Alumni help in TORNADO RECOVERY
11  ALUMNI HELP IN TORNADO RECOVERY

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Pete Davis ’94, UW-Platteville Director of Facilities, played a key role in the tornado recovery

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AS WE APPROACH UW-PLATTEVILLE’S SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, TELL US WHAT HISTORICAL EVENT YOU WERE A PART OF ON CAMPUS.

ALUMNI

► The formation of the new college of BILSA.
  
  Tom Lindahl, Professor Emeritus

► The formation of the United Greek Council.
  
  Scott Anderson ’06

► My senior year at UW-Platteville I was chair of the Forum Committee, which was charged with getting well-known people to speak on campus. Often we were required to pick him/her up at the Dubuque airport. The most notable person I picked up was Muhammad Ali. I had no problem at all locating him. Big man. The vehicle of choice (not my choice; rather the university’s) was a lovely green station wagon. Impressive! One on one he was actually cool—didn’t even remark about the station wagon. I also remember he had a phone in his briefcase. A regular size desk phone. It didn’t work, much to his embarrassment. Another task I had was to take him to dinner. What better place than the Timbers. My fraternity advisor, Robert Velzy, owned the Timbers so he arranged that our table was front and center. People gawked and talked but of course dismissed it because what would Muhammad Ali be doing at the Timbers. After dinner I suggested to Ali we have a little fun with the other guests. So we had a little boxing match right in the middle of the Timbers’ dining room! You wouldn’t have believed the reaction. Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee. I still think I could have taken him!
  
  Phil Molldrem ’70

► In November 1963, the Gleemen (Singing Pioneers), under the direction of William Dennis, were on a concert tour in several small schools in eastern Iowa. After our second concert of the day, we had learned that President Kennedy had been shot. That’s all we knew. At the next school we learned that President Kennedy had indeed died. Mr. Dennis had a conference with the principal and it was decided to do an abbreviated program of a few serious and patriotic selections from our repertoire. We canceled the rest of the tour and that evening were returning home in a very subdued atmosphere. As we approached Dubuque on Highway 20 the lights and evening view of the city was spectacular. Someone started singing the arrangement of America The Beautiful that had been on our tour program with Linda Hippenbecker, our guest soloist, singing the soaring soprano part. It was quite simply one of the most moving and precious moments of my life.
  
  John Beutel BS ’65, MS ’75

STUDENTS

► During the summer of 2014, I was working at the Explore Engineering Summer Program when campus was hit by a tornado. EESP and a basketball camp were staying in Rountree Commons for the week. The EESP counselors and basketball camp counselors worked together wonderfully to make sure no one was hurt. Once the tornado had passed we were allowed to grab essentials from our rooms on the sixth floor. Most of the rooms were wrecked with pools of water on the floor. After gathering our items, we met in the first floor common area and were escorted by campus police to Dobson Hall for the remainder of the night. It was crazy to see all the damage just hours after the storm went through. By Rountree Commons it looked like a bomb had just gone off, while by Dobson Hall you wouldn’t have known there was a storm. It was one of the craziest experiences UW-Platteville has given me.
  
  Joel Anich, Senior

If you have other memories that you want to share for our sesquicentennial book, please submit to: www.uwplatt.edu/150/memories
Greetings,

During my four years at UW-Platteville, I have looked for creative ways to ensure that UW-Platteville is able to deliver the talented and well-trained graduates the university is known for. We are glad that the alumni community provides consistent vocal and financial support to this university in return. Self-reliance has become increasingly important as public funding for higher education has decreased. Support from alumni is critical to our success.

I am proud of the progress that we have made. We have built two new residence halls using, for Wisconsin, innovative funding methods that accommodate our growing enrollment and which keep students close to campus. It is a fact that students who live on campus perform better and graduate faster than students who live off campus. We have continued the Tri-State Initiative, instituted by Chancellor Emeritus David J. Markee, a program which brings students from Illinois and Iowa, and we have increased our recruitment of students near and far. In the last decade, enrollment has increased every year; an indication of the way we are viewed by students and prospective students. We have kept tuition and fees low so that investment in a UW-Platteville education yields a high return.

Our students are prepared for jobs that are in demand. Employers flock to our career fairs to attract our graduates to their companies. In spring 2015 our career fair booths filled to capacity, nearly 300 employers attended, 200 of them seeking science, technology, engineering, and math scholars. On the 2014 event survey, an employer stated, “I was at a much larger school the day before and didn’t see nearly as many students as I did at your career fair. All the students that I met were very professional and well prepared.”

Eighty percent of our graduates are employed in fields related to their degree. These alumni enrich the local area with their business and industry skills. This issue highlights UW-Platteville graduates who helped rebuild the university after last summer’s tornados, applying skills they learned here at UW-Platteville.

Alumni are the lifeblood of the university. Your participation and support keeps UW-Platteville faculty and staff engaged and passionate about what we do. Alumni financial support helps to fund many critical needs which continue to produce excellent graduates and to ensure that every day is a great day to be a Pioneer!

Dennis J. Shields, Chancellor
Dr. Stan Stojkovic is a 1977 graduate of UW-Platteville, with a major in criminal justice. He received his Master of Science and doctorate degree at Michigan State University and currently serves as Dean of UW-Milwaukee’s Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. He is a supporter of the Joe and Kathryn Lomax Criminal Justice Scholarship Fund, Criminal Justice Development Fund, College of LAE Development Fund, and Criminal Justice Alumni Scholarship, among others.

How did you become interested in the field of criminal justice?
I was in high school and thought about being a police officer. My father wanted me to go to college, so I enrolled at UW-Platteville in 1975 to pursue a degree in criminal justice. As I began learning more about criminal justice, I realized that I could do many more things in the criminal justice field beyond police work. Not to diminish police work, but I found out my calling was in the corrections field. This began a lifelong learning process that has proven to be very rewarding both personally and professionally.

What is one of the things you enjoyed most about your time at UW-Platteville?
I enjoyed most the opportunity to learn things that I had never been exposed to living in the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I took a philosophy course with Dr. Ellsworth Hood and that changed everything. I took five additional courses from Dr. Hood, and I started to view the world differently, and most importantly, I learned how to think critically and question long-held assumptions about everything I believed.

How did UW-Platteville help prepare you for your career?
When I left UW-Platteville I was so well grounded in philosophy and criminal justice that I was ahead of my peers when I attended Michigan State University to pursue my master’s degree in criminal justice. I even went further and finished my doctoral studies while I was working in a prison. There is no question that I received a first-rate education at UW-Platteville, and for that I will always be indebted to the school.

Why is it so important to you to give back to UW-Platteville and support students through scholarships?
Giving back to UW-Platteville is both a pleasure and an obligation. Today’s student is saddled with crushing debt—a sad state of affairs. We as a society have decided to get out of public support for education. The burden has been transferred to the student. By giving back to students at UW-Platteville we are picking up the slack, and it is without question, that without financial support many students could not afford college, or only go to college burdened with long-term debt. This is unacceptable, so I try to do my small part to assist students. Students today will lead the world someday. We need to support them.
In the summer of 2014, Melissa Gavin was elected President of the Alumni Association following the strong leadership of Andrew Skwor.

Gavin graduated with a project management degree from UW-Platteville in 2008. She received her degree online, therefore she hasn’t lived in a residence hall at UW-Platteville and hasn’t attended classes on campus. However, what she has done is use her degree to advance herself and the university. After graduation, Gavin quickly became involved with the Distance Learning Alumni Chapter and became the liaison with the chapter and the Alumni Association, then became a director on the Alumni Association board of directors. “My first contact with the Alumni Association board was when I filled in for a member of the Distance Education Alumni Chapter who was unable to attend the board meeting; that experience allowed me insight into all the great things the alumni office and Alumni Association does,” said Gavin. “I wanted to be part of these great things and make a difference.”

Gavin has definitely made a difference in her time as a volunteer. In 2011, she and fellow board member, Amy (Addison) Nemmetz, spearheaded the first Homecoming Hustle 5k run. They recruited alumna Marcia Taddy to help with the route, and found sponsors and others to help put the run together in a few short months. That run raised about $250 and had 30 attendees. This past fall the event raised over $5,000 and had over 150 registered runners and walkers.

