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

The weather is getting chillier as Thanksgiving approaches. We’ve now lost all of the leaves from the trees; I always have a sense of anticipation at this point in the semester. We’re waiting for snow, for finals, for winter commencement. We’ve just concluded mid-term elections and I am hopeful that Governor Walker and the Legislature see the great value of the work our faculty, academic staff, and other personnel engage in every day. The Board of Regents remains very supportive of higher education in Wisconsin. Our students have a seriousness of purpose and a dedication to their disciplines that is obvious—they have been out surveying the campus, going on Geography field trips, appearing in theatre and musical performances, and performing important research. I couldn’t be prouder and remember that every day is a great day to be a Pioneer!

STUDENTS DESIGN/CONSTRUCT FENCE

A decorative hardwood fence designed and constructed by two UW-Platteville sculpture students, Scott Hendrix and Robert Jinkins, was recently installed between McGregor and Royce halls to frame the space dedicated to the university’s new student edible garden. Peter Flanary, Art Lecturer at UW-Platteville, directed the project, which was funded by the university’s Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement and Chris Jones Construction of Cuba City, Wisconsin.

STUDENTS EXPLORE LOCAL GEOLOGY

Dr. Mari Vice, Associate Professor of geology at UW-Platteville, recently took 47 students in her Physical Geology course on a field excursion to a number of locations in Southwest Wisconsin to examine their geological history and learn how geology, geography, and history are connected to one another. Dr. Frank King, Assistant Professor in ethnic studies at UW-Platteville, and John Eads, Geography Lecturer at UW-Platteville, accompanied them on the trip. The trip included stops in Devil’s Lake State Park in Baraboo, Wisconsin as well as in Platteville, Mineral Point, Dodgeville and Spring Green, Wisconsin.

LEITCH AND STEPANIUK ON KDTH

Dr. Daniel Leitch, Associate Professor in the School of Education, along with Inna Stepaniuk, a Fulbright Scholar from Ukraine who is studying on campus this year, discussed Leitch’s time spent teaching in Ukraine as a Fulbright Scholar as well as Stepaniuk’s experiences at UW-Platteville on Cindy Kohlmann’s program on AM1370 KDTH. To hear the radio interview, go to http://bit.ly/1xAGlpi.

An article about Leitch and Stepaniuk, “UW-Platteville hosts Ukranian Fulbright scholar,” was also published in the Dubuque Telegraph Herald on Oct. 13.
LAND OWNERS VOLUNTEER BURR OAKS

In less than two weeks, more than 120 landowners across the state have contacted Sara Allen, Lab Manager and Research Associate of the TREES Lab at UW-Platteville, to volunteer their burr oaks for her research in reconstructing patterns of drought in Southwest Wisconsin over the last three centuries from the tree rings of oaks. The Driftless Oak Project is a two-year project being conducted through the TREES Lab, with funding from the University of Wisconsin Water Resources Institute. With this project, Allen and fellow researchers, guided by Dr. Evan Larson, Assistant Professor of geography at UW-Platteville, are developing a network of tree ring chronologies, or records of tree growth, across Southwest Wisconsin in order to better understand patterns of drought. “Local land owners assist UW-Platteville tree ring research,” an article about the research project, was recently featured on the UW System’s Knowledge Powers Wisconsin website. To read the article, go to www.uwpowerswi.com/local-landowners-assist-uw-platteville-tree-ring-research/.

Public interest in the research has peaked in the recent weeks, thanks to “Driftless Oaks,” an article written by Allen and Larson that was published in the October issue of the Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, a bi-monthly magazine that features articles on nature study, environmental protection, and outdoor recreation. To read the article, go to http://dnr.wi.gov/wnrmag/2014/10/Oak.htm.

KAPPA DELTA PI INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

The Kappa Delta Pi Iota-Rho Chapter at UW-Platteville held an induction ceremony for new members on Oct. 14. The new initiates took part in the ceremony and were recognized for their accomplishments.

