

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT VOICE RIVER FALLS

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Amazon show 'The College Tour' to feature UWRF

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UW-River Falls is the first Wisconsin university to participate in the Amazon Video show "The College Tour," which gives prospective students insight into what student life is like on select campuses. The show follows the story of 10 different UWRF students who will act as tour guides to display what UWRF has to offer. The school will later be able to use these segments for marketing campaigns.

According to The College Tour website, the show is aired on Amazon Prime and other streaming platforms. The College Tour has 6 seasons already out, and UWRF will be featured in the 7th season and will air in the fall of 2023. According to the Falcon Daily, UWRF plans to have a screening on campus before the production goes live.

The show is hosted by Alex Boylan, who is known for winning the Amazing Race and has since gone on to be a producer and host of a multitude of different shows.



"The College Tour" films Greta Weix on horseback for the UWRF feature. (Photo courtesy of Greta Weix)

Cathy Leaf, UWRF's marketing specialist, who worked closely with the crew of the college tour, described Boylan, saying, "When you watch these episodes you see how enthusiastic he is, he is just like that in real life too."

Leaf also said that the idea to participate in the College Tour was first brought up by Chancellor Gallo, because she had participated in the show at a previous institution

and thought the different marketing opportunities created by the show would be beneficial. When asked about the application process, Leaf said, "Once we had agreed to work with them, it's a thing you buy. The show was around \$100,000 paid for by the Chancellor's discretionary funds as part of her strategic investments."

The College Tour also features other segments to promote colleges on its website. UWRF will be participating in "Coffee With the President" and "Ask Admissions," according to Leaf. Students featured on the show had to apply and fill out a form then send in an audition tape where they answered a few questions given to them to see what their personalities were like and what their stories were, according to Leaf. Students also wrote their own scripts for the show.

Students' names were submitted by faculty and staff from all parts of the university, but, ultimately, 14 students auditioned and 10 are featured. When asked how they chose the participants, Leaf said "so we looked at how these students tell the River Falls story with our enterprising heroes sort of archetype. We made sure all of the colleges were represented in some way and then we went to our core values like sustainability, excellent teaching and learning, diversity and inclusion, so it was a combination of our core values and the college experience. Athletics was a focus and innovation, we want to make sure we covered undergraduate research."

Leaf also said that the format of the show will be a student coming up and telling their story in their own words which will then be supported with B-role featuring professors

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—Cathy Leaf,
UWRF marketing specialist

and staff. Leaf also spoke about what specific things were going to be shown about the university. "We know we are great at teaching teachers. We wanted to make sure we talked about our agriculture programs and the breadth of them. We have a student that is actually in stage and screen arts and a softball player so a combination of including the liberal arts and also our core sciences and education programs. We wanted to make sure we represented our student body, rural and urban."

The film crew was on campus for a week. Currently, UWRF's episode is in the editing and post-production stage, where UWRF and the film crew will work together through several phases of editing. Many clips of the episodes will be used on social media and other marketing campaigns.

The College Tour ▶

The Amazon show "The College Tour" will feature UWRF during its seventh season. (Image by "The College Tour")

SciTech building set for 2023

Jack Van Hoof

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The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Science and Technology Innovation Center, or SciTech, a project which has been in development since 2017, reached a major milestone on Aug. 9, 2022. On this date, the project was unanimously approved by the State Building Commission, the final step before construction can begin.

The SciTech building will house the biology, physics, chemistry, and psychological sciences departments and provide larger classrooms, better equipment, and various other improvements. Alan Symicek, Chief Facilities Officer at UW-River Falls, said, "It really is going to be transformational compared to our existing facilities."

SciTech will house the new University Business Collaboration Center, a space designed for regional businesses to work with students on undergraduate research and other endeavors. This space will contain a makerspace, a wet laboratory, and a woodshop.

"The hope is really that undergraduate research and working together with the business community [will] breed opportunities for internships and really strong job opportunities after [students] graduate," Symicek said.

The SciTech building will be located near



A concept rendering of the SciTech building, scheduled to begin construction in 2023. (courtesy of University Communications & Marketing)

the Agricultural Sciences building, and will replace Hagestad Hall, which is scheduled to be demolished in February or March of 2022. This is intended to create what Symicek referred to as a "science district" on campus, where SciTech and AgSci will be able to collaborate more easily.

"I think the main reason that SciTech was initiated was really to provide students with state-of-the-art right spaces to learn, and have laboratories and undergraduate research," Symicek said. "I think modernizing these facilities [will] allow us to provide a really world-class education in the facility."

Construction on SciTech is scheduled to start in August 2023 and to be completed

"I think the main reason that SciTech was initiated was really to provide students with state-of-the-art right spaces to learn, and have laboratories and undergraduate research."

—Alan Symicek, UWRF chief facilities officer

in August 2025. Currently, the project is in the final design phase, and BWBR, the architect UW-River Falls is working with, is finalizing the construction drawings.

Then, in November of this year, UWRF will hold a final design review before issuing the bid documents to contractors in December or January. In the fall of 2025, the technology and lab equipment is scheduled

to be installed, and the grand opening of SciTech, as well as the first classes held in the building are projected to take place in January of 2026.

The project is estimated to cost \$116.73 million. \$111.73 million has already been funded by the state of Wisconsin via state taxpayer dollars. This leaves \$5 million, which the university is raising through fundraising, alumni support, and collaboration with corporate

partners and businesses in the St. Croix Valley. This \$116.73 million will cover construction as well as equipment and technology expenses for the building.

Symicek said, "There's really no student fees [needed] for that piece of the construction. That, as I understand, would not have an effect on student fees."

