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STUDENT VOICE

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Faculty Senate chair returns with vision for UWRF change



UWRF website
Professor Wes Chapin is the chair of Faculty Senate.

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Starting his 11th year on Faculty Senate, Professor Wes Chapin has returned to the Senate ready to “help and shape the university.” Faculty Senate is a group of professors that meet every other Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center, to receive and consider suggestions, proposals, and recommendations brought before the Senate by the faculty, student body and administrative staff. Chapin is returning this year as the Senate chair. He is also the chair of the international studies program, chair of the political science department, 2012 group leader for the International Traveling Classroom study abroad program, the 2012 group leader for the Germany study abroad trip and he teaches one section of political science 377. “I’m a busy guy,” said Chapin. Chapin said the biggest issue he expects to come up in the near agenda is the privatization of textbook services.

“This would have a big impact on professors for when they are designing their classes and assigning textbooks and requirements,” said Chapin. Chapin said he was unsure if the privatization would require more money from students or staff. Another issue Chapin expects to come up in the next couple months is the effect of the Conceal and Carry law that comes into effect in Wisconsin on Nov. 1. The state of Wisconsin has passed a Conceal and Carry law, meaning that carrying a weapon is permitted in any public place unless that public place has a sign banning it. Chapin said he thinks the most threatening place for a weapon to be on campus is in the residential halls. According to the UW-River Falls Faculty Senate website, the Senate is the “legislative arm of the faculty.” “Faculty Senate really puts you in a position to help shape the university,” Chapin said. “Most faculty say they went to teaching at a higher education to make a difference for

students and society, and teaching is a great way of doing that, but government is another great way to impact student learning.” The Senate gets approximately a \$3000 stipend, but Chapin said he doesn’t think anyone does it for the money. According to the Faculty Senate Constitution, there are three different elections for the Senate. Elections are held during spring semester for divisional slots first, and then for at-large seats and then the Termination Committee is nominated and elected by the faculty. UWRF has five divisions: the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education and Professional Studies and the College of Business and Economics. Representatives selected for the 2011-12 Faculty Senate are: Ian Williams (CAFES), Don Stovall (COEPS), Patricia Berg, Kris Butler and Larry Harred (CAS) and Thomas Pedersen (Fourth Division or CBE).

Vandalism victim searches for answers

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Despite a \$1000 reward for information, the names of vandals who last spring flipped a car belonging to a UW-River Falls professor remain a mystery. Brian Smith, a professor of plant and earth sciences and owner of the vandalized car, is still offering the reward. He said that he hopes the money will entice students to break their silence at a time when tuition expenses are coming due. “I wish there was a better way of encouraging people to come forward,” Smith said. “But \$1000 is a lot of money towards an education.” The overturned car was discovered Sunday, May 15, 2011. Smith said he was eating breakfast at his home when he got a call from University Police. They told him that his 1986 Dodge Colt hatchback was found vandalized next to the greenhouse located behind the Agricultural Science building. “I knew right away it was a major prank or something,” Smith said. “I went up there as quick as I could.” He found the vehicle heavily damaged. The driver side window was smashed, the windshield had multiple cracks, the roof was crushed in and the engine was leaking oil, according to a University Police incident report. Police also noticed two 8 foot fence posts near the vehicle that they suspect were used as a lever to flip the car on its roof. “Whoever did that was pretty darned determined,” Smith said. Smith said that he thinks the vandals were hoping to get the car, which was parked on a slight dirt incline, to roll into the street. It appeared that they smashed a window to access and release the emergency brake. But the vehicle curved instead, coming to a stop when it hit the foundation of the greenhouse. That is when Smith said that he believes the vandals concocted the lever. “They must have taken the posts out of my nursery area and used them for leverage to flip it,” Smith said. The 1986 model of the Dodge Colt weighs about 1 ton, but is a relatively small car. Smith said that the lever system the vandals used would have made it possible for as few as two people to flip the car on its roof. Although Smith used the car to transport parts and equipment between the greenhouse and the Campus Lab Farm, it does not belong to UWRF. Because it is privately owned, Smith had to pay to have the vehicle towed and repaired with his own money. “I had to have them jack up the roof, put in a new wind-



Photo taken by Prof. Brian Smith
Vandalism of Professor Brian Smith’s 1986 Dodge Cobalt was found on campus near the UWRF greenhouse on May 15, 2011. A reward of \$1000 will be given for any information or names of vandals.

shield and put in a new door,” Smith said. In total the repairs cost him over \$900. Smith said that he believes the timing of the incident may be important. The 2011 spring commencement ceremony was held May 14, the day before the car was discovered. Smith said it is possible the vandalism was linked to graduation and the end of the spring semester. University Police Officer Steven Nygaard said there were several cases of vehicle vandalism last year, but they are not tracking any patterns regarding the timing of such vandalism. If the vandals were graduating seniors, Smith said he is afraid they may have moved away from River Falls. But he said that he remains confident that somebody in the area still

knows something. “Even if they were a senior, they’re going to brag about it,” Smith said. “Somebody does know, and they’re just not talking.” Smith said he will continue to search for the truth as a matter of principle. “It’s not a mischievous prank, it’s malicious,” Smith said. “I don’t care how much you think it’s fun, but it’s just not acceptable in society.” Persons with information regarding the vandalism can contact Brian Smith at brian.r.smith@uwrf.edu.

Department of Education releases loan default information

Andrew Barker
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UW-River Falls is listed as below the national average for student loan default rates, but its numbers are still steadily rising. The U.S. Department of Education has recently released the Fiscal Year 2009 (FY2009) national student loan cohort or group default rate, which has increased to 8.8 percent in 2009 from its 2008 rate of 7.0 percent in public institutions. UWRF however has only increased to 2.6 percent in 2009, up .6 percent from its 2008 rate of 2.0 percent. “We do have a low default rate here at UWRF. I credit both

our staff and our student population,” said the UWRF Financial Aid Director Barbara Stinson. “Any rise you see in that is reflective of the new way in calculating it recently.” According to the FY2009 report it consisted “Of borrowers whose first loan repayments came due between Oct. 1, 2008 and Sept. 30, 2009, and who defaulted before Sept. 30, 2010.” The report went on to say that “Borrowers who defaulted after the two-year period are not counted as defaulters in this data set.” In a U.S. Department of Education press release the U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan stated, “These hard economic times have made it even more difficult for student borrowers to repay their loans.”

