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National Library Week celebrated

First year participation with organization features literature, faculty posters, Cox says

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Walking into the Grand Corridor of McIntyre Library, you might recognize some of the faces on the posters.

Celebrating National Library Week, the library is featuring eight members of the UW-Eau Claire faculty on "READ" posters, a displaying favorite and select books throughout the library.

Assistant Director of Libraries Chris Cox said National Library Week began in 1958 and is sponsored by the American Librarian Association.

"It's to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians," he said.

Cox said McIntyre Library has over 2,000 paperbacks in its collection on the second floor, and over 760,000 books in the entire library.

This is the first year Eau Claire has participated in National Library Week, Cox said.

The idea for the posters was conceived by the marketing committee of McIntyre Library in late fall.

Cox said the American Librarian Association has featured celebrities like Bill Gates and Britney Spears on "READ" posters and offers software to schools to create their own.

He also saw the posters at other colleges like UW-Stout and Marquette University.

Once the library bought the software, they began asking faculty if they would be interested in being photographed.

"We approached various faculty to represent the different schools on campus," he said.

Geology Professor Kent Syverson said he agreed to participate because it sounded like fun.

Syverson chose "FIRE's Guide to Free Speech on Campus" as the book he was photographed with.

The book, which discusses freedom of speech and how the modern university should be a marketplace of ideas, is very different than some of the other selections, Syverson said.

The books empower members of the university community to protect these individual liberties, he said.

Syverson said he already had one conversation with a student about the book he is pictured with and thinks he probably will have more.

"I think (the posters) will generate meaningful interaction between faculty and students," he said.

Freshman Sarah Traut said she noticed the posters when she walked into the library.

"I knew it was National Library Week and one of my professors was on the poster," she said. "I think it supports students reading for fun."

Cox said the posters are not the only campus celebration of National Library Week.

He said librarians also picked their favorite books, which are on display in the library. Books from each section of the library were displayed on the third, fourth and fifth floors. Also, a piece of paper was put up for students to share their favorites.

"We want to remind people of the value of (reading a book)," he said.

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