Army phasing out ROTC at UW-La Crosse

By Paige Kieler
Staff Reporter

The U.S. Army has decided to discontinue the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program at UW-La Crosse. ROTC will be finished after the current juniors graduate from the program in May 2015.

Thirteen ROTC programs are being closed down throughout the country. UW-La Crosse is the only ROTC program closing in Wisconsin, with the next closest being Northern Michigan University. The exact reason for the selection of these schools is not completely certain, but the number of cadets enrolled and the number of lieutenants commissioned yearly were a couple of the factors considered by the Army, according to Army Times.

While the third and fourth year ROTC members are able to finish their program, the first and second year members will have to transfer if they plan on sticking with ROTC.

"We’ve suggested to all of the [underclassmen] that if they’re going to transfer and continue ROTC, that they do it by next semester so that they can establish themselves in the new program before they’re juniors," said Kyle Kennedy, senior and fourth year member of ROTC. The juniors will also have a difficult time with this transition. "This is a culminating year for them in terms of their development," Kennedy said. "But they won’t have anyone to lead because the freshmen and sophomores are either going to drop the program or transfer to another school," third year member of ROTC and junior at UW LaCrosse, said. "Next year we will have, potentially, thirteen people in the program, and we will all be the same rank. So we wouldn’t really be leading each other because fourth year members usually guide and correct the third year members. I’m not really sure how it’s going to be run yet, so it’s going to be pretty interesting next year."

At UW-L, the ROTC enrollment rate has been shrinking over the years due to declining scholarship offers. In general, they’re not trying to get as many people in the army. We’re not getting into a war anymore and everything is downsizing," said Johnson. "When the enlisted portion shrinks, you don’t need as many people in the officer program," Kennedy added. "This has been an ongoing budget problem; they haven’t been giving as many scholarships as they use to." Although these programs are being closed around the same time as the government shutdown, the Army has been dealing with these limitations for years. Kennedy said, "We can only speculate, but the way it seems is that this been part of the budget constraints over the past few years for the Army. This does not necessarily have to do with what’s happening right now with Congress being shut down. Those decisions were being made before this ever happened."

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ROTC at UW-L has been available for students on this campus, Viterbo University, Wisconsin State University and St. Mary’s University for more than forty years. Other Wisconsin schools, including but not limited to UW Madison, UW Stout and UW Milwaukee, also have the program and are an option for UW-L underclassmen in the ROTC program to transfer to.

"I thought if someone was going to organize it, it might as well be me," Ben Zadow, a native of La Crescent, MN, was the organizer of La Crosse’s chapter of the march. "I don’t think people realize what’s going on in the world," he said. "I thought if someone was going to organize it, it might as well be me."

Zadow said the goal of the march was to gain awareness about Monsanto for those who don’t even know what’s happening to the foods they’re eating. For one UW-L student, Sophomore Brittany Vollmer, this march definitely brought awareness to the public. Vollmer is a member of Students For Sustainability on campus, and he [haven’t] never heard of Monsanto before the march, and joining SFS? "Elaine Anderson, a UW-L freshman, SFS member and recently elected Senator, felt that the awareness about the subject of genetically modified foods (GMGs) and the practices of Monsanto is also very low. "I’m concerned about Monsanto and GMOM, but let a lot of my friends that I talk to about it don’t know much about it all," said Anderson.

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Word of the Week

BUMFUZZLE
To confuse or fluster. The crossword puzzle befuddled even the most intellectual of scholars.
Nobel Prize winner speaks at UW-L
By Jeremy Shar
Associate reportor

In order to enhance the experience of its students while exposing them to the world which sees academic concepts applied, UW-La Crosse has been hosting a series of prominent persons to campus. The university counts among its ranks of former campus speakers checks of potential Entorship Congresspoopers, leaders of industry, and for the 14th year in a row, a Nobel Laureate in Physics. At 5 p.m on Thursday, Oct. 12, Dr. David Wineland conducted a lecture focused on the work which saw him awarded the 2012 Nobel Prize in Physics, entitled “Superposition, Entanglement, and Raising Schrödinger’s Cat” before an eager audience at Centennial Hall.

“I hope to interact with the audience and convince them that what I do is fun,” said Dr. Wineland. “I do inspire young people.”

Dr. Wineland’s first major breakthough as a quantum physicist involved developing a trap in order to be able to capture and study ions, which made possible a more practical analysis of quantum physics theories. His subsequent research has lead to advancements in how we determine the size of atoms and molecules, technology, the ability to more accurately measure time and the basis for the developing study of quantum computing.

“We all work so hard studying, but when something we do has a practical application, like Dr. Wineland speaks it contextualizes my studies and motivates me to take the program even more seriously.”

Zach Koop
Sophomore physics major

“We’re trying to use ions as bits in a quantum computer,” said Dr. Wineland. “A quantum computer would have a certain number of encryption systems, which is why the government’s need to develop it.”

