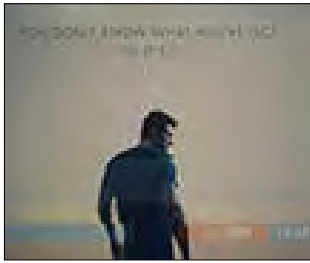




SPORTS, PAGE 7
Football team loses heartbreaker to UW-Stevens Point 17-14.

NEWS, PAGE 3
UW-River Falls Career Services hosts its annual Career Fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, in the University Ballroom and Falcon's Nest.

ETCETERA, PAGE 8
Twisted thriller 'Gone Girl' leaves audiences guessing, gasping for breath.



STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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Homecoming Weekend declared a success

Carmella Everhart
carmella.everhart@my.uwrf.edu

The merge of Homecoming and Family Day was a complete success and will most likely be repeated in the future, said Paul Shepherd, director of Student Life.

The weekend featured all of the things students, family, faculty, staff and alumni have come to expect for each individual event; but they were combined because the events had a lot in common and could benefit each other, something Shepherd said he emphasized to everyone going into the weekend to make people more comfortable with the idea.

"The individual components of the event weren't really that different at all," Shepherd said.

The merge also brought together what Shepherd called the "Falcon Family," which he explained is made up of the students, the alumni and all of their families.

"We thought that [this event] was kind of a cool way to bring everybody together," Shepherd said.

Daniel McGinty, director of Alumni Relations, said that he believes merging the two events together really benefitted the alumni because there were more events for them to take part in with their families, such as tours and exhibits.



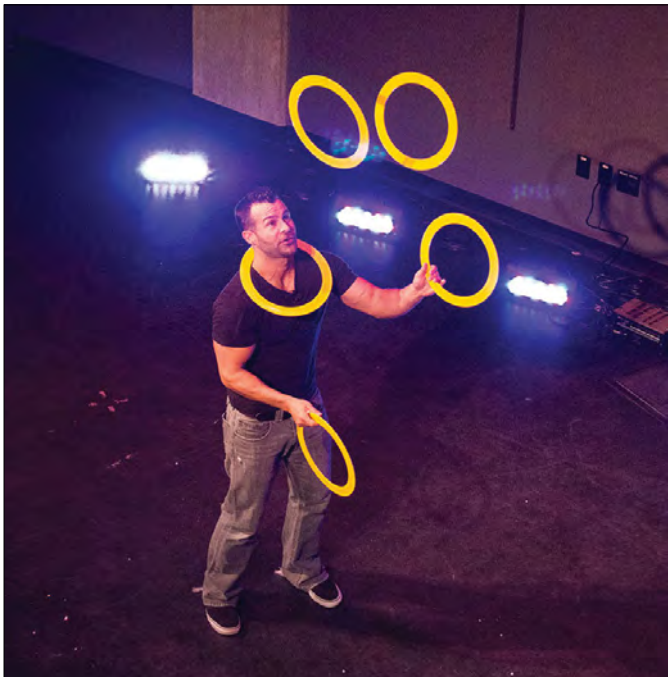
Jack Haren/Student Voice

Kenzie Joy a student at UW-River Falls plays the guitar and sings for Falcon's Got Talent on Friday, Oct. 3, to open Homecoming Weekend.

McGinty said that merging the two events did not negatively impact the alumni events in any way and that the merge was received well.

"I never had one single complaint from the alumni," McGinty said.

Between the students, the alumni and all of their families, Shepherd said he wouldn't be surprised if about 1,000 people were on campus for Homecoming Weekend to participate in everything from face painting to viewing Senate Cinema films to cheering on the Falcons at the football game.



Jack Haren/Student Voice

Ivan Pecel, also known as 'Ivan the Juggler,' from Los Angeles, California, entertained UW-River Falls students on Saturday, Oct. 4, during Homecoming.

negative feedback surrounding the amount of hours they put in and there doesn't seem to be a need to increase the number of event staff in the future if the events are combined again, which they very likely will be.

"We were pretty happy with how it worked out," Shepherd said.

Of course, before deciding whether to combine the events again in the future, the office of Student Life plans to collect some information from participants to see what people thought went well and what they might do differently to make the experience better for everyone.

Shepherd said that Chancellor Dean Van Galen emailed him and had very good things to say about the event. Other people have given similar positive feedback, one calling it "an amazing weekend of activities."

"All indicators so far point to everyone thinking it was very successful," Shepherd said.

Even though the feedback has been good, Shepherd said he wants to hear from those people who thought maybe the combination of events

was not the best, so they can make adjustments for next year.

Steven Tessier, a student at UW-River Falls, said that he felt that it was a little unorganized, and that his parents have come to Family Day for the past three years when it was an individual event, but this year they chose not to come.

"There just wasn't much to do, other than the football game," Tessier said.

Going into the event, Shepherd said he heard some concern from students about bringing their families to Homecoming, because there is usually alcohol involved and that's not something they wanted their families to be exposed to.

Shepherd realized that this was a concern and hoped that because the combined event would be more high profile, students would be less likely to partake in that particular behavior. He said that as he walked around campus during the weekend and there did seem to be less of it this year than in past years.

"I think it was a really great energy on campus all weekend," Shepherd said.

Overall, it looks as though the events will be combined again. Shepherd and McGinty both said they are excited to see what will happen with it in the future.

Sudents and faculty debate the tall grass on Cascade

Renaë Cranston
renaë.cranston@my.uwrf.edu

Cascade Avenue's new design is appearing to be a pain in the grass for those having to cross or drive down it on a regular basis.

The tall grass planted in the median of Cascade Avenue is something that students and faculty at UW-River Falls are not all that fond of.

Senior Destrey Zarfos and Junior Travis Kronk both say they've almost been hit several times this year already.

"I think it is terrible the way they designed it [Cascade], and the grass is too tall," Kronk said.

Heather Wittkopf, a program assistant in the Business and Finance Office, said that she doesn't really cross the road too often but she still feels that the grass is more of a hazard than help for pedestrians.

"I think the tall grass should be removed because it's hard to see for the drivers," Wittkopf said.

If a large portion of the public deems the grass unsafe, why was it put there in the first place? Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management Michael

Stifter said that there was a purpose to the design of Cascade Avenue.

"Let me start by underscoring that the Cascade Avenue project in its entirety was approached in a way where pedestrian safety was paramount and anything aesthetic was secondary," Stifter said.

"Everything from the gentle curvature in the road to the diagonal angle of the crosswalks, to the addition of LED lighting, to the elimination of parking, to yes, even the median grasses, were a part of a very intentional design effort."

The curve of the road and the tall grass were designed to slow drivers down. Joe Blum works at UWRF as Manager of Production Operations; he drives down Cascade Avenue frequently and the purpose of the design has been effective in slowing him down. But as a pedestrian he doesn't feel that other drivers are as cautious as he is.

"I literally almost slow to a stop all the time in front of every crosswalk, just because I am afraid that someone is going to run by or bike by very quickly and I am not going to have time to react as

a driver," Blum said. "I just think they need to come up with a better design for that median. There is plenty of other nice shrubbery that you can put there that would look nice and not impede traffic."

