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University of WisconsinRiver Falls

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Blake Fry leaves UWRF after 10 years of service

Jordan Preston
jordan.preston@my.uwrf.edu

Blake Fry, UW-River Falls director of Communications and External Relations, has been named president of the Hudson Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau by the organization’s Board of Directors.

Fry will be leaving UWRF after 10 years of service in multiple positions over the course of his career here.

Fry moved from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to River Falls and took on his first role as dean for Student Development and Campus Diversity, and then he moved into the role of special assistant to the chancellor.

With these titles, Fry said that he has done many different things here on campus.

“What I’ve done under those three titles has been more than three specific things,” Fry said. “Because each has changed dramatically over time.”

When Fry arrived here on campus he was very focused on emergency preparedness, because UWRF didn’t have much of a plan then, and Fry said he saw his fair share of disaster and wanted to incorporate that into the campus.

“I came from Oklahoma City that

has its unfortunate share of disaster, and I knew that we needed to work on it,” Fry said.

This has lead to the construction of the tornado storm shelters located outside the lab farms.

Fry is particularly proud of this accomplishment and is happy that it was able to happen. This happened when Fry was in the role of dean for Student Development and Campus Diversity.

When he took on the role of special assistant to the chancellor, he was focused on creating a comprehensive student affairs program. During this time he was focused on diversity and was senior student conduct officer and held all the hearings that went along with that.

Along with his current job, Fry also did various “special” jobs on the side, including starting up the Hudson Center and running that for it’s first year. Other projects include: starting the Center for Innovation and Business Development and getting grants for the tornado shelters.

“It’s just been a hodgepodge over the past 10 years,” Fry said.

His favorite memory at UWRF is the Chancellor’s Award for Student’s selection process, and seeing the pride that the students have accomplished has been an annual highlight for Fry as well as the day funding for the Falcon Center was



Photo courtesy of University Communications
Blake Fry, director of Communications and External Relations.

approved.

“Blake has served in many capacities at UWRF and I wish him the best during his transition,” said

Chancellor Dean Van Galen in an email. “I especially appreciate the role Blake played in the development of the UWRF Hudson Center,

and believe that his new role at the Hudson Chamber of Commerce is a good fit for his talents.”

With the budget cuts coming, Fry said that his department has been affected.

The position that he currently holds will no longer exist, and by doing this they were able to save some of the other positions in University Communications.

Beth Schommer, who is currently executive assistant to the chancellor, will oversee the operation of the Communications and External Relations office.

Fry’s new role as president of Hudson Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau will include networking with businesses and overseeing the staff in the office, as well as promoting this region and growing the economy. Fry is most excited to promote this area.

“I’ve lived here just shy of 10 years,” Fry said. “The longest I’ve lived anywhere and have no plans of going anywhere else. I love it here. Also, telling people about this region and having them start businesses in Hudson.”

Fry will miss working with the staff in University Communications and all of the relationships that he has built over the course 10 years. Fry will start his new position on April 23.

Race into wellness at 2015 UW-River Falls Health Fair

Jack Tuthill
jack.tuthill@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Health Fair will yet again take over the River-view Ballroom in the University Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, where students can learn about a variety of health-related topics, witness yoga and fitness demonstrations or take advantage of a complimentary back massage.

What students, faculty and staff may not realize about the Health Fair is that it is planned and coordinated by a Student Health intern, and this year’s planner is senior Meghann Witthoft, a triple major in marketing communications, international students and spanish. Witthoft came up with this year’s “marathon” theme.

“The goal was to have people working towards something,” Witthoft said. “College is kind of like a marathon. You’re working towards the finish line of your [college] career and the same goes for your health in college, and I felt that students would be able to relate to this kind of theme really easily.”

To make finishing the college

marathon that much easier, students can learn important information at the Health Fair regarding exercising, eating right, and stress management and relaxation. The Health Fair rolls around at a time when students, faculty and staff are gearing up for an upcoming stressful finals stretch, but according to UWRF health education Coordinator Keven Syverson, the Health Fair was slated for April 22 because of the large amount planning that goes into the event.

“There’s the goal to have a well-rounded health experience, including financial health, emotional wellness and stuff like that,” Meghann Witthoft said.

“It’s a big thing to plan, it’s not something we could pull off in September or October,” Syverson said. “It takes a fair amount of planning, and I think that Meghann is learning quite a bit about planning an event. So, in that way, it gives

us a little more time to be ready for it.”

Despite this year’s marathon theme, Syverson said there will still be a large focus on mental wellness at the fair.

“Counselors will be there, and we know mental health issues continue to be more prevalent on campus and the severity continues to increase, and obviously our counselors are well aware of that,” Syverson said. “And it works together, physical health will impact your mental health. Being active, for mild forms of depression, is very important; so it all works together.”

The Health Fair is booked 18 months in advance, and 600-700 people are expected to attend on April 22.

Approximately 38 presenters and vendors will have specialists at the event; some will simply have a booth with free handouts and goodies, while others will present on stage. The Health Fair used to be held in the Karges Center, which had limitations in regards to available electrical outlets and a lack of Internet connectivity, while being aesthetically displeasing.

“There’s also the added perk of

having the stage where we can have presenters who want to do demonstrations,” Witthoft said. “We have yoga instructors who come up and do some yoga poses, and it gives us that multidimensional feel so people aren’t just being shown pamphlets.”

