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

I had the opportunity recently to have dinner with the Chancellor’s Scholars, a group of exceptional students who have been awarded renewable full-cost scholarships on the basis of their accomplishments and potentials. LAE students were well represented in this group. Many of these young people are first-generation college students who come from families of modest means. Hearing their stories touched me so deeply; I also was a first-generation college student from modest means and I still remember the awe that came from coming to college and being around people who were curious and supportive of my questions. Chancellor Shields, who created this program, understands as well. These scholars are articulate, bright, and enthusiastic. I know we’ll be seeing greatness from each of them.

The Chancellor’s Scholars are (clockwise from top left in photo) Megan Dietrich, a Spanish and psychology major with a minor in international studies from Oregon, Wis.; Cassidy Krause, a mathematics education major from Algoma, Wis.; Hannah Molitor, a chemistry and environmental engineering major and Spanish minor from Sauk City, Wis.; and Colton Hackett, a political science and criminal justice major from Darlington, Wis.

JONES Writes ABOUT CAMPUS Read PROGRAM AT UW-PLATTEVILLE

Dr. Gary J. Jones, UW-Platteville English Lecturer and 1966 alumnus, published a piece he wrote about the new Campus Read program with the Peninsula Pulse:

“Campus Read: ‘The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”
http://tinyurl.com/cjx3s5q

UPCOMING EVENT
The UW-Platteville Pioneer Players will present Death and the Maiden in Feb.
Tickets are available at: tickets.uwplatt.edu

VALEDCITORIANS FENDRICK, HEIMDAL, AND JENTZ CARRIED THE LAE BANNER AT COMMENCEMENT

Graduating seniors Kylie Topel-Fendrick, a history major and political science and Spanish minor from Marinette, Wis.; Renee Heimdal, a fine art major with an emphasis in graphic design and imaging media minor from Lancaster, Wis.; and Brianna Jentz, a history and English major and international studies minor from Bloomington, Wis., were all selected to represent the College of LAE based on their academic performance.
Forensic Investigation and Chemistry Programs receive $160K equipment donation from DEA

When Diana Johnson, UW-Platteville Assistant Professor of criminal justice, learned that the Drug Enforcement Administration offered donations of equipment to educational institutions, she requested that the UW-Platteville Forensic Investigation Program be added to the list, and alerted the UW-Platteville Chemistry and Engineering Physics Department of the opportunity as well. This semester, the DEA Northeast Laboratory in New York donated digital balances and a gas chromatograph mass spectrometer with a combined value of $160,000 to UW-Platteville, where they will be used for laboratory exercises and student research projects.

Pluemer selected for prestigious film mentorship program

Karen Pluemer, UW-Platteville English Lecturer, 1991 alumna and screenwriter, has been selected to participate in the Women in Film Foundation’s new mentorship program: The WIFF Mentoring Circles. The program will provide Pluemer with mentoring, support and networking opportunities for the 2013 year. As a member of the American Film Institute, Pluemer was invited to the New York City premiere of The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, which she was able to attend on Dec. 6 with Dr. Teresa Burns, UW-Platteville Humanities Department Chair and English Professor.

Students present earthworm research in Alaska

Brennan Waupoose and McKaylee Duquain, both students at the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, Wis., presented research they did on the impact of invasive earthworm species in Great Lakes forests at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society conference in Anchorage, Alaska, this semester.

Dr. Evan Larson, UW-Platteville Assistant Professor of geography, supervises the invasive earthworm study, which is a cooperative project between UW-Platteville and CMN and has continued in other forests in the Great Lakes Region. The main goal of the project, which is funded by a Wisconsin Alliance for Minority Participation grant, is to determine if non-native earthworm species are present and, if so, how they change the fundamental dynamics of forests that have been earthworm-free since the end of the last ice age.

WOW!

UW-Platteville’s Holiday Gala, which was coordinated by Dr. Thomas Taylor Dickey, UW-Platteville Music Lecturer and Interim Director of orchestral activities, sold out to a crowd of more than 500.
I Remember

BY RAY BANFI, ’75 AND ’78, LAE ALUMNI BOARD VICE-PRESIDENT, RETIRED FROM SCALES MOUND SCHOOL DISTRICT

I remember many happy times at UW-Platteville. I had attended Morton East High School in Cicero, Ill. My high school biology teacher/basketball coach knew UW-Platteville’s basketball coach, Dick Wadewitz, and when I enrolled, I tried out and made the varsity team my freshman year. I had fun at many athletic events and concerts such as the Righteous Brothers, Sha Na Na, and the Carpenters. I met my wife, Darla Mellor ’76, at a dance in the Rendezvous Room. During spring breaks, I made four trips to Mississippi with St. Augustine’s Newman Club. We took blankets, seeds, and tools to help with activities with Project Self-Help and Awareness. We met many poor, struggling families, and working with them led to a great feeling of satisfaction.

Another great memory was Homecoming of 1974. I still remember the theme, “Cruising For More in ’74.” Homecoming week was really a crazy, exciting time for me. I remember lasting almost 10 hours in a dance marathon, dancing to all types of songs. My partner had to drop out from exhaustion, and I was also tired from holding her up! One of my best friends, Bill Von Rueden, and I had a great time recruiting five other guys and dressing up as female dancers for the Homecoming skit night. I wish I could find a videotape because it was one of the best and craziest skits. I was also so proud of Bill being chosen as Homecoming king.

Thinking back to my time at UW-Platteville and Homecoming of 1974 has been a fond cruise into the past for me. I know that you alumni also have many fond memories of UW-Platteville.

