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

We now are hearing red-winged blackbirds, robins, and cardinals—though it’s still a bit cool, it seems that spring is on its way. Students, at this writing, are preparing for midterms and anticipating spring break, a time for everyone to regroup and get ready for the final push to commencement. We look forward to hearing Bo Ryan deliver the University’s Distinguished Lecture in a few weeks, as students finalize their research projects, creative essays, internship write ups, senior recitals, and last art projects. We continue to work on budget cuts as we anticipate further cuts in the next biennium. We are hopeful that the cuts, though deep, will not harm students too badly. The faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Education are a constant wonder, committed as they are to make sure that students get the education they need. I don’t think I’ve ever seen a harder-working group of instructors! That’s why every day continues to be a great day to be a Pioneer.

FACULTY ART EXHIBITION

The artwork of seven UW-Platteville art faculty and instructional staff members is on display at the Art Faculty Exhibition through April 8 in the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery. Featured artists include: Carole Spelić, senior art lecturer; Bruce Howdle, senior art lecturer; Richard Moninski, distinguished lecturer of art; Gregory Nelson, associate art professor; Daniel O’Brien, art lecturer; Diane Sterba, art lecturer; and Steve Vance, art professor.

CONSULS VISIT UW-PLATTEVILLE

Four consuls from the education office of the Chinese Consulate in Chicago, Illinois, recently met with administration officials at UW-Platteville to discuss the importance of higher education cooperation and international exchanges between South Central University for Nationalities in Wuhan, China, and UW-Platteville; the contributions of the Confucius Institute in promoting students to think globally and compete internationally; and more.

Consuls included Liu Jun, Deputy Consul General; Qin Juhua, Counselor; Xu Shuhong, Consul; and Chen Hao, Consul. This was the first official visit initiated by the consul general. UW-Platteville attendees included Chancellor Dennis J. Shields, Dr. Jennifer deCoste, Assistant Chancellor of Institutional Strategy and Planning; Dr. Kory Wein, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Education; and Mei Reeder, Director of the Confucius Institute.

FACULTY FORUM: FIVE MYTHS ABOUT THE SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTION

Students, faculty, staff and community members attended the College of LAE’s faculty forum, “Five Myths about the Scientific Revolution,” on March 3 in Doudna Hall. At the forum, Dr. Nancy Turner, Professor of history at UW-Platteville, discussed five misperceptions 21st-century people often have about the people and events of the Scientific Revolution. The lecture covered several of the topics in a book Turner is working on, titled “Seven Myths of the Scientific Revolution,” part of a series of “Seven Myths” books being published by Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. Following Turner’s discussion, Dr. Adam Stanley, Associate Professor of history at UW-Platteville, responded. A portion of the forum was filmed by Wisconsin Public Television and will be aired on WPT this summer.

THIRD ANNUAL RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

More than 125 police officers, victim witness workers, social workers, restorative justice professionals, professors, community members and volunteers and more than 140 UW-Platteville students attended the third annual Restorative Justice Conference on Monday, March 7, in Robert I. Velzy Commons and Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery in Ullevik Hall. The conference was sponsored by the UW-Platteville Department of Criminal Justice; UW-Platteville Wilgus Fund; Southwest Health, Platteville; and Ridge and Valley Restorative Justice, Grant/Crawford counties.

At the conference, attendees heard from keynote speakers Renee Napier and Eric Smallridge who shared their personal stories about the power of forgiveness, healing and drunk driving awareness. They also learned how restorative justice ensures community involvement while empowering victims and still holding offenders accountable for their actions and acquired strategies for adopting restorative justice practices in community settings, households and correctional institutions. Attendees also had the opportunity to engage with facilitators of restorative justice programs to include victim-offender conferencing, victim impact programs, family conferencing and school initiatives.

FRIED GREEN UNIVERSITY

Dr. Elizabeth Gates, Professor and Chair of the UW-Platteville Department of Psychology, recently presented “Depression and Anxiety: Are they being overtreated with medication?” at Fried Green University, a casual adult continuing education group that meets every other month at Fried Green Tomatoes restaurant in Galena, Illinois. For the past couple of years, faculty members from UW-Platteville have been invited to share their expertise with the group. See more at bit.ly/1ozJl6T.
Criminal Justice Career Day

Approximately 350 students and 75 tri-state agencies from all areas of criminal justice attended UW-Platteville's 43rd annual Criminal Justice Career Day on March 8 in Robert I. Velzy Commons, Ullsvik Hall. The Criminal Justice Career Day, sponsored by the Criminal Justice Association at UW-Platteville, is an annual event open to all students and faculty who are looking for career opportunities or contacts with hiring agencies in the criminal justice and forensic investigation fields. Neighboring universities with criminal justice programs were invited to attend as well.

Representatives from local, state, and federal levels of criminal justice agencies provided expertise and recruitment in their fields. Some of the larger agencies included the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Division of Criminal Investigation/State of Wisconsin Department of Justice, and Wisconsin State Crime Lab.

