It’s been a very busy semester here in the Dean’s office. I’ve been away on a number of trips with the UW-Platteville Foundation staff as we try to build our endowment with the university’s strategic aim of fiscal autonomy. I’ve met with alumni and friends in New York City, Milwaukee, and points in between (and I’ll be visiting with others in the Washington, D.C. area next month!). Associate Dean Kory Wein, who is also the new Director of the Confucius Institute, spent ten days in China in December meeting with other Directors and interested parties. The illness of an academic staff member meant that I was in the classroom, teaching her class for the second half of the semester (and I will reiterate what I’ve said a number of times: we have very nice students, mature and kind). Students at UW-Platteville come first, so if a class has to be taught, and the dean has the expertise to do so, she will! At this writing, students are beginning their final exams for the fall semester. We wish them good luck with their hard work, and happy holidays for everyone from the LAE Dean’s Office.

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

Writing Center announces Spring 2014 Essay Contest

The Writing Center announced its third annual essay contest, with $1,000 in prizes for winning submissions. Students must write an argumentative essay that answers the question: Does evidence suggest that winning at all costs is a common mentality throughout the United States? The topic ties into the fall 2013 Campus Read book, Scoreboard, Baby. Submissions are due by March 14, 2014.

UW-Platteville opens Confucius Classroom

On Nov. 22, UW-Platteville and St. Mary Central High School in Neenah, Wis., celebrated the grand opening of a Confucius Classroom at St. Mary Central High School, the first of its kind to be under the administration of the UW-Platteville Confucius Institute. It is the only Confucius Classroom in the Fox Cities and one of only a handful in the state of Wisconsin. Pictured left to right are Ping Champeau, Confucius Classroom Instructor; Patrick Batey, Principal of St. Mary Central High School; and Dr. Kory Wein, Associate Dean, UW-Platteville College of Liberal Arts and Education.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Mary Fischer
Excellence in Service Award

Dr. Jodean Grunow
Academic Staff Excellence in Teaching Award

General Education Task Force
Excellence in Teamwork Award

HAVE NEWS THAT YOU’D LIKE FEATURED IN THE NEXT LAE NEWSLETTER? SEND IT TO LAEPR@UWPLATT.EDU.
FACULTY AND STUDENT COLLABORATION RESULTS IN SOFTWARE USED BY RESEARCHERS INTERNATIONALLY
Sixteen students and two faculty members collaborated on a project that resulted in re-engineered software used by researchers internationally. The project was led by Dr. Kun Tian and Dr. Evan Larson. Tian’s students redesigned software used by researchers to manage and analyze fire history data to better understand the role of fire in the forests of the world. The software has been integrated into a specialized software suite used by researchers around the world.

FOR STUDENTS, HELPING OTHERS IS FOOD FOR THE SOUL
Thirteen students in the Race, Gender, and Class course and several of the Women’s Center student employees helped harvest vegetables and prepare meals for Food for the Soul, a weekly meal program offered at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church in Dubuque, Iowa. The meal serves anyone who wants to come, but the majority of people are those living at or below the poverty line.

CURRENTS OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE
The Currents of Restorative Justice conference was held on Nov. 15 in the Nohr Gallery. The Ridge and Valley Restorative Justice Program, an organization that works with victims, offenders and communities to provide support and facilitate services that promote healing and reconciliation, hosted the conference.

Restorative justice is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior. It is accomplished through cooperative processes that include the victim, the offender and the community. Through restorative justice programs, the voices of victims can be heard and offenders are held accountable for their actions.

Janine Geske, a distinguished professor of law at the Marquette University Law School and the founder and director of its Restorative Justice Initiative, gave the keynote address.

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY ATTENDS RESEARCH CONFERENCE
Students and faculty from the department of psychology traveled to Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to attend the 2013 Tri-State Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference. The students presented posters based on their research projects for behavioral research courses. The event included panel sessions on graduate admissions, posters sessions, a graduate school fair and a keynote address by Dr. Morton Gernsbacher from UW-Madison.

CATCHING UP WITH ...
Eric Dimmitt, assistant professor, teacher education
“I have been pleasantly surprised by how persistent the students are in my classes. They are conscientious and put a high level of effort into all of their work. I am also impressed with how responsible and respectful they are to me as a new member of the education faculty. The most rewarding thing for me is witnessing when students have that “aha” moment, when they realize that what they previously knew and what they had just learned can be applied in different ways.”

Peggy Marciniec, assistant professor, teacher education
“I have many first-generation students and all of them have been so welcoming to me. They are very task- and time-oriented and conscientious. They ask for help when they need it and they are very polite and kind. The most rewarding thing for me is witnessing when students take the information they are learning and make it their own. It’s rewarding to teach them and give them opportunities to present what they have learned. It gives them a chance to show their strengths and allows them to practice their skills with their classmates.”
ENitre NOUVEAU PREPARES TO PERFORM

After a one-year hiatus, the music program's faculty ensemble, Ensemble Nouveau, welcomes two new members and prepares to perform at high schools and other venues in the tri-state area. Members include, left to right, David Earll, Matthew Gregg, Keith Lienert, Corey Mackey, Dr. David Cooper, and Allen Cordingely.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. BARRY ELLIS AND THE ROUNTREE SYMPHONY

Dr. Barry Ellis and the Rountree Wind Symphony's “The Rountree Wind Symphony – The Music and Art of J. Clifton Williams” recording has been accepted by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences for Grammy nomination eligibility in five different categories. The recording is competing against those of the world's major orchestras, wind bands, and classical artists.

IN November, the Department of Performing and Visual Arts held the following events:

- Nov. 2 – Double Reed Day
- Nov. 3 – Steinway Gala
- Nov. 7 – Trombone Shorty
- Nov. 8 – Fall Orchestra Concert
- Nov. 17 – Gender Choir Concert
- Nov. 18 – Symphonic Wind Ensemble
- Nov. 18 – How to Survive a Plague
- Nov. 20-24 – The Normal Heart
- Nov. 21 – Five by Design
- Nov. 23 – Fall Mixed Choir Concert

DEFICIT AND DEBT FORUM

The UW-Platteville Department of Social Sciences, Students for Peace and Justice, and College Republicans presented the Deficit and Debt: Behind the Government Shutdown forum on Nov. 13. Dr. Rosalyn Broussard, Dr. Scott Nikolai, Dr. Brian Peckham, Dr. John Rink, and Dr. Shan Sappleton discussed the economics of the budget deficit, Affordable Care Act, and political gridlock that culminated in a partial government shutdown and how it affected the country's institutions.

“IN OTHER WORDS …” STUDENT READING SERIES

The humanities department hosted “In Other Words …”, a student reading series followed by an open mic on Nov. 12. Hosted by undergraduate students, the series gives undergraduate creative writers a chance to showcase their different creative works and provides a venue for showcasing the university's vibrant creative culture.

NATIONALLY PUBLISHED AUTHORS PRESENT READINGS

Nationally published authors Adam Fell and Caryl Pagel performed selected readings from their poetry on Nov. 6. The department of humanities visiting writers readings and other creative writing readings during the past year have been made possible, in part, by donations from an anonymous patron of the arts.

Café International Names New Coordinator for 2013–14

Café International, a program hosted by the Writing Center, named Charla Tripoli, a senior industrial engineering major, as its new student coordinator for the 2013–14 year. The goal of Café International is to bring American and international students together and help bridge the gap between them. On Nov. 18, Karissa Kieler, a senior international business major from Potosi, Wis., gave a presentation about Buenos Aires.
CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS RECIPIENTS

The School of Education presented 41 scholarships to 40 students at the School of Education Scholarship Awards Reception on Nov. 11. The reception was an opportunity to recognize outstanding student talent and achievement and celebrate the generosity of donors whose gifts provide the financial assistance that enables many students to pursue their studies.

HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE

Due to changing demographics and market demands for graduates who are trained in health promotion, the university's physical education program has been renamed health and human performance, which includes a teacher education program as well as a health performance program. Over the past ten years, the demographic change within the Health Promotion Specialist program emphasis has seen a growth from 10-43 percent. This shift in degree plan is a reflection of the career field growth nationally.

“The career field of health promotion has experienced substantial national growth. This growth projection tells us that as we move forward, we need to invest our time and energy in the areas of health and exercise science. To ensure that our students have the knowledge, skills and hands-on training they need to be highly marketable and to meet the market demands for graduates who are trained in health promotion, it is essential that we develop curriculum that includes tracts for corporate health promotion, private health promotion and research. In our planning, we must have a vision about how to pursue this new stand-alone program by developing and redesigning curriculum and hiring additional faculty. This is an exciting time of change and our goal is to have a very visible and viable health promotion degree program.” – Dr. Colleen McCabe, program coordinator

FOUR SCHOOL OF EDUCATION STUDENTS TO HAVE ARTICLE PUBLISHED

Kelly Provancher, Patrick Ralph, Kendra Haug and Michelle Leverentz, all education majors and members of Kappa Delta Phi, developed a presentation and manuscript on “Response to Intervention” that they presented at the Kappa Delta Pi Biennial Conference in Dallas, Texas, in October. Their manuscript will be published in the Winter 2014 issue of New Teacher Advocate. Dr. Rea Kirk and Dr. John Nkemnji serve as Kappa Delta Phi faculty advisors.

OUTREACH TO TEACH

Student WEA club members participated in Outreach to Teach, volunteering their time to improve Washington Middle School and Danz Elementary School in Green Bay by painting and decorating classrooms and painting inspiring quotes on walls.

PRACTICUM EXPERIENCES

This past semester, 39 elementary education majors enrolled in Block I and contributed a combined 5,000 hours of support to area schools as part of a practicum experience.

IMPROVING LITERACY IN SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN

In support of improving literacy in southwest Wisconsin and making books more accessible, the students and faculty in the School of Education are engaged in a number of meaningful projects:

Pen Pals: Student WEA club members wrote pen pal letters to fifth grade students at Platteville Middle School to support their development of writing skills.

Literacy Kits: With support from the National Education Association’s Community Learning through America’s Schools, student WEA club members created literacy home kits to share with students at Mineral Point Elementary School.

Little Free Libraries: Instructors and students in the School of Education who are members of Hidden Valley Reading Council have created the Little Free Libraries service project in Platteville. The first Little Free Library was installed in Katie’s Garden in collaboration with the Platteville Community Arboretum. The Council is now collaborating with the Parks and Recreation Committee to develop policies for placing additional libraries in Platteville public parks.