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Volleyball team off to a fast start.



STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

September 20, 2013 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 100, Issue 1

UW-River Falls freshman dies unexpectedly

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UW-River Falls student Sarah Boettcher, 18, died unexpectedly on Saturday, Sept. 14, in Somerset, Wis., a town about 25 miles north of River Falls.

Boettcher was originally from Kewaskum, Wis., a town roughly 45 miles north of Milwaukee, and was a freshman majoring in Elementary Education at UWRF.

Boettcher's advisor, Michael Martin, said that she was very outgoing and energetic.

"She really drew other students toward her," Martin said. "She was a very warm young lady."

Boettcher enjoyed being active in band and choir, as well as being in both plays and musicals, according to her obituary on the Miller & Kietzer Miller Funeral Home website.

Martin added that he taught a class which Boettcher was enrolled in. He said that Boettcher was very comfortable participating early on in the class.

She had also played tennis and soccer in high school, according to the obituary.

Boettcher lit up the world with her beautiful smile and made friends with everyone, her obituary said.

"She made impressions wherever she went, both here and in her hometown," Martin said. "She would have been a wonderful teacher."

Boettcher is survived by her parents, David and Yvonne Boettcher, as well as her brothers: Tim and Michael.

A memorial service for Boettcher was held on Wednesday, Sept. 18, at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Kewaskum.



Photo from Miller & Miller Kietzer Miller Funeral Home
Sarah Boettcher

Director of Residence Life leaves for Stout

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Director of Residence Life Sandra Scott-Deux is saying goodbye to UW-River Falls and starting a new journey at UW-Stout.

"I really wasn't looking to leave River Falls. I was recruited and encouraged to apply for that position at Stout and it really came down to the fact that they made me an offer that I couldn't refuse and it was in the best interest of my family," Scott-Deux said.

Scott-Deux has worked for Residence Life at the University for five years. As the Director of Residence Life and Student Rights and Responsibilities she oversees the University student conduct ad-

ministration program, as well as handles the operational and programmatic aspects of the housing operations.

Since she has been at UWRF, she has made significant and positive changes to the University's housing program. One of these changes was the addition of the Jesse H. Ames Suites that are connected to the South Fork Suites building.

Ames was designed for students in their sophomore year that are transitioning into living more independently. Ames was also a very positive addition to the University because it is eco-friendly.

"The sustainability features

See Residence Life page 3

DoTS rolls out pay-for-printing system, aims for sustainability

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Students have noticed various changes implemented on campus this semester, including paying for printing, which was put in place to offset costs and increase convenience for students.

Paul Blado, desktop support manager for the Department of Technology Services (DoTS), said that having students pay for printing out of pocket will help make printing a self-sustainable program on campus.

"This is a campus-wide initiative and we've been working on it for a year," Blado said.

Students may not know that all students paid a fee to use campus printing in the past. The new way of paying, which is 10 cents a sheet and uses Falcon Dollars, will al-

low for only the people who are using printing to pay.

All students receive \$10 for printing, and students are no longer required to bring their own paper to print, which Blado said he's heard positive feedback about.

However, not everyone is happy about the new system.

"I think it's cheaper to bring my own paper," said sophomore Chris Jankowski.

DoTS is rolling out the paid printing in a step-by-step approach and installing the new system in printers that have the highest usage on campus, such as the Davee Library and the University Center. Blado noted that the printers will be faster and more reliable.

The printers will also be able to handle the volume of printing that occurs on campus. The Green Lab, in the

See DoTS page 3



Britany Bonney/Student Voice
Lindsay Willaby searches the queue for her document using the newly implemented pay-for-printing system in the University Center. Each student receives \$10 to use for printing.

UWRF exceeds goal for international enrollment

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This year UW-River Falls has exceeded the campus goal of having 147 international students enrolled by the fall semester of 2017.

With 19 countries represented on campus, 150 international students are enrolled for the current fall semester, the highest number the University has ever seen. From Brazil, China, Taiwan, Germany and Canada, the diversity is a real benefit to campus.

Blake Fry, assistant to the chancellor, said, "I think it's a real benefit to both our international students and our domestic students. You're not only learning about different perspectives and backgrounds of other people different than yourself, but it can also be a lot of fun. Having tangible experience, when entering a global economy after graduation, from working on projects with people from other countries will help set you apart from other people in society or the company you work for by the simple fact that you had the opportunity to do so. It adds a whole new educational level and experience."

When these students apply, it's not academics that are of

priority like it is for most students who attend the University. Students have to test out of an exam to be proficient enough in the English language to attend UWRF.

There are all sorts of visas and clearances international students have to attain, and go through, from their country or government. The process is more administrative than academic.

International Student Services Coordinator Shelby King said, "From my experience, new international students face many of the same challenges as first year American students – missing home, making friends, finding their place on campus, time management, making positive choices, etc. That being said, international students have some additional challenges that are unique to their situation with regard to culture – adjusting to the food, weather, language and so on."

International Student Services has an orientation program that starts one week before domestic students arrive on campus. The program lasts five full days, and helps these new students acclimate to life in the U.S and the University.

Each month these students

meet to talk about the specific topic for the month, be it academics, culture shock or health and wellness. King said they do their best to navigate those challenges.

There are some international students who stay in the residence halls on campus, while others stay with host families in the area. These students are able to take advantage of all the university has to offer from the classes, organizations, intramurals and on-campus jobs.

Fifty of the students are from Brazil. They are part of a scholarship fund, the Scientific Mobility Program, to study subjects such as science, engineering and math. The scholarship funds undergraduate students for a year of overseas study. Twenty-two students from Hangzhou, China, are studying elementary education.

Not all international students at the University are here for a degree program. Some students come because they have friends or relatives who said it was a great experience and encouraged them to come.

Students who are working on their elementary education majors are part of a program from Zhejiang International Studies University in China.

The program has been around for a long time and was part of the Experience China program.

Both universities have been close partners with one another for a long time, and have proven what can be accomplished, and gained, for both the student and the universities.

Seokyeong An, an international student two years ago from South Korea, said, "It is one of my best lifelong experiences. It actually takes a lot of effort to be friends with a foreigner in a totally different environment. However, what I learned at River Falls is not only language skills, but also how to make friends and survive abroad. I recommend studying abroad to all my friends."

"Having international students who are able to come study on the River Falls campus and have their own experiences of what Americans are like, helps portray America in a more accurate way when these students go back home and talk about their time here," Fry said.

For more information on studying abroad you can visit Global Connections in 120 Hagestad Hall.

Variety of committees offered to students

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UW-River Falls has over 100 openings for students to serve on various committees on campus, according to Student Senate Vice President Anthony Sumnicht.

There are different types of committees, which are either a part of Student Senate, Faculty Senate or Advisory. Some committees have only one available seat for students, while some have upwards of six, according to Sumnicht.

