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'Guardians of the Galaxy' excites, brings new level of humor.



STUDENT VOICE

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Van Galen marks sixth year as chancellor

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Chancellor Dean Van Galen is going into his sixth year as the 18th chancellor of UW-River Falls, and is the longest serving chancellor since 2001.

Van Galen's numerous accomplishments as chancellor all amount to his student-first focus. While he has many duties, he makes the students at UWRF his priority by getting to know them and their needs and concerns.

"I try to take a very student-centered approach and think about the impact of our priorities and our decisions on the quality of education of our students," said Van Galen.

Van Galen proves that he cares about the students in little ways every day, which Arianna Pajtach, a student at UWRF, said she appreciates.

Pajtach participated in the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) last spring, which she said Van Galen has attended with students in past years. Van Galen also visited the booths that every student set up if he could.

According to Pajtach, Van Galen was very upset that he could not join the students for NCUR last spring (for reasons she did not specify), but he and his wife, Mary, sent the students off with snacks and pins for the university and took pictures with everyone and wished them well.

Pajtach said Van Galen also appears friendly and approach-

able to students around campus and shakes students' hands when he meets them.

"He always just seems so happy when I see him," Pajtach said. "He seems so welcoming."

Van Galen said that his proudest moment as chancellor was when he worked on the Falcon Promise, a differential tuition program that Student Senate approved several years ago, because he got to collaborate with students on shaping the proposal.

"I think back to that process of working with students as something that went very well and will certainly be one of my good memories I look back on for years to come," said Van Galen.

Van Galen has accomplished other beneficial things for the university, including numerous "firsts." During his inauguration, the chancellor announced UWRF would open a learning center in Hudson, Wisconsin, with the mission of meeting the graduate and undergraduate educational needs of adults.

The Hudson Center opened in the fall of 2010 and had 400 students enrolled by the spring of 2011, according to the UWRF website. Van Galen said the Hudson Center has remained successful since its opening.

"There has been growth," he said. "We added a fourth classroom about a year ago and I think it's fulfilling a need for higher education in this region that was not really being ad-

ressed before we opened the Hudson Center."

In addition to the Hudson Center, Van Galen announced another first for UWRF in April 2012: Rising to Distinction, the first comprehensive fundraising campaign. The five-year goal of the campaign is \$20 million with an emphasis placed on raising dollars for student scholarships and the Falcon Center health and human performance facility, according to the university website.

"We are now over \$15 million dollars," said Van Galen. With the chancellor's signature, UWRF became tobacco free on July 1, 2013. The policy prohibits the use of smoking or use of other tobacco products on campus, joining 700 other college campuses around the United States, according to the university website.

Van Galen said that there are challenges to overcome when working in higher education, but he also said that he is inspired by the students and takes pride in the university and its faculty.

"I think all of us at River Falls do what we do because we hope it has a positive impact on the students and their future," he said.

Van Galen said his goals are to continue to focus on the university's strengths, such as supporting international education, undergraduate research, and ensuring every program at UWRF is of high quality and maintains its integrity.

UW-River Falls Year of China program begins with Golden Dragon Acrobats

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The Golden Dragon Acrobats was the Year of China program's first event of the 2014-2015 school year.

The Acrobats performed on Sept. 11, in the Knowles Center at UW-River Falls.

The Acrobats performed several different stunts, including balancing objects such as cups filled with water as well as volleyball juggling. They also performed a dangerous stunt where one acrobat balanced on top of seven stacked chairs.

The event started at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014, with a number of booths that were related to China. The booths included calligraphy and paper cutting, which showcased Chinese art to the River Falls community and UWRF students.

Other booths included information about the University of Minnesota Confucius Institute. There was also a Chinese International Student booth and an Education Abroad in China booth.

Another booth included information about two book discussions that will take place in the Davee Library at UWRF; the book discussions are also part of the Year of China program. The first book discussion will be from 4-5

p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 16, in the Davee Library breezeway. The book, "This Generation: Dispatches from China's Most Popular Literary Star," is written by Han Han and Alex Hatheway, who will lead a discussion.

The second book discussion will be from 3-4 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, also in the library breezeway. The book, "To Live: A Novel," is written by Yu Hua and Lissa Schneider-Rebozo, who will lead yet another discussion.

Another event for the Year of China is "Jade Sky: Astronomy in China." The event will be at different dates throughout the 2014-2015 school year. The class will be free and open to the public, including UWRF students.

There will also be a lecture series from China Agricultural University students. Two of the lecture series' will be on Tuesday, Sept. 23, and another on Thursday, Sept. 25. Both lectures will be held in the Agriculture Science Building, room 333.

On Oct. 3, there will be a bonfire at the Lydecker fire pit. The bonfire will start at 10 p.m., and Chinese ghost stories will be told around the fire.

On Oct. 22, there will be a panel discussion called "Confucius' Ethics and Christian Philosophy." The discussion will be led by Walter Wietzke and Imtiaz Moosa in the UC Kinnickinnic Theater

at 4:30 p.m. There will be more events throughout the upcoming year. Information about any events can be found at the UWRF "Year of" page at: www.uwrf.edu/yearof.

Chinese international student, Xiaoyi Wang, stated that she wants students to learn more about Chinese history and culture, because there are cultural events and festivals that Americans are unaware of. Wang is a sophomore with a major in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

The "Year of" program began last year with the Year of Germany. According to Experience China Program Coordinator Kelsey McLean, the program was created so students could be more informed about global cultures and for those who wish to experience different global events.

McLean is part of the International Programs Committee in the faculty senate that decides on what the program will focus on during the year. The committee is comprised of faculty from the different university departments and administration.

The Year of China will have many upcoming events that will help students better understand China. These events will help students become better informed about global communities.

New CBE dean builds plans for improvement

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On July 1, 2014, a new dean in the College of Business and Economics (CBE) took over at UW-River Falls with plans to build on success the college has already seen.

