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# STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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## Drag Show entertains, emphasizes acceptance



*Maggie Sanders/Student Voice*  
**Drag queen from the Minneapolis Gay 90’s club Azalia Iman accepts donations from the audience at the UW-River Falls “Drag Show” on Friday, Oct. 10, 2014.**  
Carmella Everhart  
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Strobe lights, music and cheering broke the silence of the UW-River Falls streets last Friday night as the “Drag Show” celebrated its four-year anniversary on campus. Every fall and spring semester, the UWRF Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) club hosts the Drag Show to raise money for the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), located in downtown River Falls. The mission of SART is to “provide forensic health care, education, protection and advocacy for sexual assault victims and the community,” according to the SART website.

Students lined up early in the University Center to secure their spot for the show in the Falcon’s Nest. There was hardly an empty seat or a place to stand once the doors opened. Students and audience members crowded around the stage with money in hand to give to the performers.

Erin McNiff, client services coordinator for SART, said that the organization helps sexual assault victims in a variety of ways.

“We have nurses that collect evidence for victims, we have volunteers and advocates that work with them right away after the assault happens and we work with them to help them get back on track for their recovery,” McNiff said.

One in four females and one in six males are sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime, and it does happen in the River Falls community, according to McNiff.

The Drag Show brought in \$387 for SART this year, which was donated by audience members during and after the show, according to Garrett Finn, the treasurer of GSA.

Professional performers from the Gay 90’s (a nightclub lo-



*Maggie Sanders/Student Voice*  
**Drag queen from the Minneapolis Gay 90’s club Tawnya Tootsieroll lip-synching to popular songs.**

cated in downtown Minneapolis, Minnesota) and other places outside of the Twin Cities are brought in to run the show. Students from UWRF perform as well.

This year, Theta Chi members returned to the stage for a crowd-pleasing number, and the UWRF Dance Theatre made its first appearance.

Chloe Brevik-Rich, a UWRF student and a member of Dance Theatre, said she enjoyed being a part of such an amazing event.

“You get to work with all these incredible women, and it’s a thrill just being on stage performing your heart out,” Brevik-Rich said.

The captive audience laughed, clapped and groaned at the crude jokes, upbeat songs and inspirational words from the performers. The theme of the night was love and acceptance of everyone regardless of who they are or what they believe.

Christina Jackson, a returning performer from the Gay 90’s, emphasized that love is love and that one of the big reasons



*Maggie Sanders/Student Voice*  
**Audience member Joe (left) was brought up on stage by Christina Jackson (right), a drag queen from Minneapolis Gay 90’s club, who aimed crude jokes at Joe. Joe took the jokes well, and held Jackson in his arms. Jackson then made a speech about acceptance.**

the performers keep coming back every year is because of how accepting the audience members are of the differences among people.

“My favorite part of performing at River Falls is seeing all the people that come together regardless of their orientation or their beliefs, and they come here to have a good time and raise money for a good cause,” Jackson said.

Carter Rock, a UWRF student and an audience member, said he had never been to the Drag Show before, but he came to the show this year with a group of his friends because he knows a couple of the performers.

“We all decided as a group to go support them and watch [the performance],” Rock said.

Carmen Love, a returning performer from the Gay 90’s, said the best part of performing at UWRF is the people involved.

“The energy that everyone brings is fantastic and I will never give it up,” Love said.

A lot of work goes into putting on such a high-profile show. Audrie Ann Schlecht, the GSA representative, said the entire GSA executive board planned the whole event starting in September.

“We rented the space, we made the line-up, we planned it all and made sure the whole thing went smoothly throughout the show, as well,” Schlecht said.

Students can expect the drag show to come back during spring semester. For more information about SART, visit [stcroixvalleysart.org](http://stcroixvalleysart.org).

## It’s on Us campaign pledges to stop campus sexual assault

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The “It’s on Us” campaign and pledge is a national campaign to stop sexual assault on college campuses.

Across the U.S., according to the Center of Disease Control, one in five women and one in 71 men reported experiencing rape at some time in their lives.

The It’s on Us pledge is at [itsonus.org/#pledge](http://itsonus.org/#pledge). When you take it, you pledge to RECOGNIZE that non-consensual sex is sexual assault;

to IDENTIFY situations in which sexual assault may occur; to INTERVENE in situations where consent has not or cannot be given; and to CREATE an environment in which sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.

A lot of people are involved in this campaign, including the UW-River Falls campus through Student Senate. Not only are the survivors and their supporters involved, but also are so many other people, including heads of universities, the White House,

celebrities, athletes, and a lot of other organizations and everyday people.

Joining Americans across the country and Vice President Joe Biden, President Barack Obama launched the campaign on Sept. 19, 2014. The main goal for the campaign is to make people aware of sexual assault, and is in an effort to put an end to campus sexual assaults.

Student Senate is working on bringing this campaign to UWRF. President Anthony Sumnicht was in charge of bringing the campaign to the

Senate.

“The White House campaign contacted the president’s of campuses across the nation, and Tony brought it up to the executive board and said that we should get involved in this and make it a discussion on campus and get more students involved in it,” said Student Senate Vice President Shelby Hehr.

They participated in a conference call with the White House, along with hundreds of other student leaders, including student government, Greek, and athletics from

around the country.

Student Senate is working on planning multiple events that are going to relate to the campaign.

“We made a video, we’re having a kick off on the 20th of October,” Hehr said. “We are having a campus roundtable discussion, and having more speakers come to campus and talk about sexual assault.”

Student Affairs Committee Chair Riley Haynes is in charge of the events that go along with the campaign.

“One of the goals that I

really have for this project is there is a pledge that with the It’s on Us campaign, a pledge to step in when you see a situation that might occur and might result in sexual assault,” Haynes said. “And I would like to turn it into a kind of ice bucket challenge sort of thing where it really goes viral and everyone makes a video of themselves taking that pledge and challenges their friends and family to also take that pledge.”

See It’s on Us page 3

## ‘Ides of October’ passes without incident, but not without bravery, fear



*Maggie Sanders/Student Voice*  
**River Falls Police Officer Lesa Waitas patrols the Career Fair and acts as security for the booths on Wednesday, Oct. 15.**

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The Ides of October has come and gone, but the campus threat has left its mark on the university, at least for now.

The campus security alert that originally hit inboxes on Sept. 29, took a turn for the worse on Friday, Oct. 10, when UW-River Falls Chief of Police Karl Fleury updated the original campus alert with the chilling details of the written communication.

The threat targeted Oct. 15, the Ides of October. According to Fleury’s update, the threat stated: “Beware the Ides of October, the time is nigh and the bullets will fly.”

And there it was, only 14 words long, yet very real and very frightening. Students, faculty and staff finally understood why every building entrance was plastered with the printed campus alert.

Chancellor Dean Van Galen assured all community members via an email around 1 p.m. on Tuesday, that the threat will, no matter what, be dealt with.

“Along with other campus leaders, I have been working closely with Chief Fleury on this matter,” Van Galen said. “Actions have, and will continue to be taken to enhance the safety of our campus in response to this threat, including ac-

tively involving other law enforcement agencies.”

Van Galen also went on to call the written communication “troubling and “understandably upsetting,” but more importantly he sternly addressed his belief in the community saying: “I know that the days ahead will be difficult for our campus, but I am convinced that challenging times can, and will, bring out the very best of who we are as a university community.”

According to the UWRF Police Department’s crime log, the UWRF mail room received a “threatening letter” on Sept. 5, at 9:35 a.m. Fleury has been, for obvious reasons, very tight-lipped about the threatening letter, and he has neither denied or confirmed when and where the letter was received. He also declined to add anything further, stating: “At this time the case remains under investigation and we have no additional information to release.”

Special Assistant to the Chancellor Blake Fry made clear the university’s thoughts on threats received.

“We don’t want to set a precedent that every time an anonymous threat comes into the campus we’re cancelling all classes,” Fry said.

