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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

November 22, 2013

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Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Some students examine a piece of art on sale at the Annual Art Scholarship Sale, which has been held for more than 20 years and provides an opportunity for students to learn how to price and sell their artwork.

Art Sale provides opportunity for students

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From ceramics and fibers, to glass blown items, paintings and more, the Annual Art Scholarship Sale has taken place on the UW-River Falls campus. Original handmade artwork by both art and non-art major students, faculty, alumni and community members will be available for purchase. Artists get 65 percent of the proceeds when a piece sells, which essentially covers the cost of materials used. The remaining proceeds are divided into 20 percent for

scholarships for the next academic year, 10 percent for the student group Art Society and 5 percent for a visiting artist fund.

Academic Department Associate Susan Zimmer explained that the sale has provided scholarships through the art department. For the 2012-13 academic year, \$2,400 (four at \$500 and one at 400) was dispersed. In 2011-12, \$2,000 (four at \$500), 2010-11, \$2,000 (four at \$500), and during the 2009-10 academic year, \$3,600 (one at \$1,000, three at \$700 and one at \$500) was awarded.

The sale began on Wednesday, Nov. 20 and goes through Wednesday, Dec. 11. Sale hours are Monday

through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and on Sundays from 2-4 p.m. The sale is closed for the Thanksgiving holiday from Nov. 27 through Dec. 1.

The sale is specially run and worked by students and members of the Art Society on campus who volunteer their time. Art Society co-presidents Alicia Gensch and Amanda Luke were unavailable for comment, but the Art Society has used its share of the money to send students to Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design (SOFA) in Chicago each year. They have also funded visiting artists and provided money to student members who are attending national conferences

in their fields of study each year, according to Zimmer.

Trista Schrader is a senior studying broad area art at UWRF. She was preparing to sell some of her art, and figuring out how to price the items. Schrader said that she was not planning on applying for any of the scholarships.

“It’s a good way to get my name known and make a little money with pieces that sell,” Schrader said. “I’m do-

ing it to gain knowledge and experience about selling art.”

According to Kaylee Spencer, art department chair, artists pick out and price their own art as they see fit. It is probably the most difficult part of their process of getting things ready. With hundreds of objects sold, students re-stock and remove some items every couple of days depending on how much of an item sells, or does not sell.

Lots of faculty, staff, and community members come in and buy what they like, but they also like to know who the artist is, so they will “track” the artist’s career.

“Some of the collectors pick out things and recognize

that the person has the potential to be a well-known and collectable artist, they like to watch the artist grow and have pieces of their artwork,” Spencer said.

As a small event that signals that holiday shopping is around the corner, the event is big within the art department and on campus. People on campus and in the community always ask about the sale and when it is, according to Spencer.

“This sale is an opportunity for the campus and community to see the skill of the art students at UW-River Falls,” Zimmer said. “Each piece is handmade and usually takes several days to complete.”



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Collections of glassblowing pieces and tapestries are collected in the gallery room in KFA. The majority of the money earned at the Annual Scholarship Art Sale goes directly to the artist, with the remaining money is divided up among scholarship funds, the Art Society funds and a visiting artist fund.

Students take first place in national competition

Students from UW-River Falls took top honors in two competitions at the 2013 Joint Annual Meeting of the American Society of Agronomy, the Crop Science Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America.

The competitions were part of the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences (SASES) program held in conjunction with the annual meeting, Nov. 3 -6, in Tampa, Fla.

More than 250 students from universities across the country participated in the SASES program. Ten students participated in the undergraduate research oral presentation contest; four of them were from UWRF. Jabez Meulemans, a senior environmental science major from Hudson, Wis., took first place with his presentation titled, “Implications of Land-Use Change on Soil Organic Carbon and Sequestration Opportunities in Western Wisconsin.” Holly Dolliver, associate professor of Geology and Soil Science, co-authored Meulemans’ presentation.

“All of our research students invested a significant amount of time into their projects and gained valuable field experiences and learned important skills beyond what we can do in a classroom setting,” Dolliver said. “They represented UWRF very well and demonstrated that we can compete with major research institutions.”

In the SASES Club Poster Competition, the student organizations from each campus were invited to prepare posters featuring a club activity or project from the past year. The UWRF Crops and Soils Club poster, “Educating Thousands of Young Gardeners and Potential Crop and Soil Science Program Recruits in the St. Croix Valley Region of Wisconsin,” was awarded first place in the competition.

The poster described the club’s collaboration with the YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson to produce, harvest and deliver more than 1,000 pumpkins for an event that brought

area children to the camp where they could “pick” a pumpkin from the restructured field, paint it and take it home. The club poster was co-authored by Jennifer Kuffel, a sophomore in dairy science from Oostburg, Wis., and Danielle Dykes, a sophomore from Almond, Wis., majoring in agricultural business. Veronica Justen, assistant professor of crop science, and Bill Anderson, professor of agronomy, were advisors on the project.

In addition to those mentioned above, five other UWRF students participated in the SASES program, including Caleb Riedeman, Brandon, Wis.; Nicolette Broeske, Dorchester, Wis.; Jordan Wiersma, Walters, Minn.; Austin Haag, Deerfield, Wis.; and Jenna Lisowe, Oconto Falls, Wis. Riedeman, Broeske and Wiersma participated in the undergraduate research oral presentation competition along with Meulemans; Haag, Lisowe and Dykes competed in the undergraduate research poster competition.

Anderson praised the student’s performance, “I could not be prouder of our placements in the contests this year. For the first time, we placed first in the Club Poster contest. The student authors’ are evaluated by a panel of professional crop and soil scientists in terms of their presentation abilities, the uniqueness of their project, the quality of the prepared poster, its organization and flow, as well as the students’ ability to respond to the evaluators’ questions.”

In the professional sessions, Dolliver gave a presentation, “Transformation From Traditional Lecture-Lab to An Integrated Studio-Hybrid Course Format – Student Performance, Feedback, and Lessons Learned.”

Dolliver described her success in transitioning an upper-level geomorphology course to an integrated studio-hybrid format, where students are responsible for all content and background material outside of class via online lecture, and all class time is devoted to working on activities, projects and field exercises. The format change resulted in a significant improvement in student performance.