Gavin and her husband, Joe, have also attended and supported the Alumni Association fundraiser “An Evening in Monte Carlo” each year since 2012. Each year Gavin donates a box of cards that she makes. The first year there was a bidding war on the cards, and Gavin volunteered to donate another box so that both bidders could have a set.

“I am truly amazed and grateful for the time that Melissa gives to the university and the Alumni Association,” said Kim Schmelz, Director of Alumni Services. “Melissa has a full-time job, is married with three young children, and donates her time to the Noon Optimist, and until this past year was also the Girl Scout Leader for Belmont Girl Scouts. Not only does she serve as president but she also leads two card-making classes that the Alumni Association hosts each year. We are so thankful for her dedication.”

–Kim (Crippes) Schmelz ’02
Les Hollingsworth is an Assistant Professor of Marketing in the School of Business. He was recently hired as Assistant Dean in the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture.

We’ve all heard some variation of the expression “experience is the best teacher,” and I couldn’t agree more. I use that axiom to challenge junior and senior marketing students each semester.

I’m fortunate that business courses, by their very nature, easily integrate with applied learning. Each fall, students from my Marketing Research class are tasked with finding a client and conducting professional-level market research. Past projects include accurately identifying and describing profitable target markets, working with entrepreneurs to refine product development, making recommendations for improving a company’s service mix, and everything in between.

Market research is a topic that students generally have very little background with coming into the class. The applied project really helps to show the students what all is involved and provides great opportunities to “make it real” for them. Students not only gain the opportunity to apply what they learn, the experience also challenges their leadership finesse, and communication and project management skills when working with external stakeholders.

“I was extremely pleased with the project that students conducted for my business,” said Momentum Bikes owner Timothy Ingram. “I needed fairly complex information to increase the appeal and profitability of my bike rental program and the research students delivered what I needed.”

Looking back, my favorite projects to mentor are ones that help nonprofits become more effective. I see these projects as a win-win: we can provide a valuable service to the community and the students get the necessary experience to become successful business leaders after they graduate.

UW-Platteville marketing student Ilya Nikulin notes, “Our project gave insights to a nonprofit grocer about which products might be most successful to carry. The project was challenging both in scope and timeline but ultimately we provided insights to a client who otherwise wouldn’t have the benefit of marketing research in their decision making. Obviously, there’s always some things we would like to do differently if we did it again but, overall, it was a great experience to see how research actually works.”

Going forward, I plan to continue utilizing applied learning opportunities in class. This spring I will launch a new course that emphasizes the linkage between marketing and technology and, if all goes according to plan, students will actually execute some of those marketing technologies with a client to monitor their impacts on the business.
Center transformed to residence hall

In fall 2015, the Jerry and Fran Cooper Living and Learning Center will become a residence hall. The center, located at the university’s Pioneer Farm, currently serves as a retreat, offering overnight accommodations and meeting space. The Cooper LLC will be an agriculture-driven living learning community and will house about 20 students.

The UW-Platteville Department of Residence Life supports the academic mission of the university by providing the option for students to live in an LLC or interest community within the residence halls. Currently, there are 10 different communities students can choose from.

Assistant Director of Residence Life Robin Gore expressed that this residence hall will differ from others because it is a remote learning community and the students will be a bit removed from campus but will still have the leadership of the Residence Life staff. “I’ve seen and heard a lot of excitement for it, so I’m excited to see where it develops,” she said.

This agriculture LLC will specialize in programming to prepare students for after graduation by having employer and faculty visits, résumé and interviewing workshops, and much more.

Morrison’s legacy honored

UW-Platteville faculty and staff, community members, and state legislators recently gathered to remember and honor Kathryn “Kate” Morrison, a former UW-Platteville assistant professor of economics and the first woman elected to the Wisconsin State Senate. A memorial plaque was unveiled during the ceremony. State senators Fred Risser (D-Madison), Dale Schultz (R-Richland Center), and Tim Cullen (D-Janesville), along with former UW System president Katharine C. Lyall, attended the ceremony to honor Morrison, who was elected to the Wisconsin State Senate in 1974 and served the 17th district.

“It is appropriate that this institution takes the opportunity to recognize and honor the work and contributions of Kathryn Morrison,” said Chancellor Dennis J. Shields. “She is one of our own. She was an educator, an innovator, and a leader. Morrison embodied the pioneer spirit. She was a trailblazer who had a positive impact on this university, the state of Wisconsin, and the nation.”

Among the landmark legislation she helped to pass during her term were the no-fault divorce law and the reduction of inheritance taxes—an issue important to widows.

Following her career in the Wisconsin State Senate, Morrison entered a career in health care administration, eventually becoming the chief financial officer of the New York City Health and Hospital Corporation and senior vice president for finance and administration at the March of Dimes.

She retired in 2004 and passed away in 2013 from breast cancer.
New center addresses gender and sexuality

UW-Platteville’s newly opened Patricia A. Doyle Center for Gender and Sexuality aims to provide a supportive, equitable, and safe environment for all persons on campus in relation to gender and sexuality. The center sponsors speakers and provides educational opportunities that address gender and sexuality, establishes coalitions with other campus constituencies to create an intentional ally community, and creates opportunities for discussion related to gender and sexuality.

Located in Warner Hall, the newly refurbished center has a resource library, lounge and study areas, computers, large screen TV, microwave, and refrigerator. The center also provides a lactation station, located in a private room. The room, equipped with comfortable seating, supplies, and a refrigerator, is open to all students, faculty, and staff.

“The Doyle Center for Gender and Sexuality will give a safe community place for students who self-identify across the gender and sexual spectrum, but just as important, it will give a gift to every member of this community: a safe place to learn about gender and sexuality,” said Dr. Jennifer deCoste, Chief Diversity Officer and Assistant Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion at UW-Platteville.

Enrollment continues to grow

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville continues to be the fastest-growing institution in the UW System, increasing its enrollment every year for more than a decade. The current enrollment includes nearly 8,000 undergraduate and 830 graduate students. In 2004–05, enrollment was at 5,641 undergraduate and 551 graduate students.

The average ACT score continues to rise, with this year’s freshman class bringing in an average score of 23.4.

The 2014–15 student body includes 1,591 students in the Tri-State Initiative, a program that provides a discounted rate on out-of-state tuition for eligible students from Illinois and Iowa. TSI, which began in 2004–05, has seen a 29 percent increase over the last five years.

“While UW-Platteville remains committed to providing an affordable and accessible education to Wisconsin high school students, the university also continues to grow our Tri-State Initiative program and international student recruitment,” said Chancellor Dennis J. Shields. “TSI and international students bring a more diverse student body, which broadens the educational experiences for everyone.”
In December 2014, UW-Platteville held its final Christmas telethon in support of Wisconsin Badger Camp, marking the end of a 41-year tradition that raised more than $1.2 million for the nonprofit organization that serves individuals with developmental disabilities.

In response to a decreasing viewer base, as the telethon is only aired on Platteville’s local cable-access channel, the decision was made to end the telethon so that resources could be focused on potential alternative fundraising methods.

Director of UW-Platteville Media Services Colleen Garrity’s relationship with the telethon began as a student in 1986, when she worked as a production assistant. She was chief editor by the time she graduated. She returned to the university professionally in 1992 and became executive producer of the event a few years later.

Overall, Garrity has been a part of 27 telethons, giving her a chance to see it evolve over the years. “One of the biggest changes was taking it from a classroom exercise to a real production,” she said.

The annual event has provided irreplaceable real-world experience for students working it. “I’ve had students come to me and say, ‘this is how I got my first job,’” said Garrity, adding that telethon work has often stood out on job applicants’ résumé tapes because it is so unique.

Kayla Leibfried ’13, Director of Development for Wisconsin Badger Camp, said they aimed to bring as many campers and corporate sponsors as possible to the final event. “We wanted to make it the best one yet and wanted everyone to be involved as much as possible for the last year,” said Leibfried, whose involvement with the organization began while she was a student at UW-Platteville when she helped with the telethon and interned at Badger Camp. The final event raised $74,000—a record amount.

