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

It has been a very long winter here in Platteville. Spring has been slow to come, but the academic year winds down anyway. We have had a busy spring semester, with awards ceremonies, multiple musical performances (seemingly almost every day lately!), undergraduates presenting research and creative endeavors, and all manner of competitions showcasing the outstanding work of our students. Faculty and academic staff are busy grading final projects and preparing for commencement and finals. Here in the dean’s office, we are already looking forward to next year as we get ready to welcome another cohort of new professors (in film studies, criminal justice, literature, ethnic studies, art, health and human performance, and history) while we sadly say goodbye to some others. We are investigating some exciting initiatives in criminal justice, contemplating partnerships with a consortium of school districts through the School of Education, and exploring collaborations with a variety of international universities, including in Brazil and Scotland. I will have much to report in the first issue of next year’s newsletter.

PHI KAPPA PHI INITIATION

The honor society of Phi Kappa Phi initiated Adam Stanley, Associate Professor of history, and 19 LAE students on April 9. Connie Spyropoulos, an English education major, was awarded the Lucille and Bjarne Ullsvik Phi Kappa Phi Scholarship.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR

Andrew Barrette, a UW-Platteville philosophy alumnus, received a Fulbright Scholar Program award. As a Fulbright Scholar, Barrette will travel to Belgium next year to study the relation of Edmund Husserl’s phenomenology and transcendental Thomism at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Leuven, Belgium. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in philosophy at Southern Illinois University Carbondale in Carbondale, Ill.

SPRING 2014 LAE AWARDS

Congratulations to the spring 2014 LAE award winners, who were recognized at the College of LAE Recognition Reception in the Nohr Gallery on April 24.

The LAE Teaching Excellence Award went to Dr. Amanda Tucker, English.

The LAE Outstanding Service Award went to Dr. Shane Drefcinski, Philosophy.

The LAE Outstanding Academic Advisor award went to Dr. Travis Nelson, Political Science.

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STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN COLLABORATIVE BOOK CLUB

Connie Spyropoulos, a junior English-secondary education major, and 10 Platteville High School students discussed the themes in the 2013–14 Campus Read book, *Scoreboard, Baby: A Story of College Football, Crime, and Complicity*, at Platteville High School as part of a collaborative, pilot book club project. The book club was spearheaded by Lindsay Hollingsworth, Assistant Professor in the School of Education; and Cheryl Schober, Platteville High School Librarian.

STUDENTS REWARDED WITH TRIP TO CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

On March 20, 42 students in sixth through eighth grade from Highland Middle School in Highland, Wis., were rewarded for their good grades with a trip to UW-Platteville’s Confucius Institute. The students participated in a variety of hands-on activities led by Confucius Institute faculty members Eileen Wu and Kathy Zhang, Associate Professors from South-Central University for Nationalities in Wuhan, China, shared how to do Chinese paper cutting, paper folding, hacky sack kicking, Tai Chi, and martial arts.

ART EXHIBIT REFLECTS WISCONSIN HISTORY

In conjunction with the Wisconsin History Symposium on April 3–5, the university hosted an exhibition of artwork created by local, state, and regional artists that reflected the history of Wisconsin’s people and the land, on view April 1–11. Artwork in many mediums was represented, including painting, woodworking, basketry, collage, photography, printmaking, and fiber. “The exhibit provided an interesting, educational way for people to understand the rich historical, cultural, and environmental history of Wisconsin,” said Carole Spelic, Art Lecturer.

HAVE NEWS THAT YOU’D LIKE FEATURED IN THE NEXT LAE NEWSLETTER? SEND IT TO LAEPR@UWPLATT.EDU.
PIONEER SPOTLIGHT: DR. DONG ISBISTER

Dr. Dong Isbister, Assistant Professor of women's and gender studies, began teaching at UW-Platteville in fall 2013. She teaches Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies; Space, Place and Gender; and History of Feminist Thought. “I enjoy engaging students in collaborative learning activities and critical reflections of course materials that enable them to more deeply relate to what they are learning,” said Isbister. “I try to place my teaching and research into a broader framework of cultural studies and transnational feminism and weave together multiple disciplinary approaches in the classroom.” To read her Pioneer Spotlight, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-dong-isbister.

WISCONSIN TEACHER OF THE YEAR SPEAKS TO TEACHER CANDIDATES

School of Education teacher candidates recently attended a workshop conducted by Jane McMahon, 2014 Wisconsin Kohl Foundation Teacher of the Year, and her teaching colleague, Rita Ehlerl, at UW-Platteville. The “Dare To Differentiate: Using Literature Circles To Meet The Needs Of All Learners” presentation included information on book selection, managing student-led discussions, and communicating with parents about literature circles.

STUDENTS PARTNER WITH MINERAL POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

This semester, 24 UW-Platteville elementary education majors enrolled in Block I Pre Student Teaching are contributing a combined 3,000 hours of support to area schools in the Platteville and Mineral Point, Wis., school districts.

