Greetings from a wintry Platteville! “Spring” semester 2014 roared into action in late January; here in the dean’s office, we say, “If it’s Saturday, it must be snowing.” Though the semester is new, we’ve had some major musical performances, Career Days have come and gone, we’ve celebrated the Chinese New Year in partnership with the UW-Platteville Confucius Institute, and we’re already planning for the fall semester and beyond. The work of this office right now is focused on recruiting new, talented faculty who will take us on exciting intellectual journeys and retaining those professors who work so hard, and so successfully, with so many of our students. As I reflect on my second year here at UW-Platteville, I remain thankful to have such a terrific group of faculty and academic staff with whom to work. Their passions—for their disciplines, their courses, and their students—inspire me to advocate for them whenever I can. The College of Liberal Arts and Education is integral to the mission of this university, and we help make every day a great day to be a Pioneer.

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

Have news that you’d like featured in the next LAE newsletter? Send it to LAEPR@uwplatt.edu.

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FACULTY FORUMS
At the “Educational and Social Variables that Impact the Development of Environmental Literacy” faculty forum on Dec. 5, Dr. William McBeth, professor of education, discussed the wide variety of educational and social variables that can have an impact on the development of environmental literacy in students, including teacher age and licensure and environmental program sequence. Dr. Leigh Monhardt, associate professor of education, responded.

At the “Faceless Forgetting: Literature as Ghost Whisperer in 2666” faculty forum on Feb. 6, Dr. Chris Schulenburg, associate professor of Spanish and program coordinator of Latin American Studies, discussed many of the themes contained in Chilean writer Roberto Bolaño’s epic 2666, a novel about a horrific series of mysterious killings based on actual crimes that occurred in the Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez in the 1990s. Dr. Melissa Gormley, associate professor of history and director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program, responded.

STUDIO ART GRADUATE CREATES HISTORICAL MURAL FOR CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Corey Jenny, a recent studio art graduate, created a historical ceramic mural, now displayed in the lobby of UW-Platteville’s Center for the Arts. Jenny invested more than 400 hours to sculpt this unique, nearly 15-foot-by-9-foot artistic masterpiece. Jenny titled the piece “Forward,” the Wisconsin state motto.

STUDENTS FEATURED ON HOUSTON ABC AFFILIATE

Eighteen School of Education students were recently featured on ABC-affiliate KTRK-TV in Houston, Texas, for their work student teaching pre-school students in Aldine, Texas. The story aired on Jan. 16. To view the feature, go to www3.uwplatt.edu/news/students-featured-houston-abc-affiliate.

Congratulations to Jonathan Martin!

Jonathan Martin, a senior forensic investigation major from Madison, Wis., was selected as the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs Student of the Month.

Mock trial team awarded trophy

The mock trial team was awarded a 2013 Rookies of the Year trophy at a mock trial scrimmage held at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. Dr. John Rink, professor of political science, was the team’s coach. The competition gave the students experience in evidence, trial advocacy, and criminal procedure. The team included Lakisha Clinton, Cassandra Thomas, Samantha M. Frey, Joshua T. Meyer, and Evan Seibel. Two other team members, Emily Bobke and Evan C. Anderson, were unable to attend the competition.
NEW ONLINE TICKETING SYSTEM

The University Box Office’s new online ticketing system, “Box Office,” offers expanded features for those purchasing tickets for UW-Platteville Center for the Arts performances and campus-wide events. The new ticketing system accepts cash, checks, and all four major credit cards, including MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover Card. Get tickets now for "Sybarite5" on March 4, the Wisconsin Brass Quintet on April 13, "Hair" on April 17, and the NIU Steel Band on April 30.

FRIED GREEN UNIVERSITY SERIES

Dr. Evan Larson, assistant professor of geography, spoke about dendrochronology, the science that uses tree rings to determine the dates and chronological order of past events, as part of the Fried Green University Series on Dec. 3 at the Fried Green Tomatoes restaurant in Galena, Ill. Larson used examples from research he and his students have conducted in the UW-Platteville TREES Lab to explain how tree-ring research is used to understand past climate, environmental change and human history. The university speaker series is the first Tuesday of every month.

ECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPES FIELD EXCURSION TO OREGON

Twenty-one geography and biology students recently returned from a two-week ecology and landscapes field excursion course in Oregon. Students spent part of the time at the Hatfield Marine Science Center on the Oregon coast and part of the time at HJ Andrews Experimental Forest in the Cascade Mountains. On the coast, students explored beaches, tide pools, sand dunes, and coastal rainforests. In the mountains, students explored the forests, streams, and watersheds and the impact that logging has had on the ecosystems. The course, offered once every three years, was coordinated by UW-Platteville’s Dr. Elmo Rawling, professor of geography, and Dr. Kristopher Wright, professor of biology.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION ALUMNUS MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Cory McCullough, an English education alumnus, is an English instructor at Bina Bangsa, a private college preparatory school in Jakarta, Indonesia. His main role is to prepare students, ranging in age from high school freshmen to seniors, for their International Cambridge Exams. He said that when he decided to pursue his English teaching degree at UW-Platteville, he never dreamed he would someday be teaching in Southeast Asia, more than 10,000 miles from home.

"WISCONSIN: PEOPLE AND THE LAND" HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

Registration is open for the 2014 Wisconsin History Symposium to be held April 3–5 at UW-Platteville. Participants may choose from more than 30 topics, including the history of land use in Wisconsin; prehistoric and historic archaeology; the struggle of minorities and women in Wisconsin history; etc. There will be a strong emphasis on Native American history in the state. For more information and to register, go to the symposium website at www.uwplatt.edu/history-symposium.

Dr. Michael Dalecki, professor of sociology, was appointed interim chair of the department of criminal justice. It is a two-year appointment through the 2014-15 academic year.
**Chinese New Year Celebration**

The Confucius Institute held its sixth annual Chinese New Year celebration on Feb 2. Activities included calligraphy, paper cutting, origami, food sampling, and simple instruction of tai chi and guzheng, a traditional zither instrument. There were also on-stage performances, including a lion and dragon dance, folk dance, martial arts, and songs accompanied by traditional Chinese instruments. Audience members especially enjoyed the performances of the Enchanted Roots Dance and the yangge and Mongolian dances by the Living Spring Dance Company as well as the traditional Chinese songs sung by the English education graduate students from SCUN in Wuhan, China.

**UW-Platteville Student Has Ties to Beatrice Gardner**

Keith Lucas, a senior criminal justice major from Lake Mills, Wis., was completing a research project of his family for a history course when he discovered he was related to Bridget “Bee” Gardner (1860–1950), who served as the university’s first full-time librarian from 1893–1937 and for whom Gardner Hall is named. He spoke with his grandmother, who showed him their family tree and helped him find out more about their family’s tie to Gardner. From his conversations with his grandma, Lucas learned that Gardner was his grandma’s great-great aunt, which made Gardner his great-great-great-great aunt. To read the full story, go to http://www3.uwplatt.edu/news/current-student-connected-bridget-gardner-school’s-first-full-time-librarian

**Alumna Produces Emmy Award-Winning Show**

Patricia Gomez, a UW-Platteville alumna, produces, directs, and hosts ¡Adelante!, a Milwaukee Public Television program that received a 2013 Emmy award for Outstanding Achievement for Public Affairs/Current Affairs Programming. The weekly program, aired in Spanish with subtitles in English, is the only Milwaukee Public Television program that focuses solely on the Latino community. As producer, director, and host, Gomez highlights contributions of Latinos and holds discussions about the critical issues and needs that affect them. The program, now in its 15th year, focuses on the approximately 130,000 Latinos in the Milwaukee, Wis., County area and approximately 330,000 Latinos statewide. She holds a master’s degree in education from UW-Platteville. To read the full story, go to www3.uwplatt.edu/news/alumna-produces-emmy-award-winning-show.

**Hansel and Gretel**

The Opera Workshop presented two performances of the opera *Hansel and Gretel* on Dec. 7 and 8. Children and their parents were invited to join Hansel and Gretel and the rest of the opera cast for breakfast treats the morning of Dec. 7.

