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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

September 18, 2015

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 102, Issue 1

## UWRF hosts 51st annual rodeo

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UW-River Fall’s Rodeo Club held the first performance of the 51st annual Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo on Friday Sep. 10, drawing over 3,000 attendees all weekend from over seven competing Midwestern colleges.

Hosting the rodeo has been a long tradition at UWRF. According to the UWRF College of Agriculture’s history page, the idea to start a rodeo club was conceived during the 1962-63 school year, resulting in the formation of the River Falls Collegiate Rodeo Association. The members soon realized they had much work to do, and set about finding a faculty advisor, starting promotions and advertising and finding the money and resources to build an arena to actually host the rodeo in.

With the help of faculty advisor Dr. Herhardt “Doc” Bohn, the student organization was able to do so, and the first annual UWRF Rodeo was held over two days, May 16 and 17, 1963, featuring over 10 events. The club only had seven competing members that first year, while this year more than 20 competed in the rodeo, with around 50 club members total.

Fifty-one years later, the rodeo took place once again in the same arena Bohn and the first rodeo club members built. The grass lawn parking lot of the university’s lab farm was filled for the last part of the

Saturday night. Every seat in the bleachers was taken and many attendants sat on blankets in the grass for a better view of the events.

Saturday night was the last of the three sections of the rodeo, termed the “short-go.” The first two parts of the rodeo, held on Friday night and Saturday afternoon, were referred to as “long-go” because all members

**Kara Korton, a freshman who studies elementary education, was one of the 3,000 people who attended the Rodeo this weekend.**



**A performer in the UWRF rodeo tries to stay on a bucking horse on Friday’s annual Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo event.**

of the team compete in two events. The last “short-go” on Saturday night is only for competitors who placed in the top ten of their events, receiving a chance to compete for the top spot overall.

Starting promptly at 7 p.m., a student from SDSU tied up a calf in an event called ‘calf roping,’ where the competitor rides a horse to lasso a

calf, and then proceeds to jump off the horse, flip the calf on its side and tie it’s feet together. The longer the calf stays tied, the higher the competitors score will be.

Each event section of the rodeo typically lasts about two to three hours, depending on how many contestants there are. Besides calf tying, the UWRF rodeo features many events: team roping; steer wrestling; goat tying; barrel racing, which always has the most competitors and bull riding, which is the most popular.

Kara Korton, a freshman who

studies elementary education, was one of the 3,000 people who attended the Rodeo this weekend.

“It’s a really cool thing to be able to go to on a Saturday night out of your normal routine... the team roping event was really cool and interesting to watch, and the goat tying, but I get all tensed up when they’re going to fall off!”

Mitch Devine was elected as UWRF Rodeo Club President last November, but only started riding bull’s in May. In preparation for the rodeo, Devine said the club plans all year to put it together and

worked overtime in the days leading up to make everything worked out smoothly.

“I’m so excited to have brought all these students together from across the Midwest for a rodeo; we’ve been working on it since at least April, but I probably put in about fifty hours just this week alone, making sure everything works out right” said Devine, who is a junior studying Agriculture.

The President of Rodeo Club also commented on how being a part of the club has taught him a lot aside from just rodeo organization.

“Being part of the rodeo club and team have taught me a lot about communication and a hard work ethic. You have to be able to effectively communicate with many different people going in 100 different directions.”

While most of the rodeo events are extremely dangerous and only done by tough young folk, one event had the crowd laughing hysterically: the mutton busting. The mutton busting event takes place before the final competitive events, and any child that wants to participate is called in to the arena. They’re given a helmet and taken into a pen where they climb onto the backs of sheep, wrap their arms around its neck and hang on for dear life as the sheep is let loose from its pen and into the arena. After everyone has a turn, the child who hung on the longest is deemed the champion.

The main event hosted by UWRF Rodeo club is, of course, the Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo, but the club meets throughout the year. They always try to attend the World’s Toughest Rodeo in the Twin Cities and do group building activities when they can; movie nights and rodeo practice get-togethers are common activities for the group. They have also participated in the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, mentoring small kids and showing them some of the basic rodeo skills. Anyone interested in rodeo club is encouraged to check out their website; you don’t need to be in an equine or agriculture studies program to take

## UWRF professors honored with excellence awards

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Three UW-River Falls professors were honored with awards of Teaching Excellence in 2015: Dennis Cooper, Professor Joe Rein and Mark Bergland.

Professor Cooper was the recipient of the 2015 Senior Keith Wurtz Award, Professor Rein was the recipient of the 2015 Junior Keith Wurtz Award and Professor Bergland was the recipient of the 2015 Paul B. and Robert Dykstra Faculty Excellence Award.

Each award was given based on nominations from colleagues and was accompanied by \$1,000. “I’m very gratified,” says Professor Cooper regarding his award. “It’s nice to be recognized for effort when you try and work hard at things.”

Cooper’s award, the 2015 Senior Keith Wurtz Award, is given for especially new and “innovative” approaches to teaching, according to the award description on the school’s website. Cooper expands on how he developed his current method of teaching and why he believes he was nominated for the award.

“I teach some difficult subjects,” he explains. Cooper remarks that these subjects are difficult for both students and himself. “I thought that these subjects needed to be taught...

I just set myself to the task of figuring out how to get it across. And so I developed or adapted techniques for engaging students and learning these things.”

One example is Cooper’s work in his class Applied Feeds and Feeding. It’s an animal science class which involved a significant amount of math. Cooper says that he adapted much of his grad school experience to the course, which initially avoided much of that material. Now, he says the course focuses on it until students can deal with it comfortably. “It’s not exciting, it’s not entertaining. The engagement part is just giving them enough practice, and making it about learning and not memorizing.”

Another example is Cooper’s creative approach to his Nutrient Metabolism course. He says that it has chemistry in it, which students find difficult due to its abstract nature. “I developed a technique based on what I call ‘scenarios,’” he says. “That is, rather than emphasize or memorize cellular processes...we develop scenarios, which are stories—it’s just following a carbon atom through an animal.” Cooper

thinks that this approach is more interesting. “It’s just having students explain what a carbon atom goes experiences as it goes through the body, and if they understand that... then I think they have a better understanding of how animals function.”