“I know UW-Platteville will continue to support us in whatever way possible and we really appreciate that since we have had such a strong partnership over the years,” said Leibfried.

Garrity added that, outside of the telethon, the university has had, and will continue to have, a strong partnership with the organization—sending student groups and volunteers to the camp to help clear trails, build buildings, volunteer, create promotional and recruiting videos, and more.

“Badger Camp has always had a strong place in my heart, and it’s been a part of me and it will continue to be,” said Garrity. “When students start working on the telethon, they always think, ‘this is an educational activity; I’m going to learn a skill.’ At the very end of the telethon, the neatest thing is when they come to me and say, ‘you were right, it wasn’t up here in my head; it was down here in my heart.’” —Alison Perkins
Alumni help in Tornado Recovery

Pete Davis ’94
Director of Facilities at UW-Platteville
As Director of Facilities at UW-Platteville, Pete Davis ’94 has been called to campus many times during the night for emergencies. Nothing, however, prepared him for what he faced on June 16, 2014.

“My wife and I were watching the storm go by,” he said. “We thought it might be kind of bad, and then we started getting the calls about the damage. I was driving in my little car, dodging trees and seeing the destruction. Even though it was night, you could tell it was not good. And then seeing the light standard bent over at the stadium like a toothpick, that’s when I knew it was really bad.”

An EF-2 tornado touched down on the university, causing millions of dollars in damages to five buildings, Ralph E. Davis Pioneer Stadium, and Memorial Park. It also caused alumni like Davis to spring into action. He helped coordinate the university’s response and recovery, which includes a number of alumni who work for university facilities and who responded immediately. Their response was aided by alumni such as Dan Zurawik ’90, President of Westphal & Company; Dave Lombardo ’89, President of Engineered Construction Inc.; and Michael Jansen ’87, Chief Executive Officer, and Lauren Ray ’01, Project Manager, at IIW, P.C.

“Our first concern was trying to get a handle on where people were and if they were injured,” Davis said. “Miraculously enough, we didn’t have any injuries on campus.”

With students, campers, and employees safely moved to other buildings, attention turned to the damaged areas. With the beginning of the academic year just 80 days away, time was of the essence to coordinate the hundreds of workers who helped with the recovery.

“What struck me the most was there wasn’t anyone standing around saying ‘gosh what are we going to do?’” Davis said. “It was like a football huddle where we all got together and then went out and ran a play. [Opening on time] was really the only option. It was only 80 days, but we were lucky to have 80 days.”

Pioneer alumni were anxious to help restore the campus in time for classes to start.

“Once I heard we were selected, I took a bit of an interest, you might say,” Zurawik said. “I wanted to let the university know what kind of student they produced.”
Zurawik, from West Allis, Wisconsin, came from an engineering family and continued the tradition. “In high school, and even before that, I would mess around with my parents’ radio and with the Commodore 64,” he said.

He enrolled at UW-Platteville in 1986 and loved the engineering program. “The professors were really engaged, and I enjoyed the small class size,” he said. “It was tough to get lost because the professors knew you.”

Zurawik knew exactly what he wanted to do. “I had no question I was going into digital electronics,” he said. “I really thought I was heading into Silicon Valley when I graduated ... When I was going through the campus interviews, the career placement center called and said they had a power electrical position interview. I had no interest in working with power but I took the interview for practice. I read the literature and thought ‘I really don’t want to do this.’ I considered pulling out of the interview right up to it, but I went. Then I got a second interview. And 25 years later, I am the president of the company, and I love it!”

Westphal has at different times 200 to 300 employees between operations in Madison, Wisconsin; Janesville, Wisconsin; and Dubuque, Iowa. Six UW-Platteville alumni are part of the professional staff, Zurawik said.

“We do a lot of work with them,” Davis said. “We said right after the tornado ‘let’s get Westphal.’”

During the tornado recovery, Zurawik’s company mostly worked in Engineering Hall and other site work around campus and the stadium.

“One of the biggest challenges was getting the scope of what the project would be,” he said, pointing to things such as potential water damage in the conduits and the need for a thorough inventory. “I never heard any employees complain about an impossible task,” he added. “They took it in stride and went about their business.”

Lombardo employed the lessons he learned from athletics to help get his Engineered Construction team moving forward.

He originally chose UW-Platteville because of the engineering program and the opportunity to play football. The Madison native was a starting defensive back on the late George Chryst’s teams.

He joined Paul Davis Systems as a project manager in 1992, was a vice president at Damage Control and Restoration from 1994–97, and became president of Engineered Construction Inc. in 1997. The Madison-based company employs 17 people.

Davis said, “We had not worked with Engineered Construction and Dave before, but our insurance people said we would really like them. And we did.”

During the tornado recovery, Engineered Construction assisted on Engineering Hall, Southwest Hall, and the greenhouse.

“Usually, it takes some time to plan a project, but we couldn’t in this case,” Lombardo said. “Initially it was pretty chaotic. We had to work on the fly.”

“The hardest part was finding subcontractors and aligning their schedules to ensure building occupancy,” Lombardo said, adding, “I knew what the goal was, but it took a week or so to make sure it was possible.”
Like many others working on the project, Lombardo had a special reason for ensuring a successful completion.

“I stayed pretty close because it was UW-Platteville, my alma mater,” he said.

During the reconstruction, he also had a chance to see some of the university’s growth, which has risen from the approximately 4,500 students in the 1980s to about 8,900 now.

“I was extremely impressed,” Lombardo said. “I had heard UW-Platteville was growing. I was really impressed with all of campus.”

IIW, based in Dubuque, was very familiar with the two newest residence halls.

“I wanted to go see it right away,” said Ray, who was the structural engineer for both Rountree Commons, which opened in 2012, and Bridgeway Commons, built in 2013. “The first thing I noticed was there was no obvious distress to the buildings. I felt that was great. There weren’t pieces of the buildings on the ground.”

Davis said having the Dubuque company on site so quickly was very beneficial. “One of the things we talked about is whether or not the buildings or stadium would even be safe,” he said. “We had worked with IIW on Rountree and Bridgeway, so they knew a lot about the structures. We trusted what they told us.”

Jansen joined IIW immediately after graduation in 1987 and is now chief executive officer, and principal civil and structural engineer. Ray has been a project manager and structural engineer since joining the company in 2001.

Both said they employ many of the same management techniques that they learned as undergraduate students.

“One of the things I cherish today is the relationship I had with the professors,” Jansen said. “They took great interest in my career and in me as a person.”
IIW has a culture that is very compatible with UW-Platteville. IIW provides a place where people would mentor and teach. That became evident early on. It values diverse opinions and transfer of knowledge.”

Ray agreed, saying, “We have an open-door policy, like at UW-Platteville. It’s a very similar situation.”

Because of the similar philosophies, Jansen and Ray reach out to their alma mater for hiring new employees. Of the 75 people in the company, 24 are Pioneer alumni.

Jansen said UW-Platteville graduates are so valuable because they have “the good work ethic, the ability to learn, and then apply those concepts. That’s a pretty good combination.”

The combination of the different engineering alumni helped the university meet its goal, which was to have occupancy by the time students moved back.

“Any time you’re presented with a challenge and your team meets it, you think ‘man, that was a really big accomplishment,’” Zurawik said.

The university celebrated with a grand re-opening of campus on Aug. 29, 2014, which included a visit by UW System President Ray Cross.

“To see how happy everyone was and how hard everyone worked to get these buildings opened was pretty satisfying,” Lombardo said.

Davis added, “We were in the middle of it all summer long, and it was very consuming. It was great to see that people recognized the hard work that went into this. To take a moment to reflect on everything brought a lot of pride.” –Paul Erickson

An estimated 1,000 trees in Memorial Park were damaged by last June’s tornado, requiring scores of them to be logged. To commemorate the events of last summer and Memorial Park, which is spread over 57 acres on the campus’ west side, plans are being made to craft memorial artwork and keepsakes out of salvaged wood from the damaged trees—an endeavor that is engaging students and faculty, as well as fostering partnerships with area alumni.

