Dear friends,

Greetings from the College of BILSA. There are many exciting things happening in the college, and the newsletter emphasizes a few of these. As an introduction, I would like to provide an enrollment update and highlight a few items.

In relation to enrollment, college numbers have dropped slightly this last fall but overall are strong with a growth of 49 percent since 2004 (figure 1). The slight reduction is not surprising given the demographics of this region but it is an issue that deserves attention. Program growth is shown in figure 2 with the School of Agriculture and the Department of Biology being the fastest growing academic units in the college and among the fastest growing in the university.

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight a few upcoming events. Wednesday, April 23 is a combined Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors Symposium and Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement Poster Event. 11 a.m.–1 p.m., Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery, Ullsvik Hall

May 6
Ribbon-cutting to recognize the official naming of the School of Business
4 p.m., Ullsvik Hall

May 10
Spring Commencement
9 a.m., Williams Fieldhouse

May 30
BILSA Golf Outing
Platteville Golf and Country Club
9 a.m. and/or 11 a.m.

October 10–11
Homecoming

I also want to take this opportunity to highlight a few upcoming events. Wednesday, April 23 is a combined Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors Symposium and Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement Poster Event. This is an exciting occasion to see how students have been involved in research and community engagement projects. On Tuesday, May 6, we will have a ribbon-cutting event recognizing the official naming of the School of Business. Commencement is May 10. Last, but not at all least, the BILSA Golf Outing is Friday, May 30 at the Platteville Golf and Country Club. The outing is a best-ball team competition and is always a lot of fun while raising money for a good cause: five BILSA scholarships, one for each academic unit in the college.

Finally, I want to extend my deep appreciation to you, the faculty, staff, alumni, students, and friends of the College of BILSA for everything you do for the college and university.

Best wishes,

Wayne Weber
B.S., M.S., Ph. D.
Dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture
UW-Platteville designates School of Business

To better reflect how well the University of Wisconsin-Platteville serves its business-related undergraduate and graduate students, the university has officially declared a new School of Business. The designation was approved at the UW System Board of Regents meeting earlier this month.

“It’s beyond the complexity of a department,” said Dr. Wayne Weber, dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture. “With two undergraduate programs and four online master’s programs, the term “department” just didn’t fit. The new title more accurately reflects what we are doing.”

Previously, the university had a business and accounting department. The new School of Business will better recognize all the business-related classes, majors, minors and graduate programs under one area. The School of Business houses 950 business administration and accounting majors, with approximately 670 on-campus and the rest either in print-based or online programs. Another 680 graduate students are seeking online master’s degrees.

Iron Pour connects art and industry

More than 1,800 pounds of molten iron heated to 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit were poured at the first-ever University of Wisconsin-Platteville iron pour. The UW-Platteville Industrial Studies Department, American Foundry Society at UW-Platteville and Alisa Toninato, artist and owner of FeLion studios, hosted the event.

The event featured cast iron melted in a cupola furnace and molded into various shapes including pumpkin molds that could be purchased for $5 with proceeds going to the AFS at UW-Platteville. Heated iron was also poured through carved pumpkins.

The cupola technology is new to the UW-Platteville Metals Lab. Dr. Kyle Metzloff, UW-Platteville Industrial Studies professor and his students attended one of Toninato’s iron pours at Sector 67 in Madison, Wis., to learn more about how the furnace works. After learning Toninato was having trouble with some of her castings not turning out, they decided to work together.

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Students organize mock crisis exercise

UW-Platteville students in the Department of Media Studies Crisis Planning and Communication class practiced their professional skills in crisis communication on Nov. 14. A mock press conference scenario was held which included a fire that consumed Brockert Hall, a gunman at large, and potentially hazardous materials that forced an evacuation of the west side of campus and the west side of the city of Platteville.

This mock crisis scenario was designed to be a test of how these public relations students could handle a large crisis scenario and was meant to engage students in learning. It was also designed for the purpose of practicing the skills taught throughout the semester on how to represent an organization during a crisis.

Dr. BJ Reed, Media Studies professor, coined the exercise for the purpose of finding new ways for students to learn. “There is a lot of emphasis in teaching today in engaging students,” said Reed. “They can’t learn if they aren’t engaged.”
LEBANESE STUDENT STUDYING AGRIBUSINESS AT UW-PLATTEVILLE

The Elizabeth Summers International Fellowship Fund is offered through the Education Abroad Office at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Summers’ parents emigrated to Southwest Wisconsin from Lebanon. Two of her siblings attended the Wisconsin Institute of Technology, which later became UW-Platteville. Summers saw the opportunity to create a program that exposed students to different cultures. She generously left funds from her estate to establish the exchange program at UW-Platteville.