Professor Rein, who won the 2015 Junior Keith Wurtz Award, was awarded for a different kind of innovation in the classroom.

“As far as teaching goes, I’ve been doing a lot of collaborative work,” he explains. “I’m an English teacher, but I’m collaborating with what is now Stage and Screen Arts.” Rein goes on to say that, at first, his screenwriting course teamed up with the Stage and Screen department in order to bring scripts to life on the stage, and his collaborative efforts expanded from there.

“We had a course where the film students then filmed [the scripts], we had an acting course where the students were acting in these short films, and so we sort of collaborated to make these projects that wouldn’t have otherwise been possible through just one course.” He adds that he is now teaching the

writing section of a course which is creating a web series with a similar collaboration.

Rein’s initial reaction to receiving the award was surprise. “So many people are doing great things,” he says. However, he continues, “I felt, primarily, honored. It’s nice to be recognized. A lot of us do so much good work teaching in the classroom, and it’s not always those things that get noticed...It was nice being nominated by those around me. And it was just nice knowing that what I was doing in the classroom wasn’t just staying there, that other people were recognizing the work as well.”

Professor Bergland, who was awarded the 2015 Paul B. and Robert Dykstra Faculty Excellence Award, received it not for his innovation in the classroom but for his work on a project called Case It!, a project that he actually started 20 years ago, funded by the National Science Foundation.

“It’s a software tool that’s used for what’s called case-based learning,” is how he described Case It!. It uses personal examples to help students with their problem-solving skills, he explains. “It’s a molecular-biology computer simulation that I authored,” he says, but he didn’t do it alone. Karen Klyczek and Kim Mogen also significantly contributed to the project.

Case It! is scientific as well as personal in nature. “There is a series of cases that enable you to simulate common laboratory techniques and then use them for case-based learning in biology classes,” Bergland continues. He adds that many high schools are using Case It! now, because it allows them to do many activities virtually that would be much more expensive in reality.

“It was a lot of work, and it’s a real honor to be recognized for something like this,” Bergland says, and he continues to emphasize that he was not alone in the creation and realization of Case It!. Many people helped, he says, and he is “touched and honored” to receive the award.

After the award, each professor plans to continue to pursue his innovation or project. Regarding the award money, all three put it to practical use. Cooper, although he has bills to pay and a boat to fix, mentions a guitar that he would like to buy; Rein, who has three kids, would also like to get some books for himself; and Bergland discusses his dream of having a mobile version of Case It! and expanding its capabilities.

Cooper concludes, “The most rewarding thing is to hear back from students that say they were in vet school and that my course really helped them.”



# News briefs:

## New Bachelor of Science program

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents has approved a new undergraduate Bachelor of Science program in Agricultural Engineering at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Set to open in fall 2016, the program is the only one of its kind in a nearly 200-mile radius of UW-River Falls. Industry demand for more agricultural engineers in this rapidly growing region of the state was a key factor in development of the new program, with research indicating an eight to nine percent job growth rate in the field between 2010-2020. The program expects to enroll 15 students the first semester, with a goal of 73 agricultural engineering students on campus within five years.

The Agricultural Engineering program, offered through the UW-River Falls College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES), will align with key economic drivers of the state and this region. The program will enable UW-River Falls to reinforce its already strong partnerships with the region’s businesses, building an appropriate talent pool capable of contributing to the development, production, and support of new and innovative products for agricultural and off-road industries.

As UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen remarked, the approval of Agricultural Engineering will provide wonderful new opportunities for students and will have “very positive outcomes related to economic development and deeper domestic and international cooperative opportunities for UW-River Falls,” which already has fruitful relationships with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC).

Industry demand and student interest helped drive development of the new program, which will offer a high-quality degree in a field with high demand and solid job and graduate school prospects. The UW-River Falls Agricultural Engineering degree will be teaching-focused, student-centered, and industry-relevant.

Agricultural engineering is part of the Northwest Wisconsin Engineering Consortium (NWECE), a collaborative effort between UW-River Falls, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout to bring a range of engineering programs to western and northern Wisconsin. Students enrolled in any of the NWECE campus-based engineering majors will have flexibility to transfer general engineering credits between the campuses, leverage a greater variety of specific faculty talent and facility offerings, and benefit from the combined potential of increased exposure to a broader array of industry partners.

UW-River Falls is well-known and respected for the array of Applied Science programs in CAFES, and the new degree will run parallel to the existing undergraduate program in Agricultural Engineering Technology, though requiring higher-level mathematics, more theoretical work, and a focus on conceptual design. The new program is designed to meet accreditation requirements outlined by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), making graduates eligible to become licensed professional engineers.

“The Agricultural Engineering program represents investment in a significant opportunity for UWRF in helping meet an important regional economic development need,” said Dale Gallenberg, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences. “This is a logical next step for CAFES to add to our highly respected Agricultural Engineering Technology program. Together, the two programs will allow us to better partner with industry through education and training of quality students.”

“In practical terms,” said Joe Shakal, Associate Professor of Agricultural Engineering, “engineers may design the next generation of tractors or combines to be marketed by Case IH, while engineering technologists could be employed as test en-

gineers during the design and testing phases of the new machines.”

Many UWRF Agricultural Engineering Technology graduates are employed in this region by small and mid-size companies or local operations of national corporations. These same companies need professional engineers, but have difficulty attracting and retaining graduates of engineering programs from outside the region.

Terry Sizemore, Vice President of Engineering with Oxbo International in Clear Lake, said, “Oxbo is extremely pleased to hear that the UW Board of Regents has approved a new Agricultural Engineering degree for the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. We feel this program will further develop and prepare UWRF students for a rewarding and challenging career. As a global company with key engineering teams located in western Wisconsin, we look forward to partnering and collaborating with the faculty, staff, and students to ensure the program’s success.”

