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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

March 6, 2015 www.uwrfvoice.com Volume 101, Issue 17

Community remembers UW-River Falls student

Jack Tuthill
jack.tuthill@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls lost a member of its student body in the early morning of Sunday, Feb. 22, as junior crop and soil science student Dylan Denk of Greenwood, Wisconsin, died in a snowmobile accident.

The accident was reported at 6:34 a.m., just north of the township of Warner, Wisconsin, approximately five miles north of Greenwood, according to the Clark County Sheriff’s Department.

Denk’s snowmobile crashed into a tree after the vehicle drove over a hill and spun out of control. Denk, age 22, was traveling alone and at a high speed, but was wearing a helmet, according to the Clark County Sheriff’s Department. Denk was ejected from the snowmobile and pronounced dead at the scene.

Outside the classroom, Denk worked at Aves Taxidermy Studio located on northbound Highway 35 between River Falls and Hudson, for UWRF alumnus David Brummel, who founded the business in 1976. Brummel described Denk as “happy-go-lucky.”

“He will be sorely missed,” Brummel said. “Not a single person here could say anything but good things about him. He always did what he

said he was going to do, and he followed through. He did things with a certain air, that I would call a gusto, and that’s a tribute to him.”

According to assistant professor of crop science Veronica Justen, Denk’s advisor, he was slated to graduate in the spring of 2016.

“He grew up on a farm, and based on my interactions with him, I believe he probably wanted to be some sort of agronomist or work for a co-op,” Justen said. “I know he cared about crop production. I think he wanted to be something like a sales agronomist or work in the agronomy industry.”

According to Merriam-Webster, agronomy is “a science that deals with the methods used by farmers to raise crops and care for the soil.”

Denk was the 10th snowmobile fatality in the state of Wisconsin this winter season, according to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Eleven fatalities have been reported in Wisconsin as of March 2. It’s still unclear, pending a toxicology report, whether Denk’s alcohol level was above the legal limit at the time of his death, according to the DNR. Ten of the 11 fatalities this winter involved speeding, and eight involved alcohol. Denk was Wisconsin safety certified, according to the DNR.

Five of the 11 fatalities were not safety certified.

The DNR reported 181 incidents last winter, with a total of 23 fatalities. At this time in 2014, 18 fatalities were reported, so fatalities are statistically down this winter. One incident was reported last winter in Pierce County and six were reported in St. Croix County, with no deaths.



Photo courtesy of Cuddie Funeral Home
UWRF student Dylan Denk, age 22.

“I know that he really enjoyed hunting and snowmobiling,” Justen said. “And he loved to work. He really talked a lot about how he had to

work at the taxidermy shop.”

Justen had taught Denk for three years, including a “plant breeding” course this semester. According to Justen, she will remember Denk’s sense of humor most.

“He would say really funny things, but you had to get to know him at first to know he wasn’t being serious about it,” Justen said. “He kind of had a sarcastic sense of humor, and that sticks out to me, you know, I’ll remember that sense of humor he had in class.”

Denk was born on May 9, 1992, in Marshfield, Wisconsin. Denk was raised on a family farm, northeast of Greenwood, and graduated from Greenwood High School in 2010.

According to his obituary, Denk enjoyed playing football and baseball, and was active in 4H and FFA. Denk also enjoyed spending time on the family farm hunting, fishing, snowmobiling and four-wheeling.

Denk’s family has asked that donations be given in his name for a memorial to be established at a later date. Condolences may be expressed on the Cuddie Funeral Home website: www.cuddiefh.com. “A lot of untimely things happen, but what we have to remember is the good things that we did do, and

the good times we had,” Brummel said.

According to an email sent to all UWRF students from communications and external relations Director Blake Fry on Friday, Feb. 27, the university reached out to the Denk family for support.

“If you would like to share your thoughts and condolences, you may leave a card or note for the Denk family with the office of Student Conduct & Community Standards, located in Hathorn Hall, and we will forward those messages to them,” Fry said in the email.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Greenwood. A burial followed in the St. Mary’s Catholic Cemetery.

For grieving students, UWRF Student Health and Counseling Services, located in 211 Hagestad Hall, has staff readily available.

“Dylan was a work-in-progress,” Brummel said, “As a work-in-progress, I was disappointed that he’s not with us anymore because I saw him as being a community leader, maybe an agronomist or own a big farm and have a family, and maybe be the town chairman someday, because he’s got that kind of knowledge and people respect him.”

Online voting for Falcon Center segregated fee wraps up

Jordan Preston
jordan.preston@my.uwrf.edu

This week, students at UW-River Falls were able to vote on a proposed segregated fee for the Falcon Center.

Each student received an email early Tuesday morning, with a link to FalconSync, where the voting took place. Voting closed at 11:45 p.m. on March 5.

The proposed segregated fee that was passed by the Student Senate would be introduced at \$175 for the next academic year, being split between the two semesters, and would rise to \$200 in the fall of 2016.

Past students voted to approve the fee to build the \$60 million Falcon Center, and even contributed to the new facility then, with a different segregated fee.

This new, proposed segregated fee will only go towards the operation of the Falcon Center.

“This fee is going to be for staffing the building, and fund the programs that are going to be in the [Falcon Center],” said Anthony Sumnicht, Senate president.

Sumnicht also said that the vast majority of the proposed fee would go towards the staffing aspect of the Falcon Center. If there were any scheduled increase in this fee, it would have to be reviewed by Senate.

“It is important that students voice their views on the proposed segregated fee to support the Falcon Center,” said Chancellor Dean Van Galen, in an email. “The UW System and the Board of Regents will certainly consider the results of the vote when this comes before them

later this year.”

Students that aren’t going to be around before the completion of the Falcon Center still play an important part in the voting of this segregated fee. Past students voted on the

“It is important that students voice their views on the proposed segregated fee to support the Falcon Center,” said Chancellor Dean Van Galen, in an email.

University Center, and had a segregated fee to fund the facility much like the Falcon Center.

“Even if current students will have graduated prior to the opening of the Falcon Center, they have

a strong interest in the future of UWRF and students who will follow them,” Van Galen said.

Sumnicht said that Senate is expecting at least 2,000 students to take part in the vote. Van Galen also mentioned that he thinks that there will be a good turnout for the vote.

“The Falcon Center will positively impact academics, athletics and recreation on our campus, and I anticipate strong student interest and turnout,” Van Galen said.

Even if there is a poor turnout for the vote, the segregated fee will still move forward, but that would make it extremely difficult to move this from UWRF to the state level.

“The project and the fee has to be approved by the Board of Regents of the UW System, and they have been very critical of referendums in the past,” Sumnicht said. “Espe-

cially if they have a low turnout or there’s not a strong ‘yes’ vote.”

Sumnicht said that it’s very important for students to voice their opinion and vote, because of the criticism from the Board of Regents.

“Past students paid for the University Center, even though they didn’t get to use it, and it’s more of an investment for the university as a whole,” Sumnicht said. “Previous students made that decision for current students to use that facility, and we’re asking students to do the same now.”

Senate had students promoting the Falcon Center in the University Center during the week, as well as having students at intramurals and open-gym to get the word out to as many students as possible.

‘Africa Night’ brings together students to celebrate diversity on campus

Christine Marriott
christine.marriott@my.uwrf.edu

“Africa Night” is held every February to wrap up Black History Month, and is hosted by the UW-River Falls Black Student Union (BSU).

This year, on Friday, Feb. 27, it was a full house, held in Kleinpell Fine Arts’ Abbott Concert Hall. The hall filled up fast in anticipation of a good show.

BSU President Oboi Jones said the student organization has hosted Africa Night on campus for about 10 years. Many students in attendance at this year’s event had attended previous Africa Nights. Some had heard from other students who told them this was a must-see event.

Jean Paul Frederick of BSU opened the evening with jokes and trivia. Sharing MC duties was fellow BSU member Malory Tshioko. Tshioko is originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The event began with a fashion show featuring students wearing authentic African garb from various African nations. Kenya, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo were among the styles modeled. The colors were vivid with cheerful patterns and authentic styles.

Next came the dancers. They were lively and athletic, moving with the music as if they were dancing just for joy, not for an audience.

Most of the packed hall smiled in response and kept rhythm with their hands and feet from their seats. An Ethiopian dancer had the crowd clapping and vocalizing amazement. At one point, volunteers from the audience were invited to come on stage and have a dance contest.

The crowd overwhelmingly voted on a small child, who had the courage to be the first one to volunteer. She danced bravely in front of everyone. She won an African necklace and was all smiles.

Throughout the program, African trivia questions were asked with necklaces given as prizes. Along with the trivia, Frederick and Tshioko ribbed each other and the audience, keeping everyone laughing.

The Duniya Drum and Dance group from the Twin Cities also performed with two drummers, each on a different type of drum. There were six dancers; only one was male. The group performed several numbers.

Tshioko, wearing a colorful, beautiful, hand-sewn dress from the Congo, sang a solo. Her voice conveyed intense emotion as she sang in her native language of French. Tshioko told the audience over 1,000 different languages are spoken on the African continent.

Samantha Herr, sophomore elementary education major, said she was glad to have attended.

“They included everyone in the audience



Jack Haren/Student Voice
An Ethiopian dancer has the crowd clapping and cheering at ‘Africa Night’ in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building on Friday, Feb. 27.

in their performances,” Herr said. “They were very welcoming, they were funny, it was really cool.”

Finally, after all the entertainment, came the food. Damola’s Kitchen and Flamingo’s Ethiopian restaurants catered the meal. Included in the feast was cabbage, salad, beef, chicken and vegetables, a couple of different kinds of rice, plantains and fried doughnut-like balls called “puff puffs.” By the time the evening was wrapping up, most of the food had been appreciatively devoured.

“I’m just amazed by these 18 to 22 year olds who can pull this entire campus-wide, community-wide event off on their own,” said sociology Professor Paige Miller. “I might have given them a piece of advice or two but basically it was all them. It’s amazing, at 18 to 22 I was not doing something like that.”

Jones said the BSU plans to continue hosting this event every February. He said all are welcome to attend a BSU meeting.

“You don’t have to be black,” Jones said.

BSU meets 5 p.m. on Mondays in the Wind River Room in the University Center, for fun, fellowship and support.

News briefs:

Biology department tests beekeeping model

Researchers in the biology department at UW-River Falls recently received funding from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to test a honey bee management strategy targeted towards maintaining and increasing the number of non-migratory Wisconsin beekeepers.

Wisconsin beekeepers produce almost 4.5 million pounds of honey with an estimated value of \$9 million. However, honey production is only part of the benefit bees provide to the state. Pollination services also play a critical role in supporting other Wisconsin crops including apples, cranberries, cherries, and strawberries.

The vast majority of Wisconsin’s 900 honey producers run small, non-migratory beekeeping operations. These operators are facing significantly increased costs due to factors such as annual winter mortality losses of 30 to 50 percent, introduced diseases and pests such as the varroa mite and adequate nutritious native flower forage due to current monoculture farming practices. The annual replacement costs for those lost hives is making beekeeping unprofitable and ultimately unsustainable.

Over the next two years, researchers and students led by UWRF biology professors Brad and Kim Mogen will evaluate the overwintering capabilities of small beehives called nucleus colonies or “nucs.” Nucs can be produced in the summer by splitting existing hives, overwintered, and used as source material to replenish winter losses, thereby reducing the need to purchase new bee packages from southern states each spring.

Not having to purchase bee packages produced in southern states will reduce costs and minimize the unintended introduction of undesirable genetic traits such as aggressiveness and southern pests. An additional benefit will be the ability to select for desirable traits at the regional level such as enhanced winter hardiness.

One of the most important aspects of this project is student involvement and training. UWRF offers a unique honeybee research course for freshman undergraduates. Students selected from that course will expand their training by working on the project throughout the summer where they will help collect hive data, learn bee management procedures, work with research collaborators from other departments and institutions and interact with Wisconsin growers such as cranberry producers.

The research project at UWRF will begin this spring and extend over the next two winters. During the summer, nucs will be created that are headed by queens from five different genetic lines to test their overwintering abilities. Project results will be presented to regional honeybee clubs and to the Wisconsin Honey Producers Association.

The research is being funded in part by a \$30,438 grant from the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection with the source of funding being a United States Department of Agriculture Specialty Crop Block Grant.

Over the past three years, UWRF has developed a significant collaborative research program involving undergraduate students with UW-Stout and the Bee Lab at the University of Minnesota.

For more information, contact Mogen at 715-425-3364 or brad.d.mogen@uwrf.edu.

UWRF coach given WIAC recognition

UW-River Falls men’s basketball Coach Jeff Berkhof has been named the WIAC co-coach of the Year.

Berkhof, in his ninth season with the Fal-

cons, led a very young and inexperienced team to a third place finish in the final WIAC standings with a 10-6 record. UWRF was picked for an eighth place finish in the WIAC coaches/sports information director’s pre-season poll.

Berkhof led the Falcons to 20-plus win seasons in 2011 (20-8) and 2012 (20-8). In 2011, he was named the league’s Coach of the Year after leading the Falcons to a second place finish in the WIAC and a berth into the NCAA Tournament—the first time a Falcon team has earned a spot in NCAA Tournament play.

In 2012, the Falcons again placed second in the WIAC standings and then took a 64-58 win at Whitewater to win the WIAC Playoff Championship for the first time in school history. The Falcons then hosted a four-team NCAA Regional at the Karges Center—the first time the university has ever hosted a men’s basketball playoff series.

Berkhof is no stranger to Falcon basketball. He just completed his 22nd season in some capacity as a Falcon. Before joining the coaching ranks, Berkhof spent two seasons playing for the Falcons from 1992 to 1994. During his senior season, he averaged 17.4 points per game; he was selected to the 1994 all-WSUC team and was chosen co-MVP and co-captain by his teammates. He spent 12 years as the team’s top assistant coach.

He has coached 19 Falcons to all-WIAC honors and three to All-Region recognition. He has a 107-127 career record at UWRF.

The Hills, Minnesota, native received his master’s in sport management at the University of Minnesota in 2005. He completed his bachelor’s degree at UWRF with a major in physical education and a minor in athletic coaching in 1994.

Berkhof earned the 2015 Coach of the Year honor along with Stevens Point Coach Bob Semling.

Biology department tests cancer treatment

A research project currently underway at UW-River Falls is blending basic science cancer research on artificial tissues conducted at the UWRF Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center (TCIC) with an existing technology from Microscopy Innovations in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

The project holds significant potential for enhancing already effective cancer therapies by improving a physician’s knowledge of the specific biology of the tumors being treated.

The TCIC has extensive experience studying cancer using a variety of 3D artificial tissue engineering approaches in collaboration with physicians at Marshfield Clinic and elsewhere in the region. These techniques have already opened the door for TCIC director and UWRF biology Professor Timothy Lyden and his collaborators to explore a new approach to personalized cancer medicine.

This approach is referred to as the “living biopsy” technology and involves using an individual patient’s tumor to build a library of 3D artificial tumor tissues in the laboratory. These individualized artificial tissues can then be used to study and evaluate the patient’s tumor for growth, invasion, and treatment responses during an extended period of culture.

The 3D culture technology and techniques developed at the TCIC provides a set of growth conditions that more closely resemble those of the normal body and so the behavior of these cultured 3D tumors also potentially reflect the original cancer more closely as well.

“This new collaboration with Microscopy Innovations allows for greater standardization of the already successful TCIC technology and so opens the door to final testing of the living biopsy approach to cancer analysis and

treatment assistance,” Lyden said. “Once fully tested and validated, this laboratory tool set is expected to provide clinicians with a unique new insight into each individual patient’s case and so help them to develop the most effective individual therapeutic designs.”