Despite the national security implications of the development of a ‘super-computer’, Dr. Wineland said, “Dr. Wineland shall not disclose the federal government shutdown. Dr. Wineland and his team of researchers are not allowed to enter their laboratory to carry out experiments, which has negatively impacted their research.”

“The government shutdown has really shut us down. It is really frustrating. It is inefficient.

I want to be doing my thinking while I carry out my research. I want to be thinking in the lab. We are losing time.”

The Physics Department at UW-L consists of 160 majors, is the biggest in the UW System, and its ability to attract such prominent physicists gives additional strength to an already nationally recognized program.

It adds a very serious undertone to our studies when someone successful comes and talks about their accomplishments. We all work so hard studying, but when something like Dr. Wineland speaks it contextualizes my studies and motivates me to take the program even more seriously,” said Zach Koop, a sophomore majoring in Physics.

Many students were able to listen to and interact with Dr. Wineland. Two sections of Dr. Gabi Sudhakaran’s General Physics I course were surprised to find the Nobel Prize winner was talking about a topic he studied just hours before he was to present his lecture in Centennial Hall. Additionally, on Friday, Oct. 12, a group of undergraduate students conducting research with the Physics Department were able to attend lunch with Dr. Wineland and Physics faculty, contemplating ideas and honing their methods with the help of one of the world’s finest physicists.

“Dr. Wineland’s research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology is at the forefront of quantum information science and technology,” said Dr. Sudhakaran, the chair of the Physics Department. “The opportunity for students to interact with minds like his are important in helping them learn and grow.”

With the auditorium filled to capacity, Dr. Wineland concisely explained his research in a manner appropriate for the layman who sat before him. Issues were discussed with simplified explanations, and innovative technological explanations were explained abstractly. Sprinkled throughout the lecture were personal anecdotes; an intriguing moment saw a young Wineland fixing a 1936 Ford with keen interest, a precursor to his career as a physics whiz. Towards the end of the lecture, Dr. Wineland shared pictures from 2012’s Nobel Prize ceremony, sending the audience into a state of profound awe. It was clear that the laureate recognized and appreciated the enormity of learning from a man whose contributions have and will continue shaping humanity for the better.

Jeremy Shar would like to properly mention and thank Dr. Gabi Sudhakaran, who graciously accommodated his request to interview Dr. Wineland.

March against Monsanto

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Both Vollmer and Anderson felt that the march would help bring awareness to the La Crosse area about the effects of GMOs and the implications of Monsanto having a monopoly on the world’s seeds.

Not only was it students that participated but also parents of the area as well. Nurse and Respiratory Therapist Jennifer Navarro attended with her three young daughters to voice her opinions about Monsanto. Navarro has lived in La Crosse for a year and a half and she expressed that she has “never done anything like this before, but this is a cause she [felt] [she] needed to be a part of.”

Many individuals in the cars driving by and those walking on the streets gave cheers, offered words of encouragement and stopped to learn about the cause of the protest.

Of another concerned citizen was Mike Tumlowski, an interior designer with the company I.D.Ology. Tumlowski talked with many pedestrians who stopped to learn more about the event, and he felt that it was “nice to voice the community is branching out and trying to get aware” and not giving into the “false security” that goes along with genetically modified foods. In La Crosse, the march wasn’t much of a march, but it had a presence at the corner of 4th and Pearl Streets holding signs saying things like, “Show me what you’re made of, label it!” and “Profit for potence. Many individuals in the cars driving by and those walking on the streets gave cheers, offered words of encouragement and stopped to learn about the cause of the protest.”

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Please ban on-campus tobacco use resurfaces

By Tram Tran
Staff Reporter

Members of the Student Senate met again on Wednesday, Oct. 9, to discuss a broad variety of items on the agenda, including the second introduction of the plea to ban tobacco use on campus by the Health and Wellness Center.

Last year, the Health and Wellness Center tried to institute a tobacco-free campus at UW-La Crosse after UW-I’s Wellness Coordinator Jason Bertrand and a group of students attending the American Lung Association’s Spark Tobacco-Free Summit last October at UW-Milwaukee, later encouraging seven open forums were held for staff, faculty and residents of the campus to discuss the opportunity for UW-L to become a “Nobacco-Free campus,” a term deemed appropriate by supporters of the movement. As of January 2013, of 37 campuses in Wisconsin have decided themselves tobacco-free, including UW campuses like UW-Superior and UW-River Falls.

The movement has not as, of late, been put into place on campus as campus members at the Student Senate meeting last Wednesday. According to members of the Student Senate UW-La Crosse and Wellness Center, the plea has been modified since it was introduced last year, adding $4,000 worth of nicotine replacement therapies, including lozenges and gum, to be dispersed at no cost to students and faculty at the Health and Wellness Center until supplies run dry.

If neighboring residents around campus see a problem with the hotline, and more anonymous phone number will be included in mailers that will be sent out to the public to inform them of the change if it were to be implemented.

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