VISITING WRITERS READING

Nationally published poets Sean Bishop and Shara Lessley were the guest authors for the department of humanities’ Visiting Writers Reading Series on Oct. 15. Bishop is the author of The Night We’re Not Sleeping In and Lessley is the author of Two-Headed Nightingale.

TESDAHL PRESENTS IROQUOIS CULTURE RESEARCH

Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history at UW-Platteville, recently presented research about the Haudenosaunee culture and spoke on a panel at the Conference on Iroquois Research, held in Java Center, New York. At the conference, Tesdahl presented his paper, “‘In their hands the Indians transport dishes, muslin, and Calanderies’: Haudenosaunee Women Smugglers, 1700-1754,” which examines the ways in which Native women grew as entrepreneurs and diplomats, despite clashes between the French and British empires.

CJ PROFESSORS PRESENT RESEARCH

Dr. Sabina Burton, Associate Professor of criminal justice; Dr. Valerie Stackman, Assistant Professor of criminal justice; Ronald Jacobus III, criminal justice graduate assistant; and Capt. Eric Larsen, Kenosha Police Dept., Kenosha, Wisconsin, a recent MSCJ alumni and Burton’s graduate seminar student, presented their research on human trafficking, crime mapping, cyber criminals, and more at the Midwestern Criminal Justice Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP FAIR

The Confucius Institute held a Scholarship Fair in the Markee Pioneer Student Center on Oct. 15. Hanban, the Confucius Institute headquarters, has launched the Confucius Institute Scholarship Program to encourage students, scholars, and Chinese language teachers worldwide to study Chinese language and culture in China.

WILD THINGS IN THE HUMAN HABITAT

A collection of nine ceramic sculptures and one vase created by Bruce Howdle, Senior Lecturer of art at UW-Platteville, will be on display at the “Wild Things in the Human Habitat” exhibition at the Sugar River Gallery, Verona Area High School, Verona, Wisconsin, through Nov. 21. There will be a closing reception on Nov. 21 from 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Following the show in Verona, eight of Howdle’s relief murals and several other works will be on display at the “Nature Within Human Habitat” exhibition at the Frehner Gallery, Monroe Arts Center, Monroe, Wisconsin, from Dec. 5 through Jan. 30, 2015. There will be an opening reception on Dec. 5 from 5–7 p.m., with an Artist Gallery Talk at 5:30 p.m. The exhibit and opening reception are free and open to the public.

Howdle created the series of ceramic murals to reflect the world that humans have made and the consequences it has for all life. This is the first opportunity for these pieces to be seen as a collective.

SOOFI HAS BOOK PUBLISHED

Global Mergers and Acquisitions: Combining Companies Across Borders, the latest book of Dr. Abdol Soofi, Professor of economics at UW-Platteville, was published by Business Expert Press in August. Dr. Zhang Yuqin, Assistant Professor of economics at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, China, co-authored the book.
**LIVIN’ ON BORROWED TIME**

On Oct. 31, Stephen Shepherd's song *Livin’ On Borrowed Time* appeared at #2 on the New Music Weekly Main Artist Internet Chart, at #2 on the New Music Weekly Top 35 Indie Chart, and at #14 on the International Country Music Chart. Six songs from his new album *Livin’ On Borrowed Time* appeared recently on the initial Grammy nomination ballot. Shepherd is a Senior Lecturer of English Composition I and II.

**CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE CULTURE SERIES**

The Confucius Institute is hosting a series on modern Chinese and American cultures this fall, taught by Confucius Institute instructors from China. Participants will have the opportunity to listen to and learn from others' cultural experiences, join discussions about aspects of modern Chinese life and how they compare to modern American life, and share their own ideas and perspectives. For a list of topics and dates, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/friday-features-oct-24-2014.

