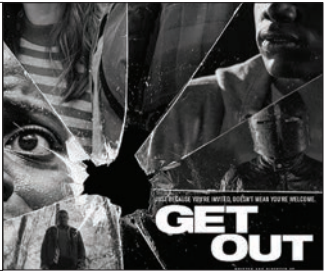




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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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Reducing food waste at UW-River Falls is mission for Chartwells, campus officials

Sophia Koch
Falcon News Service

Food waste is a problem at UW-River Falls, so campus officials are teaming up with dining services company Chartwells to do something about it, from raising awareness among students to bringing in new technology.

In one effort, Chartwells and the campus Office of Sustainability recently sponsored a showing of a documentary film about food waste.

“Just Eat It” is a 74-minute documentary detailing the six-month challenge undertaken by food lovers Jen Rustemeyer and Grant Baldwin to live off of food waste. Rustemeyer is the producer and Baldwin the director of the Canadian documentary. For six months, the couple asked around at grocery stores and farmer’s markets for “culled” goods (ones that are taken off the shelves for one reason or another) and dumpster-dived for all of their food supplies. Their aim, they said, was to make a point about how much good food is sent to landfills.

“The scale of the stuff we’ve seen is pretty shocking, and I think we’ve only seen the littlest amount,” Jen Rustemeyer said.

“The scale of the stuff we’ve seen is pretty shocking, and I think we’ve only seen the littlest amount,” Rustemeyer said in the documentary. She and Baldwin found a garbage bin filled with packages of hummus that didn’t appear to be expired or damaged in any way, and multiple large boxes of chocolate that were likely thrown out because of incorrect labeling. A lot of food deemed “ugly” was also rejected by either consumers or retailers, and consumers often threw out food because they let it go bad in their refrigerator.

The documentary brought in a number of different experts on the topic, including Dana Gunders, a senior food and agriculture scientist with the Natural Resources Defense Council, and authors Tristram Stuart and Jonathan Bloom. The film covered all different aspects of the food industry from growing to consumption, and what it found was that a startling amount of perfectly edible food is thrown away, particularly on the retail and consumer end of the process.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) estimates that between 30 percent and 40 percent of the nation’s food supply is wasted, amounting to 133 billion pounds and \$161 billion worth of edible food in 2010. Not only is this a waste of food that could have gone toward hungry people, according to the USDA, but it is also a waste of vast amounts of land, water,



Natalie Howell/Student Voice
According to a study done by UWRF Sustainability and Custodial Supervisor Mark Klapatch and Kayla Holicky, a dietitian nutritionist with Chartwells, a total of 170 pounds of edible food was discarded by about 1,600 customers over the course of two lunch periods in Riverside Commons.

energy and labor.

Sabrina Huebl, a UWRF plant science major in her junior year, is one of 114 people who attended the “Just Eat It” viewing. She said that the experience was eye-opening for her.

“I didn’t really realize how much stores throw away,” she said, “and especially food that’s still good. I guess you only think that it’s expired food or waste food that’s thrown away.”

“I didn’t really realize how much stores throw away,” junior Sabrina Huebl said, “and especially food that’s still good. I guess you only think that it’s expired food or waste food that’s thrown away.”

After the film, UWRF Sustainability and Custodial Supervisor Mark Klapatch and Kayla Holicky, a dietitian nutritionist with Chartwells, spoke to the audience about a small-scale

study they conducted in the Riverside Commons in early February. In it, they spent two separate lunch periods (three hours each period) collecting all of the food off the trays that students handed back at the ends of their meals. After sorting out anything inedible (banana peels, apple cores, chicken bones, etc.), the amount of wasted food was totaled.

Over the course of the two lunch periods and about 1,600 customers, the study found that a total of 170 pounds of edible food was discarded, sometimes in near-pristine condition. The study, Holicky admitted, is limited because of its small size. The number of customers who came in those two days may not have been representative of an average lunch period, and breakfast and dinner were not taken into account.

“If you were to conduct this for a whole week,” Holicky said, “or even a whole day, you might see a significant amount more.”

Continued on Page 3

Alumni Spotlight: Ramona Gunter

Christopher Jurewitsch
christopher.jurewitsch@my.uwrf.edu

Ramona Gunter is an instructor of mathematics at UW-River Falls, serving as the director of the remedial math department and teaching remedial math courses such as Introductory and Intermediate Algebra.

Having taught at UWRF for almost a decade, she has also studied physics, education and even cultural anthropology, which gives her a unique perspective on education.

One interesting aspect about Ramona Gunter’s career is her broad range of experiences she’s had after graduating from UWRF, taking on roles that were “all over the map.”

As a first-generation student, Gunter came to River Falls following her sister’s footsteps in going to college. She didn’t know what to expect at first, but over time came to love the campus. Double majoring in math and physics, she participated in intramural sports and also enjoyed participating in residence hall activities.

One interesting aspect about Gunter’s career is her broad range of experiences she’s had after graduating from UWRF, taking on roles that were “all over the map.”

During her senior year, she worked at 3M, a common place for science students to work for while getting their degree. After she graduated in 1986, she volunteered for the Peace Corps, teaching math and science in the African nation of Lesotho.

Lesotho is an enclave, surrounded by South Africa, that at the time was still under apartheid. One interesting insight that she gained from her experience was the different cultural perspectives, specifically within the children that she taught during her tenure. She said was intrigued by how the children viewed the concept of school differently than her, and this helped inspire her to learn more about cultural differences around the world.

After Gunter finished her work with the Peace Corps, she attend graduate school at Purdue University, where her experience in Lesotho and South Africa inspired her to study anthropology. She would later move on to work as a research

assistant at UW-Madison, where she helped conduct education research in math and science. She eventually graduated with a Ph.D. in education policy in 2007.

Gunter has taken multiple teaching positions throughout her career, including teaching at a prison for a year and working on teacher workshops. The American Association of University Women gave her a fellowship to fund her dissertation. Having recently started a family, she decided to come back to River Falls to finish her dissertation.

What Gunter said she enjoys about this campus are the small class sizes offered. She said that the ability to have professors instructing the classes and labs rather than teaching assistants helps bring students closer to understanding topics, giving experiences that larger institutions are unable to match.

“I always wonder what it would have been like if I had gone to a larger school,” Gunter said.

She recalled one time when she interpreted a physics question differently than was intended on an exam. She was given credit for her answer despite her different perspective. Had she had been in a larger class with a more standardized test, she might have not been given the same credit.

“I realized that if I had been with 200 students doing a multiple choice exam graded by Scantron without anyone looking over it,” she explained, “I would have not stayed in my major.”

“I think how students engage in their academic studies, and what makes it meaningful for them, are social-cultural questions, and that interests me,” Ramona Gunter said.

While math and science have always been her strong suits, it’s the culture component that helps bond Gunter’s work together. Citing her work as a researcher, she conducted quali-



Katelyn Anderson/Student Voice

tative research interviewing students on their experiences, gaining feedback on variables such as new engineering courses. She said she finds that understanding different perspectives and meanings in education can help students learn more effectively.

“I think how students engage in their academic studies, and what makes it meaningful for them, are social-cultural questions, and that interests me,” Gunter said.

For advice, Gunter said students should never shy away from intimidating courses, because they’re an opportunity to study “anything and everything.”

“I think that it’s a great opportunity to get to know your teachers and your professors in a small class setting,” she said. “So take advantage of the personal setting that you have available.”

News Briefs:

UW-River Falls to host Agricultural Technology Contest

UW-River Falls will host the 57th annual Agricultural Technology Contest on April 1, 2017.

The Agricultural Technology Contest includes a series of career development events hosted by the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES). This contest allows the opportunity for Wisconsin and Minnesota FFA members to showcase their knowledge by participating in a variety of contests.

The contests focus on agricultural communications, agricultural technology and mechanical systems, agronomy, dairy cattle evaluation, farm business management, floriculture, food science and technology, forestry, horse evaluation, livestock evaluation, middle school agriscience, nursery/landscape, soils, veterinary science and wildlife. This year nearly 1,000 students are expected to compete in 15 team events and three additional contest opportunities.