The construction of SciTech will allow the university to carry out other renovations around campus as well. The university plans to renovate the Agricultural Science building, the Centennial Science Hall, and North Hall sometime in the future.

Once the chemistry, physics, and psychological sciences departments have been moved from Centennial to SciTech, the empty space in Centennial will house AgSci operations while AgSci is renovated. Then, North Hall will be renovated, and its operations will be moved to Centennial as well. Lastly, Centennial will be remodeled.

"Now that's a ways in the future we don't have funding for that long-term, long-range planning," Symicek said. "We think we'll have to reevaluate the need; that may be 10 [or] 15 years in the future." With these projects in the future, the university hopes that the SciTech building can benefit not only STEM students, but the UW-River Falls students as a whole.



A rendering of the back of the SciTech building. (Courtesy of University Communications & Marketing)

Student government elections lead to full senate

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On Tuesday, Oct. 4, the UW-River Falls Student Government Association swore in 12 new members into the Student Senate at its weekly meeting.

The members, elected through a ballot sent via email to university students this fall, fill in a multitude of different senatorial roles. Some of these roles are military senator, at-large senator, international senator, and first-generation senator.

The First-Generation Senator Graciela Figueroa is a first-generation college student from Minnesota. “It’s nice to have that representation,” she said. “Having a first-generation person of color is also important.”

The position of first-generation senator is a new position that opened this fall in the Student Senate, according to Figueroa. “I noticed a bigger population [of first-generation students] on campus. And just making sure that having someone [on the senate] who knows what the experience is

like is very important,” she said.

The elections for the open Student Senate positions closed on Friday, Sept. 30. A total of 213 students voted in the fall elections according to Vice President Ava Baden. That is roughly 4.5% of the total 4,729 students enrolled at UW-River Falls, according to the university’s website.

Even with the low voter turnout, the Student Government Association has a full senate, according to President Joe Schlies. “It is a very proud accomplishment that we have a full student senate. And it just goes to show that students really truly care about the place they have on this campus,” he said in the meeting.

In an email, newly elected military senator and a member of the Wisconsin National Guard, Gabriel Traicoff, seeks to ensure that the voices on the campus are properly represented in student government. “I want to properly represent the student body,” he wrote. “Especially our military students, given my position.”

“Getting elected to SGA (Student Government Association) is really just the first step,” Dean of Students and

Faculty Advisor Katie Jackson said in the meeting. “Like most things in life, what you put into it, you get out of it. There will be a lot of opportunities that will come your way to represent the student body.”

Newly elected senators for the Student Senate are:

- External Relations and Legislative Affairs Director Evelyn Nelson
- Disability Resource Senator Sarah Vogt
- First Generation Senator Graciela Figueroa
- Health and Counseling Senator Audrey Mayer
- International Senator Jeremy Seo
- Military Senator Gabriel Traicoff
- At-Large Senator Brady Penfield
- At-Large Senator Cassidy Boeckermann
- At-Large Senator Lashawna Vogel
- At-Large Senator Tyler Dean
- At-Large Senator Nick Maxwell
- At-Large Senator Dylan Stryhn

UWRF prepares for Chancellor Gallo’s inauguration

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UW-River Falls will celebrate Chancellor Maria Gallo’s inauguration with a multitude of events centered around student and community connection as well as sustainability. The inauguration ceremony will take place at 1p.m. on Oct. 19, at the University Center Ballroom.

The university is expecting around 200 or more visitors to be on campus that day according to Chief of Staff Beth Schommer. The inauguration will also be a scaled-down event compared to the last inauguration, which was for Dean Van Galen in 2010.

“One of the things we have learned is that in this day and age less is more,” Schommer said. One thing that will stay the same is the traditional unveiling of the Chancellor’s portrait. Schommer stated, “We have portraits for all of our chancellors, which used to be displayed in North Hall, and we took them down for painting and haven’t put them back up. We have not decided where they are going to go.”

Schommer said the inauguration is an important part of university tradition. “I think it’s about pausing in an institution’s historical timeline and reflecting about who we are, who’s come before, what the foundation that [Gallo] is going to lay for the future. These are really celebratory



Chancellor Maria Gallo

moments for everyone to come together as a campus and a community to feel a part of something that is bigger than ourselves.”

Chancellor Gallo will be attending all of the Day of En-

agement events taking place the day prior, which include an Innovator in Residence Presentation, Inauguration Coffee Concert Celebration, Art Department Faculty Exhibition, Sustainability Focus, Overview, and Highlights Tour; as well as a tree dedication.

Schommer explained that many elements of the event were inspired by Gallo, like the focus on sustainability. Others were taking advantage of events that were already scheduled and elevating them to be part of the day.

The Day of Engagement event that the chancellor hand-picked is the interview with author Annie Murphy Paul and moderated by UWRF alumna Cathy Wurzer.

Gallo stated why she wanted Murphy Paul as part of her celebration, “I think the interview will be interesting and fun because I had read her book over the winter break and I really enjoyed it and I thought; well I want to share this with people and wouldn’t this be great if this could be part of the inauguration ceremony in some way.”

Gallo spoke of the inauguration’s meaning to her. “It’s an honor and a privilege to serve the university and this is a formalization of that and to share how great of a place this is among colleagues, and friends, and the community and also what the vision is going forward. More important is the engagement to celebrate a beginning and a continuation of the great work that has been done before.”

Carpenter Nature Center expands Wisconsin facilities

Joshua Brauer
Falcon News Service

Tucked in the woods of near Hudson, on the east side of the St. Croix River, a new building for the Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center has been completed and more improvements are on the way.

The Carpenter Nature Center has two campuses, one near Hastings, Minnesota, and the other near Hudson, according to the center’s website. The Al & Laurie Hein Visitor Center, which opened to the public on July 9, is one of a few planned expansions to the Wisconsin campus.

“We’re still finishing a few things,” Executive Director Jennifer Vieth said in an interview. Some of the planned expansions to the Wisconsin campus include a pavilion on the north end, a weather station, and electric car charging stations, she stated.

Sustainability of the center was a key emphasis in the design of the building, according to Vieth. The sloped roofs and insulation in the walls allow lower costs in the heating and cooling of the center.

“We don’t have to use a lot of energy,” she said.

Other additions such as bird safe glass are a way the center strives to become more

eco-friendly, according to Vieth.

“It’s not ugly, it’s not distracting,” she said. “It’s a really cool way we can move the conversation forward on being more eco-friendly in our building design.”

Inside the center are multiple exhibits and learning stations for visitors to interact with. One is a smell station, where visitors can smell the different scents of the wildlife found at the center.

“People interpret things differently by what they hear or smell,” Vieth said.

Although the interior of the welcome center offers these spaces, the general purpose of the building is much more, according to Vieth.

“This is more of a leaving off point than a destination,” she said. “You want people to come to the building, but then get out, enjoy the trails and connect with nature.”

The Wisconsin campus has around 10 miles of trails, according to Vieth.

“None are paved. that would be something down the road that we would like to do,” she said. “Hopefully sooner rather than later.”

The Carpenter St. Croix Valley Nature Center is attempting to raise \$250,000 to complete the rest of its planned expansion to the Wisconsin campus, according to the center’s newsletter.



The Falcons scored 56 points against Stevens Point. (Photo by Nolan Andler / Student Voice)



The Falcons celebrate a touchdown. (Photo by Nolan Andler / Student Voice)

Falcons win homecoming game 56-3

Nolan Andler

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After having a week off to rest and reload after their big win over Northwestern, the River Falls Falcons, rank #17 in the American Football Coaches Association and off to a 2-1 start, took the field in front of a packed David Smith Stadium for their annual homecoming football game against Stevens Point. The Falcons did not disappoint the 3,779 people that came out to see them.

The Falcons started out slow on each team's first drives. Both teams started the game scoreless on their first drive, but the Falcons slowly kicked it in gear. On their next two possessions, the Falcons scored two touchdowns thanks to a 44-yard run by quarterback Kaleb Blaha and a 31-yard touchdown catch by Mason Van Zeeland. On those two

drives, the Falcons had a total of 16 plays for a total of five-plus minutes.

The second quarter is when the Falcons really blew the game open. After getting the ball back before the first quarter ended thanks to a fumble recovery by Jake Hasely, the Falcon offense punched it in for their third touchdown of the day to make it 21-0.

After once again holding the Stevens Point offense scoreless, it looked like the Falcons were going to get the ball back but, unfortunately, they fumbled the punt and Stevens Point got the ball back but were limited to a field goal. With the score 21-3, the Falcons responded with three big touchdowns to put this game in the dust.

On the next drive, Tim Oeun hauled in a big 36-yard pass by Blaha for a touchdown. Then Michael Brown intercepted a pass by the Stevens Point quarterback and took it to

the house for a 40-yard pick six. The Falcons added on one more touchdown before the half thanks to a quick 14-yard pass from Blaha to Luke Kush to make it 42-3 going into halftime. The second half was pretty uneventful due to it being such a blowout but the Falcons did tack on two more touchdowns to make a 56-3 win on homecoming.

It was a big day for both sides of the ball. On offense it was quarterback Kaleb Blaha who helped score five of the eight Falcon touchdowns. He finished the game with 221 yards passing and went 18/23 on passing, with 101 rushing yards. The offense itself had a season-high total of 603 yards of total offense. On defence, they held Stevens Point to only 104 yards of total offense and they forced 11 Stevens-Point punts.



A total of 3,779 people took to the stands for the homecoming game. (Photo by Mackenzie Hamlin Photography)

UWRF women's soccer team bond leads to success

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UW-River Falls women's soccer finished the first month of their season undefeated. In 2021, they finished the season with a 6-11-2 record. So far they have a 9-2-2 record in the 2022 season.

UWRF women's soccer Head Coach, Sean McKuras, says the team is competing in one of the toughest conferences in the country, but that they are ready for the challenge.

When asked what his favorite memories of this season McKuras replied, "on the road at Morris, the score was not the best, but they never looked nervous."

Head Coach Sean McKuras, says, "living our culture" is what is responsible for the team's success. The roster is nearly the



The UWRF women's soccer team poses for a photo. (Photo courtesy UWRF Women's Soccer)

same as it was last year and, in addition to creating a strong culture, McKuras, along with numerous players, agreed that it was not magic, but hard work in the off-season that brought them this far.

Fifth-year student athlete, Alayna Westerman, said, "I have seen many versions of this team, and we got a good one this year."

Balancing sports and school is not easy but according to McKuras, "the women have risen to the occasion." The typical week in the life of these soccer players in-

volves classes during the day, weightlifting on Monday and Friday, games on Wednesday and Saturday, and studying together on Thursdays.

Sophomore defender, Kaylee Walter, accredits her family and teammates as her inspiration.

Countless players have recognised the bus rides to and from games as one of the most fun aspects of being on this team.

Sophomore forward, Aliviah McClinton, says her go-to pregame song is "UCLA" by

RL Grime. Junior defender Abby Tapanila's preferred pregame song is "m.A.A.d city" by Kendrick Lamar and MC Eiht.

McKuras said one of his favorite times is "walking down the hallway pregame and being able to feel the bass from the other end of the hall."

McKuras also commented on how the support and crowds at home games have been tremendous. This atmosphere is the reason many players decided to join the team at UW-River Falls.

River Falls among 170-plus schools with esports teams

Dawson Flaherty

Falcon News Service

Esports popularity is on the rise, with even the University of Wisconsin-River Falls deciding to throw its hat into the ring. But what kind of competition can be expected from such an endeavor?

Esports, or electronic sports, is a classification of video games that are played on a competitive level, and as of 2022, this industry makes over a billion dollars annually. It is due to this fact that so many have jumped on the esports bandwagon, including UWRF.

With this summer's hiring of Dylan Gentilcore as head esports coach, the university is interested in investing in this new industry, but it isn't the only one.

UWRF is a member of the nonprofit National Association of Collegiate Esports. In all, more than 170 colleges and universities are members of NACE, but just seven are listed as Wisconsin schools. River Falls, Stout in Menomonie, and Eau Claire are the only University of Wisconsin campuses that are members of NACE.

Currently, popular esports titles include team-based games like Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, League of Legends, Apex Legends, and even Rocket League. But what would a potential esports tournament look like, and what kind of competitions does esports entail?

James Mullin is president and founder of the UWRF esports club.

"So there's two different kinds of esports events. One is like a professional esports event where collegiate varsity teams compete, and the second is more of a club event," Mullin said. "Competitive collegiate ones — we recently went to one in Mankato, about three hours away. Everybody would gather their best varsity teams, dress them up in jerseys to represent the college. And then there it's usually set up as single elimination, best of three, and it usually builds up until obviously there is two left and then there is one grand champion."



The esports room will contain 29 gaming setups. (Photo by Jack Van Hoof / Student Voice)

Other than how the competition works, there is the issue of who there is to compete against. A few other UW schools are starting to dip their toes into the esports scene, but things are very much still in the early stages. According to Mullin, however, there is still competition somewhat nearby.

"Usually how esports things rolls down, to my interpretation, is it's the most closest four states to you. So we have people come from Illinois, I believe, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota, which are the four closest to us. I think the closest that we have coming up is actually at Stout (UW-Stout

in Menomonie), which is only like 40-ish minutes away."

UWRF plans to launch and compete at the varsity level by the 2023-2024 school year. Currently, it is focusing on creating an esports arena in the basement of the Chalmers Davee Library and recruiting members to form teams for different games. For now, the esports club will continue to help gauge interest across campus and search out players who could one day compete at the collegiate level.

UWRF football moves up in rank after win over Oshkosh

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After blowing out Northwestern and UW-Stevens Point to earn a 3-1 record, the Falcon football team had one of their biggest home games in recent history. UW-Oshkosh, ranked #16 in the American Football Coaches Association, came to Ramer Field to play #17 ranked UW-River Falls. Not only did this game have huge national championship implications, but it also featured two of the top teams in the WIAC so it was an important one to win. This was also the Falcons' first ranked opponent they saw since the loss at #4 ranked Saint Johns.

The first quarter set the tone for how the game was gonna go. River Falls started with the ball and drove all the way to the Titan 40 yard line but Oshkosh intercepted a Kaleb Blaha pass for 30 yards. Oshkosh got it all the way to the River Falls one yard line but a gritty goal line stand by the Falcon defence got the Falcons the ball back, denying any points.

However, when the offence got the ball back they got it on their one yard line so they had to play it safe and the drive was short. UWO got the ball back on the UWRF 45 yard line and drove a good way down the field, but the Falcon defence held the Titans to a field goal after UWO had two straight incompletions on the Falcon 17 yard line.

With the Titans having a 3-0 lead the Falcons' last drive of the quarter had to be a big one. The Falcons drove the ball down to the UWO 30 yard line but it looked like the Titans were going to get off the field, allowing zero points because they had it at 4th and 7. But Falcon quarterback Kaleb Blaha found receiver Mason Van Zeeland for a 20 yard first down conversion, then on the next play Blaha completed another pass to Van Zeeland for the first Falcon touchdown of the day to make it a 7-3 lead for UWRF.

The Titans had a 4th and 2 on their own 44 yard line to start the second quarter. On the conversion attempt, UWO fumbled the ball thanks to Andrew Schumacher forcing it out of the running back's hands. It was Kaiden Sell that recovered it and got a 17-yard gain to set up the Falcon offense with good field position.

The Falcons then took advantage of the turnover and got another touchdown to build a 14-3 lead. After the Falcon defence forced the Titans to punt, the Falcon offence was able to drive it down the field again where they got a field goal to get the score to 17-3. On Oshkosh's last drive of the half, they got a touchdown and converted the two-point conversion to make it 17-11 against the Falcons going into the half.

UWO started the second half with the ball and they were able to score a touchdown, but a missed extra point by them kept the game tied at 17-17. River Falls had a drive going



Falcons score a touchdown against Oshkosh in the high-stakes game. (Photos by Nolan Andler / Student Voice)

but, on 4th and 4, they tried to run a quarterback draw with Kaleb Blaha and the Titans were ready for it. After UWO stopped UWRF on the fourth down, the Titans had good field position and they were able to use the short yardage pretty easily.

The Titans reclaimed the lead 24-17 thanks to two big plays from the Oshkosh quarterback Kobe Berghammer, which set UWO up for the go-ahead touchdown. On the kickoff, Oshkosh tried an onside kick but the Falcons were able to recover it. This set up the Falcons with great field position on their own 44 yard line. On what was probably the most important drive of the game and maybe the season for the Falcons, they showed tons of grit. First, when they had a 4th and 2 on the UWO 48 yard line they converted it thanks to a short four-yard pass from Blaha to Ron Beauchamp. Then on a 4th and 7 later in the drive, Blaha found Tanner Canfield for a nine-yard gain. The Falcons were able to get the ball on the three-yard line and Blaha punched it in for the tying touchdown.

The Falcons got the ball back to start the fourth after forcing the Titans to punt to end the third, and they were able to chew the clock for nearly seven minutes and muscle their way to the UWO six yard line to set up the go-ahead

23-yard field goal by Justin Scherbel to make the score 27-24. The Titans' first drive of the fourth was short-lived, as defensive back Michael Brown picked off Berghammer's pass and set up the Falcons on their own 50 yard line.

On the Falcon's drive, it looked like they were going to put this one in the books but a fumble by Blaha on the Oshkosh 10 yard line gave the Titans new life. The Titans got the ball back down 27-24 with just over three minutes left. On their drive, it looked like the Falcons had them stopped as the Titans had an incomplete pass on 4th and 3, but a pass interference by River Falls gave their drive new life.

UWO was able to get all the way to the Falcon 38 yard line. But after a sack set up a 4th and 15 with just under 30 seconds left. A deep pass to keep the game alive by UWO's Berghammer was intercepted by Michael Brown again and it sealed a big 27-24 win for the Falcons.

On offense it was Kaleb Blaha that led the way again; he had 315 yards of total offense going 18/32 with 172 yards passing and 149 yards on the ground. The defence for the Falcons had five tackles for loss and two sacks; Aaron Borgerding led the way with 10 tackles and Aaron Schumacher had a fumble and a pass breakup.



The Falcons celebrate their three-point victory.



The Falcons rose in the rankings two places after their win.

Esports coach looks to build inclusive team

Maxwell Rekela-Jasper
Falcon News Service

This summer, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls launched its varsity esports program, naming the former co-director of the Indiana Esports Network as head coach.

Dylan Gentilcore worked at Carmel High School in Indiana for four years as an English teacher while also starting an esports league for the state.

"Throughout those four years that I was running the program, we won like 32 state championships in the league that I helped start for the state of Indiana," Gentilcore said.

According to Gentilcore, the state championships were all in different gaming titles.

"Our first semester, we won the high school esports league in Hearthstone (an online card game)," Gentilcore said. "The next fall, after getting second place back-to-back in CS:GO (Counter-Strike: Global Offensive), we finally won the national



Esports coach Dylan Gentilcore poses in the UWRF esports room. (Photo by Jack Van Hoof / Student Voice)

championship in CS:GO for high school esports."

Gentilcore added that his players had gotten a lot of fulfillment out of competing, but felt like "they could do more."

"After winning all these tournaments, we actually started running our own national tournament series called the Greyhound Battlegrounds, and we ran that, and got competition from coast to coast," Gentilcore said.

During Gentilcore's last semester at Carmel High School, he helped secure the esports team a two-year sponsorship with Hy-

perX, a gaming company that specializes in making gaming equipment.

"Securing that sponsorship is one of the things I'm really proud of," Gentilcore said.

Gentilcore said he decided to take his talents to UW-River Falls because of how passionate the UWRF athletic department was about adding the esports program to its list of varsity sports.

"I felt like there are a lot of people who genuinely want to help others succeed here, and that aligns with what my life's mission is about," Gentilcore said.

Although there will not be any official

esports competitions until the 2023-2024 academic year, one of Gentilcore's many goals is to make the esports team an inclusive community by recruiting interested students and "testing the waters" by having UWRF Student Involvement doing some esports tournaments later this school year.

If students are interested in participating in the UW-River Falls esports team, they can stop by the esports arena, located in the Chalmer Davee Library, or they can follow @uwrfesports on social media for more information.

Safewalk provides escorts for UWRF campus community

Jaden Machette
Falcon News Service

UW-River Falls offers a little-used program to all students, faculty and staff who feel uncomfortable walking to a campus destination during the evening hours.

The Safewalk Program allows persons to walk to a campus destination with someone else with a simple call to the University Police Department. All they must do is ask for an escort to wherever they need to go.

"It is for individuals who may be feeling unsafe or uncomfortable walking, so they make that phone call and we'll respond accordingly," said Police Chief Karl Fleury.

Assuming the police crew is not preoccupied, someone will quickly report to the call and escort that person

to their destination in a safe manner.

"For example, someone may work until 3 o'clock in the morning and maybe they see something or hear something that makes them uncomfortable. They have the ability to call campus police and we will assist them as we can," said Fleury.

The program is used on occasion throughout the school year by students and staff but not as often as some might think.

"Many students choose to walk in groups which is a great thing to do," the police chief said. "We have a great campus community and a safe campus community, so it is very helpful in that way."

For more information on the Safewalk Program, call the UWRF Police Department at (715) 425-3133 or visit uwrf.edu and search "Safewalk Program."

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Behind the scenes at Textbook Services

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For students at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, a trip to Textbook Services is a part of every semester. Textbook Services, previously located at Hagestad Hall and now at Chalmer Davee Library, is UW-River Falls' textbook rental service, which provides students with the textbooks they need each semester.

The cost of these textbooks for each student is around \$90 per semester; this is included in student fees. Daniel Rivera, the manager of Textbook Services, said that the service currently has 83,000 books in its collection, 49,000 of which are being rented out to students for the 2022 fall semester.

This collection contains 2,164 different titles, with 120 new titles added this fall. According to Rivera, the university spent "\$400,000 on textbooks this past fiscal year, 2022."

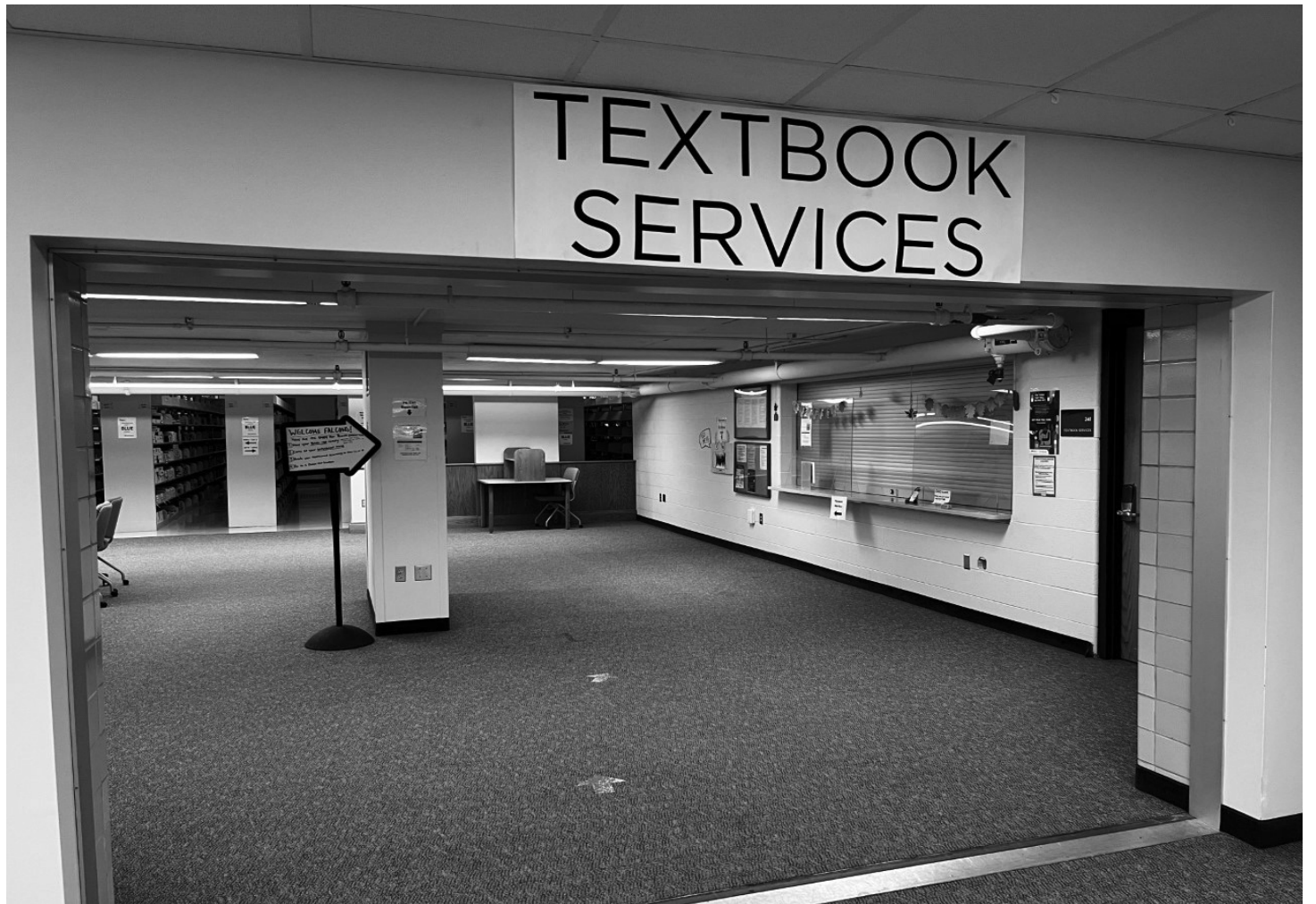
Besides renting textbooks, Textbook Services is also responsible for ordering the books and ensuring they are in stock, which keeps them busy even after the semester starts.

"We're continuing to reach out to professors confirming textbook needs or reaching out to publishers and trying to find out when one of [the] books is arriving, [and] really just trying to make sure we have everything available," Rivera said.

Rivera described the process by which Textbook Services orders its textbooks and distributes them to students. First, professors select the textbooks they need for their classes via a collection system, and that information is stored in Textbook Service's inventory system, which uses the program Alma. "[We] put in the date, the ISBN number, the publisher, that type of information, to find out the cost of the book," Rivera said.

"From there it's a matter of reaching out to the publisher or secondary markets to find the books that our professors are requesting. We do our best to look at used options, and part of it is trying to be more sustainable. Like even on Amazon, we purchase used books from them as well, or even new books," said Rivera.

When purchasing books, Textbook Services checks enrollment numbers and orders 10% more textbooks than are needed, to account for unexpected demand as well



The newly-renovated Textbook Services office in Chalmer Davee Library. (Photo by Jack Van Hoof / Student Voice)

as damage or attrition.

"We can spend up to 100 grand here, 50 grand there, another ten here, depending on where traditionally our books are coming from. And if we just look at the little caps we place on, that's over 400,000 [dollars] of standing orders," Rivera said.

Rivera mentioned how the textbook market can often be unpredictable, which leads to fluctuating textbook prices. He recalled how one textbook cost \$40, but, when he ordered more copies a few weeks later, they had skyrocketed to \$700.

"It's a crazy market and you have to be aware of when you're buying books and hope that you have enough textbooks in those times to carry you over," Rivera said. Finally, Textbook Service's inventory is sent to eSIS, UW-River Falls' student information system, to provide students a list of the books they need.

"[If] for some reason we don't have the textbook available, we have [students] sign

"It's a crazy market and you have to be aware of when you're buying books and hope that you have enough textbooks in those times to carry you over."

—Daniel Rivera, Textbook Services

up on a little shortage list, and then we'll get that textbook to them as soon as it's ordered or as soon as it comes in," Rivera said.

The process, however, doesn't end there. When textbooks are no longer needed, they are discontinued from Textbook Services' system, and the copies are sold on the secondary market. The money from these sales is returned to Textbook Services' fund, to purchase more books in the future.

Textbook Services also has a shelf in

Chalmer Davee Library where students can purchase discontinued textbooks for as low as \$1 or \$2. "On occasion we do have books that no one wants," Rivera said, "And so we will reach out to some companies such as Better World Books who will sometimes take our used books, [and] donate them elsewhere."

Textbook Services also rents digital books, and works with a few companies, such as McGraw Hill and Red Shelf, to supply digital items to Canvas.

Currently, Textbook Services is taking textbook requests from professors for J-term and the 2022 spring semester. From there, the cycle will continue, as Textbook Services works to meet all the textbook needs of UW-River Falls.

Planned Parenthood educates voters on candidates' values

Rachel Karweick

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The Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin is working to show how reproductive rights are an important subject for the upcoming elections and to provide information on candidates.

"When it comes to reproductive rights, yes, it's abortion access, but it's also sex education. It's also things such as access to contraceptives, even STD and STI testing," said Victoria Vega from Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wis-

consin.

"Reproductive rights is kind of an umbrella that encompasses a few things outside of abortion that just lead to one's bodily autonomy."

When Roe v. Wade was overturned, it fell to the individual states to make their own laws concerning abortion. In Wisconsin, the 1849 Criminal Abortion Statute came back into effect, making it illegal for someone to be provided with an abortion in Wisconsin.

The Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin works to help people know what candidates stand for, so that

people can be better informed and know which candidate would uphold their values if elected.

"Abortion is a really big topic on the ballot this year. I think we all kind of understand that the right to restore abortion access in Wisconsin runs through our ballots," said Vega.

It is important to look into the candidates who are running so that people know what those candidates stand for and can vote for someone who supports their beliefs. More information can be found on the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin website.

Soldiers from River Falls included in 'Wall of Faces'

Lexi Janzer
Falcon News Service

The Wall of Faces project, which sought photographs of the more than 58,000 fallen soldiers honored on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., has been completed after more than two decades of work, according to organizers.

The memorial includes two soldiers from the River Falls community.

The Wall of Faces matched a face to all 58,281 names on the memorial, allowing families and friends to share pictures, stories, and connect with one another.

The soldiers from River Falls are John Thomas Chapman and Thomas Joseph Murphy.

Chapman served in the Marine Corps as a captain. Many people who went to high school with Chapman posted on the website that he was a great athlete, a gentle giant, and many said he could have been president.

Murphy served in the army as a specialist. Many people wrote about his involvement in baseball, his Silver Star award, and

long radio chats at bootcamp.

These are just a few examples of stories that people like retired newspaper publisher Andrew Johnson worked tirelessly to help match the name to the face.

Johnson, who owned three different newspapers and is a previous president of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, encouraged small newspapers around the country to help find all of the pictures for the Wall of Faces project.

Johnson was involved in the project from 2013-2020. During his time he was able to help states like Wisconsin, Minnesota, Florida, and many others collect every picture needed. Only one state collected all of the pictures before Wisconsin.

Johnson originally met with the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and talked about the idea. After gaining support he distributed the 450 names that still needed pictures to newspapers in the veterans hometowns. In the papers that he helped Johnson would still publish the last missing names of all of the Wisconsin veterans even if all the names were found in the city.

Johnson said that "Veterans Day and Me-



Andrew Johnson. (Submitted photo)

morial Day is when we did the big pushes because the momentum was there."

When just 64 names were left, Johnson was struggling. A professor at UW-Milwaukee heard about the project and reached out

asking if their students could help. The last 64 were all found by student journalists as part of an investigative journalism assignment.

One picture that Johnson remembers finding was the last for Wisconsin, Willy Deadfurd. Deadfurd was a 17-year-old from Milwaukee who signed his enlistment papers in Wisconsin but originally lived in Arkansas. Johnson even went as far as to ask the governor to talk about him during his Memorial Day speech.

As for how he feels about the Wall of Faces being complete, Johnson said, "I am so very proud and I know that my son David, who was killed in Afghanistan, would be proud."

To Johnson the meaning of this project has great significance.

"You realize that life is very special," he said, "and that many sacrifices have been made for our freedom as an American and that we should get up every morning and with that freedom we should live every day to the fullest and live while we can."

Study suggests no tech in classroom could help students

Michelle Stangler
Falcon News Service

No technology in the classroom may lead to fewer distractions and more student engagement, attention and participation, according to a recent study.

Keith A. Quesenberry, an associate professor of marketing at Messiah University, saw notable differences in these areas in his study, "Engaging the Disengaged: Implementing a No-Tech Policy After Years of Adding Tech to the Classroom," published in *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*.

After some students in his courses at the Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, university suggested laptop computers not be allowed in class, Quesenberry studied the literature and decided to adopt a ban on laptops, tablets and mobile phones.

"I think our default to approaching any problem is always to add, but sometimes the solution can be found in looking at what we can subtract," said Quesenberry.

He reported that he noticed an improvement in student performance.

"After a semester with my new no-tech policy in three courses, I saw noticeable differences in student engagement, attention, and participation during class," Quesenberry wrote. "I also saw significant gains in course project

performance out of class."

At UW-River Falls, Teaching, Learning and Technology Specialist Rachelle Haroldson supports instructors through a variety of learning through technology. Haroldson, who also is a clinical associate professor in the Teacher Education program, collaborates with faculty across campus with technology integration and general support. She works with instructors who use technology a little to a lot.

"It really depends on the instructor and their goals and outcomes in their objectives, and what their intent is with using technology," said Haroldson and added, "whether that by decreasing technology use, they can achieve their goals, or by increasing the use of technology that helps them achieve their goals."

From student to student, it varies with what works for them. Some students take notes with a paper and pencil and others will use laptops to type notes. It varies depending upon college attending and their end goals.

For UW-River Falls student Autumn Hartshorn, she's looking forward to implementing technology practices in her classrooms after graduation.

"As a future music teacher, I am really excited about all the possibilities technology will be able to help me and my future students," said Hartshorn.

When in conversations with instructors, a common trend Haroldson speaks about is how to use analytics. Many in-

structors utilize the learning management system Canvas to assignment dropboxes to posting lecture material. Analyzing data from quizzes can even help guide the lesson plans for the semester.

"I think by using the quiz tool within Canvas, instructors are able to understand and can quickly get that snapshot of what their students are at and how they can work to improve them in those areas where maybe they found weaknesses," said Haroldson.

While there are many benefits to technology, there are also disadvantages.

"I think for all of us, whether we're learners or teachers, or students or instructors, technology can be distracting," said Haroldson.

Haroldson emphasized it's up to the teacher to implement technology, but she sees it as a useful resource and tool for instructors to use.

"Rather than asking what technology tool can I use, they're asking a question around what's the learning that I want to happen in my classroom," said Haroldson.

Technology is not a hidden secret at UW-River Falls and while many professors utilize the many benefits, some may not use it as much. It varies as technology continues to grow, but the challenge continues to exist with student engagement.

Visit the Student Voice at
uwrfvoice.com



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Student involvement suffers at UW-River Falls

As UW-River Falls gets back into the swing of things, student involvement is still low. UWRF has struggled for the last few years with student involvement, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for students, however, feels the same this year as the last.

Hopes were high for the 2022-2023 academic year as all gathering restrictions and mask regulations were lifted from the university. Many students have had a summer without masking and maybe even a spring semester if they were comfortable enough at the time. Many thought this time would allow students to adjust and make it easier to be active around campus.

The university currently has 4,729 undergraduate and graduate students in attendance, according to faculty senate data. This is a drastic decline compared to the 5,862 graduate and undergraduate students in the fall of 2020. Despite those numbers, the university has experienced an increase in new student enrollment, according to the UWRF newsroom.

UWRF has over 200 student organizations for current or incoming students to join, so there is no shortage of opportunity or variety. The Student Involvement Office also has its annual “pick

one” campaign that takes place throughout the beginning of the year. The campaign focuses on the idea that students should “pick one” student organization to join at the beginning of the year in order for them to “find their fit.” They also frequently do student organization highlights on their Instagram story, allowing students to ask questions and repost the meeting times and dates for the various organizations.

According to the UWRF website, the university also takes \$35.55 from each student per year in segregated fees that goes directly to supporting all student organizations on campus. With all of this information being available to students, we at the Student Voice think that the university’s effort in marketing student organizations is ample and not the reason student involvement is low, or at least not the main reason.

We believe that much of the issue lies within each club itself and the lasting effects of the pandemic. UWRF has more incoming students than returning students, which has caused a large gap in leadership for these clubs. Many clubs had strong, knowledgeable leaders, and because of that, many people actively participated in student organizations before the pandemic hit.

Those who had been in the club for many years had become leaders and then graduated, leaving about a two-year gap and less experienced leaders. Many organizations themselves were not running at full capacity or had taken a break altogether when COVID happened, which could lead to a lack of knowledge about the organization for incoming students.

Another reason could be that the pandemic changed students’ personalities. According to an article titled “Did the Pandemic Change Our Personalities,” by CBS Minnesota, a personality survey that sought to measure the change in people’s ability to connect with others and trust others, came to the conclusion that young people are the ones most affected by the pandemic.

The pandemic created a situation where student organizations are left with less knowledgeable leadership and students whose personalities could have easily changed over the course of two years and become less social. UWRF has lots of potential with the number of incoming students but their marketing strategy might have to change to show to students why being involved is worth their time.

Student Voice

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The Student Voice is a great way to connect with other students and grow your skills in the areas of writing, designing a newspaper, photography, interviewing, and more! No experience needed to join.

Visit the
Student Voice
website at
uwrfvoice.com

STUDENT VOICE

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

All editorial content in the Student Voice is determined by the newspaper’s Editorial Board.

The opinions expressed in editorials and columns do not represent those of the newspaper’s advisor, student population, administration, faculty or staff.

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

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It

also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must be able to be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon during the week of publishing. Information on publishing schedule can be obtained by contacting the editor.

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the Student Voice per issue. A single copy of the Student Voice is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff via email. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

UWRF celebrates homecoming 2022

Homecoming 2022 on Saturday, Oct. 1, featured lots of events hosted by the university and Student Involvement. Many students were able to participate in events including the Medallion Hunt, the Border Battle Tug-o-War, bowling, a boat cruise, Stuff-a-Falcon, and Falcons Got Talent. UWRF sports were also in full swing with volleyball, soccer and football playing homecoming weekend. UWRF Campus Recreation also hosted a Punt, Pass, Kick tournament and a Bag Toss tournament. The community was also invited to attend Friends and Family Night, watch the homecoming parade, and attend the Homecoming 2022 Concert. UWRF gave back to the community by hosting a food drive that lasted throughout the week. (Photos by Mackenzie Hamlin Photography)



Chancellor Maria Gallo joins Freddy Falcon, Kaye Anderson and Isaac Roehrig in the homecoming parade.



Rikki Jo Koplitz and UWRF cheer team in the homecoming parade.



Crowded stands for the Falcons football homecoming game.



UWRF men's soccer team in the homecoming parade.



UWRF women's soccer team in the homecoming parade.