

Feminism and Pornography Topic of Social Justice Series Discussion

Jan. 13, 2011—The Social Justice Series at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is set to present a unique event on Jan. 26 when two faculty members present “Feminism and Pornography.”

Set for 2 p.m. in the St. Croix Room of the University Center, the discussion will be lead by faculty members Michelle Parkinson and Travis Tubré. The presentation will cover some of the main perspectives in the debate on pornography and feminism, and an open discussion with audience members will follow.

Parkinson is an assistant professor of English at UWRF and her dissertation focused on sexuality politics in early modern England through readings of the letters and speeches of Elizabeth I and the plays of John Lyly and Christopher Marlowe. Her current research centers on the political, religious, social and legal rhetoric surrounding the phenomenon of execution in early modern England.

Tubré is an associate professor of psychology and an industrial/organizational psychologist. He is an active researcher, conducting collaborative research with students, publishing regularly and consulting with numerous corporations.

“Traditionally, feminists have seen pornography as a problem. They argue that it objectifies women, that it is produced primarily for male consumption, that it is sexist and demeaning and that it encourages sexual violence and objectification of women and girls in the real world. However, some feminists see pornography differently, viewing it as sexually and sometimes financially liberating for women who work in the industry,” says Parkinson.

For more information, contact Ashley Olson, sociocultural coordinator, at 715-425-4444.

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Regent President Charles Pruitt to Visit St. Croix Valley

Jan. 10, 2011--University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents President Charles Pruitt is set to visit the St. Croix Valley Jan. 18-19.

Pruitt will visit the city of Hudson on Jan. 19 with the University of Wisconsin-River Falls' Chancellor Dean Van Galen to speak at the Hudson Rotary daybreak meeting. The focus of their presentation will be on the economic benefits of a highly educated Wisconsin workforce and how the UW System plans to achieve this goal.

These benefits are outlined in "Principles for Progress and Prosperity," a document Pruitt recently co-authored with Jay Smith, former president of the Board of Regents. The document also details steps the State of Wisconsin can take to create stable funding and greater management flexibility for the UW System.

Pruitt and Van Galen will be available to meet with the members of the media at 8:30 a.m. Jan. 19 at the UW-River Falls Hudson Center, located at 2501 Hanley Road, Hudson. Pruitt also plans to attend UWRF's spring semester opening meeting on Jan. 18.

"Leaders in Madison are critically examining the economic drivers for the State of Wisconsin. The UW System will provide leadership in that discussion. Regent Pruitt's visit highlights the important role the St. Croix Valley will play in the economic future of our state," says Blake Fry, special assistant to the chancellor and director of the UW-River Falls Hudson Center.

Pruitt is currently a partner at A. B. Data, Ltd. in Milwaukee. He is an alumnus of Macalester College in St. Paul, Minn., and earned both a master's and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. Pruitt was appointed to the Board of Regents in 2003 and chairs the board's Executive Committee as Regent President.

The Board of Regents is an 18-member board that governs the UW System. The Board appoints the President of the UW System, the chancellors of the 13 universities, the chancellor of UW-Extension and UW Colleges, and the deans of the 13 colleges. The Board also sets admission standards and reviews and approves university budgets.

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Survey Shows UW-River Falls Alumni Pleased With Value of Education

Jan. 13, 2011—Recently released results from a study of 400 alumni of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls illustrates the high degree of satisfaction and positive outlook by the university's graduates.

The survey, created by the American Council on Education and conducted by research firm The Winston Group, polled a total of 2.4 million college and university alumni nationwide.

"The high level of satisfaction expressed by UW-River Falls alumni is a wonderful vote of confidence in our university, and a tribute to our faculty and staff who have taught, mentored and supported students over the years," says Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

When asked, "Do you believe that America's colleges and universities are prepared to meet the challenges of the future?" 73 percent of UWRF alumni responded positively, compared with only 61 percent nationally. The survey also asked if alumni would choose again to attend the same school. Some 85 percent of UWRF alumni responded that they would, higher than the 79 percent of alumni nationwide who answered the same.

Most noticeably, the exceptional value of a UW-River Falls education came to light in the survey's results. Alumni were asked if they felt their university charged a fair price for their education, and fully 96 percent of UWRF's alumni responded with "yes." Only 76 percent of alumni on a national scale responded affirmatively as well.

The study went on to note that while 89 percent of college and university alumni in the United States believed their college education was worth it, 96 percent of UWRF alumni believed it was.

"I am not surprised whatsoever from the results that I have seen on this study," says Dan McGinty, executive director of University Advancement and president of the UW-River Falls Foundation. "Our alumni are extremely satisfied with their education from UW-River Falls. We have faculty and staff who are committed to teaching excellence, faculty and staff do a great job of enhancing the classroom learning experience and really care about the well-being of our students, and we offer an affordable and quality education."

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