

CAMPUS HISTORY

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, now finishing up its 96th year, has a rich and storied history full of construction, expansion, protests, campaign visits and much more. We at *The Spectator* want to share a tiny slice of that history with you.

4A • Thursday, May 10, 2012

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1916
Eau Claire Normal School opens with a student body of 159 and a faculty of 20

1916
1920



Eau Claire Normal School's first football team in 1918; they played two games and scored zero points



The *Spectator* prints its first issue on Oct. 24, 1923

The school's name changes to Eau Claire State Teachers College in 1927 after it was authorized to offer four years of higher education and grant Bachelor of Education degrees

1930

Eau Claire Normal School's first band in 1922



70 years of The Forum

These five people are just a few of the notable speakers in the rich history of the UW-Eau Claire Forum series. They are listed here in alphabetical order.

Maya Angelou

Feb. 4, 1981 and Feb. 23, 1988



Angelou joined an exclusive group when she gave her second forum speech in 1988. That speech focused on African-American pride and her personal experiences with racism growing up in Stamps, Ark.

The poet laureate for Bill Clinton's 1993 presidential inauguration, Angelou also recited poetry during her speech and called on those in attendance to seek out black literature.

Noam Chomsky

March 14, 1989



Political dissident and professor Noam Chomsky has never been shy of criticizing the United States government, and his forum speech proved no exception.

Chomsky spoke of the government's ability to control the population through devices such as education. He also heavily criticized the U.S. mass media.

Jane Goodall

Nov. 11, 1994

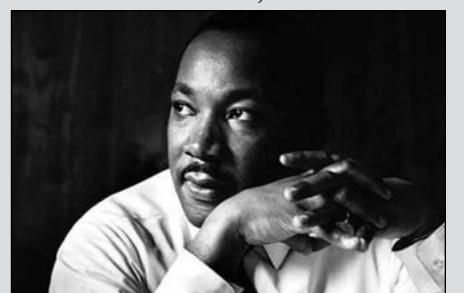


Goodall had studied wild chimpanzees in Tanzania for more than 30 years at the time of her Forum speech. She reflected on her work and commented on the plight of chimps and other animals.

Not only did Goodall observe chimps, she worked to protect them from poachers.

Martin Luther King Jr.

March 29, 1962



The famed civil rights activist delivered a speech centered around the great strides the U.S. had taken in race relations and equality. King mentioned voting rights and the repeal of "separate but equal" laws as proof of the country's growth.

He also called on community leaders to continue pushing for more expansion of civil rights. He was assassinated in 1968.

Richard Nixon

March 19, 1968



Nixon came to Eau Claire during his bid for the Republican presidential nomination in 1968. His main talking points of the evening were the Vietnam War and civil rights issues. The speech drew a crowd of more than 4,000 people to the Eau Claire Fieldhouse.

Nixon went on to receive the party's nomination and won the 1968 presidential election. He won another term with a landslide victory in 1972 but resigned in 1974 after the Watergate scandal. He died in 1994.



The city of Eau Claire gives the 200-acre Putnam Park to the university in 1958, greatly increasing the size of the campus

The school's name changes to Wisconsin State College at Eau Claire in 1951 after it was authorized to grant Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in liberal arts

1940

President William Davies founds the Forum series, considered to be one of the longest running lecture series in the country, in 1942 (see sidebar)

1950

Eleanor Roosevelt visits Eau Claire as the speaker for United Nations Day on April 20, 1954



1960



John F. Kennedy visits Eau Claire on the presidential campaign trail in the spring of 1960

The school's name changes to Wisconsin State University-Eau Claire in 1964 when the Board of Regents gave state colleges university standing



About 2,000 people in Eau Claire observe the Vietnam Moratorium in October 1969; John Laird, son of Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, joins the protests, causing national controversy

1970



Several hundred students gather in recognition of the Kent State massacre; Eau Claire students and faculty boycotted classes for several days



Wisconsin State University-Eau Claire becomes UW-Eau Claire after a merger with the UW System in 1971

1980

TV-10, the university's closed circuit television station, opens in 1975



In 1976, the Board of Regents puts an enrollment limitation on UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, UW-Madison and UW-Stout; Eau Claire's limit is set at 9,382, which put an end to a decade of growth that saw the university's population expand by more than 400 percent (the population has grown only 13 percent since then)

1990

In 2002, Eau Claire starts its first ever private fundraising campaign, which took place over the course of five years and raised \$54 million

The original Council Oak tree is leveled by a wind storm in 1987; it has since been replaced



2000



The new W.R. Davies Student Center opens to the public in August 2012. The building caused some controversy about the placement with regard to the Council Oak

Student Senate passes the Blugold Commitment, a controversial differential tuition increase, in spring 2010

2010



Then-presidential hopeful Barack Obama visits Eau Claire on the campaign trail on Feb. 16, 2008

2012

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