SCHULENBURG NAMED OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR BY KAPPA DELTA PI

Dr. Chris Schulenburg, UW-Platteville Assistant Professor of Spanish, was presented with the Outstanding Educator Award by the Kappa Delta Pi international student organization for education during their annual initiation ceremony. Schulenburg’s students Brianna Hardginski and Samantha Jayne invited him to give the keynote address at the event and then the entire chapter surprised him with the award. (Pictured with Dr. Schulenburg is Brianna Hardginski.)

FIVE ALUMNI NAMED PIONEERS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE

At this year’s Criminal Justice Reunion and Banquet, five alumni were honored as Pioneers in Criminal Justice. Award recipients included Richard Cowan ’71, Wisconsin Department of Justice SAFE Program Manager; Wayne Ellinghausen ’83, United States Marshal Service; Norman Jacobs ’78, Beloit Police Department Chief of Police; Christopher Polzer ’88, Federal Bureau of Prisons Oxford Drug Treatment Specialist and Hostage Negotiator, UW-Platteville Criminal Justice Instructor; Deborah Rice ’75, retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel and UW-Platteville Criminal Justice Instructor; and Dr. Stan Stojkovic ’77, UW-Milwaukee Professor of Criminal Justice and Dean of the Helen Bader School of Social Welfare. Also pictured are Dr. Joe Lomax, Chancellor Dennis J. Shields, Dr. Thomas Caywood, and Dr. David Van Buren.

SIX STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT BEST OF STYLUS WRITING AWARDS

In November, six students were recognized with monetary awards after essays they wrote in their freshman composition courses and published in Stylus: An Anthology of Freshman Writing were selected for special recognition. Stylus, a required text for freshman and an award-winning publication by the UW-Platteville English Program and Writing Center, showcases exceptional student writing and is used as a practical teaching tool in freshman composition classes. Award recipients include Janelle Skoyen, a civil engineering major from Osseo, Wis., who received the $300 first place prize; Fritz Wiggert, a general engineering major from La Crosse, Wis., who received the runner-up $200 prize; and $100 honorable mention winners Jessica Ausel, an environmental science major from Madison, Wis.; Miguel Camara, a mechanical engineering major from Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso; Kayla Hirsch, an English and music major from Cuba City, Wis.; and Natasha Grant, an elementary education major from Stoughton, Wis.

Chancellor Dennis J. Shields and 1971 UW-Platteville alumna and donor Helene Hurley-Magee were both honored guests at the event.

CONGRATULATIONS IN ORDER

Physical education and health colleagues Dr. Colleen McCabe, Lisa Emendorfer, and Tim Swenson have been selected to participate in an all-expense paid conference that is being sponsored by the American Cancer Society and Center for Disease Control in Atlanta this February.
**Alumnus appointed president of Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools**

Todd Kuckkahn, 1985 alumnus of UW-Platteville’s Master of Science in Education program, has been appointed president of the Stevens Point Area Catholic Schools. Kuckkahn, who moved to Stevens Point eight years ago with his wife, Mary, and their two daughters, will be primarily responsible for development, student recruitment, and marketing. Since 1989, Kuckkahn’s primary professional work has included development, alumni, and marketing efforts, most recently as executive director of the UW-Stevens Point Foundation from 2004-09, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes chief development officer from 2009-10, and as a development officer for Marshfield Clinic since 2010.

**Students present Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement project in Illinois**

A team of four students presented the UW-Platteville Pioneer Academic Center for Community Engagement project they completed with 23 classmates in Dr. RJ Rowley’s Advanced Geographic Information and Global Positioning Systems course at the Association of American Geographers West Lakes-East Lakes Joint Division Meeting at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb this fall. Students included Ben Gultch, a geography major from Brookfield, Wis.; Sarah Scott, a biology major from Denmark, Wis.; Jennifer Trantow, a biology major from Manawa, Wis.; and Aaron Wallerstedt, a general engineering major from Rio, Ill.

Because of the team’s work, students enrolled in UW-Platteville’s Planet Earth course who have disabilities or injuries that prevent them from participating in the advanced terrain field trip to Devil’s Lake State Park in Baraboo, Wis., now have access to an on-campus virtual environment complete with photos, videos and suggested tours, as well as the ability to get a bird’s-eye view and “fly” through and around the valley.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Amanda Corrigeux of Thomson, Ill.; Felicia Folbrecht of Beaver Dam, Wis.; and Candace Koch of Juda, Wis., who all graduated Dec. 15, were the first three students to graduate with the new forensic investigation major. The major, which focuses on the documentation and collection of physical crime scene evidence, now has 150 students enrolled.

**Gormley selected as Wisconsin Teaching Fellow**

Dr. Melissa Gormley, Associate Professor of history and Director of UW-Platteville’s Women’s and Gender Studies Program, has been selected by the UW System Office of Professional and Instructional Development to be a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow for the 2013-14 academic school year. As a Fellow, Gormley will share ideas and best practices in education in a series of institutes and seminars with colleagues across the UW System while also researching a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning topic that facilitates increased student learning in the classroom.

**KCRG TV in Cedar Rapids visits UW-Platteville’s Forensic Investigation Crime Scene House, interviews professor and students**

Watch the interview here: http://tinyurl.com/KCRGTV

**Reminder**

UW-Platteville’s International Film Festival begins in February. For more information, visit http://tinyurl.com/ch8tg5m.

Photo credits: Much appreciation to Ray and Darla Banfi, Dr. Sabina Burton, Tyler Ensrude, Todd Kuckkahn, Dr. Evan Larson, Andy McNeill, and Dr. RJ Rowley for providing images.