For more information about engagement and entrepreneurship events at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, contact Kevin Bernhardt, director, at 608.342.6121 or Kathy Neumeister, communication and events coordinator, at 608.342.6020, or visit the website at www.uwplatt.edu/pacce.

ENGAGEMENT POSTER DAY-NEW LOCATION

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Velzy Commons in Ullsvik Hall

Stop by and see for yourself the accomplishments of our 400+ PACCE students!

Students gain first-hand experience and get a head start on their career by engaging with a community and faculty partner in completing a PACCE project. Ranging from agriculture to art, from education to engineering, each and every project benefits a community partner in a meaningful way. Here are a few of this semester’s projects:

ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY PROJECTS

Dr. David Kraemer is leading groups of students who are engaging with multiple community partners to work on projects involving energy and sustainability research and/or design. Projects include:

• A bench-top anaerobic digester for experiments in turning organic waste into methane gas to be used for fuel
• Investigations of renewable energy solutions for a remote location, including a solar-powered area light and radio repeater for a camp for children with disabilities
• Testing of Building-Integrated Evacuated Tubes and Reflectors (BIETR) for a solar garage heater
• Conducting an energy audit of UW-Platteville Southwest Hall, the residence hall that was found to have the largest energy usage on campus
• Creation of a combination wind/solar charging station for an electric commuter bicycle
• Conducting an energy audit of a local industrial site to form the basis for a partnership with UW-Milwaukee to lead to a Department of Energy Industrial Assessment Center beginning next semester

MAMMAL SPECIES IDENTIFICATION AT EAGLE VALLEY NATURE PRESERVE

Under the guidance of Dr. Jeff Huebschman, associate professor of biology, UW-Platteville students are conducting a site inventory at Eagle Valley Nature Preserve, a private preserve owned and managed by the Kohler Company and Kohler Trust for Preservation. Students will utilize a variety of techniques for surveying mammals, in addition to mammal species identification skills, to conduct this site inventory. The preserve consists of a variety of habitat types, including woodlands and prairies, along with spring-fed streams and an adjacency to the Mississippi River. This diversity of habitat types, coupled with the geographic location of the property in the southwest corner of the state near Glen Haven, Wis., has created a site high in biodiversity. The goal of this project is to document the mammal species found on the site and produce a mammal species inventory for the preserve.

INTERACTIVE OPERA AT PLATTEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Interactive Opera will reach past the classroom walls and into the community, strengthening bonds between students and teachers in the arts. Susan Savage Day will give UW-Platteville students a living classroom environment as they interact with children from Platteville. Students will devise lesson plans, teach music and blocking to K-6 students, and offer assistance to the Platteville teachers. An opportunity to support the goal of a 360-degree student, this project will give students a unique opportunity to teach, mentor and provide a lifetime memory for these middle school children.

On Thursday, Nov. 3, UW-Platteville campus was the first stop for 7Cees, a nonprofit enterprise housed in this bus! Described as a mobile collaboration studio, Michael Fenchel and his colleagues are driving across the country and exploring ways that community members can use their creative passion to help their community’s flourish. Follow their tour at www.7cees.org.
MEET ‘N EAT WITH AN ENTREPRENEUR

University of Wisconsin-Platteville students had a unique opportunity to meet with a group of inspiring entrepreneurs at “Meet ‘n eat with an Entrepreneur” on Oct. 19 at the Nohr Art Gallery. Dr. Kevin Bernhardt, director of PACCE, moderated the event that featured a brainstorming session and several elevator pitches. One of the featured entrepreneurs was Chris Meyer, founder of Sector 67 in Madison. Meyer is a recent graduate of UW-Madison where he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mechanical engineering. He was a successful competitor in UW-Madison’s business plan and innovation competitions and parlayed his winnings into the launch of Madison’s first hackerspace, a nonprofit collaborative space dedicated to providing an environment to learn, teach, work-on, build and create next-generation technology.

Meyer was joined by fellow entrepreneurs Forrest Woolworth, co-founder of Capital Entrepreneurs; Justin Beck, co-founder and CEO of PerBlue; Michael Fenchel, founder and executive director of 7Cees; Adam Weigmann, owner of 4X Innovations; Mindy Krantz, owner of Serendipity Salon; Jim Hamilton, UW-Platteville chemistry and engineering physics professor; Nancy Harrington-Chartier, transformational leader and change agent in human affairs; Brad Biddick, Trelay Farms and Rural Route 1 Popcorn; and Jeff Panka, president and part-owner of Prairie Industries/Nu-Pak.

These entrepreneurial initiatives are funded through a Wiscontrepreneur statewide seed grant. First National Bank of Platteville also sponsored “Meet ‘n Eat with an Entrepreneur.”

ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDENTS “CATCH THE CULTURE”

Supporting innovators and entrepreneurs was a major theme of “Entrepreneurship at UW-Platteville: Catch the Culture.” The executive director of Juneau County Economic Development Corporation, Terry Whipple, was one of the keynote speakers at the Oct. 4 event. He believes one must create a contagious environment for entrepreneurship.

“We must foster a culture of entrepreneurism in order to compete in the 21st century economy,” said Whipple. “We must support the innovators and entrepreneurs; they will be the ones to lead our economy to higher ground. I am thrilled and encouraged to see that UW-Platteville is setting the stage for students to catch the culture of entrepreneurship.”

Brittany Rose was the event’s second keynote speaker. A United States Ambassador for the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards, Rose is the owner of More Than Cheer LLC, a sports management company that specializes in “spirit sports.” An advocate for the empowerment of young people through entrepreneurship, personal development and healthy living, Rose has a passion for sharing her message with young people.

“More college students are thinking about starting their own business,” says Kevin Bernhardt, director of PACCE. “Our events are targeted to what can be an overlooked resource – the energy and creativity of our own young people.”

In addition to the keynote speakers, five entrepreneurs shared their own personal stories. They included Carl Babler (First Capitol Ag); Don Wickstrum (Quest Industrial LLC); Ulrich Sielaff (Sielaff Corporation); Kristin Woodward (Two by Two); and Jen Schweigert (Snap Fitness).

“I really enjoyed talking to Don from Quest Industrial,” says Kayann Johansson, UW-Platteville student. “His company had so much diversity in what they did. The main goal of the company was to create robots and program them but they also had a branch for making root beer. I thought that was really cool!”

UPCOMING ENTREPRENEURSHIP EVENTS:
Business Planning Workshops – Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2012 and Thursday, March 8, 2012
Business Plan Competition – Round 1 – Thursday, April 12, 2012
Business Plan Competition – Finals – Wednesday, April 25, 2012

For more information and to register, go to www.uwplatt.edu/pacce.