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

We are well into the fall 2014 semester (in fact, midterm exams are approaching). There is a great energy to campus these days—the change in seasons seems to bring out the cheer in our students! Campus is beautiful; we show off our fall colors very well. We’ve just ended Homecoming—watching the Marching Pioneers open the parade, in their new uniforms, brought a tear to my eye. I am so grateful that I was able to find the funds to finance the purchase, and I am so grateful to the friends of the College who have helped to augment the College’s budget so generously. We are also immersed in a number of searches for tenure-track faculty and for department chairs as well, so the College continues to grow and respond to students’ interests and needs. Our work, of course, is ultimately for our students, and it’s clear that every day is a great day to be a Pioneer!

VISITING LECTURER DISCUSSES CUBA

Dr. Ernesto Dominguez López, a History and Political Science Professor at the University of Havana, Cuba, discussed Cuba’s relevance in the 21st century at “Cuba’s New Now” on Oct. 2 at the Markee Pioneer Student Center. López addressed how Cuba has embraced innovation, particularly since the end of the Cold War. He also discussed how Cuba has developed sustainable agriculture, funded biomedical breakthroughs, embraced tourism, strengthened medical care in developing countries, maintained its social safety net despite numerous economic challenges, and continued to pursue an independent course in revolutionary ways.

FACULTY FORUM DECODES PRE-WWI IMAGES OF GERMANY

The College of LAE hosted its first faculty forum of the fall semester, “Foreshadowing 1914: Pre-war images of Germany, France, Great Britain, and the United States,” on Oct. 2. Dr. Madelon Köhler-Busch, Assistant Professor of German, presented and Dr. Adam Stanley, Associate Professor of history, responded. Köhler-Busch’s presentation chronicled and decoded pre-WWI images of Germany used in the United States, France, and Great Britain. She discussed how the images of Germany changed as first France and Great Britain and later, the United States, made the decision to enter the war and how the images changed public opinion about Germany, the German people, and the war.

CHOQUET READS AT ‘INTERNATIONALLY, DUBUQUE’

On Sept. 19, Dr. Marianne Choquet served as master of ceremonies and one of the featured readers at “Internationally, Dubuque” at the Voices Warehouse Gallery in Dubuque, Iowa. “Internationally, Dubuque,” partially sponsored by UW-Platteville’s Department of Humanities, was a celebration of stories, poems, and music featuring current residents of the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program. The event was part of “Voices in the Warehouse,” an annual, month-long art exhibit and cultural event in Dubuque’s Historic Millwork District. At least 15 UW-Platteville English and creative writing students attended the event.

Distinguished Educator Award: Kathleen Blum, right, elementary education (Westview Elementary School, Platteville)
Distinguished Educator Award: Dani Crase, left, middle level education (Platteville Middle School, Platteville)
Professional Achievement Award: Ellen J. Schwartz, criminal justice (Captain of Police, retired, City of Madison Police Department; Current position: Green County Rural Populations Advocate and Outreach Coordinator, Sexual Assault Recovery Program)
Arts and Letters Hall of Fame Award: G. Dan Fairchild, music (Department of Performing and Visual Arts, UW-Platteville)
HAYES NAMED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Brittney Hayes, a senior political science major and social and environmental justice minor, was recently named Family Advocates Inc. Volunteer of the Year. Hayes completed a field work project with Family Advocates as a part of her social and environmental justice minor. From February through July, she volunteered 240 hours to provide assistance to support group members in the shelter and lead learning and recreational activities for the children whose parents were attending the support group. Hayes is now working part time at Family Advocates in a support staff position.

HISTORY STUDENTS GAIN INSIGHT THROUGH INTERNSHIPS

Cody Grabhorn, left, a senior history and political science major from Brownsville, Minn., and Matt Smaga, right, a senior social science with a history emphasis and secondary education major from Palatine, Illinois, recently completed internships that allowed them to apply their knowledge from their history courses and gain insight and practical work experience in their chosen careers. Grabhorn completed historical research during an internship with Taliesin Preservation Inc. and the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation in Spring Green, Wisconsin. Smaga served as a program intern at the Chicago History Museum in Chicago, Illinois. Tracey Roberts, Senior Lecturer of history at UW-Platteville, was the instructor for Smaga's internship at the Chicago History Museum. She was also the instructor for Grabhorn’s History of Wisconsin course last fall.