This new collaborative, the blending of TCIC knowledge and experience in 3D artificial tissue culture and engineering together with Microscopy Innovations capsule technology, is expected to generate the necessary foundational technology for a new start-up company as well. That new company, Artificial Tissue Systems (ATS), will focus on the commercial development and application of the “living biopsy” tool set approach to cancer diagnosis and therapy design.

Recently awarded “Regents Scholar” funding from the UW System Board of Regents will allow Lyden, in collaboration with Microscopy Innovations, to continue work on a prototype design of a miniature bioreactor system. At the same time, the studies conducted in this project with standard breast cancer cell lines will also help standardize the “living biopsy” toolset in preparation for testing with clinical samples next year.

For more information, call Lyden at 715-425-3362 or email timothy.lyden@uwrf.edu.

Women’s hockey plays for WIAC playoff title

The UW-River Falls women’s hockey team will play in the WIAC playoffs championship game on Saturday, March 7.

The Falcons host UW-Stevens Point at 2:05 p.m. at Hunt Arena. The Falcons enter the championship game with a 23-3-1 record and are 14-2 at Hunt Arena. UWRF has won nine straight games and are unbeaten in its last 15 contests.

Junior forward Chloe Kinsel has set school single-season records for goals (21) and points (46). Kinsel is fourth in the nation in points per game, fifth in assists per game and eighth in goals per game. Two other Falcons are over the 30 point mark: senior forward Alice Cranston (39 points), and sophomore forward Dani Sibley (35 points). Cranston has six game-winning goals and is tied for first in the nation.

Sophomore defenseman Paige Johnson (22 points) is fifth in the nation in points by defensemen while freshman forward Carly Moran (29 points) is fourth in the nation in rookie points per game. Freshman goaltender Angie Hall has a 19-3-1 record with a 1.74 goals against average and a .899 saves percentage. She also has three shutouts.

UWRF averages 4.4 goals a game and allows just 1.7. UWRF is third in the nation in scoring and 10th in goals against. The Falcons are seventh in power play percentage (22.9 percent).

The Falcons advanced to the championship game with a two-games-to-none series win over UW-Eau Claire last weekend at Hunt Arena. The Falcons won on Friday, 6-1, and came back to take a 5-1 win on Saturday.

The Falcons and Stevens Point have met four times this year and UWRF has a 2-1-1 lead in the season series. UWRF is ranked sixth in the nation and Stevens Point is seventh. On Nov. 14-15, 2014, in Stevens Point, the Falcons won, 3-2, on Friday, and Stevens Point won, 3-2, on Saturday.

On Jan. 23-24, in River Falls, the Falcons again won the first game, 3-2, and the two teams battled to a 2-2 overtime tie in the second contest. Stevens Point holds a slight 23-22-6 lead in the all-time series.

UWRF senior students present art exhibition

UW-River Falls seniors Michael Czech, Emily Cheever, Lisa Marshall, and Julian Gelhaye will present their bachelor’s of fine arts (BFA) degree exhibitions on March 9-23 in Gallery 101 of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building on campus.

On exhibit will be fiber weavings, paintings, drawn illustrations, photography, glass sculptural work and mixed media sculptures.

Czech of New Brighton, Minnesota, is a

senior with a double major in fine arts and art education with emphasis in painting and drawing. He exhibits paintings and drawings with a focus on the lighter side of life, finding subjects in humor or whimsy.

Cheever of River Falls is a BFA candidate with an emphasis in photography and painting. Her photographs explore the unique, unpolished quirks of everyday English life. The artwork is an anthropological look at what it means to be English.

Marshall of New Richmond, Wisconsin, is a BFA candidate with emphasis in fibers and painting. She exhibits double-weave, woven-wall hangings that display complex compositions and color combinations. Also on exhibit are oil paintings on canvas that merge patterns in nature with patterns in weaving along with color theory.

Gelhaye of Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota, is a BFA candidate with an emphasis in glass and ceramics. On exhibit are glass sculptures incorporating mixed media meant to create a sense of nostalgia and expose issues of childhood and education.

An exhibition reception will be held at 6-8 p.m. on Friday, March 13, in Gallery 101. The exhibit and reception are free and open to all.

Gallery hours are 1-8 p.m. on Monday through Friday, and 2-4 p.m. on Sundays. For more information, call the UWRF art department at 715-425-3266.

Highway speed limit may change to 70 mph

The Wisconsin Assembly Committee on Transportation voted on March 3 in favor of increasing the maximum speed limit to 70 miles per hour.

“I am very pleased,” said Rep. Paul Tittl, author of the bill. “This is a commonsense bill that Democrats and Republicans support.”

The committee rejected an amendment that would have allowed the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to establish a 65 mph limit for commercial vehicles.

“Highways are safer when traffic is flowing at the same speed,” Rep. Tittl said. “Split speeds for commercial vehicles disrupt that flow.”

Traffic safety engineers say the safest place to set the speed limit is the point at which 85 percent of the people are driving at or below. The current 85 percentile speed hour on numerous highway segments throughout the state is over 70 miles per.

“Increasing the speed limit is primarily about safety and bringing traffic closer to that 85th percentile,” Rep. Tittl said. “That change should help to make our interstates and freeways safer.”

The committee votes was 14-1 in favor of the 70 miles per hour limit. The bill will head to the Wisconsin Assembly floor later this month.

Local store to host vintage wedding event

Funktion Junktion has announce its second annual “Vintage Wedding Affair,” planned for the first weekend in spring.

Funktion Junktion is a “fun and funky vintage shop” located at 125 North Main St. in River Falls. For the month of March, its vendors will focus on all things bridal and the do-it-yourself bride.

The “Vintage Wedding Affair” will take place on March 21-22, where brides can get ideas for reception themes and decor, get how-to advice from artists and vendors, and enjoy nibbles and punch while exploring various themed vignettes and bridal fashion. The wedding affair is from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, with the vintage fashions throughout.

Funktion Junktion and its vendors and artists realize many of today’s brides are doing much of the wedding preparations themselves. Whether its to save money or because they enjoy it, the wedding affair is a great place to start gathering ideas and items to use for their special, one-of-a-kind day. For more information, visit Funktion Junktion on Facebook, call 715-425-7050, or visit www.funktionjunktion.com/wedding.html.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Friday, Feb. 27

- A 22-year-old man was arrested for property damage and his second offense of drunk driving at about 2 a.m. at the intersection of Main Street and Cascade Avenue. When police brought him to the hospital to test his blood alcohol level, he used the bathroom and reportedly punched a fist-sized hole in the wall.

Saturday, Feb. 28

- A 19-year-old woman was arrested around 2 p.m. for theft, an ID card violation, and underage drinking. The woman got into The Second Star thrift shop due to an unlocked back door and attempted to steal \$200 worth of clothing before being seen and confronted by the police.
- At 8:29 p.m., a controlled substance report was filed due to possession of drug paraphernalia and marijuana. This incident occurred in Crabtree Hall.

Editor’s note:

Information for this section is taken from River Falls Police and River Falls Police Department incident reports.

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Bowls for Hope serves River Falls community

Carmella Everhart
carmella.everhart@my.uwrf.edu

The sixth annual Bowls for Hope charity event will take place at 5-7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, in the University Center Ballroom to raise money for Bridge for Community Life, Inc.

Bridge, located in Hudson, Wisconsin, is a nonprofit organization that aims to help youth and adults with disabilities by providing employment services, social and recreational programs and training for community-based life skills, according to its website.

Early each year, the Bowls for Hope committee works with the River Falls community to raise funds to help a worthy organization make a difference in the St. Croix Valley, according to the UW-River Falls website.

For an entrance fee of \$25 for adults and \$5 for children, participants may select a bowl to keep from a variety of handcrafted, ceramic, pottery and glass bowls that have been created in studio classes at UWRF, River Falls High School, Meyer Middle School, the Renaissance Academy, or by local artists.