See Ides of October page 3



# News briefs:

## MBA program to host open house next week

UW-River Falls College of Business and Economics (CBE) will host an open house on Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 6-8 p.m. at the Hudson Center, 2501 Hanley Road, Hudson, for those interested in the MBA program.

The MBA program emphasizes small classes and mentorship from distinguished faculty in order to develop innovative and responsible global leaders.

All classes are held at the Hudson Center. The accreditation of CBE by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, which is the highest standard of achievement shared by less than five percent of schools of business worldwide, ensures that MBA students receive the highest quality education.

The full-time MBA allows for degree completion in just 18 months and is ideal for recent graduates who may not have full-time work experience but desire a competitive edge as they begin their career.

The part-time MBA, which requires two years of work experience, offers greater flexibility and evening classes that enable professionals to take classes while also focusing on their career.

For more information, contact Leanne Van Allen, director of CBE graduate programs, at 715-425-3335 or mbacbe@uwrf.edu. Attendees are encouraged, though not required, to RSVP at [www.uwrf.edu/MBA](http://www.uwrf.edu/MBA).

## Health Services plans for Ebola outbreak

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has plans in place to respond in the event a case of Ebola virus appears in the state. There is currently an Ebola outbreak in West Africa; however, no one has contracted the Ebola virus in Wisconsin.

“We understand people are concerned about the Ebola virus, especially with a recently diagnosed case in the United States. While there are no cases of Ebola in Wisconsin, and the risk of contracting it remains low, it’s important that medical and public health professionals are able to respond in the event there is a case in the state,” said Karen McKeown, State Health Officer.

“Should someone in the state contract Ebola, DHS will ensure that the public and health care providers receive prompt public health information.”

Since the Ebola virus outbreak began in West Africa, DHS has been assisting health care partners by providing guidelines for monitoring individuals returning from affected countries in that region.

DHS also continues to ensure that all health care providers are prepared with the appropriate infection control protocols and required precautions for managing an Ebola patient.

“For the general public, we want to stress that the chances of anyone in Wisconsin contracting the Ebola virus are very low,” McKeown said. “Ebola is only spread through contact with the body fluids of people who are sick with the virus. It cannot be transmitted through the air. In fact, influenza is more contagious than the Ebola virus.”

## UW System Regents approve revenue fund

The UW System Board of Regents unanimously approved a System report on the Program Revenue Fund Balances managed by the campuses and institutions within the UW System.

Program Revenues are funds collected at the campuses for tuition as well as for services provided, such as residence halls, food and parking.

Because the funds fluctuate based on factors like enrollment, campuses must utilize long-term strategic planning to ensure these resources are being managed responsibly. The report includes guidelines and reporting requirements that will make those efforts part of each institution’s budget preparations moving forward.

“We have integrated program revenue fund balances into our budget planning process and into our financial reporting processes,” Cross said. “From now on, the program revenue fund balances will not be a separate conversation, but considered a normal and regular part of our financial discussions and decisions.”

“As we continue to work with our partners in the legislature and the private sector to better serve the needs of our state, this report should provide increased confidence that UW System institutions are monitoring and managing our resources with accountability and transparency,” Regent Vice President Regina Millner said.

## Inter-Tribal leaders attend Regent meeting

The UW System Board of Regents for the first time welcomed leaders from the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council to its meeting Friday at UW-Stevens Point.

Regent President Michael J. Falbo noted the Board’s honor in welcoming the Council leaders and shared the UW Regents’ interest in building “a strong and productive partnership between us, one that will improve the outlook for Native American students, faculty, and their communities, and benefit all of us.”

“We are honored and thankful to be here to begin this partnership with tribal communities,” said Cristina Danforth, chairwoman of the Oneida Tribe and a UW-Green Bay graduate. “We have shared relationships and shared concerns,” she also added that student support—educational, financial, and social—are vital to ensuring greater retention and graduation rates among Native American students.

Other tribal leaders at the meeting included: Executive Director Michael Allen, Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Chairwoman Laurie Boivin, Menominee Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin; Chairman Chris McGeshick, Sokaogon Chippewa Community; and Greg Miller, on behalf of President Wallace Miller, Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

## Police on sex offender alert for Halloween

In an effort to keep children safe during Halloween trick-or-treat activities, the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) will work with local law enforcement agencies across the state to closely monitor sex offenders on probation or parole.

DOC probation and parole agents will team up with law enforcement officers across the state, to conduct random home visits on high risk sex offenders to ensure they are abiding by Halloween restrictions.

Halloween restrictions include no Halloween decorations inside or outside the residence, no candy distribution or participation in trick-or-treating activities, and porch lights must stay off during trick-or-treating time.

If a sex offender violates any of the restrictions, law enforcement will take them into custody.

“Halloween is a perfect opportunity for children to learn safety tips that can be practiced throughout the entire year,” according to Grace Roberts, Wisconsin DOC director of sex offender programs. “A parent or trusted adult should always accompany children while trick-or-treating, and children should learn to never enter homes of other people without their parent’s permission. Lastly, parents should use the Sex Offender Registry website to familiarize themselves with the neighborhood before going out.”

The public is encouraged to familiarize themselves with neighborhoods by visiting the Sex Offender Registry website: [offender.doc.state.wi.us/public/](http://offender.doc.state.wi.us/public/).

The website provides the public with the ability to locate registered sex offenders by name, zip code, or geographically within a one, two or three mile radius of a specific address.

If the public sees any possible sex offender violations, they may call in the tip at 1-877-234-0085.

As always, the DOC recommends the public contact local law enforcement if the situation is an emergency.

## Author discusses haunted hiking trails

Where are you most likely to see ghosts, Bigfoot, UFOs and even sea monsters in Wisconsin and Minnesota?

Bestselling hiking guidebook author Rob Bignell will offer up some of those haunted trails during a presentation on Thursday, Oct. 23, at Chapter2Books in Hudson, Wisconsin.

Trail recommendations will be drawn from Bignell’s recent books, “Hittin’ the Trail: Day Hiking the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway” and “Headin’ to the Cabin: Day Hiking Trails of Northwest Wisconsin” and his blog “Hikes with Tykes.”

The trails include such spooky stops as: Hell hounds and a girl’s spirit in a Dunn County, Wisconsin, swamp; a human-eating demon in a northern Minnesota forest; UFOs that visit an ancient meteor crater in Pierce County, Wisconsin; Bigfoot sightings spanning a quarter century in woodlands stretching across Minnesota and Wisconsin; A trail atop an alleged secret UFO base in southern Wisconsin.

The presentation, “Haunted Hikes,” runs 7-8 p.m. Chapter2Books is located at 226 Locust St. in downtown Hudson.

## BFA artwork exhibited in KFA Gallery 101

UW-River Falls seniors will present their Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree exhibitions in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building through Oct. 21.

On display will be photography, ceramics, paintings, and fibers work.

Justin Collins, from Exeland, Wisconsin, is a BFA candidate with a major emphasis in photography and a minor emphasis ceramics. On exhibit are archival inkjet photographs that illustrate visual narratives through the use of on-location lighting and staged compositions.

James Smead, from Hastings, Minnesota, is a BFA candidate with an emphasis in ceramics and a minor emphasis in painting. On exhibit are ceramic sculptures of skateboards that merge Mingei pottery aesthetics and graphic skateboard art.

Rose Bermudez, from Brillion, Wisconsin, has a double major in fiber arts and Spanish and a minor emphasis in drawing. She will be displaying a collection of hand-dyed, hand-woven rugs created on a floor loom.

Maisey Doheny, from Eden Prairie, Minnesota, is a BFA candidate with a major emphasis in ceramics and a minor emphasis in sculpture. Her work is inspired by experiences exploring the outdoors as a child, and her figurative sculptures demonstrate connections between respect and love for the beauty of nature.