Even though the rate at UWRF hasn’t risen greatly, the Financial Aid office does keep a close eye on these numbers to make sure the students can afford their education. “I do watch it, but I wouldn’t say that I am overly worried about it at this time. That said, we do need to be aware of this and need to educate our students to help them in both planning and managing their debt,” Stinson said. The U.S. Department of Education press release also explains how the Obama Administration has stepped up to try and take some stress off student loan borrowers. “The Obama Administration has expanded flexible loan repayment options

News briefs

Donations of all sizes of winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats, and mittens are being collected in the Falcon Shop and at the Information Desk in the University Center through Oct. 13. They will be donated to local children in need.

UW-River Falls received a \$134,000 Susan Harwood Training Grant from the Occupational and Safety Health Administration to establish the Center for Dairy Farm Safety. The program will be developed and managed in collaboration with UW-Extension.

The second influenza vaccine clinic will be held 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26 in the Wind River Room of the UC.

The cost for flu shots at this campus clinic will be free for the first 150 students or \$25 after the supply of free vaccine is depleted (subsidized by Student Health Services) and \$30 for non-students (so anyone can receive a seasonal flu shot at this clinic for \$30).

Saturday, Oct. 1, fall color hike to Interstate Park led by Kinni Outdoor Adventures. Faculty, staff, students and community members welcome.

Sign up at <http://www.uwrf.edu/RecreationAndSportFacilities/TripsandExcursions.cfm>.

Meet in Knowles Center at 9 a.m., transportation and lunch provided. Contact jennifer.loew@uwrf.edu.

On 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 5 in the River-view Ballroom, of the UC. Wyman Series: Spencer West lecture. Inspirational and charismatic, Spencer West speaks candidly about the struggles he overcame after losing his legs at the age of five.

He speaks about overcoming stereotyping and bullying, about finding meaning and happiness in a material world and how he never lost the hope or courage needed to overcome personal obstacles.

Infused with humor and humility, his thought-provoking message inspires people to find opportunity in every challenge. Free and open to the public. For more information, call 4444.

The UWRF Student Association and the Student Senate, introduced legislation to the Allocable Fee Appropriation Board to repeal the prohibition on allocation of segregated university fees to organizations that charge dues for membership.



Charissa Squire/Student Voice

Online courses provide expanded class options

Melinda Mendez
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With online courses growing in popularity in colleges, there is always the question of whether students are getting the same education as traditional classrooms. Just three in 10 American adults, 29 percent, say that taking a course online provides them with an equal amount of education. On the other side of that, nearly half of college presidents, 51 percent, say online courses equal the same education.

According to the Pew Research Center, more than three-quarters of the nation’s colleges and universities now offer online classes, and about one in four college graduates, 23 percent, have taken a course online. While online courses have been steadily growing in popularity over the years, there remains questions as to whether students are really getting the same benefits and quality of a traditional classroom setting.

According to an article on the UW-River Falls communications website, students that have previously taken online courses said that they were convenient, fit into their schedules, and saved them money. Ninety six percent of these students also said that they plan to take

another online course in the future.

Leeann Hitsman, 20, a junior at UWRF, says that while she likes the flexibility that online classes offer, “I can do things at my own pace,” she admits there are some disadvantages as well. “Being able to do things at your own pace is good, but sometimes it can lead to procrastination, you also don’t get that personal connection,” said Hitsman. “The professor says one way, but when it comes to grading it’s something different.”

Rebecca Alden, 21, a senior at UWRF, says that she also liked being able to do the work on her own time, but she didn’t like that fact that the classes moved fast. “You basically had to cram three months of work into a month,” said Alden.

“The jury is still out,” said Brian Schultz, assistant dean and College of Business and Economics professor. “Were still not certain, it’s not a perfect system.”

There is a push for more online courses to meet the needs and demands of students. Two groups of people that online courses benefit are nontraditional students who do not live near the campus and would benefit from not having to make the daily commute, and MBA students needing to complete their foun-

dation courses.

Some of the problems with online courses, said Schultz, are that some students sign up for some of these courses because they believe that it will be easier than being in a classroom setting, although this is not the case. “In the College of Business and Economics we strive to make the online courses just as vigorous as the classroom,” said Schultz.

There is also the issue of whether the students are actually doing their own work or having somebody else do it for them. “You have to put a lot more trust in students in online courses to take initiative and be honest,” said Schultz. “Overall though, we have seen some good results from students taking these courses.”

Scott Wojtanowski, information processing consultant at UWRF, doesn’t make distinctions between the two courses. He believes it is more in the delivery of the course than of the course itself. “Online courses are just a different way of delivering a course,” said Wojtanowski. “It doesn’t matter if it is online or in a classroom, you can have a good experience with both.”

Candidates for Student Senate

At-Large Senator
(one seat available)

Ben Blanchard
Riley Haynes
Jake Mandoza
Hannah Klingfus

College of Education and Professional
Studies representative
(one seat available)
Hannah Klingfus

Check student email for voting details

Vice President
(one seat available)
Carlan Strand

First-Year Representative
(four seats available)

Kayla Edstrom
Kristi Elles
Alycia Hall
Riley Haynes
Selena Houchins
Hannah Klingfus

River Falls
Police /
UWRF
Police
Department

9/18/2011

- Alan Dicke, 20, was cited \$263.50 for underage consumption at 611 South 3rd Street.
- Alan Dicke, 20, was cited \$452.50 for obstructing/ resisting an officer on 420 East Cascade.
- Justin Dicke, 21, was cited \$452.50 for obstructing/ resisting an officer on 420 East Cascade.
- Derek McNamara, 18, was cited \$716 for obstructing/ resisting an officer and for underage consumption at 420 East Cascade.
- A bike was reported stolen from the Ag Science building.
- A bike was reported stolen from Crabtree Hall.
- Another bike was reported stolen from Crabtree Hall.

