Dear friends,

Once again we send you warm greetings from the College of Business, Industry, Life Science, and Agriculture. We’re excited to be starting a new year and I would like to share with you briefly where we are with some of the challenges we face and then highlight some of the exciting happenings in the college that are covered in this edition of the newsletter.

First, as a college, the most eminent challenge is the budget. Currently, the university is facing a $3.5 to $6 million cut associated with the $250 million budget cut to UW System. These cuts to UW-Platteville are in addition to the $3.4 million cut in 2013–14 and what amounted to approximately a $3.6 million cut in 2014–15.

These cuts are a culmination of a pattern communicated by Chancellor Dennis J. Shields where five of the past six biennium included reductions in state support for UW System. These have resulted in total state support being less than 20 percent of the UW-Platteville operating budget. We are working to face these cuts as strategic as possible and, as communicated by our chancellor, maximize efficiencies, develop other streams of revenue, and increase our focus on philanthropy and corporate engagement. In addition, we have to continue increasing our adaptability to meet workforce needs, while staying true to our mission of an access institution. However, given the magnitude of the cuts, we will simply not be able to provide the same breadth and level of programs and opportunities offered in the past.

In this respect, it is imperative to note the importance of education. UW-Platteville continues to be highly valued by our state and region as exemplified by our notable placement rates, our career fair breaking employer participation records every year over the last several years (our career fair will be four days this fall), companies seeking to partner specifically with our institution, high alumni engagement, and UW-Platteville’s $394 million overall economic impact on the Wisconsin economy (based on the 2013 Economic Impact Study). As residents of the tri-state region we need to recognize these contributions and re-emphasize education as an essential component of the economic and societal health of the region, state, and nation.

Related to the above, we have a lot of exciting happenings in the college. We are looking forward to Homecoming October 5th through the 10th (please find a schedule of events in the sidebar). In addition, as you will see in the newsletter, we are welcoming many new faculty and staff this year and recognizing outstanding accomplishments of individuals on and off campus. We also have several examples of faculty, staff, and student engagement ranging from casting fixtures as part of a restoration project of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Taliesin to cancer research.

In conclusion, I once again extend my deep appreciation to all of you, the faculty, staff, alumni, students, and friends of the College of BILSA for everything you do for the college and university.

Best wishes,

Wayne Weber
B.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Dean of the College of BILSA

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CELEBRATE AG DAY

Badgerland Financial will be sponsoring Celebrate Ag Day during the Homecoming football game Oct. 10. The event will include a pre-game tailgate party for Badgerland customers and School of Ag alumni, a tractor show outside of the stadium and a check presentation at halftime.

Please check out www.uwplatt.edu/alumni-events/celebrate-ag-day to R.S.V.P. for the tailgate.

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SUBMIT NEWS TO BILSA@UWPLATT.EDU.
**LINDAHL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD**

Dr. Kristopher Wright, Professor of biology and Chair of the Department of Biology, earned his bachelor’s in zoology with an emphasis in limnology/aquatic biology from UW-Madison in 1993. He earned his master’s in fisheries science with an emphasis in stream ecology from Oregon State University in 1997 and his Ph.D. in fisheries science with an emphasis in community and stream ecology from Oregon State University in 2000.

Wright teaches a variety of biology classes and also advises students with emphases in ecology, zoology, or general biology. He actively participates in departmental, college, and university service and has earned several awards.

**TALIESIN PROJECT WINS COMPETITION**

Written by Shelby Le Duc, University Information and Communications

University of Wisconsin-Platteville Industrial Studies Professors Dr. Kyle Metzloff, Eric Rimel, and Joseph Gray, along with their students, took home top honors at the Midwestern American Foundry Society Casting of the Year competition, proving that their yearlong endeavor was well worth the while.

Six teams took part in the competition, including UW-Madison, Michigan Technological University, and Purdue University, among others. Teams submitted casted parts and apparatuses that were then judged by a panel of industry professionals.

Each school had the freedom to choose the focus of their project; UW-Platteville’s being a series of metal parts to restore the window systems at Taliesin, an estate located in Iowa County, Wisconsin. The structure was designed by highly revered, American architect Frank Lloyd Wright in the early 1900s.

“One of the main reasons that we took on this project was because it was great for casting both internal and external threads which is something that we have never done before and something that a lot of industries don’t do,” Rimel said.

Rimel’s fiancé works as a tour guide at Taliesin and introduced him to an individual who works in preservation there. Their subsequent conversation led to the topic of the facility’s need for new window parts. This established a connection between Taliesin and UW-Platteville’s metals and foundry classes.

“The windows at Taliesin are casement windows and are hinged on the side so it opens out,” said Rimel. “The other part mounts to the windowsill. When you close the windows there you literally screw them shut and over the course of 100 years some of these have been damaged. Now they have 25 windows that they have no way of fixing.”