Faculty Senate committees operate through the University and tackle a wide variety of issues, such as the University Safety Committee, the Chancellor's Award Committee and various curriculum committees.

Student Senate committees operate in conjunction with Student Senate and work on policy changes within the University. Some of these committees include the Inclusivity and Diversity Issues, Finance, and Legislative Affairs committees.

There are also advisory committees which handle non-allocable fees. These non-allocable fee committees involve various things some

students use every day. One such committee is the Dining Services Advisory Committee (DSAC) which deals with the dining service students use every day.

"If students have any interest in anything, we can find a committee for that," Sumnicht said. "Anyone can find a committee they enjoy being a part of."

Currently there are a list of committees on the UWRF website, but they are scattered between the Student and Faculty Senate pages. However, at the Student Senate meeting on Sept. 17, Shared Governance Director Dominic Riel said that he was working with Student Organizations and Leadership Coordinator Anna Hunter to compile a master list of all committees, and their openings, and post it on OrgSync so students can find it easily.

Sumnicht said that the master list of committees should be up on OrgSync within the week.

If students are interested in a given committee, they must fill out one of two applications.

"One is the general student

See Committee page 3

Freddy 2Go implemented as carryout option

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Riverside Commons, the primary dining facility for meal plan participants, recently implemented a new carryout program for the 2013-2014 school year called Freddy 2Go.

“It’s a new trend on campuses in the nation,” said University Center Director Cara Rubis in response to the new program.

The decision was made after the Dining Services Advisory Committee (DSAC) listened to student feedback from the 2012 school year. DSAC is a student-run committee that aims at bettering dining services.

Freddy 2Go is available for breakfast, lunch and dinner during the week.

“A lot of people wanted it here because of the convenience,” said DSAC Vice Chair Bethany Lewis.

Freddy 2Go provides students with the option to take their meals to go. Students are given a 2Go container as they enter Riverside Commons and indicate their takeout preference. They are asked to return the 2Go container when they return for their next meal at Riverside Commons.

The 2Go container is free to use for students that are meal plan participants. If the contain-

er is not returned by the end of the semester, a \$5 fee is charged to the student’s account. Freddy 2Go is not available on weekends or during Finals Week, but it does allow students the ability to better micromanage their lunch hour and in-between classes at Riverside Commons.

“I think it provides the convenience of a cold transfer, but there is variety for students especially during lunch,” said DSAC Chair Thomas Thuente on the new carryout option.

Riverside Commons publishes a menu on a weekly basis, giving students a variety in a buffet style setting. “This allows students to be exposed to different, healthy types of food with on-campus meals,” Rubis said.

Not only does the carryout option allow for students to swiftly grab food before class, it alleviates the capacity issue at Riverside Commons during the lunch hour, which starts around noon, when students are found cramming into Riverside Commons.

Breakfast and dinner currently do not have any capacity issues due to the different times available for students to eat.

“People used to wait for tables at lunch. Now, not so much,” Thuente said.

Riverside Commons is most frequented by freshman and sophomore students required to

live on campus. All students who live in residence halls, with an exception to George R. Fields South Forks Suites, must purchase a meal plan.

“The capacity issue is slowly fixing itself,” Rubis said. “Our goal is that 10 percent of the student meal plan participants partake in Freddy 2Go.”

DSAC will begin holding bi-weekly meetings once they conclude the Hall Council elections for the 2013 term DSAC positions. The meetings are open to the public.

Students are encouraged to voice their opinions, questions and any concerns they may have involving dining services on campus.

Students are also strongly urged to email their questions or concerns to dining-services@uwrf.edu if they are unable to attend the meetings.



Desi Danforth/Student Voice
Rose Yackley, a senior, participating the new Freddy 2Go program available in Riverside Commons. This program, is intended to give students another dining option.

News briefs

UW-River Falls named a Best Regional University by U.S. News

UW-River Falls has been listed in the top tier of Best Regional Universities-Midwest by U.S. News & World Report. UWRF’s most recent ranking appears in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2014 edition of Best Colleges, released earlier this week.

Last month, UWRF was one of four University of Wisconsin System institutions included in The Princeton Review’s list of the “Best in the Midwest.”

U.S. News & World Report evaluates more than 1,500 private and public four-year schools from across the U.S. to compile the annual ranking, using data from up to 16 separate factors. U.S. News & World Report’s

“America’s Best Colleges” guide can be found online at <http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges>.

For more information contact Blake Fry, UWRF special assistant to the chancellor, at 715-425-3711 or blake.fry@uwrf.edu.

UW-River Falls receives NSF grant to increase graduates in STEM fields

UW-River Falls has received an \$884,999 grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The program funded by the grant, The GREAT (Graduate-Retain-Engage-Advise-Teach) Falcon Project, seeks to increase in the number of UWRF students graduating in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields of biology, biotechnology, broad field science, chemistry, environmental science, geology, mathematics and physics, by 30 percent.

The activities proposed by The GREAT Falcon Project – active learning, peer-led team learning and proactive advising – have been shown to increase student engagement and overall success.

“This award from the NSF acknowledges and enhances UWRF’s already exceptional math and sciences programs,” said Brad Caskey, dean of the UWRF College of Arts and Sciences. “UWRF students will see their classroom and laboratory experiences change to interactive, flexible and student centered learning, including our new high technology Active Learning Classroom.”

UWRF has historically had strong programs in chemistry, physics, education and the agricultural sciences. Compared with 261 other public comprehensive institutions nationally from 1976 to 2006, UWRF ranks fifth in sending students on to receive a Ph.D. in agricultural sciences, ninth in physics, and 12th in Chemistry. STEM related corporations such as 3M and Medtronic serve as ma-

major employers of UWRF graduates.

The Great Falcon Project will directly impact 900 students per year enrolled in STEM programs, and lead to an additional 40 graduates per year in the STEM fields. The project impacts an additional 1,200 students in the agricultural sciences at UWRF through introduction of student-centered active learning pedagogies. The project will also improve K-12 STEM education through modeling best practices to STEM education students.

Michael Kahlow, professor of chemistry at UWRF, serves as the principal investigator for the grant. Caskey and Jamie Schneider, assistant professor of chemistry at UWRF, serve as co-principal investigators.

“We are very excited about the positive impact these funds will have on our ability to retain and graduate outstanding students for years to come,” Caskey said.

For more information, contact Kahlow at 715-425-3339 or michael.a.kahlow@uwrf.edu.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

September 6

- Patrick Meehan Reagan was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at McMillan Hall.
- Shay Marie Eiden was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at McMillan Hall.
- Elizabeth J. Vomastek was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at McMillan Hall.
- Brian Gino Bonfe was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at McMillan Hall.
- Edward Ervin Eichstadt was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at McMillan Hall.