Initially, Sodexo was going to provide healthy snacks for attendees, but after the university signed a contract with Chartwells, which will take over UWRF dining services on May 22, Sodexo decided to cut ties with the Health Fair.

“As far as the healthy snacks goes, we are considering a yogurt bar, but at this point nothing is concrete,” Witthoft said.

UWRF Active Minds, a student organization on campus determined to eliminate the negative stigma surrounding mental health issues, will be presenting.

The UWRF Pre-Health Society will also be talking about Dan’s Bandana Project, which is aimed at supporting those who suffer from depression and anxiety.

Three key presenters that will be focusing on financial health are First National Bank, WESTconsin Credit Union and Greg Peters’ State Farm Agency.

Financial health is a foreign concept to some, according to Witthoft, but she believes attendees will learn a lot from these presenters.

“There’s the goal to have a well-rounded health experience, including financial health, emotional wellness and stuff like that,” Witthoft said. “Our immediate goal is to have a well-rounded experience for students and faculty and other community members.”

Demonstrations will run throughout the four-hour event so all attendees, regardless of arrival time, will be able to catch some of the action on stage.

“I feel like you could definitely get the whole experience in the half an hour to an hour range,” Witthoft said.

This year’s Health Fair will differ from those in past years because of the lack of student organization participation.

“It’s a little bit more local business oriented than student org,” Witthoft said. “We really don’t have that many student orgs. That’s something that I found really interesting, and it affords students a different perspective as opposed to different Health Fairs.”

Digital film and television professor has punk-rock music ties

Derin Loe
derin.loe@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls has many intelligent faculty and staff members located all around campus, many of them have hobbies that they’re passionate about and digital film and television Assistant Professor Erik Johnson is one of them.

Johnson is a professor by day but by night he is a punk-rock musician. Johnson plays the drums for two punk-rock bands: Narco States and The Violent Shifters. He has been part of The Violent Shifters for years and recently joined Narco States back in November to fill in for their drummer who has temporarily left the band. Johnson is the founding member of The Violent

Shifters, which was created back in 2008 when he was in graduate school.

For Johnson, music has always been part of his life and has continued to grow. Johnson played the violin in first grade, then played piano in second grade, until he found the drums in fourth grade. His father was a music educator and band director.

When Johnson was caught vandalizing his father punished him by forcing him to attend summer school with him.

“After being busted for a vandalism spree with my friend on the last day of fourth grade, my punishment was to attend summer school with my dad and practice rudimentary snare drum all day, every day in a

sound-proof room,” Johnson said. “Which, at the time, was torture, but proved to serve me well as when I returned to start playing in concert band with my peers the next fall, I was so far ahead and remained first chair eventually playing in jazz band, marching band, solo and ensembles and community band.”

Rock music has always interested Johnson but more specifically offensive music.

“I always had an affinity with more offensive music: KISS around second grade, AC/DC in third, and later punk and hardcore, which became a part of my identity and has been with me ever since,” Johnson said.

The punk and hardcore music helped lead to the music he plays

with his two bands today.

Johnson got into punk rock due in large part because of skateboarding as punk and hardcore were directly connected with skateboarding when Johnson was younger. Punk rock helped complement Johnson’s other interest: art.

Punk rock helped fuel his artistic expression which led to a skateboarding and music television series called “Scene TV.”

The television series allowed Johnson to combine his multiple passions and to interview some of his favorite bands.

“That allowed me to interview some of my favorite bands like Flogging Molly, DRI, The Hunns, Dropkick Murphys, The Briefs and many more,” Johnson said.

The social aspect of being a musician is Johnson’s favorite part of being a musician.

“Playing with friends in bands for fun as well as the gratifying aspect of performing on stage for audiences that appreciate the music and experience of the live show,” Johnson said.

Music and Johnson’s career have crossed paths many times before but he would prefer being a musician to just remain being his hobby. Johnson said music is meant to be a source of joy and happiness for him, not work. Johnson is just one of many faculty and staff members on campus who has a unique hobby.

News briefs:

UWRF students take top spot at statewide Big Idea contest

A small packet of soap has led to very big things for three UW-River Falls students and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Eric Wenz, a senior from Hudson, Wisconsin, majoring in business administration; Andrew Lind, a senior from Bloomington, Minnesota, majoring in business administration; and An Trieu, a junior from St. Paul, Minnesota, majoring in chemistry, took first place in the second annual Wisconsin Big Idea Tournament held on April 11 in Madison.

As a result, Wenz, Lind and Trieu will receive a \$25,000 Ideadvance seed grant from the UW Extension for their start-up company, SoPOD.

SoPOD was founded with the idea of developing biodegradable pod technology that would allow travelers to carry body wash, shampoo and conditioners in carry-on luggage while avoiding TSA 3-1-1 restrictions.

After speaking with potential customers, Wenz, Lind and Trieu quickly learned that their most promising customer segment is hotels seeking to reduce their carbon footprint. By replacing small plastic shampoo and conditioner containers provided in hotel rooms with biodegradable pods, hotels can significantly reduce their dry waste production.

In addition to the grant, Wenz, Lind and Trieu will advance to the International Business Model Competition held on May 1-2 at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah. The UWRF team will have the opportunity to win up to an additional \$25,000 for their company.