Photo by University Communications
L-R: Danielle Dykes, Caleb Riedeman, Jordan Wiersma, Austin Haag, Jenna Lisowe, Nicolette Broeske, Bill Anderson, Jennifer Kuffel, Jabez Meulemans and Holly Dolliver.



UW-River Falls students win top honors in livestock contest

A team of students from UW-River Falls took first place in the Holstein class of the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Invitational Dairy Judging Contest Nov. 10, in Louisville, Ky. Nineteen teams from campuses across the country participated in the contest.

The first place UWRF team included Tim Borgardt of Oshkosh, Wis., Joshua Butler of Watertown, Wis., Matt Linehan of River Falls, and Maria Pieper of New Prague, Minn. Pieper, Butler and Borgardt are dairy science majors, and Linehan is studying agricultural business.

Holsteins were only one class in the dairy judging competition; other classes included Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Guernsey and Jersey cattle. There were 48 competitors in the individual competitions where Linehan took fourth in the Holstein contest; Pieper took sixth place in the Guernsey contest, and Butler placed 10th in the Brown Swiss competition. The team placed

ninth in the Overall Competition.

The team was coached by UWRF dairy science Professor Steve Kelm.

“The team was excited to do well at the contest,” Kelm said. “They were very consistent with placing throughout the contest and, in fact, all four members had identical placings for the Holstein classes. The team is already talking about spring practices to continue to improve for next year’s contests.”

NAILE is the world’s largest all-breed, pure-bred livestock exposition with 10 different species of livestock in the exposition. This was the 40th annual NAILE. The expo runs for two weeks and draws 200,000 visitors and exhibitors.

Photo by University Communications
L-R: Professor Steve Kelm, Joshua Butler, Tim Borgardt, Matt Linehan and Maria Pieper, Holstein USA Representative.



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Applications are now
available outside 304 North
Hall. Applications for all
positions are due on Tuesday,
Nov. 26.

News briefs: UW-River Falls community chorus hosts collaborative concert

UWRF Community Chorus and the Fairbault Lakelanders Barbershop Chorus will present a collaborative concert, “A Community Affair,” at 3 p.m., on Nov. 24, in the Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The public is invited to attend.

The UWRF Community Chorus, directed by Camilla Horne, associate lecturer of music, is truly an authentic representation of “community.” Several community members sing in the chorus including the former Dean of the College of Arts and Science Gordon Hedahl; Animal and Food Science Professor Dennis Cooper; several UWRF alumni, including drummer Joel Forthun, class of 1982; a woman who is blind; a woman who has Parkinson’s disease and formerly sang with the Tremble Clefs - a singing group in Arizona for people with Parkinson’s disease; Ellie Richards, the former River Falls’ mayor’s wife and school teacher; plus current UWRF students.

The Lakelanders’ Barbershop Chorus is part of the Barbershop Harmony Society, historically known as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA). The SPEBSQSA was founded in 1938 and today consists of more than 800 chapters in seventeen districts in the U.S. and Canada. The Faribault chapter was chartered in 1954 as a part of the Southwest Division of the Land ‘O’ Lakes District, and currently has a membership of 24 men.

Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$2 for seniors (62 years and older), \$1 for children age 13 to 18, children age 12 and under are free. The concert is free for UWRF students with ID. For more information, call the UWRF Music Department at 425-3183.

Art major to perform musical art performance

Phillip King will be presenting his artwork in the form of a musical performance on Monday, Dec. 16, in the Abbott Concert Hall in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

King, an art major at UWRF from Cottage Grove, Minn., has created glass percussion instruments for this event which will be used in a musical performance featuring an accompanying band including a guitarist and bass player. Each glass instrument has been fabricated specifically for this event.

King has been exploring the potential glass has to offer as an artistic medium when it is used to create sounds in music. For this event he has specifically created a glass drum set which will be played during the performance. The performance focuses on the sounds that each percussive instrument produces when played.

“Expressing the emotions I feel when I hear sound is my focus as an artist. My current approach involves making glass forms that produce unique sounds,” King said.

The event will open doors at 7 p.m., and the performance will start at 7:30 p.m. For further information contact King at 612-308-9436 or at phillip.king@my.uwrf.edu. This event is free and open to the public.

Brian Gym workshop offered on campus

Educators in public or private Montessori schools can gain professional knowledge and skills through a series of one-day workshops offered by UWRF. The courses are approved by the American Montessori Society (AMS) and taught by nationally recognized Montessori educators.

Each workshop covers a separate topic of interest to both practicing teachers and those interested in learning more about Montessori education. The next workshop, “Brain Gym Introduction” is from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., on Friday, Dec. 13, at the Best Western Plus Campus Inn in River Falls.

The presenter is Cindy Goldade, a licensed Brain Gym instructor, AMI-credentialed Montessori early childhood teacher, international faculty member and director of operations for the Educational Kinesiology Foundation, and managing editor of their publication, Brain Gym Global Observer.

The Brain Gym program is a movement-based, educational model addressing the physical skills of learning. These simple movements have been shown to enhance learning as they increase focus, augment creativity, allow one to become grounded and centered, and improve sensorial processing. At this workshop, individuals will experience the movements and learn how to implement them in their classrooms or workplace. Occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech and language pathologists, counselors and educators may all benefit from the seminar.

Cost for each workshop is \$85, which includes the full-day of instruction, lunch, parking, materials and participation documentation. Registration is required and is available online at go.uwrf.edu/Montessori. Participants will earn six continuing education credits from AMS for each course and may earn one or two graduate credits with additional tuition and coursework outside of class. For information on graduate credit, contact Linda Jacobson at 228-5607 or email linda.r.jacobson@uwrf.edu.

UWRF provides lifelong learners with academic, professional development and enrichment programs that are practical, flexible, convenient and affordable. A complete list of courses, course descriptions and online registration information is available at <http://www.uwrf.edu/ContinuingEducation/> or can be obtained by calling at 425-3256, 228-5607 or emailing outreach@uwrf.edu.

New parking policies set in motion

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The UW-River Falls Parking Department is looking into making future changes to the prices of parking citations on campus, as well as charging for summer parking permits.

The Parking Department is researching citation amounts in order to keep consistent with the City of River Falls and other UW schools. Wendy Penny, the operations program associate for the UWRF Police Department and Parking, said that there has been talk about the possibility of increasing prices of citations on campus.

Christian Rhinevault, a freshman at UWRF, has mixed feelings about the possibility of a price increase.

“I don’t necessarily think that students are going to be more careful about where they park and how much they feed the meter if the price of parking tickets goes up,” Rhinevault said. “I think they are trying to make some extra money off of it, and it might just encourage more students to walk to places instead of drive if possible.”

Any change in citation amounts or escalation fees

would become effective in the fall of 2014.

“A \$5 increase doesn’t sound like much right now, but if students get a lot of citations it could start to add up, and people might start watching where they park and for how long,” Rhinevault said.

The talk of increased parking citations is not the only thing that is being discussed by the Parking Department on campus.

“Parking permits will be required in student lots beginning summer of 2014,” Penny said. “The cost of the permit would be \$2 per day, and students, employees and visitors will have the ability to purchase them online.”

Students will be able to purchase permits for the academic year that do not expire until Aug. 31, or can purchase permits just for the summer. Both of these permits would be valid in any student permit space.

Lauren Klossner, a student at UWRF, is considering commuting for summer classes in 2014.

“I’m not sure if I will save money or not by purchasing a summer parking permit, or paying the meters on campus,” Klossner said. “I guess



Desi Danforth/Student Voice

Students paying for parking in the North hall parking lot. Changes to parking, such as having to pay during the summer and on breaks, could become effective in the fall of 2014. Citation prices may be increasing as well.

I will have to wait and see.”

The possibility of charging for permits to park in student permit spaces during breaks such as J-term and spring break is also being discussed.

“I think the summer parking permits is a good move on the Parking Department’s

behalf and could benefit students as well,” Klossner said. “If students just buy the permits then they don’t have to worry about how many quarters to feed the meter and having to stress over getting parking tickets.”

The Parking Department

urges students to remember that these permits are non-transferrable and should not be given to anyone else to use. The use of a parking permit by anyone other than the registered purchaser will result in a fine, revocation, confiscation and possibly

prosecution for theft under Wisconsin State Statutes.

More detailed information about the possible parking citation price increase and summer parking permits will be available at uwrf.edu/parking this coming spring.

UWRF ranks near bottom of best for vets

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UW-River Falls ranked 82 out of 86 in the “Best for Vets” four-year schools by Military Times.

Military Times is not a United States Government site, but is owned by the Gannett Company that also owns local stations like KARE-TV and USA Today. They are an independent source for news and information for the Military Times community.

According to the Military Times website, a survey was sent out to hundreds of schools, comprising of 150 questions that delved into school operations in unprecedented detail. Six hundred

schools between four-year, online and two-year schools answered the survey. The information gathered from the survey showed that more schools are tracking the academic success of their military and veteran students, but a majority of schools still do not.

“The survey pretty much asked if we had a one stop shop for veterans to go, like a veteran’s club,” said Sharon Seidl from the Veteran Services Office at UWRF. Seidl started her position with Veteran Services this past July.

“Myself and Blake Fry filled out the survey,” she said.

The survey evaluated sta-

tistics commonly used to track student success and academic quality, including student loan default rates, retention and graduation rates and student-faculty ratio.

“We track semesters to see if students are struggling,” Seidl said. “I haven’t been here for a spring semester, so I’m not sure if we track graduation rates.”

Another factor evaluated by Military Times was the training offered to faculty and staff on military issues, including the transition from military to civilian life, post-traumatic stress and brain injuries. UWRF faculty and staff have received no training.

“It’s been done in the past,” Seidl said when asked if UWRF trains faculty and staff on how to handle veteran students. “I’m looking at bringing it back for the next school year.”

The University of Nebraska, Rutgers and the University of Southern Florida all ranked in the top 10 for the “Best for Vets” survey, because they met almost all of the survey’s criteria for an exceptional school for veterans, including faculty and staff training.

“We should just be excited that three Wisconsin schools made the rankings,” said Seidl. “I don’t think any state has been represented this

well with veteran services.”

UWRF’s Veteran Service Office offers several helpful resources on campus, including assisting students in receiving their requested educational benefits, raising awareness of campus resources available to students and also raising awareness of federal and state resources available to veterans, according to the UWRF website.

What makes UWRF’s Veteran Services Office unique is that all employees are military veterans. “Somebody is always there to talk, especially Sharon,” said UWRF student and veteran Bryan Carlson. “All the other schools I have been to are not always

there for you.”

The mission statement of the Veteran Services Office is to ensure student veterans, reservists, National Guard, active duty and family members receive university support in achieving academic success

Although UWRF has plenty of room for growth in its services for veterans, Seidl stressed how important it is for student veterans to have a place to go to.


“Not every Wisconsin school has a place for veterans to go.”

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Student Senate makes changes for college senators

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The next time students apply for a college representative position within Student Senate, there will be an additional duty they will need to fulfill if elected.

Senate recently passed an amendment to change the by-law duties of college representatives and diversity senators. Senate Vice President Tony Sumnicht said that the amendment would require these positions to submit an application for a specific committee that would fall under those positions’ scope of concern.

“The committees that the senators will be applying for are very important committees for students to have a voice on,” Sumnicht said.

Currently, senators representing colleges or diversity must serve on at least one committee, and there are no restrictions on which committees they can choose. Of course, many senators choose to serve on more than one committee.

Starting next year, though, the options for committees will be limited to a short list of committees that are most important to what senators are representing. If senators want to apply for a second or third committee after applying for a required committee,

they would still be free to do that.

Sumnicht said that senators would need to learn to avoid being spread too thin by joining too many committees.

“I think it will be up to the person elected to these positions next year to manage their time,” Sumnicht said. “The motion doesn’t take effect until the next session, so they will know the duties before taking office.”

Matthew Stewart is the college representative for the College of Arts and Sciences and when the motion was brought up in Senate he was initially opposed, because he was already busy enough with his existing committees and meetings.

However, after the amendment was changed to say the changes wouldn’t go into effect until next year, Stewart switched his position from opposed to in favor.

“Now, the people applying to be college representatives will go into it knowing they have to serve on certain committees,” Stewart said.

The diversity senator would also have an additional duty to apply to either the University Diversity and Inclusivity Committee or Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, and the athletic senator would need to serve as a member of the Faculty Senate University Athletic

Committee.

Sumnicht said that Shared Governance, which approves appointments to all campus committees, would still have the power to choose more qualified applicants over the college representatives, if applicable. The college representatives are only required to apply to be on the committees, but Sumnicht said that the predetermined committees would add to representatives’ experience.

“I think it will allow these senators to be more involved and knowledgeable about topics that they should be concerned about,” Sumnicht said.

Hannah Klingfus, the college representative for the College of Education and Professional Studies, agreed with Sumnicht that the predetermined committees will be useful for college representatives.

“I think it’s a good idea because sometimes as a college representative there isn’t much set forth for you to do for your college,” Klingfus said. “A committee related to your Senate position gives you an outlet to make a difference.”

EDITORIAL

Student Life helps Phillips concert exceed expectations

A lot of hard work went into getting Phillip Phillips on campus for his concert last weekend and it turned out to be a huge success.

The Phillips concert was the most attended concert in the history of the UW-River Falls campus, according to Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd.

Just to get Phillips back after he could not make it for Finals Fest last semester, and work with his schedule to find a time to work for both sides was a big challenge by itself. The date chosen worked perfectly as not much was happening on campus that day. It ended up being a great thing for students to go out and get away from schoolwork for a couple hours as the grind of the end of the semester is here. We want to commend everyone involved, especially Student Life on a job well done.

The buzz around campus really caught fire the last couple weeks before the concert. Giant boards were put up all over campus, people began sharing the Facebook events from Student Life and Student Senate. Students all over were talking about it.

It all started with the participation of Senate to promote its Meet the Senate event and combine that with the concert. Meet the Senate ended up drawing a lot more people then anyone expected. More than 350 students attended the event. Senate gave out great prizes with the help of Student Life, and also had free food and drinks. It was encouraging to see Senate have that big of an event and be able to get that kind of interaction with the student body. It would be great to see them continue to make an impact and have attendance like that for all their events.

The concert itself went flawlessly. Knowles was set up fantastically, with everything from the stage, technical aspects, and having plenty of room for everyone at the concert to have a great view and be able to enjoy the concert. DUGAS started things off nice and then Phillips lived up to expectations and put on a great performance.

It is not by accident that everything went so smoothly. Countless hours of planning went into making this happen. If you enjoyed the concert we would encourage you to show appreciation for a job well done and also check out future events put on by Student Life. It really does a lot make campus life fun and exciting by working hard to put on events and many students do not realize how much work goes into everything they do.

We hope in the future more great events and success can come for Senate and Student Life. We also hope students will continue to go to the events and enjoy themselves as that is part of what the college experience is all about and without the participation like last weekend's events then they would not be possible.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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

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

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

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

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

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



Hannah Timm/Student Voice

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students reminded to represent campus positively

We need to talk. Recently a student (or students) in Grimm Hall hung a confederate flag in their window. I see this every day on my way to work. Though this may seem like an isolated instant, there are confederate flags in other dorms on campus. It bothers me to see these flags, but it occurred to me that maybe we have different interpretations of what this flag means.

After asking around, I understand that some may think the confederate flag can be something personal or individual. Some might say it is a southern pride flag, a rural pride flag, or an "I love the Dukes of Hazard" flag.

Unfortunately though, these alternatives are not what may be perceived by most people when they see the flag. A 2011 Pew Research Center Report stated that only 9 percent of Americans view the flag positively and those with college educations are less likely to view the flag positively. So, despite your own personal feelings, you cannot simply change the meaning of this well-known object.

Because of our country's history, the confederate flag symbolizes slavery and racism. You do not get to change that. You can pretend, in the privacy of your own room, that the confederate flag stands for your rebellious personality, but when you put that flag on display for everyone to see, what we see is "racist."

The confederate flag has a long history, including associations with the KKK. No amount of personal belief can change the flag's history and what it stands for. Trying to change the flag's meaning by explaining it as a symbol for something else is wrong. I will not argue with you about this. It is a fact. No amount of personal testimony will change the history of the flag or the views that it symbolizes.

I am sorry to be so blunt, but we are in college and we all need to think about what we do and how we represent ourselves and our community.

If you do not want to be thought of as a racist, do not put up a confederate flag.

Sean Eberle and Elise Lundequam
Students

Senate Corner:
Senate passes major changes at meeting

Nick Vanden Heuvel
Ethics Chair

Senate has many interesting updates for the week. In the long session that we held on Tuesday we approved many major changes.

The first was a change to the Sport Club allocable fee funding process. Sport Clubs budgets will now be managed by Campus Recreation. This will allow us to streamline the process for Sport Clubs.

The second major change that we updated was Allocated Fees Appropriations Board's (AFAB) documents. The updated AFAB documents are an attempt to make sure that the processes we use to allocate funding run much smoother than they have in the past. The new bylaws and policy are now in effect and we hope that this ushers in a new beginning for the way that budgets are done.

The last thing that we managed to accomplish in our session was passing updates to the implementation plan. This is massive because it is our main government document. These

updates help us govern ourselves better and serve you.

Senate would like to thank the students who came to the meet the senate event. We were utterly surprised at the turnout. Due to the large turnout, we would like to apologize for those who were not able to receive food at the event. We would also like to thank the people on the Shared Government Committee and the Student Affairs and Academic Services Committee for their hard work at setting up the event. Another shout out goes out to Student Life for the wonderful prizes that were given out at the event. Again, thank you all for attending and we hope you all enjoyed the great food as well as the concert afterwards.

We are also still looking for people to join committees. We have many open seats on many different ones. They range across all majors and minors and are great opportunities to gain valuable experience. So if you are interested please go on to Orgsync and apply or visit the Senate office and ask us about the open positions. Hope to you see you soon.



Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com

Do you have something to say?
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editor@uwrfvoice.com



Minimalist running shoes pose injury threat

Hannah Timm
Columnist

Huaraches, Vibram Bikilas and Altras: to most people, these words are gibberish; but to a minimalist runner, these types of shoes are revered. Unfortunately, many runners who wear these thin-soled shoes are unaware of the associated dangers.

