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STUDENT VOICE

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NCAA gives UWRF one year probation

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UW-River Falls has been placed on probation for one year by the NCAA after findings that the school did not monitor its scholarship process and allowed a former head football coach to be involved in arranging financial aid packages.

A Division III infractions committee found that athletic ability was improperly used as criteria for financial aid between the academic years 2007-08 through 2011-12. The head football coach at the time, John O’Grady, was allowed to choose scholarship recipients for four years. In that time period five former or current athletes received a total of \$4,090 in aid.

O’Grady coached at UWRF for 22 seasons. He has since been an assistant coach at UW-Oshkosh and UW-Stout. Recently he was just hired at UW-Whitewater to be an assistant. His contact information was not listed on Whitewater’s athletic website and he could not be reached by phone.

“This incident occurred before myself, any of our current staff or current players ever came to River Falls. This incident by former staff will have no impact on our current program or future recruiting,” Current Head Football Coach Matt Walker said.

Penalties in this case include one year of probation, a review from the NCAA Committee on Financial Aid and an outside audit of athletic

employment and scholarship awarding practices.

Probation does not mean the team cannot participate in post-season competition and it does not require UWRF to give up any past victories. One thing it will require is that all prospective football student-athletes be informed that UWRF is on probation for one year and detail all the violations committed.

The one-year probation is the minimum penalty the NCAA can give out.

“Most people are not going to even notice any changes,” UWRF Public Information Officer Blake Fry said. “The reason we have the minimum probation is we have already taken all the correct steps. We have already created internal education programs.”

Also during the period of probation the athletic director, current head football coach and the director of financial aid must attend an NCAA Regional Rules seminar. The three personnel that currently hold these positions were not part of the violations.

UWRF went through a number of personnel changes including a new head football coach in Walker starting in 2012, a new athletic director in Roger Ternes also starting in 2012 and a new director of financial aid in Barbara Stinson who started in 2008. Fry said it was Stinson who found that UWRF had been violating some policies and uncovered it.

In a statement Chancellor

Dean Van Galen said, “One of UW-River Falls’ six core values is integrity. In that spirit, we self-reported the NCAA violations as soon as we became aware that they had occurred and current university leaders have taken proactive and corrective actions to ensure that the previous errors will not be repeated.”

Fry said while he does not have an exact date when the investigation started he knows UWRF has been working with the NCAA for about 18 months.

With this story getting a lot of attention Student Senate President Anthony Sumnicht wants to make sure that if there are any questions or concerns from the student body that Senate will help get that out.

“It is important that students have the opportunity to share thoughts,” Sumnicht said. “Student Senate will work to properly convey the views of students to the appropriate members of the university community.”

UWRF has created a website to serve as reference for members of the campus community, media and prospective student athletes at www.uwrf.sports.com/sports/2014/23/AD_0423144718.aspx.

“We will keep on the path of what we have already started,” Fry said. “NCAA regulations are complicated but we have taken steps to ensure this type of violation of NCAA regulations is not going to happen again.”

New UWRF chief of police gets sworn in



Photo submitted by Connie Smith
The new chief of police at UW-River Falls, Karl Fleury, left, gets congratulated by Chancellor Dean Van Galen after his swearing in ceremony on Monday, April 21 in South Hall.

Math Help Center helps students practice skills

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The frequently overlooked campus Math Help Center is a resource worth looking into for students with a desire to get a better grade and much more in mathematics courses.

The smiling tutors welcome and greet each student, asking if they can help when they first walk into the Math Help Center. Walk-ins are welcome when a tutor is available but appointments guarantee someone will be there to assist you.

A non-traditional student with severe math anxiety, Angie Devine, said she survived her math courses because of the patience and kindness of the tutors who assisted her.

“They never lost patience or judged me. I appreciate this service provided by UWRF,” Devine said.

In an informal random survey of 27 students, six had used the Math Help Center. Of the 27 students polled, only 12 had heard of the Math Help Center. Dylan Young, 19, said the easiest part of his experience with the Math Help Center was finding someone to help and the hardest was having the motivation to go.

“The easiest part was the

times they were open,” said Bailey Post, 20.

Post found it easy to fit tutoring sessions into her study schedule. Kristina O’Brian, 19, did not use the Math Help Center until she became a tutor and feels it benefits her as a tutor and a student.

“It is helpful to me because it is a chance to talk through problems with my peers to develop a better understanding of concepts,” O’Brian said.

One of the other tutors, Martin Williamson, 21, reflected back on the first time he used the Math Help Center.

“The hardest part was accepting that I needed help,” Williamson said.

Laura Williamson, age 22 and a client, said she would recommend the Math Help Center to other students.

More than tutoring, there is plenty of smiling and joking going on in the Math Center. Coni Gehler, director of remedial math, is passionate about her area of expertise. Gehler said she finds order, logic and rationality in math.