SoPOD was one of two UWRF student-run start-ups to compete in the Wisconsin Big Idea Tournament. The second team was Charg-e Inc., whose first-generation product is a portable power bank with inductive charging, data storage and enhanced Wi-Fi capabilities for mobile devices.

Charg-e Inc. team members are: Jiaxin Li, a senior from River Falls majoring in business administration; Christopher Hansen, a post-baccalaureate student from River Falls; and Thomas Makens a senior from Winona, Minnesota, majoring in chemistry. Both teams qualified for the Wisconsin Big Idea Tournament by placing first and second in the first annual New Venture Competition at UWRF on March 4.

More information on the Wisconsin Big Idea Tournament, including a video recording of the competition, is available at wisconsinbigideatournament.com. More information on the International Business Model Competition is available at www.businessmodelcompetition.com.

For questions, contact Danielle Campeau, director of the UWRF Center for Innovation and Business Development, at 715-425-0643 or email danielle.campeau@uwrf.edu.

University Theatre set to perform comedy ‘Hay Fever’

The UW-River Falls University Theatre will present the delightfully infectious comedy, “Hay Fever,” written by Noel Coward, on April 23-25, April 30, and May 1-2, in the Blanche Davis Theatre in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.

Aging stage star Judith Bliss, her novelist husband, David, and their two grown children, Simon and Sorel, have each, unbeknownst to each other, invited a house guest for the weekend. But as the guests begin to arrive, the Bliss family begins to indulge their artistic eccentricities in a hilarious whirlwind of flirtation and histrionics.

The cast, consisting entirely of UWRF students, includes Marie Sallman of Roseville, Minnesota, as Judith Bliss and Nic Ambroz of Waseca, Minnesota, as her husband, David Bliss.

Rounding out the Bliss family are Tyler Saccoman of Hastings, Minnesota, and Lauren Morris of River Falls as their two children, Simon and Sorel.

Playing the role of the four house guests are Kendra Yarke of East Bethel, Minnesota, as Myra (the vampish opportunist); Gannon Judge of Hudson, Wisconsin, as Richard (the diplomat); Sophie Sieh of Hastings, as Jackie (the young “flapper”); and Brent Bundgaard of Osceola, Wisconsin, as Sandy (the boxer); with Vanessa Brooke Agnes of Forest Lake, Minnesota, as Judith’s former stage dresser turned housekeeper. The play is directed by theater Professor Jim Zimmerman.

Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$9 for seniors (60+) and \$5 for UWRF students with a valid ID and children 12 and under. The box office in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building will be open from 1-5 p.m. on Monday through Friday for ticket purchase. On performance Thursdays and Fridays, the Box Office opens at 3 p.m., and at 6:30 p.m. on performance Saturdays. Tickets

can be purchased in person or by phone at 715-425-3114. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.

Chilean artist to visit UWRF as Wyman Visiting Professor

The UW-River Falls art department will welcome Chilean artist Benjamin Lira as the spring 2015 Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professor April 27-28; he will present two free public lectures.

Lira is an internationally exhibited sculptor, painter and printmaker. As the visiting professor, Lira will spend time in the UWRF art department presenting two public lectures, creating a collaborative print and leading discussions with students.

At 9 a.m. on Monday, April 27, a lecture, “Benjamin Lira: Art, History and Creative Process,” and interview with Kaylee Spencer, art department chair and art historian, will be presented in the Kinnickinnic Theater in the University Center.

At 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, a public reception and lecture, “The Art of Benjamin Lira and a Brushstroke on Contemporary Chilean Art,” is offered in the Community Room at the River Falls Public Library.

The Visiting Professor is sponsored by 2015 Walker D. and Helen Byrant Wyman Visiting Professorship, the UWRF art department and the UWRF College of Arts and Sciences.

For more information, email rhonda.willers@uwrf.edu or bernice.ficek-swenson@uwrf.edu or call 715-425-3266.

‘Hit for Lupus’ softball game to be held at UW-River Falls

Mark your calendars for 2:30 p.m. April 18, as the UW-River Falls softball team will be hosting its annual “Hit for Lupus” game against UW-Oshkosh.

The game will be held at the softball field located off Main Street behind the Knowles Center.

Although more than 16,000 Americans develop lupus each year, and it’s estimated that 500,000 to 1.5 million Americans have been diagnosed with lupus, many people have never heard about it. That was the case for UWRF softball Head Coach Faye Perkins when one of her older brothers and father were diagnosed with lupus. This disease is a chronic inflammatory disease that can affect various parts of the body, especially the skin, joints, blood and kidneys.

“Sponsoring the UWRF ‘Hit for Lupus’ game is one way that we can help provide information about lupus to increase everyone’s knowledge of the disease,” Perkins said. “Education is key to understanding this autoimmune disease, learning how to recognize the signs and symptoms, and getting appropriate treatment. The hope is that one day there will be a way to prevent lupus and other autoimmune diseases.”

The Lupus Foundation of Minnesota is doing exactly that by working toward a vision of a world without lupus.

“Our mission states that while working toward finding a cure, we support those impacted by lupus and promote a deeper understanding of the disease,” said Lupus Foundation of Minnesota President Jennifer Monroe. “And events like the ‘Hit for Lupus’ game heighten awareness and serve as a step forward toward meeting that goal.”