The reception will be Friday, Oct. 17, from 5-8 p.m. in Gallery 101, which is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. For more information, call the UWRF Art Department at 715-425-3266.

## Recruitment event raises scout enrollment

The Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America’s first-ever Rocket Into Scouting event for young boys and their parents on Sept. 18, brought a 43 percent increase in Cub Scout participation from 2013 totals.

Rocket Into Scouting engaged 4,143 K-5th grade boys at over 700 elementary schools in 25 Minnesota and Western counties. The night marked the largest Cub Scout recruitment event of the year.

“Cub Scout programs have evolved to meet the needs of kids and families with focus on authentic experiences and adventures through ropes courses, camping trips and more to balance the technology-heavy world we live in,” said Dan Segersin, Northern Star Council Volunteer Membership Chair.

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ROYAL CREDIT UNION

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



# Vinehout and Pittman compete for Senate

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The Wisconsin 31st District Senate election is well underway; which candidate do you support to be your voice in local and state government?

The Democrat Incumbent is Kathleen Vinehout. She was elected as State Senator in 2006 and again in 2010, from a mostly rural part of Wisconsin. Prior to getting into government, she has worked on a dairy farm and taught health administration to college students.

In the Senate, Vinehout has worked to make health care affordable and create health insurance exchanges for individuals, farmers and small businesses. She has been fighting hard to bring more equity to school funding, keep consumer protection provisions in telecommunication laws, and improve the efficiency of state government operations.

## Which candidate do you support to be your voice in local and state government?

needs to use money to educate voters because they are very confused.

“It’s good sense to have voter ID in place,” Pittman said.

He said that he thinks it is important that we have as honest an election as possible. Pittman said that it might restrict some people, but it is the voters’ responsibility to be prepared.

Pittman supports drug testing for those on government assisted programs such as unemployment and food stamps. He said that people that need the help from the programs need to be using the resources to better themselves.

Vinehout has said that the discussion about drug testing for government assisted programs is pure election year politics. She said that the money that will be spent drug testing these individuals will outweigh the savings in taking drug users off the program.

Both of these candidates are very supportive of small businesses.

For more information on both candidates, visit their websites: kathleenvinehout.org and melpittman.com.

“[My number one priority if elected] has to be the schools,” said Vinehout at a forum in River Falls on Oct. 9, 2014.

She also said that the state isn’t paying its share of the money that the schools need, so most of the burden ends up on the shoulders of the property tax payers. Vinehout would like to change the ways that schools are funded. She states that education needs to come first.

Mel Pittman is the Republican candidate running for opposed to Vinehout. He has served as county board supervisor for 10 years and also runs a dairy farm. Pittman has also served on numerous other boards and committees as a way to be involved and help the public. He prides himself as a family man.

“My number one priority is to help get more people back to work,” said Pittman at the Oct. 9 forum in River Falls.

He said that unemployment numbers are down because people are still on government assistance. In order to get people back to work,

Pittman wants to change the incentives. He said that right now it is not financially better for someone to go to work part-time and get off of government assistance; the benefit costs are way too high. Pittman said that it needs to be financially better for people to be working than be on government assistance.

“[The voter ID law] was intentionally made extremely restrictive,” Vinehout said. “We should be opening wide the doors of voting. We should not be closing them.”

Vinehout said that the state

# ‘Ides of October’ passes without incident

From page 1



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice  
**River Falls Police Officer Matt Peterson sits in his patrol car outside the Kleinpell Fine Arts building off Cascade Avenue on Oct. 15.**

Worried parents aside, Fry and the Chancellor stood their ground, which proved to be the right decision, and some students agreed.

“I am not afraid of the threat,” said UWRF student Eduarda Bortoluzzi. “I am just a little concerned, but I don’t think the threat is like, for real.”

What some students may not realize is that this month’s threat comes five years removed from a similar threat aimed at black and Asian students in mid-October of 2009, where graffiti was discovered in Davee Library. Nothing ever came of that threat in 2009, and the hope is that nothing will occur this time around in the days following Oct. 15.

“It’s probably just some wacko looking for attention,” said Edward Welsh, professor of plant and earth science.

Many professors cancelled or made class optional on Oct. 15, including Welsh. Some professors pushed test dates or even gave extra credit to students who attended.

The tone on campus grew grim on the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 14, as rumors spread like wildfire about buildings being evacuated because of bomb threats. There were rumors that both the Karges Center and May Hall were evacuated.

Student Senate President Anthony Sumnicht, via Facebook and Twitter, released a statement late Tuesday night addressing the rumors: “Remember we are a community, and it is unacceptable to take advantage of this situation to harass and scare your fellow students.”

There were also rumors about students in clown costumes holding guns, sneaking around campus on Tuesday night, as well as hacked email messages from professors claiming Oct. 15 was going to be “memorable.” Imaginations were running wild; paranoia was sinking in.

“It’s absolutely mind-boggling,” said UWRF student Cody

Prokop. “I think it’s completely absurd.”

On Wednesday morning a police officer in street clothes, who declined to give his name, said “things like this happen; campus sees us as an entity to keep them safe.”

The officer, who was stationed outside the University Center, did not know how many other officers there were in total, only that he was simply assigned to a spot on campus. He also mentioned that he remembered a similar situation 15 years ago at UWRF.

Health and human performance Instructor Robert Ritzer said that a state trooper had walked past his office twice between 9-10:30 a.m on Wednesday morning. Ritzer did not seem worried about the extra security, Wednesday was “business as usual.” Some UWRF students were voicing their darkly comedic opinions about the threat via Twitter, using “uwrfthreat” as a hashtag.

“UWRF is like ‘The Hunger Games,’ may the odds be ever in your favor,” said UWRF student Alyssa Grotegut.

“Made it to and from class without getting shot, so there’s a plus!” said UWRF student Shayna Schroeder.

Laughter is one possible solution for the intense situation the university has been cast into, but English professor Kenneth Price cancelled his classes on Wednesday. Price, who has taught at multiple universities, said he thought he had seen it all.

Davee Library closed at 8 p.m. on Wednesday for unknown reasons. Library staff members would not specify the reasoning behind the closure. One would assume it was merely a precautionary method, but some students were not the least bit shaken by the written threat.

“I put on my big boy pants and I kept a stiff upper lip and I didn’t let some 16-year-old wannabe poet dictate what I’m doing with my life,” said UWRF student Benjamin Plunkett.

Nothing has come of the threat as of yet and the university obviously hopes things stay that way. Two things were made clear over the last couple of weeks. First, a large majority of students, faculty and staff were legitimately worried about their immediate safety. Second, the UWRF Police Department with the help of other agencies, such as the Wisconsin State Patrol, had the situation well under control. It’s a shame, the Ides of October turned out to be a calm, sunny, refreshing day.

“I woke up and looked to the window and I saw this beautiful day,” said UWRF student Luis Felipe Feitoza. “And I saw people playing lacrosse, playing basketball, playing volleyball outside, and I feel comfortable to get lunch and to enjoy the day.”

*Reporting was contributed by Carmella Everhart and Jack Haren. Hayden Bosch contributed research.*

# Political science department launches roundtable discussions on elections

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The UW-River Falls political science department is starting something new: political roundtable discussions.

The goal of these discussions is to get the campus community talking about political issues that not only affect River Falls, but the entire world as well.

“Our generation would benefit from even a broad base understanding of political issues,” said political science major Morgan Stippel. “I think it would make for a lot more politically active and engaged society.”

In addition to getting people talking about political issues, the political science department would also like to bring more visibility to itself.

“We’re a little bit smaller than we once were, and the university is a little bit smaller,” said political science Chair Neil Kraus. “And everybody is trying to figure out how to get their student enrollment numbers up.”

The discussions will be held once a month in the University Center. A political science professor will lead a 20-30 minute discussion and then open the roundtable to audience questions and comments. The discussion topics will vary every month.