9/19/2011

- A bike was reported stolen from Crabtree Hall.
- Another bike was reported stolen from Crabtree Hall.

9/20/2011

- A bike was reported stolen from KFA or Ag Science.
- A bike was reported stolen from the Univeristy Center.
- A bike was reported stolen from the Ag Science building.

9/22/2011

- A bike was reported stolen from the University Center.

9/23/2011

- A pole was reported damaged in the Knowles Bating Cage.
- A vehicle was reported damaged in N lot.

9/24/2011

- Danielle Nordquest, 19, was cited \$389.50 for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall (second offense).
- Brittney Laslay, 20, \$263.50 was cited for underage consumption at Hathorn Hall.
- David Wilson, 22, was cited \$452.50 for giving alcohol to an underage person.
- A stolen vehicale was recovered by Burr Oak Trail.

9/25/2011

- Alexander Retting, 20, was cited \$515.50 for the possession of a dangerous weapon at Grimm Hall.

Three bikes have been recovered.

Editor’s note:
Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

Corrections

In the Sept. 23 issue of the Student Voice, the article “Freshman class reshapes gender, racial trends,” was written by Jessie Behrman, not Melinda Mendez.

Also in that article, Sandy Scott-Duex was misidentified as Scott Duex.

The article “New HR system confusion continues,” was written by Melinda Mendez, not Jessie Behrman.

Dress to impress for Career Fair

Professional dress is the main indicator of student admittance to the Career Fair.

The 20th annual Career Fair will be held 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 19 in the Riverview Ballroom of the Univeristy Center.

Like last year, the Career Fair will be enforcing a dress code in which students who plan on attending will be required to follow.

First impressions at the Career Fair are important. The way in which students represent themselves sends an immediate message to employers about how serious they are about their career search.

Information provided by Career Fair Coordinator Whitney Pessig

Part of staying competitive is portraying an image that employers respect.

Students attending the fair should plan to dress to impress. Suits, ties, khakis, dress pants, dress shoes, knee-length skirts, sweaters, dress shirts and blazers are encouraged. Inappropriate dress includes sweatshirts, sweatpants, shorts, t-shirts, pants with holes, hats or flip flops. Any student who is dressed inappropriately will be turned away at the door or be asked to change.

The Career Fair dress code began when attending employers commented on how

UW-River Falls students were not dressed professionally, citing incidences where students wore sweatpants and flip flops to the fair. Within one year of having an enforced dress code, Career Services received positive feedback from employers including, “So happy your students have a dress code!”

More information on the Career Fair, the attending organizations and tips for professional dress can be found at www.uwrf.edu/CareerFair or by contacting Career Services at 425-3572, or at Hagestad Hall room 211.

Interested in working as the

Sports Editor
for the Student Voice?

Applications available
outside of 304
North Hall



UWRF Falcons Gotta Go To Bo's for a Study Break!

Every **TUESDAY & THURSDAY**
3:30-5:00 p.m. stop in at Bo's for the
Falcon Study Break - Show your College
ID & with the purchase of a soda Bo's will
provide a complimentary luncheon buffet.

Enjoy free Wifi, great
music and plenty of TVs for
you to relax and unwind!
Plenty of space for larger
groups and quiet spots to
just relax by yourself!

Weekly Specials

MONDAY: Burger & Fries Special - \$2.99	FRIDAY: All You Can Eat Fish Fry \$9.99
TUESDAY: Cooks Special!	SATURDAY & SUNDAY: Specials, Sports & Trivia- The ultimate place to recover from a tough week of hitten' the books!
WEDNESDAY: All You Can Eat Fried Shrimp & Fries - \$7.99	
THURSDAY: Mexican Night- Chimichangas & 50¢ Tacos	



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EDITORIALS

Somber crime report calls for dire warning

We are only a few weeks into the semester, and in light of all of the crime that has been reported thus far on campus, it seems pertinent to discuss how important it is to be a respectful and civil member of the River Falls community.

In the last week alone, eight bicycles have been reported stolen on campus. In some of the incidences, a bike lock was not utilized. Regardless, possessing even the faintest trace of morality would prevent someone from stealing. Or at least we hope so.

Last May, Professor Brian Smith’s car was vandalized, and the \$1000 reward to apprehend those responsible still stands. This act of vandalism is as disruptive as it is appalling. Brian Smith, along with all professors at UW-River Falls, should be treated with the respect they deserve.

The 2010 Annual Campus Security Report, which is available on the UWRF website, explains the precautions that should be taken in the event of a crime, fire, medical emergency, or safety hazard.

The report also provides data on the number of crimes that have occurred over the last few years, as well as where and how to report an incident.

Incidents of underage consumption are also reported far too often. According to the report, from 2007-2009 the average number of on-campus liquor law violations is 159 per year. Underage consumption is a misdemeanor, an offense that will result in a hefty fine and will likely stick with you for the rest of your life.

The Student Voice does publish the names and fine amounts of those charged with an underage consumption violation, which are transposed to the Internet. What happens on the Internet, stays on the Internet.


We here at the Voice are shocked by the all of the negative occurrences at UWRF, and wish to encourage students to think before they act. Think in terms of your future career, of those affected by loss of their possessions, and of the society as a whole.

A place is defined by its people, and the UWRF campus and community should foster caring, honest, virtuous individuals. We hope that all members of the community can take pride in living in River Falls.