UW-River Falls is committed to the success of the new program. The campus investment includes funds to renovate and upgrade some of the 18,000 square feet of laboratory space in the Agricultural Engineering Annex and hire additional faculty and staff to complement the expertise of current faculty. Dedicated scholarship funding for qualifying students will also be made available.

Additional information about the new Agricultural Engineering program can be found at [go.uwrf.edu/agengineer](http://go.uwrf.edu/agengineer). For more information, email Shakal at [joseph.shakal@uwrf.edu](mailto:joseph.shakal@uwrf.edu).

## FBNRF to reissue all debit cards

First National Bank of River Falls recently announced the mass reissue of all customer debit cards.

October 1, 2015 is a nationwide deadline that will shift the risk of fraud liability when using debit and credit cards. To help decrease the risk of fraudulent activity for their customers, FNBRF has chosen to complete a mass reissue of all of their customer debit cards.

President and CEO Jeff Johnson commented, “First National Bank of River Falls gives the highest priority to the security of our customer information. This is a much safer card for our customers to use and helps protect both our customer and the bank from potential fraud.” The new EMV cards have an embedded chip that provides greater security when transmitting payment information for in-store purchases. This makes it much more difficult for a criminal to duplicate or “clone” a card.

The new FNBRF debit cards will start arriving the week of September 21st. “Even in River Falls, debit card fraud is a daily occurrence,” stated Vice President of Operations and Security Officer, Tom Pechacek. “We expect by sending new cards out to our customers now, they can activate them in advance of the busy holiday season when fraud typically increases.”

Not only will consumers see a change, but local businesses need to be aware of this deadline as well. “After October 1, if a business has not upgraded their credit card terminals to accept EMV cards, they are now at a risk to incur fraud losses,” added Pechacek. If a business is unaware or has not upgraded their processing system, they are encouraged to call their financial institution.

The First National Bank of River Falls is an independently owned and operated community bank founded in 1904. They are members of the Independent Community Bankers Association (ICBA), and the Wisconsin Bankers Association (WBA), with offices in River Falls, UW-River Falls, and Prescott.

Check out the Student Voice

online at uwrfvoice.com

# Writing Center ready for business

As of Monday, Sep. 14, the Writing Center opened to students for Fall semester.

All undergraduate and graduate students with concerns about papers are encouraged to set up an appointment with a tutor. Often walk-ins are welcome if tutors are not already assisting students.

Tutors are available to help with many parts of the writing process, like pre-writing, organization, writing, and revision. It is recommended that students bring in any information a professor has given pertaining to the paper. The Writing Center prohibits tutors to proofread, edit, or rewrite papers.

The Writing Center is located in Kleinpell Fine Arts 225 and is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday.

For more information, you can visit [www.uwrf.edu/ENGL/Writing-Center](http://www.uwrf.edu/ENGL/Writing-Center) or call 715-425-3608.

## UWRF to host piano festival

A Piano Festival & Competition will be hosted by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Friday and Saturday, Sept. 25-26, in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. All festival concerts are free and open to the public.

The festival will bring together well-known local and international artists to perform concerts, give master classes, and conduct workshops on an array of topics for piano students and teachers. All levels are welcome.

Skilled piano students are encouraged to enter the Saturday morning competition for the opportunity to take a master class with Professor Alexander Braginsky and to play at the Final Concert at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 26 in Abbott Concert Hall on campus.

The festival will provide the opportunity to work closely with such distinguished musicians as Alexander Braginsky, Denis Evstuhin, Laura Caviani, Laura Edman, Gail Olszewski, Tully Hall, and Ivan Konev.

The piano festival was created to develop musicianship and promote artistic growth in piano students of all ages, and to inspire greater levels of curiosity and commitment to piano.

Events include:

Friday, Sept. 25, noon, Free Coffee Concert with Laura Caviani, in Abbott Concert Hall.

Friday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m., Free Opening Concert with Denis Evstuhin, in Abbott Concert Hall.

Saturday, Sept. 26, 6:30 p.m., Free Final Concert in Abbott Concert Hall, following a student competition, workshops, movie, and master class throughout the day.

For a complete festival schedule, registration, and competition requirements, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/MUS/Piano-Festival.cfm>

For additional information, call the UWRF Music Department at 715-425-3183 or email [ivan.konev@uwrf.edu](mailto:ivan.konev@uwrf.edu).



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Buzzed driving is drunk driving.

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U.S. Department of Transportation

### River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

- Tuesday, Sept. 1 through Tuesday, Sept. 15**
- Eight cases of theft, one of which was vehicle theft, were reported between these dates. Six of these thefts took place along Cascade Ave.
- Saturday, Sept. 12**
- A case of Vandalism and a case of underaged alcohol consumption occurred in tandem with the above-mentioned vehicle theft at 800 E Cascade Ave.
- Friday-Saturday Sept. 4-5**
- Cases of underaged alcohol consumption were reported on these dates at 595 Spruce St. and 720 Blue Stem Path.

Editor’s note:  
Information for this section is taken from  
University of Wisconsin-River Falls Police Department  
crime log.

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# David Smith Football Stadium to be rededicated

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A rededication ceremony for the David Smith Football Stadium at Ramer Field will be held on Sept. 19 before the first UW-River Falls home football game of the season.

“The rededication is a symbol for our city. It’s that kind of seminal moment that something good has happened. Among all the strife of the budget and different things in the last year... it’s been a tough year on campus. So this is a way to kind of put a smile on the face and celebrate...that there are good things that are still being accomplished. And it’s a way for us to recognize and thank the people that made the project possible,” assistant chancellor of university advancement Chris Mueller, said.

The ceremony will include speeches from Mueller, Chancellor Dean Van Galen, Student Senate President Chris Morgan and members of the David Smith family, for whom the stadium is named.

Smith was the president and CEO of First National Bank of River Falls until he died in 1994. He was a supporter of River Falls’ athletics and his family donated the money that started the project.

Building Smith Stadium was part of a capital fundraising project done over 8 years with a final budget of \$1.9 million.

“What we’re celebrating is that \$1.9 million goal which put up the press box, much of the fencing, the courtyard area, the gateway entrances... 1.1 million of private money, gifts, that’s what we had to raise, \$500,000 of the student fees

that was approved years ago that’s being collected and then \$300,000 in support from the school district of River Falls.”