Jinane Abou Zeki is the first recipient of the Elizabeth Summers International Fellowship. She is a 20-year-old student majoring in agribusiness at the American University of Beirut, where she will graduate in the spring. “Agribusiness is a really interesting major; I love it,” said Abou Zeki. This semester, Abou Zeki is continuing her agribusiness program here at UW-Platteville.

“I had always had the idea of going abroad, and this opportunity came up,” said Abou Zeki. “I applied and was selected to come here to UW-Platteville. This is a great opportunity for me. It was a big change coming here. In Beirut, I am a student on a big campus. Here at UW-Platteville, the campus is smaller with more nature on campus, and the people are more approachable. I am also a part of the International Student Club here on campus. The club has allowed me to connect with other students from abroad.”

STEINER NAMED OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ADVISOR FOR BILSA

Dr. Charles Steiner, associate professor of agribusiness at UW-Platteville, is the recipient of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture Outstanding Academic Advisor Award for 2013. Steiner earned his Bachelor of Science in agricultural business and his Master of Science in agricultural industries from UW-Platteville, and his Ph.D. in agricultural education from Iowa State University. He joined the UW-Platteville faculty in 2007.

Steiner, a Prairie du Chien, Wis. native, also serves as the director of Pioneer Farm, advisor for the Agribusiness Club, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and roughly 30 to 40 undergraduates majoring in agribusiness.

“I was honored to be nominated for this award by School of Agriculture Director Mike Compton. There are a lot of quality advisors in the School of Agriculture and across the university,” said Steiner. “I believe advising is an important responsibility of faculty and staff and provides a great way to learn more about the aspirations of students and help them prepare for both success in college and their future careers.” As a winner of the award, Steiner received a $500 honorarium and a recognition plaque. He will be honored during Homecoming week next fall.

KENNEDY’S CAREER CHOICE AFFIRMED WITH BUSBY SCHOLARSHIP

Liz Kennedy, a junior biology major from Dickeyville, Wis., is well on her way to someday owning her own dental practice. Her emphasis at UW-Platteville is the pre-dental program. “I want to be a dentist someday,” she said.

The interest in the field came at an early age for Kennedy. “My mom had her own business, and she sold scientific supplies to different companies, so early on I was exposed to it,” she said. “Over the course of my schooling, I became more and more interested, and biology seemed like a good fit with my interest in dentistry.”

The idea of becoming a dentist is also a way for Kennedy to give back. “I was born with a cleft lip, so it was something that I wanted to learn more about, and I had a lot of dental work done over the course of my life,” she said. “I wanted to be able to give back in some way, the same way that other doctors have to me, and becoming a dentist seemed like a really good way for me to do that.”

Kennedy was awarded the John Busby D.D.S. and Affiliated Dentists Dental Scholarship, which is specified for a pre-dental student. “I was thrilled when I got it, because school is really expensive and dental school is going to be very expensive,” she said. “It was nice to know that there are people who are rooting for me. It was nice encouragement.”

Busby is a 1976 UW-Platteville biology graduate in the pre-dental program. He is the President and Managing Partner of Affiliated Dentists S.C. in Madison, Wis.

Thus far, Kennedy has enjoyed her time on campus. “I have really enjoyed the entire experience as a whole,” she said. “I really like the professors, and I feel like they really care about their students, and I like the students also being able to work with them. I think it’s a really beneficial experience, and everyone is going through the same thing of advancing themselves and each other.” Following graduation, Kennedy is hoping to attend dental school at the University of Iowa.

NEW FACULTY/STAFF Jason Woldt, faculty, business administration
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.

BILSA GOLF OUTING

We need your help! Did you know that 2013–14 tuition and fees (without room and board) was $7,484.08 for an in-state student? Please help support scholarships to aid our students in the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture by sponsoring a hole and/or golfing in our 9th Annual College of BILSA Alumni Golf Outing.

Details: Friday, May 30, 2014 at the Platteville Golf and Country Club. Nine or 18 hole, four person best shot event. Tee-off at 9 a.m. for 18 holes and 11 a.m. for nine holes with lunch to follow. More details can be found at http://alumni.uwplatt.edu/events/event_details.asp?id=410441&group=.

UW-Platteville BILSA Alumni Golf Outing Sponsor Registration Form

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If you have any questions, please contact UW-Platteville Alumni Services at 608.342.1181 or alumni@uwplatt.edu.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE LAW.

Students build their way to success in Las Vegas

UW-Platteville students took third place in the safety division and fifth place in the quality division at the Associated Builders and Contractors National Student Construction Management Competition from Nov. 2 through Nov. 6. The competition was held in Las Vegas, Nev., where 21 schools from across the nation competed in events related to the building construction management field.

These students had six weeks to prepare a proposal for a medical office building in Orlando, Fla. “We spent at least 20 to 30 hours on the project every week leading up to the competition,” said Drew Dorman, senior building construction management major from McHenry, Ill.