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

As another academic year concludes, I've been reflecting on the financial difficulties and budget cuts we've faced; but I've also been awed, yet again, by LAE's amazing faculty and their dedication to our students. It's clear that our instructors care deeply for those matriculating with us. I am proud of those graduating this month. But I am even more inspired by those with whom I work on a daily basis. Their dedication to this institution, even in the midst of fiscal hardship, is remarkable. I am grateful to be part of this terrific group of people. Next year will not be easy, but we will survive, in part with the able help of our new department leaders, but largely because so many of us feel such a strong connection to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

LA EAWARD WINNERS

The College of LAE recognized the following faculty and staff members for their pursuit of excellence at the LAE Award Recognition Reception held in the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery on April 23.

**Outstanding Academic Advisor**

Dr. Dale Henze, left, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education

The award is given annually to recognize faculty members who make critical contributions to the educational environment of students. Dr. Karen Stinson, Director of the School of Education, and Dr. Rea Kirk, Professor in the School of Education, nominated Henze for the award.

**LAE Outstanding Service Award**

Dr. Lindsay Hollingsworth, center, Assistant Professor in the School of Education

The award is given annually to recognize individuals who have provided outstanding service at the program, departmental, college, and/or university level. Dr. Karen Stinson, Director of the School of Education, and Dr. Rea Kirk, Professor in the School of Education, nominated Hollingsworth for the award.

**LAE Teaching Excellence Award**

Dr. Chris Schulenburg, right, Associate Professor of Spanish

The award is given annually to a full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty member who demonstrates excellence in teaching and a commitment to the department, college, and university. Dr. Terry Burns, English Professor and Chair of the department of humanities, nominated Schulenburg for the award.

ZASADA PRESENTS AT POSTERS IN THE ROTUNDA

Amanda Zasada presented her work as Assistant Director of Opera Workshop and the outreach program Opera-2-Go at the annual Posters in the Rotunda event in Madison. She presented alongside Dr. Susan Savage Day, Associate Professor and Director of Opera Workshop, who served as her faculty advisor for her research.

"Dr. Day has been an amazingly positive figure in my life," said Zasada. "Through our work together, she has given me the knowledge and resources for a successful future, has taught me how to trust when times seem turbulent, and has shown me that life is way more fun if you stay true to yourself."

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](http://www.uwplatt.edu/uic/arts-cultural-events).
SoE Faculty Receive Awards

Congratulations to the following School of Education faculty who received awards:

Nan Welch, Lecturer in the School of Education, and Dr. Dale Henze, Senior Lecturer in the School of Education, recently received the Excellence in Service to Students Award at the National Society of Leadership and Success induction in Velzy Commons. That evening, 107 UW-Platteville students were inducted into the society.

Dr. Daniel Leitch, Associate Professor in the School of Education, received the 2015–16 Wisconsin Teaching Scholar Award, and Dr. Rea Kirk, Professor in the School of Education, received the UW-Platteville 2015 Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence. Both will be honored at convocation in the fall.

Students Attend Voting Rights Act Conference

Ten students and three faculty members recently attended the Voting Rights Act and the Struggle for Democracy: the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 Conference at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The conference aimed to put the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in proper historical context and celebrate the courageous people who made it possible through a vigorous public discussion.

Dr. Rosalyn Broussard, Professor of political science and Director of ethnic studies; Dr. Shan Sappleton, Assistant Professor of political science; and Dr. Adrienne Jones, University Relations Specialist and Lecturer of political science; led the trip.

UW-Platteville students who attended the conference included Gregory Atnip, Tanner Gille, Taylor Hauser, Aaron Kelsey, Megan Kubatzke, Rashad Nelson, Samantha Hamer, Sakara Wages, Colton Hackett, and Nicholas Harnish. The students were from a wide variety of disciplines.