September 7

- Weston P. Johnson was fined \$263.50 for deposit of human waste at Johnson Hall.

September 10

- Lucas David Ronnei was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.
- Franco Schildknecht was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.
- Blake Martin Sowle was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.
- Sophia Louise Carr was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.
- Lauren Marie Laforte was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at Parker Hall.

September 13

- Kevin A. Way was fined \$263.50 for underage consumption at Hagestad Hall.

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

Note: The incident involving Eiden, Vomastek, Bonfe and Eichstadt on Sept. 6, in McMillan Hall, were cited at the same time and in the same room, according to the UW-River Falls Police Department official incident report. Also, the incident involving Ronnei, Schildknecht, Sowle, Carr and Laforte on Sept. 10, in Parker Hall occurred and were cited at the same time and in the same room, according to the UW-River Falls Police Department official incident report.

Check out the
Student Voice
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UW River Falls

2013 Student Senate Elections

Your campus.
Your vote.

Check your
student email for
your link to vote!

Voting Begins
Sunday, September 29 at 7 a.m.

Voting Ends
Tuesday, October 1 at 4 p.m.

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Residence Life: Director leaves behind lasting campus changes

From page 1

of the building are pretty great,” Scott-Deux said. Another eco-friendly change that has taken place since Scott-Deux has been in charge is that the entire housing management is online, and no longer uses paper. This means that students can sign up for living in residence halls online, as well as everything else that has to do with housing. Another change that has happened since Scott-Deux has been at UWRF is that there are now complexes instead of individual buildings. This is a new staffing model that just started this fall

that has graduate students from UW-Lacrosse who are in charge of two buildings instead of one. These positions are known as “complex directors.” With all of the positive changes that Scott-Deux has made over the past five years, the University, as well as students that know her, is sad to see her go. Vanessa Tackman, a resident assistant for Crabtree Hall, said, “Residence Life will miss Sandi. It will definitely be different without her here.” “I’m not exactly sure what is to come, but I am sure there will be some changes,” said Tackman about the future with a new director.

Scott-Deux had similar bittersweet feelings when it came to leaving UWRF and beginning her new position at UW-Stout on Oct. 1. “I have come to really love the students here, so it’s going to be hard to leave, but I’m excited about anytime when you go to a new job there’s always the excitement around figuring out what direction you want to take that department.” As of now there is no one that has been hired to become the new Director of Residence Life. “They hope to have someone in place as soon as possible.” Scott-Deux said.

DoTS: New printing offers campus wide convenience for all students

From page 1

library, had 20,000 print jobs in one week last semester. The printers were only meant for 5,000 pages before they would go down. The new printing system also allows greater convenience for students. Students can print not only from campus computers, but from their own desktop computers, laptops, tablets or smartphones. Blado said that students living off campus can even print from their homes, where the print jobs enter a queue. Students only need to release the print jobs at any printer on campus. Blado said that DoTS knows a lot of people are logging onto campus computers for five to 10 minutes, inferring that students are only using the computers to quickly

print something. Therefore, the ability to print from home could greatly convenience students. Dominic Riel, chair of shared governance in Student Senate, said that he has heard several times that students believe Senate made the decision to switch to the new system of printing, but the decision was made by DoTS. “I can understand it’s more difficult, more of a hassle for students,” Riel said.

“Printing is not sustainable if there are other options,” Blado said.

However, Riel also said that he can also see why the new system will be more sustainable for campus. In fact, since Aug. 31, students have

printed 26,000 pages on paid printers but have also canceled 12,000 pages, which is a savings of about \$1,000 directly to students. There is no data about printing from previous years, but Blado said that he hopes students see this as an opportunity to find print alternatives, such as reading documents digitally or only printing a small range of pages from a large document. “Printing is not sustainable if there are other options,” Blado said. Blado also said that he hopes that professors eventually start to view laptops and tablets in the classroom as tools, not hindrances, so students can take their devices into the classroom and decrease their printing.

Committees: Students provided with opportunitites for involvment, networking

From page 1

committee application, for any committee on campus a student can fill out that application,” Riel said. “There is also a second application for student advisory committees which fall under the facilities and fees board, which review the non-allocable, segregated fees and those departments.” Riel added that if students are unsure which application to fill out, they should fill out the general student committee application.

Senior Theodore McDonough is a member of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Curriculum Committee. McDonough has seen a lot of positives come from his time on the committee. “It was a good opportunity for me to meet other faculty in a non-classroom environment where we are peers, as opposed to above and below,” McDonough said. “It really provides an opportunity to make good networking on campus especially with the other faculty.”

Riel and Sumnicht both said they want to continue to get the word out and fill most, if not all, committees this year. Getting the word out on the committees is something that McDonough agreed would be helpful, “Not a lot of people know about a lot of the different committees.” If students have questions about getting involved in various committees they should contact Riel via email at dominic.riel@my.uwrf.edu.

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EDITORIALS

Student organizations encouraged to use, understand OrgSync

For years at UW-River Falls, students have been encouraged to use OrgSync, and for most this has been a love it or hate it relationship.

This year is different.

Student Life has made a push to help organizations better understand OrgSync, along with promoting it in a fun way for student organizations.

Student Life will be giving away various prizes including a \$100 pizza party for the organization with the most members or \$200 toward printing T-shirts at Corporate Apparel for the organization with the most creative use of its page.

There are many other prizes as well.

We all love giveaways and free money, and these are fun ways for organizations to come together and try to win a prize. To help students feel more comfortable with OrgSync, Student Organizations and Leadership Coordinator Anna Hunter has had an informational table in the University Center nearly every day, which 30 organizations have already utilized to get help with OrgSync.

Student Life has made OrgSync more user-friendly, as well as, applicable for student organizations and what they want to accomplish. All of which were reasons why both students and organizations gravitated away from OrgSync in prior years.

We also want to commend the students that have already actively gotten involved with OrgSync so far this semester. OrgSync can have as many cool features as it wants, but will only be as useful as the students who utilize it.

Already there are over 1,100 new users, and 361 of those are part of at least one organization, according to information Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd shared at the last Student Senate meeting.

We also want to encourage not only organizations, but also all students, to continue using OrgSync throughout the year. Don't give up on it after the first few months.

This is a great way to get involved on campus. There is a club or organization out there for everyone and OrgSync organizes all of those into one group.

It also has features like being able to stay on the site even after graduation. The plan for this would be for students to interact with alumni that were involved with the organization, which would be a great way to make connections as well as get ideas for the organization.

