A MESSAGE FROM DR. WAYNE WEBER, BILSA DEAN

Dear friends,

Once again I extend my heartfelt greetings to all of you.

We have had an exciting year so far, and I just wanted to mention a few items to lead you into this spring’s newsletter. First, we are excited to have launched our new, truly interdisciplinary, minors: social media and entrepreneurship. Both of these minors will provide students across campus academic training in areas that have relevancy today and tomorrow. Second, it is with great enthusiasm that we recognize the significant achievements of our faculty/staff mentored teams in agriculture including the dairy judging, crops, and soils teams that have been regionally and/or nationally recognized. In a related note, UW-Platteville is honored to host the National Collegiate Soils Contest April 21–26. There are many other exciting happenings in the college, and we are highlighting a few of those in this issue.

Finally, I would like to emphasize some of the upcoming events. These would include the National Collegiate Soils Contest April 21–26, the related Soils Team Alumni Banquet April 2, the inaugural UW-Platteville Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors Symposium April 29, BILSA commencement May 11, and the BILSA golf outing July 12.

Again, 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

Important Dates

March 21 – School of Agriculture is hosting the FFA Career Development Events
April 21–26 – UW-Platteville is hosting the National Collegiate Soils Contest
April 24 – Soils Team Alumni Banquet at the Holiday Gardens in Potosi, Wis. More information regarding the contest and the alumni banquet can be found at www.uwplatt.edu/soa/ncsc/index
April 29 - Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors Symposium
May 1 – School of Agriculture Awards Banquet
May 11 – BILSA commencement, 9 a.m., Williams Fieldhouse
July 12 - BILSA alumni golf outing – Platteville Golf and Country Club
U.S. Rep. Ron Kind visits UW-Platteville

U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wisconsin) spent the afternoon of Oct. 31, 2012 on campus, touring the facilities and learning more about our offerings. He received tours of the plastics lab from Dr. Majid Tabrizi and of the metals lab from Dr. Kyle Metzloff.

Pictured: Dr. Majid Tabrizi led Ron Kind through the university’s Center for Plastics Processing Technology.

Scholarships aid UW-Platteville’s Bark

Thanks to multiple scholarships, Hillary Bark, a senior animal science major from Seneca, Wis., is progressing toward a bachelor’s degree. This academic year, Bark received the C.L. Denure Memorial Scholarship and the Friar Family Scholarship. “There are a lot of us out there who are paying for school,” she said. “This helps a lot. It takes a lot of stress off and it cuts down on the loans I need to take each year.” Bark has earned several scholarships throughout her university career, and she encourages other students to apply. “Between the UW-Platteville Foundation scholarships and the business scholarships, they have paid for a pretty good chunk of my schooling,” she said.

In addition to academics, Bark works as the media specialist in the office of Dr. Wayne Weber, Dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture. The spring semester will be her fourth semester working in the dean’s office. “It is a really good experience,” she said, noting she manages the BILSA website, participates on various committees, and works on special projects.

During the summer of 2012, Bark had an internship with the UW-Extension Wisconsin Beef Information Center in Madison, Wis. She was also involved in helping with events at the Lancaster Research Station and at Farm Technology Days through the internship. Bark was involved in FFA from 2005-11. Her dog training project through the FFA was gold rated at the Wisconsin State FFA Convention in 2010.

She has also worked with poultry and pigs and has bought and showed beef cattle. Her favorite animals are dogs and beef cattle.

Bark will graduate in May. After earning her degree, she will pursue employment in the animal/food sciences arena as well as possible careers with UW-Extension. She hopes to earn a master’s degree as well.

If you or your company would like information about donating to a scholarship, please contact Jaclyn Bevan at 608.342.1864, or zimmermanj@uwplatt.edu.

Microbiology Lab at UW-Platteville

With the financial assistance of alumni and friends, the UW-Platteville Alumni Microbiology Lab will be a showpiece in the biology department. Most students majoring in biology at UW-Platteville will take a microbiology course as they pursue their degree. Some of these students will also pursue research in the lab. To support the long-term needs of the Microbiology Lab, and the teaching and research activities that occur within the lab, biology department officials would like to create an endowment funded by alumni and friends.

Funds raised for the project will be used to support lab equipment, lab supplies, faculty and staff support of professional development and research. Money is also being raised for equipment and teaching costs as well as student research opportunities. Officials would like to publicly and permanently recognize the individuals who contribute to the endowment by creating a work of art that will be featured in the lab as a reminder to current students of the support of their predecessors.

The remodeling of the lab in phase II of the Boebel Hall renovation provides an opportunity to incorporate the display.

