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Thursday, Feb. 14, 2019

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Valentine's Edition

STUDENT

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VOICE



Dating in 21st century explores new platforms

Brooke Shepherd

brooke.shepherd@my.uwrf.edu

Dating in the 21st century is complex. In the past, couples simply met in person and had to contact each other through the home landline, usually after awkwardly meeting whichever family member answered the phone. Today, however, people can be easily contacted through Snapchat, over text, sending a quick meme to Instagram DMs, or, of course, Tinder and other dating apps.

Greg Kerkvliet, an English lecturer at UW-River Falls, has had students examine relationships. Kerkvliet commented on how his students ideas on online dating

Kerkvliet mentioned that students who wrote about the use of these apps have had both positive and negative experiences. "They either seem to find someone on there without much hassle and are happy with how the app worked for them, or they have the same problems that are often brought up in newspaper and magazine articles about dating apps: too many choices, superficial decisions about who to date, or receiving offensive messages," Kerkvliet explained.

Anna Broll, a Biomedical major with a Chemistry minor at UWRF spoke about her thoughts on dating, "I'm kind of old fashion since I don't want to start dating based on an app, I've actually never used Tinder or any other dating apps. I would just would like to meet someone the old way, where you run into each other or your friends or something like that. On a lot of those apps, you don't really know what the other person's motive is."

"I definitely know a lot of people personally who are on those dating apps," Broll continued. "Some of them have had relationships that have lasted a while, but a lot of them also have had questionable experiences. All the people that I know who are in a serious committed relationship right now met in person."

Peirre Conwell, a senior majoring in communication studies, commented on the use of dating apps, "I just meet people through friends. I don't use apps. Some of my friends use Tinder, but they have not had success with that. I feel like there's a lot of stuff you can't get from an app like facial expressions and gestures. People can write and tell you anything."

Though some are suspicious of these apps, according to a study done by the Pew Research Center in 2015, "The share of 18- to 24-year-olds who use online dating has roughly tripled from 10 percent in 2013 to 27 percent [in 2015]."

Convenience is a factor for most students who turn to dating apps. Elliot Corbett, a student getting their Bachelors of Fine Arts with an emphasis in ceramics and drawing, has used Bumble and OKCupid in order to find dates. "I'm queer, so it's much easier to find people on apps. I feel like it's harder to find other queer people in person," Corbett said.

**Convenience is
a factor for most
students who turn to
dating apps.**



Young couple holding hands after lunch at the University Center.
Photo by Brooke Shepherd



Freddy, 33



1 mile away

If my impeccable bird puns are going to make you feel awkward or unpeasant, swipe left



Freddy the Falcon's potential online dating profile.

Graphic by Kacey Joslin

have changed, "When I first started using online dating as part of a reading theme about 10 years ago, most students thought of it in terms of catfishing and didn't seem to have direct experience with it. The last two or three years of student discussion and papers on the subject seem to indicate more are using the apps."

Cindy Schmidtke, a graduate from UWRF with a Bachelor in Fine Arts and an emphasis in ceramics and drawing, examined her own reasons for using apps, "The apps just seem to be a better option to meet more people from other areas. I feel so many guys are so [...] shy nowadays. I could sit at the bar for literal hours, for a full day even, and no guy will come up and talk to me. The apps is the way I tend to go, but I do still try to meet people in person, since that seems more genuine."

Schmidtke has used both Tinder and Bumble, though her relationship status is still currently "very single." Schmidtke said, "Of all the matches you get [on Tinder], sometimes half of them just want to hook up because they don't want to be in anything serious, which is garbage," Schmidtke continued. "However, some of my friends have met their significant others through work or through other situa-

tions but I just had an acquaintance who married a guy she met on Tinder. My sister is also currently dating the guys she met off tinder, so I remain hopeful."

A survey collected by the Council on Contemporary Families that analyzed over 24,000 college students at 22 colleges around the U.S. between 2005 and 2011 found that "College students have essentially equal rates of hooking up and dating. Since beginning college, approximately 62 percent reported having hooked up, while 61 percent said they had gone out on a date."

"Only 8 percent of all students had hooked up without ever going on a date or being in a long-term relationship," the Council continued. "More than 3 times as many students — 26.5 percent — had never hooked up at all, but instead had dated and/or formed a long-term relationship."

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What are your Valentine's Day plans?

Compiled by Kacey Joslin & Brooke Shepherd

Elijah Avidan

"I'll be going out to eat with my girlfriend. It's not really romantic."



Haley Wozniak

"I don't really care about Valentine's day. I have basketball."



Tori Ross

"I'll probably hang out with my BF, it's likely we'll go out to eat somewhere. It'll probably be very informal. Valentine's is just like any other date."



Gavin Bunnell

"I'll probably just go to the bar, have some whiskey and coke . . . I am of age."

Abi Carlson

"I'm apart of several clubs like APL and Masquers, and for Valentine's we're posting theatrical cheesy pick-up lines all over. They're pretty nerdy. My favorite is 'are you a light crew, 'cause you light up my life.'"



Elliot Corbett

"I don't have any plans for the day of, but the day after I'll be performing in Dragged Out's show, it's their Valentine's day show. I'm part of the drag battle portion."



*Top 10
Restaurants
in River Falls*

According to a survey of 56
UWRF students

Data compiled by Chelsie Rosa
Graphic by Kacey Joslin
Photos used by permission



"I think that it's authentic and it's convenient for students. They also have very good chips and queso. 10/10!"
- Grace Hurst, freshman

Hours:
Sun-Thurs, 11am-10pm
Fri-Sat, 11am-11pm

456 Spruce St, River Falls, WI
54022

14%
Bo's 'N Mine

12.5%
Mainstreeter Bar & Grill

11%
Kinni Café

11%
Maverick's Corner Saloon

9%
Broz Sports Bar & Grill

7%
South Fork Café

7%
Junior's Restaurant & Tap House

5.5%
Lazy River

4% Other

'Total loss' after fire ravages house in River Falls

Brooke Shepherd and
Kacey Joslin

kassaundra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

Early morning on Saturday, January 26th, River Falls firefighters braved the piercingly cold temperatures to extinguish two house fires at 222 E. Walnut St. and 209 S. Third St.

At 1 a.m., the River Falls Fire Department was dispatched to a structure fire near Jacob's Ladder Preschool, an Ezekiel Lutheran Church affiliate.

The flames could be seen from several blocks away, and, according to a news release from the City of River Falls, "[C]rews were met with heavy smoke and flames and battled the blaze in sub-zero temperatures." According to Mike Moody, Assistant Fire Chief at River Falls City Fire Department, the weather conditions "definitely" had an effect. "The sub-zero temps caused some equipment problems, as well as being hard on firefighters," Moody said.

Both properties are owned by Ezekiel Lutheran Church. 222 E. Walnut St. is recognized by the Wisconsin Historical Society as it was built in 1885.

The main causes of structure fires in older homes such as 222 Walnut St., as stated by Moody, are electrical wiring and old fireplace chimneys. However,



Damage to exterior from the flames.
Photo courtesy of Heather Sperl

the home's older building materials may have saved the house from worse damage. "If this had been a newer home with 'lightweight' construction, it likely would have burned to the

ground," Moody explained.

222 E. Walnut Street retained the most damage, and although no damage estimate has been made available, Moody revealed "The assessed the value of the house at \$157,000, and it will be a total loss."

The exact cause of the fire, Moody said, is still undetermined, although a news release from the City of River Falls stated that "The fire is suspected to have started in the porch area."

According to the news release, "The fire was under control in about 45 minutes," but crews were onsite for another four hours, putting out spot fires caused by sparks and embers emitted from the main fire. "This one took longer because it got into the attic and we were not able to use the second floor to get at the attic," Moody said.

The neighboring home at 209 S. Third Street fared better, with exterior damage on one side and smoke damage within, caused by proximity to the flames from the original structure.

No first responders were harmed, but there were two cats lost in the fire and two residents were transported to the hospital for treatment. According to Eze-



Entrance cordoned off by River Falls Fire Department
Photo courtesy of Heather Sperl

"I couldn't believe that this happened," Sperl said. "I couldn't imagine having to watch all of my stuff burn to the ground."

kiel Lutheran Church's Business Administrator Paul Moe, "One girl suffered minor burns on her foot. [. . .] There had been five residents living in this house, but only three were home during the fire." Moe commented that everyone has found other places to live, most with friends or family. The Red Cross assisted one tenant with getting a motel room.

Heather Sperl, a friend of one of the residents at 222 E. Walnut St., revealed that residents had to run through the flames during the evacuation process. "I couldn't believe that this happened," Sperl said. "I couldn't imagine having to watch all of my stuff burn to the ground. The one house was a total loss, and in the second house, one bedroom was gone and the house was condemned. Two people losing their animals broke my

heart."

In response, the city has rallied around the displaced residents. Sperl has joined forces with the manager of Junior's Restaurant & Tap House downtown River Falls to host a fundraiser for those affected by the fire.

"The fundraiser is March 8. We are doing a silent auction. [. . .] Also, an account has been opened at First National Bank. I would love donations for the silent auction, I would need the amount that the donation is, gift baskets would be appreciated." Some of the proceeds from the night will be donated by Junior's Restaurant & Tap House to help the fire victims.

Moody's advice to homeowners is to dig out any fire hydrant buried under snow in order to make their job easier.

If you are interested in donating to the fundraiser, please contact Heather Sperl at (651)-329-9464 or via email at heather.sperl@andersencorp.com. It is also possible to donate directly to the account at First National Bank under Benefit for RF fire house, these donations are tax deductible, and Sperl or the bank can provide donors with a tax ID.



222 Walnut St., determined by firefighters to be a total loss.
Photo courtesy of Heather Sperl

UWRF receives reaffirmed accreditation

Melissa Thorud

melissa.thorud@my.uwrf.edu

Last semester UW-River Falls went through the process of becoming reaffirmed by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The HLC is an organization that grants accreditation to colleges and universities, UWRF goes through a 10 year course and is reviewed by the organization to maintain the position of an accredited university.

The HLC made an on-site visit to campus, which is done every decade, and reviewed several components of criteria and each component must be met in order for the university to receive reaffirmed accreditation.

The report from the on-campus visit, was received in mid-January and the result granted the university reaccreditation. The report contained several pages of review and went through specific items, listed whether or not components were met, met with concerns, or not met and then gave evidence for the reasoning in the result.

Each item was met, except one piece of criteria that was given the review of met with concerns. Wes Chapin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and chair of the UWRF reaccreditation committee, explained that many universities receive "one or a couples reviews stating met with concerns, so this was expected." UWRF was

specifically given four years to work on this criteria whereas other schools occasionally have shorter deadlines to work on urgent areas of concern, so overall the full report was a positive outcome.

The criteria that received the review of met with concerns was the component regarding the engagement of systematic and integrated planning. Within the report the HLC suggests that UWRF should work on a "comprehensive enrollment management plan," which would help with enrollment recruitment and retention at the university. This will ensure that the university can maintain a steady and reliable budget moving forward since raising tuition rates is not an option for

the university.

The report overall showed accomplishment and provided extensive evidence as to how the university met the mandatory criteria. Chapin said, "It is a fantastic outcome, and the report reflects a lot of work from people all across campus." The work that went into the preparation for this process was lengthy, Chapin has been working on this reaccrediting process since July of 2016 and he expressed that the positive report and the reaffirmation was positive payoff.

The next review will take place in another four years within the 10 year cycle and that review will be executed remotely. The HLC will reevaluate the concerns they had

with this visit and also review other components of criteria. Until then, the university maintains the status of an accredited institution.

There are plans in place to start working on items within the report, including a new comprehensive enrollment management plan that was suggested by the HLC as well as other factors. After another four years of planning and improving, another assurance argument with all the criteria will be sent and reviewed. The HLC will be expecting new improvements and corrections on criteria during the next review.



Freddy directs students to a new snack option.

Photo by Brooke Shepherd

Campus dairy bar opens in Ag Sci building

Dawson Flaherty

dawson.flaherty@my.uwrf.edu

Oct. 10, was the grand opening for the UW-River Falls campus dairy bar named Freddy's Dairy Bar. The dairy bar is located on the second floor of the Agricultural Science building, and offers students another outlet to purchase products such as ice cream, shakes, malts and much more.

Agriculture majors on campus have been making and distributing dairy related products for quite some time now, however it wasn't till late last year that they went commercial with it. "For a while, we had been selling ice cream downstairs to

students, however now it is more well known and we get a lot more foot traffic because of the dairy bar," said Virginia Lee, a student who has been working at the dairy bar since it opened.

The new dairy bar helped allow students to purchase a larger variety of consumables like dipped cones, shakes, malts, and a variety of cheeses. They even plan to have meat products in the future such as bratwursts for sale. They also try encouraging students to stop by through running monthly specials.