David Recine/Student Voice

Managing your stressful, demanding fall semester



Sam
Mayberry

Columnist

Stress. For most college students, it is a word, when spoken, that makes us cringe. With balancing, on average, five to six classes per semester and all of the homework each of them require it can

get stressful. Plus if you have a job, or an internship then throw the social aspect of college into the mix, you could be filled to the brim with stress.

Fortunately for some students, they are able to deal with stress relatively well. For others, it can be quite difficult. My advice to you is to find a stress reliever. Whether it is a video game or even getting in touch with your inner child and coloring a picture, be sure to make some time for yourself. Being a college student myself, I have been in the position where I feel like I’ll never get done with the mountain of homework my professors assign me. There have been times when I’ve had four exams on the same day and I just can’t focus on studying for 14 hours on end. However, I’ve found it helpful to break up my homework and studying time with a stress reliever that can give me a few minutes to have my mind at ease. You just have to be sure that your stress reliever doesn’t turn into a major distraction.

My stress reliever happens to be the television show *Gilmore Girls*. It was a popular TV series from the year 2000 until 2007 that starred Lauren Graham (TV series *Parenthood*), Alexis Bledel (The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants) and Melissa McCarthy (TV series *Mike and Molly*). I am willing to admit that I own all seven seasons of the show and I can often be found watching random episodes from each season when I find myself in a stressful situation. There is something about the humor, the references to different actors, bands, movies and also the fast-paced lives of the characters that make the show extremely

entertaining to me. However, I have to limit myself to one or two episodes because if I don’t, I might end up watching the show for hours.

I also recommend hitting the gym or even just going for a walk or run. I often find that physical activity puts my mind at ease and I seem to feel refreshed and a lot more relaxed after a nice walk around campus or hitting the gym for a little while.

What is more important than finding a stress reliever however, is if you are having trouble managing your stress and concerns, don’t be afraid to make an appointment with the Counseling Services, Career Services, or Student Health Services which are located in Hagestad Hall. Another campus resource that you can look into is the Academic Success Center, which is located in the Davee Library.

Each resource is able to help assist you in dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, relationships, grades, grief and many more concerns you may have. The counselors that are available to you are willing to help you and make sure that you have a successful experience in college. On a side note, all counseling

records are kept strictly confidential and the counseling services are available to enrolled students with no extra cost with the exception of alcohol and drug assessments for which you will be charged a fee. The Counseling Service staff members are also licensed in the state of Wisconsin. For more information, you can go to the Student Health and Counseling Services page on the UW-River Falls

website or stop by any of the service centers.

When you find yourself in a stressful situation, try to keep yourself as calm as possible and don’t stress yourself out more than you already are. Remember to take deep breaths and make time for yourself to relax. College can be quite stressful, but there are people around you that are willing to help make it an upbeat experience.

Sam is a junior and is majoring in journalism. She is from Rochester, Minnesota and loves to read, listen to music and take pictures.

Editorials represent the opinion of the Student Voice Editorial Board and are prepared by the editorial staff.

STUDENT VOICE

- | | |
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Read the *Student Voice* online at
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The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

All editorial content in the *Student Voice* is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board. The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

Letters to the editor must be 300 words or less, and include a first and last name and phone number. They can be submitted at 304 North Hall, River Falls, WI 54022 or to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

The *Student Voice* reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must also be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon.

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the *Student Voice* per issue. A single copy of the *Student Voice* is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.



Do you have something to say?

Send a letter to the editor at

editor@uwrfvoice.com

Lifestyle Enthusiast on the town:

Enthusiast’s wild petting zoo



Christopher Pagels
Columnist

coat still clinging stood like a portrait. I joined my nephew about 40 feet away from this prairie bull and watched. We were in a bowl surrounded by hillocks of sage and crumbling sandstone with deep cracks from lack of moisture in the Roosevelt National Park. The park road loops in a circle around lookouts, prairie dog towns, valleys, canyons and the badlands. We were on a plain where a river tracked through with protection provided by parallel sandstone hills.

We inched forward with a deliberate pace, crunching the stale grass, until I held my hand to the side for Samuel to stop. He looked at us like a halibut, eyes to the side so we could see his whites. The same way my Yorktese dog Sophie

“Christopher! Christopher!” said my nephew Samuel, age 12, who was on top of a riverbank pointing to the prairie grass where a beast was loitering. A bison with half of its shaggy winter

does when she barks at you for attention and rears her butt in the air. For 15 minutes, the bull stood lazily looking around with the quickness of a sloth, and then laid down unafraid of our intentions. The night before, another bison walked 10 feet away from my car window with shifty eyes and a prowess that suggested a lord walking among his minions. I put down my every urge to walk calmly over and pet its dusty mange; and possibly sit on top of it. If I was so bold, Samuel would approach every animal with like disregard, no, I need to be the adult while holding down some resemblance of child-like wonder. We left the beast to his instincts and traipsed along the weaving riverbank called the Jones River Creek.

The creek was a sorry sight of sparsely placed bright yellow puddles, when we heard a rattling noise. I held out my hand again. Samuel followed behind my lead gliding slowly but methodically towards the rattle with my hand scraping the blades tips. It was a real life-and-death game of “hot and cold;” the frequency of the rattle increasing when I came closer and decreasing likewise. A few steps to the south and the rattling reached peak frequency when I spied a timber rattler coiled in a ball. The grass arched over like a doorway exposing a 5 foot coil. “Let’s mess with it, get a large stick.” I do not know why I whispered, an indoor voice is hardly

needed when dealing with a venom tongue. Obtaining a stick is a difficult task in this treeless prairie; luckily enough, there was a grove of bushes that is no doubt under the spell of the putrid water. Nonetheless, he was back in two shakes with a 4 foot stick. I did not want to hurt the snake, just get in his bubble. I tried perching the stick underneath his curl of scales to lift it up for a better look-see. Nothing going, a larger stick is required, I rushed out to a crumbling tree near the bushes with the bison a stone’s throw away. I grabbed a weathered 10 foot stick with many forks and limbs.