If you would like more information on the disease or the Lupus Foundation of Minnesota, be sure to visit LupusMN.org, follow its Twitter page @lupusmn or like the foundation Facebook at “Lupus Foundation of Minnesota.”

Fundraiser event scheduled by UWRF AgEcon quiz bowl team

The UW-River Falls AgEcon quiz bowl team is holding a fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, at the Moose Lodge in an effort to raise money so the team can travel to San Francisco, California, this summer to compete at the national conference.

Pancakes, french toast, sausage and eggs will be served at the fundraiser. Tickets are \$7 per person and \$6 for senior citizens. There will also be a raffle where attendees can be entered to win several prizes, including: \$100 cash, an assorted basket of Ellsworth cheeses (\$60 value), a \$20 gift certificate to the South Fork Cafe, and two \$10 gift certificates to Bo’s and Mine. The raffle tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for five.

There will also be a silent auction with several items to bid on, such as: a homemade Afghan blanket, a flower arrangement from Bo Jon’s, a bowling party for six from St. Croix Lanes (valued at \$70), a gift basket from Dish & Spoon (valued at \$25), and small engine repairs from Kinni Sport and Power (valued at \$55).

The UWRF AgEcon quiz bowl team members are Michael Kline, Michael Unruh, Melissa Brandes, Jacob Prill and Mi-

chelle Hoffmaster. For more information, contact Hoffmaster via email at michelle.hoffmaster@my.uwrf.edu.

UWRF Colt Sale scheduled for May 2 on Campus Farm

If you’re looking for your next performance horse prospect or just a trail-riding companion, consider attending the UW-River Falls 39th Annual Colt Sale on Saturday, May 2, at the UWRF Campus Farm.

For sale are 45 two-year-old prospects and eight aged horses. Each two-year-old in the sale has been trained by a UWRF student enrolled in the principles of training horses course in which students learn and refine training techniques. Most of the aged horses that are part of the sale have been lesson horses in the UWRF equine courses.

The event starts at 11 a.m. with a sale preview where all of the horses will be ridden for potential buyers. Following the preview, lunch will be served. During lunch, the student trainers will be available to answer questions about the horses. The formal sale will start at 2 p.m.

Additional information about the sale and the horses can be found at www.uwrfcoltsale.com. The website features videos, full performance pedigrees and a description of their riding qualities. For more information, contact Nathan O’Connor at nathan.h.oconnor@uwrf.edu or 715-425-3704.

Student Health and Counseling Services to host Health Fair

UW-River Falls Student Health and Counseling Services will host its annual Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22, in the University Center Riverview Ballroom.

The theme for this year’s Health Fair is “Ready, Set, Health Fair! Race into wellness.” This event is free to UWRF students, faculty and staff, and community members are encouraged to attend and enjoy an interactive look at relevant health topics.

Presenters who will be participating in the Health Fair’s festivities include businesses and organizations from the local and surrounding areas, student groups and clubs, and class representatives. The Health Fair will also feature demonstrations pertaining to fitness, safety procedures, and other intriguing health-related topics. Food, door prizes, and a “Finish Line” photo backdrop will also be available for fair-goers to experience.

A special thank you to sponsors of this year’s Health Fair: WESTconsin Credit Union of River Falls, Greg Peters State Farm Insurance Agency of River Falls, and First National Bank of River Falls. For more information, please contact Meghann Witthoft at meghann.witthoft@my.uwrf.edu or 715-425-3293.

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com

Editor’s clarification: commuter permits

A couple of factual errors were found in Christine Marriott’s April 3 story, titled “Street parking for students is problematic,” in relation to the new off-campus parking permits which will be implemented in the fall.

According to UW-River Falls Chief of Police Karl Fleury, the commuter parking permit is entirely different than the 24-hour parking permit. The commuter permit, at a cost of \$129, is not valid overnight. The 24-hour permit, at a cost of \$308, will allow the permit holder to park overnight.

These two passes are valid for the Hunt Arena and Knowles Center parking lot. Ongoing construction to the parking lot will be finished before the fall 2015 semester begins.

Also, the parking office is not located in South Hall; it’s located in 103 Regional Development Institute at 715 Wild Rose Ave.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

March 7-10

- Three bicycle thefts were reported between March 7-10, one at the Hathorn north rack and two from outside the South Fork Suites.

Monday, April 13

- An incident concerning underage alcohol consumption was reported to have occurred in Parker Hall around midnight.

- In a slightly ambiguous report, officers were dispatched to mutually aid the River Falls Police Department on Maple Street around 2 a.m.

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

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UWRF art lecturer has hidden archery talent

Carmella Everhart
carmella.everhart@my.uwrf.edu

When she’s not teaching art classes at UW-River Falls, leading art therapy groups, or working on her own art work as a professional artist, Ann Lawton can be found in her back yard doing her own unique form of therapy: recurve bow archery.

A recurve bow is a type of bow with tips that curve away from the archer when the bow is strung. It is a more “old fashioned” way of performing archery, compared to shooting with a cross bow for hunting today.

Anyone who knows Lawton would not expect her to have such an intriguing hobby. She openly talks about her life outside of school to students and shares her artwork, but archery doesn’t seem to come up often.

It almost seems out of character, until she explained her reasons for sticking with it after picking it up for the first time about two years ago.