Currently, buying products such as cheese at the dairy bar can prove to be a bit of a challenge. The Dairy Pilot Plant in the Agricultural Science building is currently under

a renovation, and has halted the production of some products in the dairy bar. The dairy plant is being renovated so that it can meet new industry standards, and in total is planned to be a \$3.5 million renovation.

Freddy's Dairy Bar can be found on the second floor of the Agricultural Science building, at room 212A. The dairy bar is open Wednesday-Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is also open on select Saturdays. To find out which Saturday's Freddy's Dairy Bar is open, follow them on Instagram or Facebook. Currently available foods on the menu are ice cream cups/bowls, shakes, malts, floats, sundaes, ice cream coffee shakes and even merchandise such as hats and shirts.

Solar studies at home and abroad

Madelyn Markulics

madelyn.markulics@my.uwrf.edu

Particles emitted from the sun enter the Earth's atmosphere and can be potentially hazardous.

UW-River Falls has a team of students and professors actively researching detectors of solar storms. UWRF senior Grace Zeit, who is only 18 years old, traveled to the South Pole to collect data from these detectors in Dec. 2018.

The detectors are called neutron monitors and have been around since the late 1960's, with UWRF students and faculty getting involved around seven years ago. The monitor's measure energized particles that result from solar storms.

Zeit said, "Big incoming particles from the sun are things we look at because they have been known to take out satellites, cause damage for certain astronauts in space, and even interrupt cell phone communication. It's apart of everyday life."

Zeit is currently working on leader fraction analysis. Zeit explained, "It is a lot of writing code, looking at that code, and what we would eventually want to do is interpret the graphs that we get from that code and look at different solar effects to see if and how we can see them."

In the South Pole, Zeit was either working with the neutron monitor or out exploring different facilities.

"I think it's about as close as being in an alien world as it gets. We have a lot of snow here, but it's completely different down there, you look out and all you see is white," Zeit continued. "There are no distinguishing features other than a few buildings that are down there. The sky is overcast a lot so then you have the white sky and the white ground. It's also 24 hours of daylight."

According to the Chair of the Physics department Surujhdeo Seunarine, there are currently three students working on the neutron monitor project and only two faculty members; himself and Professor James Madsen. Seunarine explains that the three students that are currently working on the neutron monitor at UWRF are "doing longer-term research projects that involve doing a physic analysis of the data. Grace is using a special data set to look at solar activity."

UWRF students and faculty are not the only ones involved in the project. The University of Delaware and two institutions located in Thailand are also currently working on the neutron monitor. Students who choose to work on this neutron monitor are able to visit the South Pole or Thailand, like Zeit.

Seunarine said, "One or two students going to the South Pole in any given year for the past five or six years. We have also had about one or two students traveling to Thailand for the past three years to visit our research collaborators and to present at a physics conference."



18 year old Grace Zeit after a day working in the South Pole

Photo courtesy of Grace Zeit

Students interested in getting involved in this project are encouraged to contact Seunarine or Professor James Madsen. No student is unable to join, even if they are new to campus. This collaboration allows students to acknowledge the solar activity, and work on data analysis to make sense of different solar effects.

Campus under a polar vortex

Brooke Shepherd

brooke.shepherd@my.uwrf.edu

Due to extremely cold weather, Chancellor Dean Van Galen announced that classes were canceled on Jan. 29, beginning at noon, and all day Jan. 30, as well as the morning of Jan. 31, at the UW- River Falls campus. Extreme cold alerts had been going out all across the midwest as an arctic wind blew in.

According to an urgent weather message released for River Falls by the National Weather Service on January 30, "Wind chills will remain in the 35 to 50 below zero range this afternoon. While winds will become light tonight, occasional breezes will combine with air temperatures around 30 below, to produce wind chill values of 40 to 45 below again," the report continued.

"This is a life-threatening situation for those spending any prolonged period outdoors without proper clothing. A Wind Chill Warning is in effect through Thursday morning area wide. A record low temperature is possible in the Twin Cities Thursday morning. The record for Thursday is 27 below zero."

The university and Emergency Management team gathered information to make an informed decision regarding class cancellation. Campus was informed through text message, phone call, social media, email alert, and several announcements were made.

Executive Director of Facilities Alan Symicek had a very busy few days. According to Symicek, water pipes froze, "[I]n the Falcon center, in an area where the new building connected to Knowles and Locker Room Building. [The] KFA vestibule entrance heater froze and cracked; a puddle of water leaked on to the floor." A heater froze and a pipe burst in Ames Suites Lounge due to a window that was left open, and lastly a mop sink water pipe burst in Centennial Science.

Heating the university during these historic temperatures was no easy task. "We typically turn the heat down in buildings overnight and weekends when they are not occupied to conserve energy, similar to homeowners turning their heat down when they are not at home. During extremely cold weather like we had last week, we do not turn the heat down so that the buildings stay warmer and help prevent freezing of water pipes," Symicek continued. "The cost to maintain the temperature inside the building is very small compared to the potential cost of damage to the buildings should water pipes freeze and burst."

The university utilizes natural gas fuel as its primary source of heat, however, during the polar vortex the university had to extend the burn of coal and also fuel oil as a backup fuel. "The natural gas utility company could not supply enough gas

through existing distribution pipelines in our region so our campus heating plant was forced to burn our backup fuels: coal and fuel oil. This is the reason we have backup fuels to maintain heat to campus buildings. We were off of our primary fuel, natural gas, for about one week during the historic cold weather last week," Symicek said.

Symicek also mentioned that the university struggled to keep ice off the streets, parking lots and sidewalks. Symicek said, "Salt does not work at very low temperatures to melt ice."

During the snow days, some teachers took to Canvas, uploading video lectures or reading assignment while others shifted schedules around. Despite the surge in online classrooms, the Division of Technology Services (DoTS) on campus received few calls, but were not unaffected.

Mirza Naveed, a Tier 1 service center technician at DoTs, saw the impacts of the extreme cold and class cancellations during the period of Jan. 29 through Jan. 30. Naveed said, "I would say the weather did impact DoTs. For example, we are usually open until 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, but due to the weather, management decided to cut our hours of operation to 4:30 p.m. yesterday and today."

Naveed continued, "Since our hours were shortened, that meant if someone needed tech help after 4:30 yesterday and today they wouldn't be able to get it until the next morning."

Director of the University Center and Dining Services Cara Rubis also commented that during the days off, "The University Center remained open, not only due to the dining locations in the building but also to continue to provide the services within the University Center which students rely on; the Falcon Center did the same. The Facilities Management staff did a great job of handling frozen pipes and keeping the buildings warm. The Emergency Management Team was also very thorough on their communications and updates to campus related to class cancellations and services available."

Rubis mentioned that the dining locations were quieter than usual during the extreme cold.

"There were times I was surprised to see the number of students who came to the University Center to dine, study, socialize, or to simply warm-up by the fireplace," said Rubis.

Chief of Police on campus Karl Fleury commented that there was not an increase in calls during the below zero temperatures. "I believe the students, faculty and staff that were impacted with these weather conditions listened to the notifications that were sent out. This helped to alleviate some of those potential prob-



A snow flurry under polar winds.

Photo by Kacey Joslin

lems and made people aware of the extreme weather conditions. We didn't see a rise in calls, and pedestrian traffic was actually reduced. People were staying inside.

Overall, people heeded the warning and followed the guidelines to protect themselves."

The campus police made an effort to monitor the campus and make sure there were no issues. Officers checked with students who had vehicle issues and made sure any stragglers had appropriate clothing for the weather.

Many locations on campus experienced staffing issues during the polar vortex. Rubis mentioned that for Dining Services, "We had staff that weren't able to come to work due to issues with vehicles, childcare, etc. because of the extreme cold temperatures, but that was expected. Chartwells closed certain dining locations early, and some locations were not opened at all, so the focus could be spent on supporting a smaller number of dining locations. Chartwells provided free hats, gloves and scarfs for staff who worked into the late evening and night."

To clarify, Chartwells is a professional food service firm that provides dining services to campus.

"The management at DoTs was very understanding and let us know that if we did not feel comfortable coming in for our shifts, we just needed to let them know and then we didn't have to come in. As you can imagine, many student employees did take this option," said Naveed.

Due to the smaller staff, there was an impact on the speed of fixing various technology issues. Naveed said, "At one point, I was by myself and I was taking calls and doing chat sessions. There were less calls than usual."

As for the campus police, Fleury said, "We work in all sorts of weather conditions. Our officers are aware to dress appropriately and to monitor themselves because you never know what type of call you might be put out on. You have to get enough staff to rotate people in and out to protect your officers. But they were here."

"They experienced some of the same problems our students experienced, I had one officer who's truck wouldn't start. Another officer had pipes freeze in his home, but they still came into their job and to make sure our campus is safe." Fleury concluded.

Is the pen mightier than the keyboard?

Kacey Joslin

kassaundra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

In the midst of a 60-minute lecture, it can be a struggle to keep up with the professor's quick pace or monotone voice. Most students opt for good old-fashioned hand-written notes, however, with the advent of laptop computers and tablets, digital note-taking is gaining popularity.

On average, according to a *Ratatype* infographic, college students can type around 41 words per minute (wpm), depending on their gender, language and skill level. Females, for instance, are on average slower typers than males. Comparatively, for an adult aged 18 and older, the average writing speed is only 13 wpm.

Pierre Conwell, a communications studies major, prefers using a computer to type his notes. Speed is his main priority. "It's just faster, and I'm already on my computer so I can reference it and I can look things up. It's easier for me to type and watch as they [his professors] are speaking than it is to look down and write."

The ease and speed of digital note-taking seems obvious, but while digital note-taking has its learning benefits it also has its downsides. "I prefer to take handwritten notes," Monica Marsh, a political science and journalism double major said. "I think that taking handwritten notes helps me to retain information a lot better, whereas on a computer I know I'm not paying attention."

"There are more distractions if the student is looking for other links as the professor is talking," Daniel Rivera, academic advisor for exploratory students and tutoring services supervisor, says. "It's easy to get sidetracked when, ideally, you should be focusing on the moment and not other tangents. In written notes, you could write 'look up this later', 'follow up with this later', versus doing it at the moment. For some people, it might work, but for the majority of students, I would encourage them to write things down."

Rivera said to have suffered from similar



Comparison of pen to keyboard when it comes to note-taking.

Photo by Kacey Joslin

poor note-taking habits during his time as a student. "I was an undergrad, and I was taking notes in class and I'd get tired. My hand would get fatigued. I had to learn that be successful as a student, you really have to figure out that it's not about being smarter, it's about being efficient."

"These skills really came in handy when I started utilizing shorthand," Rivera continued. "That's when I started becoming successful as a student."

As a journalism student, Marsh agrees. "For my note-taking," Marsh said. "I just have a good system where I can make everything into shorthand so I don't have a problem keeping up for the most part."

"It's just like texting," Rivera said of shorthand. "For example, when I was an undergrad, 'the' was always a 't' and a slash, 'with' was 'w' and a slash. Anything ending in 'ing', I put a big period." Consistency, Rivera asserted, is key when it comes to developing a shorthand. "Ultimately, it's going to save time, and that's the key, to save time in class."

Shorthand isn't the only tactic students

use to keep up with rapid-talking teachers or long-winded lectures.

Honor's student and English education major, Greg Peterson found a compromise that he finds to be ideal for this tech-driven society. "I actually take notes on my computer, but it's still hand-written. I have basically a tablet-and-computer in one, so it's kind of a little bit of both."

Through Office 365, provided by the school, Peterson uses an app called OneNote.

"The best part about this – and why I actually switched over to doing paperless – is all the different things I can do now with it. In class, it's really nice that it's just a quick search to find my notes and I can zoom in and mess with it as much as I want after the fact. I don't need to spend time flipping through pages of notes anymore. I can take and implant photos. I can download documents from my professor and download the PDF directly to the page. When I'm on the internet, there's a snip-it tool," Peterson explained.

"I can take whatever part of the webpage I want and copy it directly onto the document. I can pick from many different colors,

there's pens, there's highlighters, there's a pencil look. If I wanted to search something real quick," Peterson continued. "I can have it implanted with a hyperlink in my notes, so I can bring outside sources as well. That's all something you can't really do with normal notes. I'm still trying to find more tips on how to use it."

Peterson finds he's now a lot quicker at note-taking, although he admits there can be a bit of a lag. "It's a lot of memory to work with, a lot of data I'm putting into my OneDrive. So eventually, I'm sure it's going to get close to full capacity and I'm going to have to pay for my own, but to me, it's worth it, a few bucks just to pay for more data and better organization."

"As an education major," Peterson continued. "I want to save my notes so I can just reference back for my lesson planning. I have this huge stack of paper that I don't know how I'm going to sift through when it's all said and done, I don't want to accumulate more, so I figured this would be a nice way to organize everything."

"I'm trying to be more conscientious of what I'm throwing away and what I'm using as far as resources on this Earth, so I'm just trying to get away from paper. I feel like our world is evolving into the digital world more every day. If other students are looking for a paperless option, this is probably the best way to go

Peterson feels that his note-taking strategy led to his admittance to the Honors program. "Note-taking really was the basis of that. I knew that my notes weren't efficient enough, and I needed to find a way that I could get away from paper so it wasn't all just this cluttered mess."

"I did try typing out my notes," Peterson continued. "And it was very short-lived. Even though it was neat, I didn't find that I learned as much that way or retained information as well."

Continued on page 8

Western Wisconsin sees growth in organic farming

Owen Elle

Falcon News Service

When shopping for groceries it's easy to fall into a zombie-like state and grab your weekly supply of meals and snacks, but if you look closely you might notice a rising movement that's taking root across Wisconsin. It's an increase in the amount of organic produce hitting the shelves.

The United States had 14,217 certified organic farms in 2016 with roughly 9 percent being located in Wisconsin, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service. To be certified organic, a farm must reach the qualifications and guidelines set out by the USDA and hire a private organization to verify the claim.

Organic farms in the state have doubled in the last 10 years, according to a 2017 report by UW-Madison. Greg Zwald, director of the UW-River Falls Laboratory Farms and the owner of White Pine Berry Farm in St. Croix County, said he believes organic farming will

continue to grow in western Wisconsin in the near future.

"Organic food is more readily available," Zwald said. "It's also more readily available at a lower price."

Zwald said that the organic movement in western Wisconsin has grown over the past several years and he believes it will continue to be more commercially viable with a higher quality product. The movement started decades ago with a surge of farmers who shared an interest in certified organic produce in and around River Falls and La Crosse, he said. In addition, the Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Service, a non-profit organization devoted to teaching farmers about sustainable agriculture, is headquartered in Spring Valley. The service is among organizations that certify organic farms.

River Falls farmer Bob Keatley said he believes that organic farming is a healthy way to grow produce.

"The reason why most people converted to organic is to eliminate that toxic chemical mix that's being used by conventional farm-

ers," he said.

"Organic farming is consumer driven," Keatley added. "When people are made aware of what's in the food supply and start to do a little research on their own, they find out a lot of the food we are eating is contaminated."

Keatley said non-organic crops, which are "bombarded" with toxic chemicals, may be causing a rise in disease among American consumers. He said he believes it is hard to pinpoint exactly which chemical is the culprit for certain health issues given the multitude of variables involved in farming, but there is a correlation between pesticides and disease. While Zwald concedes that the science surrounding the harmfulness of chemicals in farming is unsettled and ambiguous, but may be true, he has seen no studies that definitively show non-organic foods cause cancer or other diseases.

Although organic farming remains clouded in controversy in some respects, it is undoubtedly on the rise. According to the USDA, the United States has seen a 23 percent increase in the total sales of certified organic produce

from 2015 to 2016 for a total of \$7.6 billion. Wisconsin was responsible for \$255.5 million of that total, with its two top commodities being cow milk and cattle.

The Badger State has seen a 29.8 percent increase in certified organic milk sales from 2008 to 2014, with the 2017 status report placing approximately 33 certified organic farms within Pierce and St. Croix counties.

Kendall Keagan, former president of the Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture (SALSA) at UW-River Falls, said that Wisconsin is an ideal location for organic farming.

"The soil and the weather during the summer is the perfect climate for the type of gardening and it's not very hilly or mountainous," Keagan said.

Current SALSA President Austin Hausladen shares a similar sentiment, crediting the overall flatness of Wisconsin among other factors as the reason why organic farming is experiencing a rise.

Sabbaticals give faculty opportunity for research

Destinie Vhaa

Falcon News Service

Every year, about five faculty members on average are granted a sabbatical leave at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. A sabbatical is paid time away from campus for research or study and may last a semester or a full academic year.

Sabbaticals are crucially important to not only faculty at universities but to their students and colleagues as well. According to the University of Wisconsin System's guidelines, "sabbatical leave shall be granted for the purpose of enhancing teaching, course and curriculum development or conducting research or any other scholarly activities related to instructional programs within the field of expertise of the faculty member taking such leave." Sabbaticals are only available to tenured faculty.

"Hopefully, a faculty member is re-tooling, updating their skills, learning new information," said Wes Chapin, UWRF's associate vice chancellor of academic affairs and graduate stud-

ies. "They're bringing that back to the classroom and students are benefiting. The research agenda and maybe grant writing might benefit."

This academic year, five UWRF professors earned sabbatical leave: Thomas Barnett, professor of music; Erick Hofacker, professor of mathematics; Sylvia Kehoe, professor of animal and food science; Jong Won Park, professor of music; and Rellen Hardtke, professor of physics.

Sabbaticals can last one or two academic semesters long. Many faculty members who go on sabbatical only do so for a semester, mainly because of the pay cut. A professor will make 100 percent of their salary for a semester-long sabbatical, whereas during a two-semester sabbatical, a professor may make only 65 percent of their salary.

Sabbatical leaves are planned a year in advance, so the recipients for the 2019-2020 school year have already been chosen. They include Neil Kraus, professor of political science; Dan Marchand, professor of chemistry and biotechnology; Doug Margol-

is, assistant professor of English; Andris Straumanis, associate professor of journalism; and Kathy Tomlinson, professor of mathematics.

Psychology Professor Cyndi Kernahan is not only a sabbatical recipient but serves on the Faculty and Academic Staff Development Program Board (FASDB) that decides who gets the leave. She's also the assistant dean for teaching and learning in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Many different aspects go into deciding who gets a sabbatical leave, Kernahan said. They include how many years the professor has been on campus, their teaching history, and their service to the community and university.

Many professors apply for a sabbatical so they are able to work on projects that they may not have time to work on while teaching, Kernahan said. During her sabbatical, Kernahan worked on a book.

While preparing her application, she said, "I knew in previous experiences that I needed to be pretty close to having a (book) contract to get a

sabbatical, because one of the things we look at is how sort of realistic is your project?"

Kernahan spent almost three years preparing for her sabbatical, from writing to applying and to waiting to see if she got it. Kernahan was awarded a sabbatical in fall of 2017. Her book, which she expects to be published in December, is about teaching about race and how to do it effectively.

Like Kernahan, many professors are given the opportunity to work on something close to their interests, and many have even taken their projects abroad.

For example, Kehoe, the animal and food science professor, traveled to Poland this past fall semester. Park, a music professor, is currently in South Korea researching and understanding "higher quality music-making through working with professional choirs in South Korea." He said he plans to "continue to build global connections with universities in South Korea for our exchange program."

Combating the cold while studying abroad

Chelsie Rosa

chelsie.rosa@my.uwrf.edu

For many International students, experiencing the severity of a Wisconsin winter may not be what they expected when they chose to study at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The first half of the 2018-2019 school year, the winter cold appeared bearable. The high in the month of December reached 45 degrees fahrenheit, with a low of only 19 degrees fahrenheit.

International Students often have mixed feelings towards the cold weather. Twenty-one year old Hsin-Yu Chang, a junior who came from Taipei, Taiwan said, "Before I came here, I really wanted to experience snow, but now it's ridiculously cold, especially the negative temperatures. Back home the average temperature for January is 50 degrees fahrenheit."

Due to Taiwan's typical January climate of thick fog and heavy rain, Chang has had limited experience with cold weather. Chang commented, "Colorado was cold for me, coming here was something I didn't expect."

Twenty-two year old Sophie Pe is a student from Wiesbaden, Germany. Pe will spend her spring semester at UWRF.

Her home country experiences snow, and the temperature doesn't tend to go much below 30 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pe said, "I thought it was going to be very cold, but I certainly didn't expect this. Snow wise I've seen worse, and I like that everything is white. It has barely snowed in my part of Germany this winter so it's nice to finally get a winter feeling. I'm definitely looking forward to spring though!"

Chang said that when she arrived in Wisconsin, she was unprepared for the extreme temperatures. All she had for winter clothing was a hoodie and a light jean jacket. "I had to have my aunt send me all of my winter clothes, including long sleeve shirts and my snowboarding jacket. I had to buy a hat and big coat," said Chang.

Though she has experienced winter before, Pe had a difficult first few days on campus. "On my first day here, I wore two coats and tights underneath my jeans and I still felt cold after a while," Pe said.

According to the National Weather Service, this February in River Falls, students experienced the lowest temperatures Wisconsin has seen in a decade. On Tuesday, Jan. 29, a windchill advisory began that stretched across portions of northwest and west central Wisconsin, as well as east central and southeast Minnesota.

Wind chills reached between 25 to 30 below zero and for Tuesday, Jan. 29, and wind chills of 45 below zero to 65 below



Iceicles hang from the University Center.
Photo by Brooke Shepherd

zero occurred the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 30th through Thursday morning. Considering these dangerously cold wind chills are capable of causing frostbite on any exposed skin in as little as five minutes, Chancellor Dean Van Galen decided to cancel classes Jan. 29 during the afternoon, all day Jan. 30, and again for morning class on Jan. 31.

During times of life-threatening cold, many precautions must be taken. According to an article by the Wall Street Jour-

nal, "[O]fficials warned people to limit their time outdoors. Those who need to drive should bring a winter survival kit, including blankets and flares, wear appropriate clothing and inform people of their travel plans, said weather officials."

International students that are interested in studying abroad in Minnesota or Wisconsin should do additional research and come prepared with heavy winter jackets, hats, gloves, winter boots, and scarves.

Is the pen mightier than the keyboard?

Continued from page 6

Even though it's on a computer, I firmly believe that when you're handwriting it and changing the wording a bit into your own words, you're making it go through your mind in a bunch of different ways to help you remember. If you're just typing it out word-for-word, you're not going to learn that way," Peterson concluded.

Mindless note-taking is a concern of many note-takers, where they copy down their professor's lecture verbatim without processing any of the information.

"As I type sometimes, putting down the notes, I'm thinking more about the letters and individual words as opposed to the actual concepts and ideas," Rivera said of his own experience with mindless note-taking. "You

want to be absorbed in the concept and the idea, because that's ultimately what you're trying to figure out; not the individual words involved in it. I would say that mindfulness will be more involved when you're actually writing it out. There's also that tactile of

Rivera truly believes students should try and handwrite their notes

holding a pencil and writing something down, is a little bit more engaging than typing it into a computer."

"There's a certain muscle memory associated with the writing technique and when you're doing it, there's more thought process involved. When you're putting it in your own words, you can adapt it accordingly, so I think it helps with retention," Rivera explained.

Rivera posed a metaphor, comparing note-taking with mathematics. "When it's more

digitally presented, or if students have to do math problems online, we find it's harder for them to interpret the information and really develop the necessary skills to be successful in math. When you're being examined or evaluated, oftentimes you're writing it; not typing it out or using a digital format. Anything that's going to associate with the actual task involved is going to help with retention of that information."

"One of the biggest challenges is that students aren't really taught to study in high school, throughout their schooling experience," Rivera revealed. "My idea is that if we teach them skills like 'how to memorize things a little differently', or 'how to create action around concepts and ideas', or show them how to put it a playful, silly manner, it's much easier to recall the information. Students will be better able to actively listen and actively apply these thoughts and processes.

I know, as an undergrad, I did all those things and they really paid off."

Summarized, Rivera truly believes students should try and handwrite their notes, whether it be on paper or on a two-in-one computer such as Peterson's. "I think handwritten notes helps with memorization. It's your own technique, it's your own flow, and you can use whatever format you want. I think writing things out makes it so you're more engaged, you're less likely to want to look at other resources while you're doing that, because you're engaged in the process."

For more tips on how to be a more successful student, visit the Academic Success Center in the basement of Chalmer Davee Library or one of the numerous tutoring services on campus.

Dating in 21st century explores new platforms

Continued from page 1

Though hookup culture may be over exaggerated, there have definitely been real changes. Kerkvliet commented on what he has noticed, "I'm one generation older than most of my students, so two things stick out in that time. [. . .] My dates at younger ages had to be rooted in making connections related to where I went and what I liked to do, and that's not required anymore, at least not in areas where there are a lot of options. With that said, a lot of my friends and family who are more recently married didn't really use technology for help."

Some may wonder if the gender demographics have an effect on college dating. According to the UWRF website, as of 2018, the student population enrolled is

about 61 percent female and 39 percent male. Though there are about 1,400 more women on campus than men, the Council's study found, "[T]hat on campuses with a higher proportion of women, women were not more likely to hookup with men or less likely to form long-term relationships with them. They were instead more likely to have dated other women."

Dating has clearly evolved over the years, and had many influences from different apps and social media. Though these changes may seem daunting to those without a list of savvy pickup lines handy, there is still much hope for traditional daters. Students appear to be adapting to this new dating culture well.