The snake was not backing down, but I know snakes loathe biting random objects if they can help it. The venom takes at least a day if not more to restore. Like a shovel, I got a good hold under the snake’s scales and slung the snake in all its flailing confusion over 50 feet away and least 20 in the air. Whilst in the air it let out hisses like steam forcing its way through a pinhole in a chimney. We threw high fives, laughing in a jocular fashion. We clearly did not care too much about the policies the park has for its animals. Next up was the prairie dog petting zoo, whoops; I mean the wild prairie dog town.

Four steps for preparing for your cruise abroad

Although I did welcome you aboard to my travel column last week, we still have a few logistics that need to be settled. Cruising is not something you can

rush into and master overnight. It comes with practice and some “trial and error” experiments. Believe me, I was not an expert cruiser when I first sailed in 2002. I hope the following recommendations will help make your next vacation an enjoyable one.

1. Book early: it’s similar to arriving early at a movie theater; the earlier you book, the greater stateroom selection you have! That’s not to say you can’t luck out with an affordable last minute deal, but the odds aren’t exactly in your favor. Usually, the price may be quite high when you book so far in advance, as many people don’t know what the future holds in a year. However, as the cruise approaches, cruise lines will

offer promotional pricing, which can be substantially lower than the initial price. If you call the cruise line, there’s a good chance that your cruise will be re-fared. On one cruise to the Caribbean, we got a \$900 reduction, which promptly went into another round of drinks.

2. Pack smart: remember, you’re going on a cruise; you aren’t moving across the country. One nicely sized suitcase can hold everything you need for your week away. Don’t forget that airline bag fees will add unnecessary costs if you go over the weight limit. You should create a clothing checklist to make sure you have all of your essential items. On that list, include a nice polo and long pants (as shorts aren’t permitted in the dining room), a sweatshirt (it can get cold on deck at night) and tennis shoes (as you’ll do a lot of walking). In short, pack light! Less is more. If needed, you can always visit the laundromat on board.

3. Fly in the day before: Traveling is fun, but it can be exhausting—especially if you have a long journey. I recommend traveling the day before your cruise leaves. You can use your travel day to rest up and be refreshed for your day

on board. Leaving on embarkation day provides little wiggle room (in case of delay or other disruption) and ends up tiring you out quickly. On our cruise to San Juan, we awoke at 2:30 a.m. for a 5:30 a.m. flight, arrived at 2 p.m. (after connecting in Atlanta), on board at 3 p.m. and the ship left at 11 p.m. Not a fun first couple of days.

4. Limit shore excursions: the best way to view a port is to take an excursion. You learn about the history and experience the culture. However, many excursions last anywhere from two-to-eight hours (or longer) and can be very expensive. On our first cruise, we did an excursion in every port, and by the end, we ended up more tired than relaxed. My suggestion is to take excursions in no more than half of your ports (example: if there are four ports of call, do two excursions). If you like the ports, you can always return and take another excursion in the future!

Now that we’ve cleared up some business, it’s time for the fun part of my column. Check back next week to learn about our first (and my favorite) port of call: St. Thomas!

I hope the following recommendations will help make your next vacation an enjoyable one.

STUDENT VOICES

Compiled by Megan Rodriguez

What is something new you have learned this semester?

Alex Lawlor, Junior

“I have learned that you can have/make a good day purely by thinking it is one.”



Marissa Amidon, freshman

“I learned where the falls are!”



Marie Sallman, freshman

“I learned why the sky is blue in my astronomy class”



Kaitlyn Cwikla, freshman

“I learned how to use Audacity in my journalism lab.”



Austen Edman, sophomore

“That I can crank out a 300 word essay in ten minutes!”



Max Dalton, Junior

“Stress management and how to set priorities to certain tasks.”



Choosing your Mario Kart character more complicated than you think



Benjamin Lamers
Columnist

character do you choose to race with in Mario Kart? Even in the early games, where all karts are created equal, consistency is key. That, of course, means finding a character you like and sticking with him, or her, for the duration of your playing time. Still having trouble picking your character? Hopefully this article will help shed some light on the matter.

I’ll be brief on the N64 version since the characters, and karts are pretty straightforward. If you have an incredible need for speed, are willing to sacrifice power, and are willing to be bumped around by other characters, then the choice is obviously Toad. If you are looking for that speed in a more annoying character, your choice should be Peach. Yoshi, my personal favorite, rounds out the “light weight class” by being the heaviest of those three, meaning he can withstand a little more abuse.

Mario and Luigi complete the “medium weight class,” meaning they sacrifice a little speed for a little more power. Other than that, there isn’t much to say about the two plumb-ers. In the “heavy weight class” we encounter Bowser, Donkey Kong, and Wario. Wario gives you the most speed out of this group, Bowser brings the most power but has the slowest kart, and Donkey Kong is, well, Donkey Kong.

Skipping over Double Dash for the Gamecube, which no one owns anymore, we can focus on the Wii version. The same eight characters remain from the N64 version, but a plethora of new characters have been added, each with their

We have all faced the same problem at some point in our lives. We have booted up the Nintendo 64, Wii, Gamecube, or any other Nintendo device and come across a difficult problem. Which

own unique twist. Obviously, I’m not going to go through all of the characters for this game, just a brief overview. The only holdover in the “light weight class” is Toad. He is joined by the “baby” versions of the main characters as well as Koopa Troopa. If you like speed, this class of racing is for you. However, even more so than in the other games, you will be bumped, battered and bruised by nearly every other character on the track.

The “middle weight class” sees the addition of Yoshi and Peach from the lighter ranks. It also adds some new characters including Bowser Jr. and Diddy Kong. Personally, I find this class to be the happy medium between power and speed. Also, if you are so inclined to race as your Mii, it will show up in this class.

Finally, the “heavy weight class” returns the three characters from the N64 version and adds a few more spirited characters to the mix. These racers can knock anyone out of their way, but don’t expect to win a shootout down the stretch if you are counting on speed. I think this class works out the best for beginners, as these karts typically move slower and allow more room for “reckless” driving, whereas the others don’t allow for as many mistakes.