TWO ALUMNI RECEIVE EDUCATOR AWARDS

Two School of Education alumni recently received awards from the Wisconsin Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Laura Rhode earned the Pre-Service Educator Mentor Award. Nathan Aschliman earned the Early Career Educator Award.

NIU STEEL BAND

The Center for the Arts presented the Northern Illinois University Steel Band on April 30. Created in 1973, the NIU Steel Band was the first active steel band formed in an American university and has since performed around the world.

NANOWRIMO READOUT

The Writing Center hosted the second annual NaNoWriMo Readout on April 10. At the event, participants read portions of the novels they wrote during National Novel Writing Month, held last November. During NaNoWriMo, participants try to write a 50,000-word novel. The NaNoWriMo Readout enables writers to connect with other writers, share their work, and enjoy listening to other writers’ stories.

STUDENT WRITERS TO SHOWCASE WORK

On April 1, the department of humanities hosted “In Other Words …” a student reading series. Featured student readers included Emily Herrick, a professional writing major; Austin Callaway, an English/German/Spanish major; and Ben Lewis, an English major. Jennifer Kerske, a senior computer science major and published fiction writer, served as program host.

NELSON WINS NATIONAL ACADEMIC ADVISING AWARD

The National Academic Advising Association has awarded Dr. Travis Nelson, Associate Professor of political science, the Outstanding Advising Award – Faculty Academic Advising. He will be honored at a special awards ceremony and reception at the annual NACADA Conference in Minneapolis, Minn., this fall.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

The Thomas Hickey Creative Writing Awards Contest fiction and poetry winners have been announced. Fiction winners: Alex Houghton won first place for Falling Slowly, Priscilla Breininger won second place for Hunger, and Ashlee Frey won third place for The Times She Bought Him Coffee. Poetry winners: Antonio Bouxa won first place for Café Paraíso Noir, Matthew Mutiva won second place for Offended, and Kaitlin White won third place for Daily List. Winners were determined by guest judges/authors Erin Belieu and Xhenet Aliu.
**VISITING WRITERS READING**

Franco Pagnucci, Emeritus Professor of English who taught at UW-Platteville from 1968 until 2000, read poetry from his newly released book, *Tracks* (2014), at the Visiting Writers Reading on April 9. Pagnucci was joined by his wife, Susan Pagnucci, a writer, editor, and artist who displayed her hand-crafted books, many of which featured her husband’s poetry. Susan taught at UW-Platteville from 1997 until 2000.

**NEW COURSE ON SATIRE TO BE OFFERED**

This fall, UW-Platteville will offer a new course, Satire: From Swift to “South Park,” as part of its Thematic Studies in Literature course offerings. “A study of satire will not only teach students something about a particular literary genre, but it will also provide a window into the ways in which writers and other artists have used their art as a means of challenging institutions of power and social norms,” said Dr. David Gillota, Assistant Professor of English, who will teach the course.

**FORKED TONGUES, FORKED ROADS**

The English and Spanish programs celebrated the contributions of English poet William Shakespeare and Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra at the two-day, 1616 Forked Tongues, Forked Roads language event on April 22–23. “The event gave people a chance to talk about the historical time in which these authors lived and discuss what they represented to the English and Spanish worlds,” said Dr. Beatriz Botero, Professor of Spanish.

**FILM BULLY**

In April, three UW-Platteville student organizations hosted a campus-wide showing of *Bully*, an award-winning documentary about bullying in United States schools. The student organizations included Students Planning for Success, Students for Peace and Justice, and Kappa Delta Pi. The showing of the documentary was followed by a discussion facilitated by Dr. Rea Kirk, Professor of education.

**CANDITO READS AT L.A. TIMES’ FESTIVAL OF BOOKS**

Dr. Kara Candito, Assistant Professor of creative writing and English literature, read selections of her poetry at the *Los Angeles Times* Festival of Books on April 12 at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Calif. The reading coincided with the release of her second collection of poetry, *Spectator*, which centers on the struggle of a United States citizen and a Mexican citizen to find a common space and language in their relationship while navigating the U.S. immigration system.

**SWINGING FOR SCHOLARSHIPS**

Dr. Barry Ellis, Professor of fine arts and Director of bands; Allen Cordingley, Instructor of saxophone/jazz studies; and Monte Muller, UW-Platteville alumnus, invite you to join them in supporting the music program’s scholarship program by attending "Swinging for Scholarships" on Friday, June 13 at the Platteville Golf and Country Club in Platteville, Wis. The event will include a golf outing, social, and live music. Last year, more than $6,700 was raised and awarded to incoming and current students who were majoring or minoring in music. To register and for disability accommodations, contact Katie Friar, Alumni Services, UW-Platteville, at 608.342.6135 or register online at http://alumni.uwplatt.edu/events/event_details.asp?id=410457&group=. Registration deadline is Friday, June 6.

**WISCONSIN BRASS QUINTET**

The Center for the Arts presented the Wisconsin Brass Quintet on April 13. The quintet is a faculty ensemble-in-residence at the UW-Madison School of Music with a commitment to commissioning new music and performing music of the 20th and 21st centuries.

**GODSPELL**

Performances of *Godspell* were held April 3–5. Drawn from a variety of theatrical and musical styles including pantomime, charades, pop/folk rock, gospel, and vaudeville, the musical is known as a contemporary reflection on the life of Jesus, focusing on his precepts of kindness, tolerance, and love.

**HAIR**

The Center for the Arts presented *Hair*, a musical about teenagers searching for truth, peace, and love during the Vietnam War-era, on April 17 in the Richard and Helen Brodbeck Concert Hall.

**SYMPHONIC WIND ENSEMBLE TOUR**

The Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed its final concert on April 23. The concert featured Rebekah Demaree, music Lecturer, and Corey Mackey, Professor of clarinet, as soloists. The Symphonic Wind Ensemble and UW-Platteville’s Jazz I Ensemble then toured and performed in high schools throughout the area April 24–25.
Discovering the Penokees

Author/Photographer Joel Austin shared his photography of northern Wisconsin and discussed taconite mining on April 9. The lecture was co-sponsored by Students for Peace and Justice and the social and environmental justice program at UW-Platteville. Austin hopes his photos of the Penokee Hills of northern Wisconsin, remnants of a 1.8 billion-year-old mountain range located in the Bad River watershed near Lake Superior, will “spread awareness of this beautiful place that has been so overlooked by Wisconsinites—to show how pristine and intact this ecosystem is.” He also discussed the economic, public health, and environmental impact that a proposed taconite mine, the largest of its kind in the world, would have on the local communities and on the rivers, forests, and wetlands.

Trip to Rome

Jennifer Krahn, Education Abroad Outreach Specialist, and Dr. Travis Nelson, Assistant Professor of political science and Coordinator of the international studies program, conducted a site review of the study abroad program at the American University of Rome. Highlights included attending an art history class at the Vatican, visiting a Roma camp outside the city with a sociology class, and participating in a field trip to Pompeii and Naples.

Crisis in Venezuela

UW-Platteville hosted a panel discussion and forum, “Crisis in Venezuela,” on April 23 in the Lundeen Lecture Hall. Sponsored by Students for Peace and Justice, the department of social sciences, and the social and environmental justice program, the forum informed students and community members about recent developments in Venezuela, a country on the northern coast of South America that has a long history of political and social conflict between neo-liberal and populist groups. Dr. Mark Evenson, Professor of Spanish; Dr. Melissa Gormley, Professor of history; and Dr. Rich Waugh, Professor of geography; presented.

Catching up with …

Dr. Shan Sappleton
Assistant Professor of Political Science

Sappleton joined the faculty in fall 2013 and teaches courses in Comparative Politics, International Relations, and African Politics.

What are some of the topics you discuss in your courses?

In Comparative Politics, we cover topics ranging from what is a state to how states are formed and the relationship between strength of civil society and the governance of a country. We also explore the similarities and differences between and among democracies and authoritarian regimes.

The International Relations course is largely theoretically based, but it also examines real-world cases such as Iran and North Korea's nuclear programs and the international community's responses to these. Other topics covered in the course include international trade and globalization, international organizations such as the United Nations, international law, and human rights as well as the environment.

In African Politics, we examine the historical context of the rise of modern African states (as we know them today), pre-colonial African governance structures and the strengths and weaknesses of the existing political/economic institutions in African countries. Additionally, the course explores the role of women political leaders and representatives in containing war in conflict-prone African countries.

How do you hope your classes help prepare students for their careers and their lives?

In my classes, there is a heavy emphasis placed not only on theoretical concepts, but also on how these theories help us to explain and understand world events from various perspectives. I believe that being able to view events and issues from multiple perspectives helps prepare our students to be better problem-solvers in the world. I also think that the more exposed students are to different ways of looking at the world, the more likely they are to be more respectful and appreciative of others' individual and/or cultural differences.

Dr. Claudine Pied
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Pied joined the faculty in fall 2013 and teaches courses in Introductory Anthropology; Cultural Anthropology; Human Relations; Rural Sociology; and Women, Sex Roles, and Society.

What do you enjoy most about teaching your courses?

Central to most of the courses I teach are questions that urge us to examine and rethink the world and our place in it. This can be an uncomfortable process at times, particularly when we are asked to think about our own roles in reproducing social inequalities, but it is also very rewarding. The courses also ask students to relate complex ideas about culture, society, race, class, and gender to their own lives and experiences, so each semester I get to learn about their stories, ideas, and interpretations.

How do you hope your classes help prepare students for their careers and lives?

Sociology and anthropology can prepare students for careers in public policy, social work, public health, education, and international development. Class activities, though, also translate well to many different careers: distilling complicated theory into clear points, articulating and defending ideas, writing in a variety of different formats, and learning from disagreements with classmates. I also hope students become more aware of and open to differences in ways of thinking and living around the globe. This is important knowledge as careers become increasingly shaped by global connections. More generally, though, I hope students take with them inquisitiveness and a desire to more deeply understand and solve problems.