“When we discussed the idea of using some of the trees that were impacted by the tornado to create artwork, furniture, and other keepsakes as a kind of reminder, I had no idea that so many alumni, friends, and staff would get so excited about the process and would be so willing to help,” said Dennis Cooley, former assistant chancellor for University Advancement and executive director of the UW-Platteville Foundation.

Wood from 11 trees was salvaged, including walnut, ash, oak, spruce, white pine, and cherry. Project plans are still being finalized, but UW-Platteville officials hope to have commemorative artwork or furniture built by area woodworkers—including several alumni—for each of the buildings damaged by the tornado, as well as incorporate some of the salvaged wood in student artwork projects.

“This project has been a wonderful partnership to watch from the sidelines,” said Cooley. “It is a testament to this area that these talented woodcrafters would take on the project and run with it the way they did. Their work will be a source of pride for decades to come.” –Alison Parkins
ENGINEERING GRADUATES SEE POSITIVE RETURNS

As the world calls for more graduates with backgrounds in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, UW-Platteville offers a distinct value for those interested in earning engineering degrees.

The UW-Platteville College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science offers ABET-accredited engineering degrees in civil, electrical, environmental, industrial, mechanical, software engineering, and engineering physics.

According to Dr. Joseph Clifton, Chair of the computer science and software engineering department, graduates from the department can expect a starting salary range of "$46,000–$90,000, depending on the company, qualifications of the graduate, location, etc."

"The average is typically in the low to mid $60s, depending on the semester," said Clifton.

Placement rates for software engineering graduates are nearly 100 percent, so students are not required to perform a co-op or an internship. "However, many do work a summer or two in the field, doing what an intern would do and getting paid; they just don’t pay for the internship/co-op credits," said Clifton.

"The fact that UW-Platteville has the lowest tuition/fee structure around (much lower than most) means that we have to be one of the best return on investments around," added Clifton.

According to PayScale.com’s 2014–15 College Survey Report, UW-Platteville ranked first among public and private institutions in Wisconsin when it comes to return on investment for graduates with STEM degrees.

According to Dr. Phil Sealy, Chair of the electrical engineering department, the average salaries for electrical engineering graduates are between $63,000 and $66,000. "All UW-Platteville electrical engineering graduates get jobs within months of graduation," said Sealy.

Sealy estimates that approximately 25 percent of electrical engineering majors participate in co-ops.

Cooperative education is one form of an experiential learning opportunity. A co-op is also a plan of education that actively combines classroom learning and on-the-job experience by alternating periods of study and work. The work period is spent in full-time employment with private industry or governmental agencies. The work assignment exposes the students to a variety of experiences and is closely related to his or her field of study and career goals.

"It is the ‘culture’ of our engineering programs that graduates will have an internship or co-op, and I would estimate that more than 90 percent of engineering graduates have had at least one or the other," said Dr. Philip Parker, Assistant Dean of New Ventures, College of EMS.
“In the civil and environmental engineering arena, I know of no consulting firms in Wisconsin that do not hire UW-Platteville grads,” said Parker.

Dr. W. Doyle St. John, Chair of the engineering physics department, indicated that engineering physics graduates can expect a starting salary of $57,000–$69,000 annually.

Dr. Christina Curras, EMS Assistant Dean of Students and Chair of the department of civil and environmental engineering, noted that civil and environmental graduates can expect a starting salary of approximately $50,000 after earning a UW-Platteville degree. In addition, “perhaps one-third of our students participate in a co-op. Most do summer jobs, but don’t always register as an internship.”

According to data from PayScale.com median salaries for UW-Platteville graduates are $63,351 for mechanical engineers and $60,678 for software engineers.

An example of a company that helps prove that an engineering degree from UW-Platteville is worth the investment is Esterline AVISTA, a specialized manufacturing company based in Bellevue, Washington, with an office in Platteville.

According to Tim Budden, Director of Engineering at Esterline AVISTA, they search out UW-Platteville graduates. “We have had great success with our UW-Platteville graduates,” he said. “We partner closely with the professors of the software engineering and computer science programs. The curriculum addresses specific skill sets we look for in engineers.”

“Based on the curriculum, they come in with a good basis for the work that we do,” added Budden. “In addition, the students typically show strong initiative and have a good work ethic.”

Currently, Esterline AVISTA offers co-ops and internships to UW-Platteville students. “We also hire engineering students to fill engineering technician roles,” said Erica Brunkow, Senior Human Resources Generalist. “This is a great opportunity for the engineering students to learn more about our company as well as get hands-on experience. Our goal is to provide meaningful opportunities to the students resulting in them choosing Esterline to start their careers with after graduation.”

Esterline AVISTA looks for a variety of characteristics in graduates that it hires. “Obviously, technical capability and experience are a key focus area,” said Budden. “However, when evaluating graduates, we look for genuine leadership characteristics within each individual as well. We look for examples of where they have demonstrated team collaboration, motivation, adaptability, and a desire to grow and learn.”

There are currently 63 UW-Platteville alumni on staff at Esterline AVISTA, including 10 engineering students on staff and two UW-Platteville professors who work part time. –Dan Wackershauser ’97
When it comes to community philanthropy and giving back, brothers Bruce ’78 and Dave Fritz ’81 may have set the standard for Grant County.

The two grew up on a farm outside of Potosi, Wisconsin. They have restored and preserved several old buildings in the area, including a collaborative effort on the Wright Block project in Lancaster, Wisconsin, and the Potosi Brewery, now a showcase for the Upper Midwest region.

The Wright Block, once in danger of disrepair, boasts a youth clothing and toy store, and a thriving bakery and restaurant. The Potosi Brewery Foundation began in 2000 with the goal to preserve the historic Potosi Brewery which was built in 1852. These are just two of the highlights of their collective successes.

“Giving back and helping others has been a part of our family,” Dave said. “We grew up in a family where it was expected that you be kind and supportive of others, especially if they are in need.”

Dave points out, there are numerous ways individuals can give back. He, his wife Lois, and Bruce, with his wife Sue ’78, have always found pleasure in helping the community. “At the core of every great community or business is the willingness to help others,” Dave said. “Everyone has the capacity to give which can come in the form of your time, talent, or treasure. Bruce and I have always believed we need to share our success with the communities, not only where we live but where we do business.”

Bruce and Dave are co-owners of TRICOR Insurance, boasting 14 office locations and has a staff that wants to make a difference in their respective communities.

“We are always willing to support those efforts,” Dave said. “It is part of our company culture to look for ways to make a difference. Early in my professional career I was fortunate enough to have clients and business associates who were very successful. I saw firsthand that one common characteristic among some of the most successful people was their willingness to share their success with others.”
Bruce points out he and Dave have been helped by many. “Our parents (Delbert and Elaine), the schools, and our teachers in Potosi and UW-Platteville, and many talented individuals and businesses,” he said. “We continue to get this help today. There is both an expectation and an obligation to give back what we can. It can be challenging, but it is pretty simple. The generation before us helped us so we could have an opportunity to make a life for ourselves. We have that same obligation for the next generation.”

“Dave, Bruce, and the Fritz family have supported numerous projects at UW-Platteville, from athletics to the arts, business and accounting to engineering,” said Holly Clendenen, Director, University Advancement. “They are loyal supporters of the Community Scholarship Programs for their towns and have stepped up to be leaders in several fundraising initiatives including the naming of Bo Ryan Court in Williams Fieldhouse. It is critical that the university has alumni and donors who are willing to give to the university’s most important and strategic projects so we can continue to provide an outstanding education and experience. We are grateful Dave and Bruce have not only financially invested in UW-Platteville but also guided the university through service on boards and advisory committees.”

Bruce and Dave note numerous positive influences on their lives but it began with Delbert and Elaine who ran and operated an insurance agency and also farmed outside of Potosi. “Working long hours and many times, seven days a week was just a way of life,” Dave said, adding Delbert was successful in his profession of insurance but the farm was his recreation and enjoyment.

