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# STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

October 11, 2013

www.uwrfvoice.com

Volume 100, Issue 4

## Tobacco-free policy off to healthy start



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

**Amy Graham smokes a cigarette across the street from the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Students can no longer smoke on campus due to the new tobacco-free policy.**

## Senate spearheads changes to both campus, state bylaws

Ben Lamers  
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The UW-River Falls Student Senate has stepped forward as a major player in the UW Student Representatives body.

The Student Reps has representatives from each of the 26 UW System schools. Thirteen of the schools in the UW System are four-year universities, and 13 are two-year schools. Senate Vice President Anthony Sumnicht said that the representation from both the two-year and four-year schools was very similar.

"At our last meeting it was close to 50/50 which was surprising, we didn't expect that many two-years to show up," Sumnicht said. "Every school is represented on student reps. Whether the school chooses to attend is up to that school. Every school counts toward quorum, we need

at least 14 of the schools to meet to hold the meetings."

The Student Reps held its first meeting of the school year at UWRF on Friday, Oct. 4, and Saturday, Oct. 5. At the meeting, Sumnicht was named chair of Student Reps.

"I think it really puts UWRF on the map. There's an old adage in the system that the further you are away from Madison the less people know about you," said Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd, who also serves as Senate's advisor. "It's nice to be able to get some recognition on a state-wide level, and I think it's well deserved, not only this year, but past years as well UWRF student leaders have done a lot to help get Student Reps where they are."

After the funding for the United Council was cut this past spring, the stage is set

for Student Reps to take on a larger roll in the state.

"Now that we have a structured Student Reps group, when the UW System and the Board of Regents wants to hear from a representative body of students, Student Reps is the place they should go," Shepherd said. "These are folks that are in current leadership positions on their own campus."

Student Reps will be trying to work in conjunction with United Council on issues which both bodies may try to tackle.

"We're not just going to kick United Council out of everything, it's still relevant right now. We will work with them to make sure we are both not trying to tackle the same issues. As two separate organizations, we can get more accomplished working in unison than we can working apart, at this time," Sum-

nicht said.

Sumnicht also spearheaded motions to change Student Reps' constitution, as well as introduce a new set of bylaws. Both motions were passed unanimously.

"Last year I went to the last meeting of the UW System Student Representatives, and I saw it as a relatively disorganized group. It was disorganized and had no voice at the state level," Sumnicht said. "We have already taken large steps to organize ourselves; creating a whole executive committee, creating new positions and passing bylaws so we will be much more organized this year."

As chair, Sumnicht is in charge of filling committees which Student Reps is in charge of. One example is the Inter-Governmental Relations (IGR) committee. According to Sumnicht,

See Senate page 3

## New solar panels aid sustainability effort



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

**The photovoltaic system continues to be installed on the roof of the Regional Development Institute building. In the foreground, a tracker panel follows sunlight and assists in the creation of electricity.**

Emily Van Ort  
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Construction of the photovoltaic system at the Regional Development Institute (RDI) building on campus continues as part of a campus-wide attempt at sustainability.

"It should be up and running by November," said Sustainability Coordinator Bethany Gapinski.

Recently, part of the pole mounted dual-axis tracker was installed on the roof of the RDI building. The goal of the photovoltaic system is to provide an estimated 25 percent of the electricity used annually by the RDI building. It is part of the UW-River Falls campus wide sustainability program.

In 2007, the creation of the Sustainability Working Group was created to accomplish tasks of the sustainability goal.

"Our goal is to produce more renewable energy on campus than used," ex-

plained Professor of Geography Charles Rader.

UWRF's definition of sustainability is "our local and global responsibility to meet the needs of present and future generations, as demonstrated by an integrated set of ecological, social, and economic values, principles, and practices that frame how we think, choose and act in personal, professional and community life," according to the University website.

The photovoltaic system consists of two types of panels that assist in the total creation of electricity. The fixed panels are scattered throughout the photovoltaic system. They are responsible for picking up solar energy. The tracker panels are facing the North and track sunlight.

"Being able to produce both in one system is more energy efficient," said Kelly Cain, a professor of Environmental Science and Management and director of the St.

Croix Institute for Sustainable Community.

"UWRF is the leading energy efficient campus in the UW System," Cain said. "We plan to hold onto that."

Faculty is not the only group involved in the photovoltaic system.

"When the system goes live we will have data to access off monitors in classrooms," Cain said.

Students will be able to evaluate the data received from the photovoltaic system.

"It's a good size project for them to get their feet wet," Cain mentioned.

Students, faculty and stakeholders will get a side-by-side comparison of all the information gathered.

The photovoltaic system is just the beginning of creating sustainable energy on campus.

"We are setting an example that this can be done," Rader said.

UWRF hopes to install

photovoltaic systems on several other buildings that meet their assessment criteria.

Installation of more photovoltaic systems is not the only initiative UWRF is focusing on. Since 1975, UWRF has continuously monitored energy efficiency and maintained a long history of leadership and commitment on sustainability-based initiatives compared to all campuses in the UW System.

"South Fork Suites incorporates solar hot generators to heat water," Rader said. "We want to be more efficient and utilize all of our resources. It is a better investment."

Rader stressed that sustainability on campus is only accomplished through grants, donations and participation. Students interested in learning more on the photovoltaic system are encouraged to visit the St. Croix Institute for Sustainable Community Development website at [www.uwrf.edu/SCISCD/](http://www.uwrf.edu/SCISCD/).

Amanda White  
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The air might seem cleaner on campus this semester thanks to the tobacco-free campus policy that went into effect July 1, 2013.

The policy restricts the use of all tobacco products, as well as hookah and "e-cigarettes," and is peer-, faculty- and staff-enforced, meaning anyone can remind students using tobacco products on campus of the tobacco-free campus policy, according to Administrative Policy documents. The restriction extends to the perimeter of campus and includes streets and sidewalks that belong to UW-River Falls.

Keven Syverson, the health education coordinator for Student Health Services and a member of the Implementation Committee, said that fewer cigarette butts have been found on the grounds of campus since the implementation of the policy.

"That's what our grounds people say. We've checked in with them and that's what they've had to say so far," Syverson said.

The Implementation Committee modeled the policy after other college campuses' policies, especially UW-Stout, which has had a policy in place for four years. Syverson said there was a reduction in tobacco use on Stout's campus after two years, which is a phenomenon he would like to see happen at UWRF.

"We want to see less people using tobacco," Syverson said. "We have a lot of future teachers here, and they can't use tobacco products on any high school campus they would work at."

Aurora Butler, a senior at UWRF, has not changed her smoking habits in response to the new policy. She still smokes on campus, mostly because she says she is unsure of the perimeter of campus.

Butler also used to smoke outside Kleinpell Fine Arts

near receptacles for cigarette butts, but now that they have been removed and there are no similar receptacles off campus, she is not sure where to dispose of the cigarette butts.

She said she has not noticed any enforcement of the policy, either. "The only thing I've noticed with the policy is that there are more stickers up and that there are more people smoking toward the churches," Butler said.

Syverson said that the Implementation Committee is monitoring the lack of trash receptacles in conjunction with Facilities.

"The Implementation Committee did talk about whether urns should be placed on the perimeters of campus or anything like that, but that's almost creating smoking areas," Syverson said.

Student Maureen Croak does not use tobacco products, and she has also noticed people smoking on campus this semester. She lives in a residence hall and has noticed residents smoking on the curb of Cascade Avenue.

"When people smoke, they go just barely outside of campus, and when you are driving, you do not see them because they are sitting on the curb," Croak said. "It's really dangerous."