Modern couple Jana Knudsen and Devon Burris enjoy a dinner at Erbert and Gerbert's.

Photo by Brooke Shepherd

Chancellor and provost comment on government shutdown

Compiled by Kacey Joslin
kassandra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

Both the Chancellor Dean Van Galen and Provost David Travis had similar statements regarding the shutdown. "The government shutdown did not have broad or serious impacts on the university,

but could certainly have impacted students and employees who have family members or others that are federal employees or contractors," Van Galen stated. "The government shutdown would have had a greater impact on major research university such as UW-Madison because a large portion of their

revenue is from federal grants and contracts."

Over email, Provost Travis agreed that families of federal employees may have struggled. "They weren't receiving paychecks during a challenging time of year (post-holidays) and when tuition is due, I suspect that added

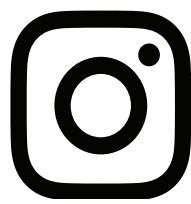
a lot of stress to those families. However, since we are primarily funded by state dollars, student tuition, and student fees, there weren't any immediate direct impacts," Travis concluded, stating that if the shutdown had lasted significantly longer, he suspects there would have been some

trickle-down effects as some campus programs are funded through federal grants.

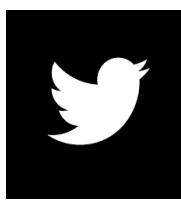
Financial Aid also commented on the shutdown, stating that there wasn't much of an impact on financial aid operations.



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Falcons comeback falls short in last second thriller

Reagan Hoverman

reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Women's basketball team dropped to 7-14 on the season following a last second 63-60 loss against UW-Stevens Point at Don Page Arena on Feb. 2. The Falcons came into the game at the bottom of the WIAC standings with a 1-9 record. The UW-Stevens Point Pointers came into the game second to last in the WIAC with a 4-6 record.

Both teams desperately needed a win in the game to begin their ascent in the WIAC standings before the season's conclusion. The action began with one of the most difficult first quarters of basketball the Falcons had played all year. The Falcons trailed 13-0 six minutes into the first quarter. During that stretch the Falcons shot 0-8 from the field and amassed five turnovers by four different players.

Falcons Interim Head Coach Derek Staley said, "It came down to a lot of what we weren't doing. We weren't contesting enough shots, not finishing our good looks, and we weren't executing very well either."

The Falcons then showed the most resilience that they have had all season. Closing out the first quarter, they managed to stay in the game with a 10-2 run. Starting the second quarter, the Falcons

had closed the gap to 17-10. The second quarter was 10 minutes of trading baskets and putting small runs together.

Neither team could establish a significant stretch of basketball and the Pointers would take a seven-point lead going into the second half. Coach Staley also talked about the Falcons first half performance and only being down seven, "It was a testament to how well we were playing defensively too, after that first stretch."

At halftime the Falcons were led in scoring by junior guard Lori Wardynski with seven points.

Wardynski provided a quick spark off the bench for the Falcons when they couldn't get much offense going early in the contest. Coach Staley talked about Wardynski, "Lori has been out, she's been hurt. Having her back has been a huge boost to us, she's kind of that energy of our team."

The difference in the first half of play came down to three-point percentage. The Falcons shot 0-7 from behind the arc in the first half compared to the 60 percent from deep for the Pointers.

The second half began with the Falcons trailing 28-21 to the Pointers. UWRF

opened up the half with a quick 12-4 run led by Jenna Zeman who scored six of the 12 points in that stretch. Coach Staley said about Zeman, "Jenna has been playing consistently throughout conference play. She's been doing a nice job, so she's going to score." The Falcons had finally battled back and took their first lead of the night.

However, it would be short lived. The Pointers would quickly recover, going on an 11-0 run of their own. This one constructed through the play of freshman Guard Amber Baehman, who led all players in scoring on the night with 20 on 60 percent shooting from the field.

The Falcons would once again bounce back with a 9-0 stretch to end the third quarter. Taylor Paulsrud would hit two back-to-back threes in that stretch giving the Falcons life going into the fourth quarter. The Falcons trailed 43-42 heading into the final quarter of play.

The Falcons and the Pointers would trade baskets for the first six minutes of the fourth quarter. Both teams would put small runs together for the next couple minutes. With just over one minute to play, the game was all tied up at 60. Bail-

ee Collins would then drive into the lane and make a layup to put the Pointers up two points with 25 seconds to play.

The Falcons then setup their offense and Crystal Pearson took an open three pointer. It was just off the mark and was rebounded by the Pointers. Staley said, "Crystal had an open three, I'm really comfortable with her taking that shot, it just didn't fall." The Falcons then intentionally fouled to stop the clock.

The Pointers only converted one out of two free throws, giving the Falcons a chance to send the game to overtime with a three pointer. UWRF would run one play with a chance to tie the game. After going to three different Falcon's, the ball ended up in Paulsrud's hands with a chance to tie. She took a deep three from the left wing and came up just short.

Staley said about the final play, "There was four different options on that play. Jenna had an option, Lori had an option, a quick two option to crystal, and a three option for Taylor who was looping all the way through."

The Pointers would hold on to win 63-60 in a last second thriller at Don Page Arena. The Falcons have their next game versus UW-Whitewater on Feb. 16. Tipoff is set for 3 p.m. at Don Page Arena.

Both teams desperately needed a win in the game to begin their ascent in the WIAC standings before the season's conclusion.

Women's hockey starting goaltender no longer on the team

Owen Elle

owen.elle@my.uwrf.edu

Per UW-River Falls' Director of Athletics Crystal Lanning, goaltender Tatyana Delaittre is no longer a member of the women's hockey team. She was removed from the official UWRF sports website prior to the Falcons 5-1 loss to No. 9 UW-Eau Claire last Saturday at Hunt Arena. This move comes as the Falcons are roughly two weeks away from postseason play.

Delaittre played her last game for the Falcons during a 5-4 loss to No. 1 St. Thomas on Feb. 6. She was pulled at 13:33 in the second period after allowing her fourth goal of the night to the Tommies.

Delaittre, a junior from Minnetonka, Minnesota, appeared in twelve games this year for the Falcons posting an 8-1 record as a starter with a near WIAC best 1.46 goals-against average, a .924 save percentage, and three shut outs. She

has split time nearly evenly with freshman goaltender Sami Miller, who has appeared in one more game than Delaittre in the 2018-2019 season.

Delaittre ends her three-year stint with the Falcons appearing in 31 games with a career record of 22-4-2, a 1.49 goals-against average, a .920 save percentage, and eight shut outs. No reason was given

for Delaittre's departure from the team.

The Falcons, losers of their last two games, will face UW-Eau Claire again on Feb. 16th in Eau Claire to determine the regular season WIAC winner. Both programs have a 7-1 record in the WIAC this season entering this final matchup.

The winner will have home ice advantage throughout the entirety of the WIAC tournament including and leading up to the O'Brien Cup, which will take place on March 2. UW-Eau Claire defeated UWRF last year in the O'Brien Cup at Hunt Arena 3-2 in double overtime.



Tatyana Delaittre



Drawing by Kacey Joslin

Falcons set for a showdown with top-ranked Tommies

Owen Elle

owen.elle@my.uwrf.edu

In what is shaping up to be the biggest regular season matchup of the year, the fourth-ranked Falcons women's hockey team is set to clash with the unbeaten, no. 1-ranked St. Thomas Tommies on Wednesday, February 6th at Hunt Arena in River Falls, Wisconsin.

The table is set for the Falcons as they look to avenge one of their two losses on the season. After dropping their season opener 3-4 to Adrian College, who is currently ranked no. 6 in D-III hockey, the Falcon's went on a ten-game winning streak before running into St. Thomas and suffering a 3-1 defeat west of the Saint Croix River on December 12. Since that loss, the Falcons are now currently on a nine-game winning streak. UW-Riv-

er Falls also saw an impressive 25-0 goal run from the third period of a 6-3 victory over St. Mary's on January 8 to the third period of an 8-1 win over UW-Stevens Point on January 19.

Currently positioned at the top of the WIAC with a record of 19-2, Head Coach Joe Cranston believes his team has what it takes to avenge their prior defeat at the hands of the Tommies.

"Last time we faced St. Thomas we had five or six kids that hadn't really figured it out yet, they didn't really have the confidence you need to play against a team like that," Cranston said.

"We have four solid lines, and everyone is playing with confidence," Cranston continued. "I don't think St. Thomas has the depth to handle our four lines and seven [defenseman], I think we have the advantage especially since we are at

home."

While the team may roll out four solid lines, Callie Hoff, a sophomore from Hermantown, Minnesota, stands out above the rest. Despite having knee surgery during the offseason, she has racked up 20 goals and seven assists in 19 games played. Hoff currently is second in the WIAC in points and tied for first in goals to UW-Eau Claire's Courtney Wittig, who was drafted 11th overall by the Metropolitan Riveters in the 2018 National Women's Hockey League Draft back in December.

"[Hoff] just competes at a very high level, she's not going to let something like that keep her down for too long," Cranston said.

Cranston also credits his two goaltenders, Sami Miller and Tatyana Delaittre for the success UW-River Falls has en-

joyed this season. Miller, a freshman, has played in 11 games this season with a 1.33 GAA and a .926 save percentage, while Delaittre has played in one fewer game and posted a 1.14 GAA and an impressive .941 save percentage.

While the focus remains on upsetting the no. 1-ranked Tommies, Cranston believes this team is a more well-rounded team than in years past and should be playing deep into the postseason with a crack at a National Championship. "The biggest thing for us is we are better defensively, we brought in a couple pretty good defensemen," Cranston said. "I think this team probably has more depth than any team I've coached here in my twenty years, there's a lot of variables that come into play, but I like our chances."

Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.

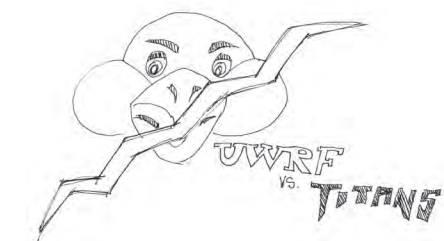
Falcons fall to nationally ranked Titans

Reagan Hoverman

reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls Men's basketball dropped to 8-11 on the season, including a 1-7 WIAC record, following an 80-69 loss to UW-Oshkosh at Don Page Arena on Jan. 26. It was a typical "look-over" game for the UW-Oshkosh Titans, as they came into the game with a record of 17-1 with a WIAC record of 7-0. The Titans came to River Falls on a 16-game win streak while also being ranked fourth in the nation for Division III Men's col-

lege basketball. They trailed only Whitman, Nebraska Wesleyan, and Augustana coming into the match up against the Falcons.



lege basketball. They trailed only Whitman, Nebraska Wesleyan, and Augustana coming into the match up against the Falcons.

When asked about the match up against one of the best teams in the country, River Falls junior Matt Keller said, "We try not to pay attention to rankings that much, but we know our conference is loaded and every game is going to be a fight. Our scout team did a great job of helping us prepare for them."

The Falcons began the game with one of the best stretches of basketball they have played all season. After the game was tied at 2-2 less than two minutes into the game, the Falcons would go on an 11-0 run which ended with a jump shot from just inside the three-point line by sophomore Jack Stensgard. Keller said about having the lead early, "I don't think

they quite expected that because of the last time we played. It was important for us to have a good start, I thought our energy and minds were in the right place and we got into a nice flow and got some momentum rolling early."

Stensgard has only played in 11 games for the Falcons this season but has quickly became one of the most productive players on the roster. In just 11 games, Stensgard is averaging 10.1 points per game while shooting 45 percent from behind the arc. Stensgard leads all Falcons among players with at least ten attempts on the season. Keller said about teammate Stensgard, "He's been a big addition for us, he knows the game really well and is easy to play with. He brings another great scoring option for us."

The Falcons lead the Titans 20-10 with nine minutes to go in the first half. In part because the Titans started the game shooting just 12 percent from the floor. However, the Titans turned the game around when they unleashed a barrage of three pointers with eight minutes remaining in the half. The scoring run began with a three from junior Adam Fravert to cut the lead to seven. Less than two minutes later the Titans had made four more deep threes and the Falcons lead had vanished. Suddenly, the game was tied at 22 and the Falcons needed a timeout to stop the momentum.

Both teams would trade baskets for the next several minutes and the Titans would take a four-point lead into halftime. The Falcons managed to be down only four points to the fourth ranked team in the nation.

Neither team could pull away to start the second half, with 10 minutes remaining in the game Oshkosh had only a three-point advantage over the Falcons. The

Falcons wouldn't get within three points again until there was five minutes left in the game. It was as close as the Falcons would get for the rest of the game.

The Titans ended up with an 80-69 victory over the Falcons in a game that was significantly closer than their previous match up, which was a 91-56 win on January 12th. Fravert was the dominant force behind the Titans victory as he tallied 24 points, three blocks, and three steals with 50 percent shooting from behind the arc. For the Falcons, Austin Heidecker had one of his best games of the year statistically. He finished with 18 points, seven rebounds, an assist, and shot 100 percent from the free throw line.

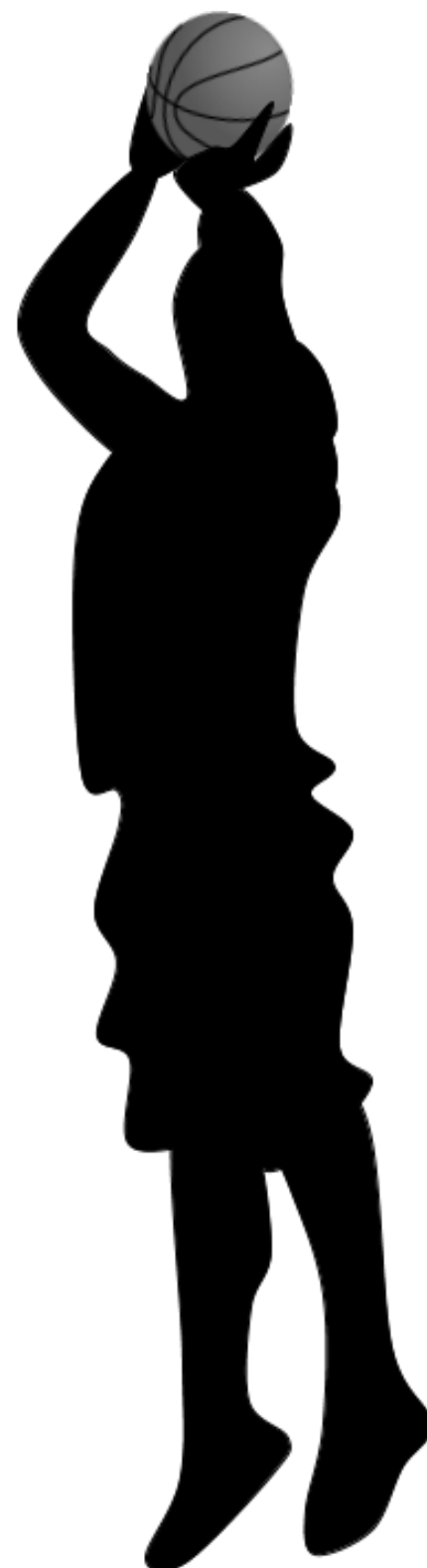
The Falcons have their next game against UW-Platteville on Feb. 9 at Don Page Arena. Tip-off for the match up is set for 5 p.m.

Graphic and drawing by Kacey Joslin

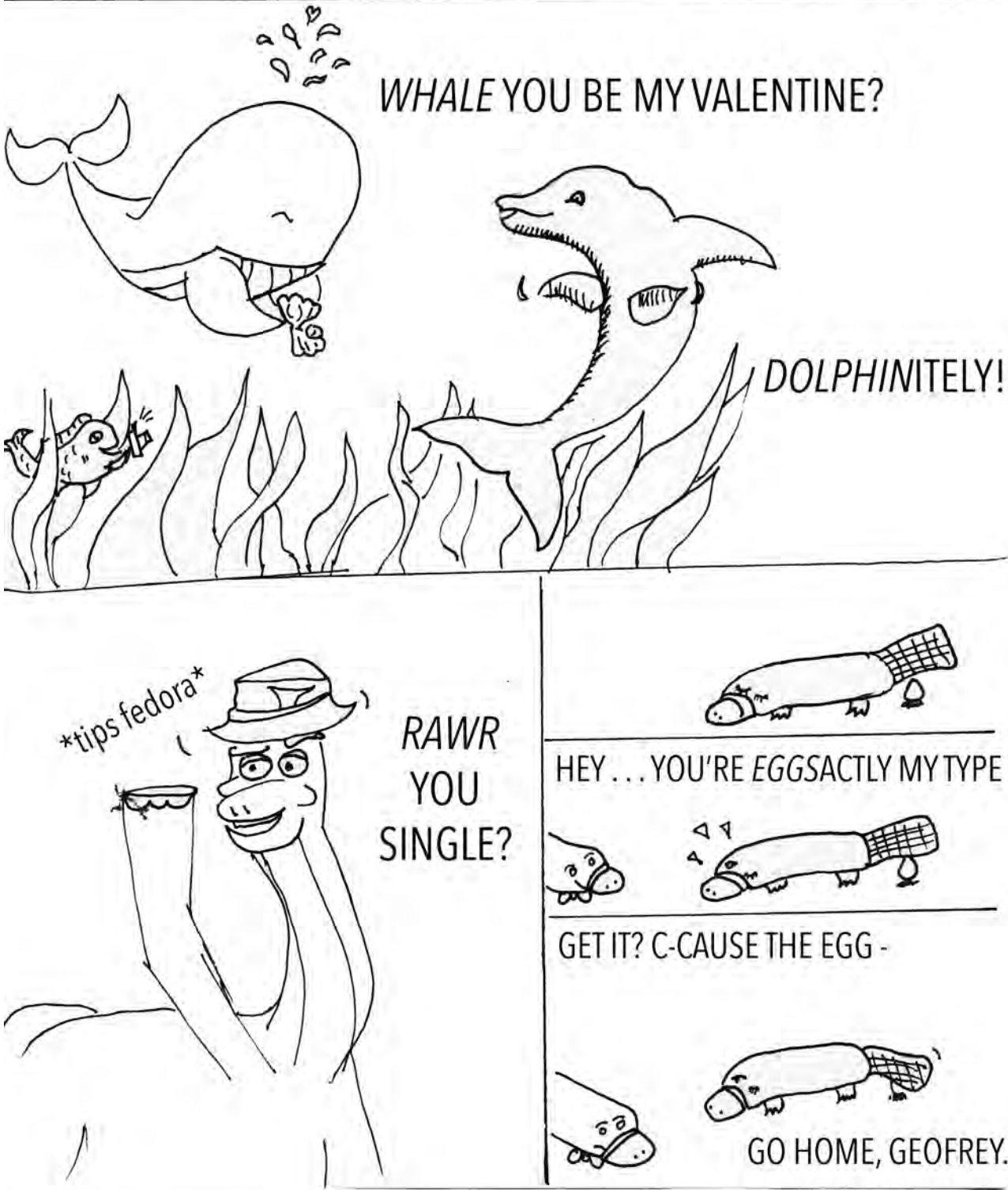
New to March issue: Reagan Responds!

Send in your questions about
sports or life advice to

reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu



PICK-UP LINES IN THE ANIMAL KINGDOM by Kacey Joslin & Brooke Shepherd



Upcoming Radio Shows available on WRFW 88.7 FM or at wrfw887.com

- Monday Nights**
6-7 p.m. "After the Whistle" with Owen Elle and Jim Sturm
- Tuesday Nights**
3-5 p.m. with Nathan G.

6-8 p.m. "The Ticket" with Jim Sturm and Jacob Luberda
- Wednesday Nights**
3-5 p.m. with Chance Bonneson

6-7 p.m. "Ball is Life" with Owen Elle and Reagan Hoverman

8-10 p.m. "Spooky Sisters: Insidious Encounters" with Brooke Shepherd and Kacey Joslin
- Thursday Nights**
6-8 p.m. "Hoov and Jensen" with Mack Jensen and Reagan Hoverman

8-9 p.m. with Emerson Small
- Friday Nights**
3-4 p.m. Hannah Robb

5-6 p.m. Elijah Gallenberg

6-8 p.m. "The Sports Vibe" with Owen Elle
- Special upcoming WRFW sports broadcasts*
- Friday, Feb. 15:** Men's hockey vs UW-Stout at 7:05 p.m. (WIAC Tournament First Round)
- Saturday, Feb. 16:** Women's basketball vs UW-Whitewater at 3:00 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 16:** Men's hockey vs UW-Stout at 7:05 p.m. (WIAC Tournament First Round)

Letter to the Editor:

Hello Student Voice team,

I happened to pick up the Student Voice today at the Co-op because I was interested in the article about the police chief discussing school shootings.

I was surprised and disappointed to read in the first paragraph that the number of deaths at "an elementary school" was reported wrong. It wasn't twenty people total including the shooter, it was twenty children and six educators. Plus the gunman. That seems like a large margin of error; seven whole humans.

You all may not know this, but for the last six years that particularly horrendous American tragedy has been called into question, called a hoax. The families who lost their first graders, and the first responders who tried against all odds to save them, have been told that it was all made up. That the loved ones they lost didn't really die, or

worse yet never really lived at all. Of all the mass shootings to minimize the impact, it's extra awful with Sandy Hook.

In this time of "alternative facts" it is even more important to be vigilant about fact checking. I hope you'll correct it somehow. What frustrates me the most is that if the author and editor are so off in basic facts, then it really isn't common knowledge even among higher educated Americans. And if we don't even know what we're talking about, nor how bad it really is, how can we begin to turn the tide toward a time when students, educators, and parents of all levels won't have to endlessly prepare against, and anxiously await, the next tragedy?

I realized in conversation with my college student nephew last year that he knew of Columbine, but he didn't really know the facts of what had happened and why it was really such a big deal. He didn't

understand that there used to be a time when these events weren't commonplace. That for 30 years there was one mass school shooting (UTexas tower) that hardly anyone knew about. And then Columbine changed everything like an earthquake across the ocean where the ripple builds so fast and spreads so far it decimates the entire unsuspecting far coast by tsunami. 20 years is a really brief period of time for the cultural shift that has us all accepting this new normal to the point of being blasé about whether there were 19 or 26 murdered at an elementary school six years ago.

I really am glad you're talking about the topic, but please don't assume your readers know what a labeled event was until you tell them, and don't assume you know what to tell them until you do good, solid, double-checked research. I hope you all take this as constructive criticism

and continue in this field cognizant of the critically important opportunity you have to educate or mis-educate by what you publish. It's not just the faculty that teach students in college. And it's not just students who read your paper. Your influence is really important, even on the minor details that aren't the main story. It's imperative that you are correct on the facts. *Best of luck, Patsy Werwie*

Editor's note:
Earlier versions of an article regarding UWRF safety protocols and the sixth anniversary of the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting incorrectly stated that there were 20 victims of the Sandy Hook shooting. There were, in fact, 20 children and six staff members killed, as well as the gunman. Prior to the school shooting, the gunman also shot his mother in their home. There were a total of 28 deaths.

Campus seeks solutions to hunger problem

Editorial

editor@uwrfvoice.com

Food insecurity is not something students often consider when looking at which college they will call home temporarily. Food insecurity on college campuses has become an apparent problem in recent years, including at UW-River Falls. Food insecurity is defined by the USDA as “a household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food.”

The university first began collecting data on this issue about two or three years back. A group of students had approached Health Services about doing a food shelf on campus.

Assistant Director of Health Promotions Keven Syverson said, “We realized we had no data on the topic of food insecurity for our students. We do a National College Health assessment every three years, and a lot of our previous reports are online on the student health website. But this is the first time we’ve asked questions specifically around food insecurity, and the National College Health Assessment is adding this to their next revision round to their survey.”

Food insecurity has many causes, Syverson commented that a main issue is, “Disposable income, you have to choose

between things. The choice is hard to make when you don’t have enough money for food. First year students are on the meal plan, however once you move into other years, it gets a little tricky.”

According to the Feeding America Organization 2018 data sheet, Pierce county has a food insecurity rate of 10 percent, and St. Croix county is at almost 8 percent. The poverty rate in St. Croix county is just below 6 percent, and doubles to 12 percent in Pierce county.

A survey conducted by UW-River Falls American College Health Association in 2018, found that 21 percent of UWRF students said they were often or sometimes worried their food would run out before they had money to buy more.

Hunger is a serious issue and has negative effects on students abilities to focus in class. UWRF has a high percentage of first year college students, as well as a lower median income compared to other universities in the UW-System.

CLASP, a national, anti-poverty non-profit that works to advance policy solutions for low income people, in their re-

“In the community you can go to the food shelf once a month, but students can now go twice a month,” said Syverson.

search found that, “First generation low-income students, [. . .] are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity. More than 56 percent of all first-generation students were food insecure, compared to 45 percent of students with

at least one parent who had attended college.”

The UWRF campus explored solutions to the food insecurity issue. “We have a great food shelf just downtown on the northside of Main Street. And there’s a lot going into running a food shelf, so we took a look at what other campuses are doing around this issue,” Syverson continued.

The River Falls Community Food Pantry is available for anyone in the town of River Falls to use for food services, including UWRF students. Upon first visit, food shelf users must fill out an annual form of information for the pantry.

Students must bring their UWRF student IDs each time they go to the food pantry in order to receive anywhere from 2 to 4 grocery bags of food.

Syverson said, “In the community you can go to the food shelf once a month, but students can now go twice a month. We also have a taxi service to bring students to the food shelf. Their hours are on their website.”

“For a while we had no students showing up to the food pantry for about a year, mainly because they did not know about us,” said Executive Director of the River Falls Community Food Pantry Candice Anderson. “Right around August [or] September we started seeing students coming through again, and now have around 10 students coming to the pantry each month.”

The River Falls Community Food Pantry is located on the corner of Main St and Pine St next to Bo Jons Flowers and Gifts.

Health Services has also worked with student organizations who have done food collection and donations to the food shelf.

Other community resources available

to students are programs such as Fare For All. Fare For All, according to their website, “is a great way to save money on quality, nutritious food. We buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and frozen meat in bulk to save you up to 40 percent off grocery store prices.”

Sue Boettcher of Chartwells brought the Fare For All program to the River Falls community.

The Foodshare, as stated on their website, “[Is] often referred to as food stamps, [it] is a benefit that can help pay for groceries until you get back on your feet.”

Students can check their eligibility by calling the FoodShare Helpline at 1-877-366-3635, or by filling out the Contact Us form located on their website, www.GetQuestCard.org. The card can then be used to purchase groceries.

Though the university has implemented many positive options for students, more can always be done. There is a program available called Swipe Out Hunger, which according to CLASP.org, “is a student organization enabling students to use their extra meal swipes to purchase meals for the homeless. In 2016, *Swipe Out Hunger* changed its focus to address campus hunger, establishing 30 chapters across the country.”

This is a great option for campus, since many students don’t use all their meals, guest meals or dining dollars, they can now donate those extra things to students in need.

Another potential solution could be a community garden in the spring, summer and early fall. Students and community members could designate a small plot of land for the garden, and food grown could be made available to students at a low cost. The university could designate land to be used for this.

Lastly, student organizations are always encouraged to hold food drives and collect donations for the local food pantry.



A student prepares a donation for the food pantry.

Photo by Kacey Joslin

Student Voice

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Van Galen reflects on decade as chancellor

Theodore Tollefson

theodore.tollefson@my.uwrf.edu

Since the turn of the 21st century, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls has had six different people as chancellor. Out of those six people, Dean Van Galen, the current chancellor of UW-River Falls, has been in the position for ten years. Van Galen was named into the position on Jan. 16, 2009. His term officially began on June 1, 2009. Yet, Van Galen's time in academic administration or the state of the Wisconsin did not begin at UWRF.

Van Galen was born and raised in Waupun, Wisconsin, located about 250 miles southeast of River Falls. Van Galen was a first generation college student, and went onto attend the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. Continuing his education, Van Galen attended Kansas State University where he earned a doctorate in analytical chemistry. Van Galen said, "I did postdoctoral research for a year at UC-Berkeley and then accepted a teaching position as a chemistry professor at Truman State University which is in Kirksville, Missouri."

Continuing on Van Galen said, "I taught chemistry for a number of years, [and] had the opportunity to participate in an administrative fellowship program called the ACE Fellows Program, came back to Truman State and had the opportunity to try administration. So I became the vice president for university advancement. Advancement is the external arm of the university, alumni relations, fundraising, community relations and I severed in that role for about seven years. Then I took the position at the University of West Florida in Pensacola, Florida as vice president for advancement at that institution."

While working at the University of West Florida, Van Galen was offered the position to become the chancellor at UWRF.

Van Galen elaborated, "One morning my phone rang and a colleague of mine said, 'You're going to receive a call from a search firm in a few minutes about a job in Wisconsin, and you should think about it.' So I did learn about the opportunity at UW-River Falls in 2008, and given that I thought there was a good fit between my values and the values of UW-River Falls, and that I was from Wisconsin, I decided to apply for the position, went through the process and ultimately was named chancellor beginning in June of 2009."

Van Galen discussed the uniqueness of his position and what he has enjoyed about the opportunities it has provided him. "My role here is extremely diverse and interesting. Everyday is different. I enjoy supporting our faculty, staff, and students. I enjoy the external part of my role, I have probably spent a third of my time externally off campus involved in community relations, fundraising, working with board of regents, working with legislatures. So I do enjoy that external part of my job, but in the end probably what I enjoy the very

most engaging with our students. That really is what motivates me in my role everyday. I believe deeply in the value of education and I think we have a wonderful group of students on our campus," Van Galen said.

Through the years, being chancellor has presented Van Galen with many challenges. A large challenge, for example, the decline in state funding.

Van Galen said, "Historically, Wisconsin has been very supportive of public higher education, but during my tenure here we have had periods where that state support has not been strong. Several years ago we had a major budget cut, so that has been a major challenge and has caused us real difficult times for our faculty, staff, and students. The positive side of that is the support for public higher education in Wisconsin is increasing. Our enrollment on campus after some time of decline has now trending upward. Last two years we have had our two largest freshmen classes in the last nine years. In the end, the impact of those budget cuts on our campus have been very challenging to deal with and it has been difficult to see the impact on our faculty, staff and students."

For many jobs, with time comes wisdom. Through his position as chancellor, Van Galen was able to be connected with his personal values. Van Galen said, "I view really any leadership role as more than a job. It is something you live 24/7 and it's important believe deeply in the mission of the organization. For me, I am fortunate to have that fit between the role I have here and my personal belief in the value of education. The other aspect of leadership that I have seen as very important is resilience and trying to be optimistic even during difficult times and to communicate that optimism and help ensure our faculty and staff feel valued, even when the university may be going through a difficult time. So those are the things as I reflect I guess I have learned and I view as being important as a leader."

Since 2009, UWRF has grown more diverse as a university in many different ways. Chancellor Van Galen discussed how he has noticed this growth in diversity since he first arrived on campus ten years ago.

"We have a really amazing diversity of students in many different ways. Every fall when new students are on campus I'll visit with them and most years there is a new student who tells me, 'I have never lived in a town this large.' And there is a student who will tell me, 'I have never lived in a place this small.' So we bring students from many different backgrounds and I think there is a great opportunity for those students to learn from one another," said Van Galen.

"The racial diversity of our campus has increased over the last ten years significantly. I think the diversity of viewpoint is something we value and need to learn from each other as we look at different viewpoints and different experiences of our students. So I think diversity and the need to continue to increase diversity is a strength of our campus," said Van

Galen.

Chancellor Van Galen talked about the different ways he has involved himself with the community of River Falls outside of the university.

"River Falls is a wonderful community and there is a very strong and positive relationship between town and gown. I think we're fortunate because that is not always the case in a city that hosts a campus. I have been very involved in the local rotary club on campus which meets once a week and that includes a lot of the community leaders. I interact a great deal with leaders in the school district, the business community, I think it's important that the university serve as a convener and a hub for a lot of the activities that can help move River Falls forward," said Van Galen.

Van Galen discussed the people he has spent a lot of his time with on campus over the decade. "Certainly I spend time with members of the Chancellor's Cabinet and especially the University Provost who of course provides leadership for all our academic programs as well as our chief business officer, Elizabeth Frueh. I interact significantly with our shared governance leaders, faculty senate, academic staff council, the university staff senate, and student government association. I certainly enjoy those interactions," said Van Galen.

Van Galen has a large appreciation for the support his wife has shown over the years. Van Galen said, "Mary has been a wonderful partner in helping serve this university. She shares my belief in the value of what we do here. She loves interacting with students, faculty and staff and I am very fortunate she continues to be a wonderful partner."

The chancellor shared his goals and aspirations of what he hopes to accomplish moving forward.

"Certainly to continue to support our faculty staff and students, including as serving as an effective advocate with the legislatures and the alumni and friends that support our university. As we look to the future to the year 2024, will be our university's 150 year anniversary. I think that is a milestone that will enable us to not look back at our history, but dream about our future." Van Galen continued, "At a practical level, we're looking to secure state support for a new science and technology innovation center so I am looking forward to that. That certainly is a priority of mine and the university. We are seeking \$111 million from the state of Wisconsin as a part of the state budget process. The project has been recommended by the board of regents, but it will still be a challenge for that facility. Right now the state budget process is just beginning and will run roughly the next six months."

The plan for a new science and technology innovation center is one of many goals that Van Galen would like to accomplish over the next few years. For more information regarding the project, info can be found at www.uwrf.edu under news.

This Week in Books: Religion

Melanie Meyers

melanie.meyers@my.uwrf.edu

Last spring semester, I began to recognize that the best way I could fulfill my academic desires of a strengthened education was by reading. Reading frequently, reading often, and reading on a variety of subjects. There are many reasons to pick up the habit of reading and I believe reading offers a lot to the human experience.

Reading has become increasingly enticing to me as it offers opportunity to explore subject matter that is not covered in the classroom, while increasing my personal vocabulary. While I prefer non-fiction, I have even come to enjoy reading fiction and the emotional empathy you can gain from choosing the fiction genre.

I have found these reasons to be compelling enough to read, I fear some of my fellow peers may not quite see the benefit of reading

in their lives yet. Thus, this reading journey and my desire to encourage my fellow Falcon peers to read is what has led me to writing this column on books.

I'd like to kick it off with the biggest thing that has changed in my life since returning to UWRF this Spring: my religion. I am in the process of converting to Catholicism. While I have "researched" the Catholic Church at various points in my life, I was never propelled into full conversion with such confidence in my decision as I have been now. That can be fully accredited to my exploration of books on the Catholic faith. Subsequently, this month's books suggestions will focus on religion.

This month's suggested reading on exploring faith and questioning your belief system is "Surprised by Truth" by Patrick Madrid. Madrid did not write a full book on why you should convert, rather he offered up eleven personal stories of Protestant converts to

the Catholic Faith and he compiled it into one easy read. Students, regardless of religion, can find this book helpful to exploring what they truly believe as this book follows the process of 11 different people questioning what they've been raised to believe their entire lives. I personally found this book extremely compelling as it articulated and answered questions I was beginning to ponder during my own faith journey. Despite the specificity of the book, it offers valuable practices to implement in your own life when exploring new ideas. Since reading has the opportunity to open your eyes to a variety of different thoughts and ideas, and the undergraduate experience is really meant for students to explore the world from outside the comfort zone of their home, why not take the time to read up on your own faith or spirituality?

On the other hand, if you're interested in learning more about the Islamic faith, or

differing cultures, "I Should Have Honor" by Khalida Brohi is my most highly recommended work this month. Students interested in global and women's issues will especially like this book, as Brohi tackles the awful practice of honor killings in her culture. This book follows her journey to change this practice, and offers major insight to the issue on a firsthand basis.

I picked up Brohi's memoir while browsing at Dotter's Books in December, the kind of indie bookstore that really encourages the exchanging of different perspectives, and boy did I learn a lot from Brohi! Reading "I Should Have Honor" not only opened my eyes to her culture but also her faith, which is something I did not expect when purchasing this book.

Brohi gives a personal look at her relationship with God, and how her faith plays an important role in her activism work.

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This Week in Books: Religion

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I especially appreciated this book for how much insight it gave me on Islam, a religion I knew little about before picking it up. Brohi discusses common misconceptions of Islam that not only outsiders may believe, but those within her culture do as well. If other readers are anything like me they will surely be more intrigued to learn more about Islam after putting it down!

My “in-the-middle of” read this month is “The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America” by Frances FitzGer-

ald. This is a history book I would like to recommend, that I have found quite compelling on the topic of religion in America. This book is an extremely detailed account of the history of Protestantism in America, and the conservative Christian movement that aligns with these denominations. I have found this book to teach me a lot about the roots of my own faith in America and how specific denominations have come to believe what they do. The lack of bias in this very well researched, secular book makes reading it all the more appealing to those interested in finding out more about how American churches were formed. If you’re interested at all

in the Religious Right or how American Protestantism has developed throughout the history of the United States, I highly recommend you pick up this 2017 National Book Critics Circle Award winning book.

Hopefully, this month’s column gives you something to read! Or, at the very least, encourages you to pick up new books on new topics or something on your to-read shelf. If not, check out next month’s column tackling a different subject of suggestions!

Staff predicts Oscar outcomes

Student Voice Staff

The Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars, are the oldest worldwide entertainment award ceremony, going on its 91st iteration. The first award was presented back in 1929, and has been a staple of film achievement ever since. Many categories have come and gone over the years, however the Best Director category has been around since the beginning.

Best Director

Shelton Jackson, also known as Spike Lee, is the first nominee for best director due to his film “BlacKkKlansman.” In 2015, Lee was awarded the Academy Honorary Award and has been nominated for five prior Academy Awards. Other notable works of Lee’s include his debut film “She’s Gotta Have It,” “Malcolm X,” and “Inside Man.”

Pawel Pawlikowski is the second nominee for best director, due to his film “Cold War.” In 2015, Pawlikowski won Best Foreign Language Film for his film “Ida.” Pawlikowski is most well known for his documentaries “Last Resort and My Summer of Love,” and obviously for his film “Ida.”

Yorgos Lanthimos, an upcoming greek director, is the third nominee for best director due to his film “The Favourite.” Lanthimos films have previously been nominated for four Academy Awards, two of which being this year. His other notable works include his debut as a co-director for “My Best Friend,” and his films “Dogtooth and The Lobster.”

Alfonso Cuarón is the forth nominee for best director for to his film “Roma.” Cuarón has previously been awarded an Academy Award for Best Director from his film “Gravity” in 2013, and films of his have been nominated for 10 separate awards. His notable films include “Y Tu Mamá También,” “Harry Potter,” “Prisoner of Azkaban” and “Children of Men.”

Adam McKay is the fifth and final nominee for best director for his film “Vice”. McKay has previously received the Best Adapted Screenplay Academy Award for his

film “The Big Short” in 2016. His other notable works include two seasons of being the head writer for “Saturday Night Live,” “Directing Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy,” “Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby”, and “Step Brothers.”

When it comes to who will be the best director this year it’s still up for debate. There are industry veterans and new upcoming directors, but what it really comes down to is how hard they worked. The films that are presented next to each director are some of the best films of 2018, however only one director can truly be the best of the year.

Best Animated Feature

Nominees for Best Animated Feature include “Incredibles 2,” “Isle of Dogs”, “Mirai,” “Ralph Breaks the Internet,” and “Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse.”

2018 has been a commendable year for animation trends in film. Computer-generated imagery (CGI) has improved in leaps and bounds, making special effects almost eerily realistic. In each of the films nominated for Best Animated Feature, colors are bolder, motion is smoother, and animators are taking new approaches to their art.

Wes Anderson’s adaptation of the manga “Isle of Dogs” uses stop-motion, an excruciating process that took several years and 12 sculptors working tirelessly six days a week, according to an interview with one of the puppet fabricators, Andy Gent.

Audiences waited 14 years for the release of “Incredibles 2” and were not disappointed by Disney’s attention-to-detail and captivating action sequences. Similarly, “Ralph Breaks the Internet” was well received, with sleek and colorful animation synonymous to Disney/Pixar. However, many reviewers noted that the plot seemed convoluted and overrun with meme references. Studio Chizu’s “Mirai” is the sixth anime film to be nominated for an Academy award, with an emotional storyline and an endearing visual simplicity that won the hearts of many.

I pity the Academy members

who have to decide between these utterly incredible films, but I believe that one movie truly rises above them all. I’ve never been a big comic fan, only knowing the basic facts about Peter Parker and the accompanying canon, however, Marvel Comics’ “Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse” made me wish I was.

The comic book practically came to life on screen with a modern interpretation of a classic animation style. The animators paid homage to the original artist with the charming graphics, panels, motion lines and onomatopoeias (*THWIP!*) that appealed to children and adults alike. The soundtrack combined

less volumes, editions, off-shoots and variations of a comic to enjoy a Marvel movie.

Best Animated Short

As UW-River Falls students enter the 2019 spring semester with far below zero temperatures, they also enter another season: the Oscars. The Oscar is a tiny golden statue that is given out as an Academy Award. This year will mark the 91st year of presenting these statues to various celebrities. Whether it is for being the best actress/actor or having the best picture, there is a statue for the most notable individuals in the industry annually.

One category of the Oscars is the best animated short film. An animated short is another way of saying a brief video that is created using animations. The nominees for the best animated shorts of this year are: “Animal Behaviour” by Alison Snowden and David Fine, “Bao” by Domee Shi, “Late Afternoon” by Louise Bagnall, “One Small Step” by Andrew Chesworth and Bobby Pontillas, and “Weekends” by Trevor Jimenez. If none of these sound familiar, do not fret, clarity is on the way.

“Animal Behavior” is an animated short written and directed by Alison Snowden and David Fine. This short film consists of characters who are seen in a group therapy setting. Each character is welcomed into a weekly group which is conducted by Dr. Clement, a dog psychotherapist. Each week, the group meets to discuss each one of their individual anxiety’s.

One of the characters in this short film is a pig who suffers from an eating disorder. Another is a praying mantis who can not hold a steady relationship with a man. There is also a leech who is experiencing bouts of separation anxiety, a feline who suffers from obsessive-compulsive disorder and

lastly, a bird who experiences issues with guilt.

The short film is a light-hearted approach to difficult topics. Comedy is incorporated, and perhaps this comedic relief of some real-life issues is the reason this animated short is nominated for an Oscar.

A second animated short that was nominated this year called “Bao,” which was written and directed by Domee Shi. This short film may sound familiar because it was produced by Pixar Animation Studios, and also released with the movie “Incredibles 2”.

This animated short ties in experiences of loneliness a mother feels while she is suffering from empty-nest syndrome. Empty-nest syndrome comes about when all the children have left for college, or are living on their own and no longer are in need of the constant care and attention.

“Bao” follows a Chinese mother who is suffering from empty-nest syndrome, when all of a sudden, one of her dumplings she has made for a meal sprung to life as a little dumpling child.

As the dumpling child grows older, the mother and him butt heads. Eventually, she eats the dumpling child during a fit of anger. The mother’s real son visits and upsets his mother by explaining to her that it was all just a dream. The mother is now upset at her son and ignores him, and the father demands the son apologizes for what he has said. Shortly after, the whole family, including the son’s fiancée, forgive one another and sit around and cook dumplings together and sit at the kitchen table to eat and watch the television.

“Late Afternoon” by Louise Bagnall follows an elderly woman, Emily, through time as she recalls her past memories. Emily is unhappy and feels detached with the current state of the world around her, so she decided she must drift through her happier memories in order to fully appreciate the present.



orchestral and modern music, making it both an immersive experience and an aurally pleasing one.

Not only is the animation stellar, but voice actors, such as John Mulaney as Peter Porker, Nicolas Cage as Spider-man Noir and Hailie Steinfeld as Gwen Stacy, kept the dialogue interesting and enjoyable. The characterization of Miles Morales stole the show, with his portrayal incredibly realistic and hilarious to watch.

“Into the Spider-verse” convinced me that animated movies don’t always have to be for kids, and you don’t need to read the end-

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Staff predicts Oscar outcomes

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The short film, “One Small Step” by Andrew Chesworth and Bobby Pontillas features a young Chinese-American girl named Luna. Luna dreams of becoming an astronaut some day. Luna uncovers this desire while she watches a rocket shooting into space on the television.

Luna lives in a large city with her father, Chu, who runs a very small shoe repair business out of his own garage. Despite Luna’s challenges while growing up, she remains determined to stay on the path of one day going into space.

The final short film that is short-listed for the Oscars is “Weekends” by Trevor Jimenez. This short film pursues the trek of a young boy with divorced parents. Like many children with parents who are separated, the young boy is having problems seeing both of his parents finding their own bliss without one another.

Dreams interrupt reality in this short film. As the boy dreams of closeness within his broken

family, he is anxious of others coming into his family picture. Although this boy is not able to control what is happening in his reality, he finds a way to manipulate his dreams to create the family picture he longs for.

Best Actor

The five nominees for The Oscars Best Actor award this year each fulfilled very distinct roles within their separate films. This year’s nominees include: Bradley Cooper in “A Star is Born,” Willem Dafoe in “At Eternity’s Gate,” Rami Malek in “Bohemian Rhapsody,” Viggo Mortensen in “Green Book,” and finally, Christian Bale in “Vice.” By looking at the nominated actors, other film awards, as well as each film’s reviews, it is still hard to pinpoint which actor deserves 2019’s Best Actor Academy Award.

Rami Malek, Bradley Cooper, and Christian Bale are the three top actors out of all the nominees to be predicted to win this year’s award, each for differing reasons. Rami Malek portrayed Freddie Mercury, the lead singer from the band Queen in the film “Bohemian Rhapsody.” Although performing and executing a real-life portrayal can be difficult, he has won awards from both the SAG awards and the Golden Globes this year for his performance. This makes him a top contender for the Oscars.

Another real-life portrayal in the nominations this year goes to Christian Bale in “Vice.” Where Bale plays former U.S. Vice President, Dick Cheney. Critics have said that the comparison between the actor and the character he was portraying was extremely similar, and his performance was excellent. This helped with the achievement of receiving this year’s Critics Choice Award for Best Actor.

The third top nominee is Bradley Cooper for his performance in “A Star is Born.” Cooper has been nominated for Best Actor at other awards ceremonies this year, but has fallen short to both Bale and Malek. His role in the film “A Star is Born” contrast from both Bale and Malek’s roles. Cooper did not portray a real-life character, which can be extremely difficult.

As for Willem Dafoe from “At Eternity’s Gate” and Viggo Mortensen from “Green Book,” each actor gave strong performances, but the films did not receive the same attention as the other three. Each actor was also considered for other awards throughout the course of the year but did not receive anything. This may put both actors at the tail end of the competition.

Overall it is hard to say exactly who will take home the award for this year’s Best Actor award. The awards ceremony may take a turn and surprise viewers, however, it is easy to say that the top three actors within this category are Bradley Cooper, Rami Malek and Christian Bale.

Best Picture

“A Star is Born” – This is the third time that “A Star is Born” has been remade for the cinema since its original adaptation was first released in 1937. The plot is not necessarily the same as the previous three versions as this adaptation of “A Star is Born” spends more time focusing on the relationship between Jack (Bradley Cooper) and Ally (Lady Gaga) and how Ally’s rise to stardom tears at the romance that the two develop in the first half of the film. This version of “A Star is Born” is certainly the best to date, as Cooper’s directorial debut shows how much passion he had in making this film in his camera work and performance. The film also gave Lady Gaga the opportunity to shine in her acting skills in her first big screen performance since 2014 and most certainly being well deserved for her best actress nomination at the Academy Awards this year. “A Star is Born” certainly exceed its predecessors and is a worthy nominee for earning Best Picture in 2018.

“BlacKkKlansman” – Spike Lee teamed up with Jordan Peele and his crew from 2017’s “Get Out” to adapt the story of Ron Stallworth, an African American Colorado Springs, Colo. police officer who goes undercover to infiltrate the local branch of the

Ku Klux Klan. Ron Stallworth is portrayed by John David Washington (Denzel Washington’s son) who does a phenomenal job playing the role and showing how Stallworth was able to convince the Ku Klux Klan over the phone that he was white and expose how sick and frightening the mindsets of White Supremacists are. Helping Stallworth is his Jewish partner Flip Zimmerman (played by Adam Driver) who goes into the KKK meetings pretending to be Stallworth in the flesh as they learn of a plot the KKK is developing to attack the University of Colorado–Colorado Springs Black Student Union. “BlacKkKlansman” is a well adapted book to film production where Spike Lee again reminds his audience of how alive racism is in America today, and how we as all people can become better at fighting it. This is also the first time in Spike Lee’s legendary career that he has finally received a nomination for Best Picture and Best Director.

“Black Panther” – “Black Panther” has become the first Marvel Cinematic film to be nominated for the best picture category. This is also the best eye candy film that has been nominated for the best picture as special effects technician Ryan Amborn and visual effects artist Alex Aucoin out did themselves with the visual effects in this film. Michael B. Jordan gave a outstanding performance as the relatable villain of the film Erik Killmonger, and really creates a drift in the audiences cheering for both the hero and the villain. No matter what, “Black Panther” will be remembered for its historical significance in featuring a majority black cast in a superhero film.

“Bohemian Rhapsody” – The long awaited Freddie Mercury biopic certainly gave his lifestyle justice solely thanks to Rami Malek’s performance of Mercury. “Bohemian Rhapsody” took over eight years to make and the director Bryan Singer has faced accusations of sexually assaulting and harassing multiple women, it is hard to say if “Bohemian Rhapsody” will win the Best Picture this year. “Bohemian Rhapsody’s” screenplay has also faced criticism for being over glamorized by the Hollywood storytelling archetype for biopics. Regardless, the performance that Rami Malek did of Freddie Mercury in the film was spot on throughout its entirety both in dialogue and in his “on stage” performance. The supporting members of Queen Brian May (Gwilym Lee), Roger Taylor (Ben Hardy), and John Deacon (Joseph Mazzello) are also performed well and provide a fair representation to their real life counterparts. “Bohemian Rhapsody” also did very well in exploring what Freddie’s life was like once he started to explore his sexuality and how it eventually lead to his isolation from those closest to him.

“Green Book” – “Green Book” follows a working-class Italian-American bouncer living in New York City, Tony Lip, (Viggo Mortensen) who decides to become a chauffeur of an African-American jazz pianist, Dr. Don Shirley, (Mahershala Ali) at the start of the 1960’s in America’s Deep South. The relationship in this film between Lip and Shirley starts out with an uncomfortable tension at first. Lip is not hap-

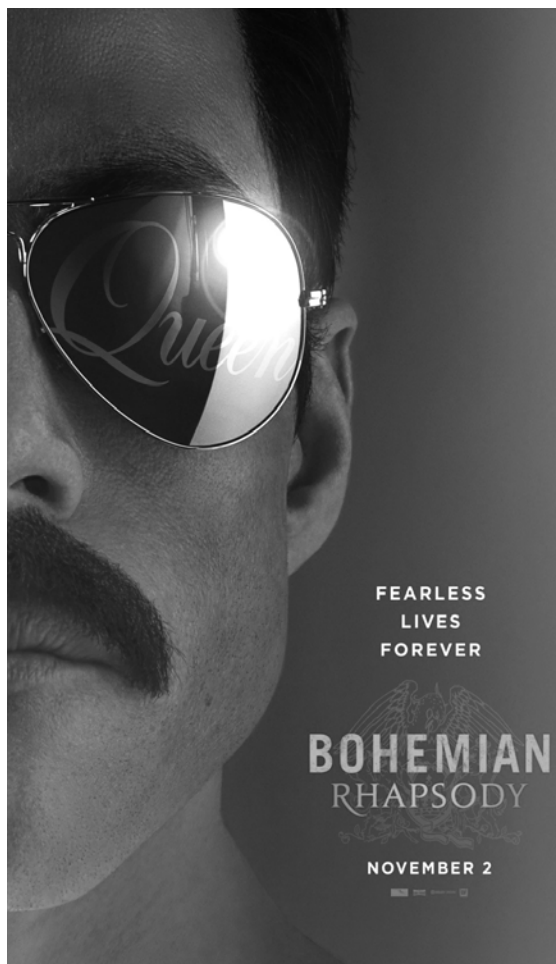
py about his new job and lets it show to Shirley with rude, racist remarks whenever they speak. “Green Book” takes an extensive look at the Jim Crow South during a time when Civil Rights was a constant fight in the Deep South and even in its lens of realistic fiction, still provides to be a feel good film.

“Roma” – “Roma” is the first ever motion picture released directly onto Netflix that has ever received a nomination for the best picture category. The film takes place in Mexico City, Mexico, over the course of the decade that is the 1970’s, it follows the life of a maid Cleo (Yalitza Aparicio) who works for a wealthy middle class family. When conflict strikes for both Cleo and the family she works for, the film pushes the characters into confronting themselves in some of their darkest times. “Roma” is nominated for ten Academy Awards this year which is tied for the most nominations with the Favourite. Director and writer Alfonso Cuarón certainly delivered an all time classic with “Roma” and it’ll be interesting to see if the Academy agrees with rewarding them with wins this year.

“The Favourite” – Taking place in early 18th century England, “The Favourite” follows Queen Anne (Olivia Colman) as the new air to the throne governing her kingdom during a period of war with the French. While Queen Anne falls ill, her friend Lady Sarah (Rachel Weisz) governs the United Kingdom in her stead. During this time, a new servant named Abigail (Emma Stone) comes under Lady Sarah’s wing, Abigail learns to fulfill her ambitions of leadership in a time when women are not seen as people to men. This biopic comedy is tied with Roma for the most nominations at the Oscars this year with ten, and has both Emma Stone and Rachel Weisz nominated for Best Supporting Actress. “The Favourite” certainly provides many laughs throughout and certainly is worthy of its nomination for Best Picture of 2018.

“Vice” – This biopic of former U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney has not been receiving good reviews from both audiences and critics alike. Still, there was enough liking from audience members and some critics for “Vice” to receive a nomination. Dick Cheney is played by the method actor Christian Bale, and the film shows his rise from being a drunk getting kicked out of Yale to becoming the most powerful man on Earth during the time of 9/11. The film tries to depict Cheney as somewhat of a relatable protagonist and avoids confronting some of the controversies surrounding his life. After 9/11, Cheney went extreme in authorizing torture of suspected terrorist, most notably by waterboarding almost all suspects on Cheney’s list. Some might argue this film is too Hollywood in its depiction of Cheney’s work. Due to the film’s attempts to avoid facts on Cheney’s life, it is certainly the least deserving of the eight Best Picture nominations.

Of all of these films that are shortlisted for all of the categories, only one will receive the title. Watch to see which of your favorite films, actors, scenes, etc. get chosen on February 24 at 7 p.m. CST.



Faculty discuss their free time

Kacey Joslin

kassandra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

In an attempt to make staff more approachable to students, as well as a place for staff to show off their accomplishments, *The Student Voice* is proud to showcase UW-River Falls staff and faculty members with interesting hobbies or pastimes.

If you're interested in having your interesting hobbies showcased, contact reporter Kacey Joslin.

This month's note-worthy staff member is Erik Johnson.

Erik Johnson has taught stage and screen arts at UW-River Falls for ten years, all while maintaining an intense passion for art, music, skateboarding and all things "punk."

Johnson grew up in a musical household, and his father was a band director. "I've been playing music most of my life as a social outlet, which intersects with my professional life in film. I started violin in the first grade and in second grade, I played piano. Then, in fourth grade – on the last day of school – my friend and I went on a vandalism spree," Johnson admitted. "We trashed a bunch of cabins, and I'm not bragging about it, I'm not proud of it, but it happened. We got busted."

As punishment, Johnson was forced to choose an instrument and spend his summer break with his father, practicing in a little sound-proof room.

"I chose the snare drum. At the time, it sucked. But as a result, when fifth grade rolled around, I was so far ahead of my peers in band that I was always first chair. Marching band, jazz band, concert band, you name it," Johnson continued. "It's been a huge part of my life, and that's how music and my passion for skateboarding have come together. It kind of goes hand-in-hand with the culture."

This "punk" culture was a huge influence when Johnson began developing his brainchild, "SceneTV," in 2001. In the earliest stages it was a one-man show, but the project slowly grew, gaining sponsors and partnerships with other creators.

"I didn't really know what was going to happen. I had a career, I worked in news and I worked in production and commercials. I just did this for fun, so I thought 'why not pair my skills with my hobby?'"

Johnson joined forces with the owner of a skateboard park who agreed to host the television show. For about three years, Johnson created a "pilot" for the show. A pilot, as described by Johnson, is an example of what the series *could* be. He gathered footage of well-known bands and interviewed numerous famous skateboarders.

Johnson sent DVDs of the pilot to different networks around the country until 2004, when he was picked up by a local broadcast affiliate, KSTC, Channel 45 in the Twin Cities. His show would be broadcast to the upper midwest to a couple million households. "At the time, it was an unbelievable deal as an independent producer," Johnson said. "I was given a free time slot and the opportunity to share commercial time."

During those first few years, opportunities started rolling in. "I got on the mailing list of lots of record labels. I went to five Warp [record label] tours in a row to hang out behind the scenes. I went to countless band shows and skateboard demos," Johnson said. "It was just amazing, for me. I grew up skate-

boarding and playing in bands, but not on a huge level. These were people that I looked up to as a kid, and now I'm meeting them and interviewing them. It was amazing."

Johnson's office walls are covered in skateboards. The earliest, dating back to 2002, was signed by Tony Hawk. "The second year, when it started taking off, I had a skateboard deck and had him sign it," Johnson said. "Everyone that I interviewed, every year that I've done the show, I had a blank deck and then I had people sign it."

Most of the skateboards decorating Johnson's office were received in trade for producing promos and commercials. He offers many of them for prize drawings that fans of his show can get involved with. "This all started as a passion project," Johnson continued. "I wasn't doing it for the money. It became a social outlet, something I was personally interested in it. I got to see all these cool people that I otherwise wouldn't have had a chance to meet."

Despite riding high for a solid two years, in 2006, "SceneTV's" downfall came in the form of a blood-drenched skateboarder.

"I got into trouble with the FCC, because skateboarding and punk rock can have a little edgy content to it," Johnson admitted. "Back then, on the network, you can't say certain things. In punk-rock, there are certainly some offensive things, lyrically and otherwise, that have to be censored." However, swearing wasn't the problem.

For the network, Johnson was allowed to make his own commercials based on the content of his show. With the intention of promoting a documentary titled "Who Cares? The Duane Peters Story," Johnson was invited to cover a screening event for the documentary. "Duane is a very colorful character, that's what the documentary was about. He's had some drug problems, he's almost died and he rehabilitated himself, it was a great story. The 'edgy' part of it is who he is," Johnson defended.

The venue Johnson attended was filled with skateboard competitors from around the country. "It was packed. There were people from California, there were big screens, and they were cheering – it was so awesome. Duane came on stage, and there's this one shot I recorded of Duane covered in blood flipping the bird. And *that* is an FCC no-no."

"I didn't think much about it. It was just a quick little frame of him, and I thought it was something that was contextual for the show," Johnson explained. "The next week I was sitting at home with my wife watching TV, and at the part where Duane Peters was supposed to be it cut straight to a public service announcement."

His promotion was censored, and Johnson received a voicemail from the program director stating Johnson had violated their policies and his show was to be canceled. Johnson later found out that all the other independent shows on his network had been canceled.

He assumes the cancellation would've happened one way or another. "The vision of the station was shifting. They went onto what they call 'syndicated programs'; shows that could be re-run. I always joke that I have a personal vendetta against [the television show] *Friends* because that was the show that replaced mine," Johnson joked. "You know, sometimes in life, you have peaks and valleys; things that happen for a reason. Person-



Erik Johnson holding professional skateboarder Duane Peters' skateboard.
Photo by Kacey Joslin

ally, for me, I needed a break. In hindsight, it was a good thing that it happened."

Shortly after the show's cancellation, Johnson was on the receiving end of a *literal* break. He was skateboarding with his children and broke his right, dominant wrist. The injury affected his ability to work in hands-on, analytical pursuits such as producing, and, as Johnson explained, "The planets must have aligned or something because I took my kids to art camp at my alma mater, and I ran into a former advisor who asked if I ever thought about going back to school to become a professor."

Johnson described his position here at UW – River Falls. "I teach primarily the screen side of the stage and screen arts; film, media, video. The types of courses are production-related, hands-on, but I also do some theory and conceptual stuff. Prior to getting into teaching, I worked professionally in film and television for thirteen years which gave me the experience. Like I said, music and film have been a part of my life pretty much most of my life."

Johnson hasn't forgotten about "Scene TV" and his humble beginnings. Johnson has adapted "SceneTV" into a web series titled "SceneTV Raw." The web series features *'uncensored interviews and action with pro skateboarders and punk rock bands'*.

Johnson is juggling a number of creative projects, including collaborative web-series, radio podcasts, punk-rock bands, and documentaries. The podcast will include in-depth segments on skateboarding and music, aired on Real Punk Radio. "My goal is that it should be out by the end of the semester. I'm holding off just because I want to do it right."

In addition to the podcast and the web series, Johnson is an executive producer for "The Milk Show."

"The show's about a possessed refrigerator puppet that interviews bands. So," Johnson laughed. "As a result of working with 'The Milk Show,' we've started a new band called The Red Reapers. The Red Reaper is the mascot of 'SceneTV Raw.' It's really just me dressing up as my alter-ego that I invented," Johnson explained. He had found a skull

mask in his children's Halloween costumes and painted it red for dramatic effect. "It's become the face of the show, so whenever I meet someone that I interview, I put this mask on and have my picture taken next to them."

"The friend who started 'The Milk Show' did an interview with the Red Reaper and thought it was funny, so we did a couple events and had a live show where bands played and the puppet did skits in between the show," Johnson continued. The band will consist of three members, and Johnson states that they've written a song called "Queen of Snakes." Using his skills in filmography, they will be creating a music video that ties into an upcoming film of the same name. "We'll probably play some live shows, too. We wanted it to be more theatrical, like performance art. I mostly invented the Red Reaper to reach out to a niche audience. [The band] is creative and fun, and it ties in what I do on both the film side of things and the creative side of things."

When asked to summarize what to expect from his podcast and web series, Johnson gave a secret smile. "Skateboarding and punk rock," he said. "That's what it is. Even in skateboarding and punk rock, there are sub-genres. But for me, it's emulating a culture – as a kid, growing up – really set the course for my whole life. Granted, for people of my demographic 'old-man skateboarder crew', it's all about keeping our youth. For me, it's been a heckuva lot of fun."

"Something I tell my students all the time," Johnson concluded. "Is that if you can find something that you're passionate about, and you can take that passion and connect it with a career or profession, then mission accomplished! But even if you don't have that direct connection, I highly recommend you keep a passion project, so you have a reason to explore new things and have a fun time. Everyone should have a passion. I have this *modus operandi* of 'nothing ventured, nothing gained' . . . and if it weren't for that, I wouldn't be here today."

Johnson mentioned that Episode 24 of "SceneTV Raw" will be published within the next week, available online at SceneTVRaw.com.