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STUDENT VOICE

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Student media organizations face budget cuts

Maxwell Vine
maxwell.vine@my.uwrf.edu

Student media organizations at UW-River Falls will be facing significant budget cuts starting in the fall, and these cuts will affect the four main campus media organizations, which include: WRFW radio, the Student Voice, Prologue, and Focus On U.

The budget cuts will come as a result of the segregated fees for student media being lowered to \$3 per semester, per student, instead of the current \$4. These are fees that every student pays which go toward funding various on-campus events and groups, such as Textbook Services, the University Center, and Registered Student Organizations (RSOs).

The organization in charge of budgets for allocable fees is the Allocable Fee Appropriation Board (AFAB). AFAB deals with various issues on allocable fees, but the most prevalent fee for students is the organized activity fee. The organized activity fee is a fee that every student pays that helps go toward sports clubs, RSOs and student media.

Student Senators Matt Hobbs and Joseph Schmitt recommended to AFAB Chair Dylan Asp, that a com-

mittee be formed by student media to help express budget concerns. The Student Media Committee was then formed by having two members of each student media group and two at-large members, who would represent the entire student media.

The issue arose when Asp contacted the Student Media Committee, and told them that they were going to cut the proposed budget of \$4 down to \$1.50 per semester.

Asp has said that this amount was just filler, to discuss other possible amounts. Asp also said that another reason this issue arose came after he did some budgeting based on projected enrollment and the number of student organizations.

"AFAB's biggest concern was including everyone, and so when we were looking at four organizations (student media), versus 75 organizations (RSOs), that's when it came up as an inequality," Asp said.

Asp then contacted the Student Media Committee and wanted to hear its side of the budget issue.

"We were given less than 24 hours to rally our arguments together," said Student Media Committee member Ryan Tibbitts. "I sent out an email that night to all the student media leaders I could think of, including all the advisors of the four

organizations, and said we need to get our stuff together here."

The meeting with AFAB was then held on Thursday, Jan. 29, and after a long discussion they settled on \$3.25 per semester, per student.

The proposal then went to Student Senate, where after more discussion the fee was lowered to \$3 per semester. The proposal will now go to Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

If this motion were to pass it would leave the four student media organizations at bare-bones operating budgets.

Tibbitts has said that one of the biggest concerns, at least for WRFW, is having a rainy-day fund.

If something were to break, the station does not have the funds to replace or fix it.

The biggest concern, of the four media organizations, came from the Student Voice, as the 25 percent budget decrease could mean the end of the printed copy of the student-run newspaper that has been printing since 1916.

There were other op-

tions discussed to counteract this budget cut, the most obvious option was to increase the overall organized activity fee.

"We decided not to move forward with any proposal to increase any allocable fees, that's in part because of the budget situation we find ourselves in now, and we are also concerned about keeping fees affordable to students," said Student

Senate President Anthony Sumnicht.

Tibbitts said that even though budget cuts are happening to student media, he is very proud of how the committee and its supporters represented student media, and recognized how passionate the students involved are about the four organizations.



Carmella Everhart/Student Voice
Ryan Tibbitts, Student Media Committee member, hosting his weekly radio show, "Study Break," for WRFW, the campus radio station.

Gov. Walker's budget proposal causes concern on campus

Carmella Everhart
carmella.everhart@my.uwrf.edu

Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's proposed budget cuts for the UW System scheduled to take effect in 2015 through 2017 has caused UW-River Falls students, faculty and staff to question the future of the university.

Walker proposed a \$300 million budget cut throughout the UW System, or a 17 to 18 percent General Purpose Revenue (GPR) cut—and an 8.5 percent cut on the GPR/tuition fee base—according to the UWRF website.

Along with this reduction, Walker has said that he plans to keep the tuition freeze in place for another two years. He said his intention is to give the system some independence from state government, which "should allow universities to save money," according to Nathan Vine of *Point Journal Media*.

Criticism and debate about the proposal has sprung up throughout

the UWRF campus; a printed summary of the estimated budget cuts throughout the system was taped to the elevator wall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building with "I hate him" (supposedly referring to Walker) scribbled on it in pen.

The debates surrounding the proposed budget cuts include concerns about whether Walker is hurting the "Wisconsin Idea," and the guiding principle for the state's universities for more than a century, according to Jason Stein, Patrick Marley and Karen Herzog from the *Journal Sentinel*.

The Wisconsin Idea helps mandate the line of authority between the state and universities within the UW System. It's not a specific, written statement; rather, it's a general policy that guides the relationship between the state of Wisconsin and its universities.

However, Walker announced that there was poor communication on his end and that he never meant to

attack the Wisconsin Idea.

In an email interview, UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen said his biggest concern for UWRF is that a \$150 million per year base budget cut to the UW System would translate to approximately a \$4.2 million reduction for UWRF. This would represent about a 17 percent decrease in state support, during a time when tuition is frozen.

The proposed budget cut combined with the current tuition freeze would have a serious impact on UWRF, including the outstanding group of faculty and staff who educate and support the students.

Provost Fernando Delgado said that in his six years of working at UWRF, he has experienced many budget cuts, but there is something different about this proposal, and that is the lack of flexibility to use resources and to manage responses.

"I've never seen anything to this magnitude without the tools to respond to them," Delgado said.

Neil Kraus, professor of political science at UWRF, said it's hard to fully understand what impact the budget cuts would have until the specifics are ironed out within the next six to eight weeks.

"The devil will be kind of in the details over time, but if that passes that could be a pretty major permanent change to the UW System," Kraus said.

A \$150 million per year base budget cut to the UW System would translate to approximately a \$4.2 million reduction for UWRF.

Van Galen said that it's too early to know exactly how we would address a budget cut of this magnitude and it's difficult to know what the

future holds for UWRF if the proposal passes.

"With the tuition freeze in place, our options for compensating for a large budget cut are very limited," Van Galen said. "Essentially, we would need to dramatically reduce expenditures. It is difficult to predict the future of tuition, but I would argue that the combination of state support and tuition must be sufficient to ensure a quality education for our students."

The proposed budget may undergo amendment as it makes its way through the legislature over the next several months but the campus will plan to implement major budget reductions for fiscal year 2016, beginning July 1, according to the UWRF website.

For more information and updates about the proposal, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/Administration/BudgetInformation.cfm> or visit the UW System Student Representatives page on Facebook.

New Financial Trading Room features extensive Bloomberg software

Jack Tuthill
jack.tuthill@my.uwrf.edu

The former dean of the College of Business and Economics (CBE) Glenn Potts retired last spring after 38 years of employment at UW-River Falls, and half a year later he has a financial trading room named in his honor in South Hall.

The Glenn Potts Financial Trading Room was created and implemented on the second floor of South Hall last November.

Now, students and faculty have the ability to use the Financial Trading Room for educational or recreational purposes.

Inside the trading room are two large monitors that have access to Bloomberg trading data on a 15-minute delay, and accounting and finance Chair Charles Corcoran called the data a "treasure trove" because of the incalculable number of things you can do with the data.

"Whether you're talking stocks, bonds—my area of interest right now is real estate—it has just tons

of data that we're looking at utilizing," Corcoran said. "The neat thing is it's easy to use; the challenging part is the data is endless."

Bloomberg is a financial software, data and media company based in New York City, New York, and the Bloomberg feed costs approximately \$25,000 per year. The trading room itself and the Bloomberg feed was paid for by a \$50,000 donation from 1988 UWRF business and administration graduate Jim Musel.

The donation will be used over a couple of years to finance the ongoing cost of the Financial Trading Room.

The Financial Trading Room is used for an investments course and a portfolio management course, both taught by Professor Reza Rahgozar, where students learn how to manage money by managing fictitious portfolios.

CBE also created a one-credit independent study course called "Bloomberg Certification," where a student can become Bloomberg

certified after using the Financial Trading Room to access a number of interactive videos, and eventually pass a number of exams.

The course takes approximately seven hours and is pass or fail. The first and only student to pass the Bloomberg Certification course is UWRF student Chris Regnier, who earned his one credit two weeks ago.

"The Bloomberg software is very informative and complicated," Regnier said. "The information provided through the Bloomberg software gives us a huge advantage over the average investor. Being able to put Bloomberg certified on my resume will make me more valuable to potential employers."

The Financial Trading Room will also be home to the UWRF student investment team, where students will be given real money to invest on behalf of the UWRF Foundation.

"What we're going to have is as much as a \$50,000 of not play money but real money from the Foundation to invest," Corcoran said. "The

challenge for us is going from play money in their investments class, to actual real money that's given by alumni and others."

The \$50,000 from the Foundation is not set in stone quite yet, but Corcoran expects possibly to get the funding approved at the next Foundation board meeting in April.

"We would actually do security trades through the security firm used by the Foundation," Corcoran said. "It's very exciting, but it's also kind of scary."

Corcoran currently has a group of students who are doing research on regional "green" sustainable companies that may be worth investing in for the Foundation.

According to Corcoran, a number of CBE faculty members have expressed interest in using the Financial Trading Room for research purposes as well as classroom applications.

But financing the trading room, because of the \$25,000 Bloomberg feed, is one of the most important aspects in relation to the sustain-

ability and growth of the room.

"The ongoing issue is financial support in the end, after a couple years here, but my own sense is once we get our financial traction with it I think it will work just fine," Corcoran said.

Outside the Financial Trading Room is a "ticker tape," where students roaming the hall can see live stock prices roll across a skinny but lengthy screen. The trading room now also has a window, so students don't become overly claustrophobic while using the room because of its small space.

"We've created a Bloomberg lab that's basically a very fancy broom closet, as it were, sorry to say that, but its more than that now," Corcoran said. "We're moving along and getting some technical features that you typically find in more developed finance programs, and our lab is our baby steps, just one terminal in a rather small room, but that can evolve over time."

News briefs:

Dairy Club students take first at conference

UW-River Falls Dairy Club students again took top honors at the Midwest Regional American Dairy Science Association-Student Affiliate Division (ADSA-SAD) Conference hosted by UW-Platteville in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, Jan. 30 through Feb. 1.

UWRF competed in both the junior and senior divisions of the quiz bowl, with the UWRF team defending its title in the senior division taking home the championship for the third year in a row.

Senior team members were: Paige Roberts of New London, Minnesota; Taylor Wittmus of Valders, Wisconsin; Eric Zwiefelhofer of Bloomer, Wisconsin; and Morgan Kittell of Burnett, Wisconsin.

The senior team defeated Iowa State University in the semi-finals and Michigan State University in the finals.

Junior team members were: Cierra Essock of Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin; Bradley Rostad of Zumbrota, Minnesota; Eryn Orth of Wirona, Minnesota; and Sierra Solum of Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Forty-eight members of the UWRF Dairy Club attended the conference, accompanied by Sylvia Kehoe, professor of animal science. More than 400 students from 12 universities around the region attended the conference to expand their knowledge of the dairy industry. The conference program included intercollegiate competitions, educational sessions, and networking or social events.

On Saturday, Jan. 31, the students attended various educational sessions at the Kalahari Conference Center. Sessions included strategies for educating the public about agriculture, understanding the cooperative systems, and a panel discussion with dairy producers from across the state. The day concluded with a networking career fair event with representatives of agribusinesses, followed by a formal banquet.

Faculty honored with UW Regents grant

Five recipients of the new Regent Scholar awards were honored by the Research, Economic Development, and Innovation (REDI) committee at the UW Board of Regents’ Feb. 5 meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

The UW System Regent Scholar program was introduced last fall to recognize and reward innovative faculty-student research and to provide support for collaborative UW project initiatives with Wisconsin business and industry.

Key objectives of the new Regent Scholar program include providing summer funding support for faculty to engage in research and other scholarly activities while stimulating innovation and industry outreach at UW System campuses across a wide spectrum of academic pursuits.

UW System Regent Scholar recipients for 2015 include the following: Jennifer Dahl, UW-Eau Claire; Heather Schenck, UW-La Crosse; Junhong Chen, UW-Milwaukee; Christopher Harteb, UW-Stevens Point; and Tim Lyden, UW-River Falls.

Lyden received a \$50,000 grant for the development and testing of a new miniature bioreactor system prototype as an enabling technology for the “living biopsy” approach to cancer research and diagnosis.

The project couples scientific insights from 3D artificial tissue generation research done with undergraduate researchers at the UWRF Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center with an existing technology from industrial partner Microscopy Innovations, LLC of Marshfield, Wisconsin. This technology will facilitate screening and testing of therapeutic approaches to cancerous tumors. The initiative additionally supports biotechnology

start-up company Artificial Tissue Systems, LLC, in western Wisconsin.

Grants were awarded competitively based on recommendations by a selection committee made up of both public and private sector experts.

UW System names communications leader

Alex Hummel has been named associate vice president for communications with the UW System Administration (UWSA).

UW System Vice President for University Relations James Villa announced the appointment. In his role, Hummel will provide administrative oversight of the UWSA communications staff and help lead and coordinate UW System’s strategic communications and stakeholder engagement.

Hummel, 38, has served as director of news services and public relations in the Office of Integrated Marketing Communications at UW-Oshkosh since January 2011. He worked with senior Oshkosh leadership to help lead strategic internal and external university communications. He also provided creative and editorial direction and content for the campus news presence, websites, annual reports and alumni magazine, while serving as the institution’s media relations and public information officer.

Previously, Hummel served as the community outreach and school prevention education coordinator for Neenah-based Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services, Inc. Between 1999 and 2009, Hummel also worked for the Oshkosh Northwestern newspaper (Gannett Wisconsin Media) as an award-winning journalist, serving as editorial page and community conversation editor and, before that, as a local government, public affairs and investigative reporter.

Hummel grew up in Fall Creek, Wisconsin, and currently lives in Oshkosh with his wife, Brenda. He graduated from UW-Platteville with a bachelor’s degree in broadcast technology management and a minor in journalism.

Health agency urges caution against flu

Wisconsin is experiencing an especially bad influenza season, and the state Department of Health Services (DHS) is urging people who may have the flu, or other illnesses, to stay home from work or school to avoid spreading sickness.

“People may think they’re being tough and responsible by showing up at work or school when they aren’t feeling well, but the fact is they’re doing their coworkers or classmates a disservice by potentially spreading an illness to others,” said Karen McKeown, state health officer.

“We also want to stress that it’s never too late to get a flu shot, and we encourage anyone who hasn’t done so to get vaccinated as soon as they can,” McKeown said.

Influenza is a contagious disease that infects the respiratory tract (nose, throat, and lungs). Symptoms can come on suddenly with fever, headache, tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and body aches. The illness can be mild to severe, and can sometimes lead to death.

Nearly 3,000 people have been hospitalized with laboratory confirmed influenza in Wisconsin this season. Of those who have been hospitalized, 72 percent are over the age of 65.

In addition to influenza, Wisconsin has also seen an increase in cases of pertussis (whooping cough), and in outbreaks caused by norovirus. Symptoms of norovirus infection typically include nausea, stomach cramping, vomiting, and diarrhea. Norovirus infection is often mistakenly referred to as “stomach flu,” but is unrelated to influenza.

Along with staying home when sick, DHS urges residents to avoid illnesses through frequent and thorough hand washing, covering the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, eating nutritious food, exercising, and getting enough rest.

DNR receives \$33,000 donation for riverway

The Natural Resources Foundation (NRF) donated \$33,000 to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last month to help manage and restore the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.

This donation is the result of a fund established 10 years ago by former DNR wildlife biologist Paul Brandt.

Brandt was instrumental in the creation of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, and the foundation has honored that legacy through the donation of more than \$33,000 from a fund established in 2005. The fund will help protect and restore native plant communities, enhance habitat for native wildlife species and connect people to the riverway.

“Through the creation of the riverway, we were given yet another great spot to enjoy wildlife and beautiful scenery in the area,” said DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp. “Paul’s work, along with partnerships between groups like the [NRF], acts as a constant reminder of the wonderful resources we’ve been given and our responsibility to act as stewards of the land.”

The State Natural Resources Board accepted the donation at its meeting in Madison, Wisconsin.

Brandt created the fund with an initial \$25,000 gift, which he supplemented with \$600,000 from his estate when he passed away in 2006. The fund currently generates more than \$30,000 annually to the department’s Bureau of Wildlife Management to support wildlife habitat and natural areas within a six-county (Grant, Crawford, Richland, Iowa, Sauk and Dane) area along the riverway.

Brandt joined the DNR in 1972 and worked for more than 30 years as a special conservation warden, land acquisition agent, property manager, educator and wildlife biologist. In 1998, he was awarded the department’s Wildlife Manager of the Year Award for his work within Grant and Richland counties. In 2008, two years after Brandt’s death, the department dedicated the Millville Unit of the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway in his memory.

“When Paul entrusted the foundation with this fund 10 years ago, he was entrusting us with the health of this incredible state treasure,” said Ruth Oppedahl, NRF executive director.

The department currently owns roughly 40,000 of the 79,000 acre riverway border. This donation will help support efforts to restore and manage barrens communities in Iowa, Richland and Grant counties, including: continued use of prescribed fire to maintain the community of pine, oak and sand barrens; tree harvesting and thinning, especially where the use of fire is difficult or impossible; protecting turtle nesting sites; restricting soil-disturbing activities in sensitive areas; aggressive invasive plant control; and connecting and expanding open barrens, prairies and wetlands to provide grassland bird habitat.

The NRF helps provide sustainable funding for Wisconsin’s most imperiled species and public lands, while helping citizens connect with our state’s unique natural places. In 2014, the Foundation provided more than \$140,000 to the DNR for work on public lands management and rare and endangered species. For more information, visit www.wisconservation.org.

For more information regarding the Lower Wisconsin State Riverway, search the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for keywords “Lower Wisconsin State Riverway.”

Wisconsin receives money for health plan

The Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that Wisconsin has received a \$2.5 million State Innovation Models (SIM) award from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Innovation Center to develop a comprehensive State Health Care Innovation Plan.

The award will allow DHS and its partners to enhance and accelerate multi-stakeholder, collaborative statewide quality improvement, and payment reform efforts

that are already underway.

One of DHS’s primary partners is the Statewide Value Committee (SVC), which is comprised of leaders from more than 30 organizations representing both private and public sector health care and employer organizations that are seeking to realize greater value in health care faster by better aligning efforts and incentives to deliver better quality care at lower cost.

“Wisconsin has a strong history of health care innovation and this award will help the department and our partners, including the [SVC], make meaningful change to our health care delivery system to better allow health care spending to be tied with quality and appropriate delivery of care,” said DHS Secretary Kitty Rhoades. “We will be focusing our efforts on how we coordinate and deliver health care services so we can reduce and minimize the burden for providers as well as allow public and private purchases of health care to directly link payments to quality outcomes.”

The State Health Care Innovation Plan will focus on three main objectives: improving the health of the state’s population; transforming the state’s health care delivery system; and decreasing per capita spending on health care.

“Our goal at the SVC is to significantly improve the quality and cost of care delivered for every state resident,” said John Toussaint, CEO at ThedaCare Center for Healthcare Value and Chair of the SVC Leadership Council. “This award is recognition by the Innovation Center of Wisconsin’s strong history of successful public private health care partnership, and confirmation that we have all the pieces in place to truly change health care for the better for everyone.”

The State Health Care Innovation Plan will include a Population Health Improvement Plan (PHIP), Health Information Technology (HIT) plan, and Actuarial Certified Financial Analysis. It will also focus on behavioral health (including substance abuse and misuse) as a targeted priority health care issue. Behavioral health has been widely identified nationally as a driver of health care costs. With the award money, Wisconsin hopes to develop a plan to close two major gaps in behavioral health care: access to care and a lack of care coordination between behavioral health and medical care.

Lake Superior trout fishing rule takes effect

An emergency rule reducing daily bag limits to protect the lake trout population in the Apostle Islands region of Lake Superior is now in effect, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The 2015 emergency rule, approved by the Natural Resources Board at its December meeting, reduces the daily bag limit from three lake trout to two lake trout, one 20 to 25 inches in length and one longer than 35 inches. For waters west of Bark Point, regulations for lake trout remain unchanged; three lake trout with a 15 inch minimum length and only one lake trout longer than 25 inches.

The goal of the new regulations is to reduce the overall harvest to 50,000 fish. The recreational and commercial lake trout fishing seasons run through Sept. 30.

Terry Margenau, DNR Lake Superior fisheries supervisor, said the rule was developed based on population assessments over the last six to eight years indicating a decline in the lake trout population tied to harvest levels. Lake trout are a slow-growing species and the emergency rule is designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of the fishery as well as the welfare of the state-licensed commercial fishers, Chippewa commercial fishers, recreational anglers and associated businesses that depend on lake trout.

In addition to developing the emergency rule, DNR held a stakeholder meeting in December and has sought public input to identify Lake Superior fisheries priorities and guide long-term management of the resource. For more information about the public meeting and management of the Lake Superior fishery, search the DNR website, dnr.wi.gov, for “Lake Superior fisheries management.”

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Thursday, Feb. 5

- A disorderly conduct incident report was filed concerning writing on a vehicle in O Lot.

Friday, Feb. 6

- A cell phone was stolen from the Wyman Education Building between 12-12:15 p.m.
- Another report for disorderly conduct concerning writing on a vehicle was filed for E Lot.
- An underage alcohol incident report was filed from Hathorn Hall at about 11:20 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 8

- A disagreement occurred in Johnson Hall around 7:45 p.m., which resulted in an incident report being filed.

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

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UWRF partners with expanding Korean village

Derin Loe
derin.loe@my.uwrf.edu

Starting this semester, UW-River Falls officially has a partnership with a university in South Korea that teaches students the English language as well as U.S. culture.

UWRF recently partnered with Yeungjin College to establish the Daegu Gyeongbuk English Village (DGEV). The village is located northwest of the city of Daegu, South Korea, which is the fourth largest city in South Korea.

The purpose of DGEV is to teach students, ranging from kindergarten to adult, the English language and the proper way to act in western cultures. Youngsoo Margolis, the director of the South Korean partnership, said the main purpose of the village is to expose students to English and provide them with authentic experiences.

The village was started by the government as an effort to bring English education to South Korea.

“It’s a part of the government’s effort to provide English education and English exposure to people who can’t afford to study abroad,” Margolis said.

The village opened in 2007. There are three main academic buildings: the main building, the “situational” building and the “creativity” building. There is also a dormitory for teachers and students on the campus, with a grand-total of 101 classrooms. The enrollment in 2007 was 2,907, and has rapidly increased to 33,634 students in 2013, with many more universities and organizations around the world taking part during that time.

Students can practice what they’ve learn in mock scenarios in the “situational” building. There are a total of 22 different situational scenarios in the building. The situational scenarios

range from how to act in a grocery store to how to board an airplane.

Students have to know and use the English language for these scenarios, so they have to use the English word for chicken or fruit, for example, said Jane Miller, provost and vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Teachers from all around the world come to the village to teach the students. They work five days a week on a one-year contract. There typically are around 53 English teachers who teach a variety of classes to the students entirely in English.

Teachers are only supposed to speak in English and are not required at all to even know the Korean language. The DGEV is continuously looking for new teachers to teach at the village.

Students typically only attend the program for a short stay, ranging from a few days to a few weeks, depending on the program. Most students stay for five days and four nights while at the village. There are different curriculums and programs depending on the grade and school of the students attending.

Margolis said the village also gets international students, as well, from places like Japan and Guatemala. There also is a wide variety of groups that have visited; even groups like the Girl Scouts have visited the village, according to Miller.

UWRF took over the partnership from the University of Colorado-Colorado Springs in July of 2014. Currently, nobody from UWRF has visited DGEV but there has been increased interest from graduates of UWRF to visit the village.

Margolis is working on being able to bring some of the students from DGEV to UWRF so they can get real experience with the English culture. She also is looking for more involvement from students at UWRF, as there are many study abroad opportunities in South Korea and other ways to get involved.



Amara Young/Student Voice
Youngsoo Margolis (left) and Jane Miller (right) have partnered with a South Korean village.

Computer science professor returns to teaching after lengthy absence

Collin Kottke
collin.kottke@my.uwrf.edu

Teachers never stop teaching, and Mary-Alice Muraski is proof of that.

After a long departure from the classroom, Muraski is back with her passion: teaching. Muraski joined UW-River Falls in 1984 as an assistant professor in computer science. In 30 years, she has held a lot of positions across the university.

“The chancellor asked me, he had tea for those of us who have been here for 30 years or more, and he asked what various positions you’ve held across campus and I said ‘I’ve had so many positions I think the only one I haven’t held is yours,’” Muraski said.

From being the director of the Honors Program to doing business analysis for the Registrar’s Office, Muraski has had her hands on many things at UWRF. She also helped bring technologies that students use on a daily basis to the campus.

In 2001, Muraski became the project manager for eSIS and oversaw the implementation of it over campus. Then a year or so after that, she helped bring D2L to campus as well.

Muraski was a part of DoTS from 2006 until the beginning of this semester. When Muraski joined DoTS there was no management structure in place and she helped develop that. She held

multiple managerial positions at DoTS and ultimately ended her time there as the website administrator for D2L, a position she held before.

The website administrator role kept Muraski’s teaching sharp. As the site administrator she taught faculty how to use the website. She still does, even after she’s left the position, because some instructors have called her anyway for assistance.

Even though Muraski was at DoTS for a long tenure, she thinks they’ll do just fine without her.

“Somebody once told me that when you leave a position, if you have sufficiently shared your duties or documented what it is you have done, the hole you leave is the same hole you would leave if you pulled your fist out of a bucket of water,” Muraski said. “So think about pulling your hand out of a bucket of water, what size hole do you leave? You don’t leave any because there are other people who will come in and take over those things.”

Chief Information Officer Steve Reed says they’re still looking to fill the position.

“Currently we are in the process of hopefully being able to recruit and replace that position,” Reed said. “Hopefully we’ll know more in the next few weeks, if we are able to fill that position.”

Reed worked with Muraski for six years and made note

of her dedication and loyalty to the university and it’s students over the 30 years she has been here. He also knows that Muraski is excited to be back in the classroom.

She sure is. “I am so excited to be back living my passion again,” Muraski said. “I’ve been a teacher since I was 21. I love being a teacher; I love working with students; I miss the interaction with students. I always used to say ‘there is nothing more rewarding than seeing the light bulb go on when you are trying to present various concepts and helping students to learn and understand those concepts.’”

Muraski will be teaching those concepts in various classes in her first semester back.

This semester she is teaching: technology and cyber space; ethics and issues; information systems for business management; and beginning programming: an introduction to Java.

Just a couple days into the semester, Muraski is still nervous, but she said that is a good thing.

“The only thing is I hope I don’t mess up too bad,” Muraski said. “I think it’s coming back to me. I’m just as nervous as I was my very first day, probably as nervous as I was in my 15th year of teaching. I hope I never get over being nervous in front of my classes.”

Student Senate to vote on proposed segregated fee

Hayden Bosch
hayden.bosch@my.uwrf.edu

All students attending UW-River Falls may find their enrollment costs slightly increasing next year, according to a proposal put forth during Student Senate on Tuesday, Feb. 10.

A segregated fee of \$175 for the 2015-2016 academic year, which would then eventually increase to \$200 in future academic years, as part of a “phase-in” plan, was proposed by Chancellor Dean Van Galen during Tuesday’s Senate meeting and is set to be voted on by Senate at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 17, in the Willow River Room, located on the third floor of the University Center.

The fee would be used to help fund the Falcon Center, which is under construction with a budget of over \$62 million, and is set to be completed before the fall of 2017. If the proposal is passed, it would be the monetary equivalent of increasing student tuition by 2.58 percent, based on tuition prices listed on the UWRF website for the 2014-2015 academic year.

According to the UW System educational statistics, in the 2013-2014 academic year, UWRF had a full-time equivalent enrollment of 5,503 students. Therefor, a \$175 fee increase, per student, would lead to an approximate

amount of \$963,000 that could potentially go towards the Falcon Center every year.

“The proposed fee was determined based on an analysis of critical needs for staffing, equipping and maintaining the Falcon Center,” said Van Galen in an email. “It will be a great facility.” Van Galen has desire to “partner with students to ensure that it meets the needs of our campus in a cost-effective manner.”

In an email, Senate President Anthony Sumnicht addressed a popular question from students: “Why are we building this new facility when our budget is getting cut?” According to Sumnicht, \$50 million of the funding for the Falcon Center comes from state contributions and is funded separately from the regular UWRF budget.

“If we don’t use these one-time state funds now, they will be used to build a building somewhere else in the state,” Sumnicht said. “There is no way to take these funds and use them anywhere else on campus.”

This would not be the first time that students contributed money towards the Falcon Center through a Segregated Fee. According to Sumnicht, the student body decided to commit just over \$6 million towards the construction of the Falcon Center in March of 2008.

According to the proposal, the Falcon Center is expected to increase recruitment and retention. The proposal cites a survey of 33,522 students conducted by the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

The proposal states that about two-thirds of people surveyed said that recreational facilities are a significant contributing factor in deciding on a university to attend while roughly three-fourths said that such facilities contribute to them staying at universities they currently attend.

Regarding the fee, the proposal claims that “without it, the campus’ new flagship academic, athletic, fitness and recreational facility would remain barely operational and underutilized.” The Falcon Center, when completed, will be open to students at no additional cost, according to Sumnicht. Currently, however, there is no free admission or discount for alumni who wish to use the Falcon Center. All non-student, faculty or staff members will have to pay for a membership according to the present plan.

Senate meetings are open to anyone, and are held at 7 p.m. every Tuesday on the third floor of the University Center in the Willow River Room.

Busy physics professor impacts UW-River Falls students

Christine Marriott
christine.marriott@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls professor of physics Rellen Hardtke could be considered a role model for women in science, a social activist, and now she is now running for a seat in the River Falls City Council.

If you were to walk into Hardtke’s office without an appointment, you may find Hardtke dressed unassumingly, and possibly welcoming students with a smile. Despite Hardtke’s credentials, her office is quite humble.

Hardtke holds a doctorate in particle astrophysics from UW-Madison and a bachelor’s in mathematics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is also involved in the Women’s and Gender Studies program and is coordinator for dual degree/pre-engineering programs here at UWRF.

“I always like to do the hardest thing and see if I could be successful at it,” said Hardtke of her achievements.

The list of accomplishments and her organizations she has been in-

involved with are quite extensive on her Facebook election page. From school board to academic boards, as chairperson and committee member, Hardtke has been active in her community as well as her position as an academic. Love of community involvement and social activism has been an important component of her academic life.

“I love being at UWRF because it lets you be a well-rounded faculty person,” Hardtke said. “I can advise student organizations and that’s part of my service requirement. I do it because I like it. But here that’s counted as part of our service, as is Faculty Senate, the diversity and inclusivity committee, the gender studies program. These are things that I am allowed to do because, just like we want our students to be well-rounded, UWRF supports faculty that are well-rounded.”

Women’s and Gender Studies have always been part of her educational background and academic career. Hardtke said it is hard to find a position in Women’s and Gender Studies.

“Physics pays the bills while I get

to do my other passion,” Hardtke said.

A big part of that passion translates into being an advocate for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Hardtke has had to go against the grain often as a woman in a male-dominated world of science and mathematics.

“Her teaching style is exceedingly constructive to fostering a positive learning environment,” said former student Katrina Hanson, who now works at 3M. “Additionally, her outspoken support of diversity and equality, both in STEM fields and universally, are strong indicators of her commitment to ensuring that every student is accepted unconditionally.”

She has a five rating on ratemyprofessors.com, and is popular with students, past and present. In 2012, Hardtke was the recipient of the UWRF Excellence in Teaching Award. The comments from students sound more like a fan club.

“Not only is she a great professor, but her willingness to help us outside of class is astounding,” said Raven Hernandez, a sophomore broad

field science and physics student. “I would, without a doubt, say Dr. Hardtke is a role model, specifically to women in the STEM field. She’s a great example of what women are capable in our field, and to witness her passion and skill is inspiring.”

Hardtke said she is proud of UWRF because even though the physics department is small, there are two women professors. She said it gives UWRF a higher percentage of women professors in physics than most schools in the U.S. Hardtke said she feels like she has to get involved because things do not get better without action.

“I am proud that I will go to bat for others who are being treated unfairly,” Hardtke said. “I will do that even if it involves some personal risk. In academia, you’re often advised to not rock the boat until you have tenure, but

I never let that stop me from standing up for justice. Advice? Do what you love. It’s OK to keep looking for what you love to do until you find it.”



Amara Young/Student Voice
Physics professor Rellen Hardtke is running for River Falls City Council.

EDITORIAL

Van Galen’s
proposed Falcon
Center segregated
fee is reasonable

Student Senate will be voting on Tuesday, February 17 on Chancellor Dean Van Galen’s proposal to implement a \$175 segregated fee, per student, for the 2015-16 academic year for the staffing, equipping and maintaining of the future Falcon Center. The fee would then increase to \$200 per student for future academic years. It’s important to note that the proposed \$175 segregated fee is unrelated to the proposed UW System budget cuts. This fee would, ideally, lead to the sustainability of the Falcon Center for many years to come.

The Student Voice feels that the addition of this fee, while a significant sum of money for full-time equivalent students, would make UWRF a more attractive campus for prospective students looking at joining our university.

The Falcon Center, once finished, certainly will be a significant addition to the UWRF campus, and will provide lush fitness opportunities and better overall sports facilities for students, faculty and student-athletes.

A significant amount of the mandatory physical education classes required of all students would take place in the new Falcon Center. Also, Health and Human Performance majors will have a new facility that will finally be sufficient for the department’s growth. Health and Human Performance faculty and the athletics department, coaches included, would have new offices to call home.

Students can also look forward to attending sporting events in state-of-the-art facilities that will attract more River Falls citizens, prospective student-athletes, and sports fans of all ages from a number of surrounding cities; not to mention the students who will go wild for the new basketball court, an improved hockey arena and a fitness center that blow the current one out of the water.

There is also an amount of altruism in supporting the Falcon Center. Because many current UWRF students will not be around to make use of the Falcon Center when it comes into use in the fall of 2017, some may find that they’re paying for something that won’t benefit themselves. But it should be considered that contributions made by current students will help future Falcons, will help the campus grow and, hopefully, increase recruitment and retention.

It should also be kept in mind that before the University Center was finished, students were paying fees toward its progress, and current students are paying for its maintenance today.

The Student Voice hopes that Van Galen’s proposal is passed on Tuesday, as it will have a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of future Falcons.

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

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Proposed regional oil pipeline will
have significant negative effects

Molly Kinney
molly.kinney@my.uwrf.edu

In the fall of 2013, Enbridge Energy came to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), requesting a certificate of need to build a 610-mile oil pipeline.

If granted, the pipeline would pump an average of 375,000 barrels of oil down the line every day, starting in the Bakken fracking fields of North Dakota and ending near Duluth, Minnesota.

The first of five hearings was held on January 5, where those both for and against the pipeline voiced opinions to the PUC. The hearings became necessary after advocacy groups learned of the environmental carelessness being taken in regards to degradation of the land. Regulatory processes only require an “environmental assessment,” studying only major negative impacts.

Environmentalists argue that an environmental impact statement, which is a more comprehensive assessment that considers large and small, positive and negative consequences of such a project on the environment should be done on a project of this magnitude.

The full environmental impact statement still hasn’t happened, which was one of many major issues environmental justice groups addressed during the PUC hearings.

Administrative Law Judge Eric Lipman oversaw all five of the hearings that took place from January 5-9. Testimonies were addressed to him; he will eventually write a recommendation to the PUC, whose advice they usually follow.

He also oversaw the approval of the Alberta Clipper pipeline expansion in the spring of 2014. Historically, when considering approval of such projects, he has dismissed climate change concerns.

In his statement to the PUC on the Alberta Clipper expansion, there was only one page devoted to climate concerns, none of which were referenced in his final list of reasons for approval. Those who spoke in favor of the pipeline all had similar remarks.

Claims were made about the professionalism of Enbridge Energy, and how the pipeline wouldn’t harm the ecosystems it would pass through. A pipeline construction worker stated, about the possibility of an oil spill, simply: “Enbridge will not let any catastrophic events happen.”

A few speakers cited the need to lessen oil transport by rail as reason enough to build the pipeline, though much more oil is already transported by pipeline than rail.

Others believed that the 1,500 construction jobs that would be created if the pipeline were to be approved are jobs Minnesotans desperately need.

Statements from those in opposition to the pipeline refuted all of these claims. A woman from MN350, a climate justice and sustainability organization, spoke about how regardless of whether the pipeline is built, oil will still travel by train.

Another conceded the fact that Minnesotans need and deserve jobs, but discussed how much more sense it would make to create sustainable jobs in green energy, rather than construction jobs

that will last only six months.

A man from the indigenous environmental justice organization Honor the Earth gave an emotional testimony. This pipeline would violate the sovereign nation status of the White Earth reservation of the Ojibwe people. The tribe is over 9,000 years old, and has a federal right to hunt, fish, and gather from these lands they were displaced to.

These rituals would become impractical if the pipeline company spilled oil into the land and tainted the resources they must use. Enbridge Energy had more than 800 reported oil spills between 1999 and 2009 and the largest tar sands oil spill ever in 2010, so this is almost inevitable.

A medical doctor speaking in opposition to the pipeline questioned everyone at the hearing: “Why not take all this talent and energy and start discussing solutions to pollution and green energy, instead of debating reality?”

In a perfect follow-up, a man from Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light organization addressed supporters of the project, asking how realistic continuing fossil fuel investment is for the future of humanity.

He said to those in favor, wondering why we are still debating the construction of a pipeline when overwhelming evidence says we need to drastically reduce our greenhouse gas emissions: “please reconsider your definition of reality.”

Rendering everyone speechless, University of Minnesota student Paige Carlson addressed all members of the PUC, saying: “I’m appealing to you now as another justly angry citizen, but also as a person who loves the place we live. When you grow up, you realize that not even adults have all the answers, but this is worse, because we have the answers and still aren’t doing what’s right. When children in future generations ask what the heck everyone was doing when we knew about climate change and did nothing, you’re going to have to say, ‘Sorry, kid. I cared about money more than I cared about the health and well-being of everyone on the planet.’”

We learned of the sandpiper hearing in mid-December of 2014, when UWRF Environmental Corps of Sustainability (ECOS) members attended a dinner gathering at the home of MN350 member Kathy Hollander. We talked with many people about one of the causes that ECOS is working towards: divesting UWRF from fossil fuels.

In the opening statement of her dissent to the PUC, Hollander stated how we gathered in her living room to chat, and she pulled up a chair, curious to hear what music or house party or classes we were discussing. To her dismay, we were not talking about any of these things college students normally discuss, but a cloud of the greenhouse gas methane, which had been discovered over New Mexico and is as big as the state of Delaware.

Most students at this university have only spent a couple decades on earth. Resenting those who’ve shown complacency, when the science is already conclusive, would be a predictable response. However, resentment is simply a waste of time when thinking about the direction of our globalized planet.

This is exactly why ECOS is so fer-

vently pushing our campus to divest from fossil fuels. This is quite a huge undertaking, and there is a lot of work to be done. We want our university to switch to renewable energy rather than invest and use the petroleum that is putting our species, and millions of others, in jeopardy.

It’s accepted by 97 percent of the world’s climatologists that using these fuels is warming the planet faster than ever before. If we continue as we have been, the earth’s average global temperature will increase three degrees Celsius by 2050.

The overwhelming consensus from reports written by NASA and released by the International Panel on Climate Change is that we cannot increase the earth’s global average temperature even two degrees Celsius if we want life to sustain as we know it. For us to avert this, an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse emissions must happen by 2050.

Consider the fact that during the last world-encompassing ice age, the average global temperature was just six degrees cooler than it is currently, and three degrees will seem much more impactful.

The temperature has already risen 1.6 degrees Celsius. Continuing to support the industry that is literally lessening the time humans have left to exist on earth is simply not ethical.

Unfortunately, it’s very likely that the PUC will give Enbridge Energy the certificate it needs to build yet another oil pipeline. Therefore, our professional institutions must show strategic signs of support for action on climate change. Campus fossil fuel divestment campaigns are one way to achieve this. From Stanford University to Harvard University to small state schools like our’s, over 500 colleges and universities across the world have started such campaigns, and over 20 have already committed to completely divesting.

Elite entities such as the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Council of Canadians, and the British Medical Association have divested funds from fossil fuels, and many other organizations are beginning to follow suit.

In fact, the Fossil Free campaign is the fastest growing divestment initiative in history. The first annual Global Divestment Day, scheduled for February 13-14, will hopefully prompt even more institutions to freeze and divest its money from these industries. ECOS is taking part in this action at the end of the week, as are thousands of other organizations across the world.

Grassroots action taken by 400,000 last September at the People’s Climate March showed world leaders that we want them to start taking significant action on climate change.

I hope that anyone who wants an at least habitable, if not beautiful, world for children of future generations, will join ECOS in urging our campus to divest from fossil fuels. We must make it visible for policymakers, such as those on the PUC, that we want them to start taking bigger steps towards climate justice.

Molly Kinney is a journalism student with a political science minor. When she is not writing, she enjoys reading, camping, art, music, and exploring new cities.

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. on Friday, wins! The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter account: [@uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice).

Now playing: “The Imitation Game,” starring Benedict Cumberbatch.

Valentine’s Day blues are no big deal

Natalie Howell
natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu

As I’m sure everyone is aware, Valentine’s Day is just around the corner, and if you’re in a relationship, that means planning upon planning for the perfect evening: an evening of romance, flowers, chocolates, stuffed animals, the works.

But, if you’re single, you may be dreading this day. Because let’s face it, for single people, Valentine’s Day is just another day reminding you that nobody loves you…you know, in a romantic way.

On Valentine’s Day, single people all over have to deal with nauseating declarations of love that’s not toward them, Facebook posts about people you graduated with getting engaged, and of course, your mom calling you and trying to set you up with your weird neighbor who’s really into taxidermy but is apparently a “really nice guy.”

Being single on Valentine’s Day isn’t fun for most people, but I’m here to tell you why being single on Valentine’s Day is probably the best thing ever.

First, if you’re single, there’s absolutely no pressure to do anything on this day of love. You can lie in your bed all day and watch Netflix and nobody cares. Your friends are all distracted by the “surprise” their boyfriend promised them later that night to wonder about what your plans are, and everyone else is too blinded by love to care that it’s 4 p.m. and you’re still (or already) in your pajamas.

Sure, doing nothing on Valentine’s Day may be seen as depressing, but to me it’s an all-access pass to look and act like a total bum for a day. And isn’t that what we all want to do anyway?

Next, and this one is for both the guys and girls: being single on Valentine’s Day means no disappointment.

For a lot of people, the week before Valentine’s Day means nothing but stress and anticipation. People’s expectations for Valentine’s Day have turned ridiculous ever since those with amazing boyfriends started posting everything they did for them on the internet.

For example, the giant teddy bears that I keep seeing on Twitter. You know the kind,

the ones that are bigger than actual bears. Why is that a thing? I like stuffed animals and bears as much as the next girl, but that doesn’t mean I want my body to one day be found under a giant teddy bear that smothered me in my sleep.

Valentine’s Day is a day full of misguided expectations and ultimate disappointment when your partner doesn’t deliver. Who needs it? When you’re doing Valentine’s Day solo, you have no expectations, and therefore can’t be disappointed in wherever your night leads, even if it ends with you crying at the end of “Shrek” with chocolate all over your face.

Lastly, and this is a big one, the best part of being single on Valentine’s Day is the chocolate.

You can buy loads of chocolate without the teenage cashier judging you or the middle-aged cashier giving you a look of pity, and then you can binge-eat chocolate all day to make up for the fact that nobody would actually buy the chocolate for you.

Nobody will love you the way chocolate does. And if you’re like me, that’s all you

really need on Valentine’s Day. Plus, your parents might send you a Valentine’s Day care package because they know that you’re lonely.

Nothing says “hang in there” like your mom’s homemade Special K bars and a note from your parents saying that you’re still beautiful to them.

It’s time to face facts: we’re not in elementary school anymore. No more homemade red and pink boxes stuffed full of Valentine’s for us.

We’re adults in college, and sometimes that means being alone on Valentine’s Day. So you don’t have that special someone to take you out and make you feel special on Valentine’s Day, who cares?


Make yourself feel special by spending way too much money on chocolate, abusing your family’s Netflix account, and remembering that Valentine’s Day is just one day a year, and you’ll get through it.

Natalie Howell is a sophomore journalism student from Rochester, Minnesota. After graduation, Natalie hopes to get a job working for a newspaper.


STUDENT *voices*

What are you doing for Valentine’s Day?


Compiled by Amara Young




Left:
Ashley (Bunny) Cook, freshman, social work major:
“I’m hopping around the town.”



Right:
Elaina Danzinger, freshman, marketing communications major:
“I’m going out to eat with my boyfriend, then seeing ‘50 Shades of Grey’ with my friends.”



Left:
Jenna Cook, senior, business administration major:
“I’m going to the Con of the North gaming convention with my boyfriend.”



Right:
Tyler Foote, junior, agriculture education major:
“I’m on duty as a Resident Assistant, doing 2 a.m. rounds to make sure people are behaving themselves.”

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrfvoice.com

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.

Women’s basketball hopes for record crowd

Bryan Tester
bryan.tester@my.uwrf.edu

Last September, the Student Voice wrote a story about UW-River Falls women’s basketball Assistant Coach Mike Babler’s grandson, Leo, and his fight against an extremely rare genetic disorder called Rhizomelic Chondrodysplasia Punctata (RCDP), which is a form of dwarfism and is said to be a lethal form of skeletal dysplasia.

Leo has been doing well since September. He recently went in for his fifth eye surgery because of a protein buildup, and has been having issues with his shoulder because of a calcium disorder that is part of the disease.

In order for Leo to maintain a healthy life, medical expenses have risen which is why the family started the Leo Lionhearted Fund on gofundme.com. Since September, the fund has raised over \$14,000 and has had over 2,000 shares via Facebook and other social media platforms.

In September, the UWRF volleyball team held the “Lionhearted game,” where fans were encouraged to buy a Leo Lionhearted Fund t-shirt for \$15 and all of the proceeds from the game went to Leo and his family.

On the day of love, Valentine’s day, the women’s basketball team will be taking the court for the “Red Out for Leo” basketball game against the visiting UW-Whitewater Warhawks.

Not only will the game be for a good cause, but it will also be the Falcons’ last home game of the regular season as the team is in a tight battle to be one of the top six teams to make the WIAC playoffs. It wasn’t a coincidence that the Red Out for Leo game is on Valentine’s day.

“Through this whole thing I have noticed how much people care—whether you know the person or not—so I think showing up to this event on Valentine’s Day would be a great way to show love, not just for Leo, but for the whole family,” Babler said.

During the Red Out for Leo game, shirts will be sold for \$15 as well as a silent auction during the night of the event. Sixteen local businesses are doing their part for the silent auctions donating various things such as one month of free fitness memberships from Anytime Fitness, a free pizza from Pizza Hut and 12 cupcakes that include a \$30 gift certificate to Cakes by Crystal. Babler wants to make the game even more special by setting a new program record. Babler’s goal is to break the women’s basketball all-time attendance record that currently stands at 681 people.

Junior captain guard Richell Mehus said the community wants to do their part in helping Leo and his family.

“A lot of people have bought the red Leo shirts,” Mehus said. “The high school did a game for Leo too and raised a lot of money. This game, many people have offered to donate

money for each spectator that attends the game if we break the record of 681.”

Players on the team also want to help Babler and Leo out as much as they can. Sophomore forward Kate Theisen says it’s the least the team can do.

“It is such a huge honor to be able to support Leo and be apart of his journey,” Theisen said.

The Falcons are currently in last place in the WIAC ,but only one win separates the Falcons from being a playoff team. The young Falcons have only three games left in the regular season, and the team needs to win the majority of the games to secure a spot in the WIAC playoffs.

UWRF earned a hard-fought, much needed victory on Wednesday, Feb. 11, against UW-Stout at the Karges Center to improve to 9-13 overall. The Falcons prevailed 51-49, with Theisen leading all scorers with 16 points; Mehus, meanwhile, added 12 of her own. With the win, UWRF sits one game behind Whitewater for the sixth and final WIAC playoff spot.

“The only thing we can control is us, so we need to take care of the ball, do what we are capable of doing, and the rest will play out,” Mehus said.

To donate to the Lionhearted Fund you can visit: gofundme.com/cfgmts. Donations for the silent auction can be dropped off at the athletics department prior to the game.



Courtesy of the Lionhearted Fund
Leo peacefully sleeps with his stuffed toy. To donate to the Lionhearted Fund you can visit www.gofundme.com/cfgmts. All proceeds from activities at the game will go to Leo and his family. The women’s basketball team plays at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Karges Center against UW-Whitewater.

Softball head coach to retire following 2015 season

Trenten Gauthier
trenten.gauthier@my.uwrf.edu

Faye Perkins, the head softball coach at UW-River Falls for 22 of the last 27 seasons, has decided the 2015 campaign will be her last.

Perkins has won more games than any other head coach in UWRF softball history, posting a 456-381-2 career record at the university. Perkins has a 500-400-2 overall career coaching record as she spent two seasons as head coach at Tarkio College, located in Tarkio, Missouri. She won her 500th career game in the team’s 9-1 win over UW-Platteville last April.

Perkins’ most notable season at UWRF was in 2012, a year in which the Falcons won a school record 34 games in route to its second-straight WIAC title and a spot in the NCAA national playoffs. Perkins, along with the rest of the coaching staff that season, was named the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Great Lakes Regional coach staff of the year.

Perkins has created a tradition from the moment she began her coaching tenure at UWRF in 1989. Athletic Director Roger Ternes had nothing but high praise for the legendary coach.

“Faye’s dedication and loyalty to [UW-River Falls], the softball program and the women who played the game is extraordinary,” Ternes said. “Her coaching legacy since 1989 is historic. Her tenure as the head softball coach at [UW-River Falls] is the longest in school history, and we thank Faye for her exceptional leadership.”

Perkins has created an impressive coaching tree beneath her over the years. UW-Stout Head Coach Chris Stainer, a former UWRF pitcher and a three-time all-WIAC selection, played under Perkins from 1989-1992. Stainer was also assistant coach at UWRF from 1993-1997, and was a part of two WIAC titles in her time with Perkins. Stainer, who won the 2014 WIAC coach of the year, says that coach Perkins’ legacy is not only on the field, but very much off of it as well.

“Coach’s legacy is vast—it’s about being your best—both on the field, and in life,” Stainer said. “She challenged you to be your very best on the field, but also in the classroom, in the community, and to respect the person you choose to be. I grew more in the four years that I had played for her, than most of my childhood.”

Perkins will take a team into the 2015 campaign that isn’t the strongest in Perkins’ time with the Falcons, yet these Falcons players can be a part of something no other players at UWRF can say they were a part of, and that is being a part of the final game of a legendary softball coach.

“It will be emotional, I don’t even want to think about stepping off the field for the last time,” Perkins said. “I don’t think I’ll ever walk off the field for the last time, I know I’ll still be involved, I know I will always be involved with the River Falls softball program at some level.”

The UWRF softball team starts its season at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, at the Rochester Regional Bubble in Rochester, Minnesota, against the Augsburg College Auggies.



Amara Young/Student Voice
Head Coach Faye Perkins showcases memorabilia from past seasons. Perkins is set to retire after this season. The softball season is set to start at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, in Rochester, Minnesota.

Women’s hockey clinches WIAC regular season title

Sadie Horton
sadie.horton@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team had a satisfying weekend as the Falcons clinched its second-straight WIAC title with a 5-2 win over the UW-Superior Yellow-jackets on Saturday, Feb. 7.

The Falcons then, following a 1-0 win over Lake Forest College, hosted an event called “Skate with the Falcons” on Sunday, Feb. 8, where the youth of the River Falls community was able to skate with one of the best Div. III women’s hockey teams in the country.

In the 5-2 win over Superior, sophomore forward Dani Sibley finished with two goals, while sophomore forward Brianna Breiland, freshman forward Carly Moran, and senior captain forward Alice Cranston all scored once. Freshman goaltender Angie Hall finished with 19 saves on Saturday night. The win over Superior catapulted its WIAC record to 8-1-1.

“There are only four points left to be gained and we are five points in the lead once we beat Superior, so we clinched first place and won the regular season WIAC, which is great,” said Head Coach Joe Cranston. “That’s huge and that means we are at home for the playoffs and we are kind of used to that, but it’s a big accomplishment I think, especially with the short roster we had this year, and the young goaltending and some of those issues, that I am pretty proud of the girls.”

The only goal of Sunday’s game came from freshman forward Dani Kocina with an assist from Sibley. Hall made 16 saves and earned her first career shutout in a Falcon uniform.

“Skating with the kids is always fun because it’s not just kids, you get their parents out there, you get the families, you have our families out there, which is nice,” said junior defenseman Dani Buehrer. “So this is a chance to get to know everybody’s families and then to bring in people from the community so they feel like they are kind of a part of what we have going on with our community at the rink.”

While the Falcons have clinched its fifth consecutive regular season conference title (with the 2011, 2012 and 2013 titles coming in the NCHA), it doesn’t mean the Falcons aren’t still fighting.

The team is also looking to get back to the national tournament where the Falcons placed third last year after beating the University of Saint Thomas 5-3. The Falcons don’t get an automatic bid, so the team has to keep winning and hope to get an at-large bid.

“Our season is going really well, we’re [19-3-1], which is awesome, because we have a young team, so it’s important that we win big games,” Sibley said. “Hopefully we can make it back to nationals, but we don’t get an automatic bid, so we have to keep winning our last three games this season. I think our team has come a long ways from the start



Amara Young/Student Voice
Karleigh Wolkerstorfer (far right) fights for position near the Lake Forest College goaltender.

of the season; we kind of started off shaky but we made a lot of progress and we’re ending strong.”

The Falcons defeated the St. Catherine University Wildcats 5-0 on Wednesday, Feb. 11, at Hunt

Arena, to improve to 19-3-1 on the season. Sibley scored twice, adding an assist, in the win. Junior forward Chloe Kinsel scored two goals of her own on Wednesday night. Sophomore all-WIAC defenseman

Paige Johnson, meanwhile, earned three assists for the Falcons.

The Falcons face-off against the UW-Eau Claire Blugolds at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.



Amara Young/Student Voice
Freshman forward Dani Kocina battles with a Lake Forest College opponent near the goal crease. UWRF defeated Lake Forest 1-0 thanks to a game-winning-goal from Kocina. The Falcons battle UW-Eau Claire at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14, in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The Falcons have two regular season games remaining.

UWRF program provides exercise opportunities to middle school

Cooper Nelson
cooper.nelson@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls health and human performance department has teamed up with Meyer Middle School of River Falls to provide students with physical activity every day before school starts.

Health and human performance Professor Faye Perkins came up with the idea along with retired physician James Biex. They wanted to increase opportunities for students to participate in physical activity in alternative ways.

“They (Meyer Middle School) have athletics, but they’re a lot of kids that are not involved in athletics and there is intramurals, but there are some kids that don’t like intramurals,” Perkins said.

The program is called “Commit to be Fit,”

and it provides students with an opportunity to stay active in a non-competitive situation; the first session was Monday, Feb. 1. At the first session there were only five students who showed up, but after some advertisement, participation skyrocketed with 60 students on Tuesday, Feb. 2; 35 on Wednesday, Feb. 3; and 40 on Thursday, Feb. 4.

Perkins is expecting the attendance to stay up throughout the 13-week program that will end on May 8, and is hoping that the program will continue in the years to come.

“If we could get 30, 40, 50 kids consistently, that would be great,” Perkins said. “It is going to be interesting to see what happens with this program in the long term.”

Commit to be Fit has different activities that include everything from circuit training to yoga. Perkins is looking into an incentive program to keep up attendance. She said that

they would like to give a student a ticket for every time they show up and at the end of the week they would have a drawing for a prize.

The Commit to be Fit program has been in the works for a long time. Perkins is a part of the River Falls school district planning committee, and the idea for the program came five years ago. Once it was reviewed, and went through all of the necessary channels, it was a year later. Then three years ago, Perkins, along with Biex, ask for a grant from the Wisconsin Medical Foundation and they were declined. After a year or so, they asked again and the grant was approved.

The Commit to be Fit program runs every-day during the school week. Students get into the school at 7:15 a.m. and the program starts at 7:20 a.m. The program goes for 20 minutes until 7:40 a.m., and students are in their classrooms five minutes later.

20 minutes of physical activity may not seem like much, but Perkins said that it’s all kids need to get their minds working.

“There is a lot of research out there now that talks about how physical activity helps kids focus more in school,” Perkins said. “They’re less fidgety. It’s kind of just burning off some of that energy, and kids actual do better in their classes.”

Perkins plans to keep in contact with teachers to see how well the students who participate in the program are doing in school.

UWRF undergraduate students play a big role in the program. Health and human performance students run the activities with the kids at the school every morning. Perkins said that it provides them with a great experience that will fit in nicely with their resume.

Bloody Valentine’s Day origins morphed into slew of current issues

Molly Kinney
molly.kinney@my.uwrf.edu

I started my column last week acknowledging that this month revolves around the 24 hour period reserved for lovers: Valentine’s Day.

The hype starts weeks out in stores such as Walgreens, Target, and Hallmark. But the peak of romantic anticipation is Saturday, Feb. 14.

The alleged history surrounding Valentine’s Day—or Saint Valentine’s Day, rather—is actually quite interesting. Supposedly, around the latter part of the third century, Roman Emperor Claudius II wanted to impose military duty on all of his male subjects. However, not nearly enough men signed up as he would have liked. He saw their love and devotion to wives and fair ladies as a deterrent from signing up to fight in his army, so he outlawed new marriages and engagements altogether.

Valentine of Rome, a priest, realized how preposterous this law was. He saw it as his duty to unite people in love through the sacrament of holy matrimony, and defiantly continued performing marriages for young couples. Alas, Valentine was eventually discovered and nearly beaten to death with clubs before being executed. This supposedly occurred on Feb. 14, 278 A.D.

There is a very long process for a person to become a saint, involving petitions for sainthood, Godly intercession, and “miracles.” Over hundreds of years all these prerequisites eventually occurred in Valentine of Rome’s name, and his feast day became one honoring love and marriage: Saint Valentine’s Day. His skull now dons a floral crown and is on display in the Basilica of Santa Maria in Rome.

Though there aren’t many records about what really happened to prompt Saint Valentine’s beheading, the idea behind Valentine’s Day is a romantic one. I imagine two young star-crossed lovers sneaking into some dark, stone-walled medieval basement in defiance

of their oppressive government, promising themselves to one another for all eternity. There were probably candles and words exchanged in Latin and maybe some really exquisite Italian wine, for religious purposes, of course; a very Romeo-and-Juliet type ordeal.

Nearly 1,800 years later, though, Valentine’s Day means nothing in regards to what it was originally supposed to. Saint Valentine would roll over in his grave (or display case?) if he knew how this day, originally intended to celebrate his martyrdom for love in the face of governmental oppression, has become so incredibly hyper-capitalized.

I don’t plan on celebrating Valentine’s Day this year, and I’m not trying to impose some holier-than-thou type thing on anybody either. I’ve had valentines in the past, and it’s certainly nice to have a cup of coffee or eat a fancier-than-usual dinner with them and be aware how much you appreciate one another’s company on this day. I simply think it’s important to be mindful of what we’re giving in to if we do celebrate, in any capacity.

One only needs to visit the nearest department, drug or grocery store to see how rampant the capitalistic facade of Valentine’s Day is. Shelves are stocked weeks before the actual holiday with meaningless objects for you to buy, therefor proving your love to your significant other: cheaply made stuffed-animals produced in countries that likely don’t enforce ethical labor practices in all cases, and heart-shaped boxes of chocolate that are always a little disappointing.

These chocolates are often made with milk from cows on corporate industrial farms, who endure forced pregnancy to produce more milk, have their calves taken from them, and are injected with unnatural growth hormones; there’s really no way to know what you’re getting. Last spring, VICE News released a huge story titled “The Human Cost of Your Mother’s Day Flowers.” The story profiled a Colombian woman named Lorena whose only option for work was in the cut-flower industry. She made just \$333 every month, in what is a \$2.1 billion industry on just Mother’s Day; even more flowers are bought on Valentine’s Day.

Women, making up 70 percent of the work force, dominate the industry, and are blatantly paid less than men who are performing the same jobs. The chemicals on the flowers and 16-hour workdays take a huge toll on laborers bodies, but conditions are unlikely to change due to very minimal labor regulations. The VICE story went viral, but Americans will still spend over \$3 billion on flowers alone this Saturday, with 82 percent of it coming from Colombia.

A more abstract argument against Valentine’s Day is simply that there shouldn’t be just one day where you’re extra considerate of your significant other. A true love wouldn’t care if Valentine’s Day arrangements were made; they should show their devotion to each other in simple ways every day of the year. It’s plain to see that companies like Hallmark, Walmart, Target, and every gas station and grocery store you set foot in this week, will try to exploit the wonderful feelings you have for another human being to try and make a quick buck.

Some will call me a cynic—or merely spiteful—of that fact that I do not have a valentine this year. On the contrary, I’m happy for anyone lucky enough to share the wonderful experience of being in love with another person. I realize that this short column in a student-run campus newspaper isn’t going to have any effect on the \$17 billion industry that is Valentine’s Day. However, I do have hope that a student who reads this will perhaps be more mindful of the purchases they’re making on Saturday, and consider why they’re really celebrating in the first place.

Molly Kinney is a journalism student with a political science minor. When she is not writing, she enjoys reading, camping, art, music, and exploring new cities.

Pointless February holiday should be ignored entirely

Cristin Dempsey
cristin.dempsey@my.uwrf.edu

Everyone is abuzz this week with holiday fever, and the end of this week is Valentine’s Day, or in my opinion, the day to stay home and hide from the world.

While couples and antsy elementary school students around the country eagerly await a romantic date or the exchanging of cute cards with their class, the singles are waiting for Feb. 15 so they can buy their discounted chocolate. The actual holiday is pretty pointless. Many people may argue with this simple opinion, but can you blame me?

First of all, Valentine’s Day is a shameless method for card, flower, and fancy chocolate companies to rack up some dough. Everyone has a birthday, and others celebrate anniversaries and graduations. There is no need to put aside a special day to buy two attached pieces of paper that will probably be lost in the closet by the next week anyway.

And who needs a bouquet of flowers? Giving your friend or significant other flowers on Valentine’s Day is like that parent at PetSmart two days before Christmas buying their kid a hamster: They don’t know how to take care of it, and it will be dead in two weeks.

In addition, why pick one individual day on the calendar to tell others, partner or otherwise, that you love them? Why can’t people just do that every day? Is it some subtle hint that the we should blatantly ignore, and run away from everyone on the other 364 days of the year? If that’s what you do anyway, like me, why can’t you do it on Valentine’s Day too?

If you do love a friend, family member, or significant other, telling them you love them should be a meaningful and honest experience. If you are not feeling it on Valentine’s Day, then Hallmark should not force you to lie. And, of course, the most obvious reason I have great disdain for Valentine’s Day is because I’m single and may or may not be a little bitter that putting aside a day for couples even exists.

I mean, if someone hasn’t aggressively confessed their love for you by now, will they in reality get to that by this Saturday? Don’t hold your breath. I’m prepared for the sappy Facebook posts with pictures of flowers and the captions: “Aww, my boyfriend is so sweet!” or “Look at these flowers he got me!” or “Oh my gosh, I love you so much babe!”

Even when I see the loads of sap appearing on my news feed, I think: “Do I really want that?” Who wants a cliché, in-your-face, attention seeking relationship? Not me. It makes me realize that I may be single now, but someday I could find something better.

Valentine’s Day rolls around every year. It’s 24 hours of pointless money-seeking, single-shaming garbage. But, it does in fact only last one day. Then, suddenly, it’s over and life returns to normal (besides the chocolate discounts).

If Valentine’s Day gets you down like it does me, just remember that it’s one day, it will be over when you wake up, and won’t stay single forever, and even if you do, cats are really nice, low-maintenance animals.

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

‘Sponge Out of Water’ is an adequate SpongeBob sequel

Ryan Funes
ryan.funes@my.uwrf.edu

The titular undersea sponge is back after all these years for his second film adventure, and as a former fan of SpongeBob it leaves me with heavy thoughts as to how good it actually is.

Let’s start off with the plot: SpongeBob SquarePants is a talking sponge under the sea who works his loving job at the Krusty Krab making Krabby Patties: a highly regarded hamburger recipe. The restaurant is constantly attacked by fast food competitor and rival, Plankton, and his latest plan may finally put SpongeBob and the restaurant out of business—and, the secret recipe is gone.

No one knows how this could have happened other than a pirate by the name of Burger Beard (Antonio Banderas) who has found a magic book that can make whatever is written in it become true. He appears to have stolen this recipe for his own evil purpose and it will be up to SpongeBob and his friends Patrick, Squidward, Sandy, Mr. Krabs, and all the teamwork they can muster to bring order back to their atoll.

I find myself a bit conflicted when reviewing this film because SpongeBob has changed very much since its first years up to 2005, when the first film came out. Despite getting mixed reviews, it was considered an amiable addition to the television series. It was also the end for creator Stephen Hillenburg’s era on the show. Like any cash cow, it’s not enough for it to come of age and die, but rather milk it until it’s dry.

As new producers and writers were put to the series afterwards to continue it and brought it into a new creative direction. Put succinctly, the jokes got lazier, the plots became more ludicrous, and the characterizations changed. Gone was the man-child sponge and in came the full blown kid that few adults could find interest in.

That kind of infantile direction with SpongeBob has put many people off from it today. This kind of direction follows in the film, but it’s not entirely unsalvageable.

Right off the bat, this movie is weird. It’s the weirdest thing SpongeBob has ever put out and that’s saying a lot considering the nonsense they’ve put in later seasons. Futuristic dolphins, psychedelic kiddie-land sequences, and a fourth act in CGI that includes superpowers is a short list of things the creators do with this film. I admit this can feel alienating to a lot of people, but in an odd way it’s of one of the its saving graces.

Like its protagonist, the plot has holes in it, such as the time-travel element that’s dropped fast and magic elements that feel thrown in for convenience. The weird content they throw at you is almost refreshing though, considering how little the creators have done with its television series. In more recent times, perhaps merely making a film with bigger stakes at play gives a creative boost to the creators. And in this film, just enough to make this film decent.

In the end, “Sponge Out of Water” is harmless enough for kids despite continuing a standard that I don’t appreciate. Nickelodeon Studio’s animation, especially during the land scenes, is acceptable, enough humor to not feel bored, and the voice-acting is still good. Banderas shows some talent by acting cartoonish as the animated characters which, thankfully, makes his lines somewhat enjoyable.

I will still groan for the days when SpongeBob was still more than a kid’s show. However, this film does not dampen my mood too much. There is a method to its zaniness, it manages to be engaging, and the fourth act gets exciting with action. If you’re craving harmless animation, SpongeBob can be your fix. For those wishing for return of the good times, unless if you are curious, I’d say give it a pass.

Ryan Funes is a junior at UW-River Falls majoring in journalism with a minor in art history. In his personal time he enjoys all facets of popular culture, discussing the influence of the media, and desperately trying to find the chance to sing a drinking song with all his friends.

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