“We want to get students who don’t know much about us to come and listen to a talk and then from that hopefully

become interested in taking political science classes,” Kraus said.

This month’s roundtable will be held Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. It will be held in the University Center, 231 Trimble Room. The topic will be “Key Races in the 2014 Elections” and will be led by political science professor Davida Alperin.

“We’re going to focus on the national elections,” Alperin said. “There are some pretty controversial and close races such as the Governor’s race in Wisconsin, but we’re not going to focus on that, we’re going to focus on what might change in Congress.”

Students in political science course 311 will also be able to participate and update people on what is happening with these elections.

## The goal of these discussions is to get the campus community talking about political issues that not only affect River Falls, but the entire world as well.

“Students have been doing research on different races,” Alperin said.

Even students who are not majoring or minoring in political science will find

these discussions helpful because roundtable speakers will focus on real-world issues that affect everyone. Alperin and Kraus both believe that these discussions are a useful way to not only learn something, but also ask questions.

“It’s a way to make the issues of political science relevant to students,” Stippel said. “These issues may not seem to relate to you, but they do. It’s taking an abstract topic like government, and relating it to your life.”

Last month’s discussion was led by professor Christopher Simer on the topic of the “Islamic State in Iraq and Syria” (ISIS). The goal of ISIS is to create an Islamic state across Sunni areas of Iraq and Syria.

“My knowledge on this topic is probably more than some, but still pretty basic, and I found myself learning quite a bit,” Kraus said.

If the discussions continue to go well, Kraus has plans to continue holding them in the spring. He plans to bring in speakers from outside the UWRF faculty as well.

“You don’t have to come with a lot of knowledge,” Alperin said. “It’s just interesting to share information.”

Roundtable discussions will be held once a month around the lunch time hour so attendees are encouraged to bring their lunches with them. The discussions are free and open to the public.

# It’s on Us campaign

From page 1

The It’s on Us website also has 13 tips for people to use to become part of the solution to end sexual assaults on campus.

Talk to your friends honestly and openly about sexual assault, don’t just be a bystander. If you see something, intervene in any way you can, trust your gut. If something looks like it might be a bad situation, it probably is; be direct.

Ask someone who looks like they may need help if they’re OK, get someone to help you if you see something.

Keep an eye on someone who has had too much to drink. If you see someone who is too intoxicated to consent, enlist their friends to help them leave safely.

Recognize the potential danger of someone who talks about planning to target another person at a party, and be aware if someone is deliberately trying to intoxicate, isolate, or corner someone else.

Get in the way by creating a distraction, drawing attention to the situation, or separating them. Understand that if someone does not or cannot consent to sex, it’s rape; never blame the victim.

If you are a victim or survivor, or helping someone in that situation, go to notalone.com to get the resources and information you need. The National Sexual Assault Hotline is 1-800-656-HOPE.

# U.S. Supreme Court refuses same-sex marriage law cases

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The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) failed to act with regards to same-sex marriage this week after refusing to hear cases brought by five states, including Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, against same-sex marriage, making same-sex marriage potentially legal in 30 states.

Current Gallup information put 54.3 percent of the U.S. gay population in states where same-sex marriage is currently legal. The majority of all Americans now live in states where it is legal to marry someone of the same gender. This also means the U.S. is one step closer to using the word ‘marriage’ to cover all marriages, instead of the words ‘civil unions’ or ‘gay marriage’.

Comedian Liz Feldman has a rant in which

she says: “It’s very dear to me the issue of gay marriage, or as I like to call it ‘marriage.’ You know, because I had lunch this afternoon, not gay lunch. I parked my car, I didn’t gay park it.”

Members of UW-River Falls’ Gay and Lesbian Alliance also do not go to gay school, but go as any other student goes to school.

“Potentially, we could have two different laws in different parts of the United States if other Federal court districts, that did not have these rulings enacted, choose to go a different route,” said political science major Benjamin Plunkett.

Plunkett also noted: “In the last 20 years we have seen an incredible change of the public’s opinion on this matter.”

Professor of political science Davida Alperin explained some the various benefits of legalizing same-sex marriage for gay couples which heterosexual couples enjoy. Alperin

listed benefits for legal marriage for all people.

“Visitation at hospitals, insurance kinds of things, certainly taxes and death benefits, children are more secure if their parents can be legally married,” Alperin said.

Alperin keeps her personal life separate from her academic life as a professor; however, she does have a personal stake in the matter of gay rights.

As a lesbian legally married in Minnesota, Alperin said: “Beyond the Supreme Court, I would say what really needs to happen next are...my benefits and rights are so much greater in Minnesota and Wisconsin, as a lesbian woman, than people in many other states nationwide who not only don’t have a right to marry, but also no law to protect them in housing and employment.”

There is a bill in Congress called the Employment Non-discrimination Act (EDNA),

which has passed in the Senate but not the House. This bill would make it illegal to discriminate in housing and employment nationwide. Alperin thought non-discrimination laws would have come before the freedom to marry laws. Our nation though has come farther than ever towards equality.

Amber Stone, co-President of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance, is thrilled with the ruling and said: “This is fantastic, a victory for sexual orientation and gender rights.”

Stone sees the other states falling in line with the ruling and agrees with Plunkett’s assessment of incredible change occurring in the U.S. toward gay rights, but cautions there is still much work to be done for equality nationwide.

In the future, if ENDA is passed, a person cannot be fired for their sexual orientation. On a Federal level, currently there is no protection for gay citizens.



EDITORIAL

# Students forced to take empty credits with college physical education

UW-River Falls is currently in the minority among U.S. universities regarding its policy which requires that students take physical education courses before they can graduate, according to a 2013 special report by USA Today.

Only 39 percent of universities require students to meet physical education needs. In the 1920s that percentage was in the 97th percentile. Times have changed.

At UWRF, students must complete three physical education courses, including P.E. 108 (Health and Fitness for Life), as well as two courses which are more activity focused. The Student Voice staff considers these to be unnecessary additions to the list of classes students already have to take in order to graduate.

By no means do we believe that physical education should cease to exist within college courses; we simply see it as something which ought to be an elective, something that students interested in maintaining a healthy physical lifestyle can freely sign up for if their schedules permit it. And, while fun, golfing, scuba diving and playing flag football should not be among courses students may have to complete to fulfill their graduation requirements.

Considering the full schedules and the duties that most college students have to juggle to stay afloat, adding additional weight to these students’ lives will only result in overexertion and stress.

Even UWRF athletes have to fulfill these requirements; people who train extensively every week to be in the best shape possible still have to power through these classes which, to them in particular, offer literally no worthwhile benefit to their lives.

Regardless of how frequently one exercises on their own time, it is apparently never enough to diminish the necessity of taking a course in physical education. While nobody is going to deny that exercise is beneficial, it is something that really ought to be done on one’s own time. This campus offers several areas devoted to fitness which are accessible to students, so there is little to nothing preventing people enrolled at UWRF from putting in hours towards improving themselves physically in a more flexible manner than scheduled classes.

When people think of college, what they tend to think of is the pursuit of knowledge. What doesn’t, and shouldn’t, come to mind is students who have to measure their waists and do thigh exercises if they want to graduate.

We recognize that this issue has been brought up in the past at UWRF and there is staff working on a solution, but it is probably time to make the change.

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

## STUDENT VOICE

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Read the *Student Voice* online at [www.uwrfvoice.com](http://www.uwrfvoice.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

# Drug testing a bad idea for unemployed benefits

“If you require drug testing for unemployment insurance claims are you going to drug test farmers for crop insurance next?” the Colfax farmer asked the candidate.

In several recent legislative forums, local candidates advocated for a proposal to drug test people making Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and unemployment insurance claims.

Unemployment insurance is a program that originated in Wisconsin in 1932. In general, unemployment benefits are financed by taxes paid by employers into the state’s unemployment reserve fund. Both federal and state law governs unemployment insurance. Wisconsin receives \$1.4 billion in unemployment insurance benefits from employer contributions and federal money according to the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) “single” audit of federal funds paid in 2012-13.

SNAP is a federal program. Wisconsin received \$1.2 billion in SNAP funds from Uncle Sam. In general, people making up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level can apply for SNAP benefits.

This would be a little over \$22,000 annual income for an individual who would be eligible for a \$200 benefit a month.

The state is responsible for assuring the SNAP program is properly administered. Wisconsin has been rewarded with bonus payments from the feds for improved administrative performance.

A 2012 LAB audit led the state to make further oversight improvements including a card trafficking investigation unit and a computer-matching system to assure prisoners don’t receive benefits.

At least 11 states have some type of law requiring drug testing for certain applicants of public programs. But courts struck down some of these laws.

In 2013 the District Court permanently stopped enforcement of Florida’s law. The court found the law violated the Fourth Amendment of the United States Constitution prohibiting unreasonable searches.

According to the New York Times, the 2011 Florida law showed few results while it was enforced: only 2.6% of the 4,086 people tested positive for drugs (most often marijuana).

The Times reported, “State records showed the requirement cost more money to carry out than it saved.” The Tampa Bay Times reported, in 2012, the program suffered a net loss of \$45,780. That’s not counting thousands of hours of staff time to implement and litigation costs to defend the program.

The Florida decision was based on a 2003 Michigan Court of Appeals case. The Court said forcing every Michigan recipient of public benefits to be drug tested without reason to believe the person abused drugs was unconstitutional.

According to NCSL most states use some test of “reasonable suspicion” before requiring a drug test. Most laws apply the requirement to persons applying for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Wisconsin law requires TANF applicants to disclose felony convictions.

Those with a felony conviction must take a drug test.

Are people who apply for public programs more likely to use drugs? The answer appears to be ‘No’. According to the Georgetown Law Journal, drug use in the general public is 8.7% compared to the less than 3% found in Florida’s testing of public benefit recipients. ThinkProgress, a current affairs website, reported Tennessee started drug testing in 2014 and found just one user after testing 800 people.

The farmer in Colfax raises an important question about drug testing. A person making an unemployment insurance claim is not too dissimilar from a farmer making a crop insurance claim. In both cases the program is financed with a mix of federal and private money paid into a reserve fund; in both cases the person is without income.

Public programs must be carefully monitored for fraud. Programs must be easy to administer and fraud investigation must be built into administration. With little evidence that those using drugs are disproportionately applying for SNAP and filing unemployment claims, it makes little sense to spend more money on drug testing.

Instead it seems this proposal is one more example of demonizing a certain group of people for political gain. Applying for aid is difficult enough. Asking someone who can’t afford to eat to pee in a cup just adds to the humiliation.

*Kathleen Vinehout  
Wisconsin 31st District Senator*

# Women’s health a hot topic in gubernatorial race

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin (PPAWI) expanded a statewide campaign asking voters to hold Governor Scott Walker accountable for his recent attempts to distort his extreme and extensive record that has put women’s health and safety at risk.

The program now includes digital and direct mail contact which will complement direct voter outreach already taking place at the doors and by phone.

Through these direct voter contacts, PPAWI is working to ensure voters know the stark contrasts between Walker and women’s health champions Mary Burke and Susan Happ.

“In his four years as Governor, Scott Walker has shut down health centers and eliminated vital health care services like cancer screens and birth control that thousands of women, men and families relied on,” said Tanya Atkinson, PPAWI executive director.

“Now, Scott Walker is doing everything he can to distance himself from that record. Thousands of women and families have been impacted by Scott Walker’s actions to eliminate their access to essential medical care and BadgerCare coverage. Hundreds more have been impacted by Walker’s efforts to shame and block women from making their own personal decision to end a pregnancy by signing four laws that further restrict abortion access. You can bet these families and those who value women’s access to health care without political intervention are talking about these issues,” Atkinson continued.

The polls show that Gov. Walker has a problem with women. He is trailing women’s health champion Burke by more than 14 points among likely women voters, according to a recent poll.

In addition to the digital ads and mail program, PPAWI is running a volunteer canvass and phone banking effort that has already resulted in more than 36,000 voter contacts.

Yesterday, Gov. Walker once again downplayed the importance of women’s health and his record during an editorial board visit with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel when he insisted that voters aren’t talking about his dismal record on women’s health.

Despite his claim, Gov. Walker has invested heavily on campaign ads to

mislead voters on his record related to women’s health.

“Voters deserve to know the truth about Governor Walker’s record and his clear intentions to continue his dangerous path to restrict women’s access to birth control and safe and legal abortion services,” Atkinson said.

“The patients and voters we work with every day are painfully aware of Walker’s efforts to impact their health care decisions. With this additional push to connect with voters, hundreds of thousands more will know that Scott Walker doesn’t trust women to make their own health care decisions, so women can’t trust him to represent them as governor,” Atkinson continued.

Take a deeper look at the policies Gov. Walker has advanced and supported as governor to deny women and families access to lifesaving care.

*PPAWI is the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. PPAWI engages in legislative and educational activity and works to elect candidates to office that support these goals.*

# First Wisconsin Governor debate examined

Last Friday evening I watched Wisconsin Public Television’s coverage of the first debate between Governor Scott Walker and his challenger, Democrat Mary Burke.

Four seasoned news broadcasters asked hard, direct questions of the candidates. When a candidate seemed to dodge the question, they asked again.

Burke spoke succinctly and forcefully. Her replies were clear and to the point. It was evident where she stood on each issue.

Gov. Walker, by contrast, avoided answering some of the questions. Even when pressed a second time, he continued to obfuscate.

A notable example was Gov. Walker’s failure to commit on whether he believed a full-time worker could actually live on the current \$7.25 an hour minimum wage.

Burke, on the other hand, stated unequivocal support for raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour. Gov. Walker continued to evade the question and stonewalled until his time was up.

In comparison with Burke’s crisp delivery, Walker’s rhetorical strategy was to rattle along without pause, fast-talking until the moderator cut him off.

Gov. Walker often disrespected time limits and did not conclude when being broken off. Burke spoke directly

to the audience, while Gov. Walker often seemed to be talking to someone unseen off to one side.

The debate exposed the differences between the candidates with sharp clarity. It was cogent straight talk versus circuitous slick talk.

The second and last Gov. Walker/Burke debate will be televised by various media outlets including Wisconsin Public Television and CSPAN at 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 17.

I urge any voter who may still be on the fence to tune in and judge for his or her self.

*Thomas R. Smith  
River Falls, Wisconsin*

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 Theatre!

The first person to report the find to [editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com) AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s account on Twitter @uwrfvoice.

## Now Playing: “Gone Girl”

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor:  
[editor@uwrfvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).



# Second senior art exhibit displays artistic skills

Britany Bonney  
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The second installment of senior art work is on display in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. Senior’s Justin Collins, Rose Bermudez, Maisey Doheny and James Smead will have their work on display in the gallery from through Oct. 21.

There is a variety of artwork in this senior show including photography, ceramics, sculptures, hand-woven rugs, paintings and class sculptures.

Seniors who are in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) program put together these shows as part of a requirement for their degree.

Doheny is BFA student with an emphasis in ceramics and a minor emphasis in sculpture. She said these exhibitions are like the equivalent of a senior thesis.

Smead is a BFA student with an emphasis in ceramics and minor emphasis in painting. He said he has been working on pieces for his senior show for about a year and half. The work that he has on display in the gallery is ceramic skateboards. Smead said making one skateboard can take about two days. The title of his collection is “Let Down.”

Smead said art students with shows in the future should start working on stuff for their shows early because there is a lot of work that goes into the creation of the show.

“Do not wait until your last one or two semesters to start the show, really consider what you want to do, figure out exactly how you want it to be and work as hard as you possibly can,” Smead said.

Both Smead and Collins said that they have



Jack Haren/Student Voice  
**Senior Rosemarie Bermudez is one of four students to present art from her BFA exhibition in the Kleinpell Fine Arts Building in Gallery 101 from Oct. 13-21.**

been planning and preparing work for their senior show for at least a year. Collins said artists with upcoming shows should be sure to incorporate their best work into the exhibition.

“Consider it your senior thesis show,” Collins said. “It doesn’t have to be a new body of work, it needs to be your best body of work.”

Visiting Assistant Professor Brett Kallusky teaches photography and said he feels proud seeing his students’ artwork displayed in the gallery. Kallusky said he looks forward to seeing the work that students have been working on over the years.

“It’s really important that students have the opportunity to present their work to the public,” Kallusky said. “It gives them the true life experience.”

Students who are involved in the exhibition are also responsible for setting up the gallery prior to the opening of the show and they are also responsible for cleaning up afterwards.

There is an opening reception for the exhibition on Friday, Oct. 17, 2014, from 5-8 p.m. There will be snacks and beverages, and the artists will have the opportunity to discuss their work with visitors.

The reception is in Gallery 101 in KFA and is free and open to the public.

The third senior art exhibition will be up in the gallery from Oct. 27 to Nov. 4. The fourth senior art exhibition will be in the gallery from Nov. 10-18.

Gallery 101 is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and Sundays from 2-4 p.m. For more information, call the art department at 715-425-3266.

# After months of work, Masquers club performs ‘Reckless’

Maggie Sanders  
margaret.sanders@my.uwrf.edu

The Masquers club theatre students are directing, producing and acting in the play “Reckless,” which will be open to the public and students on Oct. 16, 17, 18, 23, 24 and 25.

The Masquers club nominates a play and director, as well as production crew. However, students do not need to be part of the Masquers club to work on the play.

This year the Masquers club nominated “Reckless” written by Craig Lucas.

The play follows Rachel, a wife and mother who must hide away from a hit-man that her husband hired on Christmas Eve. She finds two strangers, Lloyd and Pooty, to stay with and figure out what to do.

Lucas, who is living in upstate New York, has written over nine plays, including “Reckless”.

He is an active member in the theatre community in the U.S. He has also written two libretto’s for two operas. The libretto refers to the

text of the opera and not the music according to the bio on the website “Playscripts.”

This year, senior Vanessa Agnes will direct the play. She nominated the play last spring with herself as director. Kendra Yarke, the lead actress of “Reckless,” said she and Agnes saw the play being done by another university group at the American College Theatre Festival held in Saginaw, Michigan.

As the director of the play, Agnes first ran auditions and casting for the show. She then had to show the actors and actresses what she wanted the play to look like.

Agnes also held the production meetings to make sure the play runs smoothly.

The biggest challenge that Agnes experienced as director were students who dropped out of the play. Since the auditions were held last spring, she had to do additional auditions during the fall at the beginning of the school year.

This will be Agnes’ directorial debut. She has a double major in

theatre arts and communications studies. She is also a member of the Masquers club.

As the lead actress, Yarke saw this as an opportunity to act in a play that is considered darkly humorous.

Yarke personally considers this play to be a “roller coaster of emotions” compared to other plays that she had acted in.

The most challenging aspect of the role is how big it is, and how many lines that she has had to memorize.

Most of the students who are acting and producing in the play are part of Masquers. However, the club allows any UW-River Falls students to be part of a play that is run by students.

The Masquers club is open to anyone who wants to join. Yarke, who is also the president of Masquers, says that the main focus of the club is to “spread awareness of the theatre community on and off the campus.”



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice  
**Students Rob Brecher (Lloyd, left), introduces Danielle Formanek (Pooty, center) to Kendra Yarke (Rachel, right) who hitchhiked. See “Reckless” Oct. 16-18 and 23-25 at 7:30 p.m. in Blanche Theatre.**

# STUDENT voices

Which 2014 elections are you following?

Compiled by Maggie Sanders



**Ashleigh Hakes**  
Senior  
Biology

“The Pierce County Sheriff elections and Wisconsin Governor elections.”



**Shylina Dick**  
Senior  
Animal Science

“The Minnesota elections and local elections of Red Wing.”



**Brittany Mohn**  
Senior  
Exercise and Sports Science

“I haven’t been following. I’ve been busy.”



**Alec marentic**  
Sophomore  
Psychology

“None of them.”



**Tristan Barringer-Kenny**  
Freshman  
Crop and Soil Science

“I would like to follow local and state elections in Wisconsin.”

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



# Students bike through River Falls trails

Collin Kottke  
collin.kottke@my.uwrf.edu

There are definitely no mountains around River Falls, but that doesn’t mean that mountain biking isn’t possible. In fact, students have the possibility to break out mountain bikes every Monday.

Falcon Outdoor Adventures, formerly known as Kinni Outdoor Adventures, puts on “Mountain Bike Mondays.” Behind Shopko there are trails called Whitetail Ridge and a group meets to ride on these trails every Monday at 5 p.m.

Mountain biking and road biking have some differences. Not only in the terrain the bikes are taken on, but in the equipment used as well.

“The bikes are a little different. You got fat tires and you got suspension [on mountain bikes]. On road bikes, you got skinny tires and usually a rigid frame,” said Joel Sehloff, Falcon Outdoor Adventures student coordinator. “Also, you have trees to deal with when you’re mountain biking...and rocks and roots; lots of things.”

The trails at Whitetail Ridge are single-track trails. The trails are about two-feet wide and made purely of dirt and the obstacles that Sehloff mentioned. The paths are there, but the obstacles are kept.

Sehloff has been riding mountain bikes for around three years and is a ride leader for Mountain Bike Mondays. He has been a ride leader since the program started last school year.

Sehloff enjoys mountain biking for the challenges it presents and the joy it brings him.

“It’s a little more technical, a little more fun,” Sehloff said. “With road bike you are worrying about cars, with a mountain bike you are worrying about trees, so it’s a little more fun.”

A group of students had some mountain biking fun a little further away this past weekend. On Saturday, Oct. 11, Falcon Outdoor Adventures ventured out to Lebanon Hills in Eagan, Minnesota. Lebanon Hills has over 12 miles of one-way, single-track trail, like the trails found in River Falls.

“It was a perfectly sunny fall day for a few hours riding and enjoying a picnic lunch,” said Assistant Director of Recreation Tiffany Gaulke. “Participants had fun exploring new nearby trails and venturing off campus for the day.”

If your mountain bike or your road bike needs a tune up, Sehloff and the Bike Shop can help get it back in riding condition.

The Bike Shop can be found in the Knowles Center and is open from 6-8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Bike Shop, like Mountain Bike Mondays, was started with the help of Sehloff last fall.

“We are a student oriented bike shop. We are here for any bikes that you might have left on campus, might be a little rusty, might be a little beat up,” Sehloff said. “We have cheaper prices for students than most of the shops around. You can bring it in, get it fixed up, pretty much anything you need. We are here for the students.”

A basic tune up is only \$25 for students and



Photo courtesy of Falcon Outdoor Adventures

**From left to right: Peter Vermeland, Dieimes Bohry, Tiffany Gaulke, Anton Yelk and Rebecca Harnack. Falcon Outdoor Adventures participants meet behind Shopko on the Whitetal Ridge trails every Monday at 5 p.m.**



Photos courtesy of Falcon Outdoor Adventures

**Members of the Falcon Outdoor Adventures mountain biking the Lebanon Hills trails in Eagan, Minnesota, on Saturday, Oct. 11.**

\$40 for faculty and staff. An advanced tune up is \$40 for students and \$55 for faculty and staff. Specific details on the tune ups can be found by going to [www.uwrf.edu](http://www.uwrf.edu) and searching ‘bike shop’.

Sehloff said he and his mechanics can fix

virtually anything that is on the bike. Anything short of having to order a new part, the Bike Shop can more than likely handle it.

The quantity of bikes going through the Bike Shop varies throughout the year. Sehloff said as the weather gets colder, fewer bikes

come in since biking becomes more difficult throughout the winter.

No matter the weather, UWRF biking enthusiasts have many opportunities to get in high gear.

## Check out upcoming UW-River Falls Falcon athletic events

### Football

After back-to-back tough losses, the Falcons return to the field at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct.18, at UW-Oshkosh. The team has five games left in the regular season, with the next two games being played at home. The Falcons will play UW-Eau Claire in the Cancer Awareness Game at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25.

### Volleyball

The Falcons are looking to snap its five-game losing streak at the UW-River Falls Tournament. The first game starts at 5:00 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17, in the Karges Center. The Falcons will play Luther College, Bethel University, Central College and Augsburg College in the Tournament.

### Women’s Cross Country

The Falcons received 15th place and 453 points at the Roy Griak Invitational, and 21st place and 623 points at the Bluegold Invitational at UW-Eau Claire. Its next meet will be the Tori Neubauer Invitational at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18.

### Men’s Cross Country

The Falcons received 7th place and 229 points at the Roy Griak Invitational, and 17th place and 489 points at the Bluegold Invitational at UW-Eau Claire. Its next meet will be the Jim Drews Invitational at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18.

### Soccer

After winning 4-0 against Buena Vista University on Wednesday, Oct. 15, the Falcons look to its next game at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, against UW-Platteville at home. The game will be the Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Game for the Falcons and its fans.

### Tennis

The Falcons will play at 9:45 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, at home vs. UW-Whitewater. The WIAC Tournament will begin at 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. The Falcons’ opponents at the tournament are to be announced.

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## LIVE FALCON BROADCASTS

**UWRF FOOTBALL**  
**SATURDAY, OCT. 18**  
**AWAY VS. OSHKOSH**  
**PREGAME- 1:00 P.M.**  
**KICKOFF- 1:30 P.M.**

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**WE LIVE TWEET ALL BROADCASTS**



# Computer science master’s program to be offered at UWRF

Ryan Tibbitts  
ryan.tibbitts@my.uwrf.edu

The College of Business and Economics (CBE) at UW-River Falls will be offering a new master’s program, a Master of Science in Computer Science (MSCS), starting in fall 2015. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Student President Theodore McDonough who plans to get his masters in computer science said it is convenient for students already in the undergraduate program at UWRF because they are already established in the area and can continue to use the resources available.

“What job can you have that does not use a computer?” McDonough said about the reason he plans to pursue computer science.

A master’s program in computer science has been in the works for a while at UWRF.

“I have wanted to start a master’s program in computer science since I started my career here at UWRF and I am so excited to see the culmination of our work in this program,” said CSIS department Chair Hossein Najafi in a press release

statement.

One of the reasons that Leanne Van Allen, director of graduate programs in CBE, gave for establishing the MSCS is the strong undergraduate success of undergraduates in Computer Science and Information Systems Department at UWRF. One way that the program will benefit prospective graduate students is how flexible and dynamic the program will be.

“Computer Science is always changing and our program is going to reflect that by staying dynamic,” Van Allen said. “The program will evolve and be able to adapt to the needs of the business community.”

The current Master of Business Administration (MBA) program has around 100 students and plans to increase around another 20 students next year with the added program in computer science, according to Van Allen. On Thursday, Oct. 9, CBE held an open house where prospective or interested students were given the opportunity to speak to Van Allen, Najafi and CBE Dean Michael Fronmueller.

Van Allen said, while the turnout was a bit low with 15 students that showed up for it, they were all engaged and in-

terested in the program.

McDonough said he did not attend the open house since it was in Hudson rather than on campus. He said ACM is already in works to get an open house on the UWRF campus and have been outreaching to the community and high school area students to get them more information on why computer science is a good major to get into right now.

“This is a field where you can make the most money and have the most available jobs,” McDonough said.

ACM is open to students with an interest in computer technology, video games, programming competitions and robots. McDonough said there is about 20-30 active members in ACM and that out of all the organizations he has ever been in they are the most active.

“We are setting up monthly computer clean up where people can come in and get viruses off their computers,” McDonough said.

For more information about the MSCS program, visit [www.uwrf.edu/CBE/MSCS](http://www.uwrf.edu/CBE/MSCS). All Questions can be directed to Van Allen at 715-425-3335 or [MSCS@uwrf.edu](mailto:MSCS@uwrf.edu).

# Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson visits UW-River Falls campus



Jack Haren/Student Voice

**Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson talks to UW-River Falls College Republicans about issues in Wisconsin and the Federal Government. Some of the issues included student debt, U.S. bonds, and the Gross Federal Debt. The presentation took place in the Trimble Room in the University Center on Monday, Oct. 13, 2014.**

# Professional panel discusses decline in news consumption among young adults

Kris Bradley  
kristin.bradley@my.uwrf.edu

Even with the news media just a click away, young adults seem to be missing in action when it comes to understanding or even knowing about most important current events and issues.

President of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Paula Poindexter has decided to take matters into her own hands. She has declared Oct. 7 “National News Engagement Day.”

Not only wanting to inform the “newsless” generation, Poindexter hopes to raise awareness on the importance of news to all ages. National News Engagement Day was celebrated at UW-River Falls, along with 41 states, the District of Columbia, and five other countries according to [newsengagement.org](http://newsengagement.org).

A panel discussion was held in

the University Center Riverview Ballroom. The panel included Hudson Mayor Alan Burchill, the Chair of the political science department Neil Kraus, Rich Kremer who is a reporter and host of “The West Side” on Wisconsin Public Radio, and Chad Richardson, editor and publisher of the Star Gazette in Hastings, Minnesota.

Associate Professor in the journalism department Andris Straumanis started the discussion by asking the panel which types of media they preferred using. Most agreed on CNN, Fox, Minnesota Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Radio. The majority of the panel stated that they also use social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter to get their news.

The group then discussed the apparent decline in news consumption. When asked if he thought there was a decline in news consumption among young adults, Richardson

disagreed with previous statements.

“Honestly...no, I think people are just consuming news in different ways,” he said.

He went on to explain how popular his newspaper’s mobile application has been recently, saying that they get hits constantly throughout the day.

**“There’s no accountability in a democracy if nobody knows what is going on,” Kraus said.**

Being a radio DJ, Kremer notices that the station will get hits on its website from people that do not listen to the radio shows. Just because they are DJ’s does not mean they are not posting stories online.

“It’s about news with a specialty in radio,” Kremer said.

When asked if the a lack of news consumption is a concern for democracy, Kraus felt that it is indeed a problem.

“There’s no accountability in a democracy if nobody knows what is going on,” Kraus said.

Burchill agreed with Kraus. He gave input on the matter using his point of view as a government official.

“You get how much you put into it,” Burchill said regarding the lack of involvement in the issues in government by its people.

He described journalists as being the “watchdogs for society.”

“They should be asking the right questions,” Burchill said.

Is the media asking the right questions? The discussion turned to the question of how could the media gain back the trust of their consumers.

After a long silence, Burchill was the first to speak. Stating that

he didn’t want to offend anyone, he told the audience that he believes there are some lazy journalists out there that cut corners.

He also believed that some news organizations can be slanted at times. They all seemed to agree that it was a good idea to get the news from multiple sources in order to avoid reading something completely biased towards one side. Doing so helps a reader to form their own opinion when consuming news.

“You have to be brave enough to read sources you disagree with,” Kremer said.

The overall consensus on whether or not there is a “newsless” generation seemed to be left up in the air.

The importance of journalism, however, was not disputed. The panel seemed to unanimously agree that journalists have an imperative role in society, and not any less important are news consumers.

# Rodli Commons renovation plans continue, architect search underway

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Key steps toward the plan to renovate Rodli Commons continue as interviews to hire an architect for the renovation project happened on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2014, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dale Braun, campus planner at UW-River Falls, represented the campus at the interviews in Madison.