“Math makes beautiful sense in the huge, beautiful, complicated universe, every part of it is consistent,” Gehler said.

Gehler said she wanted to be sure students understand.

“You can solve things through reasoning, and it’s not memorization,” Gehler said.

Gehler’s enthusiasm seems to be contagious. There is fun to be had with math and the Math Help Center is there to help students discover this and improve their understanding of math concepts.

“The hours are much more open than the office hours of many professors,” O’Brian said.

In the Math Help Center there are solution manuals for different classes in case there is no tutor available so students do not have to wait for someone to get freed up. The Math Help Center is not open during finals week. The hours until finals week are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.

This is a resource which can save a student’s GPA. The staff of the Math Help Center is eager to assist students in order for them to have a better, successful semester. They invite students to stop by room 145 in North Hall.

Finals Fest features trio of Twin Cities musical acts

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The annual Finals Fest at UW-River Falls will be on May 9 and the Office of Student Life is bringing in three musical groups from the Twin Cities.

Taj Raj, Davina and the Vagabonds and Heiruspecs will all take to the Melvin Wall Amphitheatre starting at 7 p.m.

According to Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd, UWRF has held Finals Fest since 2006.

“It’s an event that people really look forward as a way to cap off the year in a fun and exciting way; highlighting music and creating a festival-type atmosphere on campus,” Shepherd said.

Student Life rotates the size of the musical acts it brings to UWRF; since Phillip Phillips, a national act, was set to perform at last year’s Finals Fest, student workers and other Student Life employees worked to get smaller, quality acts from the Twin Cities region for this year’s Finals Fest.

In 2012, Cloud Cult was the headlining act and in

2011, Jason Derulo came to campus right before his album exploded in popularity.

“We’re certainly lucky to be near the Twin Cities where we can highlight local musicians from the Twin Cities area and expand their audience this side of the river,”

“It’s an event that people really look forward as a way to cap off the year in a fun and exciting way; highlighting music and creating a festival-type atmosphere on campus,” said Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd.

Shepherd said.

Anna Hunter, the student organizations and leadership coordinator in Student Life, said that Taj Raj, Davina and the Vagabonds and Heiruspecs are all three distinct genres.

“They all have their own unique sound,” Hunter said. “We’re hoping that will cater to a large variety of students on campus and larger audience.”

Hunter said that all three acts have very unique sounds

that are difficult to categorize.

Taj Raj, the first opener, is a mix of pop, punk and country, according to Hunter.

“They have a unique sound that is kind of familiar at the same time,” Hunter said.

Most of Taj Raj’s recordings are done around Hudson, Wis.

The next opener is Davina and the Vagabonds, a theatrical group with a bluesy and jazzy sound.

“I would say that they have more of a focused, clean sound which really kind of emphasizes their acoustic instruments,” Hunter said.

The Heiruspecs are the headline act for Finals Fest. The group became nationally known for their 2002 album “Small Steps,” according to Hunter.

Heiruspecs started out at St. Paul Central High School, and it is a hip-hop group.

In case of rain, Finals Fest will be moved indoors to the Falcon’s Nest in the University Center. There will be food and beverages for sale at Finals Fest starting at 5 p.m. on May 9. Music will start at 7 p.m.

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Japanese parlor game makes for great play

Carmella Everhart
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“Kwaidan: Strange Tales from East Asia” runs from April 24 through April 26 and May 1 through May 3 at UW-River Falls and the cast and crew are working hard to scare their audiences.

The show is based on an old parlor game played in 18th century Japan. The participants would stay up all night with 100 candles and tell 100 ghost stories and demons would be summoned if all the stories were told and all of the candles were blown out by the storytellers before the sun came up.

Robin E. Murray, a professor of communication studies and theatre arts at UWRF, and Jeremiah Liend, a student on campus, collaborated to write the original script for this play but they said it has really come together as the cast members started working on it with them.

The show uses puppetry, projected scenery and dance to tell strange, eerie, bizarre, supernatural and sometimes enlightening folk and ghost stories from China, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Murray said that the show is nothing like what she imagined it to be, which is good because it has grown and become a one-of-a-kind show.

“It is nothing like I thought it would be when I first thought of the idea and that is so cool,” Murray said.

Liend said the process of writing and directing the show has been stressful but that it has been fun to watch everything come together.

“The thing that I took away from it, or the sort of learning moment that I had, was that the script that I would have written without everybody would have paled in comparison,” Liend said.

The show consists of 12 cast members and each one

plays a character that goes by their own name but they have chosen certain characteristics for their character that are not necessarily like themselves.

The cast and crew have been rehearsing since the end of January. Five nights a week for three or four hours they run lines, go over blocking, rework scenes, write and rewrite, practice with puppets and do the same scenes over again until they are correct.