UWRF coordinates the Wisconsin FFA state contests for agricultural communications and food science and technology. First-place teams will advance to compete at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, this October.

Seven of the events also serve as qualifying contests for the Wisconsin FFA Association Career Development Events (CDE) to be held April 28, 2017, in Madison, Wisconsin. These events include agricultural technology and mechanical systems, dairy evaluation, floriculture, horse evaluation, livestock evaluation, wildlife and veterinary science.

Unique to the Agricultural Technology Contest, UWRF offers an Agricultural Education event. The event provides students with the opportunity to better comprehend the teaching and learning process, foster leadership and communication skills and allow students to practice teaching. Students also have the opportunity to compete in the 38th Annual Crop Show. Students competing in the crops show can submit samples into classes ranging from oats to soybeans, to the longest ear of corn.

Another highlight of this year's contest is the Power Tool Drag Race. This event changes the type of tool that students use when building their vehicle, which makes the contests unique from year to year. The Power Tool Drag Race encourages students to use their problem solving, creative design, research and development and engineering skills.

This year, students must power their vehicle using a 120-volt corded power tool router other than an angle/side/disc grinder; with the goal being to achieve the fastest time. The UWRF Agricultural Industry Club sponsors and coordinates this event. This year, the contest will be held in the newly renovated space in the Ag Engineering Annex.

Each year, it takes over 100 volunteers to ensure successful contests. Faculty and staff from CAFES serve as chairs for each of the contests. CAFES students volunteer their time as student chairs and assist on the contest day.

Madeline Bode, an Agricultural Education major from Cassville, Wisconsin, is serving as this year's contest coordinator. The assistant coordinator is Alexis Stibor, an agricultural education major from Osseo, Wisconsin. Tim Buttles serves as the faculty chair for the contest and Fay Westberg of the agricultural education department assists with overall contest preparations.

For more details about the contests, visit the Agricultural Education Department website at <http://www.uwrf.edu/AGED/CDE/AgriculturalTechnologyContest.cfm>

UW-River Falls and Chippewa Valley Bean celebrate canning anniversary

An anniversary was celebrated on campus in February with a traditional congratulatory cake and a not-so-traditional can of kidney beans.

For 20 years, Chippewa Valley Bean (CVB) has partnered with the UW-River Falls to assess the canning quality of kidney bean lines under development.

CVB has specialized in growing, processing and marketing kidney beans since 1973. The family owned and operated company, based in Menomonie, is the largest processor and exporter of dark red kidney beans in the U.S., handling about 35 percent of the total dark red kidney beans produced in the U.S.

Over the past several years, CVB has grown its exports from 25 percent to 65 percent of all sales. In 2015, the company was honored with the Governor's Export Achievement Award.

In 1981, CVB started its own breeding program, relying on non-GMO technology to develop kidney bean varieties with improved genetic resistance to root rot, white mold and various blights. As new varieties are being developed, they need to be tested for canning quality. It is these potential new varieties that CVB brings from its research plots to the fruit and vegetable processing plant at UWRF.

The small-scale canning line in the processing plant, while old, is still well suited for a project like this. Once canned and allowed to sit for a specified period of weeks, the cans are opened and the beans evaluated. Product appearance is critical for canned beans. Canning companies will reject beans that split, crack, break or otherwise fail to meet quality standards.

"It is very gratifying that the department has been able to contribute to the product development needs of a company such as Chippewa Valley Bean," said Gary Onan, chair of the Animal and Food Science Department at UWRF. "Ongoing collaborations with the food processing companies such as this long-standing relationship are one of the reasons that UWRF has been able to provide high quality food science education both in the past and now again with a new restructured program."

The fruit and vegetable processing plant is one of three pilot plants at UWRF, along with the dairy and meat plants. These facilities support coursework in the food science and technology major and related programs, allow students to gain practical experience through employment opportunities and offer settings for continuing education workshops for professionals in the food industry.

The UWRF Dairy Plant is in the predesign phase of a renovation anticipated to take place in 2018. Once this renovation is complete, attention will turn to the Fruit and Vegetable Plant and the redesign of that space.

A small-scale fruit and vegetable plant is important to Wisconsin, which ranks second in the nation in terms of total production and value of production for the major processing vegetables (corn, green beans and peas).

Together, specialty crop production and processing accounts for more than \$6 billion in economic activity or approximately 3 percent of the overall economy in the state.

Free Friday noon concert series presented at UW-River Falls

The Frances Cohler Coffee Concert Series at UW-River Falls is a unique concert series featuring performances by UWRF music faculty as well as guest artists from around the world. The concerts, held in Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at noon on selected Fridays throughout the academic year, are free and open to the public and are followed by coffee and treats.

Upcoming concerts include:
Friday, March 3: Natalia Moiseeva, violin; Skip James, keyboard; Clea Galhano, recorder; with the St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra featuring Vivaldi "Concerto for Two Violins in A-minor RV522," Layton James "Concerto for Recorder," J.S. Bach "Concerto in F-minor" and Felix Mendelssohn "Finale" from Symphony 5 (Reformation).

Friday, March 10: St. Croix Piano Trio: Natalia Moiseeva, violin; Tanya Remnikova, cello; Ivan Konev, piano, featuring Debussy Sonata for violin and piano.

Friday, March 24: Natalia Moiseeva, violin; Susan Janda, viola; Teresa Richardson, cello; and Pat O'Keefe, clarinet, featuring Mozart Quintet.

Friday, March 31: Leslie Shank, violin, and Joe Hagedorn, guitar.

Friday, April 7: Natalia Moiseeva, violin; Joan Molloy, violin; Solvay Peterson, cello; Sue Boeve, flute; Laura Edman, organ, featuring "Scenes from a Gallery" by Craig Phillips for organ, violin and flute plus several Mozart church sonatas, a Pinkham sonata for organ and strings and several other works for violin, cello and piano.

Friday, April 14: Oleg Levin, piano.

Friday, April 21: Jovino Santos Neto, Brazilian-American pianist and composer.

The generous donation from alumna Mary Ella Jerome supports this series in honor of her piano duet partner Frances (McNamara) Cohler, who was also a student at UWRF in the early 1970s.

For more information, call the UWRF Music Department at 715-425-3183.

8th annual Bowls for Hope set for March 7

Each March, UW-River Falls works with the community to raise funds through the Bowls for Hope event where proceeds raised help a worthy organization make a difference in the St. Croix Valley. This year, the Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County – Moolah for Milk program has been selected as the benefiting organization.

The 2017 Bowls for Hope event is Tuesday, March 7, from 5-7 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center at UWRF. Tickets are now on sale.

For an entrance fee of \$25 for adults and \$5 for children aged 12 and under, participants at the event may select and keep a bowl created in ceramic, pottery, fibers, wood and glass studio classes at UWRF, River Falls High School, Meyer Middle School, the Renaissance Academy or by area artists.

Attendees may also sample, at no extra charge, soups donated and served by area restaurants. Guests have the opportunity to vote for their favorite soup. A Chefs' Choice Award will also be awarded to the soup favored by the chefs participating in the event.

"The Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County – Moolah for Milk program is honored and excited to be chosen

as the 2017 charity recipient of the Bowls for Hope event," said Jeff Bealles, coordinator of the Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County.

The Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County is a non-profit organization dedicated to reducing hunger and inadequate nutrition in Pierce County through service, education, communication and coordination. Moolah for Milk annually provides thousands of milk coupons, redeemable for a free gallon of milk from area grocery stores, to individuals and families in need throughout Pierce and St. Croix Counties. Free milk coupons are distributed to clients in area food pantries and are also included in school backpack programs.

"Fresh dairy is a vital source of vitamins and nutrients, and an ingredient in many recipes. It's a high priority for our pantries to make it available to everyone and the Bowls for Hope funding will go a long way to ensuring this. We're very appreciative," Bealles said.

For more information on the Hunger Prevention Council of Pierce County – Moolah for Milk program, visit <http://www.hungerpreventioncouncil.com>.

Participating restaurants are Belle Vinez, Bo's 'N Mine, Copper Kettle, Dish and the Spoon Café, Kilkarney Hills, Perkins Family Restaurant & Bakery, River Falls Area Hospital Dining Services, Kinni View Deli at Riverwalk Square, South Fork Café, UWRF Chartwells Dining Services, West Wind Supper Club and Whole Earth Grocery.

Artists contributing bowls are Marilyn Anderson, Donna Badje, Ingrid Bjerstedt-Rogers, Katie Burce, Roger Evans, Cathi Herriman, Jay Jensen, Randy Johnston, Jennifer King, Michael Luethmers, Pat McCardle, Jan McKeachie-Johnston, Wendy Olson, Doug Peterson, S.C. Rolf, Scott Zeinert, Rhonda Willers and her ceramic classes at UWRF, Eoin Breadon's glass studio classes at UWRF, Renaissance Academy classes taught by Anne Buchholz and Kyle Stapleton, River Falls High School pottery classes taught by Gina Pedriana-Basche and Kelyn King's class at Meyer Middle School.

Nan Jordahl will provide live piano music throughout the evening.

Tickets can be purchased at the River Falls Chamber of Commerce, 215 West Maple St.; at the UWRF Chancellor's Office, 116 North Hall; and at the Information Desk in the University Center. For questions about advance ticket sales, call 715-425-3201. Tickets will also be available at the door. Purchasing tickets in advance, however, will guarantee a bowl.

For more information, visit www.uwrf.edu/bowlsforhope or email mary.vangalen@uwrf.edu.

Student Senate Update: Feb. 28

The Student Government Association did not meet this week.

Campus Events Calendar:

- 48 hour Film Fest Informational Meeting**
Friday, March 3, 5 p.m. Kinni Theater Competition
Friday, March 3-Sunday, March 5 Screening and Judging
Sunday, March 5, 7 p.m. Kinni Theater
- Cohler Coffee Concert: SCV Symphony Orchestra**
Friday, March 3, noon-1 p.m. Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts
- St. Croix Valley Symphony Orchestra Concert**
Sunday, March 5, 3-5 p.m. Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts
- Bowls for Hope**
Tuesday, March 7, 5-7 p.m. University Center
- Falcon Band Spring Break Concert**
Tuesday, March 7, 7:30-8 p.m. Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts
- Free Bowling Night**
Wednesday, March 8, 9:30-11:45 p.m. St. Croix Lanes, River Falls
- Cohler Coffee Concert: Minnesota Clarinet Quartet**
Thursday, March 9, noon-1 p.m. Kleinpell Fine Arts

Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Thursday, Feb. 23

- Fraud was reported at Prucha Hall at 10:56 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24

- Underage alcohol consumption was reported in Johnson Hall at 11:37 p.m.

Editor's Note:
Information for this section is taken from the UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

Reducing food waste at UW-River Falls is mission for Chartwells, campus officials

Continued from Page 1

Chartwells has been using a variety of methods to reduce food waste, although most of its control over the situation is in the cleaning and cooking process. One method the company has implemented is Trim Trax bins, clear buckets with measuring marks on the sides that show them how much food has been overcooked or thrown away as scraps.

Sherry Bruggeman, the food service director at River Falls High School, said she’s been using the Trim Trax buckets in the kitchen for the past 10 to 12 years and the method has proved effective.

“I think doing things visual is huge,” she said. She also said she believes that implementing a similar strategy on the consumer end — showing students what they’re throwing away in a clear bucket — would have an

impact as well.

Chartwells is utilizing other methods to reduce food waste, such as recipes that reuse scraps that have been untouched by consumers.

Sherry Bruggeman, the food service director at River Falls High School, said she’s been using the Trim Trax buckets in the kitchen for the past 10 to 12 years and the method has proved effective.

At the very end of the process, the University Center is working on replacing its old dishwasher system. Jay Plemon, who is the assistant director of the building, said that the old system is very out of date, and is extreme-

ly wasteful of water and power as well as being difficult to do repairs on because of being a discontinued model. The new dishwasher, he said, will use considerably less water and energy, and will include a system that will grind and dehydrate food waste into ready-to-use compost.

“Essentially, 100 pounds of waste would be dehydrated down to about 10 pounds of actual waste,” Plemon said. “What comes out is, the contents kind of look like fish food.”

The old system used a pulper to process waste food into a paste, but because of the moisture in it, the paste itself couldn’t be used as compost. The UC would have needed a separate composting system to break the paste down into something usable. Composting, Klapatch said, is out of the question until UWRF has the funds to create its own system or until it can find a contractor in the Twin Cities to collect the organic waste. In the

meantime, he said, the new dishwasher will lessen the amount of organic waste that goes to a landfill.

“Essentially, 100 pounds of waste would be dehydrated down to about 10 pounds of actual waste,” UC Assistant Director Jay Plemon said.

“What comes out is, the contents kind of look like fish food.”

“It’s unfortunate that we have to do that, because it gets at the problem of consumer waste and people taking too much food,” Klapatch said. “The proper solution would be people not wasting food.”

Western Wisconsin among areas experiencing shortage of teachers

Ace Sauerwein
Falcon News Service

Wisconsin is facing historically low numbers of teachers in the public school system, while the number of college students pursuing degrees in teacher education programs also is down.

“Addressing these shortages, while attracting, developing, and retaining top talent, is one of the most critical policy issues facing our state,” according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

The teacher shortage issue has become more relevant in public schools in western Wisconsin because of their proximity to Minnesota. Some teachers are taking their talents across the border. River Falls High School has lost six employees to Minnesota schools, said Principal Kit Luedtke. Salaries for teachers may be \$10,000 to \$20,000 higher in Minnesota compared to Wisconsin, according to Luedtke.

“Numbers of applicants have gone down, I would say, since Act 10 for sure,” said Luedtke, referring to the 2011 Wisconsin Budget Repair Bill. “I think they were statistically even going down years prior to that.”

Michael Harris, dean of the UW-River Falls College of Education and Professional Studies, said the number of applicants for positions at UWRF doesn’t follow a specific trend.

“At the university level, it really depends on the discipline itself. There are certain disciplines that have shortages of Ph.D. candidates and others that don’t,” said Harris.

“Addressing these shortages, while attracting, developing and retaining top talent, is one of the most critical policy issues facing our state,” according to the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

Act 10 was legislation proposed in 2011 by Gov. Scott Walker that dismantled collective bargaining and reduced state aid to local school districts. Although Act 10 is not the

only reason for the teacher shortfall in Wisconsin, the cuts have been at the forefront of many discussions in schools.

“The funding model that we have does not allow us to professionally compensate teaching staff at a rate of inflation that keeps up with the rest of the pace of the economy,” said Luedtke. “I would argue, in some cases, education teaching has turned in more into a secondary profession, as opposed to a primary profession where somebody can earn and raise a family on.”

Principal Kit Luedtke cited the cost of school outweighing the salaries of teaching positions in Wisconsin, which affects the number of college students pursuing a career in education.

Luedtke cited the cost of school outweighing the salaries of teaching positions in Wisconsin, which affects the number of college students pursuing a career in education.

Although the numbers of students in education are generally declining, Harris said UWRF isn’t dealing with a sharp decrease.

“We’re actually holding pretty steady,” said Harris. “Right after Act 10, we had a dip, but we’ve stabilized again. We’re pleased with that right now compared to some other universities.”

Harris said he believes Act 10 demoralized and tarnished the position of teacher, and it has tainted the education system in Wisconsin even further. However, he does see a turnaround.

“I think it is happening (teachers getting more respect). Teachers teach because they love to teach,” said Harris.

Currently, the Wisconsin state budget isn’t handing out any favors to the education system. However, the governor’s new budget proposal would put more money back into education. If the proposal were to pass, it could provide a \$200 dollar increase in state per public school student.