Braun said the plan is for Rodli Commons to become a “one-stop shop” for student services. Some of the student services that will be in Rodli include the Registrar’s Office, Admissions and Financial Aid.

Construction on Rodli Commons is not expected to start

for about a year and half to two years, Braun said, but the interview to hire an architect is a start that will help push the project along.

Braun said they are looking for someone who has experience with campus construction.

“A successful team to us will have had some experience in working on universities before and also come with a good understanding of what contemporary student services are,” Braun said.

Once the architect is hired they will have a better idea of what the renovations will cost, how long the project will take, and what the plans for renovation will include.

Rodli Commons was chosen as the location for a one-stop

shop for student services after the condition and re-use possibilities of the building were evaluated, Braun said. Having all student services in one building seemed to be the best model for students.

The majority of the funding for the project comes from state tax dollars and \$4 million will be coming from student fees. Plans for the renovation project have been in the works since 2007 and the project is still in the early stages of development. Braun said hiring an architect is just one of the key steps towards starting the renovation project.

Braun also said that plans for moving the offices and classrooms that are currently in Rodli have not yet been determined.



# Worrisome ‘Ides of October’ threat brings heightened security, caution

Cristin Dempsey  
Columnist

The events on campus in the past week have taken an unexpected turn; twice the campus police have informed students and staff of a shooting threat against the campus community, planned for Wednesday, Oct. 15. Students and staff alike have been abuzz about the threat, many unsure what they should be doing. Because not a lot of information is available, it is unclear if we are in fact in danger on Wednesday or any other day this week.

It is likely that most, if not all, current students have never experienced a situation like this. It is also likely that it is nothing more than someone trying to stir trouble, but the hard part is, we can never be too sure.

I became a student at UW-River Falls three years ago in September of 2011. Now a senior, I can safely say that I have never encountered a situation like this.

Of course we hear about shooting upon shooting on the news, such as Virginia Tech University or Sandy Hook Elementary, or

even lock downs at the University of Minnesota. Yes, they are sad. Yes, they are concerning. But within a month, they are forgotten about, especially if you have no affiliation whatsoever with the victims or other people involved.

It is not until a threat or act of violence hits close to home that we realize this is real life, this happens, and it is scary. If there is anything good to come out of a threat like this, it is that we realize that we need to take violent actions seriously. We can never be too careful.

**It is not until a threat or act of violence hits close to home that we realize this is real life, this happens, and it is scary.**

There are students and staff who no doubt are not going to class on Wednesday, while there are others telling everyone to stop being scared; this could happen any day.

Personally, I fall somewhere in the middle. It is highly doubtful that the threat will be carried out; but even so, what do we know? There aren’t nearly enough details for any

of us to make a fair conclusion. Still, people that tell others to stop being scared, because this could happen any day? Anything could happen any day, yes. But, even then, these threats do not happen every day. UWRF is not on the news every day, if ever.

Of course we have a reason to be scared. I am not as afraid of flying bullets as I am about uncertainty. It scares me that I don’t know the whole story, what is going to actually happen.

In this time of crisis, it is important to remember there is a lot to be thankful for. Every time I walk outside I see a police officer either walking or driving around. People have said that makes them nervous, like they did something wrong. I love seeing the police officers. It makes walking around campus feel a lot safer. They are obviously taking this situation very seriously and care very deeply about the security of students and staff.

If you see a police officer in the next couple of days, thank them, or at least give them a nod. Also be thankful for your parents. It may seem a little over-the-top that they want to call you multiple times and “freak out,” as the case may be. More than likely, they see this as a far more serious situation than you

do. Do not ignore them. They want you to be OK, they want to hear your voice. It gives them a sense of comfort knowing you are safe, and they will do anything in case you feel that you are not.

**If you see a police officer in the next couple days, thank them, or at least give them a nod.**

This is not something that happens frequently on our campus, and hopefully it will not happen again. Of course we may not see anything more than has been provided to us and it is possible nothing will happen. Still, there is nothing wrong with taking precautions, no matter what people tell you. If you are afraid to go to class, don’t go. It may seem like a risk to miss a big exam or due date, but that is something you can certainly make up. You can’t make up a lost life.

*Cristin Dempsey is a senior from Eagan, Minnesota. She is majoring in English with a professional writing emphasis and minoring in music. In her spare time, Cristin likes to write, play music and work out. After graduation, she would like to pursue a career as an editor.*

# Popular ‘based on a true story’ films provide more fiction than fact, but are worthwhile

Rachel Molitor  
Columnist

If you are a movie lover, you will know that there are a number of movies out there that are “based on a true story,” but what does this really mean?

How much of the “true story” needs to be part of the movie in order for them to be able to have that label? This week we are looking into some of the ideas what makes a “based on a true story” movie.

Let’s start with “Remember the Titans.” Most of us have probably heard of, if not seen, the movie. For those who haven’t, the movie is about a Virginia high school football team that becomes interracial after the turbulent 1960s. They fight amongst themselves, struggle, and then becoming a winning football team that dances before each game.

There is an implication that the Titans were the underdogs, a mixed team facing off against an all-white conference. In fact, the

reality was quiet different.

“There were more than a few times that I felt genuinely sorry for the teams we played,” said Charles Mitchell, a backup running back from the team quoted on the ESPN website. “We would have won the state championship without the coaches, in my opinion. We were that dominating. We were that deep.”

**An inspiring story seems greater when we know that that kind of thing happens in real life, not just “reel life.”**

In fact, at the end of the season, the Titans were the second-ranked team in the nation. Not only did the team not actually dance, but by that point in history, all the teams in conference were mixed.

Obviously, the actual tale of the Titans was far less dramatic than the movie would have you believe. In fact, many sports movies are like this. They take a general idea, and

then make the team an underdog in need of inspiration.

Horror movies also love to claim to be based on a true story. Take, for instance, the film “The Conjuring.” This film tells the story of the Perron family’s haunted house and the paranormal investigators that helped them with it.

Obviously, since the movie deals with the supernatural, the truth of the facts is up for debate. The Perron family claims that the movie depicts mostly the truth. Although the haunting didn’t escalate the way the movie portrays it, the Perron family lived in the “haunted house” for many years. As for the rest of the movie, the person who haunted the house, Bathsheba, actually existed, though the family claims they didn’t recognize the spirit as her until the Warren’s came along.

Other “based on a true story” movies are “The Young Victoria,” “300,” and “The King’s Speech.” These movies are based on significant historical events, not just some event that the producers think is interesting. Nevertheless, both types of films have something to offer.

Hollywood will always take a story and try to make it into something that they think will be more entertaining. If they didn’t do this, than these “based on a true story” films would probably be called documentaries.

They are meant to inspire, to scare or to entertain. Although they may not always be entirely true, the fact that they are based on something that actually happened, lends the film an extra something. For example, a horror movie based on a true story freaks you out a bit more. An inspiring story seems greater when we know that kind of thing happens in real life, not just “reel life.”

While watching Marvel movies can be a blast, we also can gain a lot from movies that are based on fact. Even if they are Hollywood-ized, the movies offer a view of reality that we may not encounter very often. This brings us out of the corner of the world we call our own and allows us to experience life.

*Rachel Molitor is a senior English major who loves reading, watching films and learning new things. Rachel hopes to eventually go to law school. You can often find her in the University Center with her head buried in a book.*

# Career Fair held in University Center despite campus threat



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice  
**UW-River Falls senior Sarah Andersen (left) talks with President Mike Gooder (right) of Plant Peddler about greenhouse and landscaping jobs. The Career Fair was open to students Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014.**



Maggie Sanders/Student Voice  
**UWRF senior Christine Leiby (left) talks about job openings in United Farm Credit System (FCS) with Senior Financial Services Officer Ryan Renderman (middle) and Human Resources Director Lynda Hauge (right). The Career Fair was open to students Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2014.**

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