Students began wandering back to campus a couple of weeks before Labor Day. Even though we were in the grip of a late-August heat wave, the energy of our new and returning students was palpable as the university engaged in its welcome-back and we’re-glad-you’re-here rituals—faculty and staff convocation, student convocation, college meetings, and that first football game. The weather broke as classes started and autumn ushered in a new semester of teaching and learning. Here in the College of LAE, we’ve welcomed 11 new faculty members and four new full-time teaching academic staff (and, sadly, waved goodbye to some folks who moved on to different opportunities). We have instructors who specialize in anthropology, African studies and political science, American Indian and classical music, ethnic humor, composition studies, post-colonial literature, criminal justice, GIS, and various geographical topics, sociology … and we are also welcoming visiting scholars from China. The college is filled to bursting, and we couldn’t be happier.

CONGRATULATIONS, 2012–13 ACADEMIC YEAR AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Academic Advisor Award
Dr. Elizabeth Gates

Teaching Excellence Award
Dr. Joan Riedle

Outstanding Service Award
Linda Doser

Excellence in Professional Development Award
Dr. Daniel Leitch

Arts and Letters Hall of Fame
Thomas Hickey

Distinguished Educator Award
Jennifer Montana Newendyke

Professional Achievement Award
Rex Reed

Friend of the College Award
Amanda Coorough

Outstanding Alumni Award

Special congratulations to …

Dr. Melissa Gormley
One of UW-Platteville’s Women of the Year and 2013 Wisconsin Teaching Fellow

Dr. Yuanyuan Hu
2013 UW System Outstanding Woman of Color Award

Dr. DeMisty Bellinger-Delfield

HAVE NEWS THAT YOU’D LIKE FEATURED IN THE NEXT LAE NEWSLETTER? SEND IT TO LAEPR@UWPLATT.EDU
Clinical Experiences Office Secured +200 Student Teaching Placements

Staff members in the UW-Platteville School of Education Clinical Experiences office made 247 student teaching placements during the 2012–13 academic year.

In addition to securing partnerships with area public schools for regular student teacher placements, this past year, the Clinical Experiences team placed 52 early childhood student teachers and 54 pre-student teachers in school districts throughout Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa, and Texas. The team placed 141 regular student teachers in 88 school districts in Wisconsin, 23 school districts in Illinois, two school districts in Colorado, and one in Arizona. Office staff members also partnered with Donna Anderson, Director of International Programs at UW-Platteville, and other staff members in the Education Abroad office, to place a student teacher in Ireland as well as New Zealand.

PVA Music Faculty Performed in Faculty Gala

To kick off the 2013–14 academic year, the UW-Platteville music faculty performed in the Faculty Gala on Sept. 8 in the Richard and Helen Brodbeck Concert Hall in the Center for the Arts. This special concert combined the talents of the music department’s faculty who are renowned in their respective fields of specialization and are active performers in the tri-state area. It was a memorable afternoon filled with musical solo performances, ensembles, and unique collaborations.

Music Alumna Receives Two High Honors

Liesel Wietgrefe, a UW-Platteville music alumna, was named to “50 Directors Who Make a Difference” in the School Band and Orchestra magazine and was also honored at the Yale School of Music’s 2013 Symposium on Music in Schools in New Haven, Conn.

Student Artwork Enhances Bridgeway Commons

UW-Platteville student artwork was so well received in the Rountree Commons residence hall that it has been included in its newest residence hall, Bridgeway Commons. Students in the Studies in Art I: Art for Public Places course, taught by Bruce Howdle, and students in Crafts II: Fibers and Fabrics course, taught by Carole Spelic, created the projects.

Students in Howdle’s course contributed 22 pieces, including five sculptures, a collection of eight pastels of fruit and food, a large sketch of Ralph E. Davis, a large clay portrait of Pioneers, and seven abstract paintings. Students in Spelic’s course contributed four projects, including a quilt made of T-shirts, a three-panel representation of a flowering tree, a seated figure made of plaster of paris, and a wall hanging with free-hanging sculptural elements.
When men feel that their masculinity is threatened, do they behave in a more overtly masculine way to mask their insecurities? Bridget Conlon and several other researchers in the field of sociology explored this question in Overdoing Gender, a Test of the Masculine Overcompensation Thesis. The article was published in the American Journal of Sociology, a scholarly journal for analysis and research in the social sciences, and was a culmination of more than five years of research, experimentation, and writing.

Dr. John Nkemnji, Professor and Coordinator of educational media services in the UW-Platteville School of Education, was selected as a founding member of the new Kappa Delta Pi – Eleanor Roosevelt Chapter by the KDP executive board, headquartered in Indianapolis, Ind. This new, honorary chapter honors men and women who have made significant and longtime contributions of service to KDP and demonstrated a commitment to its ideals and excellence in education.

The UW-Platteville Department of Performing and Visual Arts faculty raised $6,782 for music scholarships at its Swinging for Scholarships golf outing and social held at the Platteville Golf and Country Club. The scholarships will be awarded to incoming and current students who are majoring or minoring in music. Forty-eight people attended, including UW-Platteville alumni, faculty, and staff as well as community members.

Fifteen UW-Platteville students examined five centuries of history during a short-term education abroad experience in Europe this summer entitled “The History of Science and Technology in Europe, 1500 to the Present.” The course, whose destinations included Amsterdam, Brussels, and Paris, focused on the ways that scientific developments have been intertwined with Europe’s wider political, economic, social, and cultural history. Students were from a variety of disciplines including engineering, chemistry, biology, history, and international studies. Faculty leaders of the course were Dr. Adam Stanley and Elizabeth Holden. They led the students on tours of museums, libraries, observatories, a botanical garden, and a number of planetariums.

Dr. Melissa Gormley and Dr. Chris Schulenburg presented panel topics at the XXXI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association’s “Towards a New Social Contract?” conference held May 29 to June 1 in Washington, D.C. Gormley and Schulenburg were selected by LASA to attend the conference and chair two of its panels.

Gormley addressed the role of visual culture and visual narrative in developing political agenda and national identity in Brazil in her presentation and Schulenburg discussed 20th and 21st century women’s literature in Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Mexico, and Cuba and the dialogues that take place between women and between readers and writers in his presentation.
BIOLOGY STUDENT ANALYZES TREE RINGS TO ESTABLISH HISTORY OF SHULLSBURG’S GRATIOT HOUSE

Jamie Jefferson, a UW-Platteville senior biology major with an emphasis in ecology as well as a double minor in geography and Spanish from Watertown, Wis., is analyzing tree rings in the wood beams of the Gratiot House near Shullsburg, Wis., to gain insight into the home’s history. The research project, funded by the UW-Platteville Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement and a private donation, began when the Gratiot House’s current owners, Chris and Heather Price, spoke with Dr. Evan Larson, Assistant Professor of geography, to see if the university’s geography department could help them find out more about the home’s history to determine if it is one of the oldest settlements in Southwest Wisconsin. Larson is mentoring Jefferson in her research.

GEOGRAPHY STUDENT HELPS CREATE A DEPTH TO BEDROCK MAP

A UW-Platteville student with a passion for technology and the earth, senior geography major Ben Gultch, is helping create a depth to bedrock map for Grant County. Data that he is collecting in his research will be instrumental in creating a more accurate, comprehensive map of Grant County. The Wisconsin Geologic and Natural History Survey, a part of the UW-Extension, is providing funding for the project. Gultch’s research is part of UW-Platteville’s Tree-Ring, Earth, and Environmental Sciences program. Dr. J. Elmo Rawling III, Associate Professor of geography and geology is mentoring Gultch in his research.

Greg Nelson was selected as one of the artists to design and paint a turtle to coincide with the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, as part of the exhibit “Turtles: Secrets of the Shell” this past summer.

Congratulations to Kara Candito, who received the 2013 Agha Shahid Ali Poetry Prize for her second manuscript of poetry, Spectator. The book will be published by University of Utah Press in the spring of 2014.

Members of the Psychology Club participated in the Grant County Alzheimer’s Walk held on Sept. 14, in Lancaster, Wis. Becky Fernette from the psychology department was the organizational force behind getting the Psychology Club and the Pre-Health Society involved in the walk. Tim Long, Psychology Club president, also helped organize participation.

Faculty and academic staff members and their families enjoyed delicious food and good company at the College of LAE picnic held on Sept. 11 at Legion Park Shelter. Seventy-two people attended.