River Falls High School’s football team also plays their home games at Smith Stadium.

The project included four features that will be dedicated along with the new press box that was built.

Players from the football teams of the 1980s who won 4 straight conference championships raised money for the Champions Gate.

The other gate is named for Fran Polsfoot, who was a football coach at UWRF in the 1950s and whose former players raised money to honor him.

Mike Farley, the coach of the 1980s championship team, is also being honored. The home coaches’ box in the press box of the new stadium will have his name.

One private donation came from Shannon and Angel Zimmerman. This gift went towards building the Zimmerman Gateway, which is the archway that spectators will see outside of the stadium.

A matching archway will be built in front of the Falcon Center, which is projected to open in the fall of 2017.

The Falcon Center is being built next to the stadium and has a budget of \$63.5 million which comes primarily from the state, but also student fees and private gifts.

According to a brochure created by UWRF: “In 2011 the building commission approved advanced enumeration of \$50.5 million dollars in GPR support in the 2013-2015 biennial budget for construction of a \$63.5 million Falcon Center at



Tori Schneider, Student Voice

**Workers move dirt for construction while training for football is underway.**

the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Funding for the project includes an \$11 million commitment by UWRF students and a \$2 million commitment by the UW-River Falls Foundation.”

The projects have some overlap. The original Falcon Center project included an outdoor, lit, AstroTurf field for intramurals.

The new Ramer Field playing surface was planned to be AstroTurf, so the money that was allotted for the intramural field was used instead for the playing surface on Ramer Field and it will be shared by intramurals and football.

The Falcon Center will benefit all

students, athletes and non-athletes.

“For the first time, we’ll have a first-class wellness center...that will be a major new addition within the Falcon Center, so all students will be able to use that without a charge,” Chancellor Dean Van Galen said.

The Falcon Center will also be the new home for Health and Human Performance (H&HP) classes which are now primarily held in the Karges Center.

Karges, which was completely in 1959, is planned to be deconstructed and the area to become greenspace.

According to the brochure, 19 years ago an analysis of the Karges

Center was done and it was determined that its athletic facilities were “substandard.”

The Falcon Center will essentially double the size of what is now called Hunt-Knowles, which it is being built in connection to. It will feature four H&HP classrooms and one laboratory, offices for H&HP along with Athletics, two gyms, a wellness center, aerobics studios, locker and training rooms and renovations to the existing Hunt Ice Arena.

To see the plans for the Falcon Center, visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/FalconCenter/Index.cfm>.

# Student Senate has great plans for the new year

Natalie Howell  
Falcon News Service

After taking care of the student government’s summer chores, current Student Senate President Christopher Morgan has big plans for the new academic year.

At its April 7 meeting last semester, Student Senate passed bylaw changes that included the addition of a summer administrator position to tend to the senate’s responsibilities over the summer.

Although the requirement for the summer administrator to stay on campus during the summer months was later changed, Morgan said that he believes that adding the position allowed Student Senate to be productive over the break.

“A lot of work that needed to get done for this to be a successful year had to happen during the summer,” said Morgan. “And so with that position online and working it was a great way to make that happen.”

When it comes to what had to be done over the summer, Morgan said that most of his responsibilities in-

volved laying the groundwork for this year’s Senate. This included building up an executive board and filling out the agenda for this academic year.

Morgan also traveled to Washington, D.C., this summer to attend the Presidential Leadership Summit and the White House Youth Conference. There, he said, he met with several other campus presidents that put the struggles of the past year into perspective.

“You go there and you realize that everyone is kind of struggling in terms of ‘there’s just never enough money, our administration is telling us that we can’t do a certain thing we really want to do,’” said Morgan. “So everyone gets an idea that everyone has a shared struggle going about getting what they want done throughout the year.”

One issue that UWRF faced last semester and over the summer was the \$250 million cut to the UW System’s biennial budget. Because of this, the UWRF budget was cut by about \$3.31 million, which resulted in the “reduction of 50 full-time

equivalent positions,” according to the UW-River Falls 2015-2017 Biennial Budget Impacts Fact Sheet.

With students and faculty feeling the harsh realities of budget cuts, Morgan said a big focus this year will be improving morale, especially when it comes to faculty. This involves finding ways to show the faculty that their loyalty to the university is appreciated.

“It will be a tough two years,” said Morgan. “But if we stay together and act more as a family and not as just strangers, we can kind of weather the storm through this budget process.”

Morgan said that this year Student Senate will work more towards raising awareness on important issues rather than just throwing events, using the example of not putting on concerts just because it’s fun.

“Years past, some issues get dropped from the focus,” said Morgan, “and I just want to make sure that the issues that truly matter get focused on.”

One issue, according to Morgan, that will continue to be a fo-

cus of Student Senate this year is the “It’s On Us” campaign, which was nationally launched by President Barack Obama in September 2014 to end sexual assault on college campuses. Student Senate then brought the campaign to UWRF in October 2014.

One “It’s On Us” event that is planned for later this month will take place in the Ann Lydecker Living Learning Center, and will include the showing of “The Hunting Ground,” a film about sexual assault on college campuses, and a Q&A session with members of the UWRF administration and health officials.

With the budget of \$3,600 approved at the Student Senate meeting on Sept. 8, Chipotle is planned to cater this event. This event is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Sept. 28, and will be the first of many events centered around the topic of sexual assault prevention.

“We’re just having a full years worth of events planned for this campaign,” said Morgan.

Another issue that Senate will be focusing on this year will be work-

ing to end the stigma attached to mental illness, with the goal of having zero suicides on campus this year.

One event to bring awareness to this cause is a color-run-type event that would involve the community of River Falls along with the university. This event is in the very early stages of planning, having just been introduced to the Senate at the Sept. 8 meeting. This event is planned to happen during spring semester.

Other important issues that Morgan said Student Senate will be focusing on are promoting inclusivity and sustainability on campus. Sustainability efforts will include working toward a climate-neutral campus, said Morgan, and Senate also wants to work with the student organization Environmental Corps of Sustainability (ECOS), to plan an event for Earth Day.