**Holiday Gala**

UW-Platteville held its 18th annual Holiday Gala on Dec. 13 and 14. Musical groups featured at the concert included the UW-Platteville Symphony Orchestra, Dubuque Community String Orchestra, Platteville Children’s Choirs, Platteville Chorale, University Combined Choirs, and Chamber Players Ensembles.

**A Christmas Carol**

The theatre program and Pioneer Players presented a benefit stage reading of Charles Dickens’ beloved holiday classic *A Christmas Carol* at the Center for the Arts Theatre on Dec. 8. All proceeds for the performance went to the Engineers Without Borders organization on campus.

**Broadway’s Next Hit Musical**

The Center for the Arts presented *Broadway’s Next HIT Musical* on Jan. 30. The production is New York City’s original, award-winning, improvised musical comedy and theatrical awards show.

**Daily Visitors**

Regardless of the season, these two furry friends make sure to visit 159 Gardner Hall each day for updates about the great things happening in the College of LAE.
VISITING WRITERS READING SERIES

This spring, the English program will host a record number of published writers including nationally published poets Tarfia Faizullah and James Arthur; young adult novelist William Alexander; Professor Emeritus and poet Franco Pagnucci; and Distinguished Poet Erin Belieu. Check the calendar on this page for more details.

CATCHING UP WITH ...

Dr. James Romesburg
Assistant Professor of English, Director of freshman composition

“In my first semester teaching first-year composition at UW-Platteville, I was impressed by my students’ enthusiasm for learning. My last school was a large, urban university with quite a different student demographic, but students here not only possess all the skills my former writing students brought to class, they are also remarkably kind, patient, and cheerful by nature.

“A lot like my students, instructors in our composition program are hard-working and have a passion for the work they do. This semester, I’m looking forward to leading a series of pedagogy workshops so we all have more opportunities to share what’s going on in our classes and to discuss some of our unique approaches to teaching writing.”

Dr. Gwladys Renaudeau
French Lecturer, French Program Director, French Club Advisor

“I loved that my students were so excited about learning about the French culture. They spent time outside class to meet at the French Club or at the French Table and really got to know the international students coming from Francophone countries.

“During the spring semester, I am going to develop my pen pal program—already working very well. French students of all ages are corresponding with some of my students. All of them are enjoying the experience and actually made new friends. I strongly believe that learning a language is learning about a culture, being involved in it, taking part in it, and meeting people.”

UPCOMING HUMANITIES EVENTS

March 4: The 17th annual Carnaval-Fasching, Velzy Commons, 5–9 p.m. Sponsored by the German and Clubms.

March 6: Dr. Teresa Burns will present “Shakespeare, Spies and Vampires: The Ethics of Historical Fiction and Costume Drama” at the faculty forum, Lundeen Lecture Hall, 5–6:30 p.m. Dr. Amanda Tucker will respond.

March 24: Young adult novelist William Alexander, Nohr Gallery, 7–9 p.m.

April 10: Professor Emeritus and poet Franco Pagnucci and Lecturer Emerita Susan Pagnucci will visit UW-Platteville. Franco will read from his latest book of poetry and Susan will present some of her hand-made art books as well as children’s literature from Burr Oak Press.

April 30: Annual Creative Writing Festival, Nohr Gallery, 4–7 p.m. Professor Erin Belieu, distinguished poet and Professor at Florida State University, will visit and help judge the competition.

OTHER HUMANITIES NEWS

Dr. David Gillota’s book Ethnic Humor in Multiethnic America has recently been published by Rutgers University Press. In his book, Gillota analyzes ethnic humor in contemporary popular culture and explores how contemporary humorists are both reflections of and participants in national conversations about race and ethnicity.

Dr. Kara Candito 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 this spring.

Dr. Yuanyuan Hu developed curriculum for the new English Language Learners program that will be housed in the International Student Services office.

Dr. Amanda Tucker will be holding Praxis II review sessions for our English education students. All of the students who took the Praxis II last semester passed with high scores.

Dr. Teresa Burns and Dr. Marianne Choquet are planning an International Writer’s Festival for this fall. Information will be forthcoming this spring.

For more information on creative writing events and other events sponsored by the English program, see its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/UWPlatteville.English.