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GEODE

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PLATTEVILLE

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Letter From The Dean

The past several months have provided reason and opportunity to reflect on the state of our College. There are many challenges that we face, but also many accomplishments that have enhanced our programs and students. I think I will start with a short list of some of the positive things going on in EMS.

Our international exchanges are really starting to roll. In 2003, we will have Platteville students in Germany, Sweden, Australia, and Ireland. We will host over twenty-five students from Germany and Sweden during that same period. We anticipate that students from Australia, Ireland, and Norway will begin coming to Platteville early next year.

Our on-line Master of Engineering program is reaching some significant milestones. These are presently 72 students enrolled in the program and there will be four graduates from the program in May. The interest in the MOE continues to grow across the state, nation, and world.

We have begun the first class of the Joint International masters for Computer Science. This is a program where students from Platteville spend their first semester of study at UWP and then travel to Darmstadt, Germany for their second semester. Students from Darmstadt come to Platteville for their second semester. All students then return to their home school to finish their thesis work. Interest in this program is very high.

The State of Wisconsin has instructed UWP to proceed with the renovation of Ullrich Hall. This building will be completely renovated and become the home of Computer Science and Software Engineering. It will contain high tech classrooms and labs as well as department offices and meeting space.

Of course, there are also several challenges that we are facing due to the state fiscal dilemma. The Governor has proposed a \$250 million cut in the UW System budget. He has also proposed a \$150 million increase in tuition to help offset some of those cuts. At Platteville, this translates into an increase of tuition by \$500 for each of the next two years. Although tuition increases are never welcome, this still leaves UWP in the bottom quartile when comparing tuition costs at our peer institutions. The remaining cuts will result in over \$2 million dollars having to be trimmed off of UWP's budget for next year. The College of EMS will shoulder about \$300,000 of these cuts. What this means is that in the 2003-04 academic year, there will be 6.5 fewer staff members in our College than in 2002-03. We will accommodate this by increasing the size of some sections of classes, rotating some upper level courses to being offered once a year or every third semester, and eliminating some classes. Let me assure you that we are doing everything possible to assure that the education that each student receives meets our standards of quality.

While we have some challenges ahead, we also have many positive things happening in our College. I would invite you to stop in any time and see why "It's a great day to be a Pioneer."

Rich Schultz, Dean
College of Engineering, Mathematics, and Science



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College of EMS Alumni Chapter

President's Message

Laura L. Fenley, President

The previous President's Message from the EMS Alumni Chapter president, David G. Kaul, centered on the events and aftermath of September 11, 2001. That was a pivotal time for our nation and the effects continue.

This, also, is a key time of unity for our country. No matter your feelings about our involvement in Iraq, it's imperative that we support our nation in the numerous ways available, great or small.

In addition to international events, we are faced with tremendous fiscal issues. The State budget affects the University budget. UW-P is taking great care to do their part in the most efficient and reasonable ways possible. To learn about the UW System Budget, go to <http://www.wisconsin.edu/budget/>.

The impacts of these events point to the fact that the Supporting Members Program is vital to the EMS Alumni Chapter. To restate what was said in the President's Message from the previous issue, "The EMS Chapter of the Alumni Association uses this program to support the students and faculty in the Engineering, Mathematics, and Science programs [and Computer Sciences] and maximize the caliber of its graduates in these programs. The students benefit from an enhanced education, and employers benefit by hiring quality graduates." We currently have thirty-two supporting members—a list has been provided elsewhere in this issue—and we are very grateful for their support.

If you are not currently a supporting member, we hope you'll consider becoming one. The annual membership fee is only \$100. For more information about this program, its benefits to you and to UW-P EMS students, please contact any member of the EMS Alumni Board or:

Ann M. Philip
Director of Alumni Services
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
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1 University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818
Phone: 608.342.1970
Toll Free: 1.800.UWP.ALUM

Additionally, the UW-P Alumni office contacts potential members in the fall of each year.

Recently, the EMS Alumni Chapter Board reviewed its list of committees, the responsibilities of each committee and the membership of those committees. While board members typically are committee members, all EMS alumni are invited to become committee members. It's a great way to stay current with what is happening at the University, and the College of EMS in particular. Also, if you are not currently a member of the Alumni Association, we strongly encourage and welcome you to join!

For more information about the UW-P Alumni Association and EMS Alumni, visit the following site:

<http://www.uwplatt.edu/> and select Alumni & Friends

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ASCE: Everybody Jump In!

By: Angela Peterson

Whether it's going over or in, two of the biggest activities ASCE competes in require water. Racing a canoe made of concrete or building a strong bridge as fast as possible, this year's ASCE student chapter has been busy planning, organizing, and practicing for their exciting competitions. But those aren't the only things that keep this group busy...

The concrete is curing and the paddling team is practicing for the Concrete Canoe Competition. The competition will be hosted by University of Iowa in Iowa City, IA. Todd Knox has taken up the difficult aspects of the competition as chairperson. Sarah White and Kristine Palmer wrote the paper for the presentation. Meanwhile Jason Chopp, Mike Dombeck, and Jeff Spaeth have been busy working hard in the construction of this year's canoe based on Wendy Coyne's design. Her design created a canoe that was more streamlined and included increased maneuverability. Better techniques were used in the mold construction and challenges were met with rule changes from the previous year. Dan Schilling has been working towards building a winning combination of paddlers for the three sprints and the two slaloms. All team members are excited and hopeful for the competition to be held April 25th and 26th.

There were twenty-three students and two advisors who traveled to South Dakota State University for the ASCE Regional Steel Bridge Competition. Sara Wolfert was the chairperson for the team of ten. The ten competitors were Adam Faris, Mike Davis, Jason Marks, Jessica Peterson, Cory Holmes, Dean Brandt, Amanda Arnett, Cliff Jansen, and Sara Wolfert. Other ASCE members that helped in the teams' preparation were Nate Braun and Ryan Menter. The competition was held on February 13th through the 15th where the team placed 2nd in Stiffness and Timed Construction, 4th in Aesthetics, and 5th Overall. Besides participating in the competition, the students and advisors attended the Regional Conference where they heard presentations on local projects. Kristine Palmer gave a speech on engineering ethics and attended the Annual Regional Conference Meeting.

ASCE has also planned field trips to visit projects that are under way or newly constructed projects. A group of students interested in wastewater treatment facilities toured the existing and newly constructed plant in Galena, IL. Others have traveled to Ferryville, WI to tour a lock and dam that was under construction. A trip to the U.S. Highway 151 project between Mineral Point and Belmont turned out some interesting facts that could not be seen by just passing by.

The UW-Platteville ASCE student chapter has not only been working on internal interests but has gone out into the community through a number of different outlets. Members have been participating in the Southwest Branch Sectional Meeting, the Wisconsin Section Meeting, and the meeting in Texas for the Executive Board where they met different chapters from all over the nation. Besides meetings, the ASCE student chapter has reached out by a highway clean up held both in the spring and fall.

The 9th Annual Benchmark Open on September 13, 2002, was another huge hit this year with 114 participants from nearly 50 different engineering firms as well as students and faculty members. The tournament was a four-person, 18-hole scramble format with a shotgun start at noon. Teams consisted of 2 to 3 professionals with 1 to 2 students or faculty members. A score of 11 under par won for the day, trophies were awarded and door prizes were handed out. It was a great opportunity for students and professionals to meet and talk about specific projects, career opportunities or life in general all in a fun and relaxing setting.

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ASCE has been striving toward active member participation through competitions, field trips, fundraising, meetings with guest speakers and refreshments, activities with professional engineers, and community service projects. ASCE has continued to be an amazing student organization that incorporates civil engineering with fun-filled activities and dedicated members.

Chemistry Major with a Criminalistics Emphasis

Long before the *CSI* television show blitz, the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Chemistry Department was offering a program major emphasizing the applications of chemistry to forensic science. The Chemistry Major with a Criminalistic Emphasis, which began at UWP in the mid-seventies, prepares students for careers related to forensic analysis. While the Criminalistics Emphasis accounted for only a few graduates each year for its first two decades, the program has recently become one of the fastest growing majors on campus.

The proliferation of the *CSI* genre programming has certainly increased the attention prospective students give to this field of study, but there are few programs in the Midwest, or country, that offer students forensic science degree opportunities that are centered in the full chemistry degree necessary for most of the crime laboratory positions.

In addition to chemistry degree requirements, students take classes in criminal justice and biology and complete an internship with an accredited crime laboratory.

Dr. Charles Cornett has spent the past two years expanding our relationships with area crime laboratories, and the UWP program has been well-received by crime laboratory directors throughout the Upper Midwest. As evidence of these strong relationships, collaborative research is underway here at UWP with criminalists from the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory-Wausau. In addition, collaborative proposals between UWP and the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory-Milwaukee as well as UWP and the Sedgwick County Regional Forensic Science Center, Wichita, Kansas were submitted this spring to the Midwest Forensics Resource Center. These projects involve students in research designed to improve forensic techniques or crossover studies that provide data necessary for the potential validation of new methods in the crime laboratory. The studies include topics such as the use of capillary electrophoresis in Y-chromosome DNA identification, novel techniques in accelerant analysis of arson debris, and stereospecific derivatization to differentiate methamphetamine precursors.

The Chemistry Major with Criminalistics Emphasis has seen remarkable growth to nearly 40 majors. This is part of a sustained overall increase in the Chemistry Program, which has seen the number of majors double in the past four years to near 80 students in the fall of 2003. With student interest piqued, quality relationships with the region's crime laboratory facilities, and new undergraduate research opportunities, the future looks bright for this program.