“Not only do I find that it’s a meditative practice, but it just feels really good to do,” Lawton said. “It gets me outside, it gets me to concentrate on something and just being able to focus on this idea of a target and putting something out there.”

Lawton said that she never anticipated sticking with it; in fact, she said she never wants to actually kill anything and does not intend to get good enough to even hit a moving target. She said she just enjoys doing it, even in the winter.

“There’s this hard-core ele-

ment about doing it in the winter when I feel like I’m all in survival mode,” Lawton said laughingly.

Of course, Lawton finds a way for her hobby to benefit her passion for art.

“It’s good for the upper-body strength and as an artist always needing to do that and work on that, too,” Lawton said. “We always tend to forget how strenuous art-making is, and so this kind of stretches me out in a new way and builds that muscle tone in ways that I kind of never realized.”

Not only does it help her build physical strength, Lawton said it also acts as a cathartic release for her.

“It’s a stress reliever for me and there’s a sense of accomplishment with it, and it’s always so inspiring to see people who are really good at it,” Lawton said.

While Lawton said she enjoys shooting, she said she doesn’t intend to become a professional and plans to keep using it as a source of cathartic release and general enjoyment. If she ever does become really good at it then that will just be a perk.



Photo courtesy of Angela Young
UWRF art lecturer Ann Lawton shows off her archery skills outside of the classroom.

“My goal is to work on my accuracy and work on my distance,” Lawton said. “It’s for me, those little things, so once I achieve that

it’s just, like, yeah keep going, keep doing that, keep improving.”

The idea of improving and pushing oneself to do better is something

Lawton said she thinks is true of many things in life. She said she sees her bow and arrows as a metaphor for how to approach situations in life.

“Even though you have those bad days where you’re not hitting the target straight, at least you’re close—close enough for today,” Lawton said. “Persistence, I think is really important.”

The symbolism of shooting the arrows means so much to her that she got three arrows tattooed on her left forearm about a year ago.

“I really like the visual notion and I was contemplating this tattoo for awhile. I liked this idea of, again, talking about persistence and trying and this moving forward momentum,” Lawton said. “It sounds a little cliché, but the arrow always goes forward, even if it doesn’t land where it’s supposed to—it’s at least forward. And the fact that there’s three [arrows], you know, sometimes it takes more than one chance to achieve what you need, achieve what you want.”

Lawton said she takes this lesson with her professionally, too.

“I think, for me in my career as being a benevolent kind of warrior and, you know, the helping professions of education and therapy as well,” Lawton said. “You don’t have to harm anyone, but just kind of always fighting for what you believe in.”

UWRF physics lecturer flies high with after-school hobby

Rebecca Meidl
rebecca.meidl@my.uwrf.edu

Many students see their professors as people who just lecture and hand out grades but Arriety Lowell is not only a professor who teaches physics at UW-River Falls, she also has a unique hobby: flying planes.

Lowell has a private pilots license and has been flying planes for about 20 years. This all started back when Lowell was at an air show when she was a child.

“I saw some jets that were flying, some military jets, and I just thought that I would really want to be a pilot and as I got older I looked into what I needed to do to make

that happen,” Lowell said.

After some research in what it takes to become a military pilot, Lowell didn’t think that was the path for her, especially since women at that time were not allowed to do much flying other than transport missions.

She then looked into becoming a civilian pilot and decided that this wasn’t the career that she wanted to pursue, but it was something that kept her interest and wanted to do as a hobby.

Lowell’s first flight was out of the River Falls airport, back when they still had one.

Eventually she went to New Richmond, Wisconsin, before fin-

ishing up her training in Red Wing, Minnesota.

After getting her private pilots license, Lowell took to the skies and started to fly RC planes, which are planes that can land on the water, and some flying in old World War II military aircrafts.

In fact, last fall Lowell went out with her father and did some photo-shoots with their airplanes and one photo ended up on the UWRF physics home page.

Although Lowell flies RC and World War II planes they aren’t hers.

“I do have my own plane,” Lowell said. “I have a little Super Cub.” Super Cubs are smaller than the

ones that most people think of, which are the airliner planes that carry 40 or 50 people. A Super Cub plane holds two passengers: the pilot in the front and the co-pilot in the back. Lowell’s airplane has a 180-horsepower engine.

Though there is room for a pilot and co-pilot, Super Cubs don’t need a co-pilot; they are small enough that just the pilot can fly it.

When Lowell goes flying she normally goes by herself or with her dad or brother, since they too are pilots.

Unlike most hobbies that can be done at the end of a long day, flying planes is a little more difficult.

“My airplane is fabric covered, it

tends to be just as cold inside as it is outside, so I don’t fly all that much in the winter,” Lowell said. “I’ve done trips, kind of like some people do camping trips or road trips. I’ve gone out and just flown airport to airport for a week or so, just to kind of see the small towns.”

Although flying planes is something that Lowell holds dear to her, she said that she is devoted to her students and teaching.

Even though professors can seem tough and scary to students they don’t just lecture and assign homework. They may have more in common if you just ask them.

UWRF Spanish instructor shares passion for unicycling

Christine Marriott
christine.marriott@my.uwrf.edu

Sometimes people are surprised to learn a professor might have skills in a totally unrelated area, different from the subject they teach.

UW-River Falls Spanish Instructor Julie Kovacic has a passion for unicycling.

Kovacic explains to her classes that she believes there is a connection in how people learn both a language and learn to ride a unicycle. She says if she could learn to ride a unicycle at 50 years old, they can learn Spanish.

“Learning a foreign language is a lot like learning a unicycle—it’s the same kind of mental process,” Kovacic said. “Learning how to do something with a different kind of balance, in foreign language you learn to do something with a different cultural aspect and different pronunciation.”

Learning to ride a unicycle was a necessity for Kovacic. Even though she says it is something you can teach without knowing how to actually ride, her daughter gave her an ultimatum. She had to learn to ride if she was going to be watching others ride.



Photo courtesy of Julie Kovacic
UWRF Spanish instructor Julie Kovacic unicycling in a gymnasium.

“I would have to say that first of all, it’s a heck of a lot of fun. It’s super good exercise and a stress reliever,” Kovacic said. “So, being on campus with just books and studying and everything, trying something you’ve never tried before. It’s when I’m unicycling I forget all my problems, it’s such a great exercise, better than yoga.”

Her 16-year-old daughter competes and they both belong to the Twin Cities Unicycle Club along with around 300 other members. Some in the club even participate in the grueling Twin Cities Iron Man bicycle race.

The club competes nationally and internationally. Kovacic plans on going to Spain next year with her daughter for a competition.

The club rides in parades all over the area and performs riding tricks for different functions. There are different sizes of cycles to fit different statures.

Kovacic is not only a Spanish instructor but she teaches unicycle classes and will be teaching this fall at Hudson Community Education classes. She has taught there two other times and looks forward to introducing new students to the skill.

When riding outdoors, Kovacic

says it’s important to wear a helmet, with leg and arm protection as well. If a rider falls, most often they land on their feet unlike taking a tumble on a traditional bicycle. She said she loves to watch new riders master the skill, it reminds her of the first time a small child rides their bicycle. The delight and awe is the same.

Unicycling has been around for over 100 years, according to the online publication UnicycleToday.com: “Although historians can’t exactly agree on the exact origin of the unicycle, one much favored theory of the origins of the unicycle is due to the general popularity of the old-fashioned big-wheeled penny-farthing (also called the “ordinary”) ridden in the late 1800s. In this old incarnation with the tall front wheel and tiny back wheel, the pedals were connected directly into the front axle, and the rear wheel would lift off the ground allowing the rider to move slightly forward to ride.”

Anyone interested in learning more or interested in starting a student unicycling organization can contact Kovacic by email at julie.kovacic@uwrf.edu or by contacting the Twin Cities Unicycling Club at tcuc.org.

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter @uwrfvoice

Make sure to look for Freddy’s Feather in every issue of the Student Voice!

EDITORIAL

Inaugural UWRF TEDx event pulls out all the stops

The inaugural UW-River Falls TEDx event was held throughout the entire day on Saturday, April 11, in the University Center Riverview Ballroom, with Student Life independently planning the event, a branch of the non-profit organization TED, standing for Technology, Education and Design.

The name has become a platform for inspiring speaking segments around 18 minutes in length. “Ideas Worth Spreading” is the slogan, and 10 live speakers, much of them local, including one UWRF student, one UWRF professor, and other locals like reporter Blake Huppert, a UWRF alumnus, and musical guest Cloud Cult, who reigns from Duluth, Minnesota.

TEDx is meant to highlight its hosting region, but the UWRF event also featured a speaker from across the globe, China, which was a bonus because of the current Year of China. In 2009, TED allowed its brand to be used for independently organized events, including college campuses like UWRF.

The sequence of Mark Allister’s environmentally conscious encouragement, which included the use of local food growing and gathering, made sense, especially before the sustainable music recording band Cloud Cult, and not just because Allister wrote a book on the band. Ending with this particular topic was a good move because our university continues to improve sustainability and farming as an integral part of university ideology.

Planning the speaking lineup was slow in the months preceding, but Student Life came up huge, pulling it together for a completely smooth and entertaining event with a good mix of live speaking, music, and food to keep the crowd nourished yet hungry for more inspiration.

Support from the UWRF Foundation compensated the musical acts, but the speakers were unpaid, which is a huge part of the non-profit TED organization. The planning came together and the execution was very smooth, starting with the volunteers setting up the appealing stages in both the Riverview Ballroom and the Falcon’s Nest. Director of Student Life Paul Shepherd moderated the entire event, keeping everything moving swiftly and on time with unphased pleasantness.

At least one alumni was also involved with the filming, which has become an important part of the TED platform. The TED YouTube channel has videos uploaded five times a week and garners millions of views. After editing, the videos will be available online.

The speakers are generally required to stick around to watch the other speakers, so many people got the chance to chat further with them during intermission. The event cultivated a great vibe, and hopefully Saturday’s TEDx event was the first of many annual TED talks here at UWRF.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students, faculty, staff seek sustainability

As earth week approaches, I’d like to look back on the first Earth Week I was able to be apart of at UW-River Falls.

Over the entire Earth Week of 2013, the UWRF Sustainability Coordinator, Kelly Cain, from the St. Croix Institute of Sustainable Community Development (SCISCD) helped put together 14 events around the community and on our campus. Since 2013, we no longer have the highly esteemed SCISCD or an office of sustainability on campus to organize events featuring the importance of the Earth’s natural cycles and it’s importance in regards to reliable agriculture, clean water and a healthy planet.

UWRF now relies on student organizations like the Environmental Corps of Sustainability (ECOS), Resource Management Club (RMC) and Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture (SALSA) to organize Earth Week events. The state of sustainability on campus is at one of its lowest points in decades. The letter below asks Chancellor Dean Van Galen to support a sustainability coordinator and sustainable curriculum coordinator to take on projects on campus and to publicly support divesting from fossil fuels.

The mandatory budget cuts of the past few years have given UWRF little choice but to try putting back together the pieces of an institute that once was one of the most innovative in the nation, thanks to it’s ambitious Carbon Action Plan (CAP). The CAP lays out plans to have a carbon negative campus, meaning we wish to emit less greenhouse gases than our campus produces through renewable energy--ambitious, indeed. Possible with adequate funding, yes; but, becoming carbon negative is impossible with our current fiscal situation.

In the Spring of 2013, a divestment campaign started on campus at UWRF. Divestment, a tactic often used to combat humanitarian injustice, asks institutions to remove any investments that are aiding the immoral cause at hand. This tactic worked to free Nelson Mandela during the days of Apartheid in South Africa. There is no debating weather climate change is real; the “theory” of climate change is known as fact in the scientific realm, just as Einstein’s “theory” of relativity is known as a fact to the public. If one denies that 2+2=4, it’s not radical to say they are incorrect. If one denies climate change, 97 percent of scientists have no problem letting them know that 2+2 does not equal five.

UWRF currently has \$524,615 invested in the fossil fuel industry; the industry that is profiting off of climate change denial and is fueling the drastic warming of the Earth’s temperature. The immense monetary power of the fossil fuel industry quickly drowns out the valid concerns coming from the scientific community and the citizens who care deeply about the health of our planet.

Much in part because of the political and fiscal power of the fossil fuel industry, it is divestment that the signed names have turned to combat the overwhelming inaction the world has shown in regards to climate change. We are calling on Van Galen to stand by the sustainability commitments UWRF has made by continuing to fund a sustainability coordinator, a sustainable curriculum coordinator, and to publicly combat climate change on a global scale by supporting the divestment from fossil fuels out of the UWRF Foundation.

I believe it worthwhile to thank Van Galen and the president of the UWRF Foundation, Chris Mueller, for their willingness to create and continue an open dialogue with a group of concerned students, showing their commitment to current and future classes on campus. Thank you, and we look forward to continuing our goals of fostering a more sustainable campus.

Dear Van Galen,

We--students, faculty, staff and alumni of UWRF--are writing you to express concerns about the pending budget cuts and its impact on sustainability efforts on this campus.

Last year we made a plea to Student Senate, Faculty Senate

and administrators to allocate funds for a sustainability coordinator and a faculty fellow curriculum coordinator. It was a powerful feeling to be part of a group who sought action on an important issue and saw the administration act on behalf of concerned students and faculty.

We realized that our voice can make an impact on pending administrative decisions. The number of voices in support of a full-time sustainability coordinator and faculty fellow curriculum coordinator has grown vastly in the past year, along with the voice for decisive action on climate change, such as Divestment.

Through the looming budget cuts, we ask you to continue being mindful of our dedications. Surely you remember the statement you made in regard to the mission of our university to the Student Voice in October of 2009: “The focus of the university of global literacy, sustainability and inclusion I think are very important, and I’m interested in working with the university to move those efforts forward.”

As one student, Roberta Schoofs, so eloquently put it, “...the importance of a sustainability coordinator position demonstrates UWRF’s sincere commitment to the progress of sustainability. Their expertise could help lower our emissions, overall energy consumption, and hopefully eliminate wasteful practices that may otherwise create unnecessary financial burdens and energy inefficiencies.”

Sustainability is something we believe cannot be on the chopping block. The core values of our university, as well as most academic institutions, is to look at what we can analyze and interpret in an peer-reviewed setting, often creating syllabi based off these conclusions.

When looking at sustainability and the science of climate change, we, and hundreds of scientific institutions, conclude that the time to act on climate change was long ago, but now is as good a time to start as any.

When fiscal abilities are at their lowest, as a university, we cannot feasibly invest in such energy-efficient products such as a wind turbine or more Renewable Energy Certificates. Funding a sustainability coordinator and a curriculum coordinator is a step towards taking on climate change, but actions don’t stop with dollar amounts. Gaining points for the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating System (STARS) is one of the many benefits of divestment.

The time is perfect for our university to make a statement by removing the UWRF Foundation’s assets in the top 200 most destructive oil and gas companies as well as commingled mutual funds, as rated by 350.org. As a result, we ask the excess funds are entered into renewable energy companies and green funds; many of which make higher investment returns.

The nature of our political atmosphere and the high cost of green energy has made it nearly impossible for the world to adequately address climate change.

Through divestment, our university can make a fiscally moral statement in support of meaningful action on climate change. Divestment is a tactic our university can embrace by showing its commitment to sustainability and a healthy planet for future classes.

We are asking for you to support sustainability by funding a sustainability coordinator, a faculty fellow curriculum coordinator, and to publicly support our university’s divestment from fossil fuels.

Sincerely,

Daniel Saunders,
ECOS,
Sustainable Working Group,
Gustavo Cavilehro (ambassador to the Board of Directors),
SALSA,
UWRF College Democrats,
UWRF Resource Management Club,
560 divestment signatories

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Please return by Friday, April 24

University, city have options for students without licenses

Britany Bonney and Maggie Christensen
britany.bonney@my.uwrf.edu

For college students living on campus, having a driver’s license and car is an option, not a necessity.

According to a study done by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Education Fund; in the past few decades, fewer young adults are getting driver’s licenses. The average young person aged 16 to 34 drove 23 percent fewer miles in 2009 than in 2001.

The report also shows that a growing number of young Americans don’t have driver’s licenses. From 2000 to 2010, Americans aged 16 to 34 without licenses increased from 21 percent to 26 percent.

There are different reasons why people might not have a driver’s license. Some UWRF students said they don’t feel they need a driver’s license.

“I just have anxiety about taking the driver’s test. I never really needed a car anyway; I could bike everywhere I needed to go,” said senior James Martin. “I kept putting off getting my license; I usually get rides from friends if they’re going somewhere else, and I don’t go home too often.”

UWRF has options available for students without driver’s licenses to get around. One option is a ride-share board located in the University Center by Freddy’s C-Store.

There are two options for posting to the board: drivers and riders. Drivers and people looking for a ride can post their name, phone number, destination and date of departure. Freshman Ethan Schmidt said he has used the ride board in the University Center before.

“I made a friend using that board in the [University Center] once,” Schmidt said. “Usually my friend can drive me places, and I can give them gas money.”

It’s hard to tell how many students make use of the ride-share board in the University Center, but it’s still a resource for students to get in contact with other people for potential carpooling. Similar to the ride-share board in the University Center, there is a Facebook group called “UWRF Carpooling.” The group page has 532 members, and people post on the page where they would like to go and when. The concept

is similar to the board in the University Center.

Most of the posts are for people who are looking to go home on the weekends. For people who want to get around River Falls, one option is the taxi. The city of River Falls has a taxi service available for students. A student ID must be provided, and destinations must be within city limits. Some destinations that are free to students with ID are the Vibrant Health Clinic, Pierce County Reproductive Health Services and the St. Croix Sexual Assault Response Team Center.

According to Homeland Security, if a student is an “F” or “M” student in the U.S. they can apply for a driver’s license. F students refer to students attending an academic program, such as a university or college, high school, private elementary school, a religious seminary, a conservatory or another academic institution, including a language training program. M student refers to students attending a vocational or other nonacademic school, not including a language training program. Taxis can be a less expensive alternative to driving. Some college students view the costs of having and maintaining a car as a frivolous expense. The cost of the initial car buying, registration, insurance and the general maintenance of the car could total to \$9,122, according to a report done by AAA.

College towns typically have stores that meet basic needs for college students. They can find jobs on campus as well as jobs in town within walking distance from apartments or residence halls. Bicycles are a common vehicle for college students to get around.

UWRF has places scattered throughout campus where students can lock up their bicycles. These racks are located outside residence halls and the education buildings, as bicycles are a cheaper substitute for getting around campus.

In addition, students have the option to register their bicycle with the University Police. This service is free and can possibly return registered bicycles if they are recovered stolen.

UWRF also makes it possible for students to rent bicycles. Falcon Outdoor Adventures has mountain bicycles and road bicycles available for rental. Helmets are also available. Falcon Outdoor Adventure trip leader Jameson Coopman said a lot of the people renting bicycles are international students.

For students who own a bike, UWRF has the “Bike Shop,”

which provides students with basic bicycle tune-ups for \$25 and advanced tune-ups for \$40. According to the Bike Shop’s website, they want to provide the UWRF community with education, tools and experience needed to responsibly ride a bicycle on campus.

According to the UW System student statistics for fall 2014-2015, UWRF has 240 international students enrolled. Cars are harder to come by for non-U.S. citizens; therefore, getting around the area may be more difficult for them, which is why bikes are a great alternative. Biking is a good way to get around River Falls, but people who are looking to get off campus can also make use of a few programs offered at UWRF. A couple options for getting off campus includes the Twin Cities Shuttle and the Get on the Bus program.

The Twin Cities Shuttle is a service that will take students from the University Center to the Mall of America. Trips happen once or twice a month, and one round-trip ticket costs \$10. There are typically two departure times from the University Center: 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Students then arrive back to campus at 3 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets for the shuttle need to be purchased in at least 24 hours in advance and can be purchased online at marketplace.uwrf.edu.

Lastly, Get on the Bus program hosted by Student Life is a good way to get off campus. Get on the Bus is a program with events happening throughout the year with trips to the Como Zoo in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Mall of America, the Midtown Global Market and the Chanhassen Dinner Theatre.

UWRF has many opportunities for students without cars or a license to still get around the area. Cheap transportation and events like Get on the Bus are ways for students to avoid the costs of owning a car and creates an opportunity to meet other students.

There are two more Twin Cities Shuttle trips scheduled for this semester, one on April 25 and one on May 9. More information about transportation options at UWRF can be found at uwrf.edu/transportation.

The Student Voice will be running several commuting stories over the next month in an effort to discover how commuting affects the campus and community.

(Exchange) STUDENT voices

What is your favorite part of spring?

Compiled by Amara Young




Left:

Eduarda Bortoluzzi, Brazil,
animal science:
“Finally having some warmth.”

Right:

Erick Galavