A MESSAGE FROM DR. WAYNE WEBER, BILSA DEAN

Dear friends,

First and foremost, I wanted to send you greetings and once again, a heartfelt thank you for your continued involvement in our college and university. As you will find in the newsletter, we have a lot of exciting things happening in the College of BILSA including significant recognitions of our faculty, staff, and students across the college.

I just want to touch on a few major campus and college wide items to keep you informed. First, this fall, we welcomed a total of approximately 2,151 new students on campus as a university including 1,641 new freshmen, a new record. Second, of those new students, we had 528 new Tri-State Initiative (TSI) enrollees, a significant increase that has important positive implications in regards to campus resources and our ability to carry out our academic mission. As a college, we are also welcoming our largest freshman class of approximately 440 students with the largest growth this fall occurring in the School of Agriculture. Finally, with this new growth, last year we had a 77 percent first to second year retention rate as a university, the highest since 2005. This increase in retention is thanks to the efforts and leadership of our incredible faculty and staff along with many other entities on campus including, notably, the office of First Year Experience and its director, Dr. Amy Nemmetz. This growth in numbers comes with its share of challenges and opportunities that we will be working through.

In closing, I once again want to thank you–faculty, staff, students, and alumni–for everything you do for our college and university.

Best wishes,

Wayne Weber, B.S., M.S., Ph. D.
Dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture
Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Chris Baxter

Dr. Chris Baxter, associate professor in the School of Agriculture, was selected as the 2011-12 Outstanding Faculty Member in the School of Agriculture. Baxter previously received the Outstanding Advisor Award in the School of Agriculture during the 2010-11 academic year. "It’s nice to know that the experience I have in doing this is helping the students enough in that they would say, ‘He’s a good advisor,’” said Baxter.

Advising students, which currently numbers more than 60, is something that Baxter has enjoyed since joining UW-Platteville in 2003. “I really enjoy sitting down one-on-one, especially that first time when a student comes in and they may not know everything they can do with their degree and what their opportunities are once they’re here,” he said. “It allows me to tell them what I know and what my experiences are with working with previous students, what the opportunities are, both on our campus and when they finish their degree.”

For complete details, see: http://www2.uwplatt.edu/news/2012/05/31/uw-plattevilles-baxter-earns-outstanding-advisor-award/.

Tom and Lee Ann Lindahl Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Marc Shelstrom

The 2012 Thomas and Lee Ann Lindahl Teaching Excellence Award recipient is Dr. Marc Shelstrom. Since his arrival to UW-Platteville in 1995, Shelstrom has had enormous impact on the Building Construction Management Program. Shelstrom has received numerous awards and recognition for his work as an educator. His extensive experience in the industry as an industrial educator, lumberyard manager, lumberyard owner, and consultant, has given him experiences and knowledge in the field that benefit his students today. The most visible results of Shelstrom’s outstanding career are his students, and the houses they have built in Platteville and the surrounding areas.
Outstanding Alumni Award Winners

Bruce Kroll
Bruce Kroll has been selected as one of the 2012 BILSA Outstanding Alumnus Award winners. Kroll graduated from UW-Platteville in 1988 earning a degree in business administration with a computer emphasis and in 1989 with a degree in accounting. He has utilized his degree by working in business and accounting for IBP, the world’s largest fresh meat processor, Schwan’s Sales Enterprises, and most recently as the owner of two Culver’s Frozen Custard franchises. Kroll applauds UW-Platteville’s interactive learning environment and top-notch educators with giving him the tools he needed to be successful in the business world.

Ben Brancel
Ben Brancel, secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, has been selected as a recipient of a 2012 College of BILSA Outstanding Alumnus Award. He attended Wisconsin State University-Platteville where he graduated in 1972 with a degree in animal science. Brancel served in the Wisconsin Assembly from 1986-1997, and served as Assembly Speaker in 1997. In 1997 Governor Tommy G. Thompson appointed Brancel to serve as secretary of the Wisconsin DATCP. He served in this post until 2001, when he was appointed state director of the USDA Farm Service Agency. In 2010, Governor Scott Walker appointed Brancel to once again serve as secretary of the Wisconsin DATCP. Brancel has been an outstanding advocate for the agricultural industry and citizens of Wisconsin.

The late Dr. Howard Brooks
The late Dr. Howard Brooks has been selected as a recipient of a 2012 College of BILSA Outstanding Alumnus Award. Brooks was a 1965 graduate of Wisconsin State University-Platteville with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Arts, and in 1970 with a Master of Science in Industrial Education. Brooks worked in the engineering department at Square D in Milwaukee, Wis., where he carried out research before returning to UW-Platteville in 1969 as a faculty assistant. He completed his doctorate in practical arts and vocational technical education in 1974 from the University of Missouri, Columbia. One of his many accomplishments during his 35-year career at Platteville was writing a grant to fund the Platteville Business Incubator Project. Brooks served as director of the project after the grant approval, and assisted companies in the Platteville area to become successful organizations. In 2000, Brooks became the industrial studies department chair, a position he held until his retirement in 2004.

Nancy Weygant-Berg
Nancy Weygant-Berg has been selected as a 2012 College of BILSA Outstanding Alumnus Award winner. Weygant-Berg is a 1980 graduate with a bachelor’s in biology-zoology. She currently serves as a science, technology, engineering, and math biomedical sciences teacher at East Ridge High School, Woodbury, Minn. and is the ERHS science department chair. Weygant-Berg has received numerous awards for her outstanding talent in educating students in the field of science. One of her top accomplishments was receiving the Presidential Award of Excellence in Science Teaching for Minnesota in 2011. She credits her UW-Platteville biology professor Dr. Wagner with sparking her passion for science and learning.

BILSA Alumni Chapter Award

Ryan Weigel
Ryan Weigel is the recipient of the BILSA Alumni Chapter Award. Weigel has been instrumental in planning the College of BILSA Golf Outing for the past three years. He has been the individual responsible for working with the golf course, soliciting hole sponsors, gathering prizes, and recruiting members to play at the outing. The BILSA Golf Outing has raised approximately $10,000 for scholarships during the past three years with Weigel’s leadership.
Students gather important research on local streams

Thank you to all the donors who have contributed to students’ success in the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture. For additional information, go to www.uwplatt.edu/foundation/annual_report/files/2011_annual_report.pdf.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

Thanks to the generous contribution of our Pioneer friends, several new scholarships have been established in the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture. Recent scholarships include the Badgerland Financial Scholarship, Hartung Brothers Scholarship, Dr. Sue Price Ag Consulting Team Inc. Scholarship, CNH Scholarship, BouMatic Scholarship, and Landmark Cooperative Scholarship.

Information on additional new scholarships can be found at www.uwplatt.edu. Thank you for your continued support.

STUDENTS GATHER IMPORTANT RESEARCH ON LOCAL STREAMS

The research being conducted on local streams by UW-Platteville students is providing valuable experience for students and important information for the local Trout Unlimited organization.

Beginning in the summer, Wright hires two students to participate in the program. One student, usually a junior or senior, is considered a full intern. The other student, typically a sophomore, is a technician who assists with the collection and analysis of data.

During the summer, the interns collect data about fish, stream habitat, and invertebrates. The fall and spring semesters are spent analyzing the data and preparing a report.

FRIEND OF THE COLLEGE AWARD WINNERS

Stuart Chipres

A BILSA Friend of the College award recipient is Stuart Chipres. Hailing from Spain, Platteville was a far cry from home for Chipres. Chipres graduated in 1999 from UW-Platteville with a degree in international studies. During his time at Platteville, he played on the soccer team and was on the 1998 team that holds the record for most wins in school history. Today, Chipres serves as director of the Spanish-American Institute of International Education. Chipres has been influential in the lives of nearly 40 UW-Platteville students who have studied abroad a SAIIE in the past 10 years.

Dr. Robert E. Walton Sr.

Dr. Robert E. Walton Sr. has been selected as an award recipient as a BILSA Friend of the College. Walton has been associated with UW-Platteville for over four decades by entering his industry leading bulls in the WBIA bull test held annually at the Pioneer Farm since 1970. He is the only breeder to have entered bulls in every test, which will be 42 years this fall. Walton is also a generous contributor to the UW-Platteville Foundation. Serving as president of American Breeder Services for 20 years was just one highlight of his outstanding career in dairy and beef cattle genetics. Walton is a pioneer in the genetics of cattle and has made a legendary impact on the industry.

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