If you had a bad experience with OrgSync in the past, do not let that prevent you from using it this year. If you or your organization do not know how to use OrgSync, Student Life is more than willing to help out.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Billy Thao/Student Voice

Senate Corner: Senate welcomes students back to campus

Sam Tauchen	I want to welcome you back to campus, and hope your first two weeks of the academic year have treated you well.	passed before the conclusion of the 2012-2013 school year.	We are strongly promoting student involvement in Senate committees, and we want your voice to be heard. If you are interested in getting involved, please fill out the form on OrgSync or contact Dominic Riel via email dominic.riel@my.uwrf.edu for more information.
Student Senate President	The Student Senate has been hard at work this past summer collaborating with the University Center (UC) staff to implement the Involvement Center (IC) Remodel. As you can now see, we added four collaborative stations to the space. In a couple of months, the new furniture will arrive for the fire place area of the IC.	Every year, the money that goes unused by the student organizations is placed in the Reserve Account. This money was originally allocated by the Allocable Fee Appropriation Board (AFAB) through the student organization budget process. As the reserve balance continued to increase, we needed to invest some of the money in a quality project that would affect all students.	Our next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24, in the Willow River Room of the UC. We welcome all students to come and see what we are all about. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I wish you the best this year, and good luck with your classes.
	All elements of the remodel were selected to promote cooperation and working together. The funding for the remodel Senate reserve account and a motion to approve the spending was	At the beginning of the year, Senate participated in the Student Organization Training. During the training, members of Senate checked in the organization leaders and attended the sessions.	Remember to vote in the upcoming Senate election starting at 7:00 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 29, at and ending at 4:00 p.m., on Tuesday, Oct. 1.
		In addition, I presented a break-out session on recruitment and retention. I asked many questions, and Senate encourages students to seek out answers.	

Find Freddy Falcon'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 Theatre!

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday *wins*. The winner will be announced on the Voice's account on Twitter [@uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice)

Playing Sept. 20-26:

Planes: 7 p.m.

Elysium: 9 p.m.

UWRF graduate initiates new office of sustainability

Molly
Breitmün

Columnist

Meet Bethany Gapinski: her ever-present smile and flaxen hair hint at a summer spent outdoors, working in the garden. This energetic young woman has worked at high speed alongside Kelly Cain of our campus’s St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development to debut the Office of Sustainability (Oos).

Gapinski graduated in May of 2013, with a degree in Crop and Soil Science, having pursued the Sustainable Agriculture option.

When not on campus, Gapinski can be found spending long days in the kitchen preserving apples and tomatoes. I can attest to her commitment to local food systems and self-sufficiency. After I met with her to discuss the debut of the OoS, she invited me to glean apples at Cain’s homestead. In the orchard, Gapinski decided the long-pole fruit picker was not doing the job and scaled the tree, tossing ripe apples expertly into a canvas bag I held trustingly 12 feet below her.

This is why it’s so exciting that Gapinski is here to foster collaboration with students, faculty and staff to increase awareness of sustainability initiatives and opportunities on campus.

UWRF has already been Gapinski’s home for four years. Her legacy of going the distance includes co-founding the Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture (SALSA) where she collaborated with the campus community to start the first UWRF student garden. As an Undergraduate Research Fellow for the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD) she collected data on greenhouse gas emissions as well as vital information for the campus Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report.

The OoS was born from SCISCD with the strong collaboration of the Sustainability Working Group and Sustainability Faculty Fellows.

The SCISCD is in its seventh year of activity. In the past, its industrious staff had to juggle campus engagement with a large amount of outreach and consulting within the local community, region and across the country as a means of building credibility, reputation, and revenue. Based on various sources of input, it was noted that campus awareness was one of the major challenges for sustainability initiatives and participation on campus.

Many students (if not most) and some faculty and staff are not aware that SCISCD is the central campus office for sustainability initiatives. The UWRF OoS arose in association with the SCISCD to enhance student, faculty and staff awareness and participation; further raise campus reputation for sustainability; and enhance integration of students, faculty, and staff in both on-campus and off-campus initiatives, especially in the city of River Falls.

When asked what her goals for the OoS’s first year were, Gapinski replied, “engage and support students while creating visibility on campus.” She would like to get the OoS web site up and running as well as a mainstream social media venue to get information readily to students. Another objective is to structure a solid sustainability internship program to complement the Undergraduate Research Fellowship program that SCISCD directs. Without stretching herself thin over the debut year, she also hopes to help organize a film screening and further improve our campus’ STARS score.

The OoS and SCISCD are incredibly grateful for the past and continued support of Chancellor Dean Van Galen, Mike Stifter, Elizabeth Frueh and all of their support staff for the strength of sustainability initiatives on campus.

In order to offer foster support for sustainability projects and a way for students to collaborate and air ideas, Gapinski is available by appointment. Please contact her at: bethany.gapinski@uwrf.edu or 715-425-3479 (Office) 111RDI Building.



Used with permission by Anne Moore
Bethany Gapinski, recent graduate of UWRF, is now leading the recent development of the new Office of Sustainability at UWRF.

Tobacco-free campus threatens student rights

On July 1, UW-River Falls (UWRF) was declared a tobacco-free campus. Currently, all forms of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and hookah/shisha are banned. Similar to most regulatory actions, our campus’s fight against tobacco is rooted in both progression and constitutional rights.

Not only does smoking affect the participant, but also nearby non-smokers. Continuously, researchers discover more about the harmful effects second- and third-hand smoke (according to the New York Times “A new cigarette hazard: ‘third-hand smoke,’ third-hand smoke occurs when toxic Chemicals - hydrogen cyanide, butane, toluene, arsenic, lead, carbon monoxide and more – from smoke cling to hair, clothing, and furniture.) In order to combat the dangers of smoke as well as take progressive action towards a healthier breathing environment, numerous organizations, including UWRF and many other campuses, are enacting stricter policies regarding tobacco.

The strongest counter-argument to permitting tobacco is the fact that second-hand smoke has adverse health-effects, which therefore threaten a non-smoker’s lifespan.

The US Constitution clearly advocates the right to life. The World Health Organization states, “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being.” According to both, non-smokers deserve to have a smoke-free environment.

However, the strict regulations threaten smokers’ rights as well. UWRF does not simply ban cigarettes, but all forms of tobacco. Some types of smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes do not produce second-hand smoke and are not a hazard to a non-smoker. Smokeless tobacco may be harmful to the user’s health, yet there are several other legal adverse health habits, such as overeating or not exercising.

If students on campus have the right to put their health in danger by eating excessively or avoiding exercise, why are smokers banned from tobacco that is harmless to others?

Additionally, smoking is an addiction. Students who regularly smoke tobacco are not necessarily going to quit just because of the campus regulation. Many will resort to smoking off-campus. Although toxic smoke may be removed from campus, it will most likely relocate to other areas of River Falls.

There are other means of keeping non-smokers safe at UWRF that do not entirely eliminate tobacco. Perhaps permitting smokeless forms of tobacco or creating designated smoking areas would be beneficial to the population of students who do smoke. Although UWRF is taking a significant leap toward positive health choices, the campus needs to take a few steps back to re-evaluate which forms of tobacco use are actually problematic.

Hannah is a sophomore majoring in English: Professional Writing and minoring in Creative Writing. When she graduates from UWRF, she intends to work as an editor.

Hannah
Timm

Columnist

STUDENT VOICES

What is your favorite thing about UWRF?

Jake Fox
Junior



“Hanging out in the UC.”

Nicole Pederson
Senior



“Coffee shop in the UC.”

Madeline Marchio
Sophomore



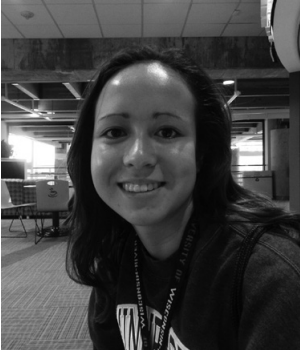
“Sorority (AOTT)”

Joe Schmit
Junior



“Walking/studying on the intermural fields and getting outside.”

Paige Stewart
Freshman



“The intramurals offered and soccer.”

Compiled by Desi Danforth

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter.

@uwrfvoice

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor:

editor@uwrfvoice.com

Volleyball team starts season strong

Ben Lamers
benjamin.lamers@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women’s volleyball team has gotten off to a fast start this season, despite the fact that they have yet to play a game at home.

“It’s always a challenge not be able to play at home, especially when you’re successful,” said Head Coach Patti Ford, who is in her 22nd year of coaching the Falcons volleyball team. “I think in order for teams to be successful they have to learn to win on the road and that’s what we’re doing right now.”

The team has been winning on the road as they have compiled a 10-4 record so far, and had an eight-game winning streak at one point. As of Sept., 19, the Falcons are in second place in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) based on their overall record. Each team has only played one conference game so far.

The team only has two seniors on the roster, Kayla Slaiku and Jean Theis. They both attribute the early road matches to the success the team has already had, and the success they will have down the road.

“Being on the road is always crazy,” Slaiku said. “You get to know everyone’s real personalities and the way they live their lives, meaning you sleep next to them in hotels, watch what they eat, and how they react to situations. We are one big Falcon family.”

“We all click really well both on and off the court, and this is going to be one of our strong suits as a team in the future, I believe,” Theis said.

The team already accomplished a milestone this season. With their victory over Hamline University on Sept. 6, the team helped Ford notch her 500th career victory, with every one of her wins coming at UWRF. Ford is currently fifth all time in the WIAC for wins, and is one of two active coaches in the conference with over 500 wins.

“I’m really happy that our program was able to maintain the success we’ve had over the last 22 seasons,” Ford said. “Five-hundred is a big milestone. It’s just a tribute to all the people who have been involved with Falcon volleyball through the years.”

Ford has coached the Falcons to 16 winning seasons, including a run to the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament in 2003.

“I see a lot of characteristics in our current team that were with that group. We are hoping to replicate that in the coming years,” Ford said.

Slaiku echoed Ford’s thoughts on the current team, “I think this year, with this bunch of girls, will be great. If we do what we do best, we can strive for anything.”

Theis agreed, “I think that this team has an enormous amount of talent, and that we could be in the top of our conference if we just play our game and stay focused. If we can just stay consistent and play as one, then I have no doubts that we will be a very tough competitor for teams to beat.”

“You get to know everyone’s real personalities and the way they live their lives, meaning you sleep next to them in hotels, watch what they eat, and how they react to situations. We are one big Falcon family,” said Kayla Slaiku.

The Falcons played their first conference game Wednesday against UW-Superior and opened WIAC play with a win. They will play their first home game on Friday, Sept. 20, against UW-Stevens Point, which is currently ranked No. 25 in the country, according to the NCAA.

Playing against elite opponents is something which the Falcons do on a game by game basis.

“When you get into conference play every game is a big match. There is so much parity in our conference, which is demonstrated by three or four teams going to nationals every year,” Ford said. “In the upper Midwest you’re going to find some of the best collegiate volleyball. St. Thomas won the Div. III National Championship a year ago. So we know what we’re up against to get to a national stage.”

The Falcons will play St. Thomas, currently ranked No. 3 in the country, as a part of the UW-Eau Claire tournament on Oct. 11.

The team’s fast start has both Ford and the team excited for conference games to start, and for students to finally get a chance to watch the team in action.

“It is always a fun experience to play at home with all of our fans there supporting us. I could not be more excited to start conference play,” said Theis.



Upper Left: Sophomore setter Alyssa Anderson going toward the ball at the net. Upper Right: Sophomore middle hitter Rebecca Gasper serves the ball against Gustavus Adolphus. Lower: Sophomore middle hitter Lisa Keppers (left) and sophomore outside hitter Brianna Muetzel (right) block a spike from a Gustavus Adolphus player. Photos used with permission from Patti Ford.



Morgan Stippel
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Falcon Spotlight: Jean Theis

Jean Theis is a senior middle-hitter on the River Falls volleyball team. In her first three seasons as a Falcon she had 862 total kills, and she already has 127 kills in just 13 matches this season.

“We work everyday in practice on hitting and blocking,” Theis said. “My ability of not giving up and playing through the match no matter what happens is one of my strengths. I try not to get too down on myself.”

This combination of practice and perseverance is undoubtedly what makes the senior so successful at the net.

Last weekend the UWRF volleyball team played in a tournament at Gustavus Adolphus College. The Falcons defeated Central College in three games, but they fell to Simpson College, Augsburg College and Gustavus Adolphus College.

“In all the matches we lost last weekend, we put up a good fight. We always gave it 100 percent, and nobody was giving up early. We stayed together and stayed positive,” Theis said.

This sense of togetherness is especially critical for the team because they are young and developing. “There are only two seniors and one junior, so we are a very young team. We have 10 new players with only 18 girls, but I find it to be a strength,” Theis said. “A lot of the girls don’t have any expectations, and as a senior it helps to have a group like that because they give 100 percent at every practice.”

Theis is prepared to use what she has learned throughout the past three seasons to strive for success this season. “I’ve learned to play every game with confidence and to face every opponent the same way. If we play our game, there is no reason the outcome should be any different,” said Theis.

Recent results, upcoming events for UWRF Falcon athletics

Men’s Cross Country

Recent result: At the Falcon Invitational on Sept. 14, the Falcons finished fifth. Upcoming meet: They will be competing at the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 28.

Women’s Cross Country

Recent result: At the Falcon Invitational Sept. 14, the Falcons finished fourth. Upcoming meet: They will be competing at the Roy Griak Invitational on Sept. 28.

Women’s Golf

Recent result: At the Border Battle on Sept. 17, the Falcons finished second. Upcoming invitational: They will be competing at the UW-Stevens Point Invitational on Sept. 28.

Women’s Soccer

Recent result: The Falcons fell to Augsburg College 2-0. Upcoming game: They will play on Sept. 21, at home against UW-Whitewater.

Women’s Tennis

Recent result: The Falcons fell to the College of St. Benedict 8-1. The point was scored by Kayla Rosenow. Upcoming match: They will play on Sept. 27, at home against UW-Oshkosh.

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST

FALCON FOOTBALL

AWAY VS SIMPSON COLLEGE

1:00 PM KICKOFF

12:35 PRE-GAME

Football team improving greatly under Walker

Ben Lamers
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In its third year under Head Coach Matt Walker, the UW-River Falls football team has continued to improve, and both the University, as well as opposing teams, are taking notice. Walker acknowledged that the football program was not the best when he arrived on campus, “We’ve had some rough years and our numbers were down. We weren’t winning recruiting battles anywhere.” However, things are beginning to change for the Falcons. “I think anyone that follows this close can see how this thing is about to explode, and about to happen,” Walker said. “There is clearly a lot of excitement about this program and where we’re going.” The improvement of the program has been noticed by opposing teams already. “One of the assistant coaches (for St. Thomas) came up to me and said ‘Man your program is turning around.’ It’s pretty cool to see other people recognizing that our program is going in the right direction,” said second year quarterback Ryan Kusilek. Having recruits and veteran players being committed to the team is one of the reasons that the team is turning the corner. One of those recruits is Kusilek. Being committed to the team and working in the off-season is something which Kusilek said is helping the team.

“Guys have really bought into the system. We feel like a better team,” Kusilek said. “It kind of looks like a college football team, a little bigger at every position, a little stronger.” The Falcons began the season with a 17-14 home loss to St. John’s University, a program which has the best winning percentage of any NCAA football team, in any division, of all time, according to the NCAA. The team followed up with another loss at home, this time a 25-7 defeat at the hands of last year’s runner-up in the Div. III championship game, the University of St. Thomas, currently ranked No. 2 in the country, according to d3football.com. The schedule won’t be getting any easier once the Falcons reach conference play. The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) boasts three teams currently ranked in the top 15 in the country: UW-Platteville (No. 9), UW-Oshkosh (No. 10) and UW-Whitewater (No. 15), according to d3football.com. Walker said the WIAC is the top conference in the country in Div. III football, “From a guy that spent time in some leagues outside of this one and looked at it from the outside, there is no question around the country. It’s an undebated topic that it [the WIAC] is the top league in the country.” “Four of our games are against ranked teams, three of those teams are in the top 10. We can play with these guys,”

Kusilek said. “It’s a challenge every week. You’ve got to bring it.” Kusilek added that the team has a goal of winning more conference games. However, simply winning some conference games is just the tip of the iceberg for the goals the team has. “We’ve got a lot of talent that can win ballgames,” Kusilek said. “We want to get a playoff berth. We haven’t had that here in a long time and it’s overdue.” Walker noted that if a team is contending for the conference title, then that team is a contender for the national title as well. In fact, every year since 2005 a WIAC team has made it to the semi-finals of the Div. III playoffs. In three of those years a WIAC school was national runner-up, and in four of those years a WIAC school won the National Championship. The improvement of the team is something which has caught the eye of the student body as well. Large crowds showed up for both of the Falcons’ home games to start the season. This support has been noticed by the team as well. “We all think it’s really cool that all the fans come out to support us, being loud and being wild. It gets us fired up,” Kusilek said. “The fans have been unreal.” The Falcons will go on the road for their next two games against Simpson College, Sept. 21, and will begin WIAC play at UW-Stevens Point on Oct. 5. The team’s next home game is the Homecoming game on Oct. 12, against UW-Platteville.

“We all think it’s really cool that all the fans come out to support us, being loud and being wild. It gets us fired up,” said Kusilek

Falcon Spotlight: Ryan Kusilek



Morgan Stippel
morgan.stippel@my.uwrf.edu

Ryan Kusilek is a sophomore and is the starting quarterback on the UW-River Falls football team. They faced two tough non-conference opponents, St. Thomas, ranked No. 2 in the nation, and St. John’s. When asked about these opponents, Kusilek said, “Last year we played St. Thomas, so we kind of knew about that. St. John’s was interesting because we didn’t play them last year or anytime recently, so it was cool that we got to play a really good team with a lot of history and a lot of tradition.” UWRF fell to St. Thomas 25-7, and to St. John’s 17-14. Both contests were tight up until the last seconds. All 21 of the Falcon’s points in the two contests were scored on passing touchdowns by Kusilek. Kusilek feels as if playing these skilled non-conference opponents early on has prepared the team to compete in the WIAC this season. “It’s huge to get big non-conference games,” he said. “We play top 25 teams all the time, so it sends the message that we are competitive and can win in the WIAC.” It will be a tight race for the WIAC conference championship this year. “Everyone is competitive in the WIAC,” said Kusilek. “There are always rankings, but you can’t just go off that. Everybody can play with everybody, and everybody is competitive. We have to play hard every week.” Kusilek said having one year of experience under his belt has given him time to mature both physically and mentally. “It gives me the opportunity to open up and play fearlessly this season,” said Kusilek.



Alex Gajdosik/Student Voice



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Top: The UWRF defense lines up against the St. Thomas Tommies. Seen in picture from left to right are No. 49 Cole Sirek, a junior linebacker, No. 93 Albert Itula, a freshman defensive lineman, and No. 35 Issac Neumann, and sophomore linebacker. Lower Photo: Quarterback Ryan Kusilek takes a snap out of the shotgun. He is protected by his offensive lineman No. 63 Matt Jech, senior, and No. 64 Ben Barret, senior.

Falcon football will rise up to compete in conference

Brandon Jones

Columnist

The school year is upon us, but more importantly, the football season, as both the college and professional seasons have started.

There is just something special about the fall. I’ve spent years figuring out why, when September came around, I became more anxious and excited than a 7-year-old on Dec. 23. It has occurred to me that it has everything to do with football. Now my heart lies with professional football, but I have a strong passion for college football, especially the Wisconsin Badgers and our UW-River Falls Falcons. I’ve been in this city for six years, and in every one of those years, the Badgers have been very competitive and respected by everyone in conference, and nationally. This year appears to be the same. New coach, new “go-to-players,” same strong running game and rocking Camp Randall. As for the Falcons, well, they have room to improve but look stronger than they have in years.