In addition to keeping a bowl, each participant may sample soups donated and served by area restaur-

rants at no extra charge and vote on their favorite soup. The restaurant with the most votes wins a customized ladle to showcase in their restaurants if they choose, according to Mary Van Galen, a member of the Bowls for Hope Committee.

Some of the participating restaurants this year include: Bo's 'N Mine, Copper Kettle, Dish and the Spoon Café, South Fork Café, West Wind Supper Club, and Whole Earth Grocery, according to the UWRF website.

Van Galen said that although this event is a fundraiser, the focus of the event is not money, but rather building relationships and celebrating the community.

"We really, truly focus more on educating the community, giving them the opportunity to participate, and letting them be a part of something that's so much bigger than themselves," Van Galen said.

Even though the focus is not on the amount of money that is raised, the event brought in \$6,600 for Grow to Share, Inc. in 2014, and has raised more than \$28,000 for St. Croix Valley charitable organizations since it was launched in 2010 by Mary and Chancellor Dean Van Galen, according to the UWRF website. Van Galen said that one of her favorite parts of the event is

working with the students and artists who donate their bowls and the excitement she sees from them.

"They don't expect anything out of it," Van Galen said. "They are just excited to share their talent and they are excited that people are excited to get their bowls."

Katie Johnson, an art education student, said that she has donated her bowls in the past and is donating what she believes is her best five bowls to the cause this year.

"It's really exciting because it's a way for us to get our art out there and we can also reach the community through art, which is really great," Johnson said.

Johnson said that creating each bowl from start to finish usually takes up to an hour.

"I just chose ones that I thought people would take home and enjoy," Johnson said.

Carson Giblette, an art student, said this is his second year participating in Bowls for Hope.

"I think I have fifteen to twenty bowls I am donating," Giblette said.

Visit www.uwrf.edu/Bowls-ForHope/Index.cfm to learn more about the Bowls for Hope event this year, and access information about the past events.



Carmella Everhart/Student Voice
Carson Giblette works on a ceramic pot in the campus ceramics studio.

UWRF associate professor follows dream with rose studies

Brooke Brokaw
brooke.brokaw@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls associate professor of horticulture David Zlesak has had a love of plants ever since he was a young boy.

His passion for gardening first developed after spending time on his grandparents' farm as a child.

"I loved visiting my grandparents' farm," Zlesak said. "My parents moved to Milwaukee and left the farm scene so it skipped a generation."

As a child, Zlesak recounts following several individuals around their gardens which kick-started his love of both gardening and nature. His true inspiration, though, came at 13 years old after reading an article in the Milwaukee Journal about Will Radler, director of Boerner Botanical Gardens, whose hobby was rose breeding.

"I saw the article, and the idea of coming up with new plants was a great inspiration to me," Zlesak said. "So I wrote to Radler and he connected me to a newsletter on rose breeding, along with an older gentleman that lived in the same suburb of Milwaukee as me."

This older gentleman, Elton Strack, became like a grandfather to Zlesak after he would visit Strack in his garden once a week.

"Elton was retired and had time to humor a youngin' like myself," Zlesak said.

In addition, Zlesak would also read articles in the Rose Hybrid-

izer's Association Newsletter. He recalls reading articles about breeding plants and different aspects of genetics that helped Zlesak to find his true passion: roses.

"The reason why I'm so passionate about roses today is that's what I read about in the Milwaukee Journal that ultimately connected me to Elton," Zlesak said. "As I'd follow him around his yard and learn about roses, that became my model crop."

Zlesak attended UWRF and obtained his undergraduate degree in horticulture. To further his education, he also obtained degrees in plant breeding and genetics. Today, the work that Zlesak does with roses he considers to be more than just a hobby.

Through his research and breeding, he works with colleagues at the University of Minnesota to study rose diseases and categorize new rose viruses.

Zlesak is also part of a new national rose trialling and evaluation called the American Rose Trials for Sustainability. He also works with research through Earth-Kind. He does not think too much about the amount of time that he spends with roses, though, because he worries he'd wonder what else he does with his time.

Through his time and commitment to roses, Zlesak has developed what he considers to be his greatest accomplishment, the "Above and Beyond" rose.

The first cross for Above and Beyond was created in 2000 and was

a seedling in 2001. The cross was made between a small yellow miniature rose and two hearty roses, one of which being the rose of virginiana from cold climates to create

climates.

"The rose of virginiana is very special because Elton collected it from the wild and shared it with me as a youth," Zlesak said.



Photo courtesy of David Zlesak
The 'Above and Beyond' rose, developed by UW-River Falls associate professor of horticulture David Zlesak.

a hearty monster that can reach 10 to 14 feet tall and withstand cold

As a way to honor Strack, Zlesak included his name in the variety

name, "ZLEEltonStrac." Above and Beyond will not be released until this spring through Bailey Nurseries First Editions, but is already an award winner earning top pick awards at the New England Growers event in Boston, Massachusetts.

"The awards are nice, but along the way the satisfaction I've learned is the journey," Zlesak said.

Zlesak is continuing his journey of rose breeding and teaching at UWRF as a horticulture professor. He served as a mentor to 2012 UWRF graduate Zach Steeno.

"David basically taught me everything I know about roses," Steeno said. "To anyone who doesn't know David, I'd tell them this is 'the guy' you'd want as a mentor and friend because he bends over backwards for each of his students."

In reference to the work that Zlesak does with roses, Steeno emphasized that David is not like every other rose breeder.

"David is a blue-collar rose breeder. He reaches for the stars with the species roses, makes crosses and continues to modify these hybrids to bring out the best traits," Steeno said. "He goes that extra mile so that in the end, his results are miles ahead of those not taking the same path."

Roses are not just a hobby for David Zlesak, but a lifelong passion that he works hard to pass on to others.

"The gate to my success is being able to share it with others," Zlesak said.

Renowned composer visits UWRF campus to conduct symphony band

Maggie Christensen
maggie.christensen-1@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Symphony Band hosted a world-renowned Dutch composer and conductor, Johan de Meij, for its concert on Thursday, Feb. 26, in the Abbott Concert Hall.

"His is a name known across the entire world for wind orchestra," said Symphony Band Director Kristin Tjornehoj. "He doesn't really say that he writes for bands. Its been said that he rebelled."

Abbott Concert Hall was nearly full on Feb. 26. Many students, as well as community members, braved the cold, windy night to hear de Meij and Holland alto saxophone soloist Hans de Jong along with the Symphony Band.

Tjornehoj stepped aside and played alongside her students as de Meij took the conductor's baton and launched into the night's opening piece, "The Witches' Sabbath."

The concert featured the newly released "Riverdance," with elements from Spanish and Irish folk dance, according to de Meij. Along with

"Riverdance," de Meij conducted the symphony band in "Spring" and "Summer," both inspired by Scandinavian folk music.

The UWRF Band Invitational is a program in the music department hosted by Tjornehoj and music lecturer Gary Bird. There were different events featuring de Meij last week. A master class was held on Feb. 26, with de Meij's "Preview of the World Premiere Fellini." On Friday, de Jong was also part of a smaller recital at the Coffee Concert.

De Meij has won awards including his Symphony No. 1, "The Lord of the Rings," based on the trilogy by author J.R.R. Tolkien, according to de Meij's website. The piece was awarded the prestigious Sudler Composition Prize in 1989.

When not traveling, he divides his time between his Hudson Valley, New York, home and a Manhattan apartment. He is the founder and CEO of his own publishing company, Amstel Music, established in 1989.

After spending the week in River Falls, de Meij plans to move on to

Michigan for the Red Cedar Festival. In 2014, de Meij became principal guest conductor of both the New York Wind Symphony and the Kyushu Wind Orchestra in Fukuoka, Japan, according to his website.

Later that night, de Meij introduced his friend and special guest, de Jong. Originally from Holland, de Jong took the stage with de Meij for the first time at UWRF's concert.

"My dear friend, Hans de Jong, we have been friends since 1997 and have traveled the world together," de Meij said.