“With school work and stuff it can get a little tricky just because it is so time consuming, but I think that it’s all about time management,” said the stage manager Vanessa Agnes, who is a student at UWRF with a double major in communication studies and theater arts.

Many of the cast members are majoring or minoring in theater at UWRF so their classes sometimes work around the shows and their busy schedules. Still, some cast members stay up most

of the night to get homework done.

“We have no lives,” said Ashley Sager, a cast member.

The months of rehearsal and hard work all amount to only eight performances in the Sanford Syse Theatre. The shows all start at 7:30 p.m. and run for about an hour and 15 minutes. There will also be two matinees for middle school kids.

“Rehearsals are fun and everything but I think that once you get to that final stage and it’s all polished and you get an audience out there and people just tell you how much they love it, I think that’s really rewarding,” Agnes said.

During the last few rehearsals everyone is struggling with last-minute challenges. One of the problems they face is getting bored working on the same scenes over and over again so they have to find ways to keep the energy up.

They stop frequently to

point out inconsistencies, problem spots and questions that arise. With the direction of Liend and Murray, they work through problems and help each other out and give feedback.

But it is not all serious work. Each member of the cast has a set of trading cards with their names and characters on them and their personal description of themselves as well as their strengths and weaknesses. They trade the cards among themselves and sign them as memorabilia from the show.

Although the trading cards were made just for the cast members, audience members can get in on the fun by purchasing a \$2 deck of ghost cards. Each card has a photo and description of each ghost from the Asian ghost stories, many of which are being told during the show. People can also purchase tickets to sit on floor mats in the middle of the theater to get a feel for Asian

culture and be in the middle of the scary stories. There are also chairs and benches available for the same price.

Tickets can be purchased in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building at the box office. Student tickets are \$5, adult tickets are \$11 and senior tickets are \$9. The phone number for the box office is 715-425-3114.

Students are encouraged to get involved in the University Theater, according to the University website. There are opportunities available to act, build scenery and costumes, work backstage, manage and work publicly.

For more information visit <http://www.uwrf.edu/CSTA/TheatreArts/UniversityTheatre2013.cfm> or contact Director of Theater Kenneth Stofferahn at 715-425-3101 for more information about how to get involved.

Agriculture students hold Ag Day on UC Mall



Calves were brought in to pique students’ interest in Ag Day, a new event implemented by agriculture students. Pictured are Samantha Sanford, left, and Alyssa Timmers.



Rodeo team member Mitchell Devine and international student Beatriz Mendonca practice their roping skills at UWRF’s Ag Day, held on April 22, 2014.

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor:

editor@uwrfvoice.com.

EDITORIAL

Lack of food safety precautions creates concern

The UW-River Falls community often relies on Sodexo Campus Services for meals throughout the week. Whether you live on campus and have a meal plan, a facility or staff member who occasionally stops in for lunch or you are visiting campus and need a bite to eat, Sodexo is your only option on campus.

In recent months, our personal experiences in Riverside Commons have left us feeling perturbed by how little of a priority that student health safety is to both Sodexo and University Dining Services.

Food allergies are a serious concern for the campus community. Whether you are allergic to peanuts, kiwi, shellfish or any other number of things, checking your ingredient labels is critical and trusting that the food supplier, such as Sodexo, will take precautions for cross contamination. However, after personal experiences, this does not appear to be the case.

Ingredient cards are placed in front of food options so students can see the nutritional content of what they are eating. However, more often than none, the ingredient cards have false information. For example, editorial board members had dinner in Riverside Commons on Wednesday, April 23. There was a plain chicken patty sandwich option as well as a “Buffalo Meltdown” chicken patty option. The identification cards for these products were switched and it was not possible to identify the differences. For those allergic to ingredients in the buffalo meltdown sandwich, they could have believed that the signs were correct and exposed themselves to a serious allergy.

Another incident that occurred on Wednesday, April 23, was during the lunch hours. In the potato bar section, the ingredient card read “Cheesy hash browns.” When scooped up and served onto a plate, it was noticed that the hash browns contained pork but it was not identified on the card.

Cross contamination should also be taken seriously. Another incident that was witnessed by editorial staff members was when a Sodexo worker refilled Clam Chowder soup and it splashed into the other soup next to it and it was left contaminated. For those who are allergic to shellfish or clams, this incident is a serious health hazard.

These problems that have been noticed by students and faculty can be fixed in a number of ways. The most important solution would to have employees be more aware of what is being served and double check to make sure ingredients are being properly labeled.

Not only could this be dangerous for students if they were to eat something that was mislabeled, it could also mean trouble for Dining Services and Sodexo for not taking the appropriate actions to make sure this type of incident does not happen.

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.

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 stall 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.



Greek Week celebrates spirit of competition with ‘Scare Games’

Rachel Molitor

Columnist

It has happened again! That week-long event where Greeks celebrate the spirit of competition that is known by the descriptive title of Greek Week. Greek Week Chair Alexa Rarick says, “I feel that the purpose of Greek Week is to celebrate and strengthen the bond we all share as collegiate [Greek] members through a week filled with exciting activities and events.”

This year’s Greek Week theme was Monster University and so many of the events were centered on the Scare Games.

Every day of Greek Week began bright and early with a scavenger hunt and the theme this year was a pig hunt. The Greek community got a clue for the location of the pig at 8 A.M. and then proceeded to race around the campus looking for the palm-sized pink animal. Here are the results of the pig hunt:

Monday - Phi Mu, found pig at first roundabout
Tuesday - Alpha Gamma Rho (AGR), found pig at Ag Sci building
Wednesday –Delta Theta Sigma (DTS), found pig at amphitheater
Thursday –AGR, found pig at KFA building

The first day of the Scare Games began with an all-Greek, potluck-style picnic. The purpose of this day was simply to get to know the other chapters and their members. Following the picnic, there was a pudding-eating contest for the chapters’ monster, a person who had to participate every day and was the mascot of the chapter. At the ‘go!’ the monsters smashed their faces into the chocolate pudding and started eating. The winner was the monster that finished their pudding first and AGR and DTS tied for first place.

Tuesday’s overcast skies brought with them a day of physical competitions; fraternities competed against fraternities and sororities against sororities. The Greeks gathered first for the pyramid contest. This test of endurance and teamwork lasted over thirty minutes as chapters gradually fell out of the contest. The end result was AGR winning for the fraternities and Sigma Alpha for the sororities.

The next event was the chariot race. Each chapter had to find and decorate a man-powered vehicle which could hold a passenger. AGR won the fraternity race and Alpha Omicron Pi won the sorority race.

Wednesday’s rains sent the Greeks inside where they competed in relays, hula hoops and an egg toss. The egg toss was very close, with many chapters breaking their eggs in the same round. However, Phi Mu won the sorority egg toss, and after a re-do with AGR, Theta Chi won the fraternity competition.

The relay was moving, via spoons, one cup of M&Ms to another. The chapters had to use speed, teamwork, and steadiness in order to succeed in this challenge. AGR won the fraternity relay, and Alpha Omicron Pi won the sorority relay.

Finally, it was the last event of the day: the hula hoop contest. The fraternities started first. Several competitors survived a few minutes, and so the Greek Chair asked them to start walking. After several steps forward, Theta Chi won. The sorority hula hoop challenge lasted longer. Once the girls started walking, it was down to Phi Mu and Alpha Sigma Alpha. The Chair had them walk around the floor and then take laps. Neither girl faltered. Finally, with the challenge of two hoops, Alpha Sigma Alpha won.

Then, it was the much anticipated lip-sync contest. For several chapters, this was the main event. For three to six minutes, the chapters were to compile a routine to several songs, sometimes related to the theme of the week. The chapters’ order depended on the number they drew from a hat. The chapters all gave good effort but in the end, Theta Chi won the fraternity lip-sync and Alpha Sigma Alpha for the sororities.

This year’s Greek Week had 2 winners, one for sororities and one for fraternities. Alpha Gamma Rho won the fraternity Greek Week and Alpha Sigma Alpha the sorority.

Reflecting back, it was a long, but fun week. The celebrating of Greek pride is never dull, and getting to know the diverse group of people that call themselves Greek, reveals that the stereotypes could not be more wrong. UW-River Falls has a good group of people here, and the Greeks exemplify that.

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

The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins! The winner will be announced on the Voices account on Twitter @uwrfvoice.

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NCAA probation disappoints students

Ben Lamers
Columnist

How often do we see the headline of a news story regarding NCAA violations by a given school? It seems like one university after another gets caught for some sort of rules violation nearly every month. At the beginning of the day on April 23, there were a total of 24 teams on NCAA probation, according to the NCAA. By the end of the day there were 25. I certainly never imagined that attending UW-River Falls would also mean attending a school sanctioned for NCAA rules violations. Yet, on April 23, UWRF was the team added to the list of teams on NCAA probation. According to a report from the Associated Press, UWRF was given a year of probation for failing to monitor the scholarship process. In other words, UWRF was giving scholarship money to athletes, which is a huge no-no in Div. III sports. According to the report from the NCAA, \$4,090, in total, was given to five members of the team between the 2007-08 and 2011-12 academic years. Additionally, the report indicated that former UWRF football coach John O’Grady was involved in the process. As a student, I was very disappointed to hear this news

come out. This affects the University far more than just the football team being put on a year of probation. While in the grand scheme of things, \$4,090 between five members of the football program is not a huge amount, that isn’t the point here. NCAA sanctions leave a huge black mark on any university. There are plenty of perspective students, especially in Minnesota and Wisconsin, that probably know nothing about UWRF. However, now they know that UWRF has a year of probation in football. If I was a current high school student hoping to play football in the WIAC, I would immediately write off UWRF after this. When it comes to recruiting football players, and other athletes in general, a black mark of NCAA probation is a huge problem. And what about the Falcon Center? The groundbreaking for the center is set for May 2. Phase one of the project involves the face-lift for the football stadium, to be renamed David Smith Stadium, and the installation of field turf on Ramer Field itself. So now the first part of the more than \$50 million project will be done for a team now on a year-long probation. Talk about putting a damper on next week’s groundbreaking.

An NCAA violation also places, I would imagine, UWRF on the NCAA’s radar. Why is this an important note? The NCAA report noted that O’Grady’s involvement made this a “major” violation. A major violation suddenly puts UWRF within reach, if you will, of the NCAA’s “death penalty.” The NCAA’s “repeat violator” rule states that any school that receives a second major violation with five years, in the same sport, will be barred from that sport for one to two years. While there is nothing to indicate that this will happen, it is still a specter looming around the football program now. Undoubtedly, details will continue to emerge about this situation. It is my opinion that any parties knowingly involved with this process should lose their job, if still employed at the University. Again, I do not know who, other than O’Grady, was involved in this scandal. This was a foolish move by the parties involved, though, and has certainly made this a disappointing time to be a fan of Falcon football.

STUDENT voices

What warm weather activity are you going to do now that spring is here?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



Tammy Lawson
Freshman
Biology
“Walk outside a little more, and more outdoor activities”



Mike Vance
Senior
Photography
“Get through the semester.”



Kristopher Stempel
Sophomore
Art
“Take up jogging.”



Jessica Conklin
Freshman
Communications
“Golf, and go outside a lot more.”



George Vang
Freshman
Education
“Spend time with my family, catch up with friends, and travel somewhere warm like California or Florida.”

Check out the Student Voice
online at uwrfvoice.com.

The Student Voice is hiring for the semester!

Applications are now available outside the Student Voice Office,
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Positions include:
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Applications are due Tuesday, April 29 outside North Hall 304.
Contact editor@uwrvoice.com with any questions.

All are welcome to apply!



Non-traditional students play major role on campus

Niki Hovatter
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Angie Devine has held many jobs in her life, including being a truck driver, factory worker, telemarketer, baker and sports writer, among other things.

Devine, like many other non-traditional students, set out to change her career path and enroll in college classes.

“I think coming to UWRF is probably the best decision I’ve made,” Devine said. “I feel like I’m reinventing myself.”

Devine is not alone. Older students are attending college in record numbers. Students age 25 and older make up a large part of the nation’s undergraduate students at 38 percent, according to data from the National Center for Education Statistics. By 2019, these numbers are projected to increase by another 23 percent.

Nearly 700 non-traditional students attend UW-River Falls, according to UW-System data. While they represent only 12 percent of

the student population, they all play different roles on campus. Like all other students, they have particular needs and concerns.

“It is important for non-traditional students to find a niche where they fit in and forge lasting friendships,” said Alice Reilly-Myklebust, director of Student Health and Counseling Services.

Devine is similar to a number of other college students who attend classes at UWRF. Both are involved on campus and call UWRF home. She is just like any other college student who dreams of landing the perfect job. While her college experiences are largely comparable to other students, there are also some differences.

“Non-traditional students add diversity our student body,” Reilly-Myklebust said. “Everyone is mixed together on our campus and it important to be welcoming.”

Like a number of other non-traditional students, the age differences between Devine and her classmates make it hard for her to relate to classroom discussion at times and

technology was a barrier for her when she first attended class.

“It’s difficult to relate to young students,” Devine said. “Things like Skype were science fiction when I was their age. Most of my classmates are younger than my sons.”

Mark Huttemier is a student mental health counselor on campus who provides support to all students, including non-traditional students making the transition to college life.

“It is good for traditional students to keep an open mind,” Huttemier said.

Matthew Hobbs, a student at UWRF, said that the University could host more programs on campus that cater to all age groups, including older students. This year he has advocated to make these types of programs happen and said he thinks forming a non-traditional student organization on campus would be a great way for students to get engaged.

“Having a non-traditional organization would be a great asset to campus,” Hobbs said.

Devine’s involvement on campus as a

member of Active Minds club and Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice club has inspired her to think about creating this type of organization. She said she hopes the new organization will give non-traditional students a chance to socialize and provide support to each other.

Overall, Devine said that her experiences at UWRF have been largely beneficial and her vast array of life experience has equipped her for college.

While one might say she is a jack of all trades, her true passion is developing an understanding of the criminal mind. Devine, a senior double major in psychology and sociology, aspires to attend graduate school and later practice prison psychology.

She, like many other students, has found support through approachable professors and supportive friends.

“I couldn’t have done it without them,” Devine said.

Students take advantage of study abroad opportunities

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Students sometimes struggle with multiple issues when deciding whether or not to attend undergraduate study abroad programs, according to the UW-River Falls Global Connections office. These struggles include financial obligations, less-flexible programs in certain majors, along with the hesitation to leave home.

“I have thought about studying abroad, and I’m currently working on that. I just need to get the money, that’s all,” said Angeli Alonso, a pre-veterinary medicine major. “So I’m currently looking in to financial aid from the school right now.”

According to a study from the University of Wisconsin accountability reports, lower income students are less likely to participate in UW study abroad and exchange experiences.

Charles Rader, a professor in cartography and geographic information systems at UWRF, says there is a profound growth in maturity and a clearer grasp of self-identity from students who participate in semester-length study abroad programs.

“They have a better understanding of what is America’s role in the world,” Rader said.

Rader said he believes that everyone should be exposed to the world in order to develop an understanding of how they fit

in the world and the impact it has on them.

276 students studied abroad during the 2012-2013 school year, and 282 students are estimated to participated in the 2013-2014 school year, according to Global Connections.

“Since 1963, over 1,000 of UWRF students have participated in the school’s international study abroad program,” said Chancellor Dean Van Galen at the 2014 UW-System Board of Regents Meeting on campus. “However, we realized that for our students, study abroad experiences must be affordable and viewed as a doable first step,” he continued.

“Students often hear that study abroad programs are expensive, which stops them from coming to our offices to learn about the program fee and the scholarships that are available,” said Wisconsin In Scotland and Experience China Program Coordinator, Kelsey McLean. “All of our programs are a bit different, but most of programs...students can use financial aid.”

Harmony Arco, a music major at UWRF says that she wants to travel, study or work abroad eventually. However, she wants to focus on getting her music degree finished first. Tasha Bonke, a dairy science major, also said that she prefers to focus on graduating, but still wants to travel outside of the country later on in her life.

“Some of our students have jobs, and can’t leave campus. It’s expensive for college here,” said Carol Rogers, Global Connections Program associate.

Rogers also stated that some students were also a part of rigorous academic programs that did not provide them the flexibility to study abroad, while finishing their degree in a short period of time.

“For those folks, J-term might be an option,” Rogers said.

Shelby King, the International Student Services coordinator, also said that a lot of students on campus were first generation college students, therefore the idea of college and embracing the idea of studying abroad might be challenging.

“Not everybody has it free in their schedule to do that, or they’re just not comfortable studying abroad for one semester. That’s why we have short term programs,” Anthony Tumbarello said.

Tumbarello is working as a peer advisor at the Global Connections office. He has participated in the study abroad programs provided by the UWRF campus, and is very active in sharing his experience with others.

“The other bit is that U.S. small-town mentality isn’t super keen on traveling abroad,” Tumbarello said.

Alexandra Davison, 22, is a senior majoring in both communications and English. Davison said that she wants to study abroad, and is planning to apply for the one-week spring program in Germany next year.

“Being able to see these cultures at its origin is going to be much more eye-opening for me,” Davison said.



Photo courtesy of Global Connections
David Dahle, a senior at UWRF, while at the Virgin Islands during the fall of 2013. Information about study abroad opportunities are available in the Global Connections office.

UWRF students continue struggle to graduate in four years

Yueh-Hsing Weng
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Graduating from college in four years has become challenging for many students in recent years and students at UW-River Falls are no exception.

Many factors are involved when it comes to graduating in four or more years, sometimes less. Saving up money becomes an issue for some students, many taking semesters off to make more money to pay for school. Students have to spread out their studies in order to make it, or go deep into debt.

“I think that it takes longer for students to graduate in four years because of the prices. Most students do school and work, which some students take less credits or classes because they need to work to make money for tuition,” Jennifer Orf, a student at UWRF, said.

According to the Department of Education,

fewer than 40 percent of students who enter college each year graduate within four years, while almost 60 percent of students graduate in six years.

Orf, a broad field social studies major, changed her major three times before deciding what she wanted to study.

“Since I changed my major so many times I’m not going to graduate in four years. I’m estimating two more years,” Orf said.

Internships play a role as well. For students with internships, they are usually taking them without earning money; instead they are gaining job skills. However, with the increase in the costs of living and tuition, students have to get their money from somewhere. Internships take up time that a student could use to work and earn money.

“I’m not in any internships but I do student teach for my major. I think it takes longer because the course loads are harder,” said Courtney Wilson, an elementary education

major.

“No, I will not graduate in four years. It will take me an extra year and a half. It is difficult,” Wilson said.

The Growth Agenda Accountability Report is an informational memorandum that tracks the retention and graduation rates in the UW-System. Students enrolled full time in UWRF as freshmen in 2006 had a four-year graduation rate of 21.8 percent and a 54.2 percent graduation rate in six years.

Changing majors and sometimes minors can set students back by a semester or two. Students who change their major late sophomore and junior year are less likely to graduate in four years because of the number of credits required to apply for graduation. Some students have double or triple majors which add to the course load, setting them back even further.

“I think it’s difficult to graduate in four years because students change their mind so

much on their major and it puts them behind. Students would graduate on time if they did not switch their majors, like I did,” Orf said.

Class availability can offset a student’s graduation year. Many classes are only offered in certain semesters, making it difficult for students to work classes into their schedules while avoiding overlaps and classes offered at the same time.

Transfer students are faced with credits not transferring from different schools and having some classes not counting at all.

College Complete is a microsite produced by the Chronicle of High Education to show graduation rates and how they vary in the U.S. by state. Minnesota, overall, has a 30.6 percent four year graduation rate and a 56.4 percent six year graduation rate. Wisconsin has a 27.4 percent four year graduation rate and a 60.4 percent six year graduation rate, according to College Complete.

‘The Grand Budapest Hotel’ shows Wes Anderson’s unique talent in full



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

The great director Wes Anderson is back in theaters with a new farcical film that takes us through ski slopes and quirky characters in “The Grand Budapest Hotel.”

High in the mountains of Zubrowka lies a dilapidated hotel that was once the illustrious Grand Budapest Hotel. There an author talks with the hotel’s aging owner Zero Mustafa who recalls how he came to be in possession of the hotel and why he will not leave it.

Mustafa’s tale takes him back to when he was a simple lobby boy under the world’s greatest concierge Gustave (Ralph Fiennes) and went through a very odd farce that was comprised of murder, prison, love, friendship and posh desert cakes. Through it all, Mustafa observes the eccentric dealings of his mentor and friend Gustave and dives further into his friend’s dying lifestyle of parties, poetry and pleasing all guests who enter the Grand Budapest.

My description in the above paragraph leaves out a great amount of what makes this film excellent. Wes Anderson is a director that I have grown to appreciate after seeing his earlier film “Moonrise Kingdom,” which is an excellent film in itself, but so much of what makes his films great is what you see, not so much what the story is about.

Not to imply the plot here is not great, but to truly enjoy a Wes Anderson film is to take in everything that the surroundings have to offer.

Visually the film is just as good as its script, and one of the main reasons Wes Anderson draws people to his films. I have heard it said that Anderson shoots every scene in his movies like it is a painting to put on the wall, and “The Grand Budapest Hotel” grants its viewers a whole gallery of art. Every



shot in this film accentuates everything Anderson is good at cinematically: wide shots that show off the spectacular architecture, a variety of colors in the costumes that makes the film feel like an impressionistic painting and

well-shot scenes of dialogue. That is just to name some of the great things that Wes Anderson brings to every scene he creates, making the whole film a treat for the eyes while still giving credit to its other elements.

The film is a comedy through and through. The character of Gustave is so delightfully refined with a hedonistic side to boot. He entertains and sticks up for everything he believes in, even his lobby boy Mustafa, almost to a fault. The plot of the film is just as quirky as the two main characters, concerning Gustave getting framed for murder and Mustafa helping to restore his companion’s name and secure the future of the Grand Budapest. It is a delightfully comedic story that even manages to hit some sad notes along the way, but never misses with its humor and poetic writing.

The music is also carefully crafted. An orchestral score highlights the Austrian feel to the Northern Europe setting that pairs well with the characters and cinematography like fine wine to cheese. It helps to bring out every good chase scene, every bit of comedy and every sad realization that is ushered out by the characters.

Beneath all the laughs I had, the greatest thing the film held for me was the underlying sadness that accompanied it. You could very well argue that “The Grand Budapest Hotel” is a movie about nostalgia, from the way the narrative is told down to the character of Gustave, who seems to be keeping himself as young as he wishes to be. You get a sense that old ways are changing, that the romance of the past is vanishing and trying to be kept alive.

“The Grand Budapest Hotel” manages to stay alive for the whole cinematic experience, and is one that many others should enjoy for themselves. It is artfully accessible to all, hilarious as well and a great introduction to the fantastically idiosyncratic world of Wes Anderson.

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 with friends, tapping into his imagination and watching cartoons of all kinds

New Falcon 5 program may have negative results

Jack Haren

Columnist

recent elections.

I was in attendance on behalf of the Environmental Corps of Sustainability (ECOS) club, but also ended up hearing a presentation by Anna Hunter about the Department of Student Life’s new Falcon 5 program. It is planned to be rolled out next fall. I had never heard of the program before and I gathered some thoughts about it.

The Falcon 5 program is a new way to think about all extracurricular activities on campus. It organizes all the activities by breaking them into three separate levels, based on the amount of commitment that will be required by participation. These levels are to be completed by the end of graduation for a “very, very prestigious” award. In addition, the current OrgSync website will be changed to FalconSync.

The new Student Senate was underway for the first time Tuesday night since the most

The focus of the change is for incoming freshman students. The number presented was that only 35 percent of freshman join groups first year. The school wants freshman students to join early and fast by encouragement from Falcon 5 and the incentive for the certificate. Without these new developments, Hunter argues freshmen are more likely to remain uninvolved outside academia all four years.

Hunter also spoke about the importance of extracurriculars (or “co-curriculars,” as she called them) and how students will graduate next to people with the same degree. I am skeptical that the new certificate will just become a new norm and I am very afraid it might become a gimmick that is unrecognizable on resumes and applications to jobs, internships and graduate school.

This certificate seems like a blanket award of accomplishment that will not do justice for students that are more involved than others. A logical question is, “Will the president of three different clubs gets the same nod as someone who came to one meeting?” To combat this, I think there is a capstone writing component to explain in detail your

personal involvement. But does the employer link to, and read, the paper through a resume? I would think not.

While Falcon 5 is meant to be “encouraging,” the verb that came to my mind was imposing, and it felt like another degree requirement. As a transfer student that has filtered my credits through three colleges, this is daunting. Worrying about the simple graduation requirements is already enough.

Besides transfer students, there are also commuters from long distances, people that work and also combinations of all three. This certificate may only be achievable by students that have uncommon access for time.

Being perfectly organized is a constant struggle for all of us, so it makes sense to organize all the extracurriculars to clearly lay out what is offered to new students of all types. However, I think the different levels may cause unnecessary clouding and take away from what an extracurricular means. Extracurriculars are meant to be extra. Students that seek extracurriculars without an incentive will be forced to be genuine. It is a chance to experience how to cut a path with an idea, some faculty guidance and lots of freedom to make it happen.

I remember being a freshman and I wanted to only worry about my classes. By the second semester, I eased my way into a couple clubs and starting writing for the school newspaper.

Fast forward a couple years and I am at a new school, feeling like a freshman again in regards to involvement. I needed time to get comfortable in this new place and figure out how it worked before jumping straight into extracurriculars. It is important to recognize that everybody is different.

To seek a better involvement rate, I think that advisors should make recommendations at the mandatory meetings before every semester. The involvement fair is also before every semester and should continue to do a good job of advertising and gaining a good turnout.

One of the extracurriculars I am involved in stemmed from a class. Perhaps the professors should shepherd students into clubs a bit more, especially since many are advising them.

Aging cat introduces feelings of regret at growing older

Natalie Howell

Columnist

grew on me. I mean, how can someone resist a cute little kitten who just wants to cuddle?

Over the rest of winter break, I spent my days playing and cuddling with Tinny, and by the end I was convinced that I would actually miss her when I went back to school.

When I came back home for Easter, I was excited to see Tinny again, along with the rest of my family, of course.

But when I got home I noticed something different about her. Not only had she sadly grown into the size of a regular cat, but she acted

different too. She no longer wanted to cuddle and she spent her days looking out the various windows in my house and meowing constantly.

She had also figured out several ways to sneak out of the house, including hiding until we open the door to let our dog go to the bathroom, and then quickly running out before we could react. This resulted in my family and I chasing Tinny around our neighbors’ yards, probably looking pretty foolish.

It became obvious to all of us that although we decided that Tinny was going to be an indoor cat, all she wanted

was to be outside. Although I’m sure Tinny loves us and enjoys living in our house, the wild animal inside of her wanted to explore the woods behind our house and attempt to stalk and catch other small animals and birds.

Like Tinny, there comes a point in all of our lives where we feel an undeniable urge to go out and find something new. It doesn’t matter if we currently love our lives and the people around us, of course we do, but every so often the mind begins to get restless, perhaps without any rhyme or reason. You spend your days daydreaming perhaps of a different job, a different profession or a different town.

We get this itch every once and a while, especially at the end of high school and college, the need to go somewhere new and do something else with your life. When that happens, you have two choices. You can try to ignore the urge to explore something new or you can just do it.

I will be the first to say that change is scary. I mean, I can not tell you how scared I was to leave my familiar high school life and go to college. Now that I am here, I am scared for the next stage in my life. But if you are not a little afraid, then you have to wonder if you are living a life that is even worth living.

Tinny may be afraid that she is going to get hit by a car or get eaten by another animal, but at some point the reward of finding your own way outweighs the risks that sometimes keep us up at night. After all, if you do not move on from time to time to something new you are just a house cat looking out the window, wishing for something more.

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

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