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

Spring seems to have arrived, in its early phases anyway. We continue to work on budget issues, keeping students and their needs at the top of our financial planning. We are a few weeks away from the spring 2015 commencement, and students are clearly excited about graduating and joining the world of work or graduate school, or both. We know that we’ve prepared them well for either endeavor, through our demanding majors and our emphasis on core education. I remain committed to demonstrating how the College of Liberal Arts and Education remains crucial to meeting the mission of our university. We aren’t going anywhere, and we will continue to teach the liberal arts with pride, since every day is a great day to be an educated Pioneer!

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM FEATURED ON WISCONSIN PUBLIC RADIO

Twenty-five students from UW-Platteville are helping facilitate restorative justice gardening courses with more than 15 inmates at the Prairie du Chien Correctional Institution in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. The students are enrolled in the Victimology and Restorative Justice course, taught by Dr. Amy Nemmetz, Assistant Professor of criminal justice at UW-Platteville.

The program was recently featured on Wisconsin Public Radio, after it had received UW-Platteville’s press release about the program. To listen to the program, go to www.wpr.org/program-uses-gardening-help-wisconsin-prisoners-make-amends.

RACE IN AMERICA: CAN WE TALK ABOUT IT?

The College of LAE hosted “Race in America: Can We Talk About It?,” a series of forums designed to examine issues and solutions related to race in America. The forums were sponsored by the College of LAE’s ethnic studies program, diversity committee and social and environmental justice program. The series included “Affirmative Action: Myth and Realities” on April 1, presented by Dr. Rosalyn Broussard, Professor of political science, and Margaret Karsten, Professor of business; “Crisis in American Policing: What We Can Do About It!” on April 8, presented by David Couper, a retired police chief, pastor, poet and author, and Dr. Travis Nelson, Associate Professor of political science; and “Teaching Activism in the Classroom” on April 14, presented by Dr. Frank King, Assistant Professor of ethnic studies.

FORUMS ADDRESS HISTORY OF U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

The department of history and Confucius Institute co-hosted three open forums on the history of United States-China relations, including “Origins of Sino-American Relations” on April 1, presented by Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history, and Dr. Chengfa (Victor) Yu, Chinese Instructor and Assistant Director of the Confucius Institute; “Second Industrial Revolution” on April 14, presented by Dr. David Krugler, Professor of history, and Kunqu (Kathy) Zhang, Chinese Instructor of the Confucius Institute; and “Transformations of the Trans-Pacific World after World War II: Cultural Social and Economic Exchanges and Changes in the United States and People’s Republic of China” on April 27, presented by Dr. Joong-Jae Lee, Associate Professor of history, and Ran (Jennifer) Hao, Chinese Instructor of the Confucius Institute.

STEPANIUK VISITS WILLOWGLEN ACADEMY

Inna Stepaniuk, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Ukraine, School of Education, visited Willowglen Academy in Freeport, Illinois, on March 24–25. The academy is a private school for students ages 6 to 21 who need behavior care. Stepaniuk is studying diversity and inclusion of special needs children in U.S. classrooms. To read more about her visit, see the Journal-Standard article, written by Cindy Scott Day: www.journalstandard.com/article/20150325/NEWS/150329568/?Start=1.

FORUM EXAMINES HUMOR AND IDEAS OF AMERICA IDENTITY

About 25–30 people attended the “Stand-Up Comedy in America,” faculty forum on April 2. Dr. David Gillotta, Assistant Professor of English, discussed the ways in which stand-up comedy can be used to explore some of the most important questions about the nature of American identity. Dr. Frank King, Assistant Professor of ethnic studies, discussed how Hip Hop and comedy both make connections to issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and religion.

STUDENT DEVELOPS HISTORY RESEARCH

Through her work in the Southwest Wisconsin Room, Amy Jelle, a senior or history major, has unique opportunities to handle rare historical documents and develop research. To find out more, view the video clip “History in the Making”: www.uwplatt.edu/news/student-develops-history-research. Video by Tyler Ensrude.
IVANOV AND STEPANIUK PRESENT AT PANEL

Dr. Andrey Ivanov, Assistant Professor of history, and Inna Stepaniuk, Fulbright Visiting Scholar, Ukraine, in the School of Education and Assistant Professor at Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University in Ukraine, recently presented at “One Year Later: The Ukrainian Crisis – A Panel Looking Back and Moving Forward” at the Wisconsin South Union at UW-Madison. Approximately 40 UW-Madison faculty, students, alumni, and residents of Wisconsin were in attendance.

Co-sponsored by UW-Madison’s Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia and the Wisconsin Union Directorate’s Society and Politics Committee, the panel was designed to discuss the development of the crisis in Ukraine and Eastern Europe during the last year and the future prospects and options for solving the crisis.

UW-PLATTEVILLE RECOGNIZES TWO AREA TEACHERS

The School of Education recognized two area teachers at an awards ceremony on April 12 at the Concourse Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Association of Colleges for Teacher Education sponsored the event. Jill Ingersoll, fifth grade teacher at Southwestern Elementary School in Hazel Green, Wisconsin, was recognized for her outstanding work with pre-service teachers. Ingersoll has both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from UW-Platteville. Jessica Soots, kindergarten teacher at Neal Wilkins Early Learning Center in Platteville, was recognized for excellence as an early career teacher. She is a 2012 graduate of UW-Platteville.

CREATIVE WRITING FESTIVAL

The department of humanities will host its annual Creative Writing Festival on April 28 in the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery. The festival’s featured reader will be Cuban American novelist and short story writer Jennine Capó Crucet, who will read selections from her work. The Creative Writing Festival will also feature readings by the student winners of the 2015 Thomas Hickey Creative Writing Awards. Winners include Matthew Mutiva (first place, poetry), Audrina Kramer (second place, poetry), Emily Herrick (third place, poetry) and Kelsey Bigelow (first place, fiction).

HISTORY STUDENTS PRESENT RESEARCH AT SYMPOSIUM

Three history students presented their research at the History Student Research Symposium in the Markee Pioneer Student Center. Cody Grabhorn, left, presented his research on the Seven Years’ War; Trevor Bohn, center, presented his research on the Black Hawk War; and Samantha Teske, right, presented her research highlighting the lives of two Civil War soldiers from Grant County who served in the American Civil War from 1864–65. Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history, and Dr. Paula Nelson, Professor Emeritus, department of history, introduced the student papers and invited discussion about research and writing about early America. Students Tyler D. Sass and Kyle Hinze were instrumental in organizing the event.

To view a video clip of Bohn discussing the connection between John H. Rountree and the Black Hawk War, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=2KuZemgj7yo. Video by Tyler Tollefson.

ART STUDENTS WORK WITH IPADS

Students in Drawing II, taught by Richard Moninski, Distinguished Lecturer of art, explored the impact digital media has on the art world by using iPads to experiment with digital drawing. View the video at www.uwpb.edu/news/art-students-explore-digital-drawing. Video by Tyler Tollefson.

STUDENTS CONDUCT HHP RESEARCH PROJECT

Five students are conducting a research project to investigate the relationship between resting blood lactate levels and academic performance. The students are enrolled in Health Promotion at the Worksite, Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Advanced Nutrition, taught by Dr. Matthew Rogatzki, Assistant Professor of health and human performance at UW-Platteville. Student researchers include Alyssa Santucci, Mitchell McNett, Peter Peterson, Jenna Webb, and Britanee Samuelson.
UW-PLATTEVILLE STUDENTS TO PROVIDE HEALTH EVENTS

Approximately 22 students are providing health and human performance events for students, faculty, staff and community members through May. The students are enrolled in the Seminar in Health Promotion course, taught by Lisa Emendorfer, Senior Lecturer, curriculum and community engagement, in the department of health and human performance. For more information about the events, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/students-organize-health-events.

2015 MIDWEST FIRE CONFERENCE

UW-Platteville was well represented at the 2015 Midwest Fire Conference, a regional conference held recently at the Grand River Conference Center in Dubuque, Iowa. Martha Green, a senior geography major, presented further advances in her research on the fire history of Castle Mound Pine Forest State Natural Area, located near Black River Falls, Wisconsin. Students in a biogeography course taught by Dr. Evan Larson, Assistant Professor of geography, attended the conference and gathered information they will use in a PACCE project establishing baseline ecological conditions in Memorial Park to help inform restoration following a tornado that tore through Platteville in June 2014.

DRIFTLESS WINDS PERFORMS AT SCHOLARSHIP EVENT

On March 27, UW-Platteville hosted “Driftless Winds and Friends: Mozart and Marinara,” an event that paired a spaghetti dinner with performances of chamber works by W.A. Mozart to raise money for the UW-Platteville Music Scholarship Fund. More than $300 was raised.