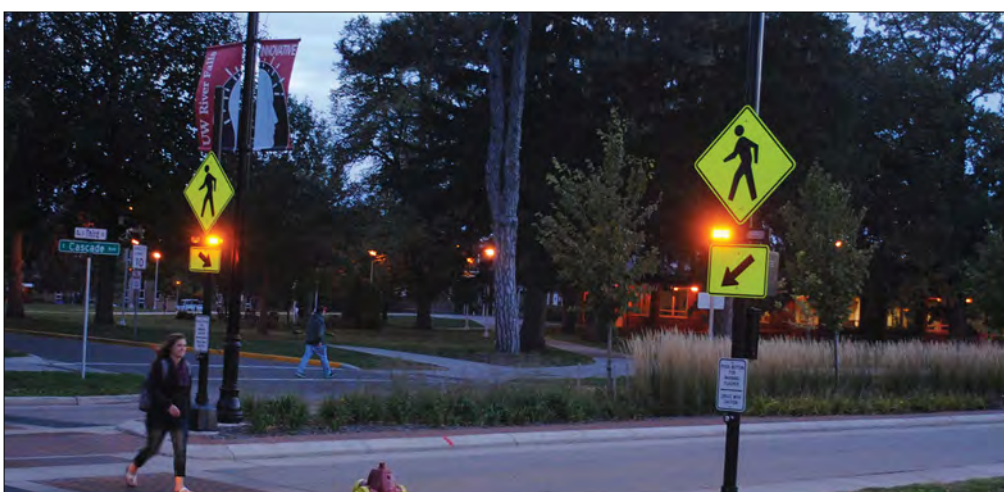
Stifter also mentioned that they have been cautious about over-trimming the grass because there are negative aspects to it. Drivers increase speed because they feel more comfortable, pedestrians could be more apt to cross the street outside of the crosswalk, and it increases vehicle delays.

When crossing Cascade Avenue, it should be noted that the crosswalks are intended to be treated as two separate crosswalks. Pedestrians should be looking before crossing at each crosswalk.

The city has released two YouTube videos discussing appropriate pedestrian conduct. Public Works Director and City Engineer Reid Wronski participated in the videos. The videos are entitled "One Minute City Rap."

For now, though, the people have spoken.

"Get rid of that grass," senior Connor Nelson said.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
UW-River Falls student Alyssa Banda walks across Cascade Avenue after class.

Chief of Police goes in depth on campus safety procedures

Sadie Horton
sadie.horton@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls' campus can be described as a small city within a city, which means it has to be run like one, and UWRF is.

The campus has its own police department that patrols the campus and protects the students.

On Monday, Sept. 29, Chief of Police Karl Fleury, on behalf of the UWRF Police Department, issued a campus safety alert.

"UW-River Falls has received an anonymous written communication that included an implied threat. The threat does not specify or target any

particular person, group, or location. Even though the details of the threat are non-specific in nature, the safety and security of the UW-River Falls campus community is a high priority, and the UW-River Falls Police Department is investigating this matter," the campus safety alert said.

According to Fleury, there is no new information, and the case remains under investigation.

Each police department in the world has protocols and procedures set up that dictate how they respond to different situations, and the UWRF Police Department is no excep-

tion. The police department has a different procedure for every situation they face.

"Well, there are different protocols and procedures that are in place that we follow; guidelines that we follow," Fleury said. "As far as notifications, there are different types of emergency notifications which can be something that is in progress. For example, if we had a gas leak on campus, which we just recently did have, a gas main that was severed, that's emergency notification, where you release that information campus wide."

See UWRF page 3

Have an idea for a new business?
You can win \$4,000 in the UWRF New Venture Competition
Kick-off event Oct. 16, 3 p.m., South Hall Alumni Room
Visit www.uwrf.edu/CIBD for more information



News briefs:

UWRF ranked in top 15 percent of colleges

UW-River Falls has been named a “Top College” in the most recent Educate to Career (ETC) College Rankings Index. The ETC Index analyzes the profile of students when they enter a given college, the total costs related to attending the college, and the outcomes of the students when they enter the labor market.

“The Index empirically determines the economic value added by each of the 1224 colleges ranked within our system,” said Michael R. Havis, president and founder of Educate to Career. “We calculate the improvement in earnings and employability of persons who attended specific colleges, relative to those similarly situated in other colleges. We feel that the colleges scoring in the top one-third of our Index are doing a very good job on behalf of their students.”

UWRF was ranked number 170 by ETC, placing it in the top 15 percent of the College Rankings Index. The ETC College Rankings Index is comprised of accredited four-year colleges, with annual enrollments greater than 1,000 students. The Index analyzes data for more than 1,200 colleges, representing 94 percent of all students enrolled in four-year colleges.

Educate to Career, a California based non-profit, provides outcome-based college and career planning tool programs. The full ETC College Rankings Index, including the methodology used to evaluate colleges, is available at <http://educatetocareer.org>.

Daymond John set to speak at benefit dinner

Daymond John, founder and CEO of the global lifestyle brand FUBU and star of ABC’s “Shark Tank,” will headline the Fourth Annual Scholarship Benefit Dinner on Friday, April 24, 2015, at UW-River Falls. Tickets for the event are now on sale.

An award-winning entrepreneur, John founded his business, FUBU, in the basement of his mother’s house and built it into a celebrated brand with more than \$6 billion in product sales. A highly influential and sought after consultant and motivational speaker, John has been part of the cast of ABC’s entrepreneurial business show “Shark Tank,” seen weekly by millions of viewers, since 2009.

The UWRF Annual Scholarship Benefit has been raising funds to support student scholarships since 2012 and has helped UWRF earn second place among comprehensive universities in the UW System for scholarship dollars awarded annually. All net revenue from ticket sales and event sponsorships goes directly to support student scholarships.

Tickets for the April 24, 2015, event are \$60 each and include a buffet dinner and a reserved seat at Daymond John’s presentation on personal branding. Event sponsorships begin at \$5,000 and include a private plated dinner,

followed by a question and answer session with John. Additional benefits, including a dessert reception and book signing, are offered to members of the UWRF donor societies, the Chancellor’s Circle, 1874 Society, and Legacy Society.

For ticket or sponsorship information, contact the UWRF Foundation Office at 715-425-3505 or visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/risingto-distinction>.

Two Hudson men die in one-car accident

On Sunday Oct. 5, 2014, at 2:50 a.m. the St. Croix County Sheriff’s Office responded to a one-vehicle crash on U.S. Highway 12 just north of Brakke Drive in Hudson, Wisconsin.

A 1996 Volkswagen Golf two-door hatchback, driven by a 22-year-old male from Hudson was northbound on U.S. Highway 12 north of Brakke Drive.

The driver lost control on the roadway, entered the east ditch, striking a traffic sign and electric pole, breaking the electric pole in half.

The vehicle came to rest in the parking lot of the office building. The driver and a 22-year-old male passenger were pronounced dead at the scene by the St. Croix County Medical Examiner’s Office. Assisting at the scene were Hudson Fire & Rescue and St. Croix EMS.

The males were not wearing seatbelts at the time of the crash. The names of both individuals are Dylan J. Dreher and Kenneth L. Bjerkeng. The crash remains under investigation by the St. Croix County Sheriff’s Office and Medical Examiner’s Office.

These are the ninth and 10th fatalities of 2014. Further inquiries to this crash investigation should be directed to Captain Jeff Klatt.

Study Abroad Europe participants wanted

The UW-River Falls Semester Abroad Europe program is looking for adventurous, curious, and motivated students to join the 51-year-old tradition of independent study and travel in Europe.

The program is holding an informational meeting in 103 Davee Library on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 5 p.m., with a repeat session on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 7 p.m.

Study Abroad Europe participants spend a semester immersing themselves in topics and in countries of their own choosing. They earn a total of 12 credits: six in a major and/or minor and six in international studies. Credits earned through the program can also satisfy university and general education requirements.

All participants are eligible for UWRF financial assistance and scholarships. Students in the current group, led by geography Professor Charles Rader, are investigating topics such as attitudes toward closed-circuit television in Great Britain, zoonotic diseases in Germany, functional ceramics in Portugal, animal and grassland research in Ireland, otter conservation in France and Italy, Neolithic cairns in Scotland, and the human impact on caves in Slovenia.

The students will come back together in Italy in early November. At that point they will set out for a month of individual or small group travel throughout Europe before returning to the U.S. at the end of the semester.

For more information, contact Ian Williams, 2015 group leader (ian.williams@uwrf.edu). Program website: www.uwrf.edu/semesterabroadeurope.

Four finalists named for UW chancellor

UW System President Ray Cross today announced four finalists for the position of chancellor at UW Colleges and UW-Extension.

A 27-member search and screen committee, chaired by Art Lersch, from UW-Extension, Lincoln County, recommended the slate of finalists to Cross and a special committee of the UW System Board of Regents chaired by Regent Charles Pruitt of Milwaukee.

Finalists are (in alphabetical order): Aaron M. Brower, John L. Graham, Mark A. Pagano and Cathy A. Sandeen.

The four candidates will participate in a series of stakeholder forums, offering opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and community members to interact directly with the finalists. The campus search and screen committee is coordinating those conversations.

The person selected through this process will succeed Ray Cross, who was named UW System president effective Feb. 15, 2014. Cross had led UW Colleges and UW-Extension since 2011.

For more information about the four candidates, the public presentations at the Pyle Center in Madison, and the search process, see <http://www.uwex.uwc.edu/chancellorsearch/>.

Rush River Ramblers to kick off barn dances

Local string band the “Rush River Ramblers” will kick off the 2014-15 River Falls barn dance series on Saturday, Oct. 18, in the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) at 439 West Maple St. in River Falls from 7 to 10 p.m.

This regional old-time favorite features musicians from Spring Valley and Martell. Sue West, a nationally recognized folksinger, plays guitar for the Rush River Ramblers.

No prior dancing experience is necessary. A skilled caller teaches steps to newcomers and more seasoned dancers alike. All dancing is social and singles are welcome.

Children are especially encouraged to participate in the opening family dance segment from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The second half of the evening features somewhat more advanced dances.

Other dates in the 2014-15 season are: the “Grit Pickers” on Saturday, Nov. 15; a new River Falls group, the “Kinni Creek Boys” on Saturday, Jan. 17; the “Barn Cats” on Saturday, Feb. 21; the Rush River Ramblers on Saturday, March 21; and “Poor Benny” on Saturday, April 18.

The barn dance series is volunteer-operated and jointly sponsored by River Falls Community Arts Base and River Falls Parks and Recreation. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under. Inexpensive refreshments are available. Information at <http://www.riverfallscab.org>.

Nugget Lake plans need public opinion

An interim plan guiding the management of forest resources at Nugget Lake County Park in Pierce County is now available for review and comment through Oct. 15, 2014. The interim plans will guide forest management on the property until formal master plans are completed.

The Interim Forest Management Plan is important because it will allow timber harvested from the park to be certified as sustainably managed, a “seal of approval” that gives the public confidence these properties are well managed.

The primary management objective of the interim plan for the park is to manage and enhance the park’s scenic and landscape quality and insure vegetative cover type diversity and health.

Forest certification is a process that assures consumers that timber (and products made from certified wood) has been grown and harvested in a way that meets strict environmental and social standards.

The Wisconsin forest products industry is a \$16 billion per year business that directly supports more than 56,000 jobs and generates \$228 million in state and local tax revenues.

Information and links to individual interim plans for these properties, as well as directions on how to submit comments, can be found online on the DNR website dnr.wi.gov by searching keyword “IFMP.”

People can fill out an electronic survey to submit comments, or can download the form and mail it in. Comments, either electronic or written, are due by 4:30 p.m. Oct. 15, 2014.

Supreme Court rejects same-sex marriage ban

Wisconsin Attorney General candidate Susan Happ praised the United States Supreme Court Monday for rejecting the State of Wisconsin’s appeal on a decision striking down the state’s same-sex marriage ban.

“Same-sex couples deserve equal treatment under the law,” Happ said. “As Attorney General, Wisconsin citizens can count on me to defend all our fundamental rights, including the right to marry who you love.”

Susan Happ is the District Attorney for Jefferson County and is a member of the Reducing Recidivism Coalition, Domestic Homicide Prevention Review Team, a founding member of the Jefferson County Heroin Task Force, and a member of the Jefferson County Coordinated Community Response Team and the Jefferson County Sexual Assault Review Team.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

October 2-7, 2014

- A medical incident occurred at South Hall around noon on Oct. 2.
- A suspicious activity/accident incident report was filed on Oct. 3. The activity allegedly occurred in O Lot, but the case has now been closed.
- An accident report was filed for an accident which occurred in Pay Lot 1 on Oct. 3.
- A report was filed Oct. 4, during the football game at Ramer Field for an intoxicated, underaged male.
- Oct. 5 yielded two underage alcohol incidents in Johnson Hall in the early hours of the morning.
- At the intersection of 2nd Street and Cascade Avenue, a hit-and-run accident was reported. This report was filed at about 8:20 a.m. on Oct. 6, and the incident status remains open.
- A car accident report was filed the morning of Oct. 6 in K Lot.
- A sexual assault incident report was filed on Oct. 6. This assault was reported to have occurred at South Fork Suites ten days prior on Sept. 26.
- A written physical threat was reported at Johnson Hall on Oct. 7. This report remains open.

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

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STLF lends a helping hand

Brooke Brokaw
brooke.brokaw@my.uwrf.edu

Students Today, Leaders Forever (STLF) began on Sept. 18, 2003, with four college freshmen. These four students had a goal in mind: how to make a difference in the lives of others through commitment, support and dedication.

The mission of STLF is “to reveal leadership through service, relationships, and action,” according to STLF.net. “Even though we come from extremely different backgrounds, we all find one goal: to give students the opportunity to become leaders and find their passion through service,” said UW-River Falls tour leader Lindsay Pluger. The idea of STLF is to get students involved with service trips on their spring breaks. This is how the Pay it Forward Tours were born. “STLF Pay it Forward Tours allow students to do some pretty awesome things, like clean up a park or vol-

unteer at a humane society. We get to make an impact on people,” said STLF tour leader Zach Stewart. Pay it Forward tours are dynamic, multi-day programs focused on service, education and reflection. Schools across the U.S. have chapters in which students participate in community service across the country, and UWRF is one of these schools. “STLF has been on the River Falls campus for five years now,” said STLF tour leader Zac Russell. “A River Falls student and an advisor went on a University of Minnesota trip and were so inspired they decided to bring it back to our campus.” The UWRF Pay it Forward Tour begins in River Falls and ends in Atlanta, Georgia. They visit five cities along the way where students perform various community service projects. The sixth city, Atlanta, is known as the “celebration

city.” Atlanta is considered the celebration city because 300 STLF participants from schools across the country meet up to perform one giant service project. The celebration also includes dinner and a dance. “STLF is an opportunity for students to get out of their shells,” said STLF tour leader Emily Falch. “You get to meet a lot of new people and see a lot of new places.” This year’s tour theme is “making a splash in a community near you,” and the word of the year is “purpose.” “Since the word this year is purpose and the theme is under the sea, we have been going around and asking students, what’s your porpoise?” Pluger said. The UWRF Pay it Forward tour will take place over spring break, March 14-20, 2014. The cost for this year’s trip is \$415 and there is a registration fee of \$125. These fees

include housing, two meals a day, transportation, two t-shirts, and added miscellaneous stops along the way. For students who register early, there is an early bird discount that drops the tour fee down to \$390, but this is only open to the first 15 registrants. “Anyone can go on a Pay it Forward tour. All you have to do is go online and register,” Stewart said. The maximum capacity for the UWRF Pay it Forward tour is 38 students. In addition to doing community service around the country, UWRF STLF students also participate in service around the local River Falls community. “We have helped with the River Falls Rotary and Lion’s Club,” Russell said. “We also helped at the River Falls Days and we do grocery bagging.” For more information, or to register for a tour, go to stlf.net.

‘Campaign 2015’ aims to increase incoming students

Maggie Christensen
maggie.christensen@my.uwrf.edu

Now that the number of student retention in previous years has been stabilized, the UW System is looking at increasing numbers of incoming students in a program called “Campaign 2015.”

Campaign 2015 is a project aimed at bringing in new students for the 2015-2016 academic year at UW-River Falls, as well as all UW System universities. The campaign members have a goal to enroll 1,150 new freshmen and 450 new transfer students for the fall 2015 semester. “When we look at overall enrollment, we can improve that on two fronts: recruitment of new students and retention of current students,” said Associate Vice Chancellor Kris Anderson. “We needed to be more aggressive in our recruitment.”

It started with the website redesign. Now there are ads placed in the National College Fair in Minnesota. There is also a bigger focus on digital marketing with search engine optimization, with Twincities.com targeting tablet and mobile device ads, Chancellor Dean Van Galen said in an email. The goal is to enhance campus tours, better communicate the opportunities available at UWRF, and have a stronger marketing presence in central Wisconsin as well as Minnesota. UWRF has a stronghold in central Wisconsin and is still working that area, but is trying to get involved deeper and more in depth with marketing. There is a focus on Minnesota: there has recently been an ad on the Blue Line, on sides of buses in the St. Paul, Minnesota, area, and in the Star Tribune. The Admissions office is playing a central role for Campaign 2015, but there are also students, faculty and staff from departments like Admissions, Enrollment and Student Success, Student Affairs, marketing, and the College of Arts and Science

contributing to increasing the number of new students. There is a big population at

Campaign 2015 is a project aimed at bringing in new students for the 2015-2016 academic year. The Campaign members have a goal to enroll 1,150 new freshmen and 450 new transfer students for the fall 2015 semester.

UWRF of international students. This year in particular, there is a large population of students from the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Project. Their numbers are also taken into consideration for the prospected goal for the campaign. Transfer recruiters are also making a bigger presence in feeder colleges like Century College, Inver Hills Community College, Chippewa Valley Technical College, and Normandale Community College. By becoming a visible presence, it helps make the transfer from a two-year college to a four-year university easier. UWRF has a new transfer coordinator, Tom Bruflat, in the Admissions office. He is having more college visits to technical and two-year community colleges, to have a better visibility for students who may be interested in transferring to UWRF. “The Campaign 2015 is kind of modeled on what folks do almost on a fundraising campaign,” Anderson said. The main focus for Campaign 2015 is to enhance recruitment, retention and success for its students. Although it is a short-term plan, there are factors that will enhance the school for years to come.

Students advised to prepare for Wednesday’s Career Fair event



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice

The Career Fair starts at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 15, and ends at 3 p.m.

Christine Marriott
christine.marriott@my.uwrf.edu

Getting a job after graduation can be tough; the job market is often difficult to maneuver, but UW-River Falls Career Services is helping students by inviting them to attend the annual UWRF Career Fair. The Career Fair, hosted by Career Services, is coming to campus on Wednesday, Oct. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It will be located in the University Ballroom and Falcon’s Nest in the University Center. Bring your resumes, dress up to meet prospective employers, and put on your most professional manners to come meet with company representatives. This is your chance to shine. Before attending, students can prepare themselves

by attending the prep session on Tuesday, Oct. 14. The prep session will be held in the Falls Room of the University Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The benefit of going to the prep session is giving those students who have never attended a career fair and have no idea how to successfully prepare information. To be a success at the Career Fair is not limited to actual jobs attained by the student population at the fair, though. Although there has been very little hard facts to document results from university-type career fairs, few would deny the possible benefits to attendees: making connections, earning internships, networking, gaining contacts, interview experience, self-presentation, and the art of

the resume are just a few. The prep session provides handy help to achieve these goals. Career Services offers the prep session to assist students in getting the most out of the experience. “The best thing that a student can do prior to the Career Fair is research,” said Director of Career Services Melissa Wilson. Director of Career Services Melissa Wilson said: “The best thing that a student can do prior to the Career Fair is research.” Wilson also said informa-

tion about companies attending the prep session and details of the event can be found on the Career Services website. On Career Services’ website directions can be found to download a new app called “UWRF Career Fair Plus,” which provides detailed information about the fair. “This is the coolest thing we have done all year in Career Services,” Wilson said. “We are very excited about it.” Included in the app is a map of where different company booths are located in the ballroom, information which companies you may want to research pertaining to your major, and info on which companies hire internationally or hire international students. Many more features on this app can also help a student have success at the Career Fair. Eric Brown, a computer science major, has attended past UWRF career fairs and said, “I thought it was a really good experience, exposure to a lot of people you would normally not be exposed to.” The exposure can lead to success after graduation. Almost all major universities and colleges hold career fairs year after year with the goal of giving all students interested in opportunities for future success. More information about the Career Fair can be found at uwrf.edu/careerservices/, or by phone at 715-425-3572. The office is open 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in 211 Hagestad Hall.

UWRF receives an anonymous threat

From page 1

The emergency notification helps the campus be aware and avoid certain locations, because they know about the safety issue. There is also a timely warning, which lets students be aware when something happens, and also helps the community help the police catch the assailant or assist with the case by knowing information. “A timely warning would come under the criteria if, for example, we had an assault that would have occurred on, let’s say on the trail within the campus,” Fleury said. “We certainly would put out a timely warning or notification to our campus community to make them aware of the situation that occurred and that it happened. It notifies the campus community so that they’re aware of the situation, so they can take safe guards to protect themselves. Also, it would help you know if we had possibly a description of the assailant, person involved, or person’s description.” The UWRF Police Department also has set ways they use to notify the campus. They use the standard email, but aside from that there are multiple ways they can notify the campus community. “There’s the text messaging system that’s in place,” Fleury said. “You can also put notifications through the campus community through signs on the entry ways to academic buildings or the residence halls. Also, bulletin boards are within it, so there’s a number of notification systems that are available to the campus community.” Students have the option of signing up for the text messaging alerts. “We provide 24-hour police services to our campus community. We’re here to protect and serve our campus community. I guess the thing that I would like our campus community to know is that we all take ownership of the safety and security on our campus, and that you are part

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EDITORIAL

Local car crashes provide reminder for campus safety

The streets have been a dangerous place near the city of River Falls over the last week with at least five accidents being reported since early Sunday morning.

Many students, faculty and staff have likely already heard, whether via word-of-mouth or by simply seeing the end result, about the influx in accidents in the surrounding areas.

A deadly one-car accident was reported early Sunday morning on U.S. Highway 12, just off Interstate 94, that left two 22-year-old Hudson men dead, according to the St. Croix County Sheriff’s Office. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene, just before 3 a.m. Neither man was wearing a seatbelt. The crash still remains under investigation, according to St. Croix County Sheriff John Shilts. The names of the men were released Monday. They were Dylan J. Dreher and Kenneth L. Bjerkeng, both of Hudson. Both men graduated from Hudson High School in 2011. Dreher had previously taken classes at UW-River Falls, but was not a current student.

On Wednesday, two more accidents were reported in River Falls. A two-vehicle accident on Highway 29, about two miles east of River Falls, was reported in the afternoon. Two people were transported directly to Regions Hospital, according to the River Falls Journal. Both drivers had to be extricated by River Falls firefighters. One was transported to Regions Hospital by River Falls EMS while the more critically-injured person was moved to a North Air Care helicopter. Highway 29 was closed much of the evening, according to the River Falls Journal.

Earlier on Wednesday, a head-on car crash took place on East Cascade Avenue between Moody’s car dealership and the Highway 65/35 bypass stoplights. Both drivers were injured and taken away by ambulance. One driver was going north on the bypass, the other headed south. The northbound driver attempted a left turn at Cascade Avenue when the crash occurred.

Earlier in the week, two hit-and-runs occurred on campus, both coming early in the morning on Monday, according the UWRF campus police report. One vehicle crashed into a street sign in K-lot behind Stratton Hall, while another car crashed into the roundabout at Cascade Avenue and 2nd Street.

These accidents should serve as a reminder to be careful when crossing Cascade Avenue, whether you are driving, biking or walking. It’s not often so much destruction and devastation happens in such a small perimeter in such a short period of time, but it’s eye opening when it does. Students, please be especially safe in the early morning and on weekends when traveling. Don’t drink and drive; please wear your seatbelts; check both ways before crossing; and don’t text and drive.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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

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

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

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Leadership organization brings students together

Billy Thao	The school year has hastily hit October but no worries, there is still a long way ahead of us.
Columnist	

There are new events that are approaching, new students preparing to work for success in college, and student organizations looking to integrate its fellow UW-River Falls students.

I don’t want to exclude other UWRF student organizations because they all have dedicated their time to integrate students to become better leaders, thinkers and citizens, but for me, there is one particular student organization that changed my life: UWRF Students Today, Leaders Forever (STLF).

During spring break of last year, the STLF traveled down to Houston, Texas. A fellow UWRF student, Ashley Holmes, and I were kindly offered an opportunity to represent UWRF by speaking in front of other respectable schools.

Standing in front of those schools and looking straight at the eyes of the STLF students, the words I passionately spoke were: “What I learned most about these people were their strengths. I can honestly call them my family.”

Writing this article, I continue to call them my family, but to comprehend how they became my family, I would like to demonstrate my experience within STLF from the beginning. STLF was founded on Sept. 18, 2003, at the University of Minnesota by four college freshmen: Brian Peterson, Greg Tehven,

Irene Fernando and Nick Lindberg. According to the STLF website, these four friends shared a late night of “chatting and sharing about their lives and how they could make a difference, but most importantly – they were dreaming.”

They expanded that dream throughout colleges, high schools, and middle schools in the country. The main goal of STLF is “to provide leadership experience and encourage students to become catalysts for positive change in their own lives, schools, and communities.”

Within this mission, one will engage in leadership and taking action to provide positivity to others and to come to self-discovery. They sure did a great job. Within STLF, my family and I vigorously traveled through six states, but as we traveled through the states, we came to show appreciation and respect for the people and the landmarks. I remember vacationing in Florida, California, Canada and South Dakota with my actual family, but I was a little kid, so I had no perception of the tourist landmarks of those states except for the stereotypical landmarks of Disney World or Niagara Falls.

My family and I traveled from Memphis, Tennessee, to see the home of Elvis Presley, to walking down Beale Street -- the street of the blues clubs and restaurants -- to the beautiful downtown of Houston. Within these states, I came to sharing an affectionate love and appreciation.

During our time in Columbus, Mississippi, we volunteered at the Friendship Cemetery, a home for people who

fought in the Civil War. These historical landmarks were raw and authentic for they provoked me to be fully aware that our past made us who we are today.

My mom always reminded me, “leave the past behind;” she is correct, my past is far behind, but I can’t help evoking my past within my mind but sharing it with the people I love allows me to become a monumental and positive person. We can walk on the sidewalks of campus, sit in the same classroom, eat at the same table, and party like there’s no tomorrow, but what we must never do is judge people for they are because everyone is vigorously battling with life.

My STLF family came to sharing our darkest night of confessing our fears, our demons, our struggles, and our family issues; but the greatest reward we shared was our bond with each other. Everyone has an obstacle and it can be a burden on the shoulder.

As we live our lives with the power of individuality, we must realize that we are in it together. The fellow students in STLF became my family because they taught me about their flaws and imperfections; their goals and dreams; and their strengths and weaknesses. And they taught me about hope. I humbly say on behalf of my family and my self-discovery that we have become the light at the end of the tunnel.

Billy Thao is a senior sociology major and philosophy minor. His hobbies are making and listening to music, drawing, watching films, exercising and traveling. He is thinking about becoming a counselor, geographer or writer.

Internships allow students to connect with major, earn real-life experience

Cristin Dempsey	Even though it is still fall and we are only just over a month into
Columnist	

the new semester, it is still never too early to start thinking about next spring, summer or post-graduation.

In particular, it is never too early to start searching for new jobs or internships. While not every college student sees the need to pursue an internship before or right after graduation, they are actually very beneficial tools for the future. Not only do they make a resume look great and appealing to employers, they also teach many life and workplace lessons that cannot be acquired in the classroom.

You have heard it before, and you will hear it again many, many times. Employers especially look for the candidates who have had experience—whether that is a part-time job during school or summer, extracurricular activities, or of course, internships.

Typically students will pursue an internship the summer before their final

year of college, just before they start actively searching for a full-time job. This way, all of the experiences and lessons they acquired from their internship will be fresh in their mind once they enter the workplace. This—and many other benefits—is what are especially appealing to employers.

No matter what your major is, there is bound to be an internship to fit your career goals. Sometimes it may seem like there are not many opportunities available. With a good amount of research, there are actually options to choose from.

I have heard of every internship from writing and marketing, to teaching a summer school class, to working in a science lab. Everything counts, no matter if it is in-person or online. Some companies that do not already have internship opportunities may be open to creating them. You will never know what is out there without a bit of research.

As I mentioned before, with the constant developments in technology, more and more companies are choosing to offer internships online.

I personally took an online internship

this summer, and I got just as much out of it as I would if I sat in an office all day. Online internships are great, because it allows the intern to work at their own pace at a time that works for them. There is a lot of flexibility with online internships when it comes to projects and reports; the intern decides what they personally want to learn more about or have a particular interest in, such as a new product.

Now is the time to start searching for internships. It can be difficult to be accepted as an intern; it is not always the case that you will find the perfect internship. But if one turns you down, it is up to you to keep researching until you find another. You may have to apply to nearly 50 internships before finding one, but once you do find it, it is worth every minute. After graduation, when you finally enter the workplace, you will know exactly what to expect. And you will thank yourself for it.

