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

It’s been a busy summer in Platteville. A large delegation traveled to Brazil at the end of May to create or enhance relationships with a variety of Brazilian universities interested in partnering with UW-Platteville for student and faculty exchanges. I was part of that delegation, as was Dr. Melissa Gormley of the department of history. It was a fascinating and invigorating trip, resulting in some terrific opportunities for interested students and faculty members. We returned June 9, and a week later, two tornadoes hit Platteville—one, an EF-2, damaged the south side of campus and town, and the other, an EF-1, started about ½ mile northwest of the golf course and tore up part of it. So, much of the summer was focused on repair of tornado damage, though, for LAE, only a few operations were affected (practice areas for the Marching Pioneers, the Heartland Festival, and some destroyed equipment being stored in Southwest Hall). That being said, last week we were ready to welcome our largest incoming first-year class ever, as well as twenty or so new faculty and academic staff. It’s an exciting time to be at UW-Platteville!

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION RECEIVES $75,000 TECHNOLOGY GRANT

The School of Education, in partnership with the Mineral Point School District, received a nearly $75,000 grant from the Wisconsin Technology Initiative that will provide interactive technology to enhance the training of teacher education students. The technology will include whiteboards, mobile devices, remote access endpoints, and other technological equipment.

“This new technology will greatly enhance the training of teacher candidates and help prepare them for their future careers,” said Dr. Karen Stinson, Director of the School of Education. “It will enable them to learn, observe, and practice engaging in innovative classroom instructional methods for PreK–12 students.”

LARSON AWARDED NSF RESEARCH GRANT

Dr. Evan Larson, Assistant Professor of geography, along with his co-principal investigator Dr. Kurt Kipfmueller, Associate Professor of geography at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, was recently awarded a $310,000 grant from the Geography and Spatial Sciences program at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, Va. Of the total award, more than $210,000 will go toward supporting research efforts at UW-Platteville examining the historical role of fire in the forests of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness of northern Minnesota in an effort to identify influences of past Ojibwe land use on the area’s vegetation communities.

CANDITO RECEIVES PUSHCART PRIZE

The prestigious Pushcart Prize has been awarded to Dr. Kara Candito, Assistant Professor of creative writing and English literature, for her poem *Monologue during a Blackout*, first published in *jubilat*. Candito is the first faculty member at UW-Platteville to win this award. Her winning poem and the other winners’ works—including essays, memoirs, poetry, and short stories—will be published in the 2015 Pushcart Prize XXXIX: Best of the Small Presses anthology.
The College of LAE’s department of social sciences was officially divided into three separate departments, effective July 1. The new departments include the department of geography, the department of history, and the department of social sciences.

Dr. Melissa Gormley, Associate Professor of history and Director of women’s and gender studies, is chair of the new department of history as well as interim chair of the department of geography.

Dr. John Rink, Professor of political science at UW-Platteville, is chair of the new department of social sciences. Rink also serves as the advisor to the Pre-Law Club at UW-Platteville and mock trial and mediation teams.

Social Sciences Divided into Three Departments

German Police Academy Students Visit Campus

A delegation of eight students and two instructors from the Brandenburg State Police Academy and College in Oranienburg, Germany, visited UW-Platteville June 16–26. The students visited as part of an alternating host site collaboration between the Brandenburg State Police Academy and College and UW-Platteville’s Department of Criminal Justice.

“Students in the program learned about the history of each country’s criminal justice system and how they can be so different and yet serve the same purpose,” said Dr. Valerie R. Stackman, Assistant Professor of criminal justice. “The cultural immersion aspect of these trips will assist with preparing both the German police students and UW-Platteville’s criminal justice students to enter a community that is rapidly becoming globalized.”

German Police Academy Students Help Map Cemetery

Geography majors Cassie Jorgenson and Katie Wiederholt are using special computer software to help map the East Side Cemetery in Dodgeville, Wis., as part of a summer internship with the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Platteville. Data they are collecting will be used to create an online database and query tool that will enable Dodgeville residents to locate their descendants in the oldest cemetery in the state.

Congratulations

Dr. Dong Isbister, top left, Assistant Professor of women’s and gender studies, was selected by the UW System Office of Professional and Instructional Development to serve as a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow for the 2014–15 academic year. As a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow, Isbister will share ideas and best practices in education in a series of institutes and seminars with colleagues across the UW System while researching a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning topic that facilitates increased student learning in the classroom.

Dr. David Krugler, top right, Professor of history, received the UW-Platteville 2014 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor, this annual award recognizes a tenure-track or tenured faculty member who has made distinguished contributions to the mission of the university as an outstanding teacher.

Dr. Travis Nelson, bottom left, Associate Professor of political science, was named UW-Platteville’s Outstanding Academic Advisor for the 2013–14 academic year. The purpose of the award is to recognize UW-Platteville faculty who are making critical contributions to the educational environment through advising.

Lakisha Clinton, bottom right, political science major and 2014 UW-Platteville graduate, has received the UW System’s Outstanding Woman of Color Award for 2014. This award recognizes female faculty, staff, and students of color at UW-Platteville, as well as women of color in the Platteville community who exemplify a strong will in overcoming adversity by achieving excellence in social justice and activism with specific attention paid to disadvantaged populations.

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FACULTY GALA

To kick off the 2014–15 academic year, the UW-Platteville music faculty performed in the Faculty Gala on Sept. 7 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. The afternoon was filled with musical solo performances, ensembles, and unique collaborations.

“The concert was a great way to get university students, faculty and staff, as well as community members, excited about making music,” said Dr. Thomas Dickey, Director of Orchestral Activities. “It exposed them to types of music they may not have had an opportunity to hear on a regular basis, which will expand the depth of their musical experiences.”

MUSIC IN THE PARK

UW-Platteville education alumna Riley Schultz and her folk band “The Matriarchs” performed at Music in the Park on Aug. 7 at City Park in Platteville. Members of the all-female band, based in Galena, Ill., include Schultz, who plays the fiddle, mandolin, and guitar; Lily Sprengelmeyer, who plays banjo, guitar, harmonica and percussion; and Pearl Olson, who plays upright bass and guitar.

MISSOULA CHILDREN’S THEATRE

UW-Platteville’s Heartland Festival welcomed the Missoula Children’s Theatre to the Center for the Arts with performances of The Secret Garden, on July 11–12. The theatre’s mission is to develop life skills in children through participation in the performing arts. The tour team arrived with a set, lights, costumes, props, and make-up. Local and area students between the ages of 7 and 18 performed in the production.

CHILDREN MEET SHREK AND FIONA

More than 200 area children had the opportunity to meet Shrek and Princess Fiona, the main characters from Shrek the Musical during a library tour held in June and July. The tour was organized by Carolyn Schuler, Director of the Platteville Public Library, and was held at libraries in Platteville, Hazel Green, Livingston, Dodgeville, Boscobel, Fennimore, Lancaster, and Darlington.

SHREK THE MUSICAL

Shrek the Musical was the final production in UW-Platteville’s 13th season of the Heartland Festival, opening on July 6 and running through July 20. The production was choreographed by Connie Saloutos Furlan, with music direction by Lizzie Hansen, scenic design by Jeffrey Strange, costume design by Sarah Woodworth, and lighting design by Ben Golden.

“We assembled a wonderful production team and cast who vividly brought this charming, modern fairytale to life,” said Dr. David Schuler, Associate Professor of theatre and the show's director. “Full of memorable songs, energetic dancing, and fabulous costumes and scenery, it was a fun-filled production for everyone.”

STEPHEN SHEPHERD RELEASES NEW ALBUM

Stephen Shepherd’s sixth album, Livin’ on Borrowed Time, recorded at Catamount Studios in Cedar Falls, Iowa, from January to July 2014, was recently released. It is up on Airplay Direct, a clearing house where more than 13,000 radio stations in 90 countries have access to download new music recordings. Shepherd is a Senior Lecturer of English Composition I and II.

Shepherd’s single, Livin On Borrowed Time, is currently at #28 on the New Music Weekly Top 30 Indie Chart and #33 on the New Music Weekly Country Internet Chart. It is designated as a “prime mover,” which means it is expected to move up the chart quickly. To listen to Hammock Time, one of the songs on the album, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2m6FJZGvM0
Sarah Strange, Lecturer in theatre, Resident Costume Designer and Costume Shop Manager, began teaching at UW-Platteville in fall 2013. She teaches Introduction to Theatre, Introduction to Design, Introduction to Costume Design and Construction, Costume Design, Advanced Sewing Skills, and Stage Makeup and Theatrical Styles, in addition to designing Pioneer Players productions.

Originally from St. Louis, Mo., Strange completed a Bachelor of Science in Theatre Design and Technology at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in Edwardsville, Ill., and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Costume Design from UW-Madison. Her work has been seen throughout the United States as well as internationally at the Prague Fringe Festival in 2009. She designed costumes for the Children's Theatre of Madison's *Fiddler on the Roof*, held at the Playhouse at the Overture Center in Madison, Wis. She also designed the costumes for *Dr. Faustus* with The American Shakespeare Center in Staunton, Va.

With the UW-Platteville Theatre’s Pioneer Players, Strange designed the costumes for *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead; Tartuffe; Ghosts; The Normal Heart; 'night, Mother;* and *Godspell*. She also designed the costumes for the 2013 Heartland Festival production *Fiddler on the Roof* and the 2014 Heartland Festival production *Shrek the Musical*.

"My students are so energetic and hungry to learn the next thing," said Strange. "They are some of the most dedicated and genuine people I have ever met. My courses remind me every day why I chose to go into this field. They keep me excited and ready to challenge my students and myself. There is nothing better than sharing what I am passionate about with others. I especially love showing my students that nothing is impossible.

“I love the variety in my profession, but my favorite part is seeing everything come together. Sometimes, when an actor puts on his or her costume in a fitting, there is a magical moment when he or she transforms and becomes the character. I live for those moments.”

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Dr. James Romesburg, Assistant Professor of English at UW-Platteville since fall 2013, has been teaching first-year composition, professional writing, and literature at the university level for 14 years. He currently teaches Freshman Composition I and II. Romesburg completed his master’s and bachelor’s degrees in English at Clemson University in Clemson, S.C., and received his Ph.D. from the Rhetoric and Composition Program at the University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky., in August 2011.

Romesburg’s research interests focus mainly on the role formal literacy education plays in working-class lives—particularly the literacy practices first-generation and non-traditional students bring to their college writing classrooms and how literacies that deviate from the academic/rational rhetorical paradigm are received in higher education.

"I have been impressed by my students' intellectual curiosity and genuine enthusiasm for learning," said Romesburg. "My last school was a large, urban university with increasingly competitive admissions, and I’ve forged great relationships with many of those students over the years. I’ve found that my UW-Platteville students not only possess all the academic skills my former writing students brought to class, they are also remarkably earnest, patient, and cheerful by nature. It may be a cultural, Midwest phenomenon, but my UW-Platteville students make it impossible for me to take a cynical approach to my job, and I love coming to class each day.”