Fly Like An Eagle: The Eagle Alert System for Student Success

By: Brandon Forcier
Peer Advisor

“Because we’re a family!” This iconic quote and moment from the 2004 movie Miracle, fosters the ideology behind the relatively new UWL Eagle Alert System. For many students there is often a communication disconnect between their professors, advisors, and other support services. The Eagle Alert System attempts to eliminate this problem and increase communication to help students be as successful as possible.

Barbara Martin-Stanley, Student Services Coordinator and liaison for the Eagle Alert System describes the system as, “A formal, proactive, feedback system through which students and advisors are given early feedback on student performance.” Barbara went on to expand this thought, “Specifically, Eagle Alert allows instructors to provide feedback during the fifth week of classes regarding academic concerns.” Although the system may be known for providing academic concerns, instructors and advisors can also support students in their accomplishments and even offer suggestions for potential professional and personal opportunities.

The system is a fast-functioning program that allows professors and advisors to insert feedback that students can access through their individual WINGS account. The best part about the program is that students are directly notified upon receiving an Eagle Alert by being sent an “Eagle Alert” through an email, which will direct them to open the feedback through their WINGS account. The feedback can range from connecting the student to appropriate resources, suggesting more participation in class, or even indicating a potential opportunity that the student should pursue. The framework for this system falls on the necessary communication and follow through from the students.

All of the feedback and support is beneficial, but if the students do not respond, it can lead to an unsuccessful system. As a student, it is important to remember that Eagle Alerts are not intended to bring you down or point out your inadequacies; these alerts are there to provide support and give you early feedback, so that you can succeed. If you receive an Eagle Alert, be gracious, because this is indicating that someone has your back and is willing to provide individual support, so make sure to open the alert and respond to that individual. Most importantly, we are all Eagles, so let’s strengthen our family and soar to success through the Eagle Alert System.

“We are all Eagles, so let’s strengthen our family and soar to success through the Eagle-Alert System.”

—Brandon Forcier

For any additional questions, or to learn more about the Eagle Alert System, contact Barbara Martin-Stanley in the Academic Advising Center at 785-6950 or at bmartin-stanley@uwlax.edu.
When people hear about majoring in Political Science, the career that comes to mind is politician. Even though this is a common path Political Science majors take, it is definitely not the only option students have, especially when it is paired with a Criminal Justice minor.

According to Professor Alan Bigel and Professor Kimberly Vogt, students who attain a degree in political science and criminal justice have many job opportunities including, but not limited to, the police force, loss prevention, a variety of federal agencies, large facility security, insurance claims, the CIA, and even the DNR. The possibilities are endless, especially when the individual earns a bachelor’s degree instead of an associate degree. This is because employers are looking for people who have the analytical, written, and communication skills that are gained from a four year university.

Students who are interested in this major and minor pairing should expect a combination of lecture and group discussion, as well as term papers and projects. They should also be excited to explore the different aspects of government and the corresponding philosophy. In addition, they should be ready to learn about surveillance and society as well as new and upcoming topics like racism and terrorism. Bigel and Vogt both commented on how interesting it has been to see the way the content of their courses has changed since they began teaching. When new laws come into place or events occur, what society focuses on changes. Their curriculum then reflects these changes. This is especially true because they use actual cases as a basis for class discussions.

When asked what she likes most about this major and minor combination, a current student Mercedes Dobbertin, said “It is more conceptual and it can be related back to what we do in our everyday lives.” Her plans after graduation are to attend law school and eventually join the FBI. Derek Jack, another current political science and criminal justice student, plans to become a police officer after he graduates from UWL.

“ It is more conceptual and it can be related back to what we do in our everyday lives.”

- Mercedes Dobbertin

Senior Spotlight

Brandon is a Communication Studies Major with an emphasis in Interpersonal Communication as well as a minor in Psychology. He hopes to use his degree to become a high school counselor. His favorite thing about working in the Academic Advising Center is talking to various types of students. He love to hear everyone’s story because there is never a single narrative that is the same. When Brandon is not busy studying or working in the AAC, he can be found watching his favorite TV show, Game of Thrones, or hanging out with friends doing basically anything! When asked what advice he would give to students, Brandon says, “Enjoy your time at UWL because it will be gone in the blink of an eye.”
1. **Go to a Music Festival:** There are many music festivals around Wisconsin during the summer! See if your favorite band is playing! Check out this link to find one near you www.travelwisconsin.com/article/things-to-do/article/top-music-festivals-in-wisconsin

2. **Volunteer:** Check your UGetConnected (www.ugetconnected.org/) to find volunteer opportunities right here in La Crosse!

3. **Set up a Lemonade Stand:** Reminisce on your childhood and sell lemonade in your neighborhood! You can even donate the funds to a local non-profit organization!

4. **Learn a New Skill:** Have you always wanted to learn how to juggle or play the ukulele? Summer will be a great time to give it a try! Check out YouTube for “How-To” videos!

5. **Have a Yard Sale:** Have some clothes or knick-knacks you do not need anymore? Have a yard sale to get rid of them and make some spending money!

6. **Plan a Weekend Trip:** Ever wanted to visit the House on the Rock or Cave of the Mounds? Plan a weekend trip with some friends and visit tourist locations in Wisconsin! Use this website to find more locations www.travelwisconsin.com/cities-regions.

7. **Make Popsicles out of Fresh Fruit:** Make this tasty treat using fresh fruit and juice! It is sure to cool you down on a hot summer day! Check out a recipe here: www.popsugar.com/moms/How-Make-Fresh-Fruit-Popsicles-

8. **Have a Bonfire:** Invite some friends and have a bonfire in your backyard! It is a great way to end those summer nights!

9. **Eat Fried Food at a Fair:** Did you know that the Wisconsin State Fair offers over 176 deep fried food items? Take a trip to Milwaukee this summer and try some for yourself!

10. **Enjoy it!** No matter what you do this summer, remember to have fun and enjoy it!

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**YOU ARE NOT ALONE. EVERY PERSON HAS THE RIGHT TO FEEL SAFE.**

By: Jenna Horton
Peer Advisor

Did you know April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month? Did you know about one in four college women report being sexually assaulted? Did you also know the University of Wisconsin La Crosse has a violence prevention office to help victims of assault as well as help in the prevention and education of assault on campus? Sexual assault is the most underreported crime but it is also one of the most prevalent, especially on college campuses. It is important for students to know about the resources available to them on campus.

The Violence Prevention Office at 1130 Centennial Hall offers students free, confidential services that center around advocacy, information, and support. In addition to these services, they also provide educational trainings on how to recognize assault, harassment, stalking, and dating violence, as well as how to help.

Ingrid Peterson is the UWL Campus Violence Prevention Officer. It is her role to work as an advocate for victims of sexual violence as well as educate students. Faculty and staff at UWL are all Mandated Reporters meaning that if a student comes to them with information about being sexually assaulted or with the intent to hurt someone they must report it to the University. Ingrid, on the other hand, is a confidential source. If someone speaks with Ingrid, the conversation will stay confidential and the student would have the option to report the incident.

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The Violence Prevention Office also holds events on campus for students to attend. The Ultimate Race for Sexual Assault Awareness will be taking place Thursday, April 21, 2016. This is an Amazing Race style event where teams of students will race around campus answering questions and puzzles while also learning about sexual violence, how to recognize it, and what to do about it. There are even prizes offered to the winning teams! The Violence Prevention Office also shows a variety of documentaries, such as *The Hunting Ground*, which is free to students. In addition, they invite speakers to campus to talk more about sexual violence. This April The Director of the National Stalking Resource Center, Michelle Garcia, will be coming to campus to talk about her work and inform students about sexual violence and prevention.

When asked what her advice is to students who may be experiencing sexual violence or if someone they know is experiencing it, Ingrid says, “To start the conversation by talking to her or a staff member in the Counseling and Testing Center on campus.” This is the best way to get information on options in order to make informed choices. Ingrid, as well as the staff in the Counseling and Testing Center, are here to help students feel safe on campus by giving them the necessary information and help they need.

For more information on the Violence Prevention Office please visit: www.uwlax.edu/Violence-Prevention/

**Violence Prevention Specialist:** Ingrid Peterson  
1130 Centennial Hall  608.785.5126  
Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

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**Senior Spotlight**

Jenna is a Therapeutic Recreation Major with a Psychology Minor. She hopes to work with children with cognitive disabilities or in the mental health field when she graduates. Her favorite thing about working in the Academic Advising Center is opening the doors to new opportunities for students who are unsure about what they want to do. Nothing compares to having a student leave with a smile on their face and knowing you helped! When Jenna is not working, she can be found raising Autism Awareness for with her sorority sisters or watching her favorite TV show, The Big Bang Theory. When asked what advice she would give students, she says, “Don’t be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone and try something new. You may end up not liking it but, who knows, you could find something you are truly passionate about!”

**Important Dates to Remember:**

- **Fall Registration:** Begins April 11th  
- **Finals:** May 9th-13th
- **Last Day of Classes:** May 6th  
- **Commencement:** May 14th

Jenna Horton