De Jong was the solo alto saxophone in de Meij's "Ballade for Band," "Elfentanz" and "Riverdance." He is a professor of classical saxophone and chamber music at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp in Belgium.

He has produced the seven part CD series "Vintage of European Saxophone Music," released by Casanova Records. About 150 compositions have been dedicated



Carmella Everhart/Student Voice
Guest composer Johan de Meij conducts the UWRF Symphony Band.

to him, according to his website.

For more music and concerts, the Falcon Band Concert will be at 7:30

p.m. on Tuesday, March 10, and the UWRF Band Concert will be at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 12.

EDITORIAL

UWRF athletics polish off strong winter season

As Div. III winter sports are wrapping up over the next couple of weeks, the Student Voice would like to give a shout-out to the UW-River Falls athletics department for one of the most memorable winter sports seasons in recent memory.

Recruiting student-athletes to a Div. III university is not easy, because these students do not receive scholarships or special treatment for being a college athlete.

With a Falcon Center segregated fee being voted upon this week, college athletics are at the forefront of our minds. We believe that the Falcon Center will play a vital role in the future success of this university, because high-quality facilities will lead to bigger, faster and stronger athletes, and those athletes will lead to higher enrollment and more community excitement. Despite all the budget concerns, it’s a great time to be a Falcons supporter as the women’s hockey team is on the verge of playing in yet another NCAA Tournament, and the men’s hockey team is one win away from its first WIAC Tournament championship, and third conference tournament title in its history.

The women’s hockey team needs the support of the student body at 2:05 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, as the Falcons battle the UW-Stevens Point Pointers for a second-straight WIAC Tournament championship. The Falcons are 2-1-1 against the Pointers this season, and all four games were decided by one goal or less. The men’s hockey team has more on the line, as the Falcons need a win over Stevens Point at 7 p.m. on Saturday in Stevens Point. Not only are the men trying to do something the program has not done since 1996, win a conference tournament, but a berth in the NCAA Tournament is clearly on the line.

The men’s basketball team, meanwhile, had an astounding turnaround season, posting a 10-6 WIAC record in route to a third place finish. Head Coach Jeff Berkhof was named WIAC co-Coach of the Year for his incredible recruiting and coaching abilities. Berkhof lost practically his entire 2013-2014 roster entering this season.

While the season is still young, the women’s softball team is hitting a strong early stride in Head Coach Faye Perkins’ last season at the helm. It will be a special year as Perkins has been the face of UWRF softball for over 20 years.

Junior David Paynotta placed first at the WIAC Track and Field Indoor Championships last weekend as he set a school record in the 60-meter dash. Paynotta will be running for a NCAA championship next weekend.

Winning is contagious, and winning helps recruitment, and Falcons athletics is winning. Congratulations to the UWRF athletic department on a great winter season.

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

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 WISCONSIN editorial staff by e-mail through editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student rudeness an issue during class

How and why do you show disrespect for a professor and classmates in a class? Rudeness runs rampant in many classes every day, and it needs to be stopped.

This issue matters; because if we don’t learn manners now, our job prospects and personal outcomes could be dismal. I cannot remain silent any longer.

The one sin for most professors is using electronic devices in class without permission.

I have sat in many classes while the people around me play games, listen to music, check their email and Facebook or even watch a movie or a television show. They pay tuition for this class, then ignore the lecture? This makes no sense to me.

Another sin is the person who comes in chronically late, disrupting class when they come in. Then there is the reverse of this habit, getting up in the middle of class and leaving. When I have known I

needed to leave early, I ask the professor beforehand. That is just being polite.

Third is the person who misses a class, then loudly asks if they missed anything important. To that professor, every class is important, full of information necessary to pass that class. You might as well tell the professor they are irrelevant to you and your life.

Then there are the chronic talkers and whisperers. This is rude and disruptive for all. If you don’t sit in the first row, you end up missing a lot of the lecture or discussion. Grades may depend on that information.

Some people sleep in class, and some even snore. Gum popping and chewing with a full mouth is a common sight. Noisy, messy or stinky eating in class is another rude practice. How can you take notes and eat chips or a full meal at the same time?

I have even seen people come to class

and continuously blow their runny nose loudly, over and over, to the point where it’s hard not to get queasy. Please, leave the room for that in the future.

I know many people who do not take notes or even read the material assigned, then ask basic questions in class, which were answered extensively in the assigned reading. This really wastes lecture time.

We have all probably committed one or two rude acts in classes, but do not make a habit of it. I am sure some of you could add to this list of offenses. This is only directed at the serial offenders. On behalf of underpaid, overworked professors, and classmates, please class up your act.

Christine Marriott
UW-River Falls journalism student

Better UW Initiative: 26 campuses for one cause

In recent weeks, student representatives have joined together to create an organization called the “Better UW Initiative.”

The UW System student representatives consists of 26 students, one from every school in the state. The goal of the this initiative is voice concern over the magnitude of budget cuts, support a fixed tuition increase cap, and save shared governance for each separate school. Our core values are listed in six different statements.

One of these statements, which reads “through these challenges and changes, we will strengthen the UW student voice while maintaining professionalism and integrity,” is critical to the success of this undertaking. By uniting as a 26-school, system-wide student body, our voices will be heard all the way up to the capitol.

The proposed budget cuts will inevitably affect all of us, but no one can yet say exactly how the cuts will impact their education. This is why the Better UW Initiative was created: to establish a resource for students to educate themselves on how the budget cuts and the end of a tuition cap will inevitably affect our campus.

With the information provided from forums, events, and honest media coverage the Better UW Initiative is organizing, students will be able to develop their own opinion on what’s

expected to come. It’s critical for the student body to understand how the budget cuts and an end to a tuition freeze will impact the cost of school and the integrity of the education.

Comparable cuts were made to the University of California system in 2012, which ended a tuition freeze, resulting in the average cost of education going up by roughly 25 percent. The impact of a 16.4 percent decrease in funding is incomprehensible now; but as more information is revealed, the Better UW Initiative will be a platform for a student to go to learn more about what is to come.

It’s imperative that the Better UW Initiative establishes a system-wide student coalition in response to current, as well as future, critical issues that will affect the whole system. The Better UW Initiative will be hosting biweekly forums, starting this week, on what students can expect from the looming cuts.

Visit <http://www.uwreps.com/better-uw.html> to learn more, and like the Better UW Initiative Facebook page to keep up-to-date on events and information.

Daniel Saunders
UW-River Falls student
Better UW Initiative representative

Be the first person to find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Student Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

The first person to report the find to **editor@uwrfvoice.com** AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

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

Now Playing: “MacFarland, USA” and “Kingsman: The Secret Service”

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to editor@uwrfvoice.com

STUDENT *voices*

What is your favorite winter activity and why?

Compiled by Amara Young



Left:
Steven Tessier, senior, broad field social studies:
“Nordic Skiing, because it’s the best!”



Right:
Kaila Anderson, sophomore, biology:
“Volunteering with my Phi Mu sisters.”



Left:
Kristin Lin, journalism:
“I don’t have a favorite winter activity, not even in Taiwan.”



Right:
Rachel Johnson, sophomore, animal science:
“Snowboarding with my friends.”

UWRF senior attempts to leave creative legacy

Bryan Tester
bryan.test@my.uwrf.edu

One senior student at UW-River Falls is a finalist for two different contests that would leave his mark on the campus and community, long after he leaves.

Blake Johnson is a senior from Cadott, Wisconsin, and has a chance to win the official flag for the city of River Falls and the official sandwich of UWRF. Within one day, he found out that he was a finalist for both of the competitions.

“I’m really appreciative of being a finalist of both, and it’s exciting to know I could make an impact on the community,” Johnson said.

The Erbert and Gerbert’s Sandwich Shop was created in 1988 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and is located in 12 different states around the U.S., mainly located near college areas. Since opening in 1988, the company has grossed more than \$22 million and is opening chains outside of the Midwest, like Arizona and New York.