Coach Matt Walker has this team playing with an ambition, passion and drive that I have never seen in my years as a Falcon. Now that’s not to say last year’s team wasn’t strong, they were very solid, extremely underrated on the defensive side of the ball and were in plenty of games which they didn’t get credit for. Starting a true freshman at quarterback, the team made a move for the future and that has worked out. Ryan Kusilek has looked fantastic in two years as a Falcon, and has done everything the coaches have asked him to, and everything he can do to prove to his teammates that he’s the man to lead this team on Saturdays. While calling the game last Thursday against the St. Thomas Tommies, I saw a football team that needed to do one thing, learn how to win. Two weeks ago they let a victory slip through their fingers against St. John’s, and last week, made the game a lot closer than the No. 2 ranked Div. III football team in the country expected it to be. The stadium was full of supporters who could see it too. They saw that this football team is for real and it’s only a matter of time before the wins

start to pile up. Now one thing is for sure, this campus is starving for a winning football team. The Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (WIAC) has stockpiled Div. III talent in UW-Whitewater, UW-Platteville and UW-Oshkosh the last few years and, quite frankly, fans in the conference are sick of it. We all respect the fact that Whitewater went to seemingly 10 straight Div. III championship games, winning half of them, but this conference is more than just Whitewater. Last year Oshkosh stormed through everyone on their schedule only to fall short of the title. Platteville boasts amazing facilities, and a formidable top 25 team. This is the year of the underdog. I strongly feel that you will not see and undefeated team in the WIAC this year, and there will be no winless teams. Parity has hit the WIAC, and the time is now for the Falcons to sneak up on some teams and claim their stake as a WIAC competitor, and lose the doormat stereotype.

Brandon is a senior journalism major minoring in political science. Sports means the world to him. The sound of a ball cracking against a bat, a ref blowing his whistle. It all means the same thing for him, happiness. We all have our thing, his is sports.

See where UWRF Falcon teams rank in WIAC standings

Football			Volleyball			Women’s Soccer		
School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall
UW- Oshkosh	0-0	2-0	UW- Whitewater	1-0	12-3	UW- Whitewater	0-0	5-0-2
UW- Platteville	0-0	2-0	UW- River Falls	1-0	10-4	UW- Platteville	0-0	4-3
UW- Stout	0-0	2-0	UW- Stevens Point	0-0	11-3	UW- Eau Calire	0-0	2-2-2
UW- Stevens Point	0-0	1-0	UW- Stout	0-0	9-3	UW- Superior	0-0	3-5
UW- Whitewater	0-0	1-0	UW- Oshkosh	0-0	8-4	UW- Oshkosh	0-0	2-4-1
UW- River Falls	0-0	0-2	UW- Eau Claire	0-0	7-6	UW- River Falls	0-0	2-4
UW- Eau Claire	0-0	0-2	UW- Platteville	0-0	5-7	UW- Stevens Point	0-0	1-4-2
UW- La Crosse	0-0	0-2	UW- Superior	0-1	10-3	UW- Stout	0-0	2-6
			UW- La Crosse	0-1	4-6	UW- La Crosse	0-0	1-5

Current WIAC standings as of Sept. 19.

UWRF community remembers Reta’s contributions

Jonathan Reid

Columnist

“Never stress about anything, give everything your all, and help others along the way.”

Meseret Chekol Reta’s compassionate, thoughtful words were no less meaningful when quoted by his humble

daughter, Eden Chekol on a quiet Tuesday afternoon.

A reception to honor the publication of the late journalism professor’s book, “The Quest for Press Freedom: One Hundred Years of History of the Media in Ethiopia” held in the Davee Library breezeway reminded all in attendance that while professor Reta has died, his contributions to scholarly research are continuing to thrive.

Reta taught a number of journalism classes at UW-River Falls during his career. He has published books on mass media and ethics as well as presenting many papers at an international level.

Legally blind by the age of eight and small in stature, Reta always worked with a sense of determination while keeping a smile on his face. Hailing from Ethiopia, he learned firsthand what censorship in the media can look like while he served as a radio host early in his career. In late October of last year, Reta was diagnosed with liver cancer. He refused to let treatment and pain keep him from work and he served as a professor until just weeks before his death on Nov. 17, at the age of 55.

Journalism Department Chair Sandy Ellis opened the event with warm words about Reta’s presence in North Hall. She remembered his excellent track record in student course evaluations as well as how Reta could recognize students and faculty in the hallways just by the sound of their walk. Ellis presented quotations from student assistants Reta has had over the years.

Rome Gnostand’s quote was the most inspiring and encapsulated the way Reta impacted anyone who came in contact with him, “As an artist, Dr. Reta has influenced my work in a very dramatic way; prior to working with him, I mainly created art that was visually appealing. Having the privilege to work with him, the majority of my work now involves some sort of texture and are meant to be touched.”

Ellis presented a plaque with all of the kind words in remembrance of Reta to his wife, Belyou Belay, and his daughter, Eden Chekol.

Next to take the podium was retired journalism department chair, Colleen Callahan who worked intimately with Reta on editing sections of his latest book. She opened her comments with a greeting in the Ethiopian language or Amharic. Callahan shared how comprehensive and important “The Quest for Press Freedom” would be for Ethiopia and aspiring journalists in any nation. Callahan

described the book as “the definition of scholarly” as it contains over 600 footnotes and a frank yet conversational style. The book concludes with 22 concrete actions to improve state and media relations.

Reta’s humble words explain why his book will have lasting impact for generations: “Oh, Colleen, this is bigger than me. It’s about the freedom to express oneself in my homeland.” Without a doubt, Reta’s text will impact journalism in Ethiopia and abroad.

The event was a touching

reminder of how scholastic research and its dissemination can extend beyond the life of the author. Not only that, but the challenges Reta overcame in his lifetime serve as an inspiration and model for students at UWRF.

“He’s blind, but he’s more than that. He’s my GPS. I’ve never been afraid to find my way,” Reta’s wife Belay reminisced. “He never judged anyone: With anyone, at any time, he was always happy to help people.”

“The Quest for Press Freedom: One Hundred Years of History of the Media in Ethiopia” is published by University Press of America, INC and is available though amazon.com.

Jonathan Reid served as Reta’s assistant in 2012. This year he will serve as the secretary for the Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity student organization. As a senior Professional Printing major with a Digital Film & Television minor, He works as a tutor in the Writing Center and is a leader in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship on campus. After graduation Jonathan hopes to be an editor of film or writing.

‘Rifftrax’ returns to silver screen in newest movie parody



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

Kevin Murphy and Bill Corbett. One movie: a science fiction flick from the 90s with dated effects and even more dated acting. Put these two together, and you are bound to get tons of riffing and ranting.

The sci-fi action flick “Starship Troopers” was in theaters once again last Thursday, only this time it was to be riffed apart and made fun of by the former stars of TV series “Mystery Science Theater 3000” who are now Internet film bluffs. It can be very much assured that the audience was laughing along hysterically with their humor.

If that premise seemed a little underwhelming or odd for a one night global film event that many people try to get into, then I am going to tell you firsthand that you have not seen any film in its entirety until you have seen it mocked by

Nelson, Murphy and Corbett.