A selection of Mozart’s chamber works was performed by the Driftless Winds Trio, a UW-Platteville faculty reed trio comprised of Dr. Jacqueline Wilson, Assistant Professor of music; Dr. Galit Kaunitz, Lecturer of oboe; and Corey Mackey, Lecturer of clarinet.

PIANO RECITAL FEATURES ALCALAY AND GUEST ARTIST

On April 23, the department of performing and visual arts presented a “two pianos and piano four-hands” guest artist and faculty recital in the Richard and Helen Brodbeck Concert Hall. The recital featured Walter Cosand, Pianist and Professor of music at Arizona State University’s School of Music in Tempe, Arizona, and Dr. Eugene Alcalay, Professor of music at UW-Platteville. Repertoire featured piano concerto Over the Snow Mountain and Marsh by Chinese composer Shuhao “Harry” Ma and works by Brahms. While on campus, Cosand also gave a piano master class to a few piano students.

ISBISTER PRESENTS AT FORUM

Dr. Dong Isbister, Assistant Professor of women's and gender studies, presented “Gender and Higher Education in Post-Socialist China: Job Placement and Gender Wage Pay Gaps,” at the cultural forum “What does Gender Mean in College Majors and Career Paths,” sponsored by UW-Platteville’s Confucius Institute on March 27. Isbister discussed major changes in job placement models in the Post-Mao era and their impacts on female graduates’ career choices, paths, and gender wage pay gaps. She emphasized that the interplay of Maoism, Confucianism, and consumerism has complicated gender politics in higher education in Post-Socialist China. In the future, Isbister hopes to do more in-depth research and write a publishable article on the topic.

TESDAHL PRESENTS AT MUSEUM

Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history, presented “Birchbark Canoes, Rapids and Research: Adventure on the Yellow and St. Croix Rivers,” at the Rollo Jamison Museum on March 29 in Platteville. The event was part of the museum’s Winter Lyceum Program.

Earlier in the month, Tesdahl discussed the business of smuggling in colonial North America and his involvement with living history as a French and Indian War-era re-enactor on Ben Franklin’s World, A Podcast about Early American History that aired March 17. To listen to the podcast, go to benfranklinsworld.com/021.

In our efforts to increase attendance of UW-Platteville faculty, staff, and alumni as well as tri-state community members at arts and cultural events on campus, we developed a calendar of campus-wide events. To view this month’s calendar, go to www.uwplatt.edu/uic/arts-cultural-events.
Dr. Barry Ellis, Professor of music and Director of bands at UW-Platteville, has been teaching at UW-Platteville since 1991. He received degrees from Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia; and his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Ellis teaches Beginning and Advanced Instrumental Conducting, Instrumental Music Methods, Wind Literature and Single Reed Woodwind Techniques. He conducts the UW-Platteville Symphonic Wind Ensemble and is the Director of the UW-Platteville Pioneer Summer Music Camp; and Founder and Director of the UW-Platteville Tri-State Honors Band Festival, Wisconsin College and University Faculty Woodwind Ensemble, and Rountree Wind Symphony.

What is the mission of UW-Platteville’s music program?
The majority of the students in the music program are music education majors. Some of our students lean toward performance and some pursue music minors. UW-Platteville’s music program’s mission is for our students to be well equipped to take on different roles, such as teaching, performing, or attending graduate school. Our program is a welcoming environment for all musicians. There’s a place for everyone here.

What makes UW-Platteville’s music program so unique?
We have a fantastic faculty, and I feel like we are a diamond in the rough. In my 20 plus years at UW-Platteville, this is the strongest and most talented faculty we’ve had. Unlike larger schools with a graduate program, all of our students study with faculty, not graduate teaching assistants. This is so important for a young music student in the applied studio. Each student has a one-to-one connection with a faculty specialist in his or her area of performance.

Can you share your thoughts about why cultural-aesthetic enrichment is a vital part of university life?
It’s important to produce art, music, and theatre performances and to share that with students. UW-Platteville’s Center for the Arts is the cultural center for Southwest Wisconsin and our UW-Platteville students, and it’s a great place for enrichment of the arts for students and the community.

To read the complete Pioneer Spotlight, go to www.uwplatt.edu/news/pioneer-spotlight-dr-barry-ellis.