It is estimated that the original window parts at Taliesin were constructed in the late 1800s and may have lasted through two structure fires.

With the collaborative efforts of an advanced computer aided design methods class, an iron casting class, and a computer numerical control class, UW-Platteville was able to do what two professional companies in Madison, Wisconsin, could not.

**STUDENTS RESEARCHING ENDANGERED CRICKET FROGS**

Written by Angela O’Brien, University Information and Communications

Throughout the summer, two University of Wisconsin-Platteville students researched the breeding patterns and locations of endangered cricket frogs in Southwest Wisconsin in order to help the Department of Natural Resources better protect the area’s wetlands. Allison Wells, a biology major with a zoology emphasis and environmental science minor from Moline, Illinois, worked with Sammie Tomczewski, a biology major with a zoology emphasis with minors in psychology and environmental science from Twin Lakes, Wisconsin. The two worked as 2015–16 Pioneer Undergraduate Research Fellows through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors.

“Cricket frogs are part of the healthy ecology of the state,” said Wells. “They help keep wetlands healthy, but are endangered in Wisconsin and are only found in the southwestern counties. We both love animals, and through this, we had an opportunity to study them. The data we collected can help the ecology of Southwest Wisconsin, potentially a lot.”

Working with their biology department faculty advisor, Dr. John Peterson, Wells and Tomczewski identified sites throughout Grant County where cricket frogs are thought to be located. They installed Frog Loggers, a type of digital recording device designed to pick up the frogs’ calls, and compared the results to their own personal observations.
CANCER RESEARCH PLANNED ON CAMPUS
Written by Dan Wackershauser, University Information and Communications

Cancer research began last spring on campus. Thanks to funding from the A. Keith Brewer Foundation at UW-Madison, Dr. Marilyn Tufte, UW-Platteville Biology Professor, is leading a cancer research project aimed at finding another piece of the puzzle when it comes to cancer research. Dr. Miranda Bader, a Platteville native, who completed a post-doctoral program at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, joined Tufte on campus for the research.

This research continues work Tufte began in the 1980s. However, the new research will be conducted using cultured animal cells. According to Bader, there are many commercially available cancer cell lines that they can use in their research.

“This research is exceedingly important and runs hand-in-hand with the current efforts of the American Cancer Society to combat cancer, the second leading cause of death in the United States,” said Dr. Wayne Weber, Dean of the College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture. “It is really exciting to have someone like Dr. Bader, with her background with the Mayo Clinic, team up with our own Dr. Tufte, who has extensive experience and knowledge in cancer research and is passionate about this complex field of study. The funding from the A. Keith Brewer Foundation to support these efforts, that began because of Dr. Tufte’s earlier cancer research, is greatly appreciated.”

According to Tufte, Brewer, a biophysicist, had ideas about membrane ion transfer. He thought that altering the oxygen uptake of a cancer cell would eliminate the cell. He selected a couple ions to try, including cesium. “He wanted to put his paper to the task in the lab and ask someone to do it,” said Tufte. “I volunteered to check it for him.”

Tufte explained they had great success with the research in the ‘80s. “The results were outstanding,” she said. “We got tremendous data. It was so exciting.”

KINWA-MUZINGA EARN UW SYSTEM AWARD
Written by Carly Willman, University Information and Communications

Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga, Professor of agribusiness at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, has been awarded the Alliant Energy Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award.

This award recognizes professors throughout the UW System who are able to communicate their knowledge effectively and inspire students to have enthusiasm for learning. “Students are future leaders,” said Kinwa-Muzinga. “I believe it is our responsibility to guide and help them to learn how to succeed academically and socially.”

Kinwa-Muzinga received her bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo with a financial management emphasis. She went on to receive both her master’s of business administration in finance and Ph.D. in agricultural economics with specialization in food and agribusiness management and strategic management with a significant marketing component from the University of Illinois in Champaign. After receiving her degrees, Kinwa-Muzinga joined the UW-Platteville School of Agriculture in 2002 and has been the agribusiness program director since fall of 2009.

She teaches a wide range of agribusiness courses at UW-Platteville.

STUDENTS ENGAGE IN LIFELIKE CRISIS EXERCISE
Written by Carly Willman, University Information and Communications

Recently, University of Wisconsin-Platteville students in the department of media studies Crisis Planning and Communication class had the opportunity to engage in a realistic press conference scenario regarding a mock crisis. The mock crisis involved a serial rapist on or near campus who attacked approximately eight women, with one attack being caught on camera.

