A MESSAGE FROM DR. ELIZABETH A. THROOP, COLLEGE OF LAE DEAN

As another academic year starts, my time has been consumed by budget cuts. UW-Platteville, along with all of the other institutions in the UW System, is working hard to meet the challenge set by the Legislature. We are determined to maintain the high quality of course and major offerings for which we’re known, but students will probably see a difference as time goes on. Those details are being worked out as I write, and all groups on campus will have the chance to provide input on the direction of the university. The next few months will be interesting, to say the least. I am so lucky to have an astounding group of faculty, academic staff, and university staff in this college. We will weather this storm, I am confident of that.

GOLF OUTING RAISES $6,900 FOR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

The Department of Performing and Visual Arts faculty raised $6,900 for music scholarships at its Swinging for Scholarships golf outing and social, held at the Platteville Golf and Country Club. The scholarships will be awarded to incoming and current students who are active in the music program at UW-Platteville.

Eighty-five people attended, including UW-Platteville alumni, faculty, and staff as well as community members. The event was open to everyone and included golf, lunch, games, prizes, entertainment, and a silent auction.

FACULTY TO LEAD ROUNDTABLE AT NWSA CONFERENCE

Six UW-Platteville faculty members will lead a roundtable session, “From Precarity to Trans-disciplinary Solidarity: Collective Reflections on Feminist Teaching at a Small Engineering University,” at the National Women’s Studies Association’s annual national conference Nov. 12–15 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At the conference, roundtable members will discuss pedagogical strategies they employ in film studies, sexuality studies, philosophy, literature, sociology, and psychology and explore possibilities for change and transformation.

Dr. Dong Isbister, left, Assistant Professor of women’s and gender studies, organized the session and will moderate the discussion. Faculty members who will present include Dr. Terry Burns, English Professor and Chair of the Department of Humanities; Becky Fernette, Lecturer of psychology; Dr. Clare Forstie, University Fellow in gender and sexuality; Dr. Mary Lenzi, Professor of philosophy; Dr. Claudine Pied, Assistant Professor of sociology; and Dr. Gohar Siddiqui, Assistant Professor of English.

UW-PLATTEVILLE AND UW-MILWAUKEE SIGN AGREEMENT

Officials from UW-Platteville and UW-Milwaukee signed an agreement of equivalency with UW-Milwaukee’s master’s degree in social work program. The goal of the agreement is to enable UW-Platteville students to complete a master’s degree in social work at UW-Milwaukee in only three semesters and be exempt from at least five graduate courses. UW-Platteville leadership involved in creating the agreement include Dr. Elizabeth A. Throop, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Education; Dr. Elizabeth Gates, Chair of the Department of Psychology; and Dr. Joan Riedle, Professor of psychology.

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STUDENTS TRAVEL WEST

Eleven students learned about the physical and cultural geography of the western United States during a three-week field experience as part of the Field Geography of the Western United States course at UW-Platteville. The students were led by Dr. Richard Waugh, Professor of geography, and Dr. Lynnette Dornak, Assistant Professor of geography. Waugh has led more than 34 of the western trips.

“The importance of field geography is to actually go and see and experience, and there is no educational opportunity that quite compares to it,” said Waugh. “Students invariably return with a deeper understanding and appreciation for a region, and the topics that define that region, than they would if they accessed the region virtually.”

PROFESSORS SHARE INSIGHTS

Dr. Rosalyn Broussard, Professor of political science and Director of ethnic studies, and Dr. Frank King, Assistant Professor of ethnic studies, shared their insights about the development of an ethnic studies program and curriculum with professors at Winona State University in Winona, Minnesota, who are in the process of developing their own program, set to launch this fall. At the meeting, Broussard discussed the history of the ethnic studies program at UW-Platteville and shared the challenges and rewards of its development. King discussed the history of ethnic studies as a whole and the purpose of ethnic studies, past and present.

NELSON CREATES PORTRAIT SERIES

Gregory Nelson, assistant professor of art at UW-Platteville, is currently working on a series of portraits of all the 2016 presidential candidates. One of the portraits, that of presidential candidate Donald Trump, was posted with a short news article on Altpick.com, an illustration site. See more at: http://altpick.com/news/9786. Nelson’s portrait series will be completed sometime in November.