ART STUDENTS WIN SECOND PLACE IN VOICES ART SLAM

Three UW-Platteville students won second place in the Voices Art Slam 2014 arts and cultural event competition in Dubuque, Iowa, on Sept. 20. The prize of $500 was divided evenly between them. The students included Laura Grotjan, a senior fine art major from Neenah, Wisconsin; Ben Hying, a senior graphic design major from Dollar Bay, Michigan; and Robert Jinkins, a current sculpture student at UW-Platteville from Rewey, Wisconsin.

“It can be very challenging to create while under pressure,” said Greg Nelson, Assistant Professor of art at UW-Platteville. “These students were under pressure for 90 minutes to complete the work and be on stage as the audience watched their painting evolve. They performed exceptionally well and I admire their achievement. They should be extremely proud.”

FALL INTO ART

More than 50 UW-Platteville graphic design, studio art, and art education students exhibited their work in the “Fall into Art” gallery tour on Oct. 3–4 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Dubuque, Iowa. The UW-Platteville exhibit showcased more than 100 pieces that the students created, including two- and three-dimensional art, paintings, drawings, graphic design, ceramics, sculptures, photography, and more.

“Preparing for the ‘Fall into Art’ gallery tour exhibition is a great learning experience for the students,” said Greg Nelson, Assistant Professor of art at UW-Platteville. “This is an excellent opportunity for them to prepare and show their work in a much larger community to a much broader range of people.”

STUDENT ARTWORK ENHANCES LIBRARY

Four new pieces of UW-Platteville student artwork were recently installed in the Elton S. Karrmann Library. “Autumn Leaves,” a tile mural, was created by Janice K. Johnson from Mineral Point, Wisconsin. An untitled drawing of a young male student climbing a mountain of books was created by JeaHun Jung, a sophomore fine arts major from South Korea. “A Metaphor for the Acquisition of Knowledge,” an oil painting, was created by Laura Grotjan, a senior fine arts major from Neenah, Wisconsin. “Equality for All,” a quilted wall hanging, was created by 14 students in Senior Art Lecturer Carole Spelić’s Crafts I: Fibers and Fabrics course last spring.

HISTORY STUDENTS EXAMINE 18TH CENTURY DOCUMENTS

Thirteen UW-Platteville students had the opportunity to examine 18th century documents from the archives at UW-Madison. These documents were a series of letters, deeds, and accounts from the colony of New York on the eve of the American Revolution. The students are enrolled in the Colonial American History course taught by Dr. Eugene Tesdahl.
TAICHI NIGHT AND CHINESE EXPO

The Confucius Institute hosted Taichi Night on Sept. 23 at the First English Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Platteville. Community members were introduced to Chinese traditions, people, and culture by learning Taichi, an ancient Chinese martial art movement whose form focuses the mind and challenges the body.

The Confucius Institute hosted Chinese Expo on Sept. 24 at the Markee Pioneer Student Center. Members of the university community were introduced to Chinese traditions, people, and culture through breakout sessions about Taichi, Mandarin language, tea making, calligraphy, and Chinese names.

AWARD-WINNING POETS READ ON CAMPUS

Two nationally published poets read for the department of humanities’ Visiting Writers Reading Series on Sept. 10. Featured poets included Lauren K. Alleyne, left, Assistant Professor of English and the poet-in-residence at the University of Dubuque in Dubuque, Iowa, and Dr. Kara Candito, right, Assistant Professor of creative writing and English literature at UW-Platteville. Alleyne read from her first collection, Difficult Fruit, and from some of her newer body of work. Candito read from her second collection of poetry, Spectator, and shared poems from her third manuscript.

KASSIA RECITAL FEATURED WOMEN OF COURAGE

The department of performing and visual arts hosted its fifth Kassia faculty chamber recital on Sept. 21. The recital’s main purpose was to inform students, faculty, staff, and community members about the lives and experiences of two groups of courageous women in history: the female pioneers of Alaska and the wives of Henry the VIII. The recital included members of the UW-Platteville vocal ensemble Kassia: Women on the Edge—Dr. Susan Savage Day and Rebekah Demaree, sopranos, and Sharon Jensen, piano; and UW-Platteville faculty member Corey Mackey, clarinet, from the department of performing and visual arts.