Soon to be unveiled is a new brewery adjacent to the restored gem. The Potosi Foundation did not have the financial capacity to build a new brewery. Bruce and Dave purchased an adjacent building, and the necessary equipment to bring all the production back to Potosi. The facility has been leased to the Potosi Brewing Company to operate. The sole shareholder and owner of the Potosi Brewing Company is the Potosi Foundation and all of the profits go to the Potosi Foundation to support the charitable mission of the Potosi Foundation. The production facility will include new bottling, kegging, and canning lines along with significantly larger brewing capabilities.

Dave points out the Potosi Foundation has more than 400 donors, more than 100 active volunteers, and the ability to generate a “lot of profit” to support the charitable needs in the markets they serve.

“The vision of the Potosi Foundation board is to have millions of dollars a year going to support charitable causes,” Dave said. "Bruce and I are pleased to be a part of this project and to work closely with all the dedicated volunteers and staff working hard to bring the vision to a reality.” –Craig Reber

POTOSI BREWERY FEATURES A NEW PRODUCTION FACILITY

The Potosi Brewery’s new production facility features a 40 barrel brewhouse; 20,000 barrel capacity with a 60,000 barrel footprint; Moravek In-line Carbonation; Westfalia Centrifuge; new kegging, bottling, and canning line; Moravek Bottling Line; M&F Keg System; Palmer Rotary Canning System; cold storage including barrel age storage; and tasting room.

30 kegs per hour
6,000 bottles per hour
5,000 cans per hour

represents 100 bottles
represents 100 cans
It all started with a phone call from a teacher in the Cuba City, Wisconsin School District. “She wanted us to develop some devices to help a little boy interact with other students,” said Dr. Daryl Logan, Mechanical Engineering Professor at UW-Platteville who teaches the Senior Design Project course. “And it just snowballed from there.”

Since that phone call eight years ago, UW-Platteville mechanical engineering students enrolled in the Senior Design Project course have designed and developed adaptive devices to make life easier for children and adults with special needs in Platteville and the surrounding area. “We’ve worked with people who have autism, Down syndrome, Angelman syndrome, cerebral palsy, and spina bifida,” added Logan.

Groups of four to five students design and build a project to meet a need that has been defined by community partners, who are generally working with children and adults with special needs.

“It’s important for our students to get exposure to these needs,” said Dr. David Kunz, Chair of the mechanical engineering department. “If you can make it easier for people with special needs, then you can make it easier for everybody.”

The team constructs the devices at the workshop on campus, often meeting with the person they are assisting, community partners, the occupational therapist, and special education teacher. The project concludes with a written report and a final presentation.

“When the students finally hand their project over to the community partner or to the actual person they designed the device for, there are big smiles everywhere and the students feel rewarded and very happy,” said Logan.

While reflecting on past projects for the design course, Logan recalled a particularly moving participant. “We’ve been following one little boy for the past four years. When we first met him, he was five years old but couldn’t feed himself,” he said.

Since then, students have built the boy a feeding device and a light box. But the boy’s favorite project was a bike that he could ride. Because he is unable to move his legs to pedal a bike, students incorporated a mechanism that converts translational motion into...
rotary motion that can turn the pedals. “He is about nine years old now, and he loves it,” added Logan.

In addition to helping out individuals, Logan and the Senior Design Project students have assisted local organizations in Platteville and the surrounding community.

For several years, UW-Platteville students have worked with Wisconsin Badger Camp, a private, non-profit organization in Southwest Wisconsin whose mission is to serve people with developmental disabilities by hosting outdoor summer camps.

“We are really happy with the partnership that we have with the university and with Dr. Logan,” said Melissa David, Camp Director at Wisconsin Badger Camp. “The projects the students do aren’t things we would otherwise be able to fund on our own. Students have been very receptive to our requests and have done a fantastic job working with us.”

In 2011, Logan’s students built an adaptive device for wheelchairs that allows Wisconsin Badger Camp campers to participate in games like throwing, catching, and kicking a ball or even casting a fishing pole. Innovative devices like this allow campers to try out new activities they haven’t been able to do before, and not be limited by their disability.

“With disability-related projects, the idea is to help persons with disabilities be more independent and interactive with society because of the design of the devices,” said Jim Sands, Engineering, Mathematics, and Science Engagement Specialist whose role is to connect Logan with community partners who have a need.

Other student-designed projects have improved the equipment and facilities for Wisconsin Badger Camp, creating a safe and enjoyable experience for participants. Projects included a sturdy, easy-to-maneuver human powered vehicle capable of transporting three to four people along camp trails with no additional power, and improved campsite lighting with solar lights.

Among the current projects that students are working on is a new cart that is designed to move equipment for Wisconsin Badger Camp.

“The cart that we had was almost immovable,” said David. “The students created something that’s quite nice. It will be a huge asset to our camp, and I know our staff is very excited.”

Logan has found his involvement in the Mechanical Engineering Senior Design Project course quite rewarding. He added, “all the credit goes to the students. They are very enthusiastic and very talented.” –Laura Janisch
**Faculty Notes**

**Tesdaill presents research on Iroquois culture**

Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history and a specialist in early American, Native American, and women’s history, recently presented his research about Haudenosaunee culture and spoke on a panel at the Conference on Iroquois Research, held in Java Center, New York.

According to Tesdahl, the conference has worked to encourage appreciation and scholarship on Haudenosaunee culture, history, and communities among both Native and non-Native scholars since 1945.

**Snyder invited to submit essays for National Film Registry**

Media Studies Professor Dr. Robert Snyder has been invited by the Library of Congress to submit two essays for the National Film Registry.

The National Film Preservation Board selects up to 25 films each year that portray the diverse history of American films. The registry contains various types of films from silent films to music videos. Snyder was invited to write on the late American filmmaker, Pare Lorentz.

**Agriculture education department honored with national award**

Dr. Mark Zidon and Dr. Rick Bockhop, Agricultural Education Professors, received the National Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Cooperation Award at the National Association of Agriculture Educators annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee, last November.

**Students build USB chargers, send to South Sudan**

Dr. Kristina Fields, an Associate Professor of civil engineering, is the curriculum manager for the Sky’s the Limit program, an engineering outreach program for girls in grades seven through 12. Fields works to create hands-on multi-disciplinary science, mathematics, and engineering projects for the participants.

For this year’s program, Fields coordinated an opportunity to experience the renewable energy side of engineering by helping build solar-powered USB chargers as one of the hands-on projects. “It’s really an exciting project because everyone plays an important role in creating these USB chargers,” said Fields.

Once they completed the chargers, they sent them to an organization called African Soul, American Heart—designed to protect, educate, and empower orphans from the Republic of South Sudan through primary school, secondary school, and beyond.

**Hollingsworth named assistant dean**

Les Hollingsworth has been named the Assistant Dean for Faculty and Staff Services for the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture.

“Les Hollingsworth brings many leadership strengths to this position, including pronounced involvement with faculty governance, accreditation, teaching, and other leadership groups in the university and community,” said Dr. Wayne Weber, Dean of the College of BILSA. “With him, and our other assistant dean, Dr. Jodi McDermott, we will have an experienced, dynamic group that, along with the other incredible college leadership, will help the college, and university, advance in a positive direction.”

Hollingsworth joined UW-Platteville in 2007 as the corporate marketing director for the Distance Learning Center. He became an adjunct instructor in 2008 and an assistant professor of marketing in 2011.
From the Archives
An 1849 marriage proposal

Every week, the Southwest Wisconsin Room receives donations of old manuscripts, ledgers, photographs, and the like from alumni and patrons. While each donation is special, every now and then a real gem is donated, something that truly opens a window into the past. Recently, Joe Lomax, Emeritus Professor of criminal justice, donated a copy of a letter written on Feb. 5, 1849. The letter had a very old-fashioned sound to it, but what really set this letter apart was its content. It was a plea by a young man to the parents of a young woman asking for their daughter’s hand in marriage. The letter is as follows:

Platteville Febry 5th/49
Capt & Mrs Enz

It has been my good fortune—or misfortune as your answer to my contemplated proposition to you will determine—to become acquainted with your daughter—Miss Bertha Enz—during which acquaintance her many excellencies both of heart & mind have elicited my warmest admiration & most sincere affection, with her permission and without farther ceremony—I ask of you that daughter in marriage, hoping that your decision may be favorable to my wishes I subscribe my self

Most respectfully your Obedient Servant
John T. Hancock

Two questions needed to be answered: First, who were the people in the letter and, second, did the couple get married?