Students Compete in Forensics Tournament

Pioneer Forensics and Debate Team members Mason Hawes and Emily Loux recently competed in the Mid-America Forensics League’s District 4 Qualifying Tournament at South Dakota State University in Brookings, South Dakota. Stephanie Prochaska, also a member of the team, was a spectator, watching rounds to learn about forensic presentations and get ideas about topics and categories she would like to compete in.

The Pioneer Forensics and Debate Team at UW-Platteville is led and coached by Martin Chislom, Speech Lecturer. Other members of the Pioneer forensics team include Paul Krombos, Mikaela Gregory, and Emily Yenter.

Students Help First Graders on Writing Project

School of Education students Alyssa Polzin, Lara Daenti, and Heather Trumpy used VoiceThread, a technological teaching tool, to help first graders in three classrooms at Mineral Point Elementary School complete a writing project. The SoE students are enrolled in the Educational Media Applications course, taught by Jessica Brogley, Lecturer in the School of Education. The VoiceThread project can be viewed by visiting http://goo.gl/R4g7Ko.

Students Create Digital Story about Platteville

Two students from the School of Education showcased UW-Platteville and the community in a unique way—they created a digital story. Lauren Goodale and Erica Friis collaborated to create The ABCs of Platteville, an original creation combining PowerPoint, illustrations, text, and narration. They completed the project for the Oral Language and Emergent Literacy course, taught by Dr. Peggy Marciniec, Associate Professor in the School of Education at UW-Platteville. To view the presentation, go to https://youtu.be/2dsOgTNfjiA.

Art Students Leave their Mark on Campus

Timothy Mehlhorn, center, senior fine arts major; Robert Jinkins, right, senior sculpture major; and Brooke Heacock, left, senior animal science major; have all been selected to each create a piece of art to celebrate UW-Platteville. The university will be commemorating its 150th anniversary through a year-long celebration beginning in August and coming to a close in October 2018. The celebration will include events, presentations, creative works and a charitable art show auction that will emphasize the history of the university.
PRESENTATIONS ABOUT HOME COUNTRIES

Three School of Education graduate students from Saudi Arabia and a Fulbright Visiting Scholar from Ukraine recently gave presentations about their home countries’ customs, religions, and education.

Ashraf and Eshraq Alshehri, brother and sister, and Salha Alharthi, from Saudi Arabia, conducted the presentation as part of their coursework for Transitions for Children with Disabilities. In addition to the presentation, they prepared a traditional Saudi Arabian meal for the class. Thabet Almazyad, a graduate assistant in the School of Education, also from Saudi Arabia, contributed to the discussion.

The following week, Inna Stepaniuk, Fulbright Visiting Scholar from Ukraine, conducted a presentation about her home country in the Transitions for Children with Disabilities class. In addition to the presentation, she prepared a traditional Ukrainian meal for the students.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Cody Grabhorn, a senior history and political science major, was featured in a YouTube video, History in the Making: A PAL Program Success Story at UW-Platteville. In the video, Grabhorn talks about his experience in the university’s Peer Assisted Learning program. To learn more about the program and how it helped him prepare for his next steps after graduation, go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTQI3zSQ1Yw. Grabhorn has been accepted to a master’s program in the department of history at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. He also has been offered a graduate teaching assistant position at VCU and will be assigned to assist with undergraduate history courses. He will begin the position in August.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Seven students and two faculty members from the School of Education recently attended the Student Development Conference: Recruiting and Retaining Underrepresented Future Teachers at UW-La Crosse. Students who attended—all education majors—included Marisa Aderman, Sierrah Bond, Lauren Cyr, Molly Mayer, Zach Sorn, Melomi Waller, and Nang Yang. Faculty members included Dr. John Nkemnji, Professor and Coordinator of the Media Lab in the School of Education; and Dr. Rea Kirk, Professor in the School of Education.

FACULTY PRESENT EDUCATION RESEARCH

Dr. Rea Kirk, Professor in the School of Education, and Dr. Peggy Marciniec, Associate Professor in the School of Education, recently presented their research on issues of disproportionality and educational standards at the International Council for Exceptional Children Conference in San Diego, California.