PIANOPoETRY III

The UW-Platteville Department of Performing and Visual Arts hosted PianoPoetry III on Sept. 23 at the Center for the Arts Theatre. A sequel to PianoPoetry II, this special event wove language and music together in a unique way that featured the collaboration of Dr. Daniel Dahlquist, Associate Professor of speech at UW-Platteville, and Dr. Eugene Alcalay, Professor of piano at UW-Platteville.

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL

On Oct. 7, about 200 students from tri-state area high school choral programs traveled to UW-Platteville to participate in the annual High School Choral Festival. Visiting students engaged in a day of song with UW-Platteville’s Singing Pioneers and Coro D’Angeli. The event culminated in a concert in the Brodbeck Concert Hall. All five UW-Platteville choirs performed and then the two festival choirs sang. Dr. Robert Demaree, music professor and director of choral activities at UW-Platteville, and Dr. Brian Burns, music lecturer and director of choral activities at UW-Platteville, conducted all performances.

CLARINET RECITAL FEATURED ALEKSANDER

On Sept. 24, UW-Platteville hosted a clarinet recital featuring Dr. Elizabeth Aleksander, Assistant Professor of music at the University of Tennessee at Martin. Her performance included two works with Corey Mackey, Clarinet Professor at UW-Platteville, on clarinet. She was accompanied on piano by Rob Shepard.

KAPPA DELTA PI RETREAT

The Kappa Delta Pi Iota-Rho Chapter at UW-Platteville held a retreat for its 2014–15 officers. The purpose of the retreat was to orient and train new officers, plan meetings, and fundraisers for the year, and discuss new information from Kappa Delta Pi’s regional chapter coordinator. Dr. Rea Kirk and Dr. John Nkemnji serve as advisors to the group.

SONGFEST II

Twenty-five UW-Platteville Chamber Choir members performed in the Dubuque Chorale SongFest II on Oct. 4, at the Heritage Center, University of Dubuque, Dubuque, Iowa.

In addition to UW-Platteville, participating organizations included the Dubuque Chorale and Cadenza, Julien Chamber Choir, Dubuque Music Men Barbershop Chorus, Loras College, Clarke University, University of Dubuque, and Emmaus Bible College, all based in Dubuque.

HONORS RECITAL

Nine UW-Platteville students who distinguished themselves in their jury performance examinations last semester performed in the Performing and Visual Arts Honors Recital on Oct. 5 in the Richard and Helen Brodbeck Concert Hall, Center for the Arts. Congratulations to Mary Arnold, Evan Gawron, Dana Gerhards, Amanda Godin, Emily Hefty, Brett Helwig, Hillary Holland, Grant Liska, and Cody Wisman.
Dr. David Gillota, Assistant Professor of English at UW-Platteville, arrived at the university in fall 2008. He teaches Black Literature in America, American Literature since the Civil War, American Humor, and Freshman Composition I and II. This fall, he is teaching Thematic Studies in Literature, a course focusing on satire. In the past, he has also taught Introduction to Ethnic Studies and Race and Gender in American Film. Gillota received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Miami, Coral Gables, Florida, in 2008, specializing in contemporary American literature and humor.

His critically-acclaimed book *Ethnic Humor in Multiethnic America* was published last year by Rutgers University Press. He has also published essays on American humor in the *Journal of Popular Film and Television* and *Journal of Popular Culture*. An article he recently wrote, *Black Nerds: New Direction in African American Humor*, was recently published in *Studies in American Humor*, the journal of the American Humor Studies Association.

“The students at UW-Platteville are remarkably open and willing to talk about a variety of ideas. Even if it is not directly related to their major, the students here are ready to dive into almost any conversation. In the upper-level courses, a lot of my students are English or English education majors, so the goal is to introduce them to the basics of literary analysis and literary history that they will need one day in their own classrooms.”

“Beyond that, I like to think that my courses help all of my students to refine their analytical skills and their writing skills because those skills will be important for any career. Most importantly, though, I want my students to have the tools to think deeply about their culture and about the world around them: to be active critics, rather than passive consumers, of their culture.”

To read Gillota’s full Pioneer Spotlight, go to: www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-dr-david-gillota.

**College of LAE Picnic**

Seventy-five LAE faculty and staff and their family members enjoyed delicious food and good conversation at the College of LAE Picnic held on Sept. 11 at Legion Park Shelter in Platteville. The College of LAE extends special thanks to Patti Mitch, ITS Specialist/Liaison for College of LAE, for baking and decorating the very delicious LAE cake.