The setup was simple, the three middle aged men, via live feed from a theater in Tennessee, introduced the film they were going to make fun of before an entire audience, and without a second to spare, they dug in. Like any live Rifftrax event, they delivered hard and hilarious.

“Starship Troopers” is a mixed bag in itself. It tells the tale of space marines in the future who fight against an evil alien insect species called Arachnids. The events of the war are portrayed through the viewpoint of marine Johnny Rico, whose campaign is joined by several other friends and loved ones. Most of the film consists of cheesy acting, dated computer generated images, and unintentionally funny moments from the actors and situations.

For a movie that tries to take itself pretty seriously, it makes for great material for our riff masters. Nelson, Murphey and Corbett make sure you are laughing even before the movie starts with some clever Hollywood trivia parodies: once they get started, you are cringing with laughter.

The jokes they crack, the humor between the men and the overall tone they set make the movie experience funnier than most comedies seen in theaters.

The men make their audiences truly happy when they say the things we all think when watching movies like these and, when mixed with their own brand of humor, it makes it all the more of an enjoyable movie-going.

To say that you should see one of these live performances is an understatement. Rather, if you want a great, side-splitting time given by three hilarious and clever men, then definitely see their live riffings and contribute to their website Rifftrax.com. Otherwise, “Rifftrax: Starship Troopers” was an excellent ride from beginning to end and one that I hope to relive soon.

Be sure to catch their next live riffing of the horror classic “Night of the Living Dead” shown worldwide on Thursday, Oct. 24, at a theater near you, or a Fathom Events sponsored cinema.



Ryan is a lover of all things movie, TV, video games and stories and wants to become a television writer someday. In his spare time he enjoys hanging with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds.

Mailman’s loud brakes countered by prank

Tyler Smith

Columnist

Bulldogs and myself have a number of characteristics in common: we are lazy and avoid the sun at all costs, enjoy dirtying ourselves after a bath, and have both been accused of humping a leg or two.

Above all, I believe we despise the mailman with equal tenacity.

There is something inherently wrong with a person driving up toward your house and screeching their un-lubricated brakes at 8 a.m., and waking you from your dreams.

There is nothing more repugnant than a person waking me from my slumber. I need those mini hibernations each morning, and if I don’t get them, then I holler like a grizzly all day.

At the age of seven, I took action against the mailman.

There was a sort of mutual acknowledgement that we had declared war upon each other as we stared into one another’s eyes; mine were red and blistering with fury, and his were blue with a quiet calm tripping out on songs by Conway Twitty and Dolly Parton.

Being as that I was seven, there existed a significant disadvantage for me against the full-bodied mail-man. He

was equivalently a Godzilla to my Tokyo and I needed to find his weakness.

What is a postal man’s weakness? I asked myself this every morning. For nearly the better half of a week I did not know, but after observing the postman in his natural habitat, I soon found out that it was mailbox flags.

Almost every morning I would hear his sighs as he lowered the red mailbox flags to their horizontal position. Often times he would have to stop at houses that I never saw him stop at for, just so he could lower the flag.

After he drove around the block of my house one morning, an idea flared into my head. I would flip every flag to an upright position. That way, he would have to stop at every house in one day.

I went about my task with an eager anticipation. For too long had I had been under the harassment of the squeaky brakes.

After the mailman exited the small residential cul-de-sac of Hallstrom Drive, I propelled myself down the slanted driveway of my mother’s house and began flipping up every sign within sight.

After completing my assault on one block of houses, I decided to do another block or two. One block turned into a total of

10. That was approximately 240 residential houses with upright mailboxes.

As I concluded my revenge, I looked at my hands and noticed that they were in a pitiful state from pushing my wheelchair throughout the neighborhood pine forest.

As can be imagined, when I returned home at 5 p.m., sleep took over. For nearly a whole day I slept, and I didn’t wake until 9 a.m., the following day. As usual, the mailman had awoken me.

I looked out my bedroom window and I could see that mailman’s eyes were a bit frazzled and red. In turn, mine felt perfectly fine.

Somewhere, deep inside of myself, I could not help but feel a little vindicated, superior, and victorious.


As I went to bed that same night, I reflected that the postman had learned his lesson and never again would I be awoken in the early hours of the morning to the sound of screeching brakes.

As usual, I was wrong and was awoken by the sound of his burly car the very next morning.

Here is to having a fresh start to this semester, and may you, the readers, get as much sleep as you need without a set of brakes pounding in your ears.

At the age of seven, I took action against the mailman.

Equinox marks end of summer season



Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

As the school year begins and gets into full swing, it also, sadly, means that summer is drawing to a close. Many students perceive the start of school to be the end of summer, which is true in a sense, though astronomically, we are currently in the last week of summer.

This weekend marks the second equinox of the calendar year or the scientific term, autumnal equinox. This means that there are 12 hours of sunlight and 12 hours of darkness and there is gradually less light each day leading up to the winter solstice in December, the shortest day of the year.

The equinox officially marks the beginning of autumn, which also means it is time for cider, changing colors and various autumn holidays.

During the equinox, the plane of the Earth’s equator passes through the center of the sun. This is due to the fact that the Earth’s axis is not tilted away or toward the sun. The term autumnal equinox is derived from

Latin. “Aequus” means equal and “nox” means night, making the equal amount of daylight and darkness evident. “Autumnus” means autumn, marking the time of year.

The term equinox is not always accurate, however. One reason is because the sun’s size is so large. The top of the disk rises above the horizon while the center of the disk is still below the horizon. This means that people perceive the start of daylight differently. Some see it when the sun rises,

perpendicular to the equator. This means that both the northern and southern hemispheres are illuminated equally by the sun instead of one pole having 24 hours of daylight and the other with 24 hours of darkness.

Earth is not the only planet that experiences equinoxes. In fact, all other planets in our solar system also have their own equinoxes.

The most dramatic equinox in the solar system is Saturn’s equinox, because it places the ring system edge-on facing the sun. As a result of this phenomenon, the picture seen from Earth is only a thin line.

The planet receives very little sunlight. This lack of sunlight occurs every 14.7 years and lasts several weeks before and after the equinox. The next equinox is expected to occur on April 30, 2024.

Even though the days are getting shorter and the weather will soon be getting colder, autumn is a perfect time of year to enjoy your surroundings. Whether you are smelling the crisp autumn air or witnessing the vivid colors all around, there is always something to celebrate during the season.

while others see it as when they first see light in the morning sky, because the earth refracts sunlight before the sun has even risen.

The exact date where there is in fact equal daylight and darkness varies from location to location.

The equinox is the only time of year to see many different astronomical events. This is the only time of year that the subsolar point, the place on the Earth’s surface where the center of the sun is exactly overhead, is on the Equator. It is also the time of year when the International Date Line, is exactly

Cristin is an English major and music minor from Eagan, Minn. She enjoys writing, playing the flute and singing. After college, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.

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