Research showed that John T. Hancock was born in Illinois in 1824. He arrived in Platteville in 1847 and operated a general store for several years at the southeast corner of Main and Oak streets, the site of Hearthside Apartments today. A successful and respected merchant, Hancock was one of the dignitaries in attendance when the cornerstone of the Platteville Academy building was laid on July 5, 1852.

Hancock, like most early merchants in Platteville, would have had business dealings around the tri-state area. It was during one of his business trips that he probably met Bertha Enz, who lived in Dubuque, Iowa, with her parents, John and Eliza Enz, the “Capt & Mrs Enz” in the letter. The Enz family had emigrated from Switzerland to America and by the late 1840s they lived in Dubuque.

Did a wedding take place? Yes. John T. Hancock married Bertha Enz in Dubuque on Feb. 22, only 17 days after Hancock wrote his letter, so Bertha’s parents must have approved of the match. John and Bertha would have six children.

In 1855, John and Bertha Hancock left Platteville and moved to Dubuque. John opened a store and became an even more successful merchant in Dubuque. He operated a wholesale grocery called John T. Hancock & Son. The firm did a thriving business in Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. John and Bertha’s oldest child, John S. Hancock, eventually took over the business.

John T. Hancock died in 1894 and Bertha Enz Hancock died in 1918. They were buried in Dubuque’s Linwood Cemetery.

Researching the Hancock and Enz families in the tri-state area would not have been possible without the extensive genealogical/local history resources of the Southwest Wisconsin Room in Ullsvik Hall. If you have an ancestor, house, or event you would like to research, or would just like to look at some old Pioneer yearbooks, please stop into the archives.

–James Hibbard
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Amadou Hanne ‘12, a UW-Platteville business administration graduate, is on a quest to transform his mother’s homemade health drink into a national leader. HiFit Juice is the new beverage that Hanne is designing. Bottles of the new drink are available on the UW-Platteville campus, Driftless Market in Platteville, as well as at Black Hawk College in Moline, Illinois; Greatest Grains in Davenport, Iowa; and Duck Soup Coop in DeKalb, Illinois. The drinks are also available online.

The drink is unique because it utilizes hibiscus from African farmers. Hanne is originally from West Africa and he believes his new company will not only benefit the United States consumer, but also African farmers. It is initially available in three flavors, all in 16.9 fluid ounce bottles—pomegranate/raspberry, pineapple/mint, and orange/mango. The product is being bottled at a beverage plant in Marion, Virginia.

Hanne recently hosted a taste testing event at the Greenwood Avenue Market in Glenview Commons on campus to solicit feedback on his new product.

Hanne’s family lives in East Moline, Illinois, and while attending Northern Illinois University for his master’s degree, Hanne would often find himself drinking his mother’s homemade recipe. “It’s a health drink that I always took for granted,” he said. “I tried to find it in the stores and I couldn’t find it anywhere. With the entrepreneurial spirit in me I thought, why not provide a healthy drink that is made out of hibiscus.”

Hanne participated in the business competition event sponsored by the Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement while at UW-Platteville. While he didn’t win, the experience paid dividends. “That really helped me to pursue that entrepreneurial spirit to really build something that is meaningful for the community and for the consumers.”

“The most rewarding part so far has been the learning curve,” said Hanne. “I have made a lot of mistakes throughout the process of introducing our products and learning from those mistakes made me better. Within this process I was also able to learn and identify my strengths and weaknesses.”

Additional information about HiFit Juice can be found at hifitjuice.com. According to its website, “100 percent of the hibiscus used to make HiFit Juice is sourced from farmers in Senegal West Africa and done to help promote better economic development and improved quality of life throughout their community.” In addition, “HiFit Juice is made from all natural ingredients and natural hibiscus flower to provide a more natural alternative for those who lead active, healthy lifestyles.” –Dan Wackershauser ‘97

Amadou Hanne ’12 and Ibrahima Bah host a taste testing event at Driftless Market in Platteville.
If you believe in yourself and use your education, talent, skills, and vision, you will be able not only to do whatever job you have chosen but also grow into a whole person and a lifelong learner.

Kayla Kohlmeier, a biology graduate from Byron, Illinois

You are not alone in your doubt and perhaps fear of the future, but I assure you this, you can now go places you never dreamed possible.

Maria Lauck, Principal Speaker

I made a decision to come to UW-Platteville because I wanted a school where I could maximize both my education and my cultural experience.

Yuexin "Ivy" Cao, a mathematics graduate from Yichang, China

How are we going to make people say 'wow'? It's all about earning and building relationships.

Rob Bell ’87, Principal Speaker

Dr. Arthur L. Ranney, Commencement Marshal

Dr. Yong Y. Li, Commencement Marshal


Fall Commencement Ceremonies December 2014
Wall leaves definitive mark

Weldon Texas “Bud” Wall III started teaching in the UW-Platteville Art Department in 1967. Wall taught thousands of students color and design, drawing, painting, jewelry making, ceramics, sculpture, and foundry techniques at UW-Platteville until his passing in 2005.

Having been at the university for so long, Wall’s knowledge of bronze casting and teaching practices are engraved in many students’ memory still to this day. David Renka, one of his past summer school students from nearly 40 years ago, is one of them.

“Meeting Bud Wall definitely changed the course of my life,” said Renka. “One day a sculptor we were doing some casting for was talking about the art foundries in Rome, Italy, and thought it would be a good idea for one of us to go study there. The more Bud thought about it, the more he liked the idea, so off I went for what I thought was a three-month stay in Rome; that was around 40 years ago and I’m still here.”

Most remember Wall as being not just a talker, but a doer as well. He received numerous drawing and sculpting awards and his work is displayed all over the country, including in the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery at UW-Platteville in which he founded. In 2008, members of the UW-Platteville Performing and Visual Arts Department unanimously voted posthumous emeritus status to Wall in honor of his dedication and service to the students at UW-Platteville.

Aside from his artwork, Wall was an avid Green Bay Packers fan and holds a patent on the Cheesebutt closed-cell foam sports cushion. He also began writing scripts for animated movies in the late 1980s.

Not only was Wall a tremendously gifted artist, he was an immeasurable influence to many students and colleagues he interacted with at UW-Platteville.

“Bud taught me to cast bronze, he taught me that if I had what seemed like a good idea that I should go on and give it a try and he taught me to never attempt to screw into a piece of old oak without drilling a preparatory hole first,” said Renka. –Carly Willman
Dennis Cooley joined the university in 1998 and served as the assistant chancellor for Advancement and executive director of the UW-Platteville Foundation since 2003. He began a new role at Southwest Tech in January. "Dennis Cooley was a tireless advocate for the university," Chancellor Dennis J. Shields said. "He made a positive impact on our campus and with our friends and alumni."
HOW WILL YOU REMEMBER UW-PLATTEVILLE?

When you name the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Foundation as a beneficiary in your will or living trust, you make a crowning gift to UW-Platteville. Such a plan declares that you believe in the mission of the university and want a portion of your assets invested in this worthy cause. It can provide a visible and enduring tribute for our students, faculty, and facilities.

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Retirees reflect on careers

UW-Platteville graduates do not just build an academic portfolio during their academic career, they also form lifetime bonds. That can be said for faculty and staff members as well. Over the next several months, a few long-time Pioneers will retire.

Dr. Arthur Ranney
Media Studies Professor Dr. Arthur Ranney will be retiring at the end of the spring semester after 17 years of teaching at the university.

Ranney said that he held a variety of jobs before he started teaching including a research technician position for petrochemical labs for six years then turning to the newspaper industry for more than 10 years.

Ranney said that he initially came to the university because, “it was a better job and more money. I also was impressed with the work ethic of students. What has kept me here is the people I’ve worked with—amazing, really smart, dedicated people.”