Anyone interested in supporting the project may contact Jaclyn Bevan at 608.342.1864, or zimmermanj@uwplatt.edu.
UW-PLATTEVILLE STAFF EVALUATE FIJI STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Jennifer Krahn, UW-Platteville Education Abroad Marketing and Outreach Specialist, and Dr. Wayne Weber, dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture, traveled to Suva, Fiji, from Oct. 21-28, 2012 to evaluate the study abroad program at the University of the South Pacific.

Each of the six study abroad programs that UW-Platteville sponsors are reviewed every six years. “We need to ensure that everything from academics to health and safety are up to standard to ensure that students have the most successful experience possible while studying abroad through our program,” said Krahn.

During the program review, Krahn and Weber participated in a shortened version of the orientation that students go through when arriving in Fiji including a tour of the USP campus, meeting with representatives from the housing and international offices, sitting in on a variety of classes, visiting two Fijian villages, and participating on an excursion with current study abroad students. “We were able to establish what we can do to effectively prepare students for this unique opportunity in Fiji,” said Krahn.

Since 2006, 98 students from 25 universities have studied at USP through the UW-Platteville program. “This is an incredible opportunity for students to immerse themselves in an exceptionally diverse culture and get a quality education that includes learning opportunities unique to the South Pacific and Fiji,” said Weber.

STUDENTS SHOW OFF PHOTOGRAPHY SKILLS AT PHOTO III EXHIBIT

The Nohr Gallery hosted the Photo III exhibit, Captured, at Ullsvik Hall from Nov. 28-Dec. 21, 2012.

The exhibit was a collection of photos taken by students in the Photography III class. Students worked on their projects the entire semester and the exhibit showcased each student’s individual theme and work.

The overall theme, Captured, was named by the students to encompass the different aspects of photography and how they relate to each individual student’s portfolio. Photo III is an advanced photography class that allows students to work independently and choose their own direction. Steve Yunck, UW-Platteville media studies Assistant Professor, teaches this course.

Students participating in the exhibit were Bobby Ostrowski, Chenard Haywood, Heide Copus, Renee Heimdal, Dana Hach, Amber Hopkins, Katie Kelly, Leah Schneider, Brittany Brown, Benjamin Colney, William Messer, Nancy Horstmann, Mason O’Mara, Kristy Williams, Angela Lindeman, CoriJo Blahnik, and Matt Ahasay.
New hires

Thank you to all of 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.

The College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture welcomed new faculty and staff to campus this academic year. Among the fresh faces are:

Ben Brown, academic staff, Pioneer Farm
Krista Hardyman, animal science faculty, School of Agriculture
Matthew Akins, animal science faculty, School of Agriculture
Swagata Banerjee, agribusiness faculty, School of Agriculture
Marvee Marr, faculty, business administration
Timothy Strait, faculty, business administration
Jing Hua (Carolyn) Wang, faculty, business administration
Stephen Swope, faculty, media studies
Benjamin Grady, instructor, biology
Ryan Schmitz, instructor, biology

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE STUDENTS STUDY IN AFRICA

Ten UW-Platteville School of Agriculture students spent their winter break in Ghana as part of a short-term study abroad program. Their trip focused on agriculture and women’s livelihoods.

Students were led by UW-Platteville Professor of agribusiness Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga and Bowan Mubarak, Coordinator of the trip in Ghana. Krista Uhrig of the Education Abroad Office at UW-Platteville was the Program Coordinator. The CHS Foundation and the Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement provided financial support for the program.

Students who took part in the trip included Emily Anderson, Kary Babb, Ethan Giebel, Rebecca Gunderson, Tina Holst, Bekka Lee, Charlotte Luedtke, Katie Martin, Rachel Rahn, and Jesse Wellman.

Students visited the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum, W.E.B. Du Bois Centre, Akosombo Hydro-electric Dam, Black Star Square, Aburi Gardens, Cape Coast Castle, Elmina Castle, and a wedding. Dr. Kofi Baku at the University of Ghana-Legon provided a lecture on Ghanaian history. Students were also able to meet with Prince Kofi Amoabeng, CEO of UT Bank.

The students conducted two service projects as part of the study abroad experience. The first project involved touring Amrahia Dairy Farm, the focal point for dairy development in Ghana. Time was also spent on two farms near the Amrahia Dairy.

Renovating space for a library at the Aburi Presbyterian School was the second project UW-Platteville students completed. An existing space was painted and furnished to provide a library and reading area. UW-Platteville students brought books, school supplies, and other items as donations.

THE OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ENDEAVORS

The Office of Undergraduate and Creative Endeavors is pleased to announce the 2013 UW-Platteville URCE Symposium on Monday, April 29 from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. This event will showcase the accomplishments of students from across campus. Participants will share their findings through traditional research projects, poster displays, literary analysis, creative writing, art exhibits, musical performances, and more.

Everyone is encouraged to attend this exceptional event. For more information or to submit a proposal, please contact Jessica Sprenger Schuelenburg at the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors at 608.342.1983 or urce@uwplatt.edu.