Michael Fronmueller was chosen to replace former Dean Glenn Potts. Potts retired at the end of June after 38 years of employment at UWRF, and after holding the position of dean for five years.

Fronmueller takes on the position with plenty of prior experience. He has served as dean of the Hasan School of Business at Colorado State University-Pueblo.

He has also held academic leadership positions at Le Moyne College, California State University-Northridge, the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and Boise State University.

He admitted to not being too familiar with UWRF before getting hired but that he knew of the UW system and the great reputation it has built over the years. Since starting his position as dean he has only positives to say about the campus.

"It is a very beautiful campus in a beautiful part of the country," said Fronmueller. "The quality of the faculty and their interest in the students is what most caught my attention about River Falls. When you come here as a student you are not going to fall through the cracks, people care."

"It is a very beautiful campus in a beautiful part of the country," Dean Micheal Fronmueller said.

Fronmueller said he has met all the faculty and many CBE students. Matthew Ahlfs, a student worker for the CBE, said Fronmueller has a lot of respect for his faculty and makes sure to get to know everybody around him.

"I think he is very professional," said Ahlfs. "I am a student worker and he always

says good morning to me. He likes to interact with his faculty and student workers."

In his role as dean, Fronmueller will provide leadership to a college accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. CBE consists of programs in accounting, business administration, computer science and information systems, economics, finance, management and marketing.

CBE also offers two Master of Business Administration programs (full-time and evening) and an adult degree completion program. CBE is also home to several centers of excellence, including the recently created Center for Innovation and Business Development, according to University Communications.

Fronmueller has been asked to build on the success of the CBE program and to help improve it by starting a student advisory council that he will meet regularly with so he can work with students to see what needs improvement. He will also focus on regional business growth and will attempt to partner with other entities on campus, which Fronmueller said he could not emphasize enough the importance of.

The Center for Innovation and Business Development is one resource that will be heavily utilized.

"We are already utilizing it," said Fronmueller. "We are working in regional business growth and we are involved in initial conversations about setting up a business incubator."

A business incubator is a location graduated students could rent and use when initially starting up an entrepreneurship.

Fronmueller said this is not his "first rodeo," and that he is excited to continue to get to know the campus and use his experience to help CBE.

"Anytime you start something there is learning involved," said Fronmueller. "But to me that is not a challenge, it is an opportunity."



The Golden Dragon Acrobats performing the finale for the Year of China event on September 11. This is the first event for the Year of China.

Maggie Sanders/Student Voice

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Enrollment decrease spurs future changes, goals

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Over the past five years UW-River Falls has seen a decrease in enrollment, but several recent changes have been implemented in an attempt to turn things around.

The position of Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment and Student Success, held by Kris Anderson, was just one of the main changes UWRF has made in the past year to help raise the bar of enrollment and retention rates.

In 2008, UWRF saw a high of 1,345 new freshmen students; as of right now there is a total of 1,015 newly enrolled freshmen in 2014.

Provost Fernando Delgado said that the pool for graduating high school students in Wisconsin and Minnesota has been at its lowest in the past few years, and this is something that has caused a portion of UWRF’s enroll-

ment decreases.

According to the Wiche Database, the number of prospective graduating students out of Wisconsin is in a trough for the year of 2015 and steadily rising thereafter. The number of prospective Minnesota high school graduating students is projecting steady rising rates out to the year 2019.

Wisconsin and Minnesota is where a large percentage of attending students at UWRF hail from.

“The environment we compete in is very competitive,” said Delgado.

The rising number of graduating high school students in UWRF’s demographic is very promising for the future of the university. Now the focus has become finding new ways to fulfill the needs of future students and make the university the main choice over other universities in the surrounding area.

“The chancellor has tasked a number of us with growing the freshmen and transfer

class,” said Anderson. “There is something called Campaign 2015. Our goal is to get 100 more freshmen for next year. Through the rapid action campaign group we’re doing things like revamping our tour guide program, revamping our visit days, putting a lot of effort in to the website redesign, and leveraging scholarships earlier to get students.”

Wisconsin and Minnesota is where a large percentage of attending students at UWRF hail from.

Delgado said that the academic faculty has been spending time identifying new degree programs and areas of study. Anderson helps to coordinate with this effort by looking at ACT scores and seeing what student interests are.

This information is taken into account and they determine high-demand fields that are on

the horizon and whether or not it makes sense or is possible for UWRF to offer training in that field.

Retention is another important focus when looking at enrollment numbers. Generally retention rates are tracked from the first year of attendance to the second year. The numbers, again, show that UWRF is increasing those numbers as opposed to recent years.

The Wiche Database shows that in 2012 the retention rate was at 72 percent with a goal of 75.9 percent, and 2013 showed a significant increase to a rate of 75 percent with a goal of 76 percent.

Only time will tell if the changes are a significant benefit in the effort to increase student enrollment, but with all of the positive data and modifications on the promotional side of UWRF, the future appears advantageous.

Senate anticipates programs to increase recognition

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Classes are now a few weeks in and for most people a routine is being set. With elections taking place on Sept. 15 and 16, the same can be said for Student Senate.

With the open seats being filled, the Senate will yet again be complete which means they can start working on some projects that were started last year.

“Last year the previous Senate did a lot of restructuring of the Student Senate itself, and the main goal of Student Senate this year is really to get that up and running and running smoothly and efficiently,” said Student Senate President Tony Sumnicht.

Having the open seats filled also means that the Senate can start working on projects that they want to complete as well as getting their name and message out to UWRF students.

Current members of the Senate are working hard to put themselves, and the Senate as a whole, out in the open for students to hopefully recognize who they are. Sen. Sumnicht and Senate Vice President Shelby Hehr made speeches to the new freshmen on Academic Day during the Week of Welcome.

Despite the speech, most underclassmen do not know anything about what Student Senate does or who they are. When asked, most students said they do not know what Senate is or what they do on campus.

“I know absolutely nothing about Student Senate. Like, nothing at all,” said freshman Alex Shonkwiler.

There are, however, upperclassmen that know exactly who Student Senate is and what they do.

“I would like to see Student Senate get more involved in showing themselves on campus, like campaigning more so people know they are about helping students find opportunities to volunteer and do things that will look good on their resume for grad school or work place or something like that,” said junior Lauren Doyle. “Just help them find more avenues for students to do volunteer work and such.”

The problem the Senate faces is that even if some students know about Student Senate, a majority do not, which is why the Senate is focusing on getting their name out there through new programs they have set up.

Two of the programs that the Senate is putting on for students in Falcon Fridays and Senate Cinema.

As important as getting their name out there is, the Senate still needs to focus on the issues they have presented to them. The Senate has multiple things that they are going to start working on.

The Senate is going to be working with the River Falls City Council and the River Falls Town and Gown Association on the re-branding and re-marketing of the River Falls Share Ride and the River Falls taxi service. They are also working on creating a discount program that students can use around the city, and an off-campus housing platform that would

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show all of the listings around the city.

Along with those projects that are being developed, the Senate is also going to have to address one large issue that is going to be presented to them in the spring.

“One main discussion Student Senate is going to be having this year is the Falcon Center,” said Sen. Sumnicht. “In early spring semester the administration, chancellor is going to have to come to Student Senate and present the new fee that is going to be funding the Falcon Center and that’s something that needs to have Student Senate approval.”

If students have any issues or topics they want to discuss with the Senate they have a few different ways they can bring it up. Students can go to a Senate meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays; they can go to the Senate office in the Involvement Center; they can email one of the senators; or they can fill out a form on the Student Senate website.

Current UW-River Falls renovations show signs of productivity on campus

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A number of renovations are currently underway on the UW-River Falls campus. These renovations include improvements to North Hall, Ramer Field, Division of Technology Services (DoTS) and Rodli Hall.

The state has given UWRF money from the Instructional Space Improvement Program to renovate the North Hall auditorium. This program will pay for the majority of the project, and the rest is paid for by the university.

“The State has what they call an Instructional Space Improvement Program that funds projects like these,” said Mike Stifter, executive director of facilities, planning and management.

The North Hall auditorium has not been in use due to lack of technology and poor accessibility, but after renovations it is planned to be used for larger audiences, similar to South Hall 120.

“The auditorium has been used for nearly the 100 years

it has been in existence,” said Stifter. “However, it not been very widely used anymore due to the lack of technology, ill-fitting seats, poor HVAC (cooling in particular) and poor accessibility. This project should correct most of those problems or significantly impact them positively.”

UWRF’s need for expansion is restrained by the South Fork Kinnickinnic River and its floodplain. The plan is to utilize the space the school constructed, according to the campus master plan.

The campus master plan is a twenty-year vision, comprised of small incremental projects. There are future plans to renovate Rodli Hall into campus offices that focus on students and campus visitors, according to the campus master plan.

The Sept. 5, Knowles Center gas leak has not halted construction to Ramer Field and no one was injured. River Falls High School and UWRF will lose two football games each due to construction. Stifter says construction should be done before both the high school and UWRF have their homecomings. UWRF’s homecoming will take place on Oct. 4.

Ramer Field hasn’t been updated since its installment in the mid 1960s. It lacks functionality and appearance; new renovations will correct these problems.

The visual representation of what Ramer Field could become prompted more improvement ideas, including: replacing the field lighting,

constructing a pro-shop retail venue, planting screening trees around the site, and construction of a new press box with VIP suites, according to the Ramer Field site master plan.

Ramer Field renovation plans are estimated at \$4 million. The UWRF Foundation is using private fundraising to pay for the plan.

DoTS has conveniently moved to Davee Library after being temporarily located in Hagestad Hall. It has been moved to the library for better accessibility for students. DoTS was only supposed to be temporarily based in Hagestad for 18 months but that turned into years.

“The opportunity for them to capture that service function in Davee and bring their entire organization together was a motivating factor,” said Stifter. “Hagestad was always a short-term option, Davee has always been the long-term.”

With current renovations and future projects planned, it is anticipated to be a very productive year for UWRF.

“The State has what they call an Instructional Space Improvement Program that funds projects like these,” said Mike Stifter, executive director of facilities, planning and management.

does currently have and make it more efficient.

The university will maximize the utilization of existing spaces before new classrooms, labs, offices, library and physical plant spaces are

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Another semester, another chance to broaden horizons

The staff at the Student Voice would like to formally welcome back all new and returning UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff. We recognize that without your support we would not have a platform to express our thoughts and showcase our budding skills.

September is already 19 days old and the fall 2014 semester is well underway, and we feel the need to remind students of their responsibilities as UWRF family members, as well as urge students to become involved in some form on campus.

We understand that being a college student, regardless of location or status, is full of obligations and challenges. You are obligated to maintain a level of academic excellence; you are challenged daily by your instructors to show up, be thoughtful and create something meaningful; but, as you know, students are always tempted to skip class, drink too many light beers, and be apathetic about their future. This does not have to be you.

We advise new and returning students alike to get involved on campus through a variety of avenues. This could mean joining one of UWRF’s many illustrious clubs or student organizations; attending various campus events, such as a volleyball match, Student Senate Cinema on weekends, an art exhibition or a job fair; or something as simple as playing intramural sports. These activities enrich the college experience.

Student life is not just about parties and freedom, it is also about meeting new people, indulging in new and sometimes strange experiences, reading not only out of necessity but also for pleasure, studying for a test because that is what is expected of you, learning to speak your mind, cheering for the red birds, and finding an identity.

A college education is a unique opportunity; do not throw it away. So many Americans will never have the opportunity to attend a college or university. Before you know it, your college experience will have passed you by. Remember why you are here, which is hopefully to earn a good college education.

Having personal issues? Contact Counseling Services. Want to know more about your student government? Attend a Student Senate meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. Need help in the classroom? Contact Campus Tutoring Services. Want to meet new and interesting people? Be friendly in the classroom.

We urge students to take your education seriously, get involved on campus, support Falcons athletics, seek out obscure events and for crying out loud, have some fun doing it. We hope everyone has a tremendous fall semester.

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

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Losing weight proves to be taxing, ultimately worthwhile struggle

Billy Thao
Columnist

You are probably wondering what these vague questions refer to. My friends have repeatedly asked me these questions and they continue to be astounded by what I did. These questions refer to one of my greatest accomplishments I have completed in my life: losing 100 pounds.

As a young boy I faced the common issue in our society: obesity. I remember nervously standing on the weight scale at each doctor’s visit. At the age of nine I already weighed 100 pounds; in junior high school I reached 150 pounds; and at the age of 16 I hit the big 200.

I entered UW-River Falls in 2009. Due to the high stress of adapting to a new educational institution, my weight ascended. When I hit my senior year I reached 245 pounds. For those of you who have seen the Disney film “Up,” and remember the little, chubby Asian boy scout named Russell, imagine him in real life—but double the size.

I was a very big guy; I would always be conscious that my big face dominated my body.

As a little round boy it was apparent that I was made fun of everywhere I

went, and the most frequent occurrences took place at school. I was mostly called “fat” or “fat ass.” A memory that stood with me was the orientation of junior high when we were to visit our homeroom before we chronologically touring our assigned classes. As I walked and sat at my desk there was one student who beheld me, imitated the size of my head, and chuckled with his friend.

These negative memories became my inner-demons, which evoked me to not care, and led me to continue my weight gain. However, I soon realized my physical body was out of shape, my breathing became uncomfortable, and I was highly self-conscious.

In February 2013, I discovered that I lost 20 pounds, dropping my weight from 245 to 225. It was this surprise discovery that motivated me to challenge myself; therefore I decided to lose five more pounds. Although it took me two weeks to lose those five pounds, I was happy to see that my weight was slowly dropping.

By the time I reached 220 pounds I wanted to continue challenging myself and see if I could lose five more pounds. Once I lost those five pounds, I wanted to continue losing five more pounds. By the end of April, my weight dropped to 190 pounds. I decided to drop my weight to 145 pounds by the

end of that summer. I, of course, did reach my goal, but during my journey I came into an epiphany that taught me a life lesson. If you want to lose weight or achieve any goal, you must have three important components, which I believed helped me: determination, commitment and passion.

You have to feel these three components for they are your best friends that will strongly move you until the goal has been reached. Although these components are beside you, there will always be the darkness, such as temptation to succumb. You must persist to hold on.

There was a steep slope that I ran up for the first time; it was a struggle and I had to stop to walk up the slope. Every day I persist to overthrow the slope with my determination, commitment and passion. I knew I could not give up. Through these three components, along with motivational music in my iPod, I was able to strive for the top of the slope.

Once I ran and reached the top of the hill, I knew I was worthy. I knew I could do anything with great confidence. I knew this would be my greatest accomplishment. It brought me great happiness, for I have done something incredible. All you have to do is strongly believe in yourself.

International students improve college

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At a time of lower domestic enrollment, an increased number of international students on campus has helped UW-River Falls increase its total enrollment for the 2014 school year.

Higher enrollment numbers at UWRF is one of the beneficial results of having a larger international student community when domestic enrollment has been down. The UW System of Student Statistics lists UWRF as decreasing enrollment by 276 students from 2013 to 2014.

The impact of international students on campus life is viewed by most as positive. With international fairs, food and entertainment, these students from other countries share their culture and create interest in traveling to other countries.

Megumi Kawase, UWRF International Student Services programming and engagement coordinator, says community and student attendance increased at these events.

“That shows that a lot of the community members and students, domestic students, here are interested in international and cultural differences,” said Kawase.

Cultural diversity on campus is helping UWRF strive for their goal of being an inclusive school. The different cultures and the many languages of the community

of international students expose domestic students to global views and perspectives. Kawase originally came to UWRF as an international student herself and shows great enthusiasm for the program and the benefits to all.

“I think interaction with people who speak English as a second language is a really beneficial thing for anyone,” said Kawase.

With travel and communication made easier with technology, students today may need more international knowledge and exposure to succeed after graduation. Many corporations operate on an international level and require a workforce capable of successful interaction on a larger global landscape.

International students on campus can show domestic students a bit of the world outside American borders. Carol Rogers, Education Abroad advisor, said she believes international students on campus create interest with the domestic students who want to learn more about the world at large.

“It’s a really significant contribution to our campus,” said Rogers.

Kawase and Rogers can both be found in Global Connections located in Hagestad Hall. Kawase has a range of duties, “from a to z,” ensuring the continued success for those in the international student

community. She helps with details from official procedures, substantial paperwork, picking up incoming international students at the Minneapolis airport and overseeing and providing support in their daily lives. Kawase even eases them into winter weather reality in Wisconsin by urging incoming students to acquire appropriate outer wear.

While Kawase handles the incoming international students, Rogers handles the outgoing domestic students for UWRF Global Connections. Rogers says she believes having international students on campus creates curiosity and interest in the larger world and the result is good for all.

“We think it adds quite a nice flavor to the university,” said Rogers. “Overall, it’s a really positive happening.”

Both Kawase and Rogers believe in the importance of the international student presence on campus. Global Connections is available to students investigating a study abroad trip or students interested in opportunities to interact with incoming international students. Those interested can more find information at www.uwrf.edu/globalconnections or by calling 715-425-4891.



Megumi Kawase is the programming coordinator of the International Student Services located in Global Connections in Hagestad Hall. She helps with details from official procedures, substantial paperwork, picking up incoming international students at the Minneapolis airport and overseeing and providing support in their daily lives.

Photo by Jack Haren

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor:
editor@uwrfvoice.com.

Writing columns provides creative experience

Jack Haren
Columnist

I had always taken the months of June, July and August in my home place of Ravenwood—a neighborhood south of Hastings—before this past summer. This year was a change: I continued staying in River Falls. Both of my roommates moved out, so I continued on by myself and observed the changes of this small college town.

Last semester, I was known to a few as the kid with purple hair.

The official start of my summer was when I sheared “the purps” to a tinge. It disappeared eventually when I shaved it down so that I could have a chance at landing a job. I noticed the energy of River Falls dropped like my purple hair strands did.

A small crowd stayed back, a few hammered through a three-week summer class, and most students moved away. The pace of

every individual day slowed down, and the campus was left nearly empty.

I began to prepare myself to be a consistent columnist: I listened to podcasts while making breakfast, read Hemingway over coffee, and then—because I refused to pay money for internet and cable—made my way to the library every day to use its resources.

The goal was to consume and practice language in every possible way. “I hate *not* writing”. This is what writer Christopher Hitchens has said. To be bothered by not recording what my mind observes is how I wish my mind to work.

The summer break inevitably whittled away and I have not gotten to this point, but it takes time. The time has brought a student audience of thousands to push me to think even further, and with more wit and rigor.

I go into the fall with most of my inspiration being drawn from the inventor of gonzo journalism: the infamous Hunter S. Thompson. He seemed to be the craziest of them all. While I may try to emulate him this term, I

will go about columns with other inspiration too.

One basic tip that has stuck with me is, again, from Hitchens: he said that he viewed writing columns as a conversation with an intelligent friend.

Another is from journalist Thomas Friedman. In a video interview I discovered on Khan Academy, he said that a good column is when the reader picks it up and learns something new in one of six ways:

Someone picks it up and says, “I didn’t know that!”

Someone says, “I never looked at it that way.”

Someone says, “You said exactly what I felt, I just didn’t know how.”

Someone says, “I want to kill you and your family.”

“You make me laugh, you made me cry.”

“You challenged me.”

My goal is to simply get any comments at all. Last semester, I did not receive any written comments to respond to. Ruben Rosario,

a columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press, visited one of my classes and said that when he receives no response, he wonders what he did wrong.

I will try to string this ink and these pixels together to make sense, and to dutifully benefit the reader in some way. This is all practice for me, selfishly. But when writing columns it shifts towards the audience. This is something I will learn and get better at.

Columns are an experiment. My intention is not to shock, but to cast my own strong opinion out for review by others so that the opinion itself can be improved, and also my skill as a writer.

The universe, the earth, the country, the state, the city and then there is myself, at a desk, writing these words. When in this perspective it is easy not to hesitate with public thoughts, but sometimes it is difficult to do, especially when the view is not popular. I have had many doubts about going public. It is nice knowing I am only one brain among billions.

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STUDENT voices

What was your favorite part of summer break?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



Jack Haren
Junior Journalism

“Ripping the karaoke mic for the first time.”



Jack Tuthill
Senior Journalism

“The Maha Music Festival in Omaha, Nebraska.”



Hayden Bosch
Sophomore Journalism

“Doing pretty much nothing is always awesome.”



Maggie Sanders
Junior Digital Photography

“I love taking pictures in the summer! There are all sorts of colors and the animals are out.”



Meghann Witthoft
Junior Marketing Communications, International Studies and Spanish

“Interning for Oxbo International Corporation.”

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrvoice.com.

Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo celebrates 50 years

Brooke Brokaw
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It has been 50 years since the first rodeo was held at UW-River Falls. The UWRF Rodeo Club first began in 1964 with support from David Stafford, a member of the first UWRF intercollegiate rodeo team. After the Rodeo Club was established, it quickly gained momentum, and within one year it had 50 members.

After the club was formed, a plan to hold the first UWRF rodeo was formed, a rodeo arena was built, and a stock contractor was hired. The first rodeo had five events: saddle bronc riding, bull riding, bareback bronc riding, bull dogging and calf roping.

Over the years, the rodeos held by the club have evolved to become unique in comparison to others around the River Falls area.

“Our rodeo is the only one that gets put on completely by the club,” said Rodeo Club Vice President Melissa Peterson.

Because this was the 50th anniversary of the Falcon Frontier Rodeo Days, past and current supporters of the rodeo were recognized. Alumni from the last 50 years were invited to see how the rodeo has transformed. There were also special events for alumni, including a bean bag tournament and a barbeque.

“For this year’s rodeo we tried to bring back as many alumni as possible.

We had alumni that were here when they built the first rodeo arena back in 1964,” said Rodeo Club President Haley Dettmering.

In order to fund the rodeo, the club relies on sponsorship. The rodeo costs more than \$25,000 to put on.

Surrounding River Falls businesses and rodeo club family members and friends were just some of the sponsors for the event.

“Each year the club raises about \$12,000 from the community,” said club advisor Nathan O’Connor.

The rodeo averages 300 participants from all across the Great Lakes region. Schools in the Great Lakes region include Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota.

“We are by far the largest intercol-

legiate rodeo as far as crowd and local support,” said O’Connor.

In addition to the participants, the rodeo also has an impressive turnout in viewers. On average, over 3,000 people attend the rodeo. The UWRF rodeo is open for anyone to attend.

“I’ve been to rodeo’s back home but never one put on by a college before,” said Katherine Klamm, a freshman animal science major. “I’m proud that my school, UWRF, puts on such a great event.”

To join the rodeo team, the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association requires that members are full-time students with at least a 2.0 GPA. On average, one quarter of Rodeo Club members participate in rodeo events. Some of the most active members do not compete with the team; they are people who have a passion for rodeo, according to O’Connor.

Events at this year’s rodeo included saddle bronc riding, goat tying, calf roping, breakaway roping, team roping, steer wrestling, bareback riding, barrel racing and bull riding.

This year’s rodeo ended with a concert by the Tim Sigler Band.

“In the last 50 years the rodeo has gotten a lot more competitive,” said Dettmering.



Jack Haren/Student Voice

Bull Riding was one of the events that were at Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo September 12-14. The event took place on the UWRF Campus Farm at the outdoor rodeo arena.

UW-River Falls hosts Falcon Invitational cross country meet

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It was a beautiful morning for a round of golf at Kilkarney Hills Golf Club on the outskirts of River Falls on Saturday, Sept. 13.

The cooler than average temperatures made for a beautiful preview of the fall to come, and the lack of wind would have made for great distance on tee shots. It wasn’t golfers getting great distance, but instead the course was taken over by throngs of spectators to watch the second annual Falcon Invitational cross country meet.

Saturday was the first event of the year for the UW-River Falls Falcons men’s and women’s cross country teams. The men finished in third place out of four teams, while the women placed fifth out of six.

Top individual finishes for the Falcons include a fifth-place finish by Daniel Borash and a 15th-place finish by Zach Ambrose for the men. Tia Harris was the top individual finisher for the women placing sixth. Before the meet, second-year co-head coach Matthew Cole had high praise for Harris.

“We return on the women side one of our top athletes, probably of all-time, Tia Harris,” said Cole. “She was an NCAA qualifier for us last year. She’s a returning captain for us. We’re expecting good things from her this year.”

Cole also commented on his expectations for both the Falcon men and women.

“I like where we are at year two; we graduated a handful of very good seniors last year,” said Cole. “I think our men’s team is better than our team last year. I think our women’s team is headed in the right direction. We’re not going to finish third in the conference meet, I don’t foresee, it would be fantastic if we did. But I think we are definitely headed in the right direction.”

New to the cross country team this year is a new co-head coach. This summer, Chris Rombough was hired as co-cross country head coach and assistant coach to the track and field teams.

Rombough is a decorated runner. He won four Wisconsin high school running championships, ran for the University of Minnesota for five years, and was a volunteer coach at Minnesota for three years after his collegiate running career.

Rombough said there wasn’t a huge difference between coaching at a much larger school like Minnesota compared to UWRF.

“Coaching is coaching. It’s what you make it,” said Rombough. “It’s a bit different going from D-I to D-III. The talent level is a bit different. Coaching at Minnesota I was just working with the men, now I’m working with the men and the women. Challenges in their own way, but ones I’m ready for.”

Roubmough also works at a store selling athletic shoes on the west side of the Twin Cities. Rombough said that running and coaching is a huge part of his life.

“The nice thing is it doesn’t feel like work because I enjoy it so much. Even though I’m working all the time, it’s basically a hobby I get paid for,” said Rombough.

The season, like the runners that Cole and Rombough coach, goes by fast. The Falcons only have three meets before the WIAC meet on November 1. Cole said that November is what the Falcons are working towards.

“The most important time is championship season,” said Cole. “Everything we are doing right now is putting money in the bank for those weeks in November.”



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications

Sandra Pumper gets help after collapsing at the finish line during the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Invitational Cross Country meet.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications

Kimberly Carlson on the course during the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Invitational Cross Country meet.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications

Matt Pechacek , Elliot Pachniak, and Jackson Shaw on the course during the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Invitational Cross Country meet.

UWRF to host tribute to coaching legend Mike Farley

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In 1970, the UW- River Falls football team finished its season 1-8 under new head coach Mike Farley.

In the following 18 seasons, Farley would accumulate over 100 wins with eight WIAC championships, making him the most accomplished coach in UWRF history.

On Thursday, Sept. 25, the university will be hosting a tribute honoring Farley and all of his accomplishments over the years. Jim Thies, UWRF Sports Information director, says the tribute will begin at 3 p.m. with tours around the facilities to see what has changed over the years, as well as showing the plans for the upcoming Falcon Center.

The event will then move to the River Falls

Golf Club where people will socialize until 7 p.m. where guests will have a chance to speak about all of their favorite Farley memories, as well as words from Farley himself.

Farley wasn't only a respected coach, but was also respected by everyone he encountered.

"By the number of people he has coached in his tenure, he has effected literally thousands of people," said Mike Farley Jr., Falcons quarterback from 1981-1984 and Farley's son.

Farley Jr. continued by saying former players would come up to him and tell him that "without coach Farley, there would be a good chance that they would be in prison or dead."

Farley Jr. credits his dad for putting the city of River Falls on the map because of the recruiting measures he went through. Farley

said his dad would recruit in places no other teams would, such as the inner cities of Chicago or Minneapolis, bringing a more diverse group of people to the city of River Falls. He continued by saying the city grew close to three times the size from the time he started as head coach at River Falls to his very last game.

Thies said players on his team would, "run through walls for him because he was very upfront with them and very frank with them. Here's what we are going to do and this is how we are going to do it, lets go."

Thies also talked about his commitment to the program, saying he would drive to Menomonie every night to use the phone in order to recruit players to come to River Falls.

On the field, Farley would make a lasting impression with the fans that attended the

games. Farley started his head coaching career with a slow start after only having three winning seasons from 1970-1978. But from 1979-1988 Farley would turn things around and compile a record of 75-24-2 while capturing six WIAC titles.

"My dad wasn't the dad coaching little league games, he was off recruiting," said Farley Jr. "I had never played for my dad before coming to school. He treated me equal or tougher than everyone else on the team".

Farley is expected to talk with the current football team in the locker room, hoping to give words of encouragement and get the team ready for their Homecoming game on October 4 against UW-Stevens Point. For more information about the event, contact the alumni office at 715-425-3505 or visit the Tribute to Mike Farley Facebook page.

Athletes come together to support Lion Hearted Fund



The Volleyball team has recently joined in the effort to raise money for four-month old baby Leo Russell Babler. The game is going to be considered a Lionhearted Fund event that will take place at 7:00 p.m., September 26. Leo was born on May 5, 2014, to parents Ryan and Lewann Babler, who are both graduates of UW-River Falls. This story hits especially close to home as Leo is the grandson of Mike Babler, who is the assistant women's basketball coach at UWRF. Leo was born with a rare genetic disorder. He suffers from a form of dwarfism, as well as Rhizomelic Chondrodysplasia Punctata which is a developmental brain disorder that causes shortening of the proximal bones, seizures, frequent respiratory tract infections and congenital cataracts. Leo has had six surgeries thus far in his short life, and more are likely to come. The women's basketball team has been selling Lionhearted Fund t-shirts to help raise money for their coach's grandson, and will be selling them at the volleyball game that is dedicated to Leo for \$15.

Photo courtesy of Lionhearted Fund website

UW- River Falls athletic teams upcoming events

Women's Tennis

The Falcons will compete 10:00 a.m., Saturday, September 20 at Alverno College. They will also be matched up with Mount Mary University at 12 p.m. Saturday, September 27, in River falls.

Football

The football team will be playing at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology at 2 p.m. Saturday, September 20. The Falcons' Homecoming game will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, October 4.

Men's Cross Country

The Men's Cross Country team will be running at the Roy Griak Invitational at 10:40 a.m. Saturday, September 27. They will also be competing in the Blugold Invitational at 5 p.m. Friday, October 3.

Women's Golf

The Falcons will be competing in the UW-Stevens Point Invitational Saturday, September 27, as well as Sunday, September 28. Times are TBD. The WIAC Championship will be held Friday, October 3, to Sunday, October 5.

Women's Volleyball

The Falcons will play at the Ripon Invitational at 4 p.m. Friday, September 19, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They will be competing against the Milwaukee School of Engineering, the University of Dubuque and St. Mary's University. Their next home game will be at 7 p.m. Friday, September 26.

Women's Cross Country

The Women's Cross Country team will be running at the Roy Griak Invitational at 9 a.m. Saturday, September 27. They will also be competing in the Blugold Invitational at 4 p.m. Friday, October 3.

‘Guardians of the Galaxy’ effectively mixes together humor, action, drama



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

With a new start to the school year, so started a new superhero group for Marvel Studios to introduce to theater goers everywhere, as “Guardians of the Galaxy” wins out as one of the most entertaining Marvel films yet.

For galactic thief Peter Quill, you cannot ask for a lot out of the galaxy, other than for someone to call you Star-Lord once; the whole galaxy just is not kind. But it does have a lot riding on Quill himself. After finding an odd orb in an ancient ruin, Quill is now being hunted by a galactic overlord, his former pirate boss and a mad titan. He will have to ally himself with an assassin, a mad-man, a walking tree with a speech impediment and a raccoon, all to find out what this orb is and why it may destroy all life as we know it.

These misfits will journey through strange places and fight many villains, all to protect a galaxy that has been largely indifferent to all of them. In the end, though, they might find that there truly are people out there to call on

them to be the guardians of the galaxy when all seems dire and lost.

“Guardians of the Galaxy” fascinated me. Could Marvel Studios really make a new franchise to be excited about with a cast of characters like this in such an alien land? Short answer: oh yes they can. All my hopes had been fulfilled as this is one great summer blockbuster. “Guardians of the Galaxy” is very much like past Marvel Films; great acting and direction are expected. However, “Guardians of the Galaxy” feels like a breath of fresh air, and I found some reasons for this.

The setting of the film alone was something new: outer space. Marvel had not really set a movie there yet, and they deliver very well here creating an original-feeling universe for the characters to traverse. Grimy, dank planets and prosperous, pristine planets are rendered beautifully and directed with a fine hand, imbedding each set in the movie right into your head.

Humor-wise, “Guardians of the Galaxy” brings even more than most of its predecessors. I think that with a premise as ridiculous as this, director James Gunn felt more humor should be lent to the script. The overall tone of the movie is about 50% humor and 50% seriousness, and this blend feels just right. No joke feels out of place and the movie knows just where to slow down and take things seriously for a moment, resulting in



some pretty gripping and awesome moments in the film.

The actors carry the jokes well, but the characters even more so. Chris Pratt as Peter Quill is entertaining and heartwarming as he gives a performance that is fun, childish, but

overall dutiful. Let us not forget the other excellent performances of our cast, though, such as Zoe Saldana as the assassin Gamora, Dave Bautista playing the humorously crazy psychopath Drax, Bradley Cooper as Rocket, the raccoon with a heart of venom, and Vin Diesel playing the sweet, yet brutish, Groot. It is a cast that many had little faith in and I am so happy to say it worked out in the end.

Finally, the music alone is something worth talking about, given that it charted the billboards during the film’s run. It is a generous mix of 70s and 80s music from artists like Blue Swede, The Jackson 5, and Redbone. Though familiar, the music does serve a general purpose to the character who loves the classics, Peter Quill, and it certainly gives Guardians of the Galaxy its own identity.

With all it has going for it, there is not much about Guardians of the Galaxy that is not straight-up enjoyable and entertaining, making it a film that is definitely worth watching for comic book fans and general movie-goers alike. From its humor to its characters, Guardians of the Galaxy is another Marvel Studios hit that shot for the stars and nailed every mark.

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

Fall season brings excitement, fresh new activities

Rachel Molitor

Columnist

A somewhat wise snow-man once said “Winter is a good time to stay in and cuddle but put me in summer and I’ll be a happy snow man!”

Summer has come and gone, and now we get to look ahead towards fall and winter. I do not know about the rest of you Falcons, but I am not a winter person. Most people are not unless they are extremely warm blooded or like winter activities. Basically, we are looking forward to months of almost winter, winter, and still winter.

Optimistically, this article is here to help. We are going to go over some things to look forward to in autumn!

First, we get to see a change of scenery. Instead of everything being green, the trees are an array of warm colors: red, orange, yellow, and brown. It is like the earth is saying goodbye to the sun by trying to mimic it.

Next, to all you sports fans, football starts getting serious. Preseason football starts in late summer and the playoffs are in the winter, but football is a fall sport. We get to cheer on our Falcons once again.

One of my personal favorite parts of fall are the movies. For many years, top blockbusters come out in late fall or early winter. This year we have “The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1” and the final “Hobbit” movie. Also, if you liked the first two, the third “Night at the Museum” is coming out.

And hey, school starts up again! This may not sound like something that we should look forward to, but it does have some benefits. We get to continue working towards our future, learning new things, and making connections. On another note, a lot of us work during the summer. Call college a mini vacation from working so hard: our just reward for slaving away at internships and minimum wage jobs. College is a good place. There’s a lot to do around campus. Which brings me to the next point: college activities.

One of the draws of college is the list of

activities they can provide their students. The University of Wisconsin-River Fall’s latest attraction is the Year of... series. Last year was Year of Germany. This upcoming year is the Year of China. Considering China is a highly populous, large and ancient country. UW-River Falls is bound to have some fun things this year. For example, we have Chinese acrobats. How great is that?

Another thing to look forward to is the change of weather. Summer is the hot season, and with fall comes cooler temperatures. It is the season where clothing is up to interpretation. We can wear jeans or shorts with t-shirts or sweaters. Shoes with socks or just flip flops, depending on the person and their preferences. It is great. We wear what we want with a scarcely a “how are you wearing that?” comment.

For food enthusiasts, another great part of

autumn is that it is harvest season. My personal favorite is the apple harvest but we also get corn, tomatoes and other delicious foods.

A final major advantage of fall is the beginning of the holiday season. In the next few months we have Halloween, Thanksgiving, various religious holidays and the start of a new year, and those are just the major American ones. If you want to get ahead on that holiday shopping, go ahead. Be impressive.

Summer may seem like the best thing ever, especially when we are younger. Sun, sand, no school, what’s not to like? The glories of summer shadow the wonderful parts of autumn. Fall has a lot going for it, so jump into a pile of leaves, drink some apple cider and watch a football game. We have four seasons; go enjoy them!

Rachel is a senior English major who loves reading, watching movies and learning new things. After graduating in September, she hopes to find a job and eventually go to law school. You can often find Rachel in the U.C. with her head buried in a book.

Student involvement an important aspect of college life

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

It is hard to believe that summer is almost completely behind us, and soon, we will already be a month into the new school year. Students are getting settled into their dorms, apartments, or houses, getting used to a new schedule and set of syllabi and, of course, trying to fit in by joining a club, group or ensemble. Some of these clubs, groups and ensembles are chalk full of both new and existing members, while others only find ten or fewer interested individuals. While it may seem a little irritating that I incorporate shameless plugging into this week’s edition, my main message to everyone is to get involved on campus: find a new hobby, refine an existing one and make new friends. You will never know what you are missing out on until you step out of your comfort zone.

Many of the activities I am involved with here on campus are activities that I have pursued all four years of college. As a music minor and a flute player, I joined the UWRF

Symphony Band my freshman year in order to refine my musical abilities. Now that I am in my fourth year, I can honestly say that I can look back and notice how much I have grown as a musician and a person just by being a part of this one ensemble. Unfortunately, in the last year, enrollment numbers have spiraled downwards as a result of graduation and student teaching. It is our mission as band members to recruit musicians on every corner of campus. We will once again have a thriving ensemble, and they, too, can grow as a musician and person.

The UWRF Symphony Band meets every Monday and Wednesday from 11:00 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. and every Friday from 11:00 to 11:50 a.m. Most days, we meet in room 129 of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building (the band room), although some rehearsals (especially before concerts) are in the William Abbott Concert Hall. Because an audition is required in order to be a part of the ensemble, most members are music majors and minors who have a high level of experience on their instrument. However, students from other departments are welcome to join Symphony Band as well, as long as they are successful in their audition.

As a band, we average about two to four concerts a semester, most on Tuesdays or Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the concert hall. We also have other fun events, such as guest composers and conductors and tours. For example, last February, we took a weekend trip to Chicago, and it was a great way to get to know the other band members. The following month, we hosted a conductor from Spain. Although there was an obvious language barrier, we were able to communicate through the language of music and discover how truly powerful that could be. Currently, Symphony Band is actively searching for more trombone players, double reed players (including oboe and bassoon), tuba players, and flute players.

Another club that I am a part of that is looking for new members is the Literary Society. This year, I will be serving as the club’s secretary, and it is my job to get people interested in what we do. We meet every Monday of the semester (excluding finals week) at 6:00 p.m. in the South Hall student lounge. We discuss our favorite books, plays, and films, but we also host several great events throughout the year. These events include Creative Writing night, Poetry, and

our most popular event, the Murder Mystery Party. This year, we are also working towards trying some new events, including having an author visit and a Community Poetry Slam. Everyone on campus is welcome to join; you do not have to be an English major or minor. We will always be more than happy to see new members. Because some of our existing members are about to graduate, Literary Society is actively searching more than ever for new members.

Whether you are a musician, bookworm or athlete, there is always something on campus for you. Even if it does not seem like there is, it is up to you to jump out of your comfort zone and try new things. It seems cliché, but you will enjoy college much more if you get involved. Some of my closest friends on campus were made as a result of joining things like band and Literary Society. Someday, when you look back on your time here, you will want to remember that you took advantage of every second.

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

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