

2007-08 UWRF American Democracy Project Activities

Deliberative Polling Initiative

UWRF is one of 15 campuses nationally that has been selected by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities to participate in the Deliberative Polling Initiative, a project of the American Democracy Project.

River Falls Votes

In conjunction with AASCU and the Young Voters Strategies Electoral Voices Voter Registration Field Experiment funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, UWRF created River Falls Votes, a nonpartisan voter registration and education committee. Made up of faculty, staff and students, it provides several services to students:

- Information on how to register to vote both for Wisconsin and Minnesota residents
- Nonpartisan information on the campaign issues and election contests
- Works with the City of River Falls for efficient registration and voting processes to shorten the wait as students and local residents cue up at the campus polling place.

Presidential Primaries Poll/Issues Match Quiz

On December 11, 2007 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., members of the campus community were asked their preference among the major party presidential candidates before and after completing a quiz that showed which three candidates best match their views on the major issues in this year's campaign. The results of the poll and quiz were posted throughout the day. Information on the upcoming Wisconsin Primaries and Minnesota Caucuses was also made available. This event was co-sponsored by the American Democracy Project, Pi Sigma Alpha, and the Division of Student Affairs.

Constitution Week 2007

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls recognized National Constitution Day, Sept. 17, with a week of planned activities Sept. 17-21. Events were free and open to the public. The week-long celebration opened with Constitution Jeopardy on Sept. 17, from 1 to 2 p.m., in the Kinnickinnic River Theater, University Center. A team from River Falls High School will competed with a team from UW-River Falls. Each team was composed of four students and one teacher or professor, and the teams answered three rounds of questions related to the Constitution. The team from River Falls High School scored a come from behind victory by wagering more on the final question.

On Sept. 17 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., members of the UWRF chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and History Professor Kurt Leichtle distributed pocket-sized copies of the Constitution to students. Students also attempted to win American Democracy Project water bottles by answering questions about the Constitution.

Four television programs about the Constitution aired at various times throughout the week on River Falls Cable Channel 19 and campus cable channels 19 and 23, including “Key Constitutional Concepts,” “A Conversation on the Constitution: Judicial Independence,” “Our Constitution: a Conversation” and “A More Perfect Union.” The first three programs, produced by the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands in Radnor, Penn., were broadcast on channel 19. “A More Perfect Union,” produced by the National Center for Constitutional Studies, were broadcast on campus channel 23.

UWRF’s Constitution Week was co-sponsored by the American Democracy Project, the UWRF chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, and The New York Times.

New York Times Editor at UWRF

Greg Brock, a senior editor at The New York Times, spoke at the University of Wisconsin River Falls on Sept. 25 in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center on campus.

Brock joined The New York Times in 1995 and has served as the deputy political editor for the 1996 presidential campaign. He was the news editor on the Foreign Desk during the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the first Iraq war. Prior to assuming senior editor duties in 2004, Brock was news editor in the newspaper’s Washington Bureau, during which he oversaw the day-to-day news coverage of the White House, Congress and all government agencies.

As senior editor, Brock also is responsible for the standards and ethics of the newspaper and works with editors and reporters throughout the newsroom to address readers' concerns about bias, fairness and accuracy.

A native of Crystal Springs, Miss., Brock graduated in 1975 from the University of Mississippi where he was managing editor of the Daily Mississippian at ‘Ole Miss.’ After graduation, he worked at The Washington Post, the Charlotte (N.C.) Observer and the San Francisco Examiner. He received a Neiman Fellowship at Harvard University in 1994.

Brock’s appearance was sponsored by The New York Times and the American Democracy Project.