

SPORTS, PAGE 7 UWRF softball team places second at WIAC tournament, Perkins coaches last game.

NEWS, PAGE 3

UW-River Falls will see a decrease in international students in the next academic year.

ETCETERA, PAGE 5 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' entertains.



University of Wisconsin Control Contr University of Wisconsin

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UW-River Falls student found dead

Hayden Bosch

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Chancellor Dean Van Galen announced in an email to the campus community that UW-River Falls junior Robert "Bobby" Sontag was found dead along the Kinnickinnic River Monday, May 4.

Sontag was last seen at 2 a.m. on Friday, May 1, and was not reported missing until Sunday afternoon.

An investigation swiftly began after he was reported to be missing on May 3, and around noon on Monday, May 4, officials scoured the banks of Lake George as well as the Kinnickinnic River, in which Sontag's body was eventually discovered and recovered.

According to a phone interview with River Falls Police Department Chief of Police Roger Leque, Sontag was initially identified by a wallet found containing his ID which was discovered on the body.

Sontag was a 20-year-old student from Shafer, Minnesota. He was majoring in dairy science at UWRF.

Before his death, he was last seen around the 400 block of South Main Street (around the area of the local Dairy Queen and Junior's Bar & Restaurant).

He and a friend were walking home after a night of drinking and they went their separate ways. Two days later, at roughly 3 p.m., Sontag was reported missing to the River Falls Police Department.

Sontag had a past that involved underage drinking. In November of 2012, a police report revealed that he had been caught and fined for drinking in the then-open Prucha

According to Leque, police are possess alcohol despite being un-

"This is a tragic situation, I want to emphasize that," Leque said. "But because he was underage, we are looking to find out how he got alcohol and from where."





Photos courtesy of River Falls Police Department

UW-River Falls junior student Robert "Bobby" Sontag was found dead along the Kinnickinnic River on May 4.

Authorities are attempting to ascertain which bars Sontag visited prior to his disappearance. Leque declined to discuss exactly how much alcohol was found to be in Sontag's body, but did acknowledge that it was there.

Sontag's death is one of several which have occurred in the past under similar circumstances in the Midwest. Reports of students drinking and drowning have been reported at numerous universities including UW-Eau Claire and UW-La Crosse, the University of Minnesota and St. Cloud State.

"There is no information to indiinvestigating how Sontag came to cate that would be the case," Leque said in regards to a question about the possibility of the case being a

Funeral arrangements already have been made. The funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, at the Chisago Lake Lutheran Church in Lindstrom, Minnesota. The visitation will be from 4-8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, at the Grandstrand Funeral Home in Lindstrom.

According to a family member, shirts are also being sold to commemorate Sontag. Each shirt costs \$15--\$10 of which will be given to the Sontag family. They may be viewed and purchased at http://bit. ly/1Rev49T.

For people strongly affected by Sontag's death, UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services may be accessed for free at Hagestad Hall. Counseling Services can also be reached by phone at 425-

Sontag is preceded in death by his uncle Robert S. Bahnemann. He is survived by his parents Steven and Lisa; siblings Jill, Sara and Mark; and grandparents Richard and Shirley Sontag, and Milton and Mary Ann Bahnemann.



Photo courtesy of the "Bobby Sontag Strong" fund T-shirts can be purchased to help the Sontag family.

#Falcon5K fundraiser exceeds lofty expectations

Carmella Everhart

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An overwhelming number of people donated money to support the #Falcon5K, the first all-day, online fundraiser at UW-River Falls, hosted on May 1 by the UWRF Foundation committee.

The goal was to raise \$5,000 through online donations in just one

By the end of the day, the #Falcon5K received 167 gifts and raised \$18,585 in just 12 hours.

All the donations go toward the Falcon Annual Fund, which supports UWRF strategic initiatives such as academic programs, classroom and laboratory instruction, and grants to improve the student experience, according to the UWRF website.

UWRF Foundation Annual Giving Coordinator Sarah French said that the money raised will directly benefit the university in numerous ways.

"Those are dollars that we can spend today. That's what we really wanted with this was to raise money for that unrestricted fund because those are funds that we can use today," French said. "It will have a direct impact on the campus."

None of the contributions will be used for regular operating purposes of the university or the Foundation, according to the UWRF website.

The idea for the event spawned from other universities' successes with online fundraisers.

In the past, the UWRF Foundation hosted other types of fundraisers but never attempted to raise a certain amount of money in a single day like this.

The event was developed by French as a way to promote support for UWRF. It was hosted completely online with the help of social networks.

The goal was to raise \$5,000 through online donations in just one day. By the end of the day, the #Falcon5K received 167 gifts and raised \$18,585 in just 12 hours.

French said a goal of doing an online fundraiser was to reach young alumni (graduates of UWRF in the last decade) because they're the fastest growing and biggest population of alumni and online is the best way to reach out to them.

"We really wanted to engage with those young alums and keep them engaged with their campus and their alma mater and just thought this might be a fun way to do it," French

"Power hours" were spread out throughout the day to encourage more people to donate and win

According to the #Falcon5K

website, people could give multiple times throughout the day to maximize the potential to win prizes and

The minimum amount for each

gift was \$5. Donations were matched or doubled during power hours and donors' names were entered to win prizes such as an iTunes gift card, a Falcon sweatshirt, tickets for two to the VIP Room at Ramer Field for a 2015 Falcon football game and

During each specific power hour, every donation was matched by many sponsors, including First National Bank, the UWRF Alumni Association, and Foundation board member Greg Wheelock and spouse, Donnette, according to the #Falcon5K website.

Research and Engagement Specialist Jennifer Moore said the generous giving was exciting for a new event, especially during a financially challenging time.

"We had great results. People giving multiple times throughout the day and definitely exceeding our expectations and just really making it very fulfilling for us," Moore said.

According the UWRF website, campus employees contributed 42 percent of the gifts, with an average UWRF employee donation of \$40.50. The statistic shows the dedication that employees have to the

"It was huge; it was really great to see faculty support," French said.



Carmella Everhart/Student Voice

Research and Engagement Specialist Jennifer Moore and UWRF Foundation Annual Giving Coordinator Sarah French celebrate their success coordinating the #Falcon5K.

Moore said that 25 percent of the day's donors were young alumni and there were even some new donors, which Moore said was rewarding to see names of people they knew while they were students at UWRF and are now able to give back to their institution.

"It was one of those opportunities where teaming up together, being able to use social media, being able to use, you know, the other mediums that we hadn't explored before for a fundraising tool was really great for us," Moore said.

After receiving feedback throughout the event and learning from this experience, Moore said that this is definitely the future of annual giving.

"I think this is really the mark right now for the direction that annual giving is going in terms of online giving and really focusing on making a day of having an obtainable goal that people can be a part of," Moore said.

French said they definitely want to do a similar event next year.

News briefs:

UWRF spring commencement date set for Saturday, May 16

An expected 682 bachelor's and 80 master's students will participate in commencement ceremonies at UW-River Falls on Saturday, May 16. Total graduation applications total 941, but not all chose to participate in the ceremony.

Two ceremonies will be held at the Knowles Center. The first begins at 9:30 a.m., and includes graduates from the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, the College of Business and Economics and the College of Graduate Studies. The 2 p.m. ceremony includes graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Professional Studies.

Chancellor Dean Van Galen will preside over both ceremonies and confer degrees. Graduating senior Hannah Vanden Wymelenberg, a music education major from De Pere, Wisconsin, will sing the national anthem and the UWRF pledge song at both ceremonies.

UW System Regent John Behling, Faculty Senate Chair David Rainville and Student Senate President Anthony Sumnicht will all offer congratulatory messages to the candidates. Animal and food science Professor Gary Onan, the 2015 Distinguished Teacher, and John Butler, the 2015 Distinguished Alumnus, will be recognized during the ceremony.

For more information, contact the UWRF Registrar's Office at 425-3342.

Two students receive Ranee May Dairy Internship Awards

The UW-River Falls animal and food science department has selected Leah Granlund of Blair, Wisconsin, and Mariana Scoqui Guimaraes of Sao Jose do Rio Pardo, Brazil, for the Ranee May Dairy Internship Award.

Ranee May, who retired from UWRF as Dairy Plant manager in 2011, in conjunction with the animal and food science department, established a fund to support students undertaking academic internships in the UWRF Dairy Plant.

Granlund is a dairy science major with a food processing technology minor and will be a senior in the fall. She has considerable experience with dairy cattle which when coupled with this internship will give her a top-to-bottom industry perspective as she seeks employment as a quality assurance manager for a dairy plant upon graduation.

Scoqui Guimaraes is a senior at the University of Campinas spending a year at UWRF as a member of the Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program. She is pursuing a food engineering major at her home institution and hopes to adapt U.S. dairy technology to many unique processing situations that arise in her home country.

Both students will identify learning outcomes for their internship experience, and gather, analyze, and interpret data addressing some real-world dairy manufacturing problem under the guidance of Michelle Farner, current manager of the UWRF Dairy Plant.

The students will acquire a minimum of 400 hours of inplant training and work experience focused primarily on cheese and ice cream manufacture. Dairy industry manufacturers have consistently indicated a substantial need for previous hands-on experience among the individuals they hire into middle-management positions within their plants.

Emeritus Faculty Associate May remains very active in the Midwest dairy industry. She conducts numerous training workshops regarding the manufacturing and food safety aspects of dairy processing and is highly regarded as a consultant by dairy plants throughout the region.

For more information, email gary.onan@uwrf.edu or call 425-3704.

UWRF named a top university for professional sales education

UW-River Falls has been recognized, once again, by the Sales Education Foundation (SEF) as one of the "Top Universities for Professional Sales Education" for 2015.

Programs acknowledged in this way are noted by SEF as the best schools for preparing students for careers in professional selling and helping to elevate the sales profession.

Now in its second year, the professional sales program in the College of Business and Economics at UWRF includes a newly-constructed state-of-the-art Sales Lab in South Hall that features video and audio recording technology for use in the classroom as well as a Center for Sales Excellence.

Ten students are currently enrolled in the business administration-marketing major, professional sales emphasis, and 42 students this past year have taken relationship selling, the

sales course that has been offered thus far.

SEF emphasizes that sales education is essential for the success of all business students. While employment rates remain flat for recent college graduates, top sales programs average 92 percent job placement for their students (within three months of graduation).

Research shows that approximately 50 percent of all graduations.

Research shows that approximately 50 percent of all graduates with a business degree will enter the workforce in a sales-oriented role. Sales graduates report their career satisfaction at over 77 percent. Starting salaries for professional sales representatives average over \$56,000. Students from sales programs average 2.8 job offers before graduation.

For information on partnership opportunities with the UWRF professional sales program, contact Kilic at 425-3335 or ozcan.kilic@uwrf.edu. To learn more about SEF, visit www.salesfoundation.org.

UWRF students shine at UW System URCA Symposium

Two UW-River Falls undergraduates received outstanding presentation awards at the 14th annual UW System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URCA) held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on April 24.

Senior Ryan Ruegsegger of Monticello, Wisconsin, received an outstanding presentation award for his project, "China's Dairyman," and Senior Joshua Gustafson of Minocqua, Wisconsin, received an outstanding presentation award for his short film, "How to Horror: The Differences between American and Japanese Horror."

Both Ruegsegger and Gustafson developed their projects through a course-embedded research assignment in Associate Professor Lissa Schneider-Rebozo's global perspectives "Modern East Asian Literature and Cinema" course.

There were more than 650 undergraduate presentations at the symposium this year (breaking the prior UW System record of 450) and only 15 awards were given.

For more information, call Schneider-Rebozo, UWRF director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity, and associate professor of English, at 425-3903 or email elizabeth.schneider-rebozo@uwrf.edu.

UWRF alumnus named Distinguished Agriculturalist

Jim Holte, president of the Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation (WFBF), was honored as the 2015 Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist by the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) at its 49th Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet on April 23.

Holte is serving his third term as president of the WFBF and was recently elected to the American Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors.

His involvement with the WFBF began with the young farmer program, which led to a stint as county board president and eventually to his election to the WFBF Board of Directors in 1995, representing Northwestern Wisconsin.

Holte formerly chaired the Wisconsin Livestock Siting Review Board, served on the boards for Growmark, Inc. and Leadership Wisconsin, and served as a citizen board member for the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. He is also a past president of the Wisconsin Beef Council, a graduate of the Wisconsin Rural Leadership Program and in 2005 he was named a Wisconsin Master Agriculturist.

Holte owns Riv-r-vale Farms in Elk Mound, Wisconsin, where he raises 350 to 400 head of beef cattle and grows corn, soybeans and alfalfa on 460 acres. His great-grandfather settled in the area in 1884. Locally, he served 18 years on the Elk Mound School Board and remains active at the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

"Jim's background and experience in agriculture, combined with his service to others in the industry, as well as his local community and beyond, make him an outstanding recipient for this award," said Dale Gallenberg, Dean of CAFES, during the award presentation.

At the Scholarship and Awards Banquet, Holte, a 1975 UWRF graduate, shared with the many current students in the attendance. Holte was presented with a framed copy of the charcoal sketch of his portrait that now resides in the Agriculture Hall of Fame in the Ag Sci building on campus, along with the other honorees.

The Wisconsin Distinguished Agriculturalist Award was established in 1970 to recognize individuals who have provided leadership, service and other contributions to the broader agricultural community. For more information, call 425-3535 or visit www.uwrf.edu/CAFES/Awards.cfm.

DoTS adds two new services

The UW-River Falls Division of Technology Services (DoTS) have implemented two new services to campus, "Of-

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Thursday, April 30

A bicycle was stolen near Crabtree hall.

Saturday, May 2

- An underage alcohol report was filed out of Grimm Hall at 2:50 a.m.
- A property damage report was filed concerning a cut tire in O Lot.

Sunday, May 3

• A fire alarm sounded in Grimm Hall at 5:30 a.m.

Monday, May 4

- At 7:45 a.m. fraudulent credit card use was reported at a campus pay lot.
- A vandalism incident report concerning graffiti at Grimm Hall was filed at 2:15 p.m.

Editor's note:

Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and River Falls Police Department incident reports.

fice 365 OneDrive for Business" and "Skype for Business." The two services have been active since May 5.

OneDrive for Business is an Office 365 cloud storage service that is available to all students, faculty and staff at UWRF. It's a data storage location where you can save, sync and share your work files. This service is available on and off campus from a variety of devices (computer, tablet, smartphone, etc.). Find out more at https://technology.uwrf.edu/TDClient/KB/ArticleDet?ID=5486.

Skype for Business (formerly Microsoft Lync) is a communication and collaboration platform that provides instant messaging, presence, voice and video calls and online meetings. You can communicate with UWRF students, faculty and staff who are signed into Skype for Business, personal Skype or Lync Online. This service is also available on and off campus from a variety of devices. Find out more at https://technology.uwrf.edu/TDClient/KB/ArticleDet?ID=5355.

UW System public authority proposal dies in legislature

The co-chairs of the Wisconsin State Legislature's Joint Finance Committee have announced that Gov. Scott Walker's proposal to turn the UW System into a public authority will not be passed this year.

Debate will continue on Walker's plan to cut \$300 million from the UW System, a measure that 70 percent of Wisconsinites oppose. This announcement comes after months of statewide bipartisan opposition to the public authority model and the UW System cuts.

Students, parents and alumni have all voiced concerns over the tuition hikes that would likely occur if both measures were to pass. In response to the failure of Gov. Walker's public authority proposal, College Democrats of Wisconsin Chair Phoenix Rice-Johnson released the following statement.

"The failure of Scott Walker's public authority proposal is a victory for every young Wisconsinite who called their legislators, signed a petition, and braved the cold to attend a rally over the past several months. Now, we must seize the momentum and continue our efforts to save our UW from Walker's harmful cuts," Rice-Johnson said. "Any legislator who opposed public authority in fear of higher tuition should be equally appalled by the financial aid cuts, program cuts, faculty layoffs, and tuition hikes expected if \$300 million is slashed from our state universities. I applaud the legislative Republicans who reached across the aisle to stop public authority. In the next few weeks, I hope to see the same level of bipartisan cooperation and concern for students when the legislature decides the fate of the UW System."

Survey says youth e-cigarette use triples from 2013 to 2014

The new 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey (YTS) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that more youth in the U.S. are using e-cigarettes than any other tobacco product, including conventional cigarettes.

The CDC's survey also shows that e-cigarette use by high school students rose from 4.5 percent in 2013 to 13.4 percent in 2014—an increase of around 1.3 million more e-cigarettes users in just one year. The study also found that e-cigarette use increased substantially for middle school students—from 1.1 percent in 2013 to 3.9 percent in 2014 (equating to roughly 300,000 additional e-cigarette users in just one year).

The findings of the National YTS are similar to those by the 2014 Wisconsin YTS, which reported that 8 percent of Wisconsin high school students use e-cigarettes.

"These results are concerning, especially since nicotine is known to be harmful to adolescent brains," said Dianne H. Robinson. "As a public health professional, it's frustrating to see the progress we've made in reducing youth and adult tobacco use be threatened by the increasing popularity of these unregulated products."

The Western Wisconsin Working for Tobacco-Free Living (W3TFL) coalition states that heavy television and radio advertising as well as fruit and candy flavors may be contributing to the higher youth e-cigarette usage rates. Under federal regulations, conventional cigarettes cannot be advertised on television or radio and cannot include flavors with the exception of menthol.

E-cigarettes produce an aerosol that may contain harmful components like nicotine, ultra fine particles, heavy metals, and formaldehyde. E-cigarettes remain unregulated, making it impossible to know what users and bystanders are exposed to

when they are in use. E-cigarettes are not approved by the FDA as an effective cessation device.

The Pierce County Health Department encourages to-bacco users to call the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line for free help at 1-800-QUIT NOW. For more on local tobacco prevention and control efforts visit www.w3tfl.org.

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Students should seek help for substantial stress levels

Katie Galarno

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A significant number of college students around the country are struggling with mental health issues including depression and anxiety, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Nationally, 25 percent of adults between the ages of 18 and 24 have a diagnosable mental illness. Additionally, 75 percent of lifetime cases begin before the age of 24, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Jessica Conklin is a UW-River Falls sophomore and the social and marketing coordinator for UWRF Active Minds, a student organization that aims to remove the stigma around mental illness. She said that she is not surprised by that statistic. "It shocks me, but it doesn't

shock me," Conklin said. "A lot of people don't like to open up about it so it shocks me in that number, but it doesn't shock me that the number is that big."

Nationally, 25 percent of adults between the ages of 18 and 24 have diagnosable mental illness, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Jennifer Herink, a licensed professional counselor at UWRF Counseling Services, explained that a lot of individual factors go into one's struggle with mental illness, but there are some common concerns faced by college students.

"Coming to college, it's challenging to have all those new expectations and requirements on their life and being able to juggle and balance different things like school and friends and homework," Herink said. "Things are different in college as far as studying, so you have to adapt to that. Sometimes that's when mental health will spike with

In the healthy minds survey published by Student Health and Counseling Services in 2012, 49 percent of UWRF students reported feeling overwhelmed by everything they had to do in the last two weeks of classes.

stress."

Conklin said that she struggled when she first came to UWRF. She said that being on her own for the first time and being four and a half hours away from home was overwhelming, but she sought help and it made a big difference.

Unfortunately, students don't always seek help. Nationally, 12 percent of college students received treatment for depression and 14 percent for anxiety in the past year, compared to the 20 percent of students at UWRF who did the same.

Conklin said she believes that the stigma surrounding mental health is a big part of why some students may be hesitant to seek help. In the healthy minds survey, 50 percent of UWRF students said that they believed that most people see seeking treatment for mental health as a sign of personal failure, while 97 percent said that they would accept someone who had received treatment as a close friend.

If a student does make an appointment with Counseling Services, Herink said that the first step is a meeting with Assistant Director

of Counseling Services Jennifer Elsesser or another counselor. During the meeting, the individual needs of the student are assessed and the student will be referred either to a counselor on-campus or a specialty counselor off-campus. According to Herink, it takes less than two weeks for a student to be seen by a counselor after the initial appointment.

For students who are feeling stressed out, Herink suggested talking to family members and making lasting friendships. She also suggested being active on campus and reaching out to people, along with regularly exercising and getting enough sleep.

Student Health and Counseling Services expect to have updated survey data available on its website before the beginning of the fall se-

As university tuition costs rise, so does student debt

Molly Kinney

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With graduation quickly approaching, many UW-River Falls seniors are beginning to consider how they're going to start paying off their student loans, a small part of the national student debt crisis.

The crash of the housing market in 2007, along with the \$800 billion bailout of Wall Street banks, took a huge toll on the average American homeowner at the time. It has been a long road to economic recovery, but most people who were effected are starting to become financially stable again.

Young college graduates of America, though, are the first generation ever to be starting out their financial lives with more debt than their parents.

The Pew Research Center reported extensively on this problem in May of 2014. According to Pew Research: "Student debt is the only kind of household debt that continued to rise through the 'Great Recession,' eclipsing credit card debt

to become the second largest type of debt owed by American households, after mortgages. A record 37 percent of young households had outstanding student loans in 2010, up from 22 percent in 2001 and 16 percent in 1989. The median student debt owed by these young households was \$13,000."

UWRF students are part of the over 40 million students who have to consider this problem. UWRF financial aid data lists a number of statistics about how much students are being aided by either private or federal loans.

According to the data, about 75 percent of students receive aid of some sort, and are not paying for college completely on their own. Federal FAFSA loans are awarded to 33 percent of students, with the average loan being \$3,919 per year. Twenty percent of students are receiving state-aid, which on average is about \$1,702; the average loan total a UWRF student will have each year is \$6,747.

One of these students is Conor Rose, a part-time student with an undeclared major. With two full years' worth of credits completed, he is starting to think more about what is most economic for his situation and possible time frames of debt repayment.

"Finishing out my second year of school I have roughly \$10,000 in student loans. Several were from my time spent as a student at Inver Hills Community College, where I was a full-time student at roughly \$3,500 to \$4,000 per semester for three semesters," Rose said. "Now I have spent a full year at River Falls, and have spent roughly \$8,000 on school here. I hope to pay off my loans in three to five years after graduation."

For Rose, the decision to be a fullor part-time student came down to what he could responsibly take on

"The risk of committing myself full time to a major or field of study, on borrowed money, with the possibility of graduating and either not finding a job, or not using my degree, is the main factor at why I'm not pursuing a full-time education at

the moment," Rose said.

Additionally, Rose feels the pressures of having to meet the financial standards for the degree that will help graduates pay off that bill has large psychological impacts.

"Nowadays, as a 24-year-old part-time student, the reality of living on my own, working, studying full time and maintaining a social life is practically impossible, because unfortunately you need this thing called sleep," Rose said. "It's almost impossible for me to go to school full time, while satisfying my other basic human needs like say, happiness."

Likewise, Alysha Sis, a senior studying conservation, says she's come to terms with where she'll be at financially after graduating.

"I've already come to accept the fact that I'm going to be in debt for a while after I graduate," Sis said. "I have a lot of support though, which is nice. I keep getting [aid notifications] from Sallie Mae reminding me how much I owe, but my mom has told me not to worry and that I will thrive."

Throughout all majors offered at UWRF, most graduates will have employment at least related to their field upon graduation. Depending on starting salary, the exact percentage of repayment will vary from graduate to graduate, but federal loans must start being repaid within six months of graduating, or leaving school for other reasons.

While massive amounts of debt are looming over almost all students' heads, a positive mind-set is key in working towards a college degree. Students really don't have time to think about this until actually graduating and the debt statements start arriving in our mail-

"People don't like to think about the future in a negative way, and honestly who likes thinking about bills?" Rose said. "It is obviously a subject that should be talked about, especially as we all move closer to graduation, but I believe I'm like the average student and I stuff those worries and emotions away, saving them for a later day."

UWRF will see decrease in international students

Natalie Howell natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu

While the number of international students has more than doubled in the past five years, UW-River Falls may soon see a decrease, according to data compiled by the UWRF Office of Institutional Research.

Only 57 international students were enrolled during the 2010-2011 academic year, with a steady increase leading up to a total of 275 enrolled during the 2014-2015 academic year, according to the

This increase is due to a partnership between the university and the Institute of International Education. Through the Institute's Brazilian Scientific Mobility Program, there has been a significant increase of enrolled international students from Brazil that make up the largest number of international students on campus, according to Katrina Larsen, interim assistant vice chancellor for international education.

However, Larsen said, be-

cause of changes being made Connections is in Brazil, there will be fewer students able to travel abroad. which will cause a decrease of the number of international students on campus.

"We may have a little dip with the Brazilians going down, but we're working hard to kind of fill that with a different variety of students." Larsen said.

Gabriela Nogueira is a iunior food science student who is also an international student from Brazil who believes that studying abroad is very important.

"It's important because we are out of our zone of comfort, and you have to be far from your family, your friends, your boyfriend," Nogueira said. "It's difficult, but it's nice and we can learn a lot. It's a good exercise for the mind."

Larsen said that the university is working hard to partner with other countries through the Institute of International Education, as well as other programs in order to maintain the increase of international students on campus. Global

looking at partnerships with countries including Cuba, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, China, Mexico, Turkey and Kazakhstan.

Larsen also stated that UWRF has a strategic goal concerning global education and engagement, one of the three main goals of the university.

"By increasing the amount of students that come in to River Falls from abroad, we as a university learn so much more," Larsen said. "They enrich our campus and they know more about the U.S. when they go home."

Although there will be a decrease of international students enrolling at UWRF due to the changes in Brazil, Larsen said that she is confident that over time the increasing number of enrolled international students that has grown over the past five years will be sustainable through the pursuit of partnership with other countries and broadening the university's reach in the world.



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EDITORIAL

Loss of UWRF student reminds community how fragile life is

The UW-River Falls campus received some unfortunate news on Monday, May 4, as the body of missing student Robert "Bobby" Sontag was found in the Kinnickinnic River in the late afternoon.

It has been a tough semester as Sontag is the second UWRF student to die in the last three months. The campus also lost junior crop and soil science student Dylan Denk on Feb. 22.

By now, must of us realize just how quickly a life can end, especially when it's least expected. The news of Sontag's passing comes at a time when students should be rejoicing, whether it be because of graduating or simply finishing another semester at a four-year university, but yet again many of us are left questioning the fragility of life.

With two deaths in one semester, it might be time for the university to consider having a mourning event adopted at UWRF.

Monday night and Tuesday morning were extremely difficult for a lot of people, and it felt odd not having a campus-wide moment of silence or a vigil for the now deceased Sontag. The campus lost one of its own, and the university should be bonding together with a 20- or 30-minute event to remember the loss of a fellow Falcon.

The loss of Sontag also brings up an important issue that unfortunately plagues college towns: underage drinking.

Now, Sontag was 20 years old, which is certainly old enough to make rational decisions and certainly old enough to decide if drinking some alcohol about 10 months before your 21st birthday is a good idea.

Whether Sontag was 20 or 21 (or 45 for that matter) doesn't make change the fact that an inebriated individual has definite disadvantages when traveling alone in the dark at night.

Sontag's story is one that the UWRF campus will not soon forget. It is a story of sorrow and, inevitably, one of caution. His story should prove to be a lesson for all those who travel alone at night after a night of heavy drinking.

At this junction, there is no point in speculating what happened that night, that should be left up to the River Falls Police Department. The past is the past, he is gone and he will be missed; but, please be careful these next couple of weeks UWRF students. With the end of finals, or perhaps graduation, comes alcohol consumption.

Remember to drink in moderation and to support each other, don't leave friends alone at night. Have fun over the next week and try to remember that life is extremely fragile.

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The *Student Voice* is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published Fridays during the regular school year.

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Student Senate update: complications prevent athletics referendum from passing

Natalie Howell

Columnist

Student Senate had its last meeting of the semester on Tuesday, May 5.

During this meeting, Senate discussed several motions, including the "Recreation and Sports Facility Bylaw Amendment" and the "Athletic Allocable Segregated Fee," which was postponed at the previous Senate meeting in order for the motion to go through the correct channels before being voted upon.

As a follow-up from my column last week, I will talk about the Athletic Allocable Segregated Fee motion.

This motion, as I have previously written, was created to decide whether or not Senate should hold a referendum that the student body would then vote on to approve a \$3 per person, per semester allocable segregated fee in order to support the athletics department, including the women's tennis and golf teams.

This was in response to a potentially significant budget cut to the athletics department due to the proposed \$4.9 million budget cut to the university. Because of this, the athletics department and university leaders were faced with a difficult decision: should the department suspend the women's tennis and golf teams in order to stay within budget?

Thankfully, as of May 1, this was no longer the case as it was decided that the teams would not be suspended.

The decision on the motion then wasn't whether or not to financially support the women's tennis and golf teams, but to support the athletics department as a whole and have them spend the \$3 allocable segregated fee as the department sees fit.

There was a lot of discussion on this motion, one concern being that the motion was originally intended to save the two teams that were facing suspension; and with that not being the case anymore, many Senate members saw this additional segregated fee as unnecessary and possibly rushed.

The room seemed fairly split in regards to a vote until it was brought to Senate's attention by Brenda Irvin from the UW-River Falls budget office that fees "were supposed to be submitted to the UW System by March 31," and that "F50 makes it clear that athletics are meant to be funded by a non-allocable fees, [sic] this motion is against policy."

fees, [sic] this motion is against policy After learning this, Senate did not pass this motion.

Because of this, I left the Senate meeting very frustrated. I wasn't frustrated about the UW System policy or f50 regulations or the fact that the segregated fee wasn't passed, I was frustrated that this wasn't brought to Senate's attention sooner.

However, according to UW Board of Regents Policy F50, athletics can be funded via an appropriated allocable segregated university fee (SUF). Other UW System schools, such as UW-La Crosse, UW-Stevens Point and UW-Milwaukee, have allocable segregated fees for their athletic departments.

SUF funding cannot, however, be

used for salaries and contracts, which is another reason the referendum didn't pass.

A lot of athletes took the time out of their day to come to the Senate meeting again this week in support of the segregated fee, which was another positive.

I want to end this column by saying that is has been a really interesting semester attending and covering Senate meetings. Before this semester, I shared the same view that most students have: I knew nothing about how Senate worked or how much power they actually had, and I didn't really care.

But after attending my first meeting, I knew that being informed on what Senate is doing isn't only important, it's necessary. I hope these columns have helped you stay informed and I hope to see all of you at the first Senate meeting in the fall.

All information in this column comes from the May 5 Senate meeting and select documents from Senate's Org-Sync page

It's very important for all students to stay informed on what is going on with Senate. Senate meets at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in the Willow River Room of the University Center, and the meeting agenda can be found 24 hours prior on the Senate page.

To see the details of what was discussed last Tuesday, go on the Senate page and read through this week's minutes document.

The expressed viewpoints in this column do not express the views of the Student Voice staff.

Campus radio station lacks support from University Center

Collin Kottke

Columnist

On Monday, May 4, 88.7 FM WRFW's annual event "Can't Stop the Music" was held in the Uni-

versity Center. For those of you who don't know, WRFW is the radio station on the UW-River Falls campus; it broadcasts from North Hall.

While the radio station claims to be the "loudest organiza-

tion on campus," I'm certain that many people have never heard a word of WRFW radio. When I tell people that I have a radio show on the campus radio station, I always have to direct them to the television channel that has WRFW on it, channel 119, or tell them again that it's 88.7 FM.

I know that not everyone listens to the radio I can even

I know that not everyone listens to the radio. I can even recognize that the medium might be dying; a hard pill for this wannabe professional radio DJ to take, but it shouldn't be sheltered on this campus. The station should be heard in public spaces across the campus and not just across the street in North Hall.

The main hub that should be playing WRFW is the University Center. As of now, the only time that WRFW is head in the University Center is for the annual "Can't Stop the Music" event.

I'm not demanding that WRFW should be played all the time, but when student programming is on, that should be heard in the University Center.

WRFW almost always fills up the time slots from 1 p.m.midnight on Monday through Thursday. Not airing Wisconsin Public Radio or the BBC, which is what is on when student programming isn't, is understandable. News radio isn't the most exciting or pleasant thing to have as a background noise.

Let's compromise. We can start with WRFW Wednesdays in the University Center. On Wednesdays from 1 p.m. until close, the University Center should play WRFW for everyone to hear. Let's turn the Spotify and SiriusXM over to something our students are doing themselves. Sure, some of the music will be obscure, that is college radio, but that's the worst that can happen?

It's not like the radio will be filled with f-bombs. Nobody wants the FCC involved in any of their business.

This is a tight-knit community, both UWRF and the city of River Falls as a whole. Coming from a small town, I love the feeling of seeing familiar faces all over the place. Small, tight-knit communities also support each other in virtually everything they do.

When I'm at home and I'm on the commercial radio station that is 30 minutes from my actual hometown, I can't go anywhere without five people telling me they just heard me on the radio and how good of a job I'm doing. I've been on this campus two years and haven't heard anyone outside of fellow DJs talk about the radio station.

I don't expect the whole student body to go put WRFW as a preset in their vehicle, I don't even expect them to really care about what is going on at the radio station, but I do want them to be exposed to the radio station.

You can't stop the music, so just give in.



Andris Straumanis/Student Voice

Spring 2015 Student Voice staff from left to right: Assistant Editor Hayden Bosch, News Editor Emily Johnson, Etcetera Editor Jack Haren, Chief Photographer Carmella Everhart, Sports Editor Kris Bradley, Front Page Editor Natalie Howell, Viewpoints Editor Cristin Dempsey and Editor Jack Tuthill.

Cluttered 'Avengers: Age of Ultron' entertains fan base

Ryan Funes

Reviewer

The wait is over and fans can suit up again in their Marvel-print shirts to watch "Avengers: Age of Ultron" in theaters, which despite being weaker than its predecessor, still manages to be entertaining in every way.

The Avengers have faced many troubles themselves in the past years and are still fighting battles for the world to-date, and after claiming a lost artifact that slipped from them in the past, they feel primed to celebrate. But that celebration is against the backdrop of a new experiment in artificial intelligence that Tony Stark/Iron Man is working on, and wouldn't you know it, it's gone awry.

This new intelligence he's created, dubbed

"Ultron," has seen the destruction caused by the Avengers wherever they go and sees no solution in their actions, so with a new body and the help of two siblings (who may or may not be related to X-Men villain Magneto), he's going to rebuild the world in his image, and it'll be up to the Avengers to face new challenges and take down this new adversary.

Needless to say, I was among the people out there excited to see "Age of Ultron" by the sheer fact that the previous movie was so well done and because director Joss Whedon has not failed film-goers in making a good superhero film. This film didn't live up to all my expectations of what makes a good film, but I can see "Age of Ultron" as being a sufficient enough sequel to the previous blockbuster.

For starters, the writing of Age of Ultron works but is faltered by a few things. It does

get in all the character development for its characters, but some arcs by the end really didn't feel as fulfilled as the previous film. A lot of good points were going for all the Avengers, but not all of them felt satisfying in the end. This is especially noted for the new Avengers brought into the film, which don't get nearly enough lines or screen time to warrant themselves as good characters. But I think the acting from the main cast still holds the film until the end, satisfying even me.

As odd as it may sound, the action scenes also didn't feel as up to snuff with the previous film. There are plenty of good, creative and well-shot action scenes in "Age of Ultron," but some felt a little too crowded with the many heroes they tried to have in this film, and some scenes got a little disoriented. But the effects still complimented that and the characters well. As I had hoped, the vil-

lain Ultron in this film looks amazing, along with another big name android hero they introduce later. Visually, "Age of Ultron" feels like they polished up a bit from the last film, but just needed some work in the editing department.

To some, "Age of Ultron" may feel cluttered, and the plot to some may even feel choppy in areas and underdeveloped. When you see Ultron's master plan in this film, even you might be shaking your head in disbelief. But "Age of Ultron" makes good enough use of its properties and characters to deliver an incredibly entertaining two and a half hours of superhero action.

Though it may not need saying, I definitely recommend seeing this film. Marvel has itself another great chapter in its film universe and though it may stumble we may still invite ourselves in and love this great superhero resurgence that keeps on giving.

In the midst of graduation, four-year Voice columnist reflects

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

The strange yet fascinating thing about life is that you can't really plan it. It just, happens. And as I sit here writing to you one last time, one week away from graduation, I want you to know that that is a constant throughout our entire lives. You will always be one step behind from what life throws at you, and it may seem difficult to keep up. But the trick is to just go with it, to handle it gracefully and professionally, good or bad. Because one day, just when you thought you were getting the hang of it, everything will change.

A blue bicycle. Some steps. The combination could be deadly. Well not really, more like the combination could lead to stares and "obviously, she's a freshman." That is what I thought while sliding my way down the steps in front of Rodli Hall, during a crowded passing period, on my way to visit a friend from high school. While obviously I wish one of my first memories of college was not biking down some stairs, letting out an audible "wooooah!" as returning students enjoyed watching a freshman be a mess, I just remember that I had to learn somehow. Even in the least ideal situation possible, I learned my surroundings quickly, and realized that I am only human. Because, you know, most humans bike down stairs.

Now, you may be thinking: "So, what?

You were a stupid freshman. At least I only wore my lanyard around my neck." Well, when I look back on the immense embarrassment that I experienced, I realized that even though I didn't plan it, the experience gave me a story to tell and a nice crash start to my college career. Of course, this is due in part that I largely avoided wearing my lanyard around my neck, so I only suffered minimal embarrassment.

Despite the embarrassing freshman moments, we all come into college having these huge expectations, even if they are unrealistic. We all want to get perfect grades, go on many dates, get a boyfriend or girlfriend, and at the end of it all, get our dream job. I am no exception to these wishes; and I can tell you, they did not all come true.

In fact, hardly any of them came true. Even though the last few years have proved well academically, it was not always like that. I struggled in general education courses, whether the subject was rough (math for example) or the professor was less-than-impressed with my writing style, even though I judged it as the greatest thing I had ever written.

Unless, of course, I had the unfortunate experience of taking a math or science class and fully planned that B- or C, the same cannot be said for every class, even writing classes. Every average or terrible grade I received on a paper led me to believe that professional writing was the wrong major for me. On more than one occasion, the unexpected bad grade led me to thinking seriously

about switching my major.

But so what? What other major would I excel at and still have a chance at getting a career in? Probably many, but I never seemed to think of anything better than professional writing. So, instead of taking the easy way out and switching to an easier, less writing intensive major, I tried my hand at keeping up with life and just kept writing.

I didn't know what was ahead of me, but it got better and now I am graduating with honors...in professional writing. So, just because one grade has got you feeling discouraged, don't give up what you know you were meant to do.

I feel like part of the reason why my academic life at least improved is because my maturity level went up pretty dramatically over the last four years. I suppose I did expect that; that is a huge part of college. But what I didn't plan was how it would change my life, even in the course of four short years.

While I didn't lose my first friends at college, gaining maturity allowed me to also branch out and not be afraid to meet new people. What used to seem like a large, unfamiliar campus is now quite small, as I am constantly waving to people I pass. People come and go, and not every friend I made is still or will remain in my life. But, I will remember everyone I met. We all went through the college experience and encountered life's surprises, together.

Now that I am at the end of my college career, I realize that it is expected of me by

some to have my life planned and figured out. I have friends with jobs lined up, a wedding planned, and an apartment to venture to when it all takes off. I don't have any of that; while I have an idea of where I want to go, I still don't know exactly where I belong.

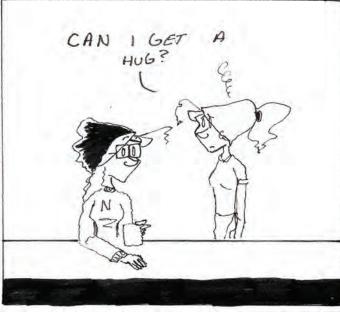
I admittedly sometimes feel like a failure not having my post-college life set up and ready to go, but it's important to slow down and realize that many other recent graduates don't know what they are doing either, and that's okay. At this point, I can't plan my life, I just need to see where I can go and what I can get along the way.

On October 18, 2011, I wrote my first column. And on May 5, 2015, I wrote my last. Did I plan to stick with the same column all throughout college? Actually, no. Many weeks, I experienced writer's block: a haphazardly thrown together jumble of words or a complete loss of ideas. I planned several times to take a break and gather my thoughts and focus solely on my schoolwork. But then I gave in and said, "well, I don't know, I might miss it, I guess."

And now that I cannot return, I will miss it. For four years, I walked the sidewalks of this campus, and each of those weeks, I wrote this column. It was just my life; I thought nothing of it. And now everything is about to change. But, I will still look back at it, years from now, no idea what I would have done without the opportunity to write to the students, faculty and community of River Falls.











Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

Be the first person to find Freddy's lost feather in this issue of the Student Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com

AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

The winner will be announced on the Voice's Twitter account: @uwrfvoice.

Now Playing: "Avengers: Age of Ultron"

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.

URSCA event highlights students' hard worl

Brooke Brokaw

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The spring Undergraduate Research, Scholarly and Creative Activity (URSCA) Day was held on April 30, and showcased the work of over 230 UW-River Falls under-

"URSCA is all-encompassing so that's definitely where the undergraduate research scholarly and creative activity comes from. It allows students from every discipline on campus to conduct a research project within their field of study," said URSCA Coordinator Elizabeth Jordahl. "It highlights skills and lets students do more hands-on learning on high impact practices outside of the classroom."

Research at the event was represented through posters, short films, art exhibits, PowerPoints, and interactive displays which were presented to students, faculty, staff, community members, alumni and family of undergraduates.

"We love to see them all come. That's a big part of the research process. It starts with finding your project, finding your mentor, picking your topic but it ends with dissemination," Jordahl said. "So they haven't officially completed until they've presented their research. So it's a great way for them to present their research and in such a big way."

According to students and staff involved with URSCA, there are many benefits including thinking outside the box and gaining both soft skills such as public speaking but also hard skills of actually conducting a research project.

"My involvement with URSCA has been a very positive one," said sophomore physics student Elliot Pachniak. "They provide the funding for the projects and we wouldn't be able to do half of the research we do without them. They're an integral part of how we get things

Each year, new majors and projects are also highlighted. This year Dance Theatre presented a live performance, social work majors presented their senior thesis, and short films which are usually only displayed on a large screen were also shown on two smaller screens with headphones.

In addition, new food items were also available for taste testing including a healthy cookie and new ice cream flavors.

Junior theater arts student Josh Gustafson created a short film exploring the differences between Japanese and American horror. His film was so impressive it even won outstanding presentation at the UW System Symposium.

"URSCA is an opening to show what you're made of, what you know, and to have fun with it," Gustafson said.

Senior horticulture student Brittany Rootes also presented a brand new project not only to URSCA, but to UWRF as well: the living

"The project was on the impact of the living green wall and seeing how installing it, in a classroom, affected student attitude, mood and academics," Rootes said.

In addition to presenting at UR-SCA Day on campus, students are also given the opportunity to attend conferences around the country. Recently, 82 students attended the National Conference of Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in Spokane, Washington.

"Students were able to see speakers, workshops, interactive presentations, as well as present their own research project and see the work of their peers from across the nation," Jordahl said.

Jordahl also sees attending conferences such as these as beneficial because then other people around the country will know about UWRF's program.

For students who maybe are not sure if URSCA is right for them, according to Rootes, there are a multitude of benefits.

"Involvement boosts your resume, and it looks excellent to employers," Rootes said. "It also says a lot about your character based on patience, reliance and work on a project. It teaches you a lot of skills such as grant writing, poster creation, research methods and learning about other disciplines."

For more information about UR-SCA, go to www.uwrf.edu/UR-SCA/.

Soils and crops team wins national championship

Rebecca Meidl

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This year the UW-River Falls crops and soils team took home, for the second year in a row, first place nationally at the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) judging competition.

Senior Logan Ahlers placed second and junior Nikki Stehr placed third overall individually in the competition.

Crops and soils is a club that allows students to be more active in their major.

When becoming an agriculture major, students can choose an emphases either in crops, soils or sustainable agriculture. They can meet others in their major and explore more than what they learn in the classroom.

"Judging is a way to take all that knowledge you learn in the classroom and apply it in a very hands-on competitive team format," said Coach Holly Dolliver, associate professor of soil science and geology.

Ten students make up the team but only four of them can compete. Although only four people can compete, all 10 students practice and do all the classwork together. After the four who can compete are chosen, another four are put on the alternate team. The team was up against 15 other teams and 70 students

Practicing for competitions, such as the NACTA, consists of "feeling dirt," according to Ahlers. But feeling dirt is a lot more complicated than it sounds.

"Soil texturing, studying colors and how things are and why

they are," Ahlers said.

The soils and crops club trains for 10 weeks prior to the competition, plus 10 or 15 weeks of class, then go through focused training for 10 weeks and then the event. One thing that is incredible about soils is that it varies state from state.

Although the soils and crops team head up a few days earlier to the competition, the team is at a bit of a disadvantage because back in Wisconsin the soil is frozen when the team tries to practice, where as in southern states it's not and they can just go outside and practice.

The UWRF team has a lot of indoor practices by collecting soils from all around and putting them in their indoor practice lab and students then have a chance to look at different soils even though its winter.

When it comes time for the competition, students are put into a pit, a five to six foot hole in the ground that the students

"We literally go into the hole and look at the wall," Ahlers

They aren't asked questions about the dirt but they have to state as much as they can about the dirt. Students need to be able to analysis everything about that specific soil. They state items such as structure, texture, what is it made of, how much sand is in it, what's the strength of it and finally they have to state the suitability.

Suitability refers to if the soil is suitable to build a house or to put a septic tank there or not. After that, they go through all the interpretations of the characteristics.

"They do that for every single layer that is present," Dolliver said

The way that the judging works for the NACTA is by get-

ting points. In order to get points students must describe the soil as best as they can and get as close as they can to the actual answer or description of that specific soil. The judges, who do this for a living, analyze the soil first then the students must match as closely as possible to the judges. This competition consisted of 920 points.

Ahlers, the club's public relations officer, was told about the crops and soil club from many of his classes and joined the club back when he was a sophomore. This year was his second time competing and he took second overall in the judging, just missing first by one point.

Going into this competition, the biggest worry that Ahlers had was that he had not done the homework on the area they were going to. Last year, when he competed, he was thrown for a loop because he had not seen the kind of soil he was judging before.

"My biggest concern was not being able to do what I knew I could do and what we all knew what we could do," Ahlers

Although this club is about learning and applying one's skills in the field, it's more than just that.

"It's just getting to know people and networking and the resume builder because it's really, really good on a resume," Ahlers said. "You can make friends in it and your friends are [the] people you're going to be in the field with and [the] people you're going to be in the same industry with down the road."

The soils and crops club is there to help further students who want to go into agriculture but it's not just for agriculture majors; anyone from any department can join this club.

keeping you up-to-date this summer on Twitter!

Thank you for another great semester!

Congratulations to all UW-River Falls Graduates!

UWRF will not cut women's golf and tennis

Sadie Horton

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With the proposed \$300 million budget cuts that were proposed by Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker looming over the UW System, everyone is wondering what is going to hap-

One of the things that was proposed as a possibility to help the UW-River Falls athletics department deal with these cuts was to suspend a team (or two) and the two teams that were discussed were the women's golf and tennis teams.

This possibility of losing a team comes after the school lost the swimming and diving team last

There is a set process to suspend

or terminate an athletics team at UWRF and part of that is having a town hall meeting to discuss what is going on so everyone can talk

Communication studies Assistant Professor Grace Coggio is the chair for the Faculty Senate Athletic Committee and she said that after the town hall meeting Chancellor Dean Van Galen got a lot of emails about the fact that the teams may be cut which made him meet with athletics representatives.

After the process was finished it was decided that the golf and tennis teams are not going to be cut.

"I'm glad for the sake of the students and the teams and for women, that female opportunities for sports was maintained at our university,

because I think that equality on this issue is important and women have worked hard for it and to just throw it away is not a good idea," Coggio said. "So I'm glad we have this equality that is maintained."

There are still budget cuts that UWRF is preparing for and there are still a lot of ramifications that are happening now and that are going to be happening, including the athletic department.

"The reality is that we are facing a budget shortfall, a huge cut and cuts are happening everywhere," Coggio said. "We are losing faculty, I know in our department classes are getting larger, we can't offer as many classes as we used to because they won't give us new hires. I know people who work in staff functions or janitorial functions or administrative positions, people are losing their jobs or if they haven't already. There are more cuts to come, this is not a finished process."

The process that decided whether the golf and tennis teams were going to be suspended shows the students that it is possible for their voices to be heard on administrative things or anything like this if they try to have it heard.

"Yes, students really stood up and got loud about this. Will they stand up and get loud when certain classes aren't offered, when classes start getting upward of 50 and 100 people in a class? So I love the passion and the momentum that was started about two athletic teams but my question to the students is will

you stand up when it is your academics that start getting affected?" Coggio said. "Because \$4.9 million is a huge cut to absorb and some decisions will need to be made so I hope that students stay engaged and speak up for their interests as they did over golf and tennis but hard decisions will need to be made and just speaking up doesn't necessarily get you what you want. It's a budget and the money gives out at a certain point."

Students need to stay active with the things happening on campus and make sure they speak up when they feel it is appropriate.

Softball team places second at WIAC tournament

Cooper Nelson

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The sixth seeded UW-River Falls softball team was able to reach the finals of the WIAC tournament, before losing to UW-Whitewater and receiving second place.

The team ended the season with a 23-22 overall record and a 7-10 record in the WIAC conference.

The Falcons faced off against the number one seeded UW-Eau Claire Blugolds in the tournament's first game. The Falcons were able to pull off the upset with a 1-0 victory.

Senior Abbie Morris batted in the Falcons' only run of the game with a solo home run in the first inning. Senior Brooke Lauritzen pitched the seven-inning shutout to get the win for the Falcons. Head Coach Faye Perkins said that being the lower seed may have helped the team.

"When you come in seeded number six, I think you have everything to gain and nothing to lose," Perkins said. "There was no pressure on the team, we were just glad to be there."

Next up, the Falcons faced up against UW-La Crosse and lost 9-6. Then the Falcons beat UW-Stout with a final score of 14-2.

In the semifinal game, the Falcons beat UW-Oshkosh 3-2 in the bottom of the eighth inning, when freshman infielder Callie Looft hit in the game-winning run.

The championship game against Whitewater was the last game of Perkins' career as head coach. Perkins has coached the Falcons for 22 of the last 27 seasons and it was an emotional experience for her.

"It was tough but it was better knowing we had made it to the championship game," Perkins said. "It was a great way to cap off my career."

The Falcons had a few players that were acknowledged with awards from the conference. Morris and sophomore outfielder Katie Thompson were both awarded with all-conference selections. Lauritzen received honorable mention.

Lauritzen was selected as the team's most valuable player. Morris and Thompson were the Falcon offensive players of the year. Senior catcher Amber O'Connell was the defensive player of the year. Senior outfielder Kati Stodolka received the most dedicated award and freshman outfielder Aiyana Ledwein received the most improved and inspirational spirit award.

When Perkins looks back at her career she is all smiles and is grateful that UWRF gave her the opportunity to coach the team.

She said that she is hoping to stay involved with the team, but said that it is time for a new coach to build their own legacy at UWRF, and she wishes them the best of luck with the softball team.

Perkins also mentioned that it was very poetic that the softball field that she helped get built early in her career is being torn down and a new one is being built with the Falcon Center project for the new coach.

"I feel fortunate that I've been able to coach here for 22 of the last 27 years," Perkins said. "It has been a fantastic career here at UWRF. I want to thank everybody for just making this such a great ride at UWRF. I couldn't of ask for anything better."



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications

Senior Brooke Lauritzen pitches against UW-Oshkosh. Lauritzen was selected as team MVP this week.

Two UW-River Falls student-athletes set school records at WIAC track and field championships

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The UW-River Falls men's and women's track and field teams competed at the WIAC Outdoor Championships on May 1-2 in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The championships took place over two days where both the men and women had good performances on each side. The men were led by two strong performances from junior David Paynotta and senior Jordan Crockett.

Paynotta continued his impressive streak of performances by breaking the school record in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.34. The time helped him place

second in the event. Paynotta also placed third in the 200-meter dash with a time of 21.22, which was a season best for him in the event. Paynotta knew before the event that he had to perform at his very best in order to do well at the championships.

"I did know that I would have to run personal best times to do well at the meet," Paynotta said. "Our conference is the best Div. III conference in the nation. There are a number of sprinters from our conference that are going to be participating in this year's national meet."

Paynotta was not the only one who broke a school record at the WIAC Outdoor Championships. Crockett broke the school record of 20.94. The time helped Crockett place second in the event. Crockett also placed seventh in the 100-meter dash. For Crockett, breaking the school record was an example of his hard work paying off.

"Before the season began I set some goals for myself and one of them was to hit a time in the 200-meter dash of 21.3," Crockett said. "Which I accomplished this weekend. As a senior it is a great feeling to see all of my hard work and dedication payoff."

Junior Daniel Borash and junior Matt Griffin both had season-best times at the meet. Borash placed sixth with a season-best time in the 5000-meter run with a time of the 400-meter hurdles with a season best time of 54.59.

Sophomore Sherahlynn Linkert had the best finish out of all the women. She placed fifth in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 1:04.37.

The women's 4×100-meter relay team placed sixth with a time of 49.38. The team consisted of Linkert, freshman Angie Reed, sophomore Grace Curran and freshman

Jacinta Roggenbuck. Junior Nicole Manteuffel placed eighth in the high jump with a leap of 5-2 1/2 which was a season-best

leap for her. "I think that my team performed to the best of their ability," Linkert

in the 200-meter dash with a time 15:32.54. Griffin placed fourth in said. "Everyone knew that this was the time to shine and to show their hard work off from the training we have been doing since the beginning. To compete at the WIAC is a great experience."

> Both the men and women placed eighth at the meet. The men had a score of 41 1/3 points while the women finished with 16 1/3 points.

The Falcons had two individuals who were named to the WIAC All-Sportsmanship team. Senior Anna Reimer and junior Matt Pechacek both were named to the team during the meet.

The men's and women's track and field teams will compete in the UW-La Crosse Eagle Open on May

GRADUATION Student Voice 8 pring 2015 UW-River Falls graduates

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