Ranney said that he will miss the daily contact with his colleagues and working with the 18–25 age group. “It’s energizing coming to work. I’ll have to find other sources of energy now,” he said.

Dr. B.J. Reed
Dr. B.J. Reed, a Professor in the media studies department and Director of the Teaching and Learning Center, is retiring after the spring semester after nearly 16 years with the university.

Most of Reed’s professional career involved communication, public relations, marketing, and meetings/events. “My experience in the meetings and events industry was primarily in training and development, and my experience in associations was to work on communication systems such as magazines, so those two disciplines led me to teaching quite easily,” said Reed.

Reed says she will miss working in the Teaching and Learning Center a lot, but she will undeniably miss her students. “Campus communities have

“I will miss those students who love learning as much as I do.”

Dr. B.J. Reed

Pictured left to right are Deb Putnam, Jim Mueller, Arthur Ranney, and Elaine Cline.
personalities, and what I’ve appreciated most about the community here is the respectful way students interact with faculty,” said Reed. “I will miss those students who love learning as much as I do.”

Deb Putnam
After a 37-year career with UW-Platteville, Deb Putnam will retire from her position as Assistant Director of Dining Services after the spring semester.

Coming to work for the university originally as a production manager in Glenview Commons, Putnam moved into her current position 10 years ago. Among the highlights of her career was working with the Chicago Bears training camp for 18 years. “I worked with my team in Dining Services to produce menus for their training camp,” said Putnam. “Coaches, trainers, and veteran players would look them over and give their feedback. While they were here, we got to know a number of the coaches, trainers, and players, including Walter Payton.”

One of the perks of Putnam’s career has been her work with students. “I really like working with students because they keep me young,” she said.

Elaine Cline
Elaine Cline had been a constant at UW-Platteville for the past five decades. She retired in December from Information Technology Services.

After graduating from Platteville High School in 1965, Cline got her start in the purchasing department. After a decade there, she transferred to the registrar’s office where she would spend another 15 years. “During my time here, I have seen that the students are what this university is all about,” said Cline. “During my time working in the registrar’s office, I really enjoyed the regular interaction I had with students on this campus. I’ve met some great students over the past 50 years.”

Her third and final move on campus came in 1991, when Cline took on her position in Information Technology Services.

Jim Mueller
UW-Platteville Director of Auxiliary Services Jim Mueller will be retiring in the spring of 2015 after 17 years.

Mueller began working for the university in February 1997 as the food service director. He said that then-Chancellor David Markee led him to campus. “Chancellor Markee was my contract liaison at Northern Arizona University and he told me that he needed someone to run the food service for the university. I also grew up in Wausau, Wisconsin, and got my undergrad at UW-Stevens Point, so it was nice to come home,” said Mueller.

He expressed that the campus was a little different when he first began working. “The Chicago Bears were here in the summer, and we had Bo Ryan running the basketball program. The campus really embraced the teams here.” Mueller also joked that it was a little quieter than it is now, but the university is “still a student-focused place.”
Deb Rice, '75 and '04, of Platteville, watched from the Packers' sideline bench as the Pioneer Marching Band and Dance Team performed at halftime of the Oct. 2 Packers versus Vikings game.

Deborah Bouchette delivered a paper at the Southeastern College Art Conference in Sarasota, Florida, "The Art and Science Divide: A Need to Rebuild Aesthetics," on the subject of why we should teach art history "backwards." Bouchette has also been asked to join the board of directors as a member-at-large of SCRAP USA, a national network of nonprofit associations that inspire creative reuse and environmentally sustainable behavior by providing educational programs and affordable materials to the community. Bouchette is in her third year of Ph.D. studies with the Institute for Doctoral Studies in the Visual Arts and her dissertation will address the phenomenal growth of artist residency programs worldwide, starting with the question "where is the space of the artist?"

La Crosse County Sheriff’s Department Captain Kurt Papenfuss retired in December after 34 years with the department. Papenfuss started his career in 1980 with the La Crosse County Traffic Police. He was promoted to investigator in 1992, investigative sergeant in 2001, and made captain in 2007.

Jeff Gendron was elected as Chairman of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety board of directors. Gendron currently is Senior Vice President, Property Casualty Operations, of Country Financial. He looks forward to the expansion of the Vehicle Research Center as it works to encourage the widespread adoption of crash prevention technologies.

Rodney Lewis was hired as the Principal of the middle and high school in Boscobel, Wisconsin. Lewis was previously the middle and high school principal for River Ridge School District in Patch Grove, Wisconsin.
2000

Amber Wood is now the American Red Cross Executive Director for the Moline, Illinois chapter. Wood will work with a 19-county region including the Quad Cities area.

Danielle (Kison) and Matt Nelson married June 21, 2014, and had a great turnout of UW-Platteville alumni of all ages.

Pictured are Sonya Gibson ’92, Josh Nelson, Rob Wilkinson, Michael ’00 and Anna ’00 Loger, Betsy (Ralph) ’06 and Tyler Tolleson ’08, Nick Pease, Deb Ruekauf, Lynn ’72 and Roger ’71 Kison, Elaine Nelson 68, Cinda Quinn ’83, Linda Figi ’00, Nick Addison ’08, Danielle Nelson ’00, Cheryl ’79 and Rick ’78 Burbank, and Darrell ’71 and Carol ’72 Kifer.

Chad Cline was promoted to Education Director at the Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, Correctional Institution in November of 2014. He began at the PDCI as a vocational teacher in 2006.

In July 2014, Steven Lequia ’11 went skydiving for charity in Sturtevant, Wisconsin. The brown bear strapped to him is for Canopies for Kids, a charity that gives kids in the hospital stuffed teddy bears. After the bear skydives, it is transformed into “The Bravest Stuffed Teddy Bear in the World” and then is given to the kids in hope that they will then have the courage they will need in their fight.

2004

Tanya (Ross) Fleegel graduated from Northwestern University in December 2014 with a Master of Science in Clinical Research Administration. She has been employed at Astellas Pharma in Northbrook, Illinois, since 2008 managing clinical trials in oncology drug development.

2007

During the summer of 2014, Selena Nuutinen studied Buddhism and spiritual connections to nature in the Old World rain forests and diverse cultural environments of Thailand. Selena, an Education Presenter at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington, took the graduate course in pursuit of her master’s degree from Miami University’s Advanced Inquiry Program.

Ross Vehmeier is owner of the Lena Brewing Company, which had its grand opening in January. The Brewing Company is part of the Rafters Restaurant complex, owned and operated by Vehmeier’s parents. It joins Generations Brewery in Freeport, Illinois, which opened in October, as Stephenson County’s second brewery.

2009

Jeremy Schaefer of Hinckley, Ohio, has been hired as a Strategic Account Specialist at Accelerated Genetics. Schaefer is currently working on his master’s degree in project management.

2011

Corey and Tricia (Pawelski) Conohan were married on Saturday, Aug. 2, 2014, at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Madison, Wisconsin, followed by a reception at Lake Windsor Golf Club. The couple resides in Fitchburg, Wisconsin.
CLASS NOTES

2012


Matt Jeske and Kelly (Manning) Jeske married on Aug. 2, 2014, in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. They now reside in Dubuque, Iowa, where he is a Mechanical Engineer for John Deere and she is the Marketing Assistant at Morrison Bros. Co. Other UW-Platteville graduates in the wedding party included Curt Schneider ’13 and Lindsay (Dallmann) Hansen ’12.

2013

Casey Carignan was a panel member at the Destination Marketing Association International conference held in Chicago, Illinois, in 2014.

2014

Brian Wells has been hired as a Staff Engineer at Manhard Consulting. Manhard is a civil engineering firm headquartered in Vernon Hills, Illinois.

A team of four engineering alumni designed a race car for “24 Hours of LeMons,” a series of one-day endurance races for cars that cost less than $500. The team, named Priority Fail, is made up of Henry Frear ’11, Dan Kaul ’08, Patrick Kluesner ’07, and Nathan Schlawin ’10. The team was mentioned in Modern Casting magazine in November.

Pictured left to right are Dan Dreessens, P.E. ’97, Scott Chyko, P.E. ’96, and Bart Nies, P.E. ’96, co-owners of Delta 3 Engineering Inc. in Platteville. They acquired Southwest Design Associates Inc., also from Platteville, which became official Jan. 1.

The acquisition will add three employees to Delta 3’s location at 875 South Chestnut Street. Delta 3 currently has a staff of 26 employees.

In addition, Delta 3 now has the capacity for market opportunities for additional clientele across the country. “We are positioned with much more opportunity to grow our company,” said Nies. “This opens up our marketability.”

The acquisition will also allow the new employees to assist with the company’s current workload.

According to its website, Delta 3 Engineering Inc. is a full service engineering firm specializing in civil and municipal engineering, structural engineering, architecture, facilities design, grant writing, planning, land development, and computer-aided drafting services.

Chyko, Nies, and Dreessens all earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering.

Lost Alumni Those people listed as “Lost Alumni” either graduated from or attended what we now know as UW-Platteville. If you have an address or contact information for any of the alumni listed below, please contact Alumni Services at 1.800.897.2586 or send an email to alumni@uwplatt.edu.

1982  Mohammed Al-Sufyani • Wendy Beck Pirwitz • Mary A. Burki Stohlmeier • Gordon J. Courses • Gregory J. Dull • Raymond L. Fiske • Christina M. Hartman Accola • Donald J. Herbst • Killian C. Imanyi • Thomas L. Iverson • Cynthia A. Koller Shay • Mark C. Miller • Cecil L. Morgan • Susan Y. Noyes • James Piper • Reginald Pullen • Douglas W. Rogers • James M. Sciaccia • Wen Shung Tai • Elizabeth Wee
In Memoriam

1940
Lucille K. Tracy, Lancaster, Wisconsin

1942
Carolyn A. (Matthews) Kettler, Tucson, Arizona

1947
Milton R. Rewey, Platteville, Wisconsin

1949
Frank J. Hlavac, Verona, Wisconsin

1950
Leo S. Havlik, Darlington, Wisconsin

1951
Roger S. Moon, Middleton, Wisconsin
James B. Eveland, Cuba City, Wisconsin

1952
Jacob P. Kurth, Sheridan, Wyoming

1957
Janet U. (Lunde) Appel, Rockford, Illinois

1959
Gail M. Droessler, Cherry Valley, Illinois

1961
Nancy R. (Kiefer) Greenwood, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin
Richard F. Glendenning, De Forest, Wisconsin
Joyce I. Stahlnecker, Darlington, Wisconsin

1962
John Horton, Madison, Wisconsin

1963
David “Hook” L. Horton, Waterford, Wisconsin

1976
Judith E. (Madura) Wilke, Durand, Illinois
Charles I. Sturdevant, Dubuque, Iowa

1980
Cherie Jean Ziemer, Ames, Iowa

1983
Bart R. Rice, Platteville, Wisconsin

1984
Van G. Ferguson, Evansville, Wisconsin

1985
Joanne K. Walker, Green Bay, Wisconsin

1989
Karey L. Clark, Verona, Wisconsin

Employees
Dave Janda, Media Studies Instructor
Daniel Banda, Media Studies Instructor
Robert Velzy, Professor Emeritus
Francis Lofy, Professor Emeritus
Harold B. Beals ’53, Professor Emeritus
David Bushnell, Instructor

Homecoming 2015 | October 10
Residence Life Reunion | Mock Trial and Mediation Reunion | Sesquicentennial Art Show
Homecoming Hustle 5K

2015 UW-Platteville Alumni Association Membership Campaign
for more information on membership go to www.uwplatt.edu/alumni/alumni-association

Individual Membership
☐ $40 Annual
☐ $400 Lifetime
☐ pay in four yearly installments

Couple’s Membership
☐ $70 Annual
☐ $640 Lifetime
☐ pay in four yearly installments

Name ___________________________ Grad. Year __________
Major ___________________________ Distance Ed. Degree □ Yes □ No
Home Address ______________________ City/State/Zip ________________
Home Phone ______________________ Email ________________________
Spouse’s Name ___________________ UW-Platteville alum? □ Yes □ No Grad Year ______

Total Enclosed $ __________ Make check payable to UW-Platteville Alumni Association OR charge
☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card # ____________________________
Exp. ___________________ Signature ________________________________
Future Pioneers

1. Kenneth M. Wiegman ’92 and his wife, Ellen, welcomed their son, Christopher Michael, on Aug. 28, 2014. Christopher is the youngest of his two brothers and three sisters.

2. Joe ’01 and Sharon (Sundin) Rucinski ’02 proudly announced the birth of their twins, Jacob Charles and Clara Louise, who were born on Sept. 29, 2014. Jacob weighed 7 pounds and 10 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Clara weighed 6 pounds and 5 ounces and was 19 inches long. Grandparents are Charles Sundin, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, and Roxanne (Sward) Sundin (B.S. ’74, M.S.E. ’91) and Dick and Terry Rucinski. The couple reside in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, where Joe is a Senior Engineer at Manitowoc Cranes and Sharon is a photographer and owner of slr Photography and Design LLC.

3. Brian Wolf ’07 and Emily (Van Natta) Wolf ’08, and big sister Elaina (2 1/2 years old), are excited to announce the birth of Brenna Mae Wolf on Sept. 24, 2014. They now reside in Muscatine, Iowa.

4. Jared ’10 and Hilary ’08 and ’11 Baker welcomed their first son, Desmond Robert, on Feb. 19, 2014. He was a month early and weighed 5 pounds 8 ounces and was 19 inches long. The Bakers currently reside in Cassville, Wisconsin.

Austin Olbinski was born on Dec. 5, 2014 and joins big sister, Raena (age 2). Parents are Jeff Olbinski ’03 and Krista (Curtis) Olbinski ’03.
May

2 Twin Cities Network Event
Indian Motorcycle Plant Tour
Osceola, Wisconsin, and St. Croix Valley Train Ride

3 1999 Men’s Basketball Team Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, UW-Platteville campus

June

11 Sheboygan Area Alumni Social, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

12 Sheboygan Golf Outing
Sheboygan

Swinging for Scholarships Golf Outing
Fundraiser for Music Majors, Platteville Golf and Country Club, Platteville

27 Cheese, Beers, and Pioneers, Monroe, Wisconsin

July

2 George Chryst Classic
University Ridge Golf Course, Madison

3–12 Swiss Alps Alumni Trip
Switzerland R.S.V.P. by April 19

August

2 Dubuque Network Event
Dubuque, Iowa

6 Chicago Network Event
Naperville, Illinois

8 Men’s Basketball Golf Outing, Platteville Golf and Country Club, Platteville

20 La Crosse Area Alumni Social, La Crosse, Wisconsin

31 Sesquicentennial Celebration: Kick-off Welcome Back Concert
UW-Platteville campus

September

16 Retirees’ Breakfast
UW-Platteville campus

19 Racine Network Event
Racine, Wisconsin

26 Potosi Brewery Bike Tour and Run/Walk:
Fundraiser for UW-Platteville Foundation, Potosi, Wisconsin

30 College of EMS Scholarship and Awards Banquet, UW-Platteville campus

HEARTLAND FESTIVAL
JUNE 12–JULY 26, 2015
The Last Five Years
Mary Poppins

For more events, go to:
www.uwplatt.edu/calendars/alumni-events
There is a place where discovery lives around every corner and over every hill. Where history is alive and ready to take you by the hand. Where fresh local food isn’t a fad, it’s a way of life. And the freedom to explore wide-open spaces with some of the friendliest people you’re ever likely to meet. Composed of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, the Maritimes offer some of the most dramatic seaside and country vistas in all of Canada.

Aggressive cliffs covered in thick vegetation, crashing in a tempestuous grey-blue ocean, outline a region covered in pine-forest and potato-field shades of green. The phenomenal Bay of Fundy is home to world-class cultural and coastal experiences. This is truly a journey of discovery!

For information on this trip, contact Alumni Services at alumni@uwplatt.edu or 1.800.897.2586.