TESDAHL PRESENTS ‘LESSONS OF THE FOX WARS’ ON WPT

Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history at UW-Platteville and a specialist in early American, Native American, and women’s history, presented “Lessons of the Fox Wars, 1712–1737” on July 28 at the Wisconsin Historical Museum in Madison, Wisconsin. In his lecture, Tesdahl discussed what the Fox Wars revealed about imperial North America and the rich colonial history of Wisconsin. More than 40 people were in attendance. The lecture, which will be televised on Wisconsin Public Television sometime in the next few months, was part of the informal “History Sandwiched In” lunch-and-lecture series hosted by the Wisconsin Historical Museum.

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS

The UW-Platteville Symphony Orchestra is interested in recruiting new members for the fall semester. The orchestra is open to all students, faculty, staff and community members—advanced beginners to skilled amateurs—who enjoy playing classical symphonic repertoire. Interested? Contact Dr. Thomas Dickey, Director of orchestral activities, at dickeyth@uwplatt.edu or 608.342.1143.

FROM THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS …

The Center for the Arts completed the 14th season of the Heartland Festival this past June and July. The festival, which included The Last Five Years, Mary Poppins, and MCT’s Rapunzel, sold nearly 3,800 tickets. The Heartland Festival was part of the budget reduction announced in April 2015 and is unlikely to return for another season. The CFA staff is looking into other cost recovery possibilities for summer 2016. The Brodbeck Concert Hall underwent a winch replacement to repair the overhead cloud panels. Please avoid the area until we receive an “all clear” from the contractor. The 2015–16 Performing Arts Series kicks off on Friday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m. with the Michael Mao Dance Company. This group of multicultural dancers based in New York City was scheduled to coincide with the Midwest Culturally Inclusive Conference. We don’t often see a dance company of this caliber in the Tri-State area. Please plan to join us!

— Michael Breitner, Interim Director of Event Services

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS …

As we prepare for another great year of excellence in the arts, we will remember the summer for many rewarding experiences. Both the 48th Annual Pioneer Summer Band Camp and the Heartland Festival brought excellent music and theatre to the campus. In addition, Department of Performing and Visual Arts’ talented faculty and students exhibited art, worked as interns in their disciplines, recorded music, participated in all aspects of theatre productions, presented musical performances across America and Europe, and continued arts research. Also, we are very proud to announce that Corey Mackey completed his doctorate in music. What does all of this mean for the fall? It means that we will be ready to continue the tradition of excellence in teaching and performance in the arts at UW-Platteville. Please join us all year for the many wonderful arts events that make us the cultural center of our region.

— Daniel Fairchild, Professor of music
CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Dr. Rea Kirk, Professor in the School of Education, who was selected as the recipient of the 2015 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. The purpose of the award is to recognize a tenure track faculty member who has made distinguished contributions to UW-Platteville as an outstanding teacher. See more at: http://bit.ly/1LQlqaY.

Dr. Daniel Leitch, Associate Professor of education, for being chosen as the 2015–16 Wisconsin Teaching Scholar for the university. The Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars Program is a statewide professional development program and each UW System school has its own nomination process. The objective of the program is to connect exemplary early-career and late-career teachers into a mentor program. See more at: http://bit.ly/1TlHwbg.

Dr. Travis Nelson, Associate Professor of political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Education, program coordinator for International Studies and chair of the social sciences department at UW-Platteville, who has received the 2015 Excellence in Advising for Education Abroad award. See more at: http://bit.ly/1Jvu9ie.

Dr. Yuanyuan Hu, Professor of English and program coordinator for the Master of Science in English Education China program at UW-Platteville, who has received the 2015 Excellence in Advising for International Students Award. See more at: http://bit.ly/1I8ZNwL.

Mei Reeder, Director of the Confucius Institute at UW-Platteville, who has received the UW System’s 2015 Outstanding Woman of Color in Education Award. See more at: http://bit.ly/1ML0eUs.

WELCOME, DR. STACI STROBL

Dr. Staci Strobl, Associate Professor of criminal justice and Chair of the Department of Criminal Justice at UW-Platteville, began working at the university on July 1. Prior to her appointment, she served as an associate and assistant professor as well as a major coordinator and assessment coordinator in the Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, New York. In addition, she worked as a crime journalist and served as a probation officer for the Eastern District of New York in Brooklyn.