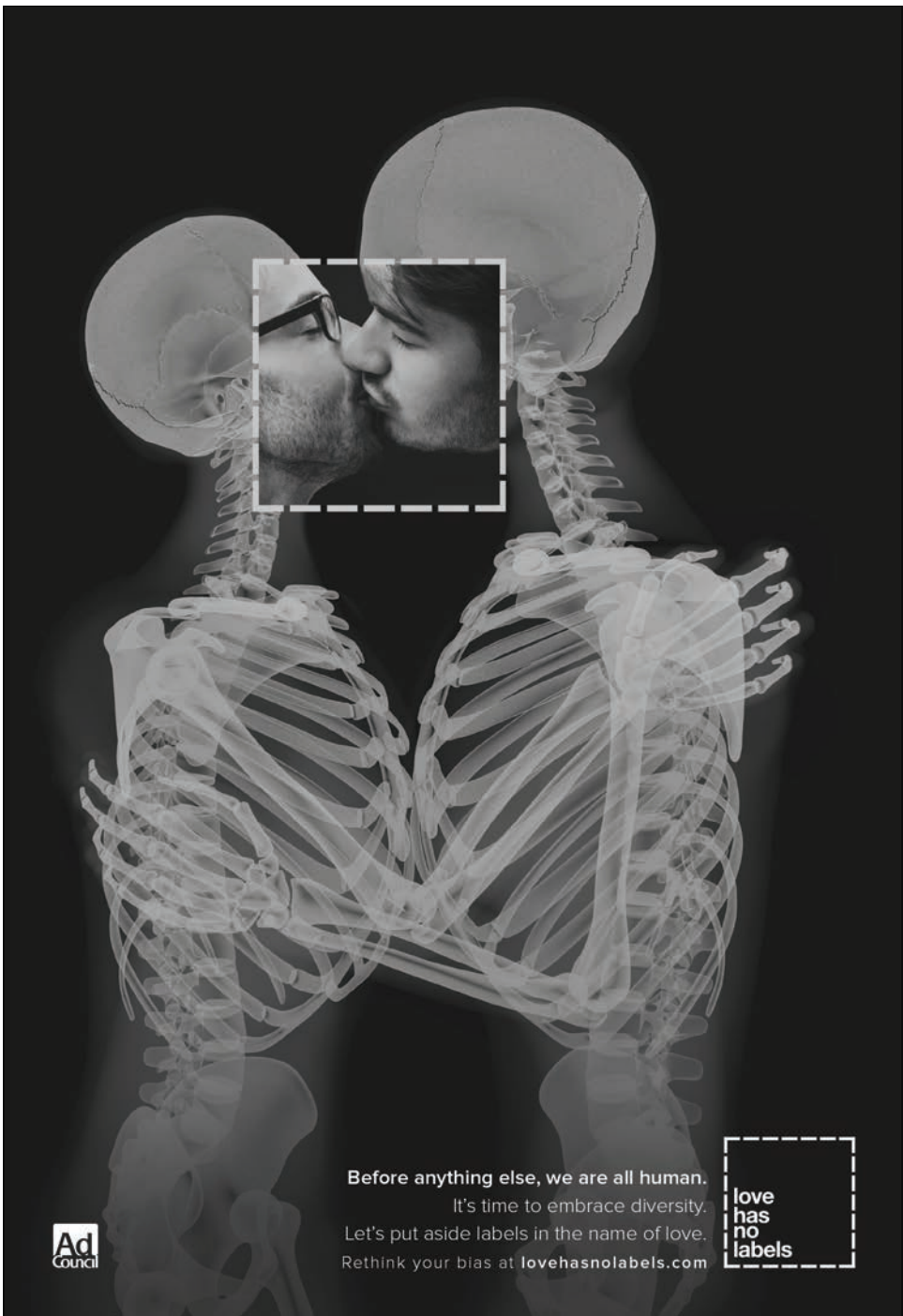


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EDITORIAL

Selectively denying press access takes toll on accountability

On Feb. 24, a number of news organizations were excluded from an off-camera White House press briefing, while others were selectively chosen to attend. This is a gross violation of the rights of the press as government watchdogs.

The briefing, called a gaggle, was held in White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer’s office. News organizations not invited to participate included The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Politico, the BBC and CNN. Major television networks Fox News, ABC, NBC and CBS were all invited, as was the conservative-leaning Breitbart News.

One of the roles of journalists is to hold officials accountable for what they do. It is our duty to inform the public of the potential changes happening in our government and explain how those changes could impact people’s lives. Holding off-camera, private briefings blocks this and limits accountability.

According to NBC News, the gaggle was initially expected to be attended by a pool of reporters, or a limited number of journalists who rotate and share information. However, the pool was later expanded, thus allowing a select set of additional reporters into the room. Hallie Jackson of NBC and MSNBC reported that she witnessed representatives from CNN being turned away after she was allowed in.

It makes sense to want limit the number of people in the room, especially when those in the room promise to share information with other outlets. However, when this is done, it is important to make sure that the decision is not made in a way that seems to intentionally exclude those who have reported facts you dislike.

President Trump has taken issue with outlets like The New York Times and CNN before, so this hardly seems like a coincidence. This is especially true when considering that the New York Times typically has seats reserved in the on-camera daily briefings.

Earlier that same day, in front of a crowd at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland, Trump referred to the media as the “enemy of the people” and echoed his familiar claims about fake news being reported about him and his administration.

It seems ironic that Trump is concerned about the news media trying to discredit him, yet his administration is excluding credible news sources from the chance to report actual facts.

Regardless of these enraging actions, we as journalists will remain dedicated to reporting the truth.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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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.

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

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

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

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the *Student Voice* per issue. A single copy of the *Student Voice* is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff by email through editor@uwrfvoice.com.

WISCONSIN NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wisconsin Natural Resources is a magazine that needs to be saved

Dear Editor,

For only the second time in its history, the Birkebeiner, our nation’s largest cross-country ski race, was canceled due to lack of snow. Considering the fact that 2016 was the warmest year on record, we shouldn’t be surprised.

What is surprising is that so many of our GOP politicians have managed to maintain a head-in-the-sand, do-nothing attitude toward climate change, of which the Birkie may be a recent casualty.

The Wisconsin Initiative for Climate Change Impacts (at www.wicci.wisc.edu) lists several outcomes likely to drastically alter the Wisconsin we know and love. Among them:

- Warming could make our rivers less habitable for trout, which require colder water.
- Regionally-defining trees, including birch and sugar maple, may no longer thrive in our state but find more favorable growing conditions farther north.
- Heat-related illness, which accounts for the highest number of deaths caused by natural disasters in Wisconsin, are increasing.

In Wisconsin, climate change has unfortunately become a partisan issue, with the DNR withholding important information from the public on orders from the Republican governor and legislature.

State news sources have reported that Governor Walker is even trying to kill the venerable Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine, even though it’s entirely funded by subscription fees.

In the past few years, the magazine has been politically censored over climate change, deer management and other issues affecting Wisconsin citizens.

The magazine is beloved of school children, nature lovers and outdoorspeople. Why would the governor want to suppress a periodical that celebrates and promotes the natural beauty of our state?

If enough people mail a very affordable \$8.97 for a one-year subscription to P.O. Box 7191, Madison, WI, 53707, we can send the governor a message that we don’t want to lose this useful little magazine.

Thomas R. Smith

Ask Colleen: Moving off-campus

Colleen Brown

Advice Columnist

Hi Colleen,
I’m a sophomore on campus this semester, and I have decided to live off-campus next semester. All of my friends are going to be living in a different place than me. I think they’ve realized that I’m going to be leaving soon, and they’re starting to push me out of our circle. I still want to stay friends with them but they’re making me feel unwanted. Do I try to keep up our friendship or should I try to find new friends?

Sincerely,
True Friend

True Friend,

I remember the days when I lived across campus from my friends after freshman year. We went from all living next to each other to living a whole 10 minutes away from each other. That was sarcasm, obviously, but those 10 minutes made a huge difference.

Although you may be going to the same university and possibly only living a couple of blocks away, it is still hard to maintain friendships when you once lived so close to each other. River Falls is a relatively small campus, but you can make it as big or small as you want it to be.

After my freshman year, I chose to live in a residence hall that was on the complete other side of campus from my friends. At first, I really didn’t think it would be a big deal to live on the other side, but I’m not going to lie to you: It was hard to make time to see them. It’s not like I couldn’t walk across campus to see them; it’s just that they weren’t located near me and it was easier to just go back to my residence hall.

We all become absorbed in our own lives and eventually settle down into a routine. Because my friends weren’t near me, I just didn’t see them as often as I once did. When living in the same residence halls as your friends, there is the convenience of them always being there. You can walk across the hall to hang out with them or even just to grab them to go to dinner. It’s not that simple when you live on opposite sides of campus.

Now, I’m not trying to scare you into thinking that these friendships can’t work, because they can. We all have choices. If you choose to remain friends with these people, it may take a little bit more effort than you’re used to. It won’t

be as easy as yelling across the hall when you all are going out or walking to class.

The bottom line is that you don’t live far away from them now. I would say, for both parties, it’s important to enjoy the time that you do have together. Let’s not look too far into the future, because that hasn’t happened yet. Like you said, they may be pushing away because you will be living in a different area next semester, but that’s next semester, not now. Over that past couple of years, I have been working on living in the moment. It’s so easy to be excited for the future, but it’s also important to live in the now.

You should never feel unwanted by the people who you call your friends. Regardless of the distance between you and your friends, those who want to be in your life will make time to do so. I would advise you to talk to your friends about this and let them know how you feel.

They could potentially be pushing you away because they feel like you are leaving them. Maybe they think you are putting distance between each other because you chose to live on a different part of campus?

I would say that you wouldn’t want to keep friendships with people if they aren’t putting in the effort to maintain a friendship with you. Any relationship takes both parties to put forth an effort. I know that it may be hard to move across campus, but this could always be a really good experience for you! Moving somewhere different gives you the opportunity to meet new people and form new friendships.

I wouldn’t say that you need to let go of these friends and move on just because you moved to a different place. However, if they aren’t going to make the effort, then I would not make the effort back.

Take this move as a chance to get out there and meet new people. I know that your first couples of years on campus and where you live can really dictate who you are friends with, but you would be surprised how many more people you can meet outside of the residence halls. Some of my very best friends in college I have met in class and at work.

Talk it out with your friends, but don’t be discouraged if things don’t go as planned. Trust me, friendships change and that’s completely normal. Just keep your eyes open to all of the new possibilities that will come with this move.

Good luck,
Colleen

Colleen Brown is a senior at UWRF going for an English literature degree. One thing that makes her qualified for this advice column is that she is a college student trying to make it through, just like everyone else.

Inclusivity means standing up for what’s right even when it’s hard

Darren Spence

Inclusivity Senator

Hello, UW-River Falls. My name is Darren Spence and I am currently the Inclusivity Senator for the 79th Session of the UWRF Student Government Association.

I was able to attend the Midwest Lesbian, Gay, Transgender and Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) held Feb. 17-19 in Chicago, Illinois. The MBLGTACC consisted of several hundred students from universities and colleges from 13 states including Wisconsin. This year the theme was United in Solidarity, and many of the issues and workshops dealt with some of the recent controversial political subjects including transgender rights, ungendering bathrooms and conversion therapy.

During my two days at this conference, I attended six of the eight workshop sessions held, which I found to be very informative and very relevant given many members of our student body fall into such categories.

The first workshop dealt with the use of faith in support or denial of LGBT rights. Several students who were at this workshop grew up in very religious or conservative households or struggled for many years with coming out and the view or backlash that they would have received from others. The general consensus many came to was that faith and religion do not have to be a source of denial for those who are LGBT. While there are some religious views that may seem to be counterproductive to LGBT rights, it is really open to interpretation and no one should use one’s faith to denounce another for who they love or how they dress.

I then attended a student panel which consisted of four students from UW-La Crosse, UW-Superior, University of Minnesota Morris and Illinois State. The main theme that was said here was to encourage students to have more conversations with transgender people or who are nonwhite LGBT. We have several students here at UWRF who are in those categories and I would encourage my fellow students to reach out to them or to get involved with the GSA here on campus.

The student from University of Minnesota Morris then encouraged everyone to have conversations with those who you disagree with and not to be afraid to call a person out if you think they are wrong. You should stand up for your beliefs but never promote or encourage violence or infringing on their rights. Also, one needs to be aware of their social standing and privileges. Don’t try to deny it or ignore it when presented with it. Encourage others to acknowledge it as well and continue to work to establish a fair and equal society.

The last workshop I attended was a discussion and history of conversion therapy given by a recipient and survivor of this practice named Sam Brinton who is a graduate of MIT and was a nuclear engineer in the Obama Administration. The details he described of this practice are extremely graphic and I would not think it appropriate to include them in this column, but I strongly encourage anyone reading this to read any accounts of this practice by other survivors, or even Brinton’s own words which, in all honesty, is torture by all standards and is currently legal in over 40 states including Wisconsin and Minnesota. Those who wish to read up on this practice or help advocate for its ending should go to 50Bills50States.org.

Continued on Page 5

Inclusivity means standing up for what’s right

Continued from Page 4

The final two events I attended were keynote speeches by AIDS survivor and activist Peter Staley and the undocumented transgender and immigration activist Jennicet Gutierrez. Both Staley and Gutierrez had different themes in their respective speeches but the common theme was the call for involvement and to not sit idle with so much negativity in the world.

Like the 1980s AIDS crisis, we are living in a world where people in power use fear and mistrust to push us in one

direction or another. If we allow that and give in, we are no better than those who have committed extremely brutal acts throughout humanity’s history. While we all have our own lives and interests, we should just remember to not lose touch with those different than us and embrace that.

Benjamin Franklin once said, “Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on who to have for lunch.” I challenge everyone reading this to not be lambs but wolves and fight for those who are weak and keep those in power in check, whether it’s Democrat or Republican or other, and I encourage all my fellow Falcons to join one of the political groups

here on campus.

I would also encourage everyone to remember this slogan that was uttered several times during the MBLGTACC: “My existence is resistance.” And again, get involved on campus in any way you can. Together we can make this campus more inclusive and not only keep it great, but make it greater and greater again.

If anyone reading this has any questions or concerns regarding my attendance of this conference, I would encourage you all to contact me at darren.spence@my.uwrf.edu and I will be more than happy to discuss them. Thank you.

Falcon Center offers students new experiences, challenges

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

By February, most people who have bothered to make resolutions for the new year have left those same declarations by the wayside. I resolved not to make a resolution this year, but that does not mean that I have shut out any notions of self-improvement altogether.

Basically, that means that occasionally I eventually find the courage to try something that challenges me. This may sound trivial, but as a self-conscious control freak, this is no small feat.

This past weekend, I made my maiden voyage to the new Falcon Center. After winding my way through the dark and partially-completed parking lot, I swiped my student I.D. card and there was no turning back. I donned a pair of wildly-patterned leggings, a strappy safety harness and Velcro rock climbing shoes. While I may have been outfitted in the proper equipment, sadly, there was not enough white, powdery chalk in the world to dry out my sweating palms.

It was quite intimidating to crane my neck and look at the rainbow of climbing holds that rose to the ceiling. Behind me, far more experienced climbers ascended, swung and dropped down with dusty thuds from the bouldering wall.

They climbed without the use of ropes attached to a belayer, a climber holding a rope for the other climber, instead using only thick mats underneath them as a safety precaution in case they should lose their grip and fall off the wall. I could only look wide-eyed as climbers jumped and swung from hold to hold on the bouldering wall.

I tried to forget the show of muscles on display as I needed to concentrate on my own abilities. My athleticism, or lack thereof, was not my only cause of concern, which really was a first. I was far more worried by the height of the climbing walls.

While I have always been vaguely aware that I was not overtly fond of heights, my phobia reached epic levels in 2013 when I found myself looking down at the ground from a very high vantage point at the very top of Mont St. Michel, France, and my fear has increased dramatically since then.

Toward the end of the night, and after trying to self repel myself up and down a wall with an automatic rope, I barely got a couple feet off the ground. I turned to a professional and was hooked up to a belayer. As a disclaimer to my belayer, I conceded my extreme fear of being up high, and also that I had trust issues about the rope. Saying this out loud did not seem to ease my anxieties, but it did increase the embarrassment I felt.

I followed the instructions of my belayer and “rainbowed” it up the wall, choosing any color holds that I felt would best to hold on to. And hold I did. My strategy was to climb as far as I could before I realized how far away the ground

was, stop, require a pep talk and a lot of encouragement from the people assembled below, climb farther up the wall and repeat. It was not a quick experience by any means.

Once I was finally at the top, I found that I would rather dig my toes in and clutch at the tiny holds on the walls than repel down. Finally, with my toes protesting and my fingers cramping, there really was no avoiding the fact that I could not stay at the top forever.

Trusting the rope to bring me back down to the ground proved to be the most challenging part of the whole climb. I quickly forgot about the muscles aching in my untuned arms. I was lowered down the wall, trying to control how much I swayed and swung the whole way. I finally hit the bottom, not on my feet, but sitting flat on the ground in sweet relief.

The Falcon Center, I can conclude, is not only beautiful and brand new, it also provides for the perfect place to test and challenge yourself. More than that, however, the Falcon Center is staffed and populated by really supportive and knowledgeable people who can take even the most uber-beginner, me, and get her up and down a rock wall with no injury to me or anyone else.

Lauren Simenson is a junior majoring in journalism and communication studies. Her interests include eating dark chocolate, online window shopping and reading anything she can get her hands on. While not at work, at school, taking naps or doing homework, she likes to cook, canoe, fish and write.

STUDENT voices

Compiled by Samantha Decker



Lydia Wagner
Senior

“I like being a part of the women’s soccer team.”



Nicole Olson
Senior

“I like to go to hockey games!”



Katy Cook
Senior

“Karaoke in the Falcon’s Nest.”



Ashley Shaw
Senior

“Bacon Bash.”

Men’s basketball grabs WIAC postseason title

Zach Dwyer
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcons men’s basketball team punched its ticket to the NCAA tournament in dramatic fashion on Saturday, edging out UW-Oshkosh for a 60-59 win and becoming the 2017 WIAC tournament champs. This comes only a few weeks after UWRF clinched a WIAC regular season championship. This marks the first time in program history that they have won both titles in the same season.

Karges Center was rocking before the opening tip, with over 1,000 fans being crowded into what could have been the final game in the arena. “It’s a huge advantage when our fans are being loud and that place was electric,” senior guard Grant Erickson said. “The community and students are really into this basketball team.”

The No. 6 ranked Falcons may have had the fans on their side, but they came out struggling to match the pace and shooting of UW-Oshkosh. The Titans got off to a 23-12 lead due to the sharpshooting of Charlie Noone and Ben Boots.

UWRF fought back to close the gap to 37-31 at the half. Alex Herink and Garret Pearson led the way with seven points each, with Devin Buckley adding six in the first half.

“Our guys have huge heart and a tremendous amount of confidence to get back in that game,” Head Coach Jeff Berkhof said. “They believed they were going to be able to come back.”

The game looked like it might be out of reach for the Falcons after the Titans took a 46-34 lead with 15 minutes remaining, but a lineup of Erickson, Herink, Brennan Witt, Booker Coplin and Austin Moldenhauer sparked a huge comeback.

“Sometimes we have a group of five where the whole mood or vibe of the game changes. We have so many people that can benefit us,” Herink said.

Berkhof and Erickson also praised the bench play and ability for players to step. They both said it proves how many players can come off the bench to make an impact.

A 19-2 run over the course of eight minutes

completely changed the story of the game. A banked-in three pointer by Coplin was followed by an and-one basket by Witt that sent the deafening Karges crowd into a frenzy.

“It’s really hard to keep emotions in check in those kind of games,” Erickson said. “We fed off the crowd and remembered a year ago when we lost to them at Oshkosh [in the championship game].”

The game continued to be a battle down the stretch, with neither team being able to pull away. The last field goal of the game was knocked down by Clay Seifert to give UW-River Falls a 60-58 lead with two minutes remaining.

The Titans only managed to go 1-4 from the free throw line in the last two minutes to keep the game in the Falcons’ favor at 60-59. A tightly-contested shot from Boots sailed left of the hoop in the closing seconds to give UWRF its program’s second WIAC postseason title.

“I’m proud of the guys and how hard and intense they played,” Berkhof said. “They stayed within their assignments and were textbook down the stretch when we needed stops in those last 30 seconds.”

The win came with a very balanced scoring effort for the Falcons. Pearson scored 12 points and 10 rebounds, with multiple big baskets down the stretch. Witt also had another big game off the bench after contributing 12 points and 14 rebounds in Thursday’s win over UW-La Crosse. Witt had 12 points on 3-5 shooting and was 6-7 from the free throw line.

“I didn’t know the stat that we haven’t won both the regular season and postseason title in the same season,” Erickson said. “That shows that our league is tough, and it says something about the season we’re having.”

The game wasn’t without several individual accomplishments as well. Pearson surpassed 1,000 points in his career and Erickson moved to second all-time in career assists at UWRF.

“Those records show we’re pretty old and have played with a lot of good players,” Erickson said. “We don’t really care about accolades too much and just see them as an added bonus to the success of the team.”

The win also helped propel the Falcons to



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications
The Falcons celebrate their win over UW-Oshkosh in the 2017 WIAC Men’s Basketball Championship in Karges on Feb. 25.

a variety of conference awards. Herink was named WIAC player of the year and Berkhof was named coach of the year. Herink and Pearson also made first team all-WIAC while Erickson and Devin Buckley received honorable mention honors.

The season will continue as UWRF hosts the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament at Karges this weekend. The 24-3 Falcons take on the 21-6 Bethel Royals on Friday night at 8 p.m. The Royals are currently coming off a MIAC championship this past weekend.

“It’s a good thing to have to play Bethel, because we have to play the best to be the best,” Herink said. “It gets our head in the right place, and it will be a tough game come Friday and we have to be ready for it.”

The Falcons will look to keep up their defensive intensity and clutch play that have led them to big wins down the stretch this season. The players and coaches are excited for the

opportunity to host at Karges moving forward, hoping it can give them the edge they need to make a run in the NCAA tournament.

The winner of the UWRF-Bethel game will play the winner of the Benedictine-Wartburg game that precedes the Falcons game on Friday. The two winning teams will return on Saturday night to play at Karges again. Erickson said that it’s time to put the rest of the season behind them and finish strong.

“Now we have to put the statistics out the window and play hard,” Erickson said. “We need to find different ways to win and take it one game at a time.”

Pre-sale tickets for the first round will go on sale in the UWRF athletic office on Thursday from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and Friday from 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Sports Recap

Women’s Hockey

UW-River Falls advanced to the WIAC championship by defeating UW-Superior in a two-game series. The Falcons prevailed 5-1 on Friday night and closed out the Yellowjackets 3-0 on Saturday. Dani Sibley broke the single-season goals record in the third period on Saturday after adding one in the first period. That puts her at 27 goals on the season and 60 points total. UWRF also got a goal from Haley Nielsen in the first period to put up a dominant effort against Superior.

Men’s Hockey

The Falcons ended their season in the WIAC semifinals after losing to UW-Eau Claire 3-1 on Friday and 6-3 on Saturday. UWRF finished its season 12-13-2 and 3-4-1 in the WIAC. Goalie Zach Quinn finished the year by giving up only 1.89 goals per game. Mike Fazio and Ryan Doner finished the season by each recording 14 points to lead the team. Joe Drapluk finished the season with the most goals at eight. The success the team had in the second half of the season will look to transition into the 2017-2018 year.

Women’s Basketball

UWRF closed out its 2016-2017 campaign by falling to UW-Oshkosh on the road by a score of 48-56. The Falcons put up a tough fight to end the season by upsetting UW-Stevens Point in the first round of the WIAC tournament and leading No. 1 seeded Oshkosh

by eight at halftime. Senior Kate Theisen had a strong final performance, shooting 3-4 from the three-point line and adding nine rebounds. The Falcons finished their up and down season at 9-18 after a significant effort down the stretch. Taylor Karges was also named to the All-WIAC first team.

Men’s Track and Field

The Falcons finished in seventh place out of eight teams at the WIAC Indoor Track and Field Championship. David Paynotta continued his dominant form this season by finishing in second place in the 60m and 200m dash. His loss in the 60m dash was by less than a hundredth of a second. Taylor Eldred also placed fourth in the weight throw. Josh Leonard tied the UWRF record in the 60m hurdles with a time of 8.33, which was good enough for sixth place. Justin Barnes put in another strong effort for the team by finishing sixth in the heptathlon.

Women’s Track and Field

The UWRF distance medley relay team put in a solid effort to finish in sixth at the WIAC Indoor Track and Field Championships. Multiple Falcons also put up strong individual efforts, including Abby Fouts and Linsey Tolkkinen. The two placed seventh and eighth in the 5000m to get much-needed points for the Falcons.

Sports Schedule

Home games in **BOLD**

March 3: Softball versus St. Catherine (Doubleheader), 1 p.m.

March 3: Women’s hockey versus UW-Eau Claire (WIAC Championship), 2:05 p.m.

March 3: Men’s basketball versus Bethel (NCAA First Round), 8 p.m.

March 4: Men’s track and field at Stevens Point (Last Chance Meet)

March 4: Women’s track and field at Stevens Point (Last Chance Meet)

March 4: Softball versus St Thomas, 11 a.m.

March 4: Softball versus St. Olaf, 3 p.m.



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LIVE

FALCON BROADCAST

Men’s Basketball
NCAA Tournament First Round
UWRF versus Bethel
Pregame: 7:45 p.m.
Tipoff: 8 p.m.

UW-River Falls on schedule to enroll large freshman class despite earlier concerns

Matthew Clark
Falcon News Service

Despite concerns from University of Wisconsin leaders about a decline in graduating high school seniors, freshman enrollment at UW-River Falls is looking up.

According to data from UWRf’s admission office, as of Feb. 1 the university had admitted 1,974 incoming freshmen for the 2017-2018 school year, up 13 percent from this time last year. The number comes as good news for university officials who have been working to increase enrollment after struggling to balance the university’s budget during a period of decline and a tuition freeze.

Higher enrollment is also a welcomed sight for the university’s admission counselors who have worked to offset the declining number of high school graduates in the region due to lower birth rates in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Sarah Egerstrom, UWRf’s executive director of Admissions & New Student and Family Programs, said the higher enrollment is a result of collaboration across campus.

“We’re working closely with University Communications and Marketing,” Egerstrom said. “Our branding and brand awareness as an institution is continuing to reinforce that UW-River Falls is a great place to live and learn.”

The higher numbers are also good news for the university’s colleges, which are all seeing an increase in freshman enrollment. The university’s largest, the College of Arts and Sci-

ences (CAS), which experienced a budget cut of \$1.5 million in 2016, has seen a 31 percent increase in admitted students compared to this time last year. Dean Brad Caskey said the increase in student interest can be attributed to improvements made to all of the university’s colleges.

“We have new majors that we didn’t have before that are attracting students that wouldn’t have come here before,” Caskey said.

The university has also stepped up its campus visit days, allowing prospective students to meet with faculty and current students within the programs of their interest.

“This has grown in popularity so departments are sending multiple people over now to meet with the students,” Caskey said.

CAS offers a majority of the university’s general education courses, and last year’s budget cut created uncertainty about whether the college would be able to offer enough courses to sustain the freshman class of 2016-2017. Officials were able to resolve the issue and offer enough courses for the year. However, with an even larger class expected next fall, Caskey said he wonders if the college might run into trouble.

“We have to figure out how we make sure that, if the yield of these students is what we expect it to be, that they have enough classes,” Caskey said.

University officials feel confident enrollment numbers will continue to increase, creating one of the university’s largest freshman



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications
UWRf is seeing higher freshman enrollment than expected for the 2017-2018 academic year due to increased efforts by the university, including stepping up the amount of campus visit days.

classes ever.

“I’m pretty confident we’ll hit our enrollment target for the fall. We’ve been very intentional with our recruitment,” Egerstrom said.

UWRf’s admissions office releases the latest data on admitted students on the first of every month. UWRf officials said the next few months will be telling for where the university is headed.

Warmer weather results in wildlife getting active sooner

Lisa Erickson
Falcon News Service

Recent warmer-than-normal winter temperatures are creating a bustle of wildlife activity across Wisconsin. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) officials say they have been fielding phone calls from residents wondering about what some animals are doing.

“We get calls all the time that people are seeing over a hundred deer congregating together and, believe it or not, that is not unusual,” Kevin Wallenfang, a DNR deer and elk ecologist, said in a telephone call.

Wallenfang said this has been a very mild winter so far and the deer population has been growing. Deer are more likely to be weakened by heavy amounts of snow.

“I haven’t been out, but the warm weather can have an effect on the wildlife,” added Ryan Haffele, DNR wildlife biologist for Pierce and St. Croix counties.

“We are starting to see birds pair up already,” he said.

Some birds, like geese, are opportunistic. They may start nesting because of the warm weather. Other birds are not. Area residents may hear turkeys calling or see them strut-

ting around, but that doesn’t mean they will start nesting. Birds like pheasants are more affected by the length of daylight, not the temperature. Those birds will start nesting in early April or May, Haffele said.

According to DNR officials, the warm-up is causing more daytime activity, and animals don’t have to expend as much energy. They are taking advantage of the warm weather.

“Now that the snow is gone, you can really see deer in people’s yards or in fields,” said Wallenfang. Since the hunting season has ended, deer have settled down and are more comfortable.

Deer can be seen congregating on fields, eating waste grain and looking for grass on west-facing slopes. In late winter, deer typically congregate together and herd up, because they are more successful in numbers. That kind of activity is being reported earlier this year, according to Wallenfang.

Weather experts say 2015-2016 was the warmest year globally since records began to be kept in 1880.

When it’s warm, deer need less nutrients and a smaller fat reserve to survive on. According to experts, the deer population is increasing.

“We anticipate a good recurrent high fawn production. That’s beneficial for deer lovers,” said Wallenfang.

Pierce County deer harvest numbers from hunting were down in 2016 to a total of 4,425. The total harvested in 2015 was 4,760.

“Pierce County is a very productive county as far as deer are concerned. Typically, we will see lots of twin births,” said Haffele.

If the deer population rises too high, it results in a poor quality habitat for them. The process may take five to nine years, and at this point, the region is in the middle of such a cycle, according to Haffele.

Because of the warm weather, plants begin to green up, especially in ditches along roads. People will need to be careful and look for animals feeding there, said Wallenfang.

Phil Meixner from the Pierce County Sheriff’s Office said that so far there hasn’t been an uptick in animal-related vehicle collisions.

The hardest hit animals in warmer-than-normal winter temperatures are those that burrow into the ground. The melting snow will cause water to run into their dens.

“People may start seeing bears coming out of their dens looking for a dry place to finish hibernating,” added Wallenfang. Bears don’t

like to be wet. If a female bear has cubs, she will move them somewhere dry. The cubs are about the size of a squirrel, they don’t have any hair and they can’t see. It’s not surprising for bears to find a dead log or culvert where they can curl up after they raid a few bird feeders. They are very adaptable, amazing creatures, said Wallenfang.

“We don’t see a lot of bears here locally,” said Brad Peterson, Pierce County’s conservation officer. They are more likely to be seen in Polk and St. Croix counties.

According to the DNR’s website, “Adult black bear may weigh 250 to more than 500 pounds, but when they awaken in spring, bears have lost approximately 25-40 percent of their body weight and emerge from winter dens really hungry, looking to replenish reserves depleted over the winter.”


If you encounter a bear, stay calm, wildlife officials say. Bears are shy and if not conditioned to humans, will usually flee quickly. If you see a bear in the woods, make some noise so the bear knows you are there. Slowly back away and allow the bear a clear exit that doesn’t intersect your path.



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'Get Out' a fresh take on thriller genre with eerie story

Wesley Sigsworth

Reviewer

“Get Out” is a thriller/mystery film and the directorial debut of long-time “Key and Peele” actor and writer Jordan Peele. The plot centers around Chris, a black photographer, who is dating Rose, a white woman. Rose is bringing Chris to meet her parents for the weekend.

Upon arriving at Rose’s parents’ secluded backwoods estate, Chris realizes that something is not right. Aside from the usual racial tension that has become the norm for Chris, other events and encounters transpire that make him realize that he may be in danger.

Peele has great control over this movie’s tone in most areas. Its thriller and, at times, horror elements are played out perfectly. The whole experience feels very confining and uncomfortable with many of the situations Chris has to endure. With the subject of race, the film walks a fine line of thriller and comedy sketch. This is where the film sometimes loses its power, but more on that later. Certain encounters on the surface seem to want to be comical but later on reveal themselves to be terrifying when the context is revealed.

The performances are part of what make the more odd and creepy encounters work so well while also giving some of the surface comedic lines the sinister undercurrent that drives the plot forward. Add the use of a few select extreme close-up shots and the audience is forced to look at the eerie dilemma that Chris faces head-on.

When the film’s tension is dialed up full blast, it is relentless. It has a handful of moments that are so outlandish that it makes you want to laugh a very uncomfortable, quiet chuckle.

The laughs also come from a few scenes

that seem more at home in a “Key and Peele” sketch. These scenes, although there are only a few, detract from the film’s built up atmosphere. Most of these scenes revolve around one of Chris’s friends who continually warns him of Rose and her family. Some of the scenes between Chris and his friend are short and offer quality banter between the two friends. However, there is a pretty long scene involving only the friend that really takes away from the tension of Chris’s situation at that point in the story.

The film’s central theme revolves a lot around racial tension in interracial relationships and interactions. At its best, the film presents this in a compelling way that drives the plot forward and really makes you feel for the characters. At its worst, it tends to beat you over the head with it just enough to make you a little tired of it, but it isn’t too much of a problem. If anything, this theme is something that today’s young movie-going audience will understand most.

There are also a few moments in the film that push a little too hard on what seems plausible. They are small moments, and all movies have them, where the viewer has to say, “There’s no way that would work,” or, “There’s no way that would happen.” These are minor nitpicks but are worth mentioning as most people will also notice these scenes.

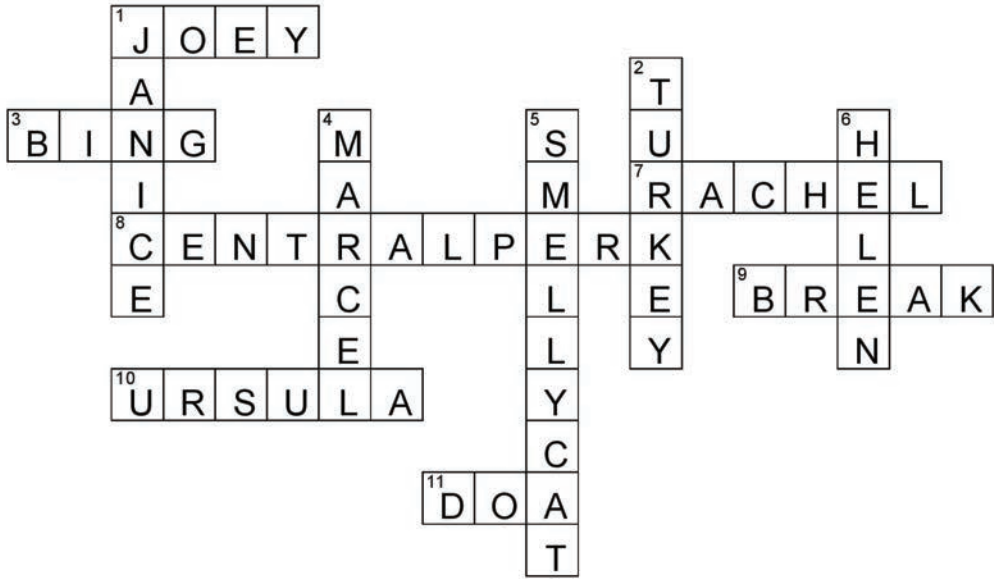
Other than some of the misplaced comedic scenes, “Get Out” is a very well-done thriller that has a driving story, great performances and a fitting conclusion that lives up to its buildup. It’s a welcome surprise to see a fresh take on the genre from someone who is mostly known for comedy.

Wesley Sigsworth is a junior stage and screen arts major focusing on film and TV production. He is an admitted video game and film junkie and enjoys writing about what he sees on the big screen. He also works on the campus TV production “Focus On U,” which posts new episodes on YouTube bi-weekly.



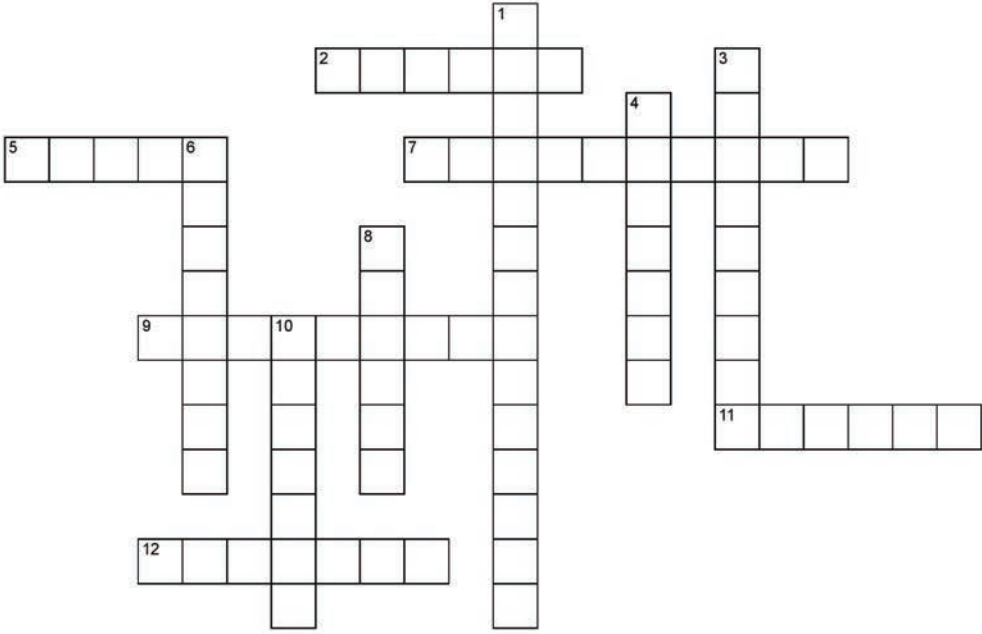
Last Week’s Answers

'Friends' Trivia




Puzzle of the Week

'Harry Potter' Trivia



Find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!



The first person to report the find to **natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu** AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

Now Playing: “Logan”

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:
@uwrfvoice and **facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice**

- ACROSS
- 2 This Nicolas is the creator of the Sorcerer's Stone
 - 5 The name of the most common house elf in the series
 - 7 A popular drink in the Wizarding World (2 words)
 - 9 The name of Albus Dumbledore's brother
 - 11 This character said, "Me dad's a Muggle; Mam's a witch. Bit of a nasty shock for him when he found out."
 - 12 The character who also had the potential to be the Chosen One
- DOWN
- 1 Consisted of the Elder Wand, the Gaunt family ring and the invisibility cloak (2 words)
 - 3 These winged horses can only be seen by people who have witnessed death
 - 4 A position held by Percy, Ron, Hermione and Draco
 - 6 The dance taking place in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" (2 words)
 - 8 The Weasley twin who is missing an ear
 - 10 Where Charlie Weasley goes to study dragons

Puzzle created at puzzle-maker.com

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