An obsession has taken over the entire running community. Companies advertise shoes that make feet feel barefoot. Runners who once swore by their 12-ounce motion-control trainers lace up 5-ounce shoes with minimal or no support and the non-runners are left confused, astounded, or disgusted when they see people run past with “toe shoes” or no shoes. Perhaps some runners are trying to be unique or stylish. Perhaps some believe that minimalist shoes allow them to run faster. However, the primary concern should not be about style or speed, rather runners should be concerned with safety and health issues related to minimalist shoes. In the Runner’s World article, “Is Less More?” Bob Parks analyzes the effectiveness of using minimalist running shoes. He argues that shoes that imitate barefoot running are beneficial to runners because they not only improve running form, but also decrease the risk of injury. Although Parks accurately describes the benefits, not all people who run should try running in minimalist running shoes.

Tracing back through running history, one would find that minimalist shoes are not a new concept. Pheidippides, a Greek soldier, would have been wearing light-weight sandals with minimal support when he ran 26.2 miles in 490B.C.,

establishing the marathon as a popular running event. Later, Olympic athletes ran in absence of any form of shoes. In fact, as Bob Parks mentioned in his article, cushioned and support-



Hannah Timm/Student Voice

ive shoes were virtually non-existent before the 1970s. If our ancestors were able to run successfully and injury-free without extra cushioning and support, one would believe that people today could run in minimalist shoes and not fear for injury. However, modern runners have become accustomed to wearing a supportive shoe which makes the transi-

tion from supportive to minimalist shoes dangerous. Shoes simulating barefoot running position a runner’s heel much closer to the ground than traditional, supportive shoes do. Lowered heels force lower leg muscles act as springs to replace cushioning that the runner is lacking in shoes. As a result, minimalist runners may suffer from a wide variety of lower leg injuries such as Achilles tendonitis or plantar fasciitis. Runners who argue that running in barefoot shoes force them to run on their forefoot instead of heel-strike are partially correct as many people start off running on their toes. However, maintaining a forefoot-strike for the duration of a long run takes a considerable amount of discipline since many runners will revert to their original, heel-striking form after they tire from the first few miles of their run. While many runners believe that running only in minimalist shoes will turn them into a more efficient athlete, they have to keep in mind that barefoot running is only beneficial in moderation. Runners need to take transition time seriously, taking weeks or even months to fully transition to a healthy use of barefoot shoes and even then, the use of minimalist shoes should be limited. Over the past few years, runners have showed off minimalist running shoes, oblivious to dangers. In the future, uninformed minimalist runners will be showing off their injuries, and eventually returning to a more traditional and supportive running shoe.

Hannah Timm 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

What is your favorite Thanksgiving tradition?

Compiled by Desi Danforth



Tommy Thunte
Sophomore
“Playing football with my family before dinner.”



Paul Roemer
Sophomore
“The whole family coming over, and my aunt’s sweet potatoes.”



Taylor Purcelli
Freshman
“My aunt’s homemade oyster stew.”



Ruthie Towner
Senior
“Playing Settlers of Catan with the whole family.”



Elizabeth Lamb
Senior
“Going to my grandma’s and playing with cousins.”

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What is your favorite food for Thanksgiving?

Visit **uwrfvoice.com** to cast your vote!

UWRF Falcon athletic teams conclude fall seasons

Ben Lamers
benjamin.lamers@my.uwrf.edu

Football
The UW-River Falls football team came into the season with high expectations. After close losses to both St. John’s University and the University of St. Thomas, then ranked No. 2 in the country, the Falcons were in familiar territory at 0-2.
Against Simpson College, the team squandered a double digit lead in the fourth quarter, resulting in a 35-34 loss. The team would enter conference play without a win for the fourth year in a row.
After blowout losses at the hands of UW-Stevens Point, UW-Oshkosh and UW-Platteville, the Falcons faced the other teams near the bottom of the WIAC.
A narrow 13-6 loss at UW-Eau Claire was followed by an overtime loss to UW-La Crosse, in which the Falcons blew another late double digit lead. For its final home game, the team played rival UW-Stout, but dropped another close game 19-18.
After a total of four close losses, one of the Falcons’ play-by-play announcers Chris Liermann remarked that the Falcons simply have not learned how to win yet.
“It make take one, it might take a couple, but they still have to learn how to get one,” Liermann said.
The football team finished its season at No. 5 UW-White-water, again losing by a large margin. The loss capped off a season which saw the Falcons lose every game, conference and non-conference, for the first time since the WIAC began play in 1966.
The team, which played so many close games, only graduates seven seniors and will return many key players next season.

Men’s Cross Country
The men’s cross country team came into the season without some of its top runners from a year ago.
“The men’s team went into the season short handed having lost their number one and number two runner to transfer,” said Co-Head Coach Scott Sekelsky.
Because of this, the men’s team featured a very young core of runners, with only one senior running in the top seven. While the team’s talent was primarily with the younger runners, Sekelsky said that the importance of the seniors should not be overlooked.
“We had great senior leadership from our captain Der-



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
The Football team running out onto Ramer Field before a game this season. The team will only graduate seven seniors from this year’s team that competed in so many close games this season. One of the returners will be sophomore quarterback Ryan Kusilek who has started all but two games the last two seasons.

rek Pedersen as well as seniors Christian Kressin and Scott Jensen. They taught the young runners on the team how to go about the business of training and racing hard,” Sekelsky said.
The season had both its ups and downs for the team. An eighth place, out of 26 teams, finish at the Roy Griak Invitational, one of the nation’s largest races, was a high point. Conversely, the team finished in last place at the WIAC championships, a low point in the season.
However, the team ended the season on the up-swing at the regional meet.
“They ended on a great note by having six out of seven run personal best times at the regional meet where they placed a very respectable 15th out of 40 teams,” Sekelsky said.
The men’s cross country team will only lose one of its top seven runners to graduation, and return the core of its top runners.

Volleyball
The volleyball team began its season on a tear. It won eight of its first nine games, all played on the road. In fact, the volleyball team only played four of its 31 games in front of the home crowd.
The Falcons also featured a very young roster. Only two seniors and one junior were on the team this season. Despite having such a young team, the Falcons were still able to compile a respectable 16-15 record.
“We had very successful season considering we were such a young team. This team played hard every match and many players got some quality experiences,” said Head Coach Patti Ford.
The team’s marquee win came against then ranked No. 24 Stevens Point. The Falcons won 3-2, and are the last team to defeat the Pointers, who are currently in the Elite Eight in the NCAA tournament.
While the young team struggled down the stretch, Ford said this team is going places in the future.
“Experience is the teacher and if this team stays together the future looks very promising. I am excited to see how much we grow and develop in the off season,” Ford said. “This will be a very exciting team to watch in the future.”
The team will only lose the two seniors going into next year. Jean Theis, one of the two seniors, was named to the All-WIAC first team.

Golf
The women’s golf team also had a roller coaster type of season.
The team’s highest finish was a second place finish at the Border Battle, while its lowest was a 15th place finish at the Midwest Classic tournament.
The Falcons completed their season at the WIAC tournament where they placed sixth. Much like most other fall teams at UWRF, youth is a theme for the golf team as the team only had one senior on the squad.
Sophomore golfer Gillian McDonald was

named to the All-WIAC second team at the end of the season.
Soccer
The women’s soccer team began the season with a 2-1-1 conference record and a 6-7-1 overall record. However, four straight losses derailed a potential WIAC tournament appearance.
The future should be bright, though, for the team as it only has three seniors on the roster.
The team has already proven it can compete against some of the elite conference teams. When the team faced off against eventual conference champion and national qualifier Whitewater, it only lost by one goal.
The team will also return three of its four top scorers from this season in Alex Swatloski, Nina Abrahamson and Alyssa Manor.
Senior Anna Kouba was named to the All-WIAC team at the end of the season.

Tennis
The tennis team endured a bumpy season on its way to a 1-9 record and a sixth place finish in the WIAC tournament. The team’s lone win was a dominating 7-2 victory over rival Stout.
Continuing with the trend of youth for the fall sports teams, the tennis team featured no seniors on the squad. The team will, therefore, return a bevy of experienced tennis players.
Women’s Cross Country
The women’s cross country team enjoyed one of the best seasons in program history.
The team finished third at the WIAC championship, its highest ever at the meet. It also defeated six-time defending conference champion Eau Claire.
“Finishing just eight points out of second place at the conference meet to eventual national qualifier Stevens Point was a great accomplishment for the ladies,” Sekelsky said.
Another significant finish for the team was its ninth place finish, out of 29 teams, at the Roy Griak Invitational.
The Falcons finished 10th at the regional meet and missed out on qualifying for the national meet as a team, which was one of the goals at the beginning of the season. However, the season is not over for all of the Falcon runners.
Harris will be running at the national meet in Hanover, Ind., and is the first Falcon to qualify for the meet since 2008.
Despite falling just short of its goal, Sekelsky said the season was a definite success.
“While the women didn’t make the national meet as we had hoped it was still with out a doubt the best season for the women in UWRF history,” Sekelsky said.
The team will graduate eight seniors after this season, all of whom Sekelsky said were key contributors to this year’s successful team.
“We had a tremendous group of seniors that helped lead us to our best season ever,” Sekelsky said. “Because of the hard work and dedication of our seniors Amanda Rothbauer, Brittany Nordland, Hillary Geipel, Kaylee Nelsen, Chelsey Turner, Briana Berthiame and Anna Kehn we were able to turn the program around over the past four years.”



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Junior defender Kaitlyn Logan dribbles the ball in one of the soccer team’s matches. The team returns three of its top four scorers.

Tia Harris becomes third UWRF runner ever to qualify for nationals



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Tia Harris became the third Falcon to qualify for the NCAA national meet.

Two weeks after a fourth place conference finish, junior runner Tia Harris in sixth place at the Midwest Regional and punched her ticket to the NCAA national meet.
“Tia Harris had a breakout season and turned herself into one of the best runners in the conference. She is only the third Falcon ever to qualify for the national meet (male or female),” said Co-Head Coach Scott Sekelsky.
This season was only Harris’ second season running on the UW-River Falls team. Last season Harris was a middle of the pack runner, around the fifth or sixth runner, before ending the season as the team’s third runner.
At last season’s regional meet, Harris ran a then personal best time of 23:14, good enough for 60th at the meet. This year, she covered the 6k course in 22:07, her new personal best. The time is also the third best time in school history.

In addition to etching her name into the individual record books, Harris was a part of the most successful women’s cross country season in program history. The team finished third place in the WIAC, only eight points in back of nationally ranked Stevens Point. The team also had three runners named to All-WIAC teams. It was the first time UWRF had more than one runner, male or female, on the all conference teams.
In the last two meets, Harris has been named to both the All-WIAC first team, as well as the All-Region team. At nationals, Harris has the chance to add All-American to that list.
The last Falcon runner to qualify for nationals was Becca Jordahl, who qualified in both 2007 and 2008.
The national meet will be held on Saturday, Nov. 23, in Hanover, Ind.

This year, she covered the 6k course in 22:07, her new personal best. The time is also the third best time in school history.

Swimming and diving teams led by new coach

Ben Lamers
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Both the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams are back on schedule after a delayed start to the season. The teams were in danger of not being able to compete this season, before the hiring of Mike Bollinger as the head coach. Bollinger was hired on Sept. 25, and the teams’ first match was on Oct. 19. That did not give Bollinger much time to get to know his new group.

“There is going to be a little hesitation on both sides because I didn’t know them, and they didn’t know what kind of coach I was,” Bollinger said. “It was a good transition. There was a little bit of trust back and forth. I told the team that I want your trust that I can make you better, and the other way around too.”

Both teams compete in the same matches during the season, although the women’s team has had one more match. Because of this, both teams practice and travel together, something Bollinger said he likes about the group.

“The team definitely has a family atmosphere, which is the way I coached previously. So coming into that really helped,” Bollinger said.

While the season is still young, the women’s team has

competed seven times and the men six, Bollinger can already see immense improvements on both teams.

“I worked them really hard Wednesday and Thursday and didn’t give much of a break on Friday. Then we had an invite this weekend (Nov. 16) and even though they were tired and sore, they went in and posted season and lifetime best times,” Bollinger said.

The women’s team currently holds a 1-5 record, plus a third place finish at the Hamline Invitational.

“We might have only won one, but you can tell that we are a lot better than we were last year. The goal is still to beat Oshkosh at conference,” said senior swimmer Abby Dvorak.

While the results may not be there in the win-loss columns, Bollinger said some of the times in the pool are more impressive.

“School record wise, we have a shot at six or seven school records for both individual and relays,” Bollinger said. “I want them to work as hard as they can and see where they are at the end.”

The men’s team is currently 3-2, and also finished in third place at the Hamline Invitational. The men’s team has 16 athletes, but only four are upperclassmen, something junior captain David Zaske said he doesn’t mind.

“It’s kind of expected. That’s how it has been the last couple of years, there are few upperclassmen coming through. Hopefully we can build on it and not be in that position any longer,” Zaske said.

Bollinger added that the captains of the team were picked before he was hired, but said he couldn’t ask for a better group of leaders on both the men’s and women’s side.

“I think on the men’s side the two captains who were picked before I got here were great choices. On the women’s side our two captains have been plagued with injuries, but I’m surprised how much they have worked through them,” Bollinger said. “They have been pushing themselves really hard. Beyond that, everybody has been working really hard.”

Both the men’s and women’s team combined have a little over 30 athletes, a number which Bollinger said makes them one of the smaller team’s in the conference. However, he would like to see the numbers grow in the coming years.

“There are people out there who have swam before who are on this campus, I want them on the team. We would love to get them out and see what this team is all about,” Bollinger said.

Both teams’ next competition will be on Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Eau Claire Quadrangular held at UW-Eau Claire.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Members of both the women’s and men’s swimming and diving team cheer on a teammate finishing a race. Both teams compete and practice together all season.

UW-River Falls Falcon athletic teams begin winter seasons

Women’s Cross Country
The Falcons finished 10th at the NCAA Midwest Regional Meet on Nov. 16. Tia Harris qualified for the NCAA Championship and will be competing at the meet in Hanover, Ind., on Nov. 23.

Women’s Hockey
The Falcons fell to UW-Stevens Point 2-1 on Nov. 15, and 5-4 on Nov. 16. The team plays at UW-Eau Claire at 7:05 p.m., on Nov. 22, and at home against Eau Claire at 7:05 p.m., on Nov. 23.

Men’s Hockey
The Falcons defeated Bethel University 6-2 on Nov. 15, and fell to Augsburg College in overtime 3-2 on Nov. 16. The team plays at Concordia University at 7 p.m., on Nov. 22, and at Milwaukee School of Engineering at 2 p.m., on Nov. 23.

Women’s Basketball
The Falcons fell to Luther College 80-75 on Nov. 15, to Carroll University 66-61 on Nov. 16, and Gustavus Adolphus College 77-56. The team plays at the College of St. Benedict at 3 p.m., on Nov. 23.

Men’s Basketball
The Falcons fell to Wittenberg University 69-62 on Nov. 15 and defeated Blackburn College 99-47 on Nov. 16. The team plays at home against the University of St. Thomas at 7 p.m., on Nov. 23.

Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving
Both the men’s and women’s teams will compete on Nov. 23, at the Eau Claire Quadrangular held at UW-Eau Claire.

See where your UWRF Falcons athletic teams rank in WIAC standings

Women’s Hockey			Women’s Basketball			Men’s Basketball		
School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall	School	WIAC	Overall
UW- Stevens Point	2-0	5-0-1	UW- Oshkosh	0-0	4-0	UW- Platteville	0-0	3-0
UW- Superior	1-0-1	4-0-2	UW- Whitewater	0-0	3-0	UW- Eau Claire	0-0	2-0
UW- Eau Claire	0-1-1	1-3-2	UW- Stevens Point	0-0	2-0	UW- Stevens Point	0-0	2-0
UW- River Falls	0-2	2-3	UW- Platteville	0-0	2-1	UW- Whitewater	0-0	2-0
Men’s Hockey			UW- Stout	0-0	2-1	UW- La Crosse	0-0	3-1
School	WIAC	Overall	UW- La Crosse	0-0	1-1	UW- Stout	0-0	2-1
UW- Stevens Point	0-0	6-0	UW- Superior	0-0	1-2	UW- River Falls	0-0	1-0
UW- Eau Claire	0-0	4-0	UW- Eau Claire	0-0	0-2	UW- Oshkosh	0-0	0-1
UW- River Falls	0-0	2-1-1	UW- River Falls	0-0	0-3	UW- Superior	0-0	0-1
UW- Superior	0-0	2-3						
UW- Stout	0-0	2-4						

Current WIAC standings as of Thursday, Nov. 21

LIVE

FALCON BROADCASTS

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND
WOMEN’S HOCKEY
AWAY VS EAU CLAIRE
7:00 PM DROP OF THE PUCK
6:35 PM PREGAME

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
WOMEN’S HOCKEY
HOME VS EAU CLAIRE
7:05 PM DROP OF THE PUCK
6:35 PM PREGAME

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
AWAY VS ST. BENEDICT
3:00 PM TIP OFF
2:35 PM PREGAME

'Selfie' named word of year

Natalie Howell

Columnist

Looking through the NBC News app on my phone I came across an article titled, “Oxford Dictionaries names ‘selfie’ word of the year.” The title basically says it all: the world “selfie” was named Oxford Dictionaries International Word of the Year, beating out “binge-watch,” which is the practice of watching television for longer time spans than usual, and “twerk,” which, thanks to Miley Cyrus, we all know means basically shaking your rear end.

These words, which were once gibberish and nonsense, are now legit words that have actually ended up in the dictionary. For those of you who do not know what a “selfie” is (but I’m guessing you all do), a selfie is defined by Oxford Dictionary as “a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically are taken with a smartphone or webcam and uploaded to a social media website.”

Let’s face it, whether we are going to admit to it or not, we have all taken our fair share of selfies; whether they are taken with friends, pets or be one of those glorious bathroom mirror selfies. Right now selfies are a way of life, especially now

that more and more of us are breaking down and making an Instagram account.

For some reason we are fascinated with our phone’s front-facing camera’s ability to take the perfect pictures of ourselves. We then put them on Facebook or Instagram with a cute caption, such as “Me and my bestie!,” “Long hair don’t care!,” or my favorite, writing an inspirational quote that has absolutely nothing to do with the picture.

Now, I’m not saying that I have not been guilty of taking selfies here and there, but I do not think I will ever understand the obsession of continuously documenting what we look like, sometimes multiple times a day.

Is it because our generation is so unbelievably vain? Have we become so obsessed with ourselves that we have taken it upon ourselves to document everything we do and what we are wearing each day? In a way, yes, but I do not think it is a generation thing.

Since we were pre-teens, people from older generations have told us that our generation is the worst generation and that they will never understand us. But my question is, hasn’t every new generation been told that they were the worst generation by the generation before them?

Those darn kids and their protests for equal rights. Those

darn kids and their rock and roll. Those darn kids and their selfies. Aren’t these statements saying the same thing? There is no doubt that when we are old and gray we will be shaking our heads, saying, “Those darn kids and their holograms.”

With each year that passes the world changes, both with new ideas and new technologies, and with that we change as well. We have grown up differently and with front-facing cameras of course we are going to take selfies that are misunderstood by the generations before us.

Every year there will be new, gibberish-sounding words that make it in the dictionary that made no sense to us just the year before. We look down on those youngsters and the iPhones they received when they were in fifth grade, and say, “My first cell phone was a flip phone, and now these kids are getting iPhones before they can even spell correctly.”

The world changes every day, with new technologies and fads that sometimes just do not make sense at all. So maybe we are a little more vain, but is that so bad? We are just taking what we are given and doing what we want with it which in this case front-facing cameras and the entire internet to cover with selfies is what we were given.

Natalie Howell is from Rochester, Minn., and is planning on majoring in journalism.

Thanksgiving provides time to recognize others

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

With Thanksgiving just one week away, I will admit that, like most people, I am just excited to get a break.

Getting the better half of Thanksgiving week off is about more than just getting to go home and having a break, though. It is a time well spent with family and old friends, appreciating what you have and the life you live.

It is a time to realize that we have it much easier than the pilgrims did at the first Thanksgiving, even if we frequently take that for granted. But why do we have a day devoted to being thankful? Who exactly are we supposed to thank? I have always wondered that myself, but there really is a meaning behind all of it.

Everyone knows, or should know, that the first Thanksgiving came when European Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Rock. So what?

They came over in 1621, during Europe’s Protestant Reformation, mainly to seek religious freedom in the New World. Early Thanksgiving celebrations are traced back to the church, and there was debate over how many religious holidays should be included on the calendar. Many Puritans

argued to eliminate Christmas and Easter, replacing them instead with days of fasting and days to give thanks for Christ.

The Pilgrims, however, were said to give thanks to their newfound religious freedom and a good harvest for the year. In later years, leaders such as John Hancock and George Washington gave thanks to God for favorable events in their lives.

So, who exactly should you give thanks to next week? I think firstly, your parents deserve some thanks. They are the ones who have to put up with your whining and demanding requests in regards to school. They provide you with groceries when you need them, put a roof over your head and molded you into the person you are today

I know with piles of homework, while trying to keep up with a social life, we often do not think about all that our parents do for us. I know my parents have gone through a lot, both with their own lives and with mine, and they always handle it with stride. They are always there to help me or to listen to me even if they have struggles of their own.

Next, be thankful for your siblings. Whether they are your best friend or your worst enemy, they always have something to offer. Luckily, my sister is my best friend, and I have learned a lot from her. She has taught me how to handle the most difficult situations, especially coming to school. She is

always there to exchange gossip or provide advice.

Your siblings can be your role model or teach you how to be a role model to them. They set examples and make you realize a lot about yourself. That is something to definitely be thankful for.

Finally, be thankful for your peers: friends, old and new, classmates, and roommates. You may not get along with them all the time, but they are people to turn to. They have a lot to offer, whether that is help with an assignment, advice on a problem with someone else, or simply someone to spend time with. Without them here at school or back home, life would present many more challenges, because everyone needs someone.

Next week, while you are enjoying your turkey and that delicious pumpkin pie, remember who and what you have in your life that you could not do without. Thanksgiving is a time for us to stop taking everything for granted and start embracing our lives.

Cristin Dempsey is an English major and music minor from Eagan, Minn. She enjoys writing, playing the flute and swimming. After college, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.

Fear of failure may prevent life-changing opportunities

Niki Hovatter

Columnist

It does not seem like too long ago that I was graduating high school and moving to college.

I remember vividly being a wide-eyed new student at UW-River Falls. I remember getting lost on the campus that now seems small, thinking Riverside Commons was a gourmet buffet and pronouncing “Hathorn” wrong. Yes, I even wore a UWRF lanyard around my neck everywhere I went.

Now that I am a senior, I have been reflecting on the past three and half years at UWRF. The phrase, “You will not regret the things you do, but will only regret the things you do not do,” has been said time and time again. However, I have been realizing that this statement applies to my entire college career and life in general.

I realize now that the only way to learn and grow as a person is to make mistakes. Fear of the unknown and failure

are feelings that plague many for their entire lives. While it is hard to ignore these feelings, it is better to fail than not to try at all.

It does not matter now that I was one of the funny-looking freshmen with a lanyard around my neck. The other times that I have looked like a dork also do not matter.

The things that matter in the end are the chances that one decides to take or not to take.

While four years of school may seem like a long time, it is shorter than one may think. Yes, four years is a considerable amount of time, and college can be stressful. However, when a student wants to study abroad, complete internships, join organizations and make new friends, there is not much time to spare.

It is important not to take the college years for granted, but instead take advantage of as many opportunities as possible, whether it is in the form of volunteer work, involvement in student organizations or meeting people with different perspectives.

While I have learned a lot outside the classroom, I wish I took the chance to experience even more opportunities.

There have been times when I have thought, “this does not go along with my major,” or “that is not what I am into.” However, it turned out that to be something that I would have loved to do.

Even though an opportunity may not go along with what the current career you are pursuing, it does not mean that you will not end up loving it.

My message to all UWRF students is to not be afraid of failure or looking funny. Take chances. Push yourself further than you ever thought you could go. Go for the job or internship that seems out of reach. Travel. Talk to the cute boy or girl that you were afraid to talk to.

The next time you are afraid to try something new, think “what is really stopping me from pursuing this opportunity?”

Niki Hovatter is senior majoring in marketing communications and minoring in Spanish and journalism. After graduation, she hopes to work in public relations or other communication-related field.



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Department of Communicative Disorders 50th Anniversary

Did you know? An individual’s hearing can be damaged in less than 7 minutes at a rock concert, where the sound pressure level is greater than or equal to 120dB (decibel).

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 Nov. 8-Nov. 14: “Catching Fire” 7 and 9 p.m. daily

Last week’s winner: Jenna Newman

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.

Do you have something to say? Write a letter to the editor and have your voice heard! Submit letters to editor@uwrvoice.com.