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STUDENT VOICE

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UWRF to install living green wall

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UW-River Falls received a grant from the National Foliage Foundation to install a living green wall in one of the classrooms in the Ag Science building.

The goal of the installation is to see if there are academic and psychological benefits that are identifiable with the presence of a green wall in a classroom setting.

Psychology Professor Travis Tubre, horticulture Professor Terry Ferriss, and David Trechter, director of the UWRF Survey Research Center and Professor of Ag Economics have teamed up on the living green wall proposal.

A living green wall is a vertical growing structure which houses various types of plants. The living green wall is self-sustaining with an irrigation system that recirculates. The UWRF green wall will be roughly eight feet tall and 12 feet wide.

"Once the green wall is fully filled in, it will look like a bunch of house plants growing up a wall," Trechter said.

The concept of a living green wall is a recent development in the last five years. Although other universities, such as Harvard, have installed green walls, UWRF will be the first in the UW System to not only install a green wall, but also test what happens when plants are put into classrooms.

"People have looked at the impact of indoor plants, but we haven't seen it in an educational environment," Tubre said. "And we haven't seen it with a vertical structure like a green wall."

There will also be a number of undergraduate students involved with the project. Students will help with installation, wall design, survey development and analysis.

"It's a chance for students to work on an actual wall installation, and be engaged in a research aspect on campus," Ferriss said.

The team will use various research methods to test how the green wall impacts students and faculty.

"We know that the presence of plants in indoor environments will improve people's overall productivity in the workplace; it improves their mood, it lowers stress levels, there is less anxiety, people interact more positively with one another, anger issues go down and people also become more creative," Ferriss said.

Students across multiple fields, including psychology and horticulture, will be involved with the project.

"There's something about that little presence of nature in an unnatural setting that I think will click something somewhere



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
Psychology Professor Travis Tubre (left), horticulture Professor Terry Ferriss (middle), and agricultural business Professor David Trechter (right) have been awarded a grant for a living green wall.

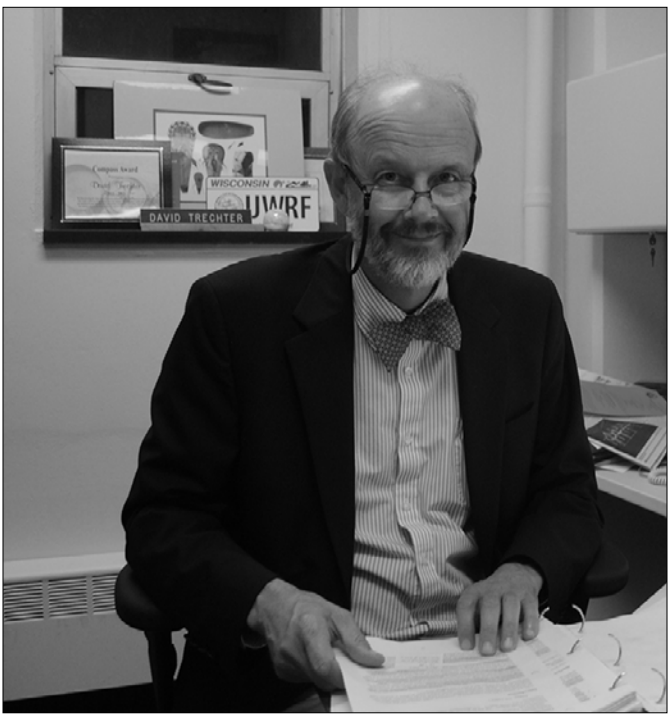
in the brain and help students to focus," said horticulture major Brittany Rootes.

UWRF will be collaborating with McCaren Designs out of the Twin Cities on the design and installation of the wall. McCaren Designs will be providing the structural support wall panel at a discount. They will also be helping to develop a system that will provide the most success in an academic setting.

"The overarching goal is to see if there are academic, psychological, health and overall wellbeing benefits of having this structure in the classroom both for students and instructors," Tubre said.

Additional support for the project is being provided by the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science (CA-FES), and the Green Plants for Green Building Association.

The living green wall is scheduled to be installed in January of 2015 during winter break.



Website redesign creates new, enhanced experience

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University Communications and the Department of Technical Services (DoTS) joined together to design and create a new UW-River Falls website that will make it easier to navigate and tell the university's story.

"Our goal was to create a meaningful and intuitive web experience that accurately represented all UWRF has to offer," said University Marketing Specialist Renee Johnson.

The old website was more focused on internal people, current students and faculty than on an external audience.

Although it helps inviting prospective students to the school, enrollment is not the main reason for the website's change.

With feedback from the Student Senate last year, the Web Working Group was able to launch the new design on July 19, 2014.

"As you look at any kind of university recruitment in marketing, the web is the primary vehicle for communicating with prospective students, current students, alumni, friends; it's just the main communication vehicle," said UWRF Associate Vice Chancellor Kris Anderson.

With the use of in-house

talents in information technology (IT), graphic design and communications, the main cost was human time and labor. Because UWRF used talents of its own, they

The aim for the redesign is to improve the university's brand, tell UWRF's story, have engaging visuals and be more user friendly for less experienced users.

didn't have to hire outside companies, reducing the cost to students and the campus.

"In our approach to content strategy, design and develop-

ment for the site redesign, we focused on building a site architecture that would allow users to find the information they needed in a way that was engaging and visually representative of the UWRF campus experience," Johnson said.

The aim for the redesign is to improve the university's brand, tell UWRF's story, have engaging visuals and be more user friendly for less experienced users, according to the university's webpage.

"I think the redesign of

the website is fine, but I think sometimes it's harder to navigate than it used to be if you're a current student," said UWRF student Kellie Cunningham. "That could be because we're humans of having things the same and we don't like change."

Popular links have become more centralized including D2L, email, eSIS and the events calendar. The new design is also responsive to mobile devices.

"Overall, it's fine, I'm getting used to it," said UWRF student Ari Pajdash. "I do like the colors and new-age stuff a little bit. It took me a while to find where all the links

were at first because they switched that up a lot. Now that I'm getting used to it, it's a lot better."

The next phase for the web site has two projects: training for web authors who contribute to the website which will help content management and design more consistent look across the pages, and website enhancements for a better interactive campus map with a more robust news site.

Students can leave feedback about the new design at: <http://bit.ly/1pbKuLz>.

Veteran Services on campus provides support at UWRF

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UW-River Falls has about 225 veterans and family members on campus this semester, and an estimated 190 veterans who have served currently enrolled, according to Veteran Services.

Between 2009 and 2010, the Veteran Services office was founded. Its mission is to ensure student veterans, reservists, National Guard, active duty and family members receive university support in achieving academic success.

Before this office existed the UWRF campus had someone to work with veteran affairs, but the new office allows for a more personal

and dedicated effort for its veteran students and families. It helps veterans with their transition into civilian life, and with whatever else they may need during their college experience.

This service is important to the campus because it creates a relatable outlet for veterans. Many veterans have had life experiences that some civilians may find hard to relate to. Veteran Services strives to help with any family or service related issues that may ensue in a veterans path to re-enter civilian life.

Andrew Huffman is the Veteran Services coordinator assistant, and he said that the veteran's office acts as the "go-to" for ability services, financial aid, student housing

and meal plans. It can also offer assistance by sitting down with teachers and assessing any classroom issues that a veteran may be having.

Veteran Services have the resources to connect a veteran to problems outside of educational related issues as well. The office can assist with any family or civilian life challenges that occur by connecting the veteran to an appropriate source or outlet.

Student veteran Bradley Harrison has benefited from Veteran Services since he started attending UWRF in 2010 with the undergraduate program; he is working on his master's degree now.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
Andrew Hoffman (left) Staff Sergeant Air Force, Stephanie Rinehart (middle) Veteran Air Force, and David Pilman (right) Sergeant Marine Corp: three students that are currently studying at UWRF.

See Veterans page 3

News briefs:

Seniors present art thesis exhibitions

UW-River Falls seniors Taylor Berman, Hannah Carlos, Jaclyn Gese, Dan Risinger and Samantha Soutor will present their art thesis exhibitions in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at UWRF from Sept. 29 to Oct. 7. On display will be ceramics, paintings, printmaking, drawing and graphic design.

Taylor Berman of New Richmond, Wisconsin, has a double major in broad area art education and a BFA in printmaking and painting. He will be displaying poster-size lithographs and watercolor illustrations. Berman’s work reflects his interest in indigenous cultures, world religions, philosophy and individual spirituality. Through his use of line, directionality and patterning, he strives to reflect the flow and interconnectedness of all things.

Hannah Carlos of Bloomington, Minnesota, has a major in broad area art education. She will be showing a collection of sculptural and functional ceramic pieces. Her work celebrates the repetitive intricacies found in the natural world. She explores organic forms in her work, which are inspired by landscapes she experienced while living in Liberia, Guinea, Cote d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Germany and the United States.

Jaclyn Gese of Woodbury, Minnesota, is a BFA candidate in graphic design with a secondary emphasis in drawing. Gese is interested in the role of imagination during adulthood. She creates her work by combining hand-drawn images with graphic design elements. She will be displaying work titled “Revival of Adult Imagination,” which consists of poster-sized graphic design illustrations that encourage adults in our society to regain the imagination they may have lost due to career choices.

Dan Risinger of Roseville, Minnesota, majors in broad area art education, broad area English education and a BFA in painting. He will be exhibiting a series of paintings that revisit drawings he did in the fifth grade. Risinger invites people to explore the subtleties of the world around them by challenging the conventions implied by still life and landscape.

Samantha Soutor of Woodbury will graduate in December with a major in psychology and a BFA in graphic design. She is showing her most recent work that exposes her dreams through graphic illustrations for a series of graphic t-shirts related to an imagined lounge-wear company, Awaken.

“Dreams are a part of our lives that are often forgotten or kept a secret. Oddly, our dreams are not too different from each other,” Soutor said.

The content of Soutor’s work reflects the dreams that we have when we sleep.

A reception for the artists is set for Friday, Oct. 3, from 5-8 p.m. in Gallery 101. Both the exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. Regular gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sunday from

2-4 p.m. For more information, contact the art department at 715-425-3266.

Common Core Mathematics Project

“Core Math Progressions through Fractions and Algebra” will kick-off its first year of workshops and seminars later this month at UW-River Falls. The project was funded \$119,182 through the UW System to provide professional development for elementary and middle school math teachers in western Wisconsin. The focus of the project is to provide training and assistance on implementing the Common Core math content and practice standards.

Faculty from UWRF and UW-Eau Claire will work with 40 elementary and middle school mathematics teachers in western Wisconsin. Districts include New Auburn (main partner), New Richmond (main partner), Bloomer, River Falls, Luck, Clayton, Chetek, Durand, Elk Mound, Prairie Farm and Barron. A group of teacher candidates from UW-River Falls will also participate in the project.

Participants will meet on average once per month during the school year, which includes after school seminars and weekend sessions. During the summer there will be a weeklong intensive workshop and during the academic year the project will focus on the Common Core domains of Number and Operation (grades 3-5) and The Number System (grades 6-8). An emphasis will be placed on fractions, algebraic thinking, and exploring the eight mathematical practice standards.

“This program has great promise to enhance the learning of mathematics in this corner of the state. The enthusiasm of teachers enrolling in the program should provide for a very productive community of educators,” said Kathryn Ernie, emerita professor of mathematics at UWRF and project co-director stated. “An exciting feature of this project is that it provides a professional learning community for educators across multiple districts to learn from each other on how to successfully implement the standards. It also involves math teacher candidates from UWRF working alongside practicing teachers. It will provide them first-hand experience working with in-service teachers in a professional development environment.”

For more information on this program, contact Erick Hofacker at 715-425-3347 or erick.b.hofacker@uwrf.edu.

Annual faculty and staff award recipients

The UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics (CBE) have announced the recipients of three annual advising, teaching and research awards for outstanding CBE faculty and staff.

Brian Huffman of Hudson, professor of management, and Brian Schultz of River Falls, professor of economics and assistant

dean of the College of Business and Economics, were the recipients of the three awards.

Huffman received both the Advising Award and the Outstanding Research Award for his scholarly contributions in 2013-14. The Outstanding Teaching Award was presented to Schultz for the second time in his career at UWRF as he also received the award the first year it was awarded in 2000.

The advising and teaching awards are determined by students who graduated from the college within the past four years. Students are asked to vote for the faculty member who had the most positive influence on their academic and professional lives. The research award recipient is chosen by a committee of past faculty award winners who evaluate the quantity and quality of the intellectual contributions of the faculty to their respective fields.

The CBE at UWRF is an AACSB-accredited business school. The college is committed to providing high-quality undergraduate programs, offering excellent graduate programs in business administration and computer science, and delivering business outreach services to the greater St. Croix Valley region.

Campus outdoor art installations, Oct. 1-2

The UW-River Falls Art Department announces the 23rd Annual Outdoor Art Installations, Oct. 1-2. Art students will be creating temporary outdoor installations designed to highlight a specific site on the UWRF campus grounds. Free and open to the public.

Maps identifying the individual sites can be picked up in the lobby of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building outside Gallery 101, beginning Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 9 a.m.

UWRF alumni and visiting artist, Chelsea Kelly, will give a lecture from 10-11 a.m. on Oct. 1, in the Kinnickinnic Theatre, in the University Center. Kelly is the Healing Arts coordinator for Hudson Hospital & Clinic and Westfield Hospital and Clinic while also exhibiting professionally in regional galleries. There will be a walkabout critique with Kelly beginning at 1 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

Visitors to the campus and the UWRF student body are asked to respect the installations and to avoid altering or damaging the artwork. Questions may be directed to the UWRF Art Department at 715-425-3266.

Xcel Energy supports future teachers

The UW-River Falls College of Education and Professional Studies has received a \$3,000 scholarship grant from Xcel Energy. The grant money will be awarded to two teacher education students in the UWRF “We Teach!” program.

“We Teach!” provides resources and opportunities to students who are pursuing a teaching degree in “high needs” disciplines such as mathematics and science, as well as to students from historically underrepresented populations who are pursuing a teaching degree.

“The scholarship from Xcel Energy has had

a positive impact on my educational experience,” said Amy Graham, a current UWRF student and past recipient of the award. “It has allowed me to progress towards my goal of becoming an effective and environmentally conscious teacher.”

Xcel Energy’s grant is part of the company’s corporate giving education focus area, which supports institutions that are increasing the number of students pursuing teaching degrees in STEM disciplines. Xcel Energy is a valued partner of UWRF and has been providing scholarships to the “We Teach!” program and its students for more than five years.

For more information, contact Tyler Koepke, WiTEACH advisor and retention and recruitment coordinator in the College of Education and Professional Studies, at 715-425-3708 or email tyler.koepke@uwrf.edu.

Mathematics partnership third year

“Math Transition into the Common Core Era” will kick-off its third year of workshops in October at UW-River Falls. The project, funded through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, provides professional development for middle and high school math teachers in western Wisconsin over three years.

A major focus of the \$471,969 grant is to prepare teachers to implement the content and practice standards associated with the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics. The grant’s funding is part of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title II Improving Teacher Quality Grant Program.

The main partners in the grant are UW-River Falls and the Rice Lake Area School District. Additional partners include UW-Eau Claire, UW-La Crosse, and 14 other school districts in western Wisconsin. Currently there are more than 50 teachers involved in the project.

“It is exciting to see the impact our project has on everyone involved when we get to visit each teacher’s classroom to observe what has been discussed and modeled in our workshops, and then implemented with their own students,” said Sherrie Serros, professor of mathematics at Eau Claire and co-project director.

“It has been a pleasure to work with teachers genuinely devoted to the teaching profession and the learning of their students,” said Kathryn Ernie, emeritus professor of mathematics at UWRF and co-project director. “An exciting outcome of this project is that teachers have become a professional learning community across multiple districts, supporting, sharing, and learning from each other.”

The project is being evaluated by Barb Bennie, associate professor of statistics at La Crosse. “Through the first two years of grant workshops, we have observed significant gains in knowledge and worthwhile reflection on and rethinking of teaching practices among participants,” Bennie said. “We look forward to seeing this growth continue in the coming year.”

For more information on the program, contact Erick Hofacker at 715-425-3347 or erick.b.hofacker@uwrf.edu.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

September 18-23, 2014

- Three suicidal students were reported to authorities in a three-day span (Sept. 19-21), which included two males and one female. All three incidents occurred in separate buildings, including Ames Suites, Stratton Hall and May Hall. All cases are closed.
- Two thefts were reported in the University Center on Sept. 18. One wallet was stolen (closed), and money was stolen from a purse (open). The incidents happened around the same time frame. Another theft occurred on Sept. 21, in the Karges Center as another wallet was stolen; this case is still open.
- Three underage intoxicated students were given minors in 109 May Hall at 10:02 p.m. on Sept. 19.
- An intoxicated female student was also reported outside Johnson Hall at 1:29 a.m. on Sept. 21.
- A student was charged with a controlled substance on Sept. 18, after possession of paraphernalia was discovered.

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

Hi, I’m Shadoe, the voice of the 25-and-under crowd

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Student Senate swears-in new members

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Student Senate welcomes eight new members. The Senate fall election took last place from Monday, Sept. 15, to Tuesday, Sept. 16. The new members were sworn-in at the Senate meeting on Sept. 16.

The eight new members of Senate that were elected last week are: Tyler Marson, College of Business and Economics (CBE) Representative; Greg Brown, Non-Traditional Senator; three First Year Representatives, Kao Vang, Israel Umoh and Abby Wendt; and three At-Large Senators, Nathan O’Leary, Mikayla Swanson and Brady Murphy.

Murphy, a freshman, was recently elected as one of the three At-Large Senators, and he has always been interested in government. He said he hopes his involvement in Senate will help improve his leadership and communication skills.

“I look forward to working with a lot of the people in Senate right now and hopefully we can make a lot of differences,” Murphy said.

He also said he hopes to stay involved with Senate all throughout college.

O’Leary, a transfer student, was also elected as one of the At-Large Senators and was involved with student senate at his previous university. O’Leary said he looks forward to learning about the issues at UW-River Falls and hopes to sharpen his leadership skills.

Senate Vice President Shelby Hehr was the elections commissioner this semester.

Hehr said some of the responsibilities of the student senators include attending meetings, serving office hours and serving on a committee. Hehr said the main responsibility is to make our school a better place.

Voting was done online on the FalconSync Student Senate page. Hehr said there were approximately 142 voters. According to the poll results, 33.8 percent of the voters belonged to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), 27.5 percent of voters belonged to the College of Arts and Sciences

(CAS), 17.6 percent of voters belonged to the College of Business and Economics (CBE), 15.5 percent of voters belonged to the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS), and 5.6 percent of voters were undecided.

Each person that wanted to run for a position had to fill out an election petition.

The election petition is a document that lists each available position for the election, the qualifications and duties for each position, and personal student information such as name, student ID, year in school, email and phone number.

Students running for the first-year position had to collect twenty-five signatures and students running for other positions had to collect fifty signatures.

Hehr said, in order to qualify for the CBE Representative position, the student must be enrolled in CBE. Also, only CBE students were able to vote for candidates who ran for CBE Representative.

According to the election petition, the Non-Traditional Senator candidate must all



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
The fall 2014 elected members of Student Senate, beginning at top left: At-large senators Nathan O’Leary and Brady Murphy; First Year Representatives Kao Vang and Abby Wendt; Non-traditional Senator Greg Brown; CBE Representative Tyler Marson.

meet at least one of the following qualifications: be 25 years of age or older, holds full-time employment, has at least one dependent (other than a spouse) or has been outside of formal education for at least one academic

year.

Hehr said people who run for the First-Year Representative position must be a first year student at UWRF.

According to the election petition, there aren’t any qualifications needed for

an At-Large position, any UWRF student is eligible to run.

Senate elections are held every fall and spring semester.

Student Senate Cinema begins on campus

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During the week students are busy going to classes, but during the weekend there are no classes to keep students on campus, so Student Life is busy organizing events to keep the students at UW-River Falls on campus and involved with things on campus. Now Student Senate is joining in the effort.

The Senate is putting on a program called Student Senate Cinema. According to Senate President Tony Sumnicht, it is a way to fill “gaps in programming.”

There will be movies shown every Saturday and Sunday in the Kinni Theater in the University Center at 7 p.m. These films are free to all UWRF students.

The Senate has entered a contract with a movie distributor to show the movies. Therefore, students can expect to see a wide variety of movies shown.

“We get movies that are out of the theaters but not yet on DVD, we get some that are older cult classic type movies and then we get also some movies appropriate for the time of year. So like Halloween or Veterans Day,” Sumnicht said.

The first movie was shown on Sept. 20 and 21, was “22 Jump Street.” The movies coming up include “Easy A” and

“Already we’ve seen a lot of positive results and positive data from this first year class,” said Student Senate President Tony Sumnicht.

“Pitch Perfect,” on Sept. 27 and 28, and “The Lego Movie” on Oct. 3 and 4.

Student Senate Cinema is also an outreach program for the Senate, according to Sumnicht. They are hoping to interact with students in a way that is not business. A strong push is being made to get freshman involved on campus to retain them as students in the future.

“Already we’ve seen a lot of positive results and positive data from this first year class,” Sumnicht said. “More first-years are involved this year than in years past, so hopefully their connecting with organizations and getting involved on the weekends with those organizations.”

Student Life has been keeping track of student involvement this year using surveys that students fill out. According to Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd, they have learned a lot

from the surveys.

“Most students report being around three weekends per month and so if students are around that much we have to have stuff going on,” Shepherd said. “So, we are pretty excited this year to take it to the next level.”

Letting people know about Student Senate Cinema and all the different events happening is very important. People have to know about an event in order to go to it and be involved, and on top of posters and messages on the televisions in the University Center, Student Life is trying a new way of telling people.

“We are also trying to make better use of word of mouth as well,” Shepherd said. “Really trying to get student organization leaders, Student Senate, people in the residence halls more aware of what is going on so they can help spread the word to their friends.”

According to Shepherd the surveys students took showed that most people who attend things found out because a friend told them.

All of the upcoming events on campus can be found at events.uwrf.edu/MasterCalendar.aspx or under events on the main homepage.

UWRF Ability Services aid students in academics

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Mark Johnson, office coordinator for Ability Services on campus, says the office was once called “Disabilities Services” but their mission to assist is more attuned to ability than disability.

The office motto, according to its online homepage, is: “honoring abilities with equal access and opportunity.” Ability Services, located in 129 Hagestad Hall, helps accommodate disabled students and students with learning disabilities enrolled at UW-River Falls.

“Basically we are an office that provides procedures for students who believe they have a significant medical, physical, sensory, or brain related issues, which could also be thought of as a disability,” Johnson said.

There is no cost for these services for students. When

asked why or when a student with a disability should seek help from Ability Services, Johnson said, “The main reason is the level at which it limits a student in their education.”

A student must provide evidence from an authority, such as a physician when requesting assistance.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the Amendments Act of 2008 ensures the right of every student, regardless of disability, be provided an “appropriate education.”

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) ensures privacy and anonymity for those seeking help. What this means for students here at UWRF is a helping hand. Johnson wanted students to know their privacy will be respected, and it is the law.

For some students there are different barriers to over-

come in getting their degree. Ability Services seeks to assist and provide accommodations for disabled students

“Basically we are an office that provides procedures for students who believe they have a significant medical, physical, sensory, or brain related issues, which could also be thought of as a disability,” said Mark Johnson, Ability Services office coordinator.

with different needs in a variety of ways.

Some need more time on tests, while others suffer from extreme anxiety or at-

tention deficit disorder and need to take tests separate from their classmates. Other students may need their tests and quizzes read out loud or by audiobooks. Note-takers can be used for students who have a difficult time writing because of arthritis or other issues.

Note-takers are volunteer students from the student client’s class who will take notes for \$30 per credit. The notes are turned over to Ability Services, ensuring confidentiality. The note-takers do not know the client’s identity because HIPAA ensures confidentiality.

One student who chose to remain anonymous but wanted to share her story said, “Ability Services is the reason I made it this far.”

This student used the note-taking service because she was physically unable to write her own notes. Before she went into Ability Ser-



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
Mark Johnson is the coordinator for Ability Services, which offers services to students who have physical, medical and sensory issues.

vices she was in danger of failing and dropping out. She could not keep up with notes and now she has adequate notes to study. The anonymous student also said she “would recommend getting help if you need it to succeed; they are cool.”

Veterans: Veteran Services revamps current program

From page 1

Harrison said that the office makes some things easier in life.

“They help make sure that all your paperwork gets put in right,” Harrison said. “They help walk through the mountains of paperwork through the V.A. and the VETS and the GOV that you have to submit.”

Veteran Services is renovating strategies to promote itself on campus. Huffman wrote a piece for the Falcon Connection, which is a document circulated to the student body through Student Affairs in an effort to spread the word to veterans and

their families.

“One of the Veteran Services’ biggest problems right now is just getting the word out there that it exists,” Huffman said.

The veterans office is revamping the way that it helps connect veterans, not only to in the academic world, but now to the community as well.

“We’re getting more involved with outside programs in order to help out the community and veterans,” Huffman said. “We’re connecting them with jobs or anything they might need to help them progress within this educational experience.”

It is working on creating more opportunities for veterans to volunteer in the community in an effort to get more involved.

The campus has several programs to help veterans out. The primary outlet is the veterans office, which is located in 220 South Hall. It consists of three employees that are in the office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The service also is contactable by email at: veterans@uwrf.edu.

Veteran Services is renovating strategies to promote itself on campus.

EDITORIAL

Tall roadside grass poses large threat for pedestrians

UW-River Falls students are becoming increasingly concerned about the tall ornamental grass that has been methodically growing in the median strip on Cascade Avenue.

While the grass is aesthetically easy on the eyes and does doll up the university (especially in autumn), it has become a danger zone for cyclists and pedestrians alike. As the grass has continuously risen, so has conversation and debate in seemingly every classroom over the past three weeks.

Some students have stated that only the city has the right to trim the grass, while others believe the responsibility falls on the university. Regardless of who is responsible for trimming the grass, it needs to be done.

A petition on change.org, called “Cut That Grass!” has further spread word about the ongoing grass-growing outrage. As of Sept. 24, the petition has 100 supporters and counting.

The petition states: “The grass on Cascade Ave. is above the pedestrian’s heads and makes it very hard to see people walking or biking for the people driving down the road.”

Students are also using Facebook’s UWRF-Confessions as an outlet to vent, while others are pro-grass enthusiasts. One confession states: “I actually think the grass on Cascade could be a lot taller/thicker.”

There are many students who still believe that “it slows down drivers, making it safer,” but that statement may not be accurate. The grass will continue to climb until the weather takes an inevitable Wisconsin turn for the worse. But some student’s patience is wearing thin.

Another student on Facebook claims: “I can’t wait to be the first kid to run someone over and win in court.”

Ridiculous sarcasm aside, this student does have a point: the school may be liable if such an accident were to occur. Trimming with a weedwacker is undoubtedly a taxing activity, but such a job would only take 2-3 hours with a handful of workers.

Most students who have to frequently cross Cascade would prefer to see oncoming traffic, especially if the convenient traffic lights were to malfunction. The campus looks great, as usual, but please not at the expense of students and faculty. UWRF students have been heard, loud and clear. This problem should be an easy fix.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Letter to the Editor: Regarding Voter ID laws

The lawn signs have started popping up in unmaintained ditches and mowed city yards like some strange plastic and wire cicadas with a two-year life cycle. It is election season once again as activity rises in preparation for the Nov. 4, elections. For federal elections it is an off year: there is no presidential election. So, the fight is for control of the U.S. Senate and Congress; for Wisconsin offices, this is the big one. Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, and Treasurer will join the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly on the ballot. Wisconsin Counties can even get in on the action. Expect local races for Sheriff and Clerk of Court. The elections come down to power and control of government decisions for at least the next two years. This is big money, and big money interests fight for their share of the pie. Corporate groups, citizen groups, special interest PACs, unions, the United Council of UW System students, political parties, environmental groups, George Soros and the Koch brothers each pull up a chair and cutlery. To the outsider it looks like some kind of five minute timed event at a rural county fair. In this one, participants not only see how much they can eat, but they also get to stab forks into the others as they go face first into the red, white, and blueberry pie with the store bought Betty Crocker crust. Voter ID has been a contentious issue in Wisconsin since the 2011 passage of Act 23. Political wonks salivate and fire emotion laden articles back and forth from redstate.com to dailykos.com, scoring vast amounts of imaginary Internet points. Political parties take stands in the media and lob charges of voter fraud and suppression at each other. Lawsuits start

flying like a tornado of paper through a bookstore and amici curiae come from all points of the compass. At the end of it all, the general public is left saying “huh?” while some are pumping fists of victory in the air. And others are wondering how in the heck they will get a day off of work to wait in line at the DMV. Much of the fighting has taken place in the courts. In 2014 alone, the ID law was challenged and ruled illegal, was appealed and ruled legal, and yet more legal appeals are likely. As of today, the law is valid: voters in Wisconsin must show a picture ID to register and vote. For students, this law will impact what they have to do to be a voter. UW-River Falls is taking steps to ensure that students can register and vote without having to leave campus or chase down papers in their home state. Starting Monday, Sept 29, the ID office will have new IDs available that students can use for voting if the student goes to the office and requests one. Students can use the new ID with proof of being a student and address through an eSIS document. The eSIS document can be brought to the polls either as a print off or shown as an electronic document on a phone or computer. There are other ways and other IDs that can be allowed, but the new voter ID from the card office and eSIS document will work for all students. On Sept. 24, the Faculty Senate passed a motion 18-0 with two abstentions regarding the issuance of the new voter IDs: “The University of Wisconsin River Falls shall issue student identification cards to new students and continuing students immediately that comply with Wisconsin voter identification statutes and laws so that student identification cards can be used as legal

identification for the purpose of registering to vote and to vote in all local, state, and federal elections.” This motion will ensure that students will receive the identification needed in a timely fashion. Voter turn-outs can exceed 2,000 people on campus. By making sure students have the ID in advance with no red tape, waiting in line, or extra paperwork hassle, the Faculty Senate is demonstrating their commitment to open and fair elections. Voter registration will be available in the University Center from Sept. 29 through Oct. 15, sponsored by the Political Science Department at UWRF. After Oct. 15, voter registration can only occur in the City Clerks office or at the polls on Election Day. UWRF students often vote in large numbers. Many people will be first time voters, so the City Clerk has trained and deputized registrars to help with the process. By getting all of the paperwork done in advance, voters can eliminate waiting on election day. You can also vote early by mail or in the clerks office if desired. Students in Wisconsin have historically voted at one of the highest rates in the U.S. With the federally protected right to vote where you live for students, UWRF voters represent a large portion of the potential electorate. This big pool of potential voters is a power block that groups from all over want the support of. We can expect to see everyone from student groups to candidate and outside interests making sure their candidates and ideas get your consideration. On Nov. 4, the last ballot will be cast and the shuffling of priorities and spending for the new balance of power will begin.

Resident assistant launches advice column

Hello students of UW-River Falls. My name is Kayla Donahue and I am a sophomore here on campus. I live and work in Grimm Hall as a resident assistant, and I am starting a new advice column right here in the Student Voice. Send me a message by email explaining your issue that needs resolving and sign it with an alias or your real name. Anonymity is completely up to you. You can submit topics for discussion from problems in the classroom, to relationships with that special someone. I am open to almost anything except for topics laced with profanity and pornography. My contact information is as follows: ask.kayla.uwrf@gmail.com.

Just Trying to Help asks:

“I recently found out that my friend’s boyfriend is cheating on her. I’m worried that if I tell her she won’t believe me and turn against me. It wouldn’t be the first time something like this has happened to me. This is something I can’t keep to myself and that I can’t keep from her. How do I go about telling her?”

Dear Just Trying to Help,

First off, I agree with you for wanting to tell your friend about her cheating boyfriend. If I were ever in the same situation, I’d want to do the same thing. There are just a few do’s and don’ts to this situation: 1. It’s very important to keep in mind that finding out a significant other is not committed will most likely leave your friend devastated and heartbroken. Even if they haven’t been together for long, it’s pretty safe to say that it’s difficult finding out that sort of information. This is for your friend’s best interest, and for her own good.

2. You need to make sure you two are alone when you tell her and that she is not in an aggressive or abrasive mood. She needs to be completely open-minded to what is happening behind her back. Start off by explaining that you would never lie about something as important as this. Then, just peel the Band-Aid off. Maybe not a rip, but just a gentle peel. 3. If she doesn’t believe you, don’t keep trying to convince her. It will only make things worse. Let her figure out the rest on her own. Once the seed is planted the roots and the rest of the plant will grow towards the sky. When she hopefully finds out, be there for her. Don’t be saying, “I told you so.” She is going through an emotional stage in her life. She needs you as a friend.

Sarah inquires:

“I am new to campus and am a quiet, not very outgoing person. I am having trouble making friends and wish I knew of a better way to meet new people. I know the school year is only two weeks in but I feel like I should be making more friends by now.”

Dear Sarah,

The first few weeks for a new student is not always the easiest. If you live in the residence halls, hanging out with people on your wing, floor or building are good places to start. Or start going to your hall programs. More than likely they are either in the same position or have already experienced it. They can help you meet new people. If you live off-campus and are having difficulty, try talking to students in some of your classes. They could be in the same sort of situation as well. Clubs and student organizations are

also a great way to get involved. There are over 150 on campus in so many different categories ranging from sports and recreation to performing arts and Greek life. There are so many ways to get involved and make new friends; you just have to remember that you are not alone.

Lonely Luncher asks:

“Last year all my friends and I could eat lunch together. This year, we all have different schedules and we’re forced to eat by ourselves most the time. What can I do to not feel so weird while eating alone?”

Dear Lonely Luncher,

I am sorry to hear that you are unable to eat lunch with your friends, but it is never too late to make some new ones. When sitting in the cafeteria, look around for other students eating alone. I do it all the time. Ask to join them, or ask someone else to join you. If you consider yourself to be a bit more socially awkward, then find another friend—maybe a new one—who has the same class break so you can enjoy each other’s company. You can ask someone in your class before you eat, or maybe ask a random person walking near you on the sidewalk. If you don’t mind eating alone and don’t want to be bothered, you can bring your smartphone (if you have one) and play some games or check your email—or whatever else they are capable of doing—to pass the time. You can also take something back to your room or to a location other than Riverside Commons. Your meals can be transferred in the Rapids or Pete’s Creek, too. I hope this helps.

Be the first person to find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Student 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).

Now Playing: “The Maze Runner”

Do you have something to say?

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

“My mom is asleep, so I am just going to watch the camera to make sure he doesn’t come here. I will stay awake and watch so she can sleep.”

Above is a quote from an eight-year-old boy who is temporarily housed at Turningpoint: the domestic and sexual abuse shelter in River Falls. The boy refers to the abuser who caused his mother to seek help.

In a July 10, letter to the editor of the River Falls Journal, Mary Halada described her reasons for joining a committee to raise funds for the shelter’s renovation so that it can accommodate 17 more beds.

I’m a member of that committee and also share her concerns. As she said, the goal of the Light House Project—the name of the renovation effort—is to raise \$120,000 to convert the upstairs of the Second Chances building on Main Street into staff offices. This allows staff to move downtown, and creates room for more beds at Turningpoint.

The need is dire.

Turningpoint has not added shelter space since 1989, but yearly numbers of victims in beds at the shelter have increased from 3,276 in 2010 to 3,933 in 2013. Over that same period, an average of 15-20 shelter requests per year have had to be turned down because there was no room. That requires Turningpoint to spend an average of \$1,000 per year for motel vouchers to accommodate those turned down. A motel is not a safe haven for victims of abuse.

Would it be possible for the various organizations in Pierce and St. Croix counties, such as the Lions, Rotary and Optimist clubs, plus UWRF student organizations, to pool their efforts behind such an effort?

I plan to find out.

As Mary said, “having a safe place to call home is critical.”

Don Richards

Mitch Albom wrote a best seller some years ago titled, “The Five People You Meet in Heaven”. My take on this was a seminar for three former female UW-River Falls student friends of mine: about the five men that women meet from hell.

They are the drunk, the druggie, the gambler, the abuser, and the con man. I told my lady friends what to watch for and also what to do in each situation. Following is what to do when you meet the con man.

Whether you realize it or not, you are a target for men who are mostly interested in taking your money. Under the guise of love, friendship or whatever, they need your money for rent, car payments, to be bailed out of jail (this is a warning within a warning) or any other flimsy excuse they can come up with. They have no intention of ever paying you back.

I even saw one case on Judge Judy when the con men got his girlfriend to pay his child support payments. By the way, I urge you ladies to watch Judge Judy. Channel nine has her on six days per week with up to 25 different cases per week. On an average week at least six to 10 of these cases involve a con man and the women he flim-flammed.

I realize many college students have short resources. Five, 10 or 20 dollars is no real indication you are being conned. It’s when the hundreds and even thousands of dollars are asked for that should make you worry. I told my three friends to set up a top limit of \$500. Once it is repaid: good. If more than \$500 is requested just say no. That’s my limit. If the \$500 is not repaid and another problem arises and another sum of money is needed you have most likely met man from hell number five, and would be throwing good money after bad. It’s time to say goodbye. One last thing: when it comes to money, use your head instead of your heart.

Marvin L. Nelson

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Dear UWRF,

We can make history this year—in this election—by electing all five of the Democratic women running for the state Senate.

If all five of us win, for the first time in Wisconsin history and only the third time in the U.S., women would be a majority of a state legislative majority.

Back in 2006, when I was first elected I was the first woman ever to represent the voters of Wisconsin’s 31st District. But to make history again this year, to be a part of the majority of a majority, I need to win this November, along with the other four women Democratic candidates.

For this, I need your help. Our campaign is in full swing. We have strong grassroots support, local ward organizers in key areas; county coordinators working hard to motivate Democrats and yard signs sprouting on lawns all over the district.

You and I share a vision of what our communities can become. You know how important rebuilding a sense of community is for the future of Wisconsin. Your investment in my campaign for re-election to the state Senate can make a real difference in my efforts to reach voters.

Republican operatives in Madison have said they want to “take me out!” They know the trouble I caused when they wanted to secretly pass bills to take away local control and protections for land, air and water. They know how I raised the alarm about state money rushing into out-of-state private charter school companies.

I need your help to spread my message that people are more powerful than money. I need your help in spreading the message that all of us can make history by electing women to the Senate. Let’s make this election one more step forward in creating the future we want for our families and our communities. Thank you very much for your support.

Senator Kathleen Vinehout
Wisconsin’s 31st District

Q

STUDENT voices

What is your opinion on Falcon Fridays?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



Yoseaf Yohannes
Freshman
Computer Science

“It shows more of a presence of the school and fun to do it.”



Joao Santos
Senior
Geology

“This is good for students”



Mariah Hallen
Sophomore
Agriculture Studies

“It’s a good idea. Students will buy things from the Falcon store. We do need more enthusiasm about the school”



Sam Iversen
Sophomore
English Education

“I think it’s cool that it promotes school spirit. We all have the clothing. It makes it feel more like a community.”



Soua Thao
Sophomore
Biology

“That’s a unique characteristic of the university. It’ll show more spirit and appreciation towards the school and community”

Check out the Student Voice online at
uwrfvoice.com.

Record-setting performance leads to Falcons football win

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A weight that has been sitting on the shoulders of every UW-River Falls football player has finally been lifted as the football team won its first game of the 2014 season.

It's not only is the first win for the Falcon's this season, but the first win for the team since Oct. 27, 2012, when the team defeated WIAC rival UW-Stout 24-14.

The football team traveled over 600 miles to Rapid City, South Dakota, to take on a Div. II opponent on Saturday, Sept. 20. The Falcons would come out on top 43-28.

"It's a special day for all of us. It's something we needed bad," said head coach Matt Walker about the win against the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology Hardrockers.

The Falcons started the game slow, going three and out, which led to the Hardrockers going 71 yards down the field on its first possession to score a rushing touchdown and take a 7-0 lead. The Falcons quickly answered back with a rushing touchdown of their own by senior running back Emmanuel Udeh, one of two he would have on the day. The Falcons and Hardrockers would be tied 14-14 after both teams scored re-

ceiving touchdowns in the second quarter.

In the second half, the Hardrockers came out with a quick touchdown making it 21-14. It would soon become all Falcons, as the team would score three unanswered touchdowns, two coming on the ground and the other in the air, making the score 35-21. The Hardrockers and Falcons would both score one more touchdown making the final 43-28 in favor of UWRF. The Falcons would finish with impressive stats including 405 passing yards with just over 12 yards per reception, and close to 200 yards on the ground averaging five yards per attempt.

The Falcons were led by junior quarterback Ryan Kusilek who had himself a career day with 501 total yards in the victory. Kusilek threw three touchdowns and threw for 405 yards, which was the most all time in Falcons history. He also led the team in rushing yards with 96. The 501 yards Kusilek accumulated is now the fourth most in WIAC football history. While Kusilek may have had the career game, his teammates around him helped contribute to the win.

"There was a lot of broken tackles by receivers too and that's the stuff that doesn't make the stat sheet," Kusilek said. Senior wide receiver Jordan Christianson led the Falcons with five catches for 119 yards with a pair of touchdowns, followed

by senior receivers Jake Ryan and Charles Dixon who combined for 183 receiving yards.

The Falcons offense shouldn't take all of the credit; the defense had a lights out performance that showed in the victory. The defense was able to hold off an explosive Hardrockers offense led by junior quarterback Trenton McKinney, who leads the team in both rushing and passing. Falcons senior defensive back Kyle Kittel had an impressive performance collecting eight total tackles and breaking up three passes during the team win.

"They tried picking on him because of his height but he just kept battling," Walker said of Kittel.

Falcons senior defensive back Andy Lundgren also collected seven total tackles; sophomore linebacker Albert Itula had four tackles, one of which was a sack for a seven-yard loss; and senior linebacker Luke Radke had a forced fumble, which he recovered.

The Falcons have the upcoming weekend off but start back up on Saturday, Oct. 4, in a WIAC matchup against UW-Stevens Point. Falcon football fans are excited because the contest will be the homecoming game, as well as the first time the Falcons play on the newly renovated Ramer Field. Kickoff for the homecoming game will be at 2 p.m.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Junior Ryan Kusilek, last season, avoiding a tackle. Kusilek set a UW-River Falls record against the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology last Saturday, Sept. 20, accumulating 405 passing yards. The Falcons battle UW-Stevens Point at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, at the newly renovated Ramer Field.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Senior Emmanuel Udeh, last season, diving for yardage. Udeh scored two touchdowns in Saturday's road victory.

UW-River Falls soccer looks to be major threat in WIAC

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The rest of the WIAC better pay attention to the UW-River Falls women's soccer team.

The Falcons have not lost a game since Sept. 3, and they are looking strong as they proceed into conference play.

The Falcons played to a 2-2 tie with the UW-La Crosse Eagles on Saturday, Sept. 20. Falcons freshman midfielder Abby Soderholm kicked in her fifth goal of the season only nine minutes into the match to give the Falcons the lead, but it was close throughout.

La Crosse's Kristen Anderson put it past Falcons sophomore goalkeeper Erica Cimochoowski to tie it

up, just past the 23-minute mark.

The back of the net could not be found by either team for a long stretch of time after that.

Over 55 minutes of playing time later, Kelly Denk put in a penalty kick to give the Eagles the lead with just over 10 minutes left to play in regulation. La Crosse did not get anywhere close to 10 minutes of satisfaction.

Less than two minutes later, Falcons senior forward Alex Swatloski scored her sixth goal of the year to tie the game up at two. The teams then played two scoreless overtime periods.

Saturday was the third straight game the Falcons had scored two goals. The Falcons have been goal-scoring machines lately. For the

season, the Falcons have outscored their opponents 17-6.

That number is an even more impressive 16-3 when looking solely at the games since the Falcons' last loss. The team's increase in scoring makes complete sense to head coach Sean McKuras.

"As players get used to each other, chemistry starts to build," McKuras said. "We're a fairly young team, on the field and off the field; with that, scoring is what comes last. You can teach defending and some of those things, but really in the attack it is what you are trying to do and where you're trying to put the ball next and that just takes time."

Senior midfielder Abbie Zastrow accredited the goal differential to

the team's strong defense, and not allowing easy shots on goal. Freshman midfielder Carrie Anderson pointed to the team's offense and their ability to shoot and shoot often.

Junior defender Missy Barnett said it was all about hard work.

"We have a lot of talented players this year," Barnett said. "We've been working hard getting up to the forwards and being able to play and not skip a step from defense, mid-field to forward."

The Falcons have one thing in mind this season: the WIAC championship. Zastrow, Anderson and Barnett all said their expectation for the year is to take first in the prestigious conference. It won't be an easy ride to the top, though.

McKuras admitted that it will be a tough road.

"The WIAC is an unbelievably tough conference," McKuras said. "Really for the top eight teams, you don't know where anyone is going to finish. I don't think previous scores will necessarily dictate what happens in the following games."

That doesn't mean that McKuras doesn't share the same expectations as his players.

"As we get into WIAC conference play my expectations are for a top-four finish and to be competing for the championship," McKuras said.

The Falcons have high expectations; expectations that can be met with goals.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
Senior Abbie Zastrow kicks the ball away from UW-La Crosse's Megan Gresl. The Falcons tied La Crosse 2-2.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
Freshman Abby Soderholm kicks the ball towards the goal but is blocked by UW-La Crosse players Ali Roberts (left) and Kaylie Hanson (middle).

UW-River Falls intramurals improve programs for students

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The past two spring intramural seasons have been rough as weather has not cooperated, leading Recreation and Sport Facilities to make some adjustments this year.

The biggest change to this year’s intramural schedule is the slow pitch softball season, which has been moved to the fall. In years past, softball and ultimate Frisbee have always been played in the spring. Frisbee can be played indoors if need be, as well as soccer, which has been moved from fall to spring this year. However, softball cannot be played outside, which is why the change was made.

Broomball is another intramural sport taking on a little different look this year. In years past there has been a women’s broomball season in the fall semester and men’s broomball season in the spring. This year there will be both men’s and women’s offered both semesters.

Tiffany Gaulke, assistant director of recreation, said if a team wanted to compete in both semesters that they are working on giving a discounted price for the second season.

“It would kind of be like a buy one season of broomball, get

the other half off,” Gaulke said.

Broomball games have historically always been played late at UW-River Falls and still will be this season, but Gaulke said they are making sure that no games will go past midnight this year.

One area of concern early on as the softball and flag football seasons have started is numbers. Typically campus recreation has seen a minimum of 30 percent of students enrolled in their leagues. They will be looking to get back up to that number as the year goes on.

“We did not get the numbers we expected right away but are hoping once students settle in and look to get involved on campus that we will see those numbers go up,” Gaulke said.

Intramurals have seen higher numbers in upperclassmen than the incoming freshmen, according to Gaulke. One way intramurals is hoping to get freshmen involved is by putting on the hall cup challenge. The idea of the challenge is to get students in the same dorm to team up together and compete against other dorms for points. Gaulke said they did not market the idea as much as they would have liked last year and hope to get it going strong this year.

When students do get started in intramurals they often stay throughout their time at UWRF. Nathan Reckard, a senior at UWRF, is a testament to that. He has played intramurals all four years and has tried almost every sport that is offered.

“Intramurals is a great way to have fun with friends and be competitive,” Reckard said. “That is one thing that I really miss from my high school days is competitive sports.”

Shirts are given away to the top team in each league. There are co-recreation leagues, recreational leagues and competitive leagues for each sport. Reckard said trying to win the shirt is enough incentive to provide friendly competition between the teams.

Registration for the one day kickball tournament is open until Oct. 1, which costs \$15 per team. The first broomball season registration is open until Oct. 7, and volleyball is open until Oct. 14, costing \$40 per team, according to imleagues.com, which is the site UWRF intramurals uses for all its registration and on updating teams of schedules and standings.

“Intramurals helps me relax, lower stress and keeps my competitive nature going,” Reckard said. “I would not enjoy college as much without them.”

UW-River Falls athletes battle for baby Leo on and off court

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Often sports teams face challenges on the field or court but an assistant UW-River Falls Falcons coach and his family are facing a challenge much bigger than just a game.

For nine years Mike Babler has been apart of the Women’s basketball team as an assistant coach under Cindy Holbrook.

Last season, the team had to overcome some challenges such as losing players to injuries and the inexperience by a team filled with majority underclassmen. By the end of the season, the team started to get in rhythm with each other but it was too late, as the team did not make the WIAC tournament. This season Babler and his family have another challenge to overcome.

Babler’s grandson, Leo Russell, was born to Ryan and Le-wann (Ihrke) Babler, both of whom are UWRF graduates. After Leo was born, the family was shocked to find out that Leo had a lethal form of dwarfism called Rhizomelic Chondrodysplasia Punctata (RCPC), which is an extremely rare genetic disorder. The disorder carries distinct characteristics such as cataracts, shortness of limbs, some important organs aren’t fully developed, seizures, and joint stiffness. This form of dwarfism is so rare that about 60 children around the world have been reported with having this type of dwarfism.

Because of the high medical costs that are required in order for Leo to maintain a healthy life, Babler and his family created a Go Fund Me page and named it the Lionhearted Fund, telling people about his grandson’s disorder and how people who are interested could get involved.



Leo Russell Babler sleeping soundly at home. The Lionhearted game will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, in the Karges Center. The women’s basketball team will be selling t-shirts for \$15.

“This has really given me a passion to do anything I can for my grandson,” Babler said about his grandson’s disorder.

Coach Babler credits the social media site Facebook as being a very instrumental part in sharing Leo’s story with people from all over, saying he has received donations from “across the ocean and donations from Hawaii.”

Babler has also created red t-shirts which say Lionhearted Fund on the front and Leo with the number nine on the back. He showed these shirts to the players on his team asking them to wear them to help spread the word about Leo to people around campus. The bas-

ketball team took this idea and ran with it by coming up with the idea for a fundraiser selling the t-shirts for 15 dollars a piece with all proceeds going to the fund.

“It’s something that we take for granted that we wanted to help give back to him,” said junior captain guard Richell Mehus. “Coach Babler has done so much for our basketball team that we want to give back to him as much as we can.”

Not only has the women’s basketball team become involved, the volleyball team is also doing its part in helping Babler’s grandson. Coach Patti Ford has taken it upon herself to get her team involved in

whatever way they can. After talking with Babler about his grandson and the t-shirts that he created, she decided to get the volleyball team involved in an effort to get the UWRF community involved but also getting the city of River Falls involved.

When asked what she has done for the fundraiser she said, “the idea kind of came along the same lines of the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge,” referring to the viral Facebook videos of people pouring ice water over their heads to raise awareness of ALS. Ford continued by saying, “Mike’s son-in-law and daughter are both graduates of UW-River Falls and Mike’s been apart of the

athletic program and I just thought this would be a really good gift back to one of our own.”

The Lionhearted game is set for 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, in the Karges Center. The women’s basketball team will be in attendance selling t-shirts for the Lionhearted fund and the volleyball team will wear the red shirts to show their support for Leo and the fund. For more information about this event visit the UWRF sports page at this link: <http://bit.ly/1vasDbD>. If you cannot attend the game and would like to make a donation or learn more about Leo and his condition, you can visit the Go Fund Me link: <http://gofundme.com/cfgmts>.

UWRF women’s volleyball heats up after 1-5 start to season

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The UW-River Falls women’s volleyball team may have got off to a slow start to open the 2014 season, but they are now on a hot streak, winning four of its last six matches.

The Falcons (5-7) are not only winning matches, you might say that they are destroying the competition. Over the last six matches the Falcons have swept its opponents three times. Some fans are starting to notice the Falcons recent dominance.

“I was at the game against St. Kate’s and we were doing great,” said junior student Dalton Miller. “It was a lot of fun to watch. I’m excited to see more games.”

The Falcons are a very tight-knit group and the players work well together. Head coach Patricia Ford describes what she sees in this team.

“Chemistry is our number one strength,” Ford said. “I think that we are all focused on the same goal, and that’s to get better every day.”

Normally a team will look for leadership from its seniors, but this year the Falcons are forced to turn to the juniors for leadership because there are no seniors on the team.

“Our junior class is doing a really good job with leadership; I think we just blend really well as a team,” Ford said.

Ford went on to say that juniors Brianna Muetzel, Rebecca Gasper and Lexi Pingel have been great leaders so far.

With a lack of upperclassmen and only 16 players on the roster, some room has been left for underclassmen to step up and make an impact on the court this season. Ford mentioned Raven Klein, Katie Duff and Tayler Fertig as solid contributors as sophomores, as well as freshman Amara Meyer.

The team’s success is showing up in the statistics book as well. According to the WIAC official website, Rebecca Gasper is fourth in the conference in hitting percentage, while Lexi Pingel is third in digs and sixth in service aces. As a team, UWRF is first in the WIAC in giving up the fewest opponent assists.

It looks like it’s going to be a competitive season in the WIAC as UW-Oshkosh, UW-Stevens Point, UW-Whitewater, UW-Stout, UW-Lacrosse and UW-Eau Claire all boast non-conference records over .500. UW-Oshkosh is leading the way with an undefeated season to this point, with Stevens Point not far behind with a 12-3 record. Ford knows the difficulties of playing in the WIAC and she is hoping to come out of the first weekend of conference play with at least one victory.

The team will open up WIAC play and look to build off of its recent success as they host Lacrosse at 7 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 26, and UW-Platteville at noon on Saturday, Sept. 27, in the Karges Center.

The Falcons have 20 more matches until the conference tournament rolls around, and with the recent string of success the Falcons are planning to be flying high for the remainder of the season.

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‘The Maze Runner’ falls short of high expectations with stale plot



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

Fear, paranoia and vapid storytelling are winding their way through “The Maze Runner,” which despite looking promising, falters through its self-made maze with mid-dling characters.

After a disorienting ride up in an elevator, a young man finds himself in a glade with numerous other young men like him. He does not remember his name or what came before the elevator. All he knows is that he is stuck with these boys in this massive glade, and surrounding them all is the maze.

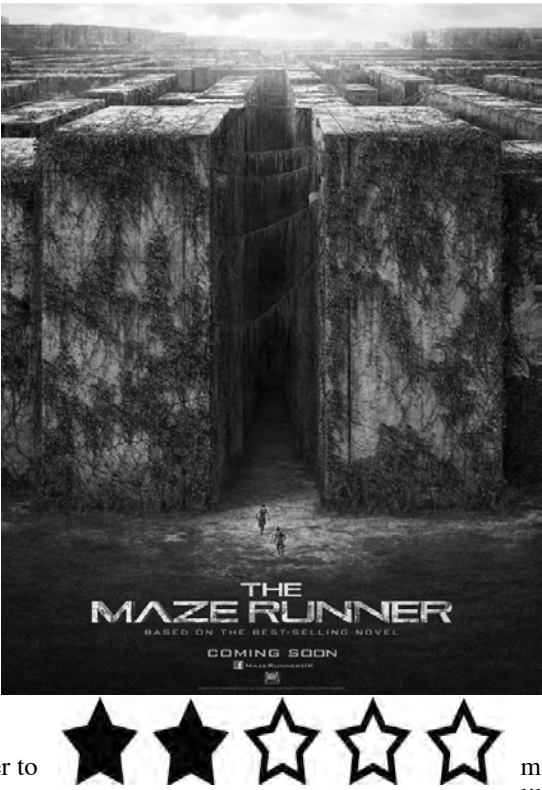
With high walls and deadly creatures awaiting anyone who goes into the maze, escaping seems impossible to some. Despite that, this lone hero will venture out and face the beasts of the maze and find out why everyone is here, how they can escape and who exactly put them here.

There is not much more I can add to the plot of “The Maze Runner” that has not been said of the many stories that came before it. I carried much of this opinion of “The Maze Runner” before I saw it, seeing it as

just another movie based on a young adult fiction novel trying to make bank off of the success of “The Hunger Games,” just trying to catch lightning in a tiny bottle. While I can say it was better than I had feared, that statement does not carry much weight when considering it as a whole.

First, the good parts: “The Maze Runner” looks good. Granted, there is nothing too spectacular, but the maze the movie is named for does have an eerie, mysterious feeling to it, wanting a moviegoer to explore its twists, turns and dangers. Along with that, the music and direction hit the spot for the most part.

It is the other elements of “The Maze Runner” that pull it down for me, though.



Beyond visuals, the plot of this film does not entice you much. The main character for is shoved into events, which are explained to him, and he just comes to the decision anyone would come to: get out.

He barely has any interactions or development with the other characters and is not helped by his blank-faced actor. If the main character comes to the same decision as anyone else and has no new ideas to back it, while lacking a decent set of emotions, then it is hard to get attached to him and the plot.

There are plenty of scenes that do not make much sense either, like when a fellow glade member gets exiled and we are not properly told why, even though the reason holds no grounds for straight exile, and feels cold and brutal from the audience’s side. Many mo-

ments like that permeate the film that served only to annoy me.

Side characters in this picture do not contribute much to warrant a second viewing as they are all tropes you have seen in movies before: the young novice, the funny guy, the experienced fighter, the guy who opposes everyone and the girl. No, really, the female character in this movie has only seven lines of dialogue and only serves to advance the plot; she has very little character.

My overall feeling of this film can be summed in one word: amateurish. One thing that points to it is this being the first film of its director, Wes Ball. The various elements of “The Maze Runner” make it feel like a first try from an aspiring artist. Where some of the best things in it are what they did not add, like a romance subplot, it is offset by what they did add, like an ending that raises more questions than it answers.

“The Maze Runner” is amiable in what it tries, like setting and tone, but does not offer much that is new or refreshing elsewhere, and only feels like it touches the basics of good storytelling and directing while never making a real name for itself.

Ryan is a junior in the journalism program. He enjoys all facets of popular culture and would love to report on any and all of it one day. His main interests lie in animation, film, and anything written by Neil Gaiman.

Banned Books Week celebrates controversial classics

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

Most of us are going through this week just like any other week, but most of us are also unaware that it is a big one for the literary world.

This week is known as “Banned Books Week” in the U.S., in which people are encouraged to celebrate books that were once or are currently banned around the world. Books have been banned for many different reasons, mostly political and religious. They do not have to remain on the banned books list forever and can be removed.

Some of the books on the list are actually some of the greatest or most popular books of all time, such as the “Harry Potter” series or “The Catcher in the Rye.” Even though a few different groups may not approve of them, they are all books worth reading at some point in our lives.

The main goal of booksellers during

“Banned Books Week” is to acknowledge and encourage the freedom to read and acknowledge the controversial authors of existing banned books in schools, libraries and bookstores. Just because something may be provocative, offensive or violent to one person, does not mean everyone will be affected in the same way.

People have many different interpretations as to what is right and wrong or what a particular symbol means. Everyone has different tastes in literature, and that is what “Banned Books Week” is meant to celebrate. Because of this, booksellers and advocates of the special week want to make sure that these “offensive” or “unorthodox” texts are widely available to consumers who wish to read them.

“Banned Books Week” is fairly new here in the U.S. It was established in the last full week of September in 1982 by Judith Krug, an active First Amendment and library activist in the U.S.

She advocated for “Banned Books Week” in order to bring protection of the First Amendment (freedom of speech) and the

power of literature together. She added that restricting certain books from schools, libraries and bookstores and limiting their availability presents a threat to the free world and the values it holds.

Today, the week is still strongly promoted by the ALA (American Library Association), and they sell a variety of merchandise to get the word out about banned books around the world.

Most books on the banned books list are not ones that are too surprising. These include popular books like the “The Da Vinci Code” and the Bible. Both the “Harry Potter” series and “The Da Vinci Code” were banned by the Catholic Church because they “promote witchcraft” or “reveal secrets of the Vatican.” Other books on the list are not quite as obvious, such as “The Diary of Anne Frank” or “All Quiet on the Western Front.”

“The Diary of Anne Frank” was banned because segments about Anne’s budding sexuality were deemed too inappropriate for readers (although, what were they expecting to see in a teenage girl’s diary?).

“All Quiet on the Western Front” focuses

on soldiers during World War II, and it was banned by Nazi Germany for being “demoralizing” and “insulting.” Of course, many of these reasons go against freedom of speech, and only a few groups of people have taken offense to them, not everyone.

While this week may seem like any ordinary week, “Banned Books Week” is actually quite extraordinary. Not everyone enjoys reading, but many of these novels or works demonstrate excellent writing skills and messages about the world that readers need to learn about. It is a valuable tool if everyone reads at least one of these books in their lifetime, for it can result in a great impact.

You don’t have to be an English major or a Social Studies major to enjoy reading the plotlines in these books, you just have to be motivated to learn more about the world and the freedom to choose.

Cristin Dempsey is a senior from Eagan, Minnesota. She is majoring in English liberal arts with a professional writing emphasis, and minoring in music. Cristin likes to write, play music and work out. After graduation, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.

Thinking positively may lead to better and longer life

Rachel Molitor

Columnist

Metaphors are wonderful. They explain the world in a way that is different than it is, yet, somehow, they make this complex life more comprehensible.

Take for instance the saying about seeing the glass as half full. Really, we are just looking at water in a cup but, guess what, it means more than that. It is a metaphor! The level of the water is symbolic of our view on life: optimist or pessimist. Strange how it all works, eh?

Personally, I am a strong optimist (tempered, unfortunately, by a level of logic. Sorry, self; chances are you’re not going to win the lottery).

Frankly, when listening to others complain about their lives I am glad that I see the world the way I do. A lot of bad things happen to us and to those we love, almost on a daily basis. It is hard not to get bogged down by what life hands us. But during the cloudy

days, it is nice to still see the sunlight.

“Why should we care about being cheerful?” asks the pessimist. “Life will not get better just because of a change in attitude. Optimism can distort our view of reality, leaving us naïve.”

To a degree, this anonymous pessimist is correct. Optimism can make us seem a bit naïve. But frankly, as long as you temper your optimistic attitude with some pragmatism, it is far better to think positively rather than negatively.

Let’s look at the scientific facts. The Mayo Clinic, the number one overall hospital in the U.S., says that positive thinking can increase life spans, lower stress levels, increase resistance to the common cold and give better coping skills during hard times. There are several other benefits of positive thinking but these are the most interesting ones. While it is not exactly known how your attitude can affect you that much, it is clear that optimism does improve your health and quality of life.

Another way to look at it is to think about the people in your own life. I’m sure you know people who always seem to have something to complain about. These types

of people can be awesome and great friends, but it can be tiring to listen to. Question is, does complaining make them happier? There is a measure of comfort due to sharing one’s thoughts and possibly gaining another’s sympathy but does the complainer really gain anything? My theory is that if instead of having something to complain about every day they talked about something good that happened, they would be a happier individual in general.

Now onto the real life examples. Some people I know went to Africa for a trip. My acquaintances were astonished; the African villagers lived in structures we might politely call ‘quaint’ and fresh; clean water was scarce. Although there were some signs of modern technology, the village could have looked about the same a hundred or two years ago.

Despite the fact that although the villagers did not seem to have much to western eyes, they were happier than most. They laughed and sang as my acquaintances came into the village, talking happily with them about life. How could these African villagers be so joyous with so little?

My acquaintances believed it was due to the villagers’ sense of gratitude. Life may not be perfect but there is always something to be grateful for.

Try this in your own life and see if, after a time, the attitude change becomes permanent. Got clothes on your back? Be grateful. Not breathing in polluted air? Breathe deep. Going to school today? Smile as the teacher starts that 75 minute lecture on photosynthesis. Fall down some stairs? Man, you got down them fast! Know that even though at times you feel alone, there is someone out there that loves you. As one redheaded orphan once said, “The sun will come up tomorrow.”

Life isn’t going to always be glamorous but it is worth living. When life turns gray and melancholy metaphors start raining down, remember to “choose to be optimistic. It feels better.”

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

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