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE PHOTO EXHIBITION DISPLAYED AT NSU

Confucius Institute’s “Experience China Photographic Exhibition” and several of its Chinese costumes were recently on display at the grand opening of the new Confucius Institute at Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

The photo exhibition consists of 100 large, framed, full-color photographs of China’s ethnic communities and landscapes. The photographs were selected from many ethnic photographers’ works, and provide a window into the lives of the different ethnic communities of China.

TESDAHL PRESENTS AT PUBLIC HISTORY EVENT

Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history, recently presented at a public history event, the 28th annual Ecole de Soldat—or “school of the soldier”—in historic Ste. Genevieve, Missouri. Tesdahl’s lecture, “Very recently we have married three of them to Illinois women:’ Métissage in Colonial New France,” addressed the topic of French intermarriage with Algonquian-speaking women during the 18th century. The educational event, dedicated to 18th-century life, drew participants from across the Midwest.
The Center for the Arts is preparing for the 14th season of the Heartland Festival, which begins June 12. The festival opens with Jason Robert Brown’s The Last Five Years, a musical about a failed marriage between Jamie and Cathy. Jamie’s story is told in chronological order, beginning when they first meet. Cathy’s story is told in reverse chronological order, beginning at the end of the marriage. The two characters don’t directly interact except for a wedding song in the middle of the musical. The festival continues in July with Disney and Cameron Mackintosh’s Mary Poppins. Everyone is sure to have a supercalifragilisticexpialidocious time. For more information about the festival, visit TheHeartlandFestival.com. Tickets for the Heartland Festival go on sale Monday, May 11 and are available from the University Box Office, 0510 Ullsvik Hall, at 608.342.1298, or online at tickets.uwplatt.edu.

— Michael Breitner, Director of Arts Facilities and Series

The academic school year may be drawing to a close, but the students and staff of the department of performing and visual arts are keeping the arts alive and well. Dr. Barry Ellis is gearing up for the 48th annual Pioneer Summer Band Camp, and we are all looking forward to another great Heartland Festival season. Planning for the 2015–16 arts season is in full swing, and as of today there are over 100 concerts, recitals, theatre productions and art exhibitions scheduled, as we continue meeting our mission of being the cultural center for our region.

— Daniel Fairchild, Professor of music and Interim Co-chair of the department of performing and visual arts

Dr. Elizabeth A. Throop, Dean of the College of LAE, has announced the appointment of several new leaders within the College of LAE:

- **Dr. Staci Strobl** was appointed the new Chair of the department of criminal justice at UW-Platteville, effective July 1. Prior to Strobl's appointment as chair, she served as an associate and assistant professor as well as an adjunct lecturer, major coordinator, assessment coordinator and research assistant in the Law, Police Science, and Criminal Justice Administration Department at John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, New York. Dr. Mike Dalecki, Professor of sociology at UW-Platteville, has been serving as the Interim Chair of the department since fall 2013.

- **Dr. Travis Nelson**, Associate Professor of political science at UW-Platteville, was appointed the new Chair of the department of social sciences, effective June 1. **Dr. John Rink**, Professor of political science, pre-law advisor, and coach of the mediation team at UW-Platteville, has been serving as Chair of the department since July 1, 2014.

- **Dr. Dong Isbister**, Assistant Professor of women’s and gender studies at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, was appointed the new Coordinator of the program, effective in August. **Dr. Melissa Gormley**, Associate Professor of history and Chair of the department of geography and the department of history, has been serving as Director of the program since spring 2012.

Throop also announced that the College of LAE will have a new department of interdisciplinary studies in the fall. The department will include four programs: ethnic studies, women’s and gender studies, international studies, and social and environmental justice.

**SENIOR ART STUDENT EXHIBITION**

Thirteen senior art students prepared the Senior Art Student Exhibition, a gallery of the finest works they produced in art classes. The exhibit was on display in the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery through May 15.