The Erbert and Gerbert’s bistro in the University Center,

located on the UWRF campus, is giving the student body an opportunity of a lifetime. The bistro is letting the students get their creative juices flowing by coming up with the official sandwich of the college.

“Fredrick Tail Feather” is the name of the sandwich that students were asked to create in order to make it on the Erbert and Gerbert’s menu. After a wide variety of entries in the contest, it was narrowed down to the top three last week.

The three sandwich finalists for the contest are: chicken, bacon and ranch; Turkey and chipotle citrus barbecue sauce; and turkey, provolone and pesto mayo.

Currently leading the bunch with 42 percent of the votes is the sandwich created by Johnson: the turkey & chipotle citrus barbecue sauce.

“I just wanted to make a sandwich that everyone would enjoy,” Johnson said. “Plus, it would be pretty cool to say that I have the official sandwich of [UWRF].”

Johnson said that he heard about the contest online and thought it would be a great way to get involved with the school and leave a legacy.

Of course, this isn’t Johnson’s first time being a finalist for a contest. He recently has been selected as a finalist for the “River Falls Flag Challenge,” where he is going up against four other competitors.

Back in October, the mayor of River Falls posted a video on rfcity.org, and its social media accounts saying the city doesn’t have an official flag and wants someone from the community to create the flag.

“We’ve had great selections to choose from that really represent the city well,” said Mayor Dan Toland about the flag challenge finalists in a video.

The rules for the contest included the use of only five colors, while including the name of the city and the year it was incorporated (1885). Johnson and his roommates saw this video on one of the city’s social media accounts, which sparked Johnson’s creative side. After a few hours, he had designed the flag that best would represent the city.

“It would be great to come back to River Falls and see the flag I made,” Johnson said. “It would also be nice to win the money.”

UWRF Ag Sci student lounge receives face-lift

Cooper Nelson
cooper.nelson@my.uwrf.edu

After a \$6,000 donation from the Lifetime Member Fund from the College of Agriculture and Environmental Science (CAFES) alumni, the Ag Sci building will soon have a renovated student lounge.

The student lounge in Ag Sci is located on the bottom floor in room 117, and has been around for as long as records show.

The lounge is a popular place for CAFES students to hang out between classes,

meet for group projects, and work on homework.

The renovation is currently approximately half way finished.

So far, new tables have been purchased and placed, along with new, burgundy leather couches. The mural in the room has been refurnished and USB ports have been installed in the outlets. During spring break, new ceiling tiles and LED lights will be put in.

CAFES dean of Alumni Relations Justin Luther is very happy with the renovations and thanks the alumni

board.

“We have a very active alumni board,” Luther said. “They give back to the college, specifically the students. Many of the alumni have very fond memories of spending time in the lounge.”

Luther said that it was important to get new furniture into the lounge because the old furniture was getting worn down after heavy use, and that he is very happy with all of the use that the lounge is getting.

“It is a common meeting place for groups and it is a nice place to study between

classes,” Luther said. “It really has been a major overhaul. It’s a warm cozy environment that is very comfortable for students to spend their time.”

There are a number of other buildings on campus that have student lounges, but UW-River Falls student Alex Boyer likes the one in Ag Sci the best.

“The lounge in Ag Sci is my favorite, I am usually in there at least once a week,” Boyer said. “I’ve been to the other student lounges on campus, but I think that Ag Sci has the best one, hands down.”

Almost everyone has a smartphone of some sort in this day and age, so it was important to get USB ports installed so students can charge their phones, this is one of Boyer’s favorite additions to the lounge.

“The leather couches are so comfortable, I can easily fall asleep in them, but my favorite part of the new lounge is probably the USB inputs, it is perfect to get a quick charge for my iPhone,” Boyer said.

Of course, the renovation wouldn’t have been possible without the donation from the Lifetime Membership Fund.

Luther said that the Lifetime Membership Fund funded this project and that all of the alumni that donated will be members of the CAFES alumni board for life. Luther is grateful for their donation.

“I would like to give a special thanks to the past students of [CAFES],” Luther said.

The renovations will be finished when classes resume after spring break, so make sure you stop by and take a look at the lounge for yourself.

Tune into WRFW to:
listen to awesome new music,
catch live coverage of Falcon sports,
and hear your friends on the air!

Men’s hockey advances to championship

Sadie Horton
sadie.horton@my.uwrf.edu

On Feb. 27-28, the UW-River Falls men’s hockey team the traveled to UW-Eau Claire to take on the Blugolds for the WIAC semifinals.

On Friday, the Falcons pulled out a 4-3 win to open the series thanks to two goals from freshman forward Kyle Gattelarolo in the third period. Sophomore forward Mike Fazio and sophomore forward Mike Dietrich added goals for the Falcons, and junior goaltender Tanner Milliron made 25 saves on the night.

“It was good to battle back, and especially after dropping three in the regular season to Eau Claire, so it was a good feeling to finally get the win, and obviously huge to start the playoffs that way,” said junior captain defenseman Alex Murphy.

On Saturday, the Falcons lost 4-2 to the Blugolds. Sophomore forward Taylor Burden and senior captain forward Blake Huppert each had one goal in the game, while Milliron made 44 saves.

“We didn’t play that bad of a game. They had a few really lucky bounces that went in, I think three out of their four goals were just kinda lucky,” Murphy said. “Things were not really going our way as far as puck-luck goes, but we played hard and we played a good second and third period, but after they scored two in the third I think we just sat back on our heels a little bit and probably cost us the game.”

The Falcons loss in the second game caused the two teams to enter into a one period “mini-game,” following Saturday’s semifinal. The mini-game ended in a 1-1 tie. The lone goal for the Falcons came from freshman forward AJ Jarosz. The two teams then headed into a sudden-death, mini-game overtime.

About halfway through the overtime, the Falcons earned a penalty shot when a Blugold covered the puck in the crease. Burden was award the shot. Burden went high glove, and beat Blugolds sophomore goaltender Jay Deo, which won series for the Falcons.

“You never really see a situation like that, but we were pressuring Eau Claire really hard and we had some great opportunities, and had them back on their heels, and on that particular play there was a loose puck and we had three forwards right around the crease whacking away at it,” said Head Coach Steve Freeman. “You could see the puck laying there in the edge of the crease and the Eau Claire players were pretty panicky, and they were looking for the puck and trying to box everyone out and they just dove on it and the official was standing right there and he saw that they covered it with their hand. That’s a penalty shot, so he didn’t hesitate at all. He gave the signal for the penalty shot. You can pick anybody that was on the ice to take the penalty shot. I looked at everybody and I kinda looked at Taylor and I could see it in his



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Sophomore forward Mitch Kontny stiff arms a UW-Eau Claire opponent in a 4-3 loss to the Blugolds at Hunt Arena on Saturday, Jan. 24. The Falcons will battle UW-Stevens Point on Saturday, March 7, for the WIAC title.

eyes that he was calm and wanted to take the shot and he said ‘I got this coach.’

Because of the mini-game overtime win, the Falcons will be heading to UW-Stevens Point on Saturday, March 7, for the WIAC championship game.

“We feel really well,” Milliron said. “Obviously coming off

this weekend is going to help all the guys—it’s just doing our jobs and making sure our power play is really effective, which it has been all year, and just executing all the little things.”

The puck drops at 7 p.m. on Saturday in Stevens Point. The Falcons have a 66-51-8 all-time record against Stevens Point, but are 1-2 against the Pointers this season.

Men’s basketball team looks back on successful season

Collin Kottke
collin.kottke@my.uwrf.edu

After a difficult, late-season run in the WIAC, the UW-River Falls men’s basketball team saw its season come to an end, but saw a major improvement overall from previous seasons.

The improvement in the always tough WIAC is great for the Falcons. Last season the Falcons went 3-13 in conference, which was improved to a 10-6 record in conference this season.

“Winning games in our conference isn’t easy,” said Head Coach Jeff Berkhof. “To go 10-6 in the league is a super, super job by the guys.”

While conference play for the Falcons was great, the non-conference schedule was not. The Falcons went 2-8 in non-conference games. The non-conference games to start the season didn’t let the Falcons fly early as it sputtered to a 2-5 start.

A three-game conference stint stopped the losing for the Falcons with UWRF winning its first three conference match ups.

“When we came in together, nobody really knew how to play with each other,” said junior forward Jon Christensen. “It’s kind of like open-gym basketball—nobody really knew what was going on and we started practicing more and more, and once the season rolled around

we all kind of figured it out. We had a tough start to the season, but then once we hit conference play we took off running from there.”

Christensen, a transfer from St. Cloud State University, proved to be pivotal for the Falcons this season. Christensen lead the team in points, rebounds and was second

in assists while starting every game this season.

Right behind him in points and leading the team in assists was sophomore point guard Grant Erickson.

“It was just a full group-effort from the assistant coaches to the head coach to the transfers to the re-

turners to the freshman, we just put it all together and figured it out and had a really good season,” Erickson said. “We are looking forward to next season, because we have a lot of these guys coming back and that’s our main focus now.”

The Falcons had no seniors on the team this season. Nine juniors

are currently listed on the roster. The team expects a lot of players to return next season and expects another excellent season.

“I’d assume everyone is pretty excited about what our future is, obviously we want to add some pieces to the puzzle, but I think the future is bright for Falcon basketball, not only for next year, but the years ahead,” Berkhof said.

The Falcons season was cut short this season due to an overtime loss in the first round of the WIAC playoffs. UWRF hosted a first round game and played UW-Eau Claire, a team the Falcons had beat twice in the regular season, including less than a week before by a score of 80-71.

Some clutch free throws combined with a last second missed three-pointer from Erickson, advanced Eau Claire to the second round of the WIAC tournament and closed the book on the Falcons’ season.

Overall, the Falcons finished with a 12-14 record. The Falcons had an amazing home record to hang its hats on, finishing with a 7-3 mark at home including a 6-2 mark in WIAC games played in the Karges Center.

The Falcons drew 3,186 fans this season, 145 more fans than a season ago. Just another improvement for the up-and-coming Falcons.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Sophomore forward Garret Pearson searches for a teammate against UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 24. The Falcons dropped the WIAC first round matchup in overtime, 81-79.



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SATURDAY, MARCH 7
AWAY VS. STEVENS POINT
PUCK DROPS- 7 P.M.

WOMEN’S HOCKEY
SATURDAY, MARCH 7
HOME VS. STEVENS POINT
PUCK DROPS- 2:05 P.M.

David Paynotta sets school record in 60-meter dash

Derin Loe

derin.loe@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls men’s and women’s track and field teams traveled to Platteville, Wisconsin, on Feb. 27-28, to compete in the 2015 WIAC Indoor Championships where multiple Falcons had top 10 performances.

Junior David Paynotta broke a school record in the 60-meter dash and placed first in the event with a time of 6.89, which is currently the sixth best time in the nation in the 60-meter event.

“It feels great to hold the school record but it was a dream come true to win the WIAC 60- meter dash,” Paynotta said.

Head Coach Matthew Cole was not surprised at all by Paynotta’s performance and thought before the event that he had a good shot at winning the event.

On the women’s team there was a strong performance by sophomore Riley Claude, who placed third in the pole vault event with a vault of 11-10, two and half inches away from a her own program record.

The competition this year was tough, as only Paynotta and Claude placed in the top three in the WIAC Indoor Championships. Cole thought his team performed well at the meet and was pleased by the Falcons’ performance. According to Cole, the competition at the WIAC Indoor Championships is always tough.

“That meet is extremely tough every year,” Cole said. “The depth and the power of this conference is good year-in and year-out.”

The men’s track and field team had other notable performances from senior Windsor Molnar, who placed sixth in the pole vault

with a leap of 15-3 3/4, which was a career high. Freshman Colton Sorensen placed seventh in the pole vault with a leap of 15-3 3/4, the same as Molnar, but centimeters shorter.

The men’s 4×200-meter relay team placed fifth with a time of 1:32.49, and in the 4×400-meter relay the Falcons placed sixth with a time of 3:28.04.

The women’s track and field team also had notable performances. The women’s 4×200-meter relay team placed sixth with a time of 1:46.55.

The Falcons also placed eighth in the 4×400-meter relay with a time of 4:14.48. Junior Nicole Manteuffel placed seventh in the long jump with a leap 5-0 1/4.

The women’s track and field team placed eighth in the meet with a total of 12.5 points. The men’s track and field team also placed eighth with a total of 25 points. While both teams would have liked to have placed higher in the meet, there still were many positives from the meet.

“Overall, I thought that our team competed well,” Paynotta said. “We didn’t place where we would have liked to, but everybody has improved so much since the start of the year and that’s the important thing.”

Cole is looking forward to getting outside for the outdoor season as many on the team are banged up from the indoor season due to the hard tracks of indoor facilities.

The men’s and women’s track and field teams will be competing in the UW-Stevens Point NCAA “Last Chance” meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 7, with some members looking at a possible NCAA Indoor Championships berth.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Junior Shane White hurdles in the UW-MN Dual in the Knowles Center on Feb. 14.

Women’s hockey to play in WIAC Championship



Jack Haren/Student Voice

Junior defenseman Dani Buehrer (top left) takes a slap shot against UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 27, in UW-River Falls’ 6-1 victory over UW-Eau Claire. Sophomore forward Karleigh Wolkerstorfer (top right) feeds the puck to the front of the net. Sophomore forward Emily Stark (bottom center) passes to linemate Amy Auran near the Blugolds net.

‘Kingsman: The Secret Service’ spy genre film surprisingly unforgettable, depicts comic well



Ryan Funes
Reviewer

In the vein of James Bond and Jason Bourne comes “Kingsman: The Secret Service,” which manages to be a highly enjoyable spy flick and a welcome treat to the genre itself.

Gary “Eggsy” Unwin (Taron Egerton) is about to be saved from his horrible life. When he was young, he was given a medallion with a number on its back, told to call it when he needed help. His mother has an abusive boyfriend and he is constantly harassed by hoodlums, so he calls the number.

Eggsy soon comes into contact with a gentleman in a dapper suit who says he knew his father, and Eggsy is following his path into the Kingsmen, a secret society of independent secret agents that protect the world. This will be just in time as a technological millionaire is plotting to change the world for the worst. Eggsy is going to need help from this organization and his spy mentor if he’s going to stop this plot and become the next great Kingsman.

Entering into the journey of the film, I didn’t think much of the plot. It seemed like any other generic spy film that would grace our screens and then be forgotten about, like the last Bourne trilogy. Thankfully, I didn’t feel that it would be forgotten when I seeing “Kingsman”. It managed to surpass my expectations.

Flat out, it’s a fun film. “Kingsman” fully acknowledges that it is a spy film and takes every chance it can to make itself entertaining and new to its genre. There are good lines from the actors, twists and shocks for the audience, and action that tickles in all the right places.

The film feels almost chaotic and with its violence, making it quite befitting of its source material, which was based off of a comic by writer Mark Miller. “Kingsman” carries most

of the premise and the author’s tone. Miller’s work tends to be dark and comically cynical in its outlook, tone, premise, and violence, which has served him well or betrayed him in the past. The movie “Wanted,” for example, is another Miller adaptation that failed in that regard.

“Kingsman,” however, singles out all the good bits of Miller’s tone and violence and adapts it well to the screen. For example, there’s an action scene with a congregation of Westboro Baptist Church-type folks that revels in its own premise and one can’t help but feel gleefully bloodthirsty.

The main actors carry out the insanity gloriously with Colin Firth (“The King’s Speech”) stealing the show as Harry Hart, the mentor of Eggsy, who had me second guessing on all of the action scenes to see if it was really him. He also brings a gentlemanly air to whatever words he expresses that make him a joy to just listen to. Even Egerton, as our hero Eggsy, makes for a believable main protagonist as he changes from street rat to spy extraordinaire. Of course, praise should be given to Samuel L. Jackson (“Pulp Fiction”), the movie’s villain, who—while not being focused on in the trailers—is given a funny and unique role.

There are some problems with this film: Many scenes don’t flow well together with the editing and pace of the story, some characters are not given nearly enough focus as they should, and the ending could have been handled better. That all felt considerably small compared to the fun that the audience and I were having.

“Kingsman” knows its goal and doesn’t dwell long on what problems it has, nor does it care for its problems. This film takes pride in its genre and gives you a fun time, even if that fun might not be to everyone’s taste. It’s a rollicking, funny spy flick that delivers all of its fights and fakery with the precision of a sniper rifle.

Ryan Funes is a junior journalism student with a minor in art history. In his personal time he enjoys all facets of popular culture, discussing the influence of the media, and desperately trying to find the chance to sing a drinking song with all his friends.



Dress jest breaks the internet, ‘The Bachelor’ more worthy

Cristin Dempsey
Columnist

see one of two color combinations: blue and black, or white and gold. I was not online at the very moment the internet exploded, but I viewed the mysterious photo with a group of equally bewildered friends. Right away, I saw white and gold. I still see white and gold.

That is why I could not help but scoff at those who were quick to get defensive, as if I had just offended their great ancestors.

“Cristin, that’s BLUE!”

Okay, okay, calm down. You’re absolutely right. That’s white and gold.

However, exactly a day after the photo was released, another photo was released by the store that sold the dress, revealing that it was in fact blue and black. Of course, I was relieved. The white and gold made it look like a flour sack. The blue and black combination is much more appealing.

You would think after the true color was revealed, everyone would settle down and focus on the more important things in life, such as “The Bachelor.” But even I was surprised to find that I was

incorrect, and I am still curious as to how one photo can make a blue and black dress appear white and gold, the exact opposite colors.

To me, this result stemmed from the angle of the dress, the camera, or the sun. What else would change its colors? Then again, does this ever happen with dresses? I suppose this is why it is treated as an optical illusion and why it caused the internet to explode.

Even then, it seems the trivial things get quite a bit of attention in the media. “The Dress” is right up there with the hype over “The Bachelor.” The color of a dress has become almost (key word: almost) as pressing as whether a girl would want to live in nowhere, Iowa, a one-street town where all but one business is ever open at a time, just to live with “Prince Farming” (a.k.a. the hunky bachelor himself, Chris Soules).

In most peoples’ opinions, “The Bachelor” is about as fulfilling and intriguing as a dress. In my opinion, “The Bachelor” has much more to offer. “The Dress” has never given me the laughs, drama,

tears or hot and heavy romance that “The Bachelor” can give in five seconds.

Most seasons are the same, scripted mess. But this season had its special quirks, including a crazy girl with an onion fetish (who could forget good ‘ol Ashley S.). And, a fake panic attack, which was the result of Kelsey revealing the heartbreaking story of her late husband’s death (which was followed by her telling the camera, “Isn’t my story amazing?”), and a black box following a woman’s butt wherever it went.

There was no shortage of drama and complete airhead quotes this season, my favorite of course being: “I’m excited to go to New Mexico. I’ve never been out of the country before!” Sorry, but you are off about 150 years there, sweetie.

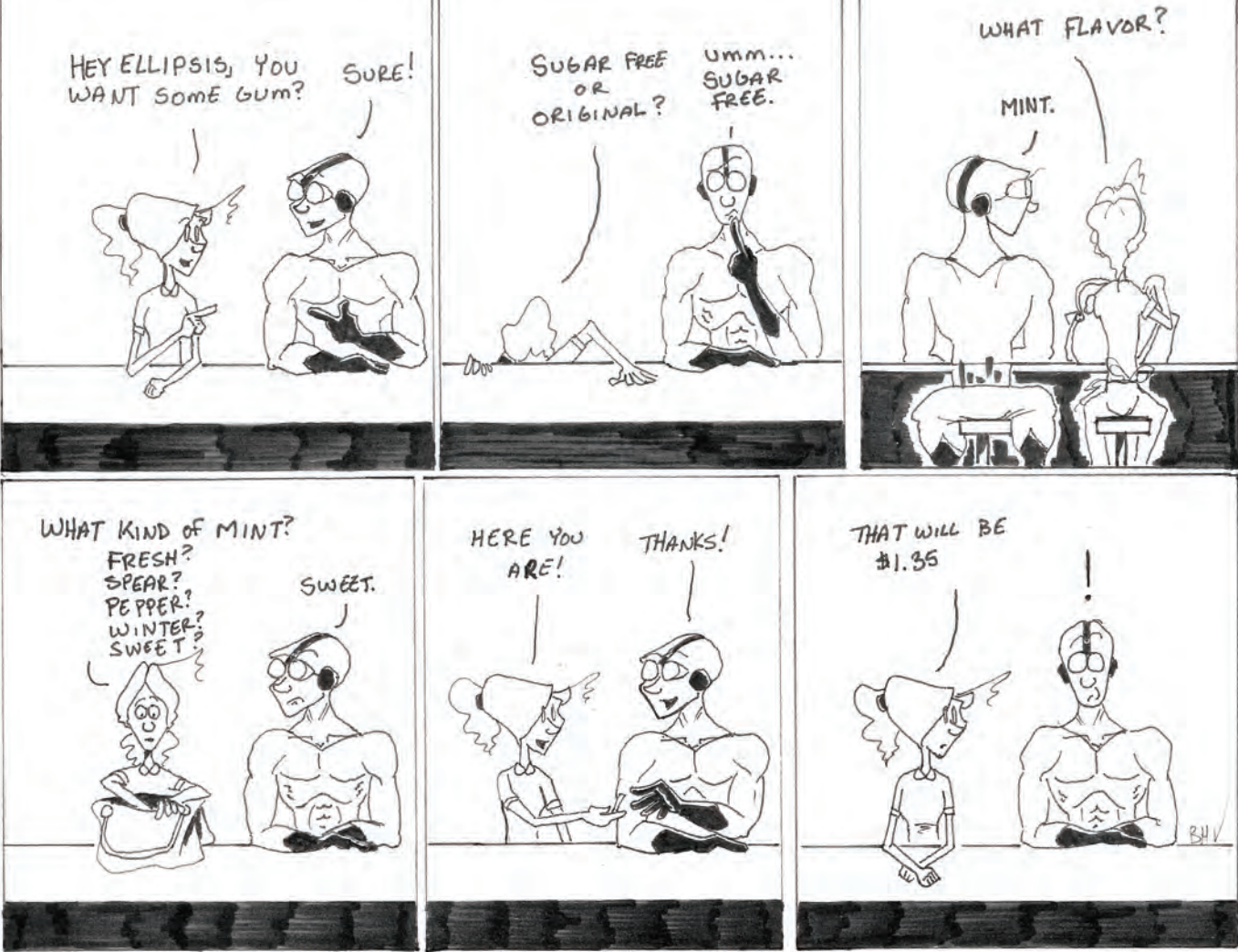
The show is now down to the final two: Whitney and Becca are about to make a last-ditch attempt to win over the heart of Prince Farming, which leads viewers into next week’s finale (“the most dramatic season finale EVER,” according to host Chris Harrison.)

I’ll give it the benefit of the doubt; they are both good for him. But with “The Bachelor” achieving a success rate of about .02 percent, who knows. Bachelor producers were quick to make a big stink about Becca’s virginity. I know they love to make a huge deal out of everything, but why is still being a virgin such a big deal? It’s not. It’s a personal choice, one that other people should stay out of.

Gee whiz, this is “The Dress” all over again. Whitney has always been a nice person (other than her arrogant tangent last week) and although her permanent helium voice and forced southern accent hurt my ears, anything could happen.

Whether it’s “The Dress” or “The Bachelor,” the media seems concerned with just about everything. Whether it’s an amazing optical illusion or just a good laugh, it may be worth joining the conversation.

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



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