Of course, for the Wii there is the important matter of using a kart or a bike. Personally, I use a bike simply because it allows you to pop a wheelie, which gives you a nice speed burst. On the other hand, my roommate used a kart with high-end speed, with questionable acceleration. I would recommend just experimenting with the karts and bikes until you find a mix of handling, acceleration and speed that you like.

And now, since some of you may be curious, I also only use one character and one bike every time I race. I throw it down with Yoshi and the Dolphin Dasher, a bike, and they haven’t let me down yet.

Ben is a sophomore majoring in journalism and minoring in history. He is a huge Colts and Brewers fan.

Find Freddy’s Feather!

Be the first person to find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theater!

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday *wins*.

Tennis preps for season’s second half



Megan Rodriguez/Student Voice

Left: Maggie Kregness sends a volley across the net during the Falcons practice Wednesday, Sept. 28, as Taylor Nelson (Right) gets set to return. The Falcons are preparing for the second half of their season which will eventually culminate in the WIAC Championships Oct. 22-23 in Madison, Wis.

Jessie Behrman
jessie.behrman@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women’s tennis team continues to improve this season. They have their most important matches coming up Friday, Sept. 30 and Saturday, Oct. 1 at home, according to first year Coach Paul Mitchell.

The Falcons have 12 women on the roster this year, according to the UWRF website. Captain Jenny Paxton is a junior and this is her third year on the team. Paxton commented about the new group of talented freshmen this year and how they contribute to the team.

Mitchell also commented on the spots filled by freshmen and the pressure on them. He said if they can perform well with the pressure it would be a great help for the team. Out of the 12 women on the team, five of them are freshman with the rest returners.

The two home matches on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 are against UW-Oshkosh and UW-Stevens Point, respectively. Mitchell said the match against UW-Stevens Point will be good competition for the Falcons, as they’re matched up well against them. He said if the team doesn’t perform as well as they want, it’s going to be hard to rebound from that.

Paxton said she hopes for the team to do better overall in the WIAC than in the past.

Last year the team ended up getting sixth out of nine in the standings. The team is currently ranked fifth in the standings, according to the official WIAC website.

Mitchell said he expects the team to continue to get better results as the season goes on and to do better than last year. When asked about how the team has done so far this season, Mitchell commented on the team’s attitude.

“We have improved upon last year, our record doesn’t reflect our aggressiveness,” said Mitchell.


The WIAC Championships take place in Madison, Wis., on Oct. 22 and 23. Mitchell said these matches are a big part of their season. He said if they can do well at this tournament, that will be a huge help to their ranking.

Paxton talked about being captain and her passion for the sport.

“I love being able to promote the sport in every way I can and running practices are fun. I’m looking forward to the rest of the season,” said Paxton.

The team has potential this season and a strong freshmen class. Mitchell and Paxton both look forward to improvements this season and finishing strong in the WIAC standings and being competitive in their toughest matches this season on Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

UWRF Falcon athletic update



Ashley Goettl

Columnist

The fall athletic season is well under way. For those who are new to campus, or those who have never been, I encourage all of you to attend some upcoming Falcon athletic events.

UW-River Falls competes in one of the toughest conferences in the country for Division III. As a member of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, the Falcons are more than likely either a part, or playing against a nationally ranked team. And the best part, all it takes to get into any athletic regular season game is your student ID and you get into the games or matches for free.

As homecoming fast approaches, the first event I would encourage attendance for is the football game on Saturday, Oct. 8. The Falcons will host the 2x defending national champions, UW-Whitewater, starting at 1 p.m. at Ramer Field. The Falcons are ripe and ready for an upset as new Head Coach Matt Walker leads the way.

Another exciting team to keep an eye on this season is the volleyball team. UWRF is coming off an impressive win on the road against UW-La Crosse. With a 9-5 start, and conference play just getting underway, the Falcons are looking to move up the conference standings, where they have finished in the middle of the pack for the last couple of years. Their next home game is also on Oct. 8 starting at noon as they host UW-Stevens Point at the Karges Center. During their next match, on Oct. 12 against rival UW-Stout, the Falcons will host the Dig For the Cure event where they raise money for breast cancer. Fans that attend are encouraged to wear pink.

The women’s soccer team, while off to a

tough start, will look to take the conference by surprise. The Falcons have lost seven of their 10 games by one goal. But with the heart of their season still ahead, the best may be yet to come. You can catch the Falcons in action on Oct. 1 starting at 2 p.m. The will host UW-Stevens Point.

Although it may be hard, it is not impossible to see the golfers in action. Back on Sept. 11, the golf team set a school record at the Wartburg Invitational. As a team, they golfed 345 to set an all-time record for UWRF. Their next competition is at UW-Stevens Point on Oct. 1.

The women’s tennis team is also looking to make some noise on the courts. They are under a new head coach, Paul Mitchell, and will be wrapping up their fall season in the upcoming weeks. The last chance to see them in action will be on Oct. 1 as they too, host UW-Stevens Point. The match is set to get underway at 9 a.m.

Both the men’s and women’s cross country teams have been moving up in the national spotlight. The men’s team took fifth out of 19 teams at the Luther Invitational. Senior Jared Brandenburg turned in a time of 20:43 to take fourth place individually. This performance also garnered him WIAC runner of the week honors. The following week, Brandenburg placed eighth overall at the prestigious Roy Griak Invitational held at the University of Minnesota.

Katie Rydeen has led the women’s team. She placed 27th out of 385 runners at the Roy Griak Invitational.

So when looking for something to do this homecoming weekend and for the remainder of the fall season, come out and show your Falcon pride as our Falcon athletes compete with the best of the best. Go Falcons!

Ashley is the editor of the Voice and a student-athlete on the softball team for the Falcons. She also enjoys watching the Twins and Vikings.

Falcon athletes of the week



Falcon Volleyball
Danielle Gibbemeyer
Jr., Outside Hitter

Gibbemeyer helped lead the Falcons to a WIAC win on Sept. 23 at UW-La Crosse with 12 kills and 15 digs. The Falcons won the match 3-1 (25-18, 22-25, 25-20, 25-16)



Falcon Volleyball
Courtney Preiner
Jr., Libero

Preiner was also instrumental in the Falcons 3-1 decision over UW-La Crosse. She posted 18 digs and a service ace.



The Falcon football team hosted a youth football night at Ramer Field on Sept. 6. Over 240 River Falls area youth attended the event, which featured many drill stations, a visit to the Falcon locker rooms and autographs.

Want to be the Sports Editor?
Email the Editor at
editor@uwrf.edu

Thrifty tips for students Gosling shines in ‘Drive’

In America, people seek faster, cheaper, and better. However, in this unreasonable quest for immediate satisfaction, people overlook quality, long-term solutions. Instead of using one-stop shops like Wal-Mart, society as a whole benefits when its members choose to shop at thrift stores, flea markets, consignment shops, and natural or organic food stores. Additionally, the consumer reaps wonderful benefits.

When shopping at thrift stores and flea markets, a host of advantages arise. Primarily, thrift stores offer unbeatable prices. Hundreds of clothing items sell for well under \$5 a piece, furniture often falls under \$100, and general household items holds prices under a tenth of their original value. Often, prices drop even more drastically if an item needs a minor repair, such as a few stitches along a seam, or replacing a button. In addition to unbeatable prices, these places offer unique items and the opportunity to truly express oneself with individualistic pieces. When shopping at chain stores like American Eagle, several people in the small community of River Falls will own the exact same article of clothing, not to mention the millions of people around the world also traipsing around in the same outfit. Furthermore, purchasing previously owned clothing greatly reduces waste. Instead of tossing unwanted, yet perfectly functional items, people donate their possessions to thrift stores. By shopping at a thrift store, people save money, find one-of-a-kind pieces, and help the planet.

Similarly, purchasing organic and natural food establishes a healthier world in many ways. Organic foods grow with minimal, if any, aid from pesticides, chemicals, and fertilizers. Without use of these chemicals, pollution of the environment and health risks drop dramatically for the food producing employees. These employees then experience greater job satisfaction and happier lives, and therefore less of a job turnover rate, resulting in more skilled and knowledgeable food producers. Additionally, the absence of chemicals benefits the vegetation, herbivores on all levels, carnivores, and in turn the health of the people. Furthering the health of consumers, the absence of man-made ingredients such as high fructose corn syrup, MSG, and hydrogenated oils provides a more wholesome diet that human bodies



Jaime Haines
Columnist

evolved to consume. By purchasing natural and organic foods, the entire earth and all its inhabitants’ lives improve.

Finally, to address the main concern of the population, organic foods cost more than the mass-produced, cheap-to-create items on supermarket shelves. However, people can easily accommodate for these slightly higher prices through a number of means. Simple penny pinching goes a long way. Be it by eliminating unnecessary purchases (humans do not need daily Caribou Coffee, despite what their caffeine-riddled bodies and marketing ads tell them). Second, people can choose to make smarter decisions regarding other shopping purchases (like exploring thrift stores), or using the coupons, membership discounts, and punchcards that many health food stores and co-ops offer. While many people dislike reducing their frivolous spending habits, it comes down to the decision of which holds more importance: impulse buys or the health and safety of oneself and the world as a whole.

Every time you go to purchase a product, remember that you proactively vote with every dollar you spend. The more you choose wisely and pick natural or organic items, the more those items will rise in demand and be produced; on the other hand, the more you purchase the cheapest bulk product, the more the product’s manufacturers will continue their abuses.

So choose wisely. Check out the website “betterworldshopper.org” for easy-to-read (yet intensively researched) rankings of thousands of brands and shopping locations and descriptions of their practices.

Jaime Haines is an exuberant puppy-lover and “House” addict and plans to use her psychology degree to encourage activism and well-being through counseling, workshops, speeches, and the written word.

Ryan Gosling plays an unemotional, secluded Hollywood stunt driver with a dark side in “Drive.” What do we, as an audience, really know about this man? Really nothing, which adds all that much more intrigue to his character. You don’t even know his name, but soon find out that he also drives getaway cars for criminals after robberies. He eventually begins a relationship with his neighbor Irene played by Carey Mulligan who is raising her young son while her husband is in prison.

We take a long journey into the build up of this relationship until her husband returns home and her relationship with the driver must relax. The driver stays on as a friend and finds out that the husband’s debts are not all paid off, so he wants to help to keep Irene and her son safe. The heist goes terribly wrong and now the driver is caught up in something over his head. He winds up with blood money from a close business partner that now needs it back. This builds a slow, elegant story of vengeance and chase.

Never did I think I would use the term elegant to describe this movie, but it is really the best way of describing the flow of this picture. The story slowly builds with little dialogue and few actions. You see Gosling’s character slowly open up to his new confidant. With the music, camera work, and flow setting the tone we begin to slowly see an unraveling of sorts among them after the failed heist.

It really isn’t so much Gosling’s character in the first half of the film, as it comes off very lackluster. I wondered what could she actually see in this dull man. As the film progresses we get small glimpses of his evil side. Soon this evil side really begins to show to the point where I even became uneasy in a scene where he was on the beach at night, in a prop face mask, drowning a bad guy. The chills went up my spine as Gosling brought this evil character to light. The supporting cast is all very good with the villains being played by Albert Brooks and Ron Perlman and Mulligan as the love interest. Slow story progression can be a bad thing when movies begin to fall apart at the end as “Drive” did. Everyone was dying, the heart felt like it went away, and the overall purpose of the film began to fade. Violence doesn’t always make for a better ending.



Dustyn Dubuque
Reviewer



Overall, “Drive” wasn’t what I was expecting. I am sure I was not the only one who thought that it looked stolen from the “Transporter” franchise from the trailers. Gosling played a great villain in last year’s “All Good Things” and brings that side of him to this action-thriller. If you have a couple extra bucks and some free time on a weekend go see this movie.

Dustyn Dubuque is a history major and geography minor that has a love and passion for film. He watches over 100 films each year and loves Academy Awards season.

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Parking problem persists on campus

This school year was the first year that I brought a car to school. I was so excited. I was finally going to have more freedom. I was going to be able to find a job and go home on the weekends on my own time, not on my parents’ time. Having a car is going to be wonderful. Although one problem may end up being a huge buzz kill, and that problem is the parking!

Parking has become a huge hassle on campus. Yes, it makes sense that only students with a housing contract should have access to student parking lots, but what about the rest of us? Commuter students have to park way over by Ramer Field and can’t even park there overnight. What if they don’t feel like driving home? What if they have a project to work on with a friend that is due the next day? Too bad. They have to move their car to a “car friendly” spot by campus.

There are so many streets in River Falls with parking restrictions. Many say, NO PARKING 1 a.m.- 6 a.m. Others say, NO PARKING 7 a.m to 4 p.m, or NO PARKING 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. It



Samantha Harkness
Columnist

just isn’t fair. Many students have to trek to cars, blocks away from their apartments or dorms. I am speaking from personal experience. I live in apartments that only give out parking passes based on how many bedrooms each apartment has. Seems fair, right? Again, it makes sense, but I feel that they could make room for a few more cars. Having to hike to and from my car or going to check on my car is just plain annoying.

Next, I read online that people can obtain parking passes in order to park on certain streets with restrictions. I filled out the required form, and brought my driver’s license and a copy of my lease to the police station,

all set to get a parking pass so I could park closer to my apartment. Turns out, the street I live on is not one of the available streets, so I could not get one. I also contacted the UW-River Falls parking office to see if I could buy a parking pass, but the best they could give me was a commuter’s pass and, like stated before, that is way over by Ramer Field. Will parking ever become easy?

I understand that I may just be overreacting in regards to the issue of student parking on campus, but it is frustrating. If readers have the same problem, I’m sure they will understand where I am coming from. This being a college town, the city of River Falls should work to be able to open up more streets for overnight parking. It is hard on us as students, too. UWRF should also issue overnight parking for commuters; it would make life so much easier. Finding a spot to park should not be this difficult. Students can adapt and deal with it, but maybe River Falls can bend a little, too.

Samantha Harkness is a journalism major at UW-River Falls. She loves reading, writing and watching movies.

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Spend an ‘Evening with Jessica Alba’ on Oct. 28

Chris Rohling
christopher.rohling@my.uwrf.edu

Every band wants to get noticed. “An Evening With Jessica Alba,” who will be playing an upcoming show at Shooter’s, really just wants to get noticed by “Fantastic Four” and “Sin City” actress Jessica Alba according to its band members.

“We’re in the midst of trying to market to her,” said Timothy Thrush, sophomore at UW-River Falls. “We’re going to write her a letter asking her, pleading with her, to come to a show and please don’t sue us. Hopefully it doesn’t end badly for us.”

They don’t have a song prepared for her possible appearance at one of their shows, but Thrush said they “probably should.”

“Whatever’s on the setlist next, we’ll just dedicate it to her,” Thrush said.

“The crowd is great. It’s my favorite place to play,” Thrush said of Shooter’s in River Falls where his band will be playing Friday, Oct. 28. “When people are throwing back drinks, they’re having a good time, the band’s having a good time.”

The band consists of Thrush on drums, guitarist Kyle Kenneth, a UWRF alumnus, keyboardist Eric Kreighton, Justin Rankin on bass guitar, and Raun Brostrom as lead singer.

“An Evening With Jessica Alba” was formed in January. “We tend to play three or four hour sets,” said Thrush. “That’s 50 or 60 songs.”

Although the band is recently formed, they’ve already played a handful of shows including two previous shows in River Falls and assorted private parties.

The band members wanted to make sure that there was enough variety in their incredibly long sets so they made sure to avoid repeating covers from different artists, except for Michael Jackson. “Can’t get enough Michael,” Thrush said.

While the band’s setlist runs the gamut of 80s rock and pop, Thrush said the most fun song for him to play is Van Halen’s “Jump.”

“You listen to it and it’s a great song, but you can’t perform it without it coming across really cheesy,” Thrush said, “but it’s really fun to play. We act like idiots when we play it.”

The other side of the coin is the ultra-difficult drum part to Journey’s “Don’t Stop Believing” according to Thrush. “[It] took me the longest to learn. If you play it right. A lot of people cheat and play it their own way,” Thrush said.

Thrush, 25, has been playing drums since he was 12, but said it goes back even further than that. Thrush said he started as a “small child just banging pots and pans and tambourines.” While he was making a ruckus on his second birthday, Thrush said his grandmother asked his parents why they didn’t just go ahead and buy him a drum set.

“Little did they know that that would come to be the case one day,” Thrush said.

Thrush is currently applying at Northwestern Mutual for an internship as a financial representative and also volunteers at Crossroads Church playing drums.

The big question with cover bands is whether they play carbon copies of their songs of choice or if they put their own spin on everything.

“We do stay really close, but at the same time we’re not 80s musicians so we do things a bit more to our style, but not in the sense that it’s an unplugged version,” Thrush said of the band’s approach to their covers.

The show at Shooter’s on Oct. 28 is being billed as a costume party and the bandmates encourage all attendees to dress up, but have something planned for those who might not want to rock out in costume.

“We are going to be having a Jessica Alba look alike contest,” Thrush said. “We want people to come up in their regular outfits and we’re just gonna put a wig on them.” The drummer didn’t allude to what the prize might be.

The show starts at 10 p.m. and runs until 1 a.m. at Shooter’s Pub on Main Street.

“If you’re looking for a good time and good dancing music, we’re the band to come see,” Thrush said.

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