“We really want to plot a course that would lead us to dealing directly with issues that students are facing,” Morgan said. “We’re very motivated, and we’re very encouraged for this next year.”

# UWRF faculty copes with UW System budget cut

Jordan Preston  
Falcon News Service

The budget cut that’s going to affect the whole UW System is in full swing this semester. UW-River Falls alone is losing \$3.31 million in state support starting this fiscal year.

Lawmakers trimmed the cut to the UW-System to \$250 million, down from the original \$300 million budget cut proposed by Gov. Scott Walker. The cut is for the 2015-2017 biennial budget.

With the state not supporting UWRF as much, there are very cuts throughout campus. Students in some lower level classes will notice an increase in class size. General education requirements were trimmed and combined to accommodate for the cut in state funding.

“While students will still ex-

perience numerous small classes throughout their academic career at UWRF,” Chancellor Dean Van Galen said in an email, “they are now more likely to be in a larger class, especially for introductory courses such as Biology 101, Communication Studies 116 and 213, Geography 130 and Political Science 114.”

Van Galen also mentioned that the campus wants these courses to be as effective as possible, and the faculty who are teaching these courses participated in a workshop on how to best engage students in larger class sizes.

“I think that speaks to the university’s commitment to provide a quality education,” Van Galen said.

Although students will experience larger classes in their introductory courses, the university thoroughly thought out keeping the courses in

a students major smaller to provide the best possible education.

“When we thought about how we [can] educate as many students as possible with fewer dollars,” said Brenda Irvin, budget and policy analyst, “we all believe when you are in your major, you as a student get the best education in smaller classes.”

The state of Wisconsin does not necessarily designate how the university uses the funding it is provided, but the state does have some restrictions.

“If a student pays a segregated fee,” said Irvin, “the use of that money for that segregated fee cannot be used for anything else.”

Almost 60 percent of the state funding goes to salaries for staff and faculty on campus and 25 percent go towards fringe benefits. By far

the largest fringe benefit on campus is health insurance, because it is the most expensive. Twelve percent of state funding goes to supplies and expense, which covers technology purchases, cleaning supplies and other things that are used on campus. Three percent goes to capital, such as the vehicles that are used on campus and owned by the state.

The current tuition freeze has been extended for another two years and along with the budget, will be reviewed again in 2017.

“Since UWRF has made its budget reductions in this first year,” Van Galen said, “I do not anticipate that our campus will need to make additional cuts next year.”

The Board of Regents approved one-time funding to provide a bridge for campuses while managing the base cut. UW-River Falls

received just over \$1.4 million. Around half of this money will go towards health insurance for the faculty on campus as it is the most expensive while the rest is still in the works, according to University administrators.

The budget cuts have also affected faculty and staff. There will be no raises, unless promoted, for professors and some staff will either be working fewer months in the year or will be working fewer hours per week.

Overall this budget cut represents a 12.9 percent reduction in state support to UW-River Falls and it has been very challenging to trim out funds and still provide the best education for the students, administrators said.

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EDITORIAL

Students should remain positive in wake of budget cuts

It’s no secret that UWRF and the whole UW-System have faced harsh cuts. And with the ongoing tuition freeze, it is impossible for colleges, including UWRF, to recoup their losses in income. Evidence can be seen as class sizes get bigger and the number of familiar faculty faces gets smaller. Students across the UW-System are seeing these changes, and it’s not hard to look at the effects of these cuts and feel as though your education doesn’t matter, that the people in charge don’t care about whether or not you receive your liberal arts degree.

But it’s important to remember that as students working to better ourselves through a higher education, we can’t give up. We can’t allow ourselves to believe what is now apparent in Wisconsin -- that we’re meant to be workers, meant to have a job, not a career. We need to strive for success, now more than ever. It will be difficult not to let budget cuts get to us, but staying positive is now more important than ever.

It is also important for students to remember that we are not the only ones dealing with budget cuts. Our professors, the people who we sometimes take for granted, have been handed the worst part of the deal. With about 50 faculty positions being cut from UWRF alone and the future of tenure still in jeopardy, it is a hard time to be an educator. So the next time you’re complaining about assignments or falling asleep in class, remember that your professor is still working hard, despite the fact that their jobs may no longer be stable.

It should go without saying, but students should avoid talking to friends or looking down at the phone while their professors are speaking. These are people who accept the risks of the job because of a passion for their field and for teaching students. The least a student could do is show respect and appreciation for the effort put forth by their professor to help them advance in the world.

Students are also paying more this academic year after voting collectively last year to add a \$175 segregated fee -- ramping up to \$200 next year and in the future -- to support maintenance of the Falcon Center [pg. 3] which is currently under construction. That’s not a bad thing, though. It is good to see UWRF undergoing improvements in the face of these budget cuts rather than simply crumbling under the pressure.

The point is that, at the end of the day, while the budget cuts have taken their toll on UWRF just as they have at other UW-System colleges, the spirit and togetherness of our tightly-knit community remains perfectly intact; and that is something worth appreciating.

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

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# Incoming data suggests significant increase in incoming freshmen

Katie Galarno  
Falcon News Service

After recent years of declining enrollment, the number of freshmen attending UW-River Falls for the fall 2015 semester has finally increased, according to the Admissions Office.

The amount of incoming freshmen dropped by more than 20 percent between 2010 and 2014, according to data from UWRF’s Office of Institutional Research. The fall of 2014 saw 978 new freshmen, compared to 1,235 in 2010. Although final numbers for this year have not yet been calculated, preliminary numbers indicate 1,064 freshmen enrolled as of Sept. 9.

The increase comes as a result of campus-wide efforts in the last year, according to Director of Admissions and New Student Programs Sarah Egerstrom. She said that one of the focuses has been increasing awareness of the university around the area.

“We’ve done more recruitment travel, we’ve hosted more visitors to campus, worked really closely with University Communications in refining our marketing and messaging for students and there’s just been a lot of effort, I think, to fine-tune the work that had been going on in the Admissions Office,” Egerstrom said.

Egerstrom said that the actions have truly been campus-wide, from increased efforts by faculty to connect with pro-

spective students to new digital advertising campaigns to increase the university’s brand awareness.

The news of budget cuts within the UW System earlier in the year caused more concern in the Admissions Office. UWRF saw a budget reduction of \$3.31 million, according to a fact sheet about budget impacts from the university. Egerstrom said that she still gets questions about it from prospective students and their families and reassures them about the quality of education that can still be received.

“I think that’s a realistic concern in terms of just perception about the UW System and attending school here,” Egerstrom said.

**Egerstrom said that the numbers are heading in the right direction, and the Admissions Office will continue to work on increasing enrollment numbers in the future.**

Another focus for the department has been increasing the amount of international degree-seeking students, particularly after changes to the Institute of International Education’s Brazil Scientific Mobility Program last year caused the number of Brazilian students at UWRF to decrease this year.

“My understanding is that there were just some changes with the Brazilian government in the funding to support that Brazil Scientific Mobility Program, and so they’re just sending fewer students. So that large influx that we had a semester or two semesters ago, that’s not a trend that’ll continue,” Egerstrom said.

This semester’s freshmen have reasons for enrolling at UWRF ranging from simply finding a school with the right major to family tradition. Freshman Jamie Muenzner said that she found out about UWRF while researching universities in the UW System and looking for one with an exercise and sport science program.

Morgan Fisher and Bethany Klanderman, both new freshmen, heard about UWRF from their families. Fisher said that two of her cousins attended the university, while Klanderman’s family history is more extensive.

“I found out about this school through my parents,” Klanderman said. “Everyone in my family has gone to River Falls, including both sets of my grandparents, and it’s kind of like a family school for me.”

Egerstrom said that the numbers are heading in the right direction, and the Admissions Office will continue to work on increasing enrollment numbers in the future. The goal for the fall of 2016 is to accept 1,175 freshmen and 450 transfer students.

# In academic misconduct cases, faculty, students must follow procedure

Ryan Odeen  
Falcon News Service

UW-River Falls is among many schools in the UW System that are taking time to clarify the procedure in cases of academic misconduct.

Thomas Pedersen, director of the Office of Student Conduct & Community Standards, sees a number of different cases every year of misconduct on campus.

“The predominant cases that I see are failure to cite things in your paper, just straight cheating on an exam or test, collaborating with someone you’re not supposed to collaborate with, or turning in a paper that somebody else wrote,” he said.

Wisconsin’s administrative code governing the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents describes the process faculty and staff must follow when they suspect academic misconduct, and what protection the student has.

“The faculty member has to be the one that either suspects or sees [academic] misconduct,” Pedersen said. “They have to offer the student a meeting or an opportunity to discuss what took place.”

Students are given the right to meet with the professor, how-

ever they can waive their right to this meeting. The student’s disciplinary sanctions are directly related to the response given at this meeting.

If a student chooses not to meet with the professor, Pedersen said, “then the faculty member will just make a decision based on what [facts] they have at that time.”

Once the student has been given a chance to explain themselves, it is up to the faculty member to decide if a violation has occurred. If there was a violation, then they decide what the proper sanctions would be.

In some cases, it ends with this meeting. The sanction chosen by the professor in these cases could be an oral or written reprimand, or the student would be given an assignment to repeat the work. No written report is made by the professor in these cases. However, it is also important to note, students can be held responsible for misconduct even if they are unaware that they violated any rules.

A written report of the incident is required when the sanctions imposed by the professor will directly affect the student’s grade or standing in the class.

Usually only in cases of repeat offenders are the most severe sanctions of suspension or expulsion from the university.

The responsibility falls on the faculty to clearly communicate what the academic misconduct policy is in their courses. Pedersen hailed the Communications Studies department at UW-River Falls for clearly defining what misconduct means in its syllabi.


“The only thing we do is we essentially write out the policy really clearly and completely in our COMS 101/116 syllabi, Professor Jennifer Willis-Rivera said in an email interview, describing two introductory courses. “We focus on those courses because they have such a large number of students.”

Despite students having the right to due process, Pedersen said, “we do not get a lot of requests for hearings.” He said his office received 18 written reports of academic misconducts in the last academic year. Only one of those 18 ended up in a hearing.


Students have the right to a hearing in front of an academic misconduct hearing committee, and full investigation by an investigating officer. This hearing is basically the student’s day in court. Witnesses, testimony, and evidence can be brought forward for the committee to consider. The students can then appeal the decision to the chancellor. The Board of Regents will even hear appeals, at its discretion.

STUDENT *Voices*

What is your favorite movie?



Hayden Bosch - Editor  
Junior  
“Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind”



Kris Bradley - Sports Editor  
Senior  
“Terms of Endearment”



Alice Wedell - News editor  
“Stardust”



Natalie Howell - Assistant Editor  
Junior  
“Somebody Up There Likes Me”



Katie Galarno - Viewpoints Editor  
Junior  
“10 Things I Hate About You”

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Email your thoughts to [editor@uwrvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrvoice.com)



# Falcon volleyball continues win streak

Zach Dwyer  
zach.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

When the Falcons volleyball team came into practice in August, they were pretty familiar with their teammates and what they were trying to accomplish.

“We didn’t lose any seniors last year so we knew we would have a solid core of players coming back in roles they were familiar with,” Coach Patti Ford said.

This veteran group of players, led by captains Lexi Pingel and Brianna Muetzel, are already proving that they will be a dangerous team to face once the WIAC conference season comes into play.

After dropping two close matches against Hamline and the college of St. Scholastica to start the season, the Falcons hit their stride at the Lake Forest tournament on September 4 and 5.

The Falcons went 4-0 in the tournament with 3-0 wins over Greenville College and Marian University on the first day. They faced a little more opposition on the second day but still managed wins over host Lake Forest 3-0, and 3-1 over Milwaukee School

of Engineering (MSOE) in their final match.

Coach Ford was very pleased with her team’s effort, saying “We played very steady volleyball and managed to also play very clean on our side of the court. The team focused on coming out stronger and all cylinders seemed to be firing together in our 4 matches.”

Captain Brianna Muetzel thought the result could be attributed to how “we played consistently throughout the entire weekend. No matter what our opponents threw at us, we just kept playing our game.”

Amara Meyer and Lexi Pingel were stand-outs in the tournament, each being named part of the All-Tournament Team. Meyer finished with 36 kills in the tournament, headlined by an impressive 13 kills in the Falcons’ final match against MSOE. Libero Lexi Pingel contributed 57 digs throughout the 4 game tournament, capping off the weekend with a tournament-high 31 digs in the Falcons last match.

The Falcons hope this dominant start can be a great sign for things to come as they get closer to their conference opener against UW-Stout. But the Falcons know they’re going to

have to be at peak performance to compete in a WIAC conference that coach Ford describes as “the toughest she’s seen in years.”

“Every conference member has had a successful non-conference record and it will be especially challenging when we’re playing on the road. And with only 7 conference games to determine who will make the conference championships, we need to come out at full strength every single night to be competitive. But if we take one game at a time we will have great chance to be successful,” Ford said.

Muetzel is also excited about her team’s chances, stating “As we get into conference play I think our main focus is taking every game, every practice, and using it as a way to get better. If we play as hard as we can every chance we get we will be able to reach our highest potential which is very exciting. I am very excited to see what this year has in store for us”.

And with a strong veteran team, the Falcons will be better prepared than most teams because of their experience and team chemistry they’ve been building up over the last few years. Falcons’ coaches and players alike

have reiterated how important it is to have an experienced team for when they face tougher challenges down the road.

“As a team with many juniors and seniors, we have experienced all different types of pressure situations, whether it be traveling to Illinois for our preseason tournament or our first conference game, we’ve experienced them all together,” Muetzel described.

This sense of unity and team is very important to the Falcons’ volleyball team and will be important in them growing and reaching their full potential as the weeks go on. But no matter what happens this season, Coach Ford knows her team will grow and she’ll enjoy every minute of it.

“This team is especially fun to teach and coach, and it’s great to see them get better and better every week. The younger players being added to the mix along with the veterans makes us a very strong team.”

The Falcons play at the Rippon College Invitational this weekend before beginning conference play at UW-Stout on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.



*Kathy M Helgeson/UWRF Communications*  
**Rebecca Gasper goes up for a shot in the volleyball home opener against University of St. Thomas in the Karges Center Wednesday September 9, 2015.**

# Positive outlook for Falcon football for 2015 season

Jacob Rogers  
Falcon News Service

University of Wisconsin-River Falls head football Coach Matt Walker is in his fifth year. While the first three years were tough, Walker said he now sees a lot of promise for the future.

“This year’s recruiting class and last year’s recruiting class are the best that I’ve had in the five years that I have been here, so there is a lot of optimism,” he said.

Even though UWRF won only three games last year, the football team was extremely competitive in the tough Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. In a loss against UW-Whitewater — the eventual national champions in Division III — the Falcons had the lead with under a minute to play in the fourth quarter, but could not close out the game. Walker is confident that this year’s squad can take that next step to close out games in the fourth quarter.

“Last year we were in a lot of games heading into the fourth quarter, but couldn’t finish. This year I am confident we will take the next step to winning those games because we put

in a lot of work in the offseason,” he said.

Year after year, UWRF’s schedule is among the toughest in Division III. Tough non-conference road games against Simpson College in Iowa and Southwestern University in Texas, plus a competitive seven-game conference slate, fill out the schedule.

“We have a competitive conference. UW-Whitewater, UW-Oshkosh, and UW-Platteville are always ranked in the Top 25, and we have to play them every year,” Walker said.

In order to compete with the top teams in the WIAC, younger players will have to contribute.

The Falcons are looking to replace 18 seniors and five other key players from the 2014 team. The wide receiving core took the biggest hit, losing the top four pass catchers from last year’s team. Offensive Coordinator Jake Wissing looks to rely on a set of younger wide receivers and tight ends in the 2015 version of the offense.

“We always have a lot of guys that are up and coming,” he said. “Sophomores Tony Denn and Tyler Halverson are going to see time, and senior Matt Woller will be our veteran leader.”

In the past, the UWRF offense has been spread out with four or five wide receivers, and that has been based on their personnel.

“If we have better tight ends, fullbacks, and running backs we’ll be in tighter sets. I would probably say that we’ll be in tighter sets because that is the experience we have right now, but whatever it takes to win, we will do it,” Wissing said.

A constant that has been around for the past three years is senior quarterback Ryan Kusilek. He is back for his final year to lead the Falcons.

“Ryan, as any good quarterback would be, he gets us in plays that we need to get into. He sees things at the line of scrimmage that an ordinary person does not see,” Wissing said. “He means a lot to us. When he’s going good, we’re going good. We’re going to ask him to make seven to 10 plays per game.

“Ryan is ready to take a big step this season because of the work he put in this season,” Walker added.

Defense is the name of the game for Walker. In two of their three wins last year, the Falcons did not give up more than 15 points. In four of their seven losses, the Falcons gave up

more than 25 points.

“In order for us to close out games, we need to make the necessary defensive stops,” Walker said.

Having linebackers that can be solid tacklers makes it easier for the whole defense.

Walker is excited in what he has in his linebackers. Jay Robinson, Ross Wusterbarth, and Geno DeMike will have to replace Luke Radke and Zach Loos, both of whom were really sound tacklers.

The defensive backfield will have a lot of young players contributing this season.

“Sophomore transfer Kyle Narges and freshmen Alex Wood and Aric Elmore are so athletic and we expect big things from these guys,” Walker said.

Walker and Wissing are optimistic that they are going to have a competitive season if they play sound, fundamental football.

The Falcons opened up the season on Sept. 5 with a loss to Simpson College. The Falcons host South Dakota School of Mines & Technology on Saturday, Sept. 19, to open up the newly renovated press box at David Smith Stadium.



# UW-River Falls hosts Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo



UW-River Fall’s Rodeo Club held the first performance of the 51st annual Falcon Frontier Days Rodeo on Friday Sep. 10, drawing over 3,000 attendees all weekend. Amara Young/Student Voice

## Major progress seen at Falcon Center construction site



The Falcon Center is being built next to the football stadium. The project is budgeted to cost approximately \$63.5 million. The project is expected to be completed by 2017. Tori Schneider/Student Voice

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# Mad Max still riveting months after release



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

It’s shiny, it’s chrome, it’ll blow your mind at 100mph, it’s Mad Max: Fury Road, a film that has gone through so much buzz but still needs stressing of how important it is.

Many of us may know the place, it is what we all fear; A future torn apart by our own greed, a desert of death where everyone is vying for control of the planet’s last resources. This is the world of Max, a road warrior drifting from place to place, trying to survive the hordes of insane drivers and forget the sins of his past. Like his previous adventures, he finds himself wrapped up again in a conflict.

On one side, a cult-like warlord named Immortan Joe who controls all the water there is left, on the other side is Furiosa, a determined former lieutenant of Joe who is carrying his enslaved wives to a better place. Max and Furiosa find themselves together in the midst of this conflict, and realize that they will need to work together, against droves of Joe’s suicidal warriors, against rock riding maniacs, and against the very wasteland itself to find that land beyond tomorrow.

If one kept a pulse on Hollywood over the summer, then this film was inescapable. People were abounding with things to say about Mad Max: Fury Road. Many of which were true, but now that the dust has settled and the DVD release has come, it is now my turn to keep the memory of this film going strong, for everything you will hear is deserved by this film.

I plead in this review to not forget Fury Road in these years to come. I say with great sincerity that so much of this film is important for today in an industry where action in film can be taken for granted. A film that dances flaming vehicles across the screen and runs over your mind with its real, practical

crashes and effects should never be forgotten and be appreciated for what it has done.

For all that director George Miller did with this film, not only did he prove that after over 20 years of working in the film industry and only making a handful of films does he still own his distinctive style, but he also knows how to keep it fresh and further the importance of his work.



Crazed violence in cars and psychotic diatribes are two things he has shown to do well in his movies, further coaxing you into the insane world of Mad Max, but what he does further is show the importance of the main focus of his film,

and that is the women.

Though many will say Max is the star of this film, they are wrong. The metal armed Furiosa is the true hero in the end, staking everything she has and inspiring compassion and a drive for life in the women she carries, and risking everything to preserve what is remaining and pure in the wastes. The things you’ve heard of this film being feminist were not exaggerated at all.

And that may be one of the most important things about Fury Road. Amongst its amazing visual storytelling it has a lot of story underneath. The story of women being abused and treated as property by a dominating patriarchy is a story that permeates many societies today, and it comes across perfectly through the visuals and underlying acting of each person in the film.

One might look at the film and say that this isn’t their thing. One could look at it and say that it’s too violent or weird. But allow me to say to you today that it is many things. It is violent, it has heavy

themes, and it is blood-racingly entertaining.

But the one thing all should remember is that this film is for everybody. Everyone can and should watch this film, for there are some things it speaks that we can all understand; if not as a duty to film itself then as a duty to yourself and others. Through the action one can find a glimmer of humanity in the wasteland, and hopefully that can reinvigorate some something in us.

*Ryan Funes is a student at UWRF majoring in Journalism. 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.*

# Family road trip affords patriotic contemplation

Matt Clark

Columnist

This summer, my family and I decided to take an old fashion road trip. The type of trip where you load up the car, buckle up, and drive 26 hours cross country, just to get some “family time.”

At the request of my dad, we decided to make the trip to Texas. None of us had ever been there and it was time us Northerners explored a little bit of the south.

At first, I was a little apprehensive. How much fun could an extended car ride to one of the hottest parts of the country in the middle of July be? I could not have been more wrong. Although I did in fact have a lot of fun, it was what I experienced and learned that will always stick with me.

As the designated trip planner in my family, I made an itinerary full of roadside landmarks that would help break up the trip. These landmarks, however, provided much more than a quick stretch of the legs and a bathroom break. They provided a unique perspective on what it means to be an American. The first significant stop was Laugh-O-Gram studios in Kansas City, the birthplace of the Disney Corpora-

tion. In all honesty, the building wasn’t much to look at. The outside was covered with faded pictures of Walt Disney and early sketches of Mickey Mouse, while the inside was closed to the public.

Here stood the foundation to what would become one of the icons of American imagination, innocence and, of course, money. What surrounded the building though, gave a prospective all its own.

The building was located deep into one of Kansas City’s poorest neighborhoods. Many houses were condemned while others stood in ruin. The American wealth gap had never been more prevalent.

As we continued on this trip, we stopped at the site of the Brown Vs. The Board Of Education in Topeka, Kansas. The landmark school has become a symbol of social justice

**It is easy to get lost in the mess that is the history of the United States. The things you learned in high school history can take no meaning if the perspective isn’t present. Sometimes it takes 4,000 miles in a car to realize what our countries history really means**

and racial reform. Only a few hours south lay a juxtaposing scene: the Oklahoma City bombing memorial, which has become a symbol for the new era that we live in. The bombing of the government building ushered in a new world of heighten security, terrorism threats, and a new fear in the American way of life. The difference in these two landmarks illustrate how far we’ve come in America and just how far we have left to go. Throughout the rest of the trip, examples of this continued to show up from the solemn site of the assassination of John F. Kennedy to the modern marvel of the AT&T Stadium.

It is easy to get lost in the mess that is the history of the United States. The things you learned in high school history can take no meaning if the perspective isn’t present. Sometimes it takes 4,000 miles in a car to realize what our countries history really means. Many believe that this is the greatest country on Earth because of our vast number of accomplishments but if you look a little closer, the country appears as a pretty face with plenty of blemishes.

*Matthew Clark is a junior Journalism student. Besides being the music director at WRFW and the circulation manger at the Student Voice, Matt has become an accomplished musician, performing with the likes of Chicago and Duahgtry. He has also contributed to a few movie soundtracks.*

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