Continued from cover

RIGOROUS REAL-WORLD PRACTICE

Managing editor Brett Hill, a senior, and his team of student editors, released four titles in April. By the time one of Cornerstone's books is launched, Hill is well into editing a manuscript for their next project.

Working with the (mostly) first-time authors has been one of the most rewarding aspects of the experience he said. The most challenging? Editing works of poetry.

Hill enrolled at UWSP specifically for the robust industry experience that Cornerstone provides the students. It is the only undergraduate, student-staffed press in the University of Wisconsin system, in fact, the only one in the Midwest.

"We have a well-oiled machine," said Hill.

He will work as the press's editorial director in the fall semester, graduate, and then pursue work as an editor.

The press makes agreements with authors and teaches real industry skills, including marketing and production aesthetics. The practical side of the press—funding business needs—and the inspiring side—collaborating with new authors; it all unfolds every semester giving students challenges they will face in future publishing careers.

The students working in Cornerstone don't have to imagine what those publishing jobs will require. They are already making the same connections and solving the problems they will face on the job.

INSTILLING THE LOVE OF PUBLISHING

Three years into her publishing career, UWSP alumna Grace Tesch '19 is working on her own contemporary romance novels, as an after-work project at this point. She has taken to trying out some advice she learned in English courses with Professor Jeff Snowbarger, putting a draft away, scribbling all over it and starting over, rewriting.

Tesch put her her real-world publishing and sales experience from Cornerstone into practice in her first job after



Students work together in their weekly **Book and Publication Design** spring course.

graduation, working for Worzalla, a publishing company in Stevens Point.

All those afternoons in the Dreyfus University Center hawking books paid off! Tesch worked for two years as an account manager but always knew she wanted to work on the publishing side of the industry. She recently relocated to Nashville to work for the global consumer book publisher HarperCollins Christian Publishing as a production coordinator.

It's the "good stressful" type of work, she said. Tesch has learned to be a master of her spreadsheets of book titles, while working remotely, in the company of her rescue dog. Each week, she adds more titles to the schedule. Her goal is to deliver faster production turnarounds for her customers.

"Cornerstone gave me the love of the field and the drive I still have," she said.

As for her romance novel draft; she's rewritten it three times.

To be involved in the press is to understand how to manage wide-ranging demands of the publishing industry and to play a role in helping writers achieve their dreams of becoming authors.

[Purchase titles at uwsp.edu/cornerstone](http://uwsp.edu/cornerstone)

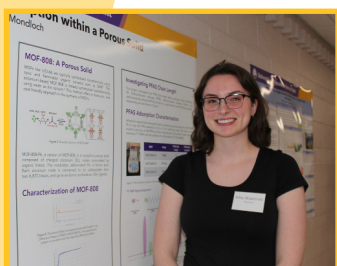
COLS Works to Expand Symposium Reach

Students involved in faculty-mentored research over the course of the past year (or more) gave their peers and community members the chance to see the results of their work in the 23rd **Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium**. This signature event in the College of Letters and Science involved nearly 90 presentations, representing 130 students and their professors.

Leading up to the event, the college launched an effort to build on a \$10,000 endowment in support of the Symposium. Through a series of Partners in Discovery emails and social media posts, we encouraged UWSP alumni and community members to help achieve our vision of giving the Symposium a deeper, lasting impact. Gifts to grow this collaborative research work make it possible for more students in the future to have more resources to make valuable discoveries. Would you like to help us in this exciting research support endeavor?



Students from all four schools presented their oral and poster presentations at the May 6, 2022 Undergraduate Research Symposium.



Make a gift at:
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Opening remarks from Dean Josh Hagen and a presentation about the UWSP Native American burial site are available on the college YouTube channel - UWStevensPointCOLS.



2022 Eugene Katz Letters and Science Distinguished Faculty Award



"Professor Zlmen Ticho is a trusted and respected colleague and leader who fosters a positive working environment and a teamwork culture. Her character and values empower her students and colleagues to succeed."

Professor Amy Zlmen Ticho
Sociology and Social Work

The UWSP Department of Sociology and Social Work is a well-respected, collaborative, and accredited program, thanks to the dedication and leadership of Professor Amy Zlmen Ticho. She is the winner of the 2022 Eugene Katz Letters and Science Distinguished Faculty Award!

Paving the Way to Sustainability Careers

UW-Stevens Point is creating tomorrow's sustainability leaders. New for Fall 2022, the Community Sustainability B.S. will integrate the social, ethical, and political dimensions of environmental sciences with the tools to foster community change.

The newest bachelor's degree in the Department of Geography and Geology complements existing sustainability degrees that center on resource management, food systems, and education.

Professor Samantha Kaplan, Geography, is one of the faculty who led the planning for the degree.

"We really wanted to make UW-Stevens Point a sustainability destination campus," said Kaplan.

Students will choose a degree pathway of Resilient Urban Systems and Policy or Environmental Justice and Community Leadership.



UWSP Plays Host for State Science Olympiad

The Wisconsin Science Olympiad held its state competition for more than 900 middle and high school students from across Wisconsin at UW-Stevens Point. It was the university's first time hosting the state tournament and the first in person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eighty-eight teams competed on April 23 in nearly 30 skills tests and exams for a chance to represent Wisconsin at the national competition. The event would not have been possible without the support and dedication of faculty, staff, and community volunteers. Our special thanks to presenting sponsor, Marten Machining, Inc., Worzalla, Delta Dental, EO Johnson, Marshfield Rotary and the Stevens Point Area Convention & Visitor Bureau.

Message from the Dean

Dear Friends of UW-Stevens Point's College of Letters and Science,

I am pleased to share our spring 2022 newsletter. After a somewhat uncertain start last fall, the spring semester was full speed ahead. Campus was buzzing with energy as faculty, staff, and students contributed to regular activities and dozens of other activities and events on campus throughout the semester. For example, UWSP had its first opportunity to host the State Science Olympiad in April, which brought nearly 1,000 high school and middle school students to campus.

The college also held the 23rd Annual COLS Undergraduate Research Symposium highlighting the work of nearly 130 students and their faculty mentors. We were honored to have a number of special guests join us, including parents, community partners, and retired faculty and staff. To increase student participation and raise the overall impact of the symposium, we launched the Partners in Discovery initiative to create an endowment specifically to support this showcase event. You can still join us in this important effort and make a difference for our students!

There are many other examples of good news, more than could possibly be covered in this brief message or any newsletter. You can stay in touch and informed of the latest good news by following our regular updates on social media at Facebook and Twitter. And none of those accomplishments would be possible without the dedication and passion of our faculty, staff, students, and community partners. I am proud of what you have accomplished this year and look forward to building on those achievements for an even better next year! Thank you so much for all your hard work!

Joshua Hagen



College of Letters and Science
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

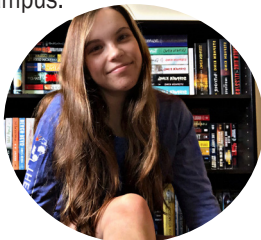
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English Education Students Teach a Love of Literature

This spring semester challenged English education majors, enrolled in their junior year, like no other. That's because **Assistant Professor Erica Ringelspaugh's** teaching method students had to learn to trust in their own abilities as they mentored underserved students across the state in the UW-Stevens Point Connections Project. Through virtual lessons and discussions, diverse learners from mostly rural schools get the chance to analyze short works of literature and share their thoughts with the preservice teachers enrolled in English 381, Reading for the English Teacher.

The program runs virtually from March through the final session day, the first friday in May, when the high school students from Bangor and Adams-Friendship traveled to UWSP to share their final projects and work together in workshops on campus.

English major Brionna Zygarclicke said the program provided her with a steppingstone for going into teaching. She taught in the Connections Project in the spring of 2021.



"It was really fun to pick out short stories for our students to read and learn how to build different virtual activities and questions for them to do. Assessing them was just cool to see the different ways that they answered and thought about our questions each week," said Zygarclicke, a UWSP senior.

The students work in pairs and design their own literature course curriculum, revise, revise and revise again, lecture virtually and create project assignments. They create prompts and respond



individually to every student. Students, working with the faculty mentors, finalize the session by evaluating the work of their high school students.

Bangor High School English teacher Brittany Freymiller said she was impressed by the preparation of the UWSP students involved in the program last year. She said they were able to build strong peer relationships in cooperative learning over the course of the semester. Freymiller said the Connections preservice teachers mentored and encouraged her students to share and deepen their learning.

"It's a good snapshot of what teaching is like," said Freymiller.

Ringelspaugh has been involved in the Connections Project both as a teacher in the Adams-Friendship High School with students participating, and now, as the program coordinator for UWSP. She says it prepares undergraduates for a career in teaching; or if it leads them in another direction, they are served by knowing they might not be passionate teachers.

The next step for the preservice group would be more teaching methods courses on campus. Connections provides tremendous experience before undergraduates even set foot in a formal student teaching role their senior year of college.



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COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE RETIREMENTS

- Helena Alden, Sociology and Social Work
- Terese Barta, Biology
- Diane Caporale, Biology
- Greg Fisher, Northern Aquaculture Demonstration Facility
- Neil Heywood, Geography and Geology
- Karin Hyler, Administrative Specialist – SHGS
- Jeffrey Kleiman, History and Global Studies
- Robert Kreczner, Mathematical Sciences
- Paul Martin, Mathematical Sciences
- Richard Mitchell, Mathematical Sciences
- Mary Clare Sorenson, Administrative Specialist – SBSS
- Julie Tharp, English

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