The mock crisis was designed to see how students would handle a large crisis scenario and to engage them in high-impact learning practices. It was also designed for students to utilize skills learned throughout the semester on how to represent a certain organization during a crisis. “I like ‘authentic’ assignments and activities for students, and they seem to appreciate them,” said Dr. B.J. Reed, Professor of the class. “You can practice speeches, but students don’t often have a lot of practice with needing to think on their feet and answer questions that they strategically don’t want to answer or simply cannot, and this exercise gives some of the students that opportunity.”

During the exercise, students were put into four teams that would be involved in the crisis. Their goal was to represent them in a realistic and professional way, which included adhering to all privacy laws and abiding by investigation restrictions. The groups that students represented included university representatives such as the chancellor and Counseling Services; both university and community first responders; local, state, and national media; as well as Student Health Services and hospital representatives.
MetalTek International selected as friend of the college 2015

Dr. Kyle Metzloff, Industrial Studies Professor, nominated MetalTek International for the award. Based in Waukesha, Wisconsin, MetalTek International established the Metaltek International Fund for Metals Processing Technology at UW-Platteville. The fund commits $25,000 each year for the next five years to be used by the metals processing technology program.

MetalTek created the fund with the goal of supporting a new metals laboratory coordinator position for the metals program in the industrial studies department. MetalTek has also hired our students for internships, full-time employment, and they provide tours for our students and faculty.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

Dan Paulson, from Dodgeville, Wisconsin, graduated in 1992 with a bachelor's in business administration. He is the President and CEO of InVision Development International, a business he started in 2007. InVision helps leaders focus on the right things that lead to long-term, sustained growth while developing better-performing, happier employees. He has been growing the business in recent years to include a location in China that's proving to be very successful. Prior to starting his own business, Paulson was the vice president of operations at Michael's Frozen Custard and production supervisor at Lands' End.

Barry Thrune, from New Berlin, Wisconsin, graduated in 1998 with a bachelor's in industrial technology management. He is currently the Global Technology Platform Manager – Components with SC Johnson and Son Inc. in Racine, Wisconsin. He has served in that role since 2007. During his junior year at UW-Platteville, Thrune completed an internship at SC Johnson and Son Inc.

Robin MacFarlane, from Dubuque, Iowa, graduated in 1987 with a bachelor's in biology. She is the owner and Training Director of That's My Dog! Inc. MacFarlane is a regular guest speaker at several universities. She has served as an advisor and instructor to various police K9 units as well as committees dealing with the issues of breed-specific legislation. Much of her time is spent traveling throughout the United States and Canada presenting workshops on canine behavior and training. She is known for her eye in reading dogs, her ability to explain and demonstrate techniques, as well as her instruction of both canine and humans alike.

Dr. Michael O. Mee, from Platteville, is Professor Emeritus from UW-Platteville. Mee earned a bachelor's in animal science from UW-Platteville in 1986, where he graduated cum laude. He also earned a master's in animal science in 1988 from Kansas State and his Ph.D. in animal science in 1991 from Kansas State.

He has earned various honors and awards and has been active in organizations. He was advisor of the UW-Platteville Dairy Club and coach of the dairy team. He earned the College of Agriculture Outstanding Faculty Award in 1993, was the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teacher Fellow in 1996, and earned the State of Wisconsin Certificate of Commendation in 2011, among others. In 2011, Mee was named professor emeritus in the College of BILSA. From 1991–2011 Mee was a professor in the School of Agriculture.

Ben Lorber, from West Allis, Wisconsin, graduated in 2001, earning a bachelor's in communication technologies with an emphasis in broadcasting and a minor in political science. He is Director of Programming and Public Affairs at WISN TV in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Prior to that, he served as program assistant and newscast director for 10 years. He regularly returned to UW-Platteville each December to volunteer during the Christmas Telethon in support of Wisconsin Badger Camp and has continuously donated to the UW-Platteville Foundation.

OUTSTANDING ADVISOR

Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga is a Professor of agribusiness in the UW-Platteville School of Agriculture. She earned her bachelor's in economics from the University of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo with a financial management emphasis in 1988 and earned both her MBA in finance in 1993 and Ph.D. in agricultural economics with specialization in food and agribusiness management and strategic management with a significant marketing component in 2001 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE

Jane Menke is the Program Associate in the School of Agriculture. Her main responsibilities include providing leadership in the daily operation of the School of Agriculture main office, assisting the School of Agriculture director, providing support for the faculty and staff and students and providing assistance to the School of Agriculture internship coordinator.

Menke's responsibilities include working with Prospective Student Services to schedule faculty visits with prospective students and their families, coordinate School of Agriculture scholarship correspondence, notify students and provide donors with background information on the recipients, manage distribution of mail in a timely fashion, manage all files for the School of Agriculture office, answer questions about recruitment, retention and resources, and many other duties.