Greetings from the College of BILSA. It seems that summer has flown by and it is time once again to relate exciting happenings in the college. I would just like to start out by highlighting a couple of items.

First, tornado! As indicated in the many press releases, the university and Platteville community sustained considerable damage from the EF2 tornado that hit campus and the surrounding areas on June 16. The damage to all these areas impacted the students, faculty, and staff of our college. The most extensive damage related directly to the College of BILSA included the complete destruction of one hoop house, the Pioneer Garden gazebo, along with significant damage to Pioneer Gardens and the greenhouse. The response by community members, faculty, staff, students, UW System, and administration, was nothing short of remarkable. Although repairs are on-going, we started classes on time and key facilities and areas, including the greenhouse, are operational. The culmination of the extensive recovery efforts is illustrated well by the football team being able to take the field in Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium (that sustained extensive damage by the tornado) for the home opener. A big thank you goes out to all those involved.

Second, we are really looking forward to Homecoming week, Oct. 10–11. This year, we have many significant events to celebrate in the college including 100 years of agriculture, 125 years of the Exponent, and 50 years of WSUP. Some of these events are during Homecoming, as you will see in the newsletter, and others will be throughout the year, so we’ll keep you posted. Please note some of the BILSA specific Homecoming events, and other university activities, listed on page two. We are really looking forward to recognizing our outstanding alumni, friends of the college, and award winners. I hope to see you there.

Third, the 2015 BILSA Golf Outing is set for Friday, May 29, 2015, so please mark your calendars. The last outing in May was an absolute blast and it is a great way to get together with great people for a great cause. The proceeds from the golf outing go to five BILSA scholarships, one for each academic unit in the college.

In a related sense, I have been travelling extensively meeting with alumni and industry partners. So to all of you, I have really enjoyed sharing with you in these endeavors, and I want to thank you again for engaging with the university through time, talent, advice, donations, internships, and hiring our grads.

Finally, I once again extend my deep appreciation to all of 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 BILSA
ever."

nizations and industry, is a skill set that is in more demand than the rise of social media as a communication platform for orga-

essages," said Snyder. "Visual literacy, thanks in part to

messages, but they also need to understand how to produce

ually literate–not only do they need to understand mediated

“My job is to develop professional communicators who are vi-

Medical Associates is specifically interested in UW-Platteville

health care graduates as they are vital in providing nursing and

physician care in urban and rural areas where there are short-

ages.

“A gift like this, endowed, will provide long-lasting support,” said Holly Clendenen, Director of University Advancement. "Endowments provide funding forever. This will allow students to do things they may not otherwise get the chance to."

The university plans to recognize the gift by naming a classroom in Boebel Hall after Medical Associates.

“As a college we are extremely thankful for this gift in that it is gifts like these and these collaborations with our industry partners that are going to help us carry out our missions,” said Weber.

Thomas and Lee Ann Lindahl Teaching Excellence Award

Dr. Robert J. Snyder is a professor of media studies and has been at UW-Platteville since 2000. He is the architect of the university's social media minor, the first academic program of its kind in the UW System and one of the first in the nation.

“My job is to develop professional communicators who are visually literate–not only do they need to understand mediated messages, but they also need to understand how to produce those messages,” said Snyder. "Visual literacy, thanks in part to the rise of social media as a communication platform for organizations and industry, is a skill set that is in more demand than ever."

Distinguished Employee Award

Becky S. Troy works as an Academic Department Associate in the media studies department. Her responsibilities include financial manager, advisor, counselor, mediator, and manager, and she is an institutional memory resource.

Troy previously earned the 2013 Classified Staff Member of the Year Award.

She manages finances, personnel, and other issues related to the Exponent, WSUP, and Pioneer TV. Troy generates purchase orders, tracks equipment purchases, assists with personnel, and a variety of other tasks.

Academic Advisor Award

Dr. Charles R. Steiner is Director of Pioneer Farm and Assistant Professor of agribusiness. He serves as advisor for the Agribusiness Club, Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity, and undergraduates majoring in agribusiness. His teaching responsibilities include Introduction to Agribusiness, Agricultural Consulting and Sales, Farm Management and Record Systems, and the capstone Agribusiness Management course.

BILSA Alumni Chapter Service Award

Michael Fiedler is a Director on the BILSA Alumni Chapter board. He is a strong supporter of UW-Platteville and the BILSA Alumni Chapter. Fiedler and his wife drove from the Twin Cities to participate in the chapter's first bike ride event, which took a group around the Platteville/Belmont area. Fiedler has attended almost every Homecoming since he became a member of the chapter and has always helped with the registration table or wherever he was needed.

BILSA Homecoming Activities

The College of BILSA has organized a variety of activities during Homecoming weekend on Friday, Oct. 10 and Saturday, Oct. 11.

On Friday, from 12:30–1:30 p.m., Dr. Wayne Weber, Dean of the College of BILSA, along with school directors, department chairs, and nominators will have lunch with the award winners at the Markee Pioneer Student Center, Platteville Rooms.

From 1:30–2 p.m. visitors will be able to tour the Markee Pioneer Student Center as well as the University Bookstore.

An open forum for faculty, staff, students, and alumni will be held in the University Rooms at the Markee Pioneer Student Center from 2–3 p.m. College honorees will serve on the panel for the forum.

A room naming ceremony to honor Medical Associates will be held from 3–4 p.m. in 305 Boebel Hall.

The awards presentation and reception will be held from 4–6 p.m. at the Pioneer Haus at the Markee Pioneer Student Center.

Saturday will begin with a parade along Platteville Main Street at 10 a.m.

The BILSA Homecoming luncheon will be held at 11 a.m. in Ullsvik Hall.

The day will also include a football game at 1 p.m. versus UW-River Falls at Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium.

Wrap things up with a party at the Barn, 6935 Mound View Rd., Platteville, from 5–10 p.m.
OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Mary Twinem earned a Bachelor of Science in Accounting in 1982 and has been working as a Certified Public Accountant since 1984. Twinem is the Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer for Buffalo Wild Wings Inc., joining the company in 1995. In 1996, she was named controller and later promoted to her current role. She manages the functional areas of financial reporting, legal, information systems, and purchasing for the company and its 375 restaurants in 35 states.

Shawn Stankovich earned a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology Management in 2001. He currently works as an Occupational Health and Safety Specialist with Archer Daniels Midland in Clinton, Iowa. He is responsible for safety and health in the corn milling facility. Stankovich is a member of the UW-Platteville BILSA Alumni Board, serving as treasurer from 2011–14.

Joanne Rash earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology, summa cum laude from UW-Platteville in 1997. She earned a Bachelor of Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2001. Rash is a Physician Assistant in the OB/GYN department, gynecological oncology division at the University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation’s Carbone Cancer Center in Madison, Wis. In 2010, she was named the Wisconsin Academy of Physician Assistants Physician Assistant of the Year.

Paul R. Miller earned a Bachelor of Science degree in technical agriculture in 1965. He has been farming for more than 60 years and is the president of Miller Farms Inc. in Hancock, Wis. The farm operation includes 2,500 acres of vegetables. Miller Farms Inc. produces carrots, sweet corn, snap beans, peas, and potatoes.

Jim Wargowski earned a Bachelor of Science in Broadcast Engineering in 1986. Wargowski began working for the Walt Disney Animation Studios in Burbank, Calif., in 2004. He is currently a Senior Media Engineer and has earned a screen credit on every Disney animated film since 2005, including a Best Picture Academy Award for Frozen in 2014.

Thank you to the BILSA Alumni Chapter for helping sponsor this year’s Homecoming events.

Join alumni at the Barn, 6935 Mound View Rd., from 5–10 p.m. on Oct. 11 to celebrate 125 years of the Exponent, 100 years of the School of Agriculture, and 50 years of WSUP. The event is free and there will be food, drinks, and a live band.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

As the School of Agriculture embarks on its 100th year, it celebrates a century of providing diverse programs and enriching opportunities to prepare students for a dynamic and growing job market, and recognizes the contributions and innovations alumni are bringing to the field of agriculture.

The School of Agriculture currently enrolls nearly 800 students—a number that has doubled since 1995. This robust growth is part of a national trend, according to Dr. Michael Compton, Director of the School of Agriculture, as the popularity of agriculture degrees is increasing due to industry growth. The Wisconsin Agricultural Education and Workforce Development Council estimates that there will be more than 132,000 openings in agriculture-related fields in Wisconsin through 2020—with approximately 43,000 of these being new positions.

Compton noted that one strength of the School of Agriculture is offering programs in all of the areas that are needed to fill these new jobs. Animal science is the most popular major, followed by agribusiness. Other majors include agriculture education; environmental horticulture; reclamation, environment, and conservation; and soil and crop science.

“Students get so much in the classroom but there also needs to be some other high impact activity that students can get into a little more in-depth,” said Compton, adding that the School of Agriculture offers such opportunities in different forms—through the requirement of an internship in several programs, service learning projects in the community, 19 student clubs and organizations, and six nationally competing judging teams.

As the field of agriculture becomes increasingly global, students in the School of Agriculture have a number of opportunities to learn about agricultural practices abroad. Agriculture-focused short-term programs abroad have included past trips to Africa and the Netherlands, as well as an inaugural program in Romania this year.

“We want our students to be well rounded,” said Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga, Professor of agribusiness and leader of three short-term programs in Ghana, Africa. “Through service learning projects, students learn and experience the differences in agricultural practices in the United States and other countries.”

Longer-term programs are also available in the Netherlands, Belize, Australia, and Ireland, among other places.

All of these diverse and hands-on opportunities have benefited School of Agriculture graduates. According to Compton, graduates have experienced strong job placement, even in times of recession, and the number of agriculture employers at the university Career Fair has been climbing. “Employers believe our students hit the ground running and are very well prepared,” said Compton. “A major contributor to that is the amount of hands-on activity students experience.”

By Alison Parkins, University Information and Communications
CEREMONIAL RIBBON CUTTING CELEBRATES SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

With a ceremonial ribbon cutting, UW-Platteville officially declared its new School of Business open on May 6. Approximately 100 people attended the ceremony outside Ullsvik Hall, where the offices and many of the classrooms are located.

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.

SOIL JUDGING TEAM PLACES FIRST INTERNATIONALLY

Representatives from UW-Platteville took first place at the recent inaugural International Soil Judging Contest. Twelve teams from 10 countries competed at the contest, held on Jeju Island, South Korea. The contest was held in conjunction with the 20th World Congress of Soil Science. The overall first-place team, USA-B, included a recent graduate of UW-Platteville, Kyle Weber, and was coached by Dr. Chris Baxter, Professor of soil and crop science, at UW-Platteville.

PARTNERSHIP FORMED TO ASSIST STUDENTS IN MEDICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY FIELD

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford’s Master of Science in Medical Biotechnology Program has entered into an agreement with UW-Platteville to allow qualified UW-Platteville students to participate in a Guaranteed Admissions into the MBT graduate program. UW-Platteville leaders Dennis J. Shields, Chancellor; Dr. Wayne Weber, Dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture; Dr. Jeff Huebschman, Chair of the biology department; and Dr. Rich Dhyanchand, faculty member in biology; joined the dean of the University of Illinois Graduate College, Dr. Karen Colley, at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford on May 22, to sign the affiliate agreement.

PLASTICS LAB RESEARCH TAKES STUDENTS TO DUBAI

The movement to “go green” and pursue environmentally-friendly alternatives has been gaining momentum across the nation, and three UW-Platteville students’ contributions to this pursuit recently took them overseas to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Bryce Blackbourn, a senior industrial technology management major with minors in plastics processing, metals processing and drafting, and product development, from Shullsburg, Wis.; Kevon Tabrizi, a senior biology major with a plastics processing minor, from Platteville; and Teng Yang, a senior industrial technology management major, with minors in plastics processing and drafting and product development, from Oshkosh, Wis., recently presented research at the American National Technical Exhibition Conference in Dubai.

The students’ research focused on additives, such as coloring agents, that are contained in most plastics and can sometimes be lead-based and lead to harmful health and environmental repercussions. The students—advised by Dr. Majid Tabrizi, Professor of industrial studies at UW-Platteville—have been exploring the use of lignin as a replacement for chemical additives in plastic.

Hope to see many of you at the Homecoming events, Oct. 10–11.