Strobl was recently invited to attend a Carnegie Endowment for International Peace policy roundtable to take place this October in Washington, D.C. The policy roundtable will be working over the course of the next year examining the drivers of religious sectarianism in the Middle East. Strobl will be addressing the group on the topic of police discrimination and sectarianism in the Gulf countries, including Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. A blogpost, ‘Bahrain’s Sectarian Police Force’ (July 30, 2015), has already appeared on Carnegie’s Sada website.

What is your vision for UW-Platteville’s Department of Criminal Justice?

Currently, the department has a strong, visible profile locally and regionally. I am proud that so many UW-Platteville criminal justice graduates have moved on to major positions in law enforcement, government, and community service. We need to raise our profile among the national and international criminal justice organizations and agencies.

Additionally, my department hopes to engage in dialogue on campus and in the community about the relationship of social justice to criminal justice. In light of high-profile events around the country that have highlighted strained relationships between police agencies and communities of color, we need productive and respectful dialogue more than ever. Many of the faculty in our department have important thinking to share on this topic based on their expertise, but also are eager to engage with others who are concerned with this issue from a variety of vantage points.

I want to report the successes of our programs, not only locally, but nationally and internationally. It will take time to develop some of these connections, but it should not be difficult, as there is an audience of people in the criminal justice field throughout the country and world who are interested in—and actively seeking out information related to—criminal justice and forensic science.

What do you see as the most pressing issues/challenges in the field of criminal justice today?

Criminal justice students and scholars must engage in the larger, national conversation about criminal justice and the community—this is one of the most pressing issues of our time. Can American law enforcement agencies better match criminal justice to social justice in our communities? What needs to change for that to happen? New laws? New law enforcement strategies and techniques? A pulling back from mass incarceration trends? Developing alternatives like restorative justice? Our department doesn’t have all the answers, but we have devoted our intellectual lives to these topics, broadly construed, and can contribute meaningfully to the conversation.

What are the three most important things you hope criminal justice students take away with them when they graduate?

I hope that all criminal justice graduates possess the ability to think critically and always question their own assumptions. I also hope they develop the leadership skills they need to make important decisions—sometimes split-second, life-changing ones—as confidently and thoughtfully as possible. To read Strobl’s Pioneer Spotlight, visit http://bit.ly/1J16EiP.
Dr. Kara Candito, Associate Professor of creative writing and English literature in the Department of Humanities, has been teaching at UW-Platteville since 2010. Candito earned her Bachelor of Arts from Loyola University in Baltimore, Maryland, her Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of Maryland College Park, and her Ph.D. in literature with a specialization in creative writing from Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida.

**What is most rewarding about having a career in writing?**

There is an incredible sense of community among writers. Wherever I am in the United States or overseas, I know a writer who is in that city or country. We tend to support one another. As a writer, my job is to pay attention to the world and my interactions with it by achieving a mode of constant engagement and empathy.

**What do you enjoy most about writing?**

When I write, I discover surprising elements or something that wasn’t there before. Writing is like an evolution; I am constantly reinventing my voice. I like writing things I didn’t know I could write, and discovering that I couldn’t write things that I thought I could write.

**How did you become interested in poetry and creative writing?**

I was always writing as a child. When I went to college, I switched my major several times, but I had a supportive professor who encouraged me to apply to graduate programs in creative writing. Once I got to the University of Maryland College Park, I worked under professor and poet Stanley Plumly, and I learned a lot from him. He motivated me to continue pursuing creative writing and poetry.

**How does UW-Platteville’s Visiting Writers Reading Series benefit students?**

There is a rich literary scene in the Midwest, and the purpose of the series is to bring established and emerging writers to campus. I want students to know that writers aren’t just in anthologies and textbooks. I try to pair these events with class visits so students can ask the writers questions. This gives students access to the professional creative writing world, and the individual connections help students be ambitious and feel like they are part of the writing community.

**How does UW-Platteville’s Student Reading Series benefit students?**

There is a tremendous creative energy on this campus, and the Student Reading Series provides an outlet for that energy and a way for students to showcase their creations. The purpose of the Student Reading Series is for students to share their work and not to critique it; it provides validation and a sense of community on campus.

To read Candito’s complete Pioneer Spotlight, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-dr-kara-candito.

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**LAE Picnic**

LAE faculty and staff and their family members enjoyed delicious food and good conversation at the College of LAE Picnic held Sept. 8 at Legion Park Shelter in Platteville. The College of LAE extends special thanks to Carolyn Fries, Interim Dean’s Assistant, for everything she did to plan and organize this special event.