Syverson said that he would like to see fewer people addicted, because tobacco is a powerful addiction.

"A lot of college students say 'I'll quit when I'm done with college, when there's less stress.' Well, we all know stress continues throughout life, maybe our stressors change, but we always have stress," Syverson said. "We hope to see a reduction in tobacco use rates and also a healthier campus."

Student Health Services offers many ways to quit using tobacco products, including Quit Packs for students. Visit [www.uwrf.edu/tobaccofree-campus](http://www.uwrf.edu/tobaccofree-campus) for more information.



# Zimmerman named 22nd executive-in-residence by UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics

River Falls business owner Shannon Zimmerman, founder and CEO of Sajan, has been named the fall 2013 Executive-in-Residence by the College of Business and Economics (CBE) at UW-River Falls.

Zimmerman will speak on campus from 2-3 p.m., on Tuesday, Oct. 22, in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. His lecture, "My Life as a CEO... It's Not All Bad," is free and open to the public.

Zimmerman's lecture will provide a look at the journey and lessons learned from being an aspiring entrepreneur to CEO of a multi-million dollar global company. He will share key insights derived from his business successes and failures, and show how both are integral for reaching professional goals.

As chief executive officer of Sajan, a company he founded in 1997, Zimmerman helped lead the company to unprecedented growth and market leadership including repeated recognition by Inc. magazine as one of America's fastest growing private companies.

He has nearly 20 years of experience in information technology, primarily holding senior-level positions. In that time, he spearheaded technology-focused, strategic business initiatives within the telecommunications, healthcare, manufacturing, and service industries.

Through his visionary and forward-thinking leadership, Zimmerman unites the global Sajan team in continuing the company's worldwide reputation for pace-setting innovation, proven agility, and unmatched dedication to evolving with customer needs.

"We are pleased to have Shannon Zimmerman on campus this fall. He is an inspirational leader of a successful business," said Glenn Potts, dean of CBE.

"Sajan is a leading provider of global language translation services. It is a fast-growing company based in River Falls with offices in Ireland, Singapore and Spain."

Zimmerman is the 22nd executive to bring his observations and experience to the UWRF campus since the Executive-in-Residence program began in 2003.

The program enables today's leaders to share their experiences with the leaders of tomorrow, and is sponsored by the UWRF CBE and WESTconsin Credit Union.

For more information, visit [www.uwrf.edu/CBE](http://www.uwrf.edu/CBE) or contact Audrey Ternes at 715-425-3335 or [audrey.ternes@uwrf.edu](mailto:audrey.ternes@uwrf.edu).



Photo by University Communications  
**Shannon Zimmerman is pictured to the right. He will be the executive-in-residence for the fall of 2013. He will be giving a lecture on campus from 2-3 p.m. on Oct. 22, in the Riverview Ballroom.**

## River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

On Sept. 26, a mountain bike valued at \$94 was stolen from the west side bicycle rack outside Crabtree Hall. The bicycle is described as a red, 24 inch Roadmaster brand mountain bike and has yet to be returned to its owner.

On Oct. 2, four bicycles, a bicycle front wheel and an aluminum wheel knobby tire disc brake, valued in total at \$2,750, were stolen from the UWRF campus. On Oct. 3, the River Falls Police Department recovered four bicycles from the residence of Scott R. Gilbertson

transported to the campus police office in South Hall. Gilbertson stated that the bicycles had been stolen on campus by an unidentifiable individual(s) and then were sold or given to him by that individual. All four bicycles, as well as the bicycle parts, were returned.

Another bicycle valued at \$450 was stolen from the bicycle rack on the east side of Ames Suites on Oct. 2. The bicycle was then recovered by the River Falls Police department and returned to the owner on Oct. 3. Other citations include:

### Sept. 27

- Julian Chisom Ikeri was fined \$389.50 for possession of marijuana at Parker Hall.

### Oct. 7

- Evan M. Huppert was fined \$263.50 for operation of a motor vehicle off roadway at 1110 Athletic Drive.

Editor's note: Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and River Falls Police Department incident reports.

## News brief

### Byron Hurt lecture at UW-River Falls rescheduled

The Wyman Series event at UW-River Falls is rescheduled for 7:30 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 24, in Abbott Concert Hall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

The event is an evening with Byron Hurt featuring his critically acclaimed film, "Soul Food Junkies," and is free and open to the public.

Hurt addresses provocative topics such as race, gender, and violence through his films, writings, and lectures. He will begin the evening with a screening of his acclaimed film, "Soul Food Junkies," which explores the health advantages and disadvantages of Soul Food, a quintessential American cuisine. Hurt uses Soul Food as the lens to investigate the dark side of the food industry and the growing food justice movement that has been born in its wake.

Additional screenings of "Soul Food Junkies" are set for 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m., and 6 p.m., on Wednesday, Oct. 9, in the Falcon's Nest in the University Center. The screenings are free and open to the public.

The PEACE Dialogue event associated

with the Wyman Series lecture is from 9:30-11 a.m., on Thursday, Oct. 10, in the Falcon's Nest in the University Center. Join Hurt and the YWCA of Minneapolis for a discussion on food. The dialogue is free and open to the public.

Other Wyman Series events this year include:

An event at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Nov. 5, Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, Zagreb Saxophone Quartet (Croatian Chamber Ensemble).

An event at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014, in Falcon's Nest of the University Center, Dr. King's Dream (Presented by Mixed Blood Theatre).

An event at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, 2014, in Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, One Voice Mixed Chorus (featuring Avenues for Homeless Youth).

An event at 7:30 p.m., on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center, An Evening with Featured Speaker Tom Rath (Discussing his latest book, "Eat Move Sleep").

For more information on these events or accommodations, call 715-425-4444 or visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/StudentLife/ActivitiesAndEvents/WymanSeries.cfm>.

## Career Fair Help Table

Monday October 14, 2013

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Heritage Hall (UC entryway)

and

Tuesday October 15, 2013

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Heritage Hall (UC entryway)

Visit these booths to receive resume and cover letter critiques.