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

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!
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Now Playing: “Gone Girl”

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'The Boxtrolls' fails to meet lofty expectations



Ryan
Funes

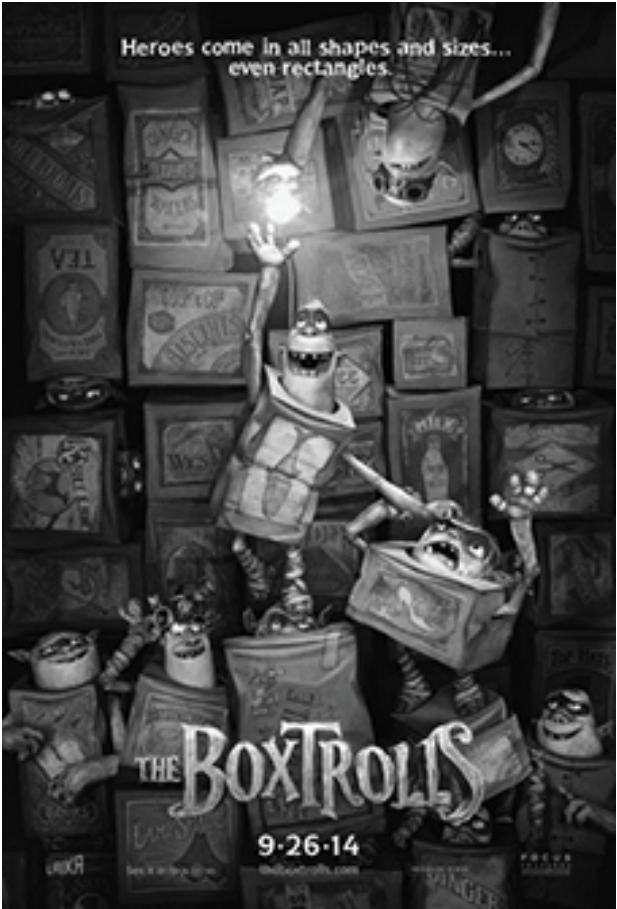
Reviewer

Another stop-motion feature film out in theaters is a refreshing sight to see. “The Boxtrolls,” while being an enjoyable film, is still a far reach from the past works done by its

production studio. They’re disgusting, they’re evil, they will eat your young; they are the boxtrolls—the mysterious creatures that live underground in the city of Cheesebridge. Nobody knows much about them except the legends about how they snatch a child to devour. However, that child didn’t get eaten. Rather, that child is living amongst his kind and gentle boxtroll brethren, trying to make a living for themselves. Despite this, a vile catcher of boxtrolls wants to bring down their boxed-in haven and claim his fame, and this one human boxtroll, by the simple name of Eggs, will need to muster up his courage to find a way to end the fear and begin his journey to find his origins.

“The Boxtrolls” fascinated me as a fan of film animation. It was a thing of beauty in the trailers and production videos. Seeing each character model in the film moved around in expressive and atmospheric ways touched me a bit. This was something that could only be handled by someone with the utmost love for their craft. It was a film that I had to get a look at. I can say it succeeded in all things animation, but I could have asked for a bit more in the writing department.

Talking about “The Boxtrolls” automatically brings up its production studio: Laika. Laika is a special kind of animation studio. It goes for the stop-motion animation you see in “The Boxtrolls.” It balances animation and good writing with finesse. “Paranorman” was the film they released before “The Boxtrolls,” and that movie not only wowed its audi-



ence with fine stop-motion animation, but also with its fine writing. It weaved themes of fear guiding hatred, reason over groupthink, and even sneaking in a homosexual character. That move surprised me. Throw in good jokes and you’ve

got yourself a good Laika film that brings its child audience to the edge of darkness then guides them through with a light in its hands and a wit on its tongue. “The Boxtrolls” gets one of Laika films criterion right. Animation wise, “The Boxtrolls” is well-crafted, featuring excellent art direction with its Victorian Era styled setting and its steampunk elements. Character models express a wide range of emotions that sync well with their voice actors and the lighting and direction is fast paced and entertaining as ever. That’s all fine and dandy, but where “The Boxtrolls” loses me a bit is its writing. Audiences were given so much more from the plot of “Paranorman” when they went to see it as it dealt with issues you wouldn’t normally see in a mainstream kid’s movie.

“The Boxtrolls” feels very safe compared to “Paranorman.” Its themes are a lot simpler, its jokes a bit safer for kids, and its storyline is fairly straightforward. I never felt like I was being taught something new or being taught an original lesson in “The Boxtrolls.” As a result, I felt oddly disappointed. Laika taught me before that it can be so much more than just pretty clay models and cool set design, and I felt this film of theirs wasn’t quite up to the standards it set for itself. Not that this was the only problem with the film; some scenes don’t transition very smoothly and quite a few jokes don’t make the cut.

Though I don’t want to say it wasn’t fun, which it certainly was. Despite the problems it faced, I still enjoyed watching “The Boxtrolls” with its quirky trolls and characters. I was entranced by the world that was created and still think every kid should see this movie, if only because the stop-motion animation is a superb and loving film craft that should be enjoyed by everyone. I just wish this package by Laika could have seated itself deeper in my heart by just a little more.

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

STUDENT *Voices*

What are your thoughts on the recent “implied threat” on campus?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



McKenna Mattison
Sophomore
Biotechnology

“It’s kind of scary. I’m glad the university told us right away, and tried not to hide it.”



Sarah Anderson
Sophomore
Marketing Communications

“I didn’t know what it was or about. I don’t know what kinds of dangers to look for.”



Emily Nolting
Junior
Biotechnology

“It’s kind of creepy. We don’t know what the threat is.”



Clemen De Oliveira
Sophomore
Agriculture

“It made me feel afraid. I saw in the news that there is a lot of killing in the U.S., unlike my country of Brazil.”



Kahlil Young
Junior
Chemical Engineer

“It’s kind of weird. It’s such a small school that I thought it wouldn’t happen. I guess it can happen anywhere.”

Check out the Student Voice online at
uwrvoice.com.

Falcon Center construction begins in spring

Cooper Nelson
cooper.nelson@my.uwrf.edu

It may just be a giant hole in the ground now, but construction for the Falcon Center is right on track.

The new \$64 million health and human performance building is one of the biggest projects in UW-River Falls history.

There is a lot of work being done at the future site of the Falcon Center, but actual construction will not take place until the spring after a winning bid is placed on the building.

Once the Falcon Center goes up for bid, construction companies from around the area will make an estimation of what they will be charging to build it. Once UWRF receives all of its bids they will select the company they want to construct the building.

Executive Director of Facilities Planning and Management Michael Stifter said that they are hoping that the bid will be equal to the planned budget and that construction will begin on the Falcon Center in late April or early May 2015.

Stifter says that the project is currently on phase one which is Ramer Field and the surrounding area.

Phase two, which is the actual Falcon Center, will be started in the spring.

One of the first things to be renovated was Ramer Field, where UWRF and the River Falls High School play their football games. The turf was not ready for the beginning of the season, which was expected.

“When we did decide to go ahead with the project we knowingly knew we were going to miss a couple of games, for the high school as well as the Falcons,” Stifter said.

There have been a few bumps in the road as the project has moved forward, but nothing major. On Sept. 5, 2014, a gas line was hit during construction and Hunt Arena, as well as the Knowles Center, were evacuated for a short period of time.

On Oct. 1, there was a severed telephone cable that lead into a press box at Ramer Field. The cable was repaired later that week.

“Fortunately we have only had a few mini crises,” Stifter said.

Stifter went on to say that he is hoping that there will be no

major problems and that everything will stay on track.

“They’re a little bit behind in some aspects and ahead in others. Overall, I’d say that we’re right where we want to be.” Stifter said.

Phase one of construction is hoping to continue until around Dec. 1, but with the harsh winters that Wisconsin has been having over the past few years it may be easier said than done.

“If we have a light fall and light winter we’d get the work done, but we haven’t had that in maybe twenty years. So, we’ll see what fate has in store for us,” Stifter said.

Prior to Dec. 1, there are a lot of things that Facilities Planning and Management are hoping to get done. It hopes that work gets started on the retention ponds as well as roadways and utility work. It is also hoping to tear into the practice fields to build a bigger parking lot.

The budget for the Falcon Center is set at \$64 million, but it will not be known if the project falls under the budget until a bid is selected in early December 2014.

The Falcon Center is scheduled to be open in August 2017.



The Falcon Center will start construction in Spring 2015 in early April or late May. The Falcon Center should be completed and open to the public in August 2017. *Maggie Sanders/Student Voice*

UW-River Falls women’s volleyball coach inducted to her high school’s hall of fame



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Patti Ford, who is head coach of the UW-River Falls women’s volleyball team, has been inducted into O’Gorman/Cathedral High School’s hall of fame. She was inducted for her prosperous coaching career. Ford has coached for 31 years total and 23 seasons at UWRF. Since becoming a coach at UWRF Ford has created the most successful volleyball program for the school to date. She has won four WIAC championships as well as participating in the NCAA Div. III national tournament six times. She has led her team to an overall 520-302 record.

Women’s soccer player Soderholm named WIAC Player of the Week after 3-0 victory



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Abby Soderholm was named WIAC Offensive Player of the Week after helping the UW-River Falls women’s soccer team in defeating UW-Stout 3-0 on Oct. 5. Soderholm was responsible for the Falcon’s second goal of the game, scoring on a penalty kick. Soderholm, a freshman communications major, is from Burnsville, Minnesota. She is a midfielder for the Falcons. The Falcons’ record is 7-3-2 overall. They are 1-1-1 in WIAC conference play. The Falcons will play UW-Oshkosh at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 11, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

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Strong Falcon defense falls short against UW-Stevens Point

Bryan Tester
bryan.teste@my.uwrf.edu

The old saying goes, “defense wins championships.” On Saturday the Falcons played hard-nosed defense, but it wasn’t enough to come out with a victory in the UW-River Falls’ home opener.

The Falcons lost to WIAC opponent the UW-Stevens Point Pointers 17-14 in its annual Homecoming game. The Pointers came into the match-up ranked 17th in the nation in Div. III football.

The game started with the Falcons controlling the football, but it turned the ball over on downs after three incomplete passes.

On the Pointers’ first possession, the team drove the ball 44 yards down field, which included a 47-yard reception to put the Pointers in the Falcons’ red-zone.

It would eventually lead to a 25-yard field goal for kicker Jesse Ververde, and the Pointers would take an early three-point lead. Both teams wouldn’t score for the remainder of the first quarter.

Shortly into the second quarter, the Falcons would have the ball on the Pointers own three-yard line, which would lead to a touchdown reception caught by senior wide receiver Brad Beeskow.

The Falcons would dominate on the defensive side of the ball holding the Pointers from scoring as the team had possession deep on the Falcons side of the field.

Senior defensive back Andy Lundgren says the comfort level with the team has helped with the defenses success.

“The difference might be is we feel more comfortable with the scheme, being a few more years into it, more comfortable with the

coaches,” Lundgren said. Lundgren and fellow senior defensive back Kyle Kittel help lead the strong Falcon defense. The Falcons would score again after a two-yard touchdown run by freshman running back Wade Malecha, the first in his young collegiate career. On the next Stevens Point possession the Pointers would march 79 yards down field on eight plays

to score and bring the game within one possession, making the score 14-10, which is how the first half would finish. Going into the second half, the Pointers would start with the ball. After driving the ball to the Falcons’ 32-yard line, the team would force Stevens Point to turn the ball over after failing to gain one yard on the Falcons’ 32-yard line. The third quarter would end with

a huge play by the Falcons. Backed up to it’s own one-yard line and the Pointers with the ball, senior Kyle Kittel made a momentum changing interception that prevented Stevens Point from scoring. After the high-energy play by Kittel, the Falcons would start the fourth quarter with the ball on their own 20-yard line. The Falcons would be halted after a big 10-yard sack for a loss by

the Pointers’ junior defensive end Aaron Karlen, who had a monster game collecting five total tackles, which included three sacks for 22 yards. On the ensuing possession, the Pointers would score on a 26-yard reception by senior wide receiver Alex Wallace to put the Pointers ahead 17-14 with eight minutes to play in the game.

That wouldn’t be enough time for the Falcons as they would turn the ball over on its next two possessions making the final score 17-14. The Falcons offense struggled the entire game trying to get things going as they turned the ball over six total times throughout the game: three interceptions and three fumbles.

Junior quarterback Ryan Kusilek was 20-36 with 191 yards a touchdown and three interceptions, the most he has had all season. Senior wide receiver Jordan Christianson led the team with 68 receiving yards on 6 receptions, and sophomore running back Kywon Cartwright led the Falcons on the ground with 57 yards rushing.

“We had huge stops. We had two or three big fourth down stops, and some huge three and outs,” said Head Coach Matt Walker.

The help came from Lundgren, who had 15 tackles on the day, junior linebacker Zach Loos had a sack for a six-yard loss, and Kittel had two tackles and the only interception for the Falcons.

The team travels to UW-Platteville this Saturday for the Falcons’ second WIAC match-up of the season.

Platteville defeated UW-Eau Claire 49-0 in its WIAC opener this past Saturday. Kick-off is set for 1 p.m.



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice
Falcons sophomore defensive back Tyler Ledbeter tackles UW-Stevens Point junior running back De-Juan Wright during the Homecoming football game on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014.

Broomball becomes popular activity for UW-River Falls students

Collin Kottke
collin.kottke@my.uwrf.edu

In the midwest, ice is an integral part of life; broomball embraces the ice by putting the competitors out there in just a pair of tennis shoes with only a stick that somewhat resembles a broomstick in their hands. Broomball has been a part of the intramural program at the UW–River Falls for a long time. Assistant Director of Recreation Tiffany Gaulke said that it is one of the most popular sports for the intramural program. “Five or six years ago, when we had a lot more students on campus, we usually saw about 50 or 60 broomball teams. It’s pretty popular,” Gaulke said. “I think it’s one of those unique intramural opportunities that people just want to try out.” What exactly is broomball? The most direct comparison of broomball to a more well-known sport would be hockey.

Both of the games are played on ice with the objective being to score more goals than your opponent. In broomball, the hockey puck is traded in for a small rubber ball, the skates are nonexistent and the stick is a plastic wannabe broomstick. While hockey is six-on-six, broomball has eight players per team on the ice at all times. In acknowledgment of the popularity of the sport, intramural broomball will be doubled this academic year. “We usually have around 20-25 teams in both the women’s league and the men’s league. They have typically been in different semesters, but this year we are doing men’s and women’s at the same time for each semester,” Gaulke said. “I think men may be slower to register being that they are used to not having the opportunity to play until the spring and now they are able to play in the

fall.” While more men’s teams are hoped for, UWRF student Logan Berglund is doing his part in getting more and more participants signed up. Berglund is coming into his third year of playing broomball. He has signed up over 30 Brazilian students to play in two years. “Last year I was the only American on the whole team,” Berglund said. “We had our first game, you get penalized for kicking the ball too much, and my Brazilians love soccer, so they would pick up their stick and just kick the ball across the whole ice. We had one time when we had three Brazilians in the penalty box.” It’s the uniqueness of the sport that keeps bringing Berglund back to broomball. “It is unlike any other sport you play,” Berglund said. “You can be really bad at skating and get on the ice and be hitting the ball, it’s

just fun even if you are not athletic.” Berglund strongly believes there is no excuse to not play broomball. “Broomball is one thing where you can’t say ‘I don’t know anything about broomball’ because nobody knows anything about broomball,” Berglund said. While the registration deadline was this past Tuesday, Gaulke says it is never too late to sign up. Anyone looking to sign up for broomball after the deadline should contact the campus recreation office. Broomball games are held at Hunt Arena. Matches are held Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays from 9-11:30 p.m. Each team is scheduled for at least six regular season games with a single elimination playoff to follow the regular season pool play. The first games of the season will be held this Sunday, Oct. 12.

Men’s basketball voluteers at Feed My Starving Children, men’s hockey walks to end Alzheimers



Photos courtesy of UWRF Sports Information
The men’s basketball (top left) and hockey teams have been putting in some pre-season work on and off the court/ice. The basketball team volunteered at Feed My Starving Children Tuesday, Sept. 23, in Eagan, Minnesota. The Falcons packed enough food in their 45 minute shift to feed 36 children for one year. The men’s hockey team participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s on Saturday, Sept. 20, in New Richmond, Wisconsin. Along with walking about two miles, the team, as well as the Falcon Face Off Club, made a financial donation to the organization. The walk raised about \$24,000. UWRF athletes have been working hard in the weight room, classroom, and now they are sharing their hard work and dedication with the community.

Director David Fincher leaves audiences guessing with twisted thriller ‘Gone Girl’

Jack Tuthill

Reviewer

After one of the worst blockbuster summers in recent memory, Oscar season is finally here with the opening of “Gone Girl,” just in time to revive our love for the American cinema. “Gone Girl,” the 2012 novel by Gillian Flynn, is undoubtedly one of the best books of the last decade with its calculated, demented and flawed characters, razor-sharp dialogue, and twisted premise. Flynn’s novel may not be for everyone. “Gone Girl” is pessimistic, gory and somewhat anticlimactic, and its lead characters, more importantly, are nearly impossible to admire. Yet readers simply could not put it down.

The film, which hit theaters everywhere Oct. 3, is directed by David Fincher, who is easily one of the best living American directors. Audiences have grown to love his moody, grim and deliberate thrillers. “The Social Network,” possibly his best cinematic achievement to date, made the story of Mark Zuckerberg seem riveting and engaging. “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” gave new life to one of the most interesting and enthralling characters in cinematic history: Lisbeth Salander.

Most people know Fincher as the director of “Seven” and “Fight Club,” because these films are considered cult-classics, but it wasn’t until 2007’s “Zodiac” that critics and audiences began to label Fincher as a true artist.

Fincher has been called a perfectionist by Hollywood cast and crew, which I’m sure is frustrating, but he also gets the best out of each and every person involved, case in point: “Gone Girl.”

“Gone Girl,” the film, opens with Nick Dunne (Ben Affleck) holding his wife Amy (Rosamund Pike) in their bed. Nick is admiring his wife’s scalp, admitting to the audience, through a voice-over, that when

he thinks of his wife he imagines “cracking her skull open” and digging inside her brain to find out what she is thinking. Queue audience snickering and gasping.

Rewind, many years, to the day Nick and Amy first met at a sophisticated Manhattan party. They charm each other and pretend to be people they are not. Nick pretends he is a successful, witty man with confidence. Amy pretends to be, as she later reveals, “Cool Girl,” who pretends to like drinking light beer, watching football and keeping herself a size two.

Nick and Amy both find true love for the first time, despite the fact that they hail from two different worlds and are two extremely different people. That night they share their first kiss in an alley in Manhattan.

Fast forward to the present. Nick and Amy now live in Carthage, Missouri. Nick leaves for work, where he tends bar with his twin sister Margo (Carrie Coon). Nick and Margo co-own the bar.

Nick and Margo get along much better than most siblings, because, well, these two aren’t your average twins. While playing the board game of “Life” to pass time, Nick gets a call from his neighbor, who claims that his front door is open and his red tabby cat is loose.

Nick drives home to find his stay-at-home wife nowhere to be found. In the living room there is broken glass, furniture upturned and signs of struggle. Nick calls the police. Amy is gone. So it begins.

Over the next five days Nick digs himself into quite a hole. Slowly the police and townspeople discover that Nick has secrets.

Nick has a mistress. Nick increased Amy’s life insurance policy to \$1.5 million. Nick claims his wife doesn’t have any friends. Nick has no idea what his wife does all day. Nick doesn’t have an alibi for the morning of Amy’s disappearance. Nick has purchased thousands of dollars in merchandise that is nowhere to be found. Nick is in trouble.

Nick, who also teaches at the local community college, would be the first to admit that he’s a bad husband. He has cheated on his wife for over a year with one of his 20-year-old college students. He has neglected his wife, physically and emotionally. He forced Amy and him to move to Missouri when they both lost their jobs in Manhattan. But did Nick kill his wife? Does all this evidence make Nick a cold, calculated killer?

As you would expect from Fincher and Flynn, the plot twists and turns. Layers of

deceit is unveiled. Blood is spilled. But where is Amy Dunne?

Two rather interesting casting choices were made in Tyler Perry as defense attorney Tanner Bolt, and Neil Patrick Harris as Amy’s ex-boyfriend Desi Collings.

Perry and Harris are rarely cast in dead-serious films like “Gone Girl,” but respectively they both pulled off strong acting performances.

One of the most important aspects of “Gone Girl” comes behind the scenes in the musical score composed by Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross, who are both known for their work with Fincher in “The Social Network” and “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.”

Reznor, who is of course well known as the lead singer of Nine Inch Nails, and Ross won an Oscar and a Golden Globe for their score of “The Social Network.” Their unique, hair-raising and unmerciful score of “Gone Girl” deserves yet another Oscar nod.

The cinematography by Jeff Cronenweth is as memorable as you would expect from the man nominated for two Oscars in “The Social Network” and “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.” Each single shot is simultaneously beautiful and mysterious.

Affleck (“Argo”) has rarely been better than he is as the bewildered and consciously divided Nick Dunne. Pike (“Pride and Prejudice”) is a relatively unknown, but she is masterful as the secretive and seductive housewife; Pike has never been better, without a doubt.

“Gone Girl” earns its R-rating, as do most of Fincher’s films, so be wary when entering. That being said, “Gone Girl” is the slickest, sickest, most entertaining thriller about spousal problems ever made.

The book is “I couldn’t put it down” material, and the film is a must-see.

Jack Tuthill is a senior journalism student with a minor in professional writing. He enjoys film, music, books, sports, travel, hiking and writing. Jack aspires to be a reporter for a print news publication.



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