“I talked to many of our agency representatives at the career fair and heard overwhelmingly positive remarks about the fair’s organization and format and about the quality of the students who they interacted with at their booths,” said Dr. Staci Strobl, associate professor of criminal justice and chair of the department of criminal justice at UW-Platteville.

“So many of them mentioned how impressed they were by the quality of our students and their eagerness to learn and contribute to the field of criminal justice,” she added. “One comment that stood out came from a representative of U.S. Border Patrol who told me, ‘I’ve been to hundreds of these types of events, and I can honestly say this was the best group of students I have ever encountered. They were prepared, well dressed and very professional. You’re doing something right.’”

To view this month's Arts and Cultural Events calendar, go to www.uwplatt.edu/uic/arts-cultural-events.

SOE Students Collaborate with Middle School Students

Two students from the School of Education recently had the opportunity to facilitate a MakerSpace session with approximately 25 students at Platteville Middle School. MakerSpace sessions can offer opportunities for students to experiment with different technologies. Heather Sawle-Macaulay, a senior elementary education major, and Jessica Qualley, a senior elementary education major, both from Dodgeville, Wisconsin, planned and led the valentine-themed session. Each student created a custom canvas valentine. Jessica Brogley, Lecturer in the School of Education at UW-Platteville, was supporting instructor of the project.

Students Create Sesquicentennial Banner

Thirteen UW-Platteville students created a banner to help celebrate the university's sesquicentennial. The banner, titled “Celebrate 150 Years!” is a 6-by-11-foot pieced fabric panel with a central image derived from the university's official 150th anniversary logo. Its title ties in with UW-Platteville's sesquicentennial theme, “Remember the past. Celebrate the present. Pioneer the future.”

The students created the banner as their final project in the spring 2015 course Crafts I: Fiber and Fabrics, Independent Work in Crafts, taught by Carole Spelic', Senior Art Lecturer at UW-Platteville. Students in the class included Kelssey Beyer, Arlyn Hembel, Chelsae Hill, Arielle Huth, Anna Jenson, McKenna Luepker, Kayla Potts, Emily Ramsey, Mia Schultz, Megan Sporre, Tomy Nas Xiong, Austin Dietzel, and Holly Nygaard. The banner is displayed in the middle of the mezzanine wall, opposite the glassed-in entrance hallway, above the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery in Ullsvik Hall. It was installed by Spelic’ and Tom Cabezas, Manager of the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery.

Nutritional Workshops

Since mid-February, a group of health promotion majors have been presenting “Eat Right for Life” nutritional workshops in Room 200 of Williams Fieldhouse. The workshops are open to all. Using Dr. Ann G. Kulze’s book Eat Right for Life as the basis for information and activities, the students help participants learn basic guidelines on nutrition as well as the art and science of optimal nutrition. Future workshops will be held March 19 and April 1 and 8.

Chinese New Year Spring Festival

Approximately 480 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended the Chinese New Year Spring Festival 2016 in the Center for the Arts. The event, sponsored by UW-Platteville’s Confucius Institute, was designed to help promote a better understanding of Chinese culture, language, and people to the residents in Southwest Wisconsin. The celebration included performances of the lion dance, kung fu, folk dance, traditional music, and a taiji fan demonstration. Performers included Zhong Yi Kung Fu Association Lion Dance Troupe, Madison, Wisconsin; Living Stream Dance Company, Madison; Confucius Institute youth class students; American students and Chinese Master of English Education students; and more.
BUFFALO SPEAKS ABOUT NATIVE AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY

On Feb. 25, a prominent member of the Meskwaki (Fox) Nation, who call themselves the Red Earth People, came back to a state where his people had lived for over 200 years. Johnathan Buffalo, Director of Historic Preservation and Tribal Historian for the Meskwaki Nation, of Tama, Iowa, delivered the lecture “Native American Sovereignty: NAGPRA and the Red Earth People,” to a crowd of 60 students, faculty, community members, and out-of-state scholars in the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery. Buffalo shared the way the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act has influenced his tribe since 1990 and fielded questions about Meskwaki history and culture.

LECTURES TO BE BROADCAST ON WISCONSIN PUBLIC TELEVISION

Wisconsin Public Television recently filmed lectures given by faculty in the department of history. The lectures included “Women Smugglers in Early America, 1701 to 1754,” presented by Dr. Eugene Tesdahl, Assistant Professor of history, on Feb. 22; a lecture on the United States and World War I to students in the course “The History of the U.S. since 1877,” presented by Dr. David Krugler, Professor of history, on Feb. 23; and a portion of the faculty forum, “Five Myths about the Scientific Revolution,” presented by Dr. Nancy Turner, Professor of history, and Dr. Adam Stanley, Associate Professor of history, on March 3.

The lectures are part of the University Place lecture series from WPT and UW Extension. Such lectures invite curious Wisconsin citizens into meaningful discussions of diverse topics and disciplines, showing the Wisconsin Idea at work: www.wisc.edu/wisconsin-idea/. The lectures will air on WPT this summer.

MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION

More than 150 students, faculty, and community members celebrated Mardi Gras at the 19th annual Mardi Gras Celebration in the Robert I. Velzy Commons. The event, sponsored by the French Club and the Department of Humanities, included free food and beads, games, prizes, a life-size chess set, and live music. “This year’s event highlighted the combination of French and American cultures in a New Orleans style Mardi Gras festival, with a Cajun-inspired menu and a really fantastic volunteer jazz combo,” said Dr. Laura Anderson, Professor of French at UW-Platteville. “We’re already looking forward to next year, when we celebrate 20 years of Mardi Gras at UW-Platteville.”

STUDENTS INVESTIGATE IMPACT OF WATER CONTAMINATION IN APPALACHIA

Four UW-Platteville students are investigating the impact of water contamination caused by fossil-fuel extraction techniques in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee, using Geographic Information System technology. The research project, “Analyzing the Impact of Water Contamination on Class, Gender, and Health in the Appalachian Region through the Application of Feminist GIS,” is being conducted by Kendall Welch, Philip Schulz, Cody Carmody, and Gregory Arther. The research is part of two independent study courses, one taught by Dr. Dong Isbister, Assistant Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at UW-Platteville, and the other taught by Dr. Chris Underwood, Assistant Professor of geography and research associate in the Tree-Ring, Earth, and Environmental Sciences Laboratory at UW-Platteville. Isbister and Underwood serve as faculty advisors for the project. Welch will present the undergraduate research he and the other students are working on at the 2016 Summit on Women, Gender, and Well-Being at the Pyle Center, UW-Madison, on Friday, April 15, from 3-4:15 p.m. See more at: bit.ly/1VP7Nfr.

SHEPHERD INVITED TO GRAMMY AWARDS CEREMONY

Senior Lecturer of English Composition I and II Stephen Shepherd was invited back to the Grammy Awards Ceremony for the ninth consecutive year. Shepherd has released six albums in 12 years that charted 11 top 10 hit songs and 14 top 20 hit songs in 15 different countries. At previous Grammy ceremonies, Shepherd’s songs have appeared in six different Grammy ballot categories, including Best Song and Best Americana Album.

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST SUBMISSIONS DUE MARCH 31

The Department of Humanities is currently accepting undergraduate student submissions for the annual Thomas Hickey Creative Writing Awards Contest. All entries must be submitted to the Department of Humanities office, 323 Warner Hall, by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 31. The contest is open to all students who are enrolled at least part time at UW-Platteville. Each entrant may submit up to three poems and/or up to 20 pages of fiction or creative non-fiction. Official contest guidelines are available in the Department of Humanities office. The winners of the fiction/creative non-fiction and poetry contest categories will be determined by guest judges Debra Monroe (fiction and creative non-fiction) and Erika Meitner (poetry). Winners will read their works at the Department of Humanities Creative Writing Festival that will be held on Tuesday, April 26, in the Harry and Laura Nohr Gallery at UW-Platteville from 4–6:30 p.m.
Dr. Thomas Dickey, Director of Orchestral Activities at UW-Platteville, has taught at the university since fall 2012. As director of Orchestral Activities, Dickey conducts the UW-Platteville Symphony Orchestra and guides all aspects of the orchestral program. He also teaches courses in conducting, music history, music theory, and symphonic repertoire. A native of Illinois, Dickey began piano studies at the age of 4. He holds doctoral and master’s degrees in orchestral conducting from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, and Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, respectively. He graduated with highest honors from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois, where he received the Excellence in Fine Arts Scholarship.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?**

Preparing the next generation of music teachers and performers, giving them the tools they need to be successful, and watching them grow and progress as musicians themselves is one of the most rewarding experiences I’ve ever had.

**Why is music/orchestra so important to a liberal education?**

Playing in an orchestra like the one we have at UW-Platteville allows students from all across campus to come together for one common goal: the joy of making music.

**How does music/orchestra help prepare students for their careers and life?**

For music majors, playing in orchestra gives them the opportunity to put into action all the musicianship skills they’ve learned in their applied lessons, music theory classes, music history classes, etc.

**How do UW-Platteville music/orchestra performances help enrich the tri-states?**

For concert-goers who may not want to drive down to Dubuque or up to Madison, it’s a wonderful and exciting opportunity to hear an orchestra play everything from masterpieces by the greatest composers of all time to music written for movies, and everything in between. Did I mention that tickets are only five bucks?

**What do you enjoy most about conducting the Symphony Orchestra?**

I got into conducting over 15 years ago because I thought the sound of an orchestra was the greatest thing I had ever heard in my life. Bringing a musical composition to life and helping the students in front of me tap into unlocked potentials gives me a joy and excitement that I find nowhere else in life. Conducting an orchestra really is the greatest thing in the world!

You have conducted many distinguished orchestras throughout North America and Europe. What have you enjoyed most?

Working with orchestras in other countries, regardless of whether or not we all speak English, reminds me of just how universal a language music truly is.