**OCTUBAWEEN**

On Oct. 29, the department of performing and visual arts' music program hosted its second annual “Octubaween.” The event featured performances by the newly founded Pioneer Brass Choir, a student tuba and euphonium quartet, a student trombone quartet, and a student brass quintet. "This special concert showcased the outstanding student brass chamber groups at UW-Platteville and provided an engaging and relaxed musical experience for community members and their families as well as university students, faculty, and staff,” said David Earll, Music Lecturer at UW-Platteville.

**HALLOWEEN POPS**

On Oct. 31, UW-Platteville’s Symphony Orchestra presented the Halloween Pops concert. Repertoire included music from *Harry Potter* and *Fantasia*. Dr. Thomas Dickey, Director of orchestral activities at UW-Platteville, conducted the orchestra. Guest soloists included Dr. Susan Savage Day, Assistant Professor of music, Vocal Area Coordinator, Director of Opera Workshop, and Musical Director for musical theatre at UW-Platteville; and Rebekah Demaree, Senior Lecturer of applied voice, voice class, and diction at UW-Platteville.

**MARCHING PIONEERS LAST BLAST CONCERT**

On Nov. 2, UW-Platteville’s Marching Pioneers, directed by Matthew Gregg, Senior Lecturer and Associate Director of Bands at UW-Platteville, performed the Last Blast Concert. The program included percussion cadences *George*, *Clean Beats*, the UW-Platteville Pep Tune, the National Anthem, *Land of 1000 Dances*, *Call Me Al*, *Hey Baby*, *Starships*, *Kashmir*, *Dynamite*, *I Want You Back*, *Forget You*, *Souls Bossa Nova*, *Build Me Up Buttercup*, *Creep*, *Secret Agent Man*, and *Alma Mater*.

**THE PILLOWMAN**

The UW-Platteville Department of Performing and Visual Arts- Theatre and Pioneer Players opened the 2014–15 production season with *The Pillowman*, Oct. 15–19. This Olivier and Tony Award-winning play premiered in 2003 and followed the story of Katurian, a writer in a totalitarian dictatorship, who is being interrogated about a series of child murders that closely resemble the events in some of his own short stories.

**WUTHERING HEIGHTS**

On Oct. 21, the Aquila Theatre performed the play adaption of Emily Brontë’s novel *Wuthering Heights*, as part of the Performing Arts Series at the Center of the Arts. The play was a story of passion, revenge, family, class, and the supernatural. Aquila Theatre is renowned for its ability to adapt works of classical literature into mesmerizing live performances.

**GENDER CHOIR CONCERT**

UW-Platteville’s two gender choirs performed on Nov. 9 at the Richard and Helen Brodbeck Concert Hall in the Center for the Arts. The concert featured performances by Coro D’Angeli, a 39-member, advanced women’s chorus at UW-Platteville, and Singing Pioneers, a 49-member, advanced men’s chorus at UW-Platteville, both directed by Dr. Bob Demaree, Professor of music and Director of choral activities at UW-Platteville. The choirs were accompanied by Rob Shepherd, Lecturer at UW-Platteville, on piano, and Dr. Jacqueline Wilson, Assistant Professor at UW-Platteville, on bassoon.

**MARCHING PIONEERS AND DANCE TEAM PERFORM AT LAMBEAU FIELD**

The Marching Pioneers and Pioneer Dance Team performed at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin, on Oct. 2 during halftime of the Green Bay versus Minnesota football game.

**BAND EXTRAVAGANZA**

On Oct. 28, UW-Platteville’s Symphony Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble performed together at the third annual Band Extravaganza concert. Dr. Barry Ellis, Director of bands and Professor of music at UW-Platteville, conducted the Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Matthew Gregg, Senior Lecturer, Associate Director of Bands and Director of the Marching Pioneers at UW-Platteville, conducted the Symphony Band.
**SCOTT SOJA**

Scott Soja, Assistant Professor of health and human performance at UW-Platteville, held a dual appointment as the head athletic trainer in athletics and senior lecturer in health and physical education at the university for the past 13 years, prior to his faculty appointment in fall of 2013. Soja completed a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, with an emphasis in athletic training, from Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California; a Master of Education in Physical Education from the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota; and is working to complete his Doctor of Education with the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. He holds certifications as an athletic trainer by the NATABOC; strength and conditioning specialist by the NSCA; first aid, CPR, and AED instructor by the ARC; and is licensed to practice by the State of Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing.

He has taught first aid/accident prevention/community CPR, physiology of exercise lecture and lab, principles of strength and conditioning, health promotion at the worksite, nutrition, injury prevention and treatment, advanced athletic training, and athletic training/rehabilitation internship at UW-Platteville.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching these courses?**
The thing I like the most is the engagement with the students in the classroom. When I accepted a full-time teaching position, I was not sure if I would have the same level of interaction with the students that I enjoyed as the head athletic trainer. Although I work with the students in a different context, they are still the main reason I enjoy working at UW-Platteville. I also enjoy being able to share the diversity of my education and training with the students. My various degree specialties and certifications allow me to engage students in a wide range of subject matters within the department.

**How does the Dr. Patricia Collins Exercise Science Room enhance students’ learning experiences?**
As an assistant professor in the department of health and human performance, I am excited to be able to utilize the resources and equipment in the recently constructed Patricia Collins exercise science laboratory classroom. This facility will provide students the opportunity to learn the physiological response to exercise and conduct fitness assessment protocols using advanced technology. It will also provide opportunities for undergraduate students to conduct research related to health and exercise science.

**What qualities do your students possess that have impressed you the most?**
First and foremost, the students at UW-Platteville are just good, friendly people. In the classroom, I have found students to be inquisitive. They continually challenge me with insightful questions and perceptive observations. They also exhibit a true appetite for learning, with a constant quest for understanding new philosophies, discoveries, and methods in the health sciences.

To read the complete Spotlight, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-scott-soja.

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**DR. FRANK KING**

Dr. Frank King, Assistant Professor of ethnic studies at UW-Platteville, began teaching at the university in fall 2014. He teaches Introduction to Ethnic Studies as well as Race, Class, and Gender. In these courses, he focuses on the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality and religion. His areas of specialization include hip hop pedagogy, the prison-industrial complex, Afrocentric philosophy, and African American history. Originally from Maryland, King moved to Spokane, Washington, with his wife and two children after serving in the United States Air Force. There, he attended and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education at Eastern Washington University in 2006. In 2013, he received his Ph.D. in American studies. King and his son live in Platteville. His wife, currently in Colorado with their daughter, is a career member of the Air Force.

**What do you most enjoy about teaching ethnic studies?**
I like opening students’ eyes by giving them information that they never may have received before. I also like helping students become critical thinkers. I encourage them to think for themselves and not accept the status quo about what other people should or should not be.

**What has impressed you most about your students?**
In my classes, we have discussed many controversial topics. Throughout all of our conversations, the students have always been very respectful and willing to listen and learn.

**Why are ethnic studies classes so important to a liberal education?**
Because UW-Platteville is known as a STEM school, there is an emphasis placed on science, technology, engineering and mathematics. If we look in the past, we see that all courses of study—whether they be in science, technology, engineering and mathematics or in business, industry, life sciences and agriculture or in liberal arts and education—are affected by ethical issues. Ethnic studies helps people recognize and understand some of the important ethical issues that may arise in future careers and in other life experiences.

**What are the three most important things you hope students take away from your classes?**
First, I hope that students in my classes learn to become independent, critical thinkers in all aspects of their lives so that they can form their own opinions and views about the people and world around them. Second, I hope that students in my classes learn to recognize the humanity in other people and realize that we are all more alike than we are different. And finally, I hope that students in my classes want to be an active part in creating social change that makes this world a better place.

To read the complete Spotlight, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-dr-frank-king.