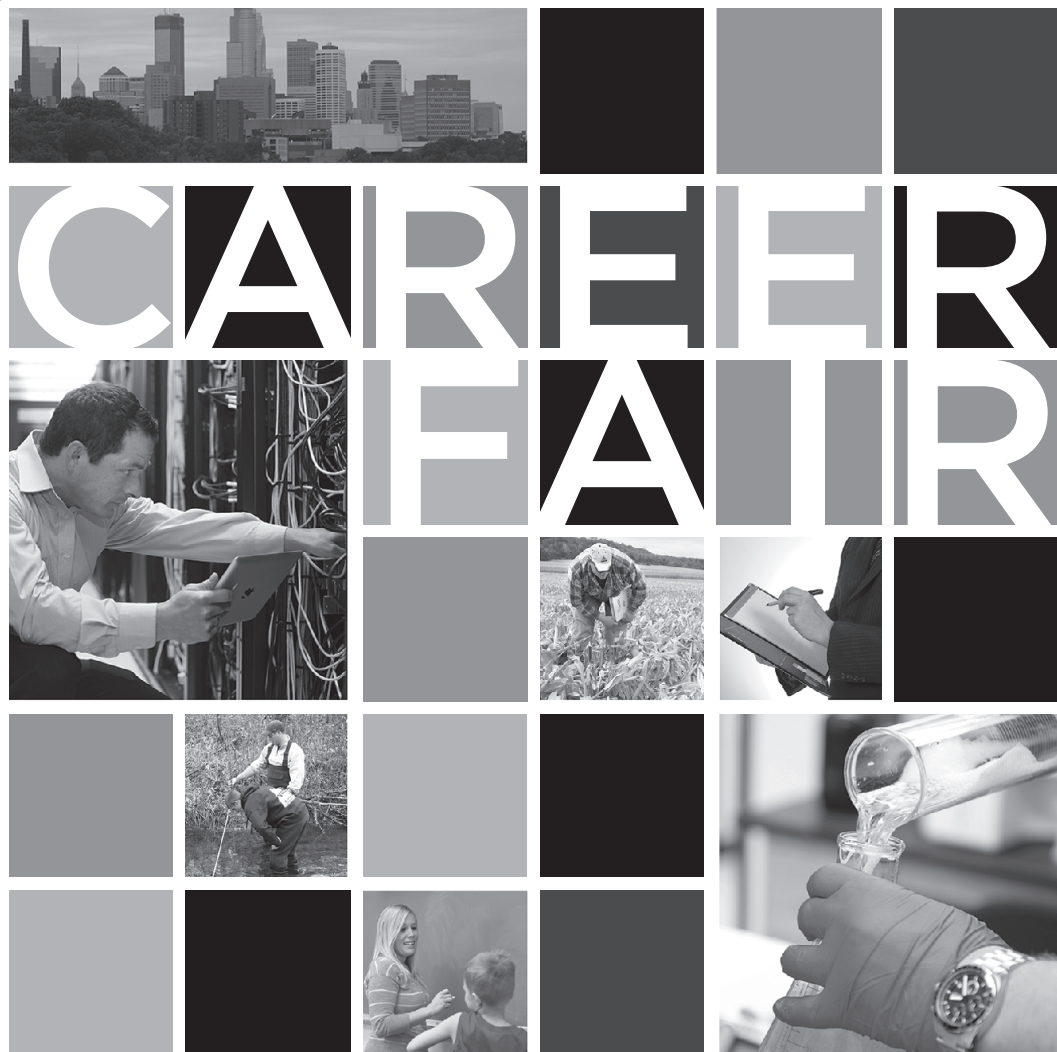
## Career Fair Prep Session

Monday October 14, 2013

2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Falcon's Nest

Visit the prep session to receive resume critiques, learn how to dress properly for the Career Fair, create your introduction to employers and practice interacting with employers at a mock Career Fair Booth.



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Division of  
Student Affairs



# Senate: Semester Abroad celebrates 50 years

## New bylaws passed

From page 1

this committee is in charge of finding out issues which are important to students around the UW System. Sumnicht said that the issues brought forth by IGR will be the ones which Student Reps will aim to tackle first. Senator Matthew Hobbs was appointed to serve on this committee.

“[The committee] will be working on identifying the issues which it thinks Student Reps should address this year. I’m looking forward to them coming up with great ideas and identifying lots of issues that we want to tackle,” Sumnicht said.

In addition to helping push through the changes to Student Reps, Sumnicht also penned and introduced a motion to Senate to change its bylaws.

“The main reason for starting the project on the bylaws was to clarify items. Things were duplicated, so the main reason for the motion was to get rid of all those things,” Sumnicht said. “Another reason was to update our ethics process, based on the problems Senate had last year with the process. It was time to update and make it clear on how a whole process should handle ethical complaints and issues.”

Shepherd also said that, while Senate makes small changes to the bylaws every year, this year’s changes have been much more substantial.

“Every year there has been some sort of change to the bylaws. What Senate passed was probably on the higher end of change, while there wasn’t much that changed the intent of the bylaws,” Shepherd said. “I think clarifying how the Senate position which represent the Greek community, diversity and athletics is really good. In the past it was a little too informal, now there is a more formal process for how that student gets seated.”

Senate meets at 7 p.m., on Tuesdays, in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Check out the Student Voice online at [uwrfvoice.com](http://uwrfvoice.com)

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Used with permission from Magdalena Pala

**Semester Abroad: Europe/Quarter Abroad will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Oct. 12, 2013. Robert Bailey III (center), the founder of the program, poses above with other SAE/QA members in the 1980s. SAE/QA allows students to create their own projects while studying abroad.**

Meghann Witthoft  
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As a global campus, UW-River Falls offers many opportunities for students to travel around the world.

The Semester Abroad: Europe/Quarter Abroad (SAE/QA) is one of many options that students at UWRF have. The program will celebrates its 50th anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 12. This program, founded by Robert Bailey III in 1963, is the oldest international program on campus.

Bailey, a professor of sociology at the time of his creation of this program, decided to establish this international program after leading a group of non-UWRF students to Germany. Bailey himself led groups within the SAE/QA program from the years 1963-1974.

The program, which is designed to allow students to create a project of their own choosing while abroad, was created by Bailey to suit the types if students that generally attend UWRF and have an interest in studying abroad. According Magdalena Pala, a past co-director of SAE/QA, the program displayed the “genius of Bailey...his critical thinking and keen observation.”

Fifty years of learning abroad through the SAE/QA program is certainly no small accomplishment and there are many aspects of the program that have led to its success.

“The dedication of the people involved with it, and also the other faculty involved with it” are a large part of the program’s success in the eyes

of Pala.

According to Pala, the program is a three-semester commitment for students and they remain in constant motion the entire experience, which appeals to many of them. Charles Rader, a past assistant group leader of the SAE/QA program, attributes the program’s success to the fact that the program is “student-centered.”

The experience with in the SAE/QA program has had a great effect on the UWRF campus and the students who have participated in the program. According to one SAE alum, this program (after talking to many people over the last 10 years, has proven to be the most unique and rewarding study abroad programs out there for undergraduates.

Many students who are interested in a study abroad experience look to others for advice on how to approach their experience.

“Start planning early, commit to going abroad, convince yourself that it is important, and realize that in the long run it [study abroad] does not cost that much,” Pala said.

Rader, who had also worked with the Wisconsin in Scotland, Experience China and International Traveling Class room programs, recommends working with your advisor early on to ensure that the program meets your degree requirements, when pursuing a study abroad experience.

The 50th anniversary celebration of the SAE/QA program will begin at 4 p.m., on Oct. 12, and will include

opportunities to communicate with program alums and faculty from previous years, tributes to Bailey, displays of photos and selected projects, as well as videos of programs currently taking place in Europe.

The celebration will also feature a European-themed buffet dinner and cash bar. Cost of the event is \$35 per person.

There will also be information sessions held for the SAE/QA 2014 program from 7-8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 29, in Davee Library 103.

For more information about the 50th anniversary celebration contact Pala at [magdalena.pala@uwrf.edu](mailto:magdalena.pala@uwrf.edu). For more information about the SAE/QA program contact Rader at [charles.p.rader@uwrf.edu](mailto:charles.p.rader@uwrf.edu).

# Career Fair provides job opportunities

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Whether you are a freshman or a senior in college, the thought about what you are going to do professionally after college is sometimes a scary thought.

UW-River Falls Career Services is helping students with this by hosting its 22nd annual Career Fair, and giving students an opportunity to make future job connections.

The Career Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Oct. 16, 2013, in the University Center Ballroom, as well as in the upper level of the Falcon’s Nest.

One thing that is unique about the Career Fair at UWRF is that it gives a student the opportunity to organize and plan it.

“I think this event and that we have a student coordinate it says a lot about our commitment to helping students gain leadership experiences on this campus. I don’t know of any other UW System schools that have a student coordinate their career fair,” Director of Career Services Melissa Wilson said. “At UWRF it has historically always been a student that takes the reins and coordinates an event this size.”

Michal Berkoben is a graduate intern for Career Services and is in charge of the event this year.

“The main things are getting employers registered and interested in the Career Fair,”



**Career Services Peer Advisor Isaac Christenson helps student Jack Stutzke with his resume. Students can give their resumes to perspective employers at the 22nd Career Fair, held on Wednesday, Oct. 16, in the University Center.**

Berkoben said. “We were really lucky this year because many employers signed up very quickly and we filled up faster than most years, which I think is a direct reflection of our students and a lot of employers like to come to this campus to meet with our students.”

Each year more than 750 students attend the Career Fair.

“The Career Fair is a good way to network and find potential job opportunities,” student Amanda Marthaler

said.

Students of all ages and majors are encouraged to attend the fair. There are jobs available for seniors that will be graduating, as well as internships that can be given to people that are still in school.

“It is really beneficial for students of any age or major. I think a lot of freshman and sophomores assume it’s not as relevant to them,” Berkoben said. “However, it’s a great opportunity for them to get comfortable meeting, networking and talking to employers and learning how to market themselves. Obvi-

ously they can find internships and jobs as well. Juniors and seniors can really get their foot in the door with a lot of great companies for internships and jobs.”

Michael Harein, a business management major, said he will be attending the fair. “I want to go to the Career Fair because I want to learn more about jobs that are focused towards my major. I want to see if I can get an internship in something related to business.”

This year, there will be 87 booths at the fair with employers from all differ-

ent types of businesses. Employers are eager to come to UWRF to find potential employees that can bring positive things to their businesses.

“I’ve spoken to some of the employers who have said that they get the majority of their interns and new hires from our career fair,” Wilson said.

The Career Fair requires attendees to come in professional attire with resumes on hand to give to potential employers. For more information or questions about the upcoming Career Fair, contact Career Services.



EDITORIAL

Senate elections struggle with numerous issues

The current Student Senate has done a lot of good for both the students and campus so far in its term.

It pushed forth the project to revamp the Involvement Center (IC) in the University Center, helped to facilitate the new budget changes on OrgSync to help student organizations submit their budgets and hosted events to help boost school spirit during Homecoming week.

However, the good has been overshadowed by the bad. While most students walk past, or walk into, the IC everyday, for example, a majority of students may not know that Senate is responsible for this change.

What every student does know Senate is in charge of, though, are the elections. All students received an email on Sunday, Sept. 29, informing them that Senate’s fall election was open until Tuesday, Oct. 1. Then, on that Tuesday, students received another email, informing them that their votes would not be counted and the election needed to be re-done.

There was a technological issue which allowed students to vote multiple times in the election. The email also informed students that the fall elections would now take place from Sunday, Oct. 6, to Tuesday, Oct. 8.

When that Sunday rolled around, students received an email early in the morning with a link which sent them to Senate’s OrgSync page, where the new ballot would be found. However, the link straight up did not work. On Sunday afternoon, students received yet another email that informed them they would have to copy and paste the link into their browser for it to work.

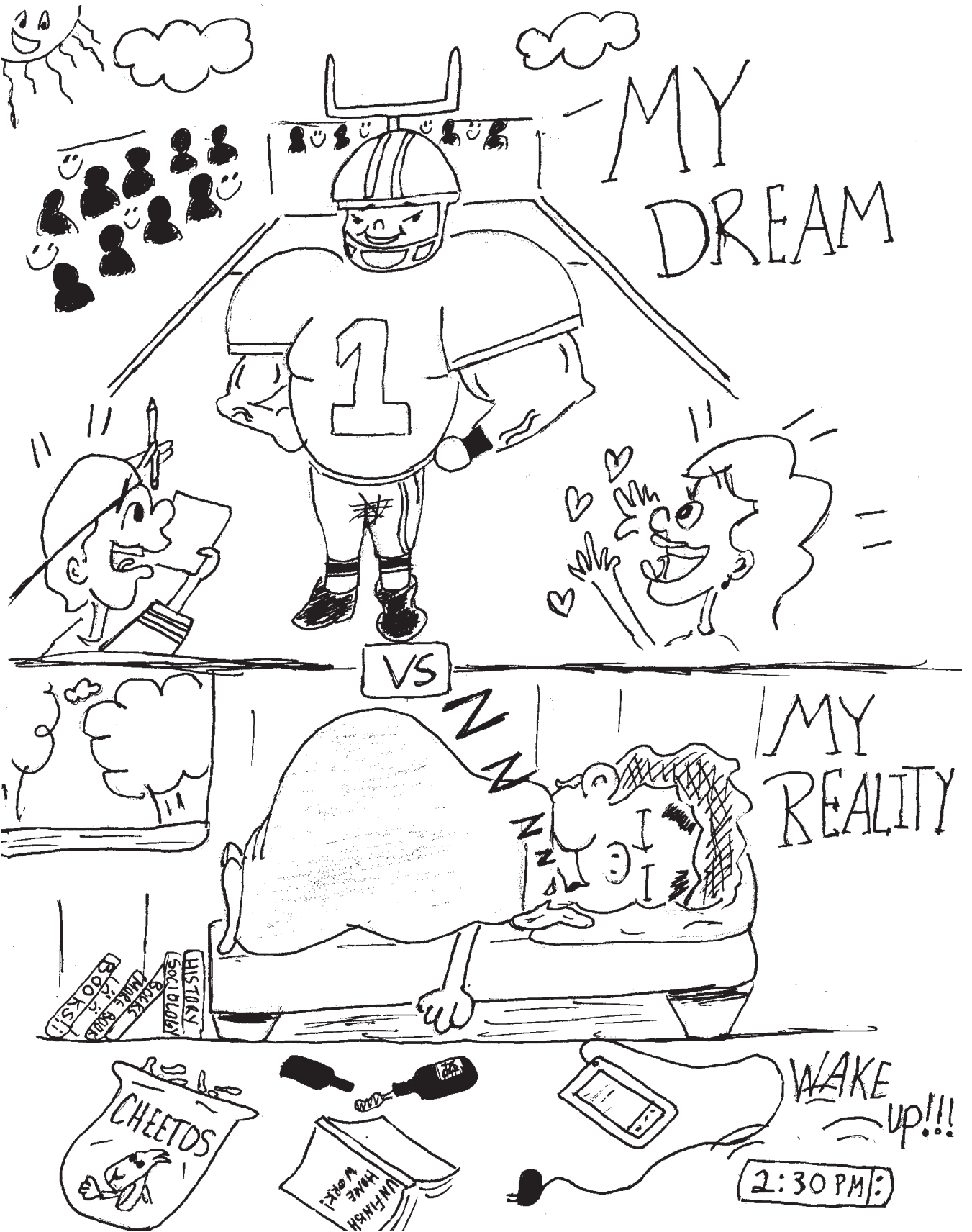
A lot of the problems which Senate encountered could have been fixed by simply checking to make sure that the links which sent students to the ballot, for example, actually worked when students clicked on it.

The poorly run process resulted in a paltry election turnout of 133 votes, according to Fall Elections Commissioner Mohammad Battah. There were over 400 votes cast in the original election which was scrapped to due to technological problems.

Having to run the election twice was also unfair to those running. With the vast difference in turnout between the first election and the second, it can be concluded that a lot of candidates lost many votes. Could the results have been different had the original election been able to run the way it should have? It is definitely possible.

The elections process, as a whole, was a nearly complete failure, and the entire student body was informed of it through many different emails.

We hope that Senate will do a better job when the time comes for the spring elections, because, frankly, it would be difficult to do worse.



Billy Thao/Student Voice

Letter to the editor

Congressional Republicans do not accept the fact that the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is law of the land, though enough voters agreed with the President’s policy to return him to office in 2012.

Meanwhile we have witnessed staggering displays of bad faith among Republicans, who have declared their determination to overturn ‘Obamacare’ through more than 40 time-wasting symbolic votes in the House and now pretend that they only want to delay implementation of the law for a year.

House Speaker John Boehner hypocritically accuses the President of an unwillingness to negotiate and compromise while enabling a cadre of 30 or 40 Tea Party extremists who have made their uncompromising position absolutely clear.

In reality, the President and the Democrats have done plenty of compromising with Republicans over the past five years. It is easy to see why Democrats now need to hold the line against the Republicans’ outrageous demands.

If Democrats acquiesce to those demands, it will only make them vulnerable to further extortion efforts by the Re-

publicans. This is no way to govern. If one party can succeed in shutting down the government, and, only a little farther down the line, send the nation into default on its debts when it does not prevail through normal political channels, then democratic process and the will of the people are profoundly subverted.

Behind the Republicans’ frequent assertion that the ACA is a ‘train wreck’ is the fear that, once fully up and running, the ACA will prove popular, as have other programs such as Medicare and Social Security. If this were not so, Republicans would simply let Obamacare fail and Democrats pay the price at the polls.

That fear is the real driver of the Republicans’ attempts to defund the ACA and deprive millions of their fellow Americans of health care coverage.

Thomas Smith  
River Falls

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WISCONSIN NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION** Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violote the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

Senate Corner: Senate makes changes, prepares for Homecoming

Hannah Klingfus and Dominic Riel

On Friday, Oct. 4 and Saturday, Oct. 5, Student Senate hosted the UW Student Representatives meeting.

UW-River Falls Senate Vice President Tony Sumnicht was elected as Student Representatives Chair by the most senior members of the System student governing bodies. UW-Stout Senate President Juliana Lucchesi, was elected Vice Chair. Former UWRF Vice President and current At-Large Senator Matthew Hobbs was selected as a committee member of the Inter-Governmental Relations Committee. Sumnicht and Hobbs introduced bylaws and constitutional amendments which both passed unanimously.

On Tuesday, Oct. 8, Senate unanimously passed major bylaw amendments. Included in the amendments was an update to the new Public Relations Administrator position. This position is available to all students. The duties of the Public Relations Administrator include but are not limited to, attending all Senate meetings, marketing and advertising for

Senate and all of its committee events and endeavors. This position does receive compensation. If you are interested in the position, please contact Senate President Sam Tauchen at [samuel.tauchen@my.uwrf.edu](mailto:samuel.tauchen@my.uwrf.edu).

On Saturday, Oct. 12, Senate will be providing thunder sticks for the homecoming game featuring the UWRF Falcons versus the UW-Platteville Pioneers at 1 p.m. Remember to bring your Student ID. In addition, Senate will be coordinating with the Office of Student Life to host a bonfire with free food and fun. This event will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the fire pit on the south side of the University Center.

Homecoming is an opportunity to show your school spirit and pride. Senate hopes to see you at all Homecoming events.

On behalf of Senate, good luck on midterms and go Falcons!

*Dominic Riel is the Shared Governance Director on Senate. Hannah Klingfus is the Student Affairs and Academic Services Director on Senate.*



Photo from Student Voice archive  
Students from Johnson Hall in 2011 decorate a window along Main Street as part of the Homecoming activities.



# Meal plan insults students’ budgetary, dietary choices

Hannah  
Timm

Columnist

With the standard, 14 meals per week plan, students pay slightly over five dollars per meal. Five dollars is not an unreasonable cost for a meal, however, people do not regularly eat two restaurant or fast food meals a day.

At \$70 a week, the University’s mandatory meal plan directly insults students’ budgeting and dietary decisions. This adds up to \$280 per month, likely more than what an off-campus student would normally spend.

Proponents argue that on a meal plan, students may be encouraged to eat on a more regular basis, however the selection of food offered in Riverside Commons is limited, especially for students with dietary preferences.

Students with allergies or medical reasons may apply for exemption from the meal plan. However, request forms must be submitted at least two weeks before the meal plan starts. A student cannot even determine whether or not the meal plan is right for them fourteen days before they see the eating options.

Students with allergies are encouraged to purchase meal plans because allergy-sensitive dining options are available. However, many of the meals do not consider students with multiple allergies. Riverside Commons offers specifically made gluten-free meals during the lunch and dinner mealtimes, but many of the meals include ingredients that lactose-intolerant or vegetarian students cannot consume.

The commons’ salad bar section does offer allergen-free lettuce and spinach with toppings. The salad bar may offer options for students with allergies, but many toppings which do contain allergens (cheese, cottage cheese, and croutons) spill over the other toppings, rendering them all contaminated and inedible for a student with allergies.

Even students without allergies suffer from the meal plan. The commons boasts of a wide variety of dining options, however, most of the meals are generally the same. Students can choose from salad, pizza, sandwiches and two different specialty meals which change daily.

This semester, the specialty meals have ranged from Philly cheese steak hot dogs in the grill line to beef and cheese nachos by the salad bar. While the meals change



Morgan Stippel/Student Voice  
**Student Paige Salmon selects a chicken burger and french fries. Riverside Commons does not provide much variety or healthy meal options to students.**

frequently, most of them are not healthy. Students who aim for a healthier diet may give up their health-related goals once they tire of salads and sandwiches.

Though the meal plan promotes regular eating habits, the limited options discourage students.

*Hannah is a sophomore majoring in English: Professional Writing and minoring in Creative Writing. When she graduates from UWRF, she intends to work as an editor.*

# STUDENT VOICES

## Is it a drinking fountain or a bubbler?



**Amanda Pan**  
“Drinking fountain”



**Megan Amundson**  
Sophomore  
“Drinking fountain”



**Adam DeDecker**  
Sophomore  
“Drinking fountain”



**Jasmine Cox**  
Sophomore  
“Drinking fountain”



**Andy Sherwood**  
Freshman  
“Bubbler”

# Find Freddy Falcon’s Feather!

Be the first person to find the lost Freddy the Falcon Feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre! (105 S. Main St.)

**Playing Oct. 11 - Oct. 17:**  
**Gravity**  
7 p.m. & 9 p.m. daily  
(Sat. & Sun. 2 p.m.)

The first person to report the find to **editor@uwrvoice.com** AFTER 10 a.m. Friday *wins*. The winner will be announced on the Voice’s account on Twitter @uwrvoice

**Last week’s winner:**  
Sheri Fowler

**Do you have something to say?**  
**Write a letter to the editor**  
**editor@uwrvoice.com**

**Check out the Student Voice online at**  
**uwrvoice.com**



# New members inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

Eight individuals and one team will be inducted into the UW- River Falls Athletic Hall of Fame this year.

The UWRF Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 1977 to pay tribute to athletes and coaches who have demonstrated “exceptional athletic ability” or who have positively contributed to UWRF atheltic programs.

People who are eligible for nomination to the Hall of Fame include “athletic letter winners, coaches or others who have made recognizable, positive contributions to the athletic programs of UWRF.”

Apart from honoring athletes and coaches, the UWRF

Athletic Hall of Fame serves to create and preserve the rich history and tradition of UWRF athletics.

The 2013 UWRF Athletic Hall of Fame banquet will be held on Oct. 11 from 6-9 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom.

In addition, all of the inductees will ride on a float in the Homecoming Parade on Oct. 12, and will be introduced at halftime of the UWRF - UW-Platteville football game.

The 2013 UWRF Athletic Hall of Fame inductees are as follows:

The 1983 men’s hockey team

Holly (Olson) Hatten, Volleyball  
Mary (Boeser) Schieffer, Field Hockey  
Kent Becker, Basketball  
Kate (Pelinka) Anderson, Soccer  
Melissa (Johnson) Hanson, Basketball  
Gee Pope, Wrestling  
Bruce Larson, Football  
Adam Kragthorpe, Hockey

Photographs and brief descriptions of each 2013 inductees can be found below.



**The 1983 hockey team won the University’s first team National Championship. The Falcons, under Coach George Gwozdecky, finished the season with a 24-6-1 record. The 24 wins was a school record at the time. The Falcons defeated Hawthorne, 7-0, in the semifinals. Mike King and Tom D’Andrea both scored two goals. UWRF defeated Michigan-Dearborn in the title game, 12-5. D’Andrea and Mike Kelly both scored hat tricks. D’Andrea was named the tournament’s MVP while King, Greg Dey and Mike Piette were all named to the All-Tournament team.**



**Holly (Olson) Hatten played volleyball at UWRF from 1997-2000. She was named to the AVCA All-Region team three times and to first All-WIAC teams three times. Hatten is UWRF’s all-time career assist leader (5,646) and is third in WIAC career assists. She played in three NCAA Tournaments (1997, 1998, 1999) and helped lead the team to a 112-35 record during her career. Hatten was also a member of the 1999 team that won the WIAC Championship.**



**Mary (Boeser) Schieffer played field hockey for the Falcons from 1979-83. She was named to the All-WIAC teams in 1981 and 1982. In 2012 Schieffer was named to the WIAC’s Field Hockey All-Time Team in conjunction with the conference’s Centennial Celebration. She has spent 20 years “paying it forward and back” by coaching soccer and hockey in Amery, Wis.**



**Kent Becker played basketball for the Falcons from 1999-2002. He was named to All-WIAC teams three times. After his senior season, Becker earned the WIAC’s Scholar-Athlete award. He played in 97 games and scored 1,089 points. He is ranked in the top 20 in the WIAC in career free throw percentage (.819) and career steals (178). Becker led the team in scoring in 2001, assists in 2000 and 2001 and in steals in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002.**



**Kate (Pelinka) Anderson was a member of the Falcon soccer team from 1996-99. She was named to All-WIAC teams in 1997, 1998 and 1999, and to All-Region teams in 1998 and 1999. Anderson is the school’s all-time leader in career goals (79) and second in career points (131). She led UWRF in scoring in each of the four seasons she played. She holds the school record for goals in a game (four) and she accomplished that feat twice.**



**Melissa (Johnson) Hanson was a member of the Falcon basketball team from 1996-99. She was named to the All-WIAC teams in 1997, 1998 and 1999. After her senior season she was selected as the WIAC’s Player of the Year and Scholar-Athlete. Her name still appears in 11 WIAC records categories including fifth in career scoring average (16.9). Hanson scored 1,714 points and grabbed 773 rebounds in her career. She is second in career points and fifth in career rebounds at UWRF.**



**Gee Pope wrestled for the Falcons from 1972-75. In his first season he placed second in the WIAC Tournament at 142 pounds. During the 1974 season he was the WIAC Champion at 134 pounds and earned NAIA All-American recognition with a fourth place finish at the National Meet. In his final season in 1975 he again won the 134 pound WIAC Championship and earned All-American honors for his second place finish at the NAIA National Meet. Pope has coached wrestling for 25 years.**



**Bruce Larson played football from 1983-86. He was a member of three conference winning championship football teams (1984, 1985, 1986). Larson has been the head football coach at Somerset High School since 1999 and has led the Spartans to two WIAA State Championships (2002, 2012) and three runner up finishes (2004, 2005, 2011). His teams have qualified for the state playoffs 13 times, including the past 11 years in a row. Entering the 2013 season his teams hold a 136-35 combined record.**



**Adam Kragthorpe played hockey at UWRF from 2000-03 and finished his career as a three-time AHCA All-American. A talented defenseman in both ends of the rink, he was named to the All-NCHA and All-WIAC teams for four straight years. He finished his career with 20 goals and 64 points. He was the team’s captain in 2002 and 2003 and won the team’s Don Norqual Award in 2001. He is currently an assistant coach with the Minnetonka girl’s high school team and has helped lead them to Minnesota State AA Championships in each of the last three seasons.**

**Don’t forget to take part in some of the Homecoming action on Saturday, Oct. 12.**

**The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street.**

**The football game begins at 1 p.m. at Ramer Field.**

*All photos and inductee biographies courtesy of UWRF Sports Information.*



# UWRF men’s rugby dominates early in season

Ben Lamers

benjamin.lamers@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men’s rugby team has the highest national ranking of any team on campus, club or varsity. The team is ranked No. 21 in the National Small College Rugby Organization (NSCRO). There are four divisions of college rugby: Div. I, Div. I-AA, Div. II and the NSCRO, which is the equivalent of the NCAA’s Div. III. However, the team’s ranking does not reflect its success so far this season. According to team Captain and President Casey Doten, the rankings are based off of how the team performed last spring, and only change at the end of each season. Through three games this season, the rugby team has outscored its opponents by a total score of 211-0, according to the team’s website. The Falcons play in the Minnesota Rugby Football Conference and are in the River Bluffs division. Currently, the Falcons are on top of the division. The team only has one more regular season game before the conference tournament begins. The Minnesota Rugby

Union’s playoffs are in the form of a final four, where the top four teams play in a mini tournament. The last two seasons the Falcons have played in the championship game, losing last year to the eventual national champions St. John’s University. The team’s final regular season game is against the University of St. Thomas. UWRF won when the two teams met in the spring season last year. If it defeats St. Thomas, the team will advance to the Minnesota Rugby Union’s final four, where it is likely that it will face St. John’s in a rematch of last season’s conference championship. “It’s realistic to say we have a fighting chance,” Doten said. “We can definitely go out and play with them.” Whichever team wins the Minnesota Rugby Union championship becomes eligible for the national tournament. The national tournament begins with regional play in mid November, but the semi-finals and finals do not take place until April. Doten said that teams which qualify for the semi-finals will schedule games around the country, or the world, over the winter and early spring to stay fresh for the final two

games. The national championship takes place on April 27, in Glendale, Colo. Despite the Falcons’ success on the field, student awareness of the team is mixed on campus. “I think they are good, but I’m not sure,” said senior Grace Vasilis. “They are really good, and are a club sport, I’m pretty sure,” said senior Eric Plude. “They travel to many different states to play and usually do pretty well.” Doten admitted that many students probably have not seen a rugby game in their entire life, and probably do not know the rules either. “It’s an interesting sport. I hadn’t heard about it until college,” said sophomore Karly Pickerign. “They are decently good. But that’s about all I really know about the rugby team.” The team has no more home games this season, so any student hoping to see the team play will either have to travel, or attend a game in the spring. Doten said that students are encouraged to both come out to support the team, as well as come out to play for the team.

**Right: Casey Doten advances the ball up the field during the Men’s Rugby contest against St. Olaf on Sept. 21. The team defeated St. Olaf in a shutout, 102-0 according to the UWRF Men’s Rugby team website. Doten is the captain of the Men’s Rugby team, and he has led the team to the highest ranking of any varsity or club team on campus so far this year. The team is undefeated in conference play so far this season. Its next game will take place on Oct. 19, at the University of St. Thomas. With a win, the Falcons would advance to the four team tournament in the Minnesota Rugby Union. The team will be trying to reach the conference championship game for the third consecutive year. Last season the Falcons lost to eventual nation champion St. John’s University in the conference championship game.**



Photo used with permission from Max Haynes

## Falcon Spotlight: UWRF Soccer team confident in future Alex Swatloski

Ben Lamers

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Alex Swatloski is a junior forward on the UW-River Falls women’s soccer team. She is originally from Green Bay, Wis., which is over four hours away from UWRF. “It is one of the farthest schools away from Green Bay, but still in Wisconsin. [Head Coach Sean McKuras] was good at recruiting as well,” Swatloski said. Being on the soccer field is nothing new for Swatloski, who is a Health and Human Performance major with a coaching minor, as she has been playing soccer almost her entire life. “I’ve played for a very long time,” Swatloski said. “Since I was 4-years-old, I think.” Having played soccer for a long time, Swatloski has accumulated many memorable moments, but one stood out to her in particular. “My first goal of my freshman year of high school. It was at a soccer tournament in Janesville, Wis.,” Swatloski said. “I was convinced I wouldn’t score at all in high school, and I was going to be the backup and be lucky to see any playing time. When I finally scored that goal it definitely boosted my confidence for the rest of my career.” Swatloski said that when she came to UWRF she was convinced she would not make the team. She said the upperclassmen on the team, at the time, helped her gain confidence in her game. Swatloski is currently tied for the team lead in goals with five.

Ben Lamers

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The UW-River Falls women’s soccer team has undergone a changing of the guard on the field this season. “We lost a lot of upper classmen. We definitely have a younger team this year,” said junior forward Alex Swatloski. “We didn’t lose that much in skill; I think we actually gained.” The biggest hole the team has had to replace was three time All-WIAC, Academic All-American and Capital One College Sports Information Directors of America All-Academic first team member Carlin Bunting, who graduated last year. Swatloski said the team has done a good job stepping up to replace some of the graduated seniors. “A few freshman have come in and really stepped it up,” Swatloski said. “They (the freshman and underclassmen) are going keep stepping it up, they’re going to need to.” The team has had a rocky start to the season, however, as its record is currently 4-7, along with a 1-2 conference record. Since conference play has just begun, Swatloski said observers shouldn’t be too quick to write off the Falcons. “The record doesn’t say that we’re doing well, but our team is confident that we’re going to do better,” Swatloski said. “So I think we’re doing pretty good.” Right now the team is focused on qualifying for the WIAC tournament, which begins on Nov. 5, at the end of the season. To qualify, the team must be in the top six in the WIAC, it is currently in eighth place. “It’s still super early in the season, we still have six WIAC games left. We don’t base how well our team plays based off

of the non conference games, their more of a tool to develop our play for the conference games,” Swatloski said. “I think [finishing] fourth or fifth is realistic for us.” The team plays three road games before returning home on Oct. 19, for a special game. “The past two years we’ve had this game in dedication and to raise awareness for cancer in general, plus a specific one,” Swatloski said. Each women’s soccer team in the WIAC plays one awareness game in October. None of the game’s are for the same disease, though. UWRF’s game is for endometrial cancer awareness. The schools pick a specific awareness on how it has effected the team in some way. “A couple of the girls on the team have lost their mom to cancer. And Alyssa Manor’s mom passed away last year from cancer,” Swatloski said. Not only will the Falcons be playing their awareness game on Oct. 19, but they will be playing against UW-Stevens Point, a team which Swatloski said the Falcons are looking forward to playing this year. “Stevens Point is going be a big test to see where we’re at. I know [Head Coach Sean McKuras] has talked about it a little bit and he’s really excited to see how we are going to play against them since we didn’t do so hot last year,” Swatloski said.

### Each women’s soccer team in the WIAC plays one awareness game in October. UWRF’s game is for endometrial cancer awareness.

“From our schedule at this point, going forward, Stevens Point is our biggest competitor.” The Falcons will also play in UW-Platteville’s suicide awareness game on Saturday, Oct. 12, at Platteville. The soccer team’s next home game will be the endometrial cancer awareness game at 2 p.m., on Saturday, Oct. 19.

## Recent results, upcoming events for UW-River Falls Falcon athletic teams

### Football

The Falcons fell to UW-Stevens Point 47-14. The team will play UW-Platteville at Homecoming on Oct. 12.

### Women’s Cross Country

The Falcons placed seventh at the UW-Eau Claire Blugold Invitational on Oct. 4

### Women’s Golf

The Falcons placed sixth at the WIAC Championships on Oct. 4-6.

### Volleyball

The Falcons fell to UW-Oshkosh 3-2 and to UW-White-water 3-0. The team will compete at the UW-Eau Claire tournament Oct. 11-12.

### Men’s Cross Country

The Falcons placed 15th at the UW-Eau Clair Blugold Invitational on Oct. 4

### Women’s Tennis

The Falcons fell to UW-La Crosse 9-0 in a match on Oct. 5. The team played a match against UW-Stout on Oct. 10. It will face UW-Whitewater in its next match on Oct. 19.



LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH

FALCON FOOTBALL

HOME VS UW-PLATTEVILLE

1:00 PM KICKOFF

12:35 PREGAME



# Changing season ushers in new activities

Jack Tuthill

Columnist

green, orange, yellow and red on the trees above. Fall is finally upon us.

The season tends to bring good spirits from students for a variety of reasons. Maybe it is the realization that one month of school is in the bag. Perhaps Halloween brings out the kid inside of us. I am sure the upcoming hunting season has some especially enthused.

Personally, I enjoy the colors, pumpkin spiced lattes, sweat-shirt weather, ghost stories, corn mazes and the hayrides.

Students should take advantage of the beautiful scenery before midterms steal their social life for the next couple of weeks. Luckily there are many great local options for fall thrill seekers. Here are my five favorite fall activities to sink your teeth into.



Jack Tuthill/Student Voice  
**The overhangs and ridges on many trails offer excellent views of forests undergoing the change from summer to fall.**

- 1) Carve a pumpkin while watching a scary movie.  
I know what you are thinking, “It’s not Halloween yet.”  
No it is not, but when Halloween rolls around you may not have the time to do such an activity. You are never too old to carve a pumpkin; it is relaxing, grimy amusement. Bake the pumpkin seeds while you are at it.

Need suggestions for which films to watch? “The Nightmare Before Christmas” is the perfect pumpkin carving film.

Looking for something a little more terrifying? Try “The Shining,” “28 Days Later” or “Paranormal Activity.” Also you can never go wrong with reruns of “The Walking Dead” as an option

- 2) Make a fall meal.  
Fall food is about as good as it gets. How does chicken dumpling soup, a pumpkin spiced latte and a piece of pumpkin pie sound? If you are craving something heartier then try chili, mashed potatoes, or homemade macaroni and cheese.

Apple crisp is a great alternative to pumpkin pie. Perhaps you can pick the apples yourself at an apple orchard. Apple picking is actually quite enjoyable. There is an art to plucking the ripest and tastiest apples. The terrific Afton Apple Orchard in Hastings, Minn., is a short drive away.

- 3) Visit a corn maze, hayride and pumpkin patch.  
Usually these three wonderfully youthful activities can be accomplished in one visit. These events are often called “fall festivals.” It is not required to have children in order to attend a fall festival, despite popular belief.  
Bring your favorite man or woman and take a dive into the corn-pit or try some



Jack Tuthill/Student Voice  
**Students can enjoy nature walks on some of the many trails around River Falls, as well as the surrounding area such as Oberg Mountain on the north shore which is picuted above. The trails provide a unique view of the leaves changing color in the fall season.**

- authentic pumpkin butter.
- Fall festivals are a great opportunity to see some colors, eat some good food and take in a different culture.
- The Twin Cities Harvest Festival in Brooklyn Park is among the best in Minnesota, and White Pine Berry Farm takes the cake in River Falls.
- There are dozens of pumpkin patches and corn mazes in the area. They are fun, cheap, easily accessible and perfect for a date.
- 4) Visit a haunted house or trail.  
Haunted trails and houses are best visited in large groups. The best haunted trails will have numerous attractions. The Dead End Hayride in Wyoming, Minn., offers a haunted hayride, corn maze and asylum. The drive is under an hour and well worth the trip.  
Do not expect to pee your pants at these trails, but do expect to jump. Screams are encouraged.
  - 5) Take a trip.

Jack Tuthill is from Thief River Falls, Minn. He is a journalism major, with a Professional Writing minor. He is happily engaged to an Emotional and Behavioral Educational Assistant. He loves music, film, books, sports, travel, food and cat Charlie.

# Tutor’s credibility ruined by embarrassing occurence

Tyler Smith

Columnist

For some time, the urge to write an article about being a Writing Center tutor has haunted me. There are loads of stories that I could use to further embarrass myself, but at what cost?

More than likely I would be putting myself in danger by doing so because my boss is from down South, and it is a pretty good bet that she knows how to hunt wild animals.

What chance would a guy in a wheelchair have against her?

Needless to say, my boss would not do any such thing, but she might say, “So, yeah. We are going to have to let you go. You know, like the way of the T. rex.”

And because my veins are running with a few bad genes from the gene-pool, it would take me at least 10 minutes to figure out what she meant by this comment, but eventually it would hit. “You are gone. You are extinct. No one will know you ever existed, except if they dig you up.”

Potentially I would take offense over this comment because I would resent being compared to a T. rex. Sure, we probably have the same mental capacities, each of us weighs five to seven tons, and we both come running when we smell food.

I do not take any issues with these similarities because ultimately they are, more or less, true.

However, I would resent being compared to a T. rex because I do not have flailing baby arms that are basically useless appendages. My arms are fairly strong. I am pretty confident that I could beat a T. rex in an arm-wrestling contest, if I was not eaten and digested before the match-up.

The point that needs to be made is about credibility. Cred-

ibility, in the professional world, is difficult to measure. There are hardly any criteria to judge it upon. Does time spent crafting your skill, knowledge, and specialization of a topic make you credible?

In short, yes, but there are plenty more defining elements that can be ascribed to credibility.

Not breaching a confidentiality agreement after signing it would be considered credible; something that has to be done in order to become a tutor because a tutor cannot share his or her experiences having to deal with persons helped in the Writing Center.

Pursuing your life’s passion could also be considered credible because people do not always follow their hearts. Sometimes it is daunting to follow a road that has never been taken before.

The point is that credibility takes time to build up. One could spend the better portion of their life educating them self in the ways of the world, going to secondary school, then attending university to obtain a degree, and perhaps even do the impossible and aim for a graduate degree.

A person could literally spend their lifetime gaining credibility amongst their friends, family and coworkers; with one false swoop, all that credibility could be bashed against the rocks. Such was the case for me just a few weeks ago.

As hinted at before, I am a tutor in the Writing Center. I help individuals that want to better their understanding of writing academic papers. The job has its perks; I get to help people and make a difference in their lives, get to learn about new topics everyday and learn how to better my own writing.

When I first started out in the practicum class, I was more

nervous than a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs. Every session that I had felt like one of those rocking chairs had leaned back and crushed my tail.

By and by I did manage to get some confidence and credibility throughout the class, and even managed to secure a job as a tutor. Doing so was hard knocks. Every day I tried to better myself while in there and tried to gain some credibility.

When the new practicum class this semester started showing up in the writing center, I wanted to part with them some of my advice so that they could get along better than I had.

That’s when my credibility as a tutor went the way of the T. rex.

**Do not live your life aiming to increase your credibility just to increase your cedibility, because ulitimately there is a chance that a fart could ruin everything.**

As I was trying to give advice to a new practicum student, a loud noise echoed throughout the room. At first I thought a gunshot had sounded off, but soon I realized that it was not.

Soon I realized that the sound that I had thought had been a gunshot was actually an air-biscuit, which is also referred to as an old-fashioned toot, fart or foghorn.

All my credibility as a tutor went extinct; I’d farted in front of someone while on the job. No chance of it ever being recovered.

Perhaps the old saying applies here as it does anywhere else. “When one door closes, another opens.” Perhaps my credibility as a tutor died, but perhaps by credibility as a toot-or lives.

Do not live your life aiming to increase your credibility just to increase your credibility, because ultimately there is the chance that a fart could ruin everything.

# ‘Gravity’ entertains moviegoers, leaves little space for improvement

Ryan Funes

Reviewer

“Gravity” has fallen into theaters and manages to deliver to movie audiences in about every way I can think of.

Engineer Ryan Stone (Sandra Bullock) looked forward to going into space to be an engineer, looking down upon the Earth and gazing in glory at the big blue globe. Her superior Matt Kowalski (George Clooney) knows the feeling, but this trip may prove to be the last for everyone involved.

Debris from a destroyed space station collides with theirs and destroys everything, except these two. With oxygen depleting and the bleakness of space to face, Stone and Kowalski will need to navigate risky territory as they try to find a way back home, lest they succumb to the deep, black abyss.

Before seeing “Gravity,” I was at a bit of a conflict. I was familiar with the director, Alfonso Cuaron, having seen his adaptation of “Great Expectations” back in high school, which starred Ethan Hawke and Gwyneth Paltrow. It was not good to say the least, and it made for an even less enjoyable experience when I had to lie about the “good parts” and “symbolism” in that film.

I was wary of this guy before, but that could not keep me

from having “Gravity” pull me in, as I heard many people liked it already. So, I gave it a look, and I must say, I have not seen a better redemption in a filmmaker for quite a while; “Gravity” was just plain great across the board.

The big thing that surprised me about “Gravity” is how much it made me feel down to my stomach just watching all of the film’s events in space. The characters are sucked into vacuums and tossed around space like ragdolls, to the sound of silence at many points in the film.

Moments like those made me and many others in the theatre feel agoraphobic, lonely and even a little dreadful as we watched. The atmosphere the film sets up is amazingly well done and played with great realism and humanity, making it into a truly frightening and beautiful experience.

Speaking of beautiful, “Gravity” is just that. The movie is surprisingly well directed, taking advantage of the rotations of the Earth to cast beautiful lights and bleak shadows on the actors and set. Every shot out in space gives a grand feeling of awe, like that of actually being in space itself. However, there are also smaller scenes that symbolize rebirth, death and human triumph and feel relatively reminiscent of “2011: A Space Odyssey.”

Like that film, the music compliments the setting and events of “Gravity” well, as it alternates between both quiet

and loud scenes, which amp up the intensity. The acting, like the music, also was very on cue. I was very surprised by Bullock’s strong yet vulnerable performance and by Clooney’s role as the lighthearted and reassuring Kowalski. Both actors carry the movie well and in the end make it.

While there is a lot of praise I can give for the film, the only drawback to it I can find is that it can feel a bit boring during some parts. Sure, the film only clocks at an hour and 30 minutes, but some parts felt so slow that I was hearing a snore halfway through the movie. This, however, is only a simple warning to some moviegoers that should not prevent you from seeing the film.

“Gravity” is a wonderfully good film that captures the spacewalking experience in its entire thrill and existential terror and it will certainly go down as one of the best films of this year. So for moviegoers, go see “Gravity” and get sucked in.



Ryan is a lover of all things movie, TV, video games and stories and wants to become a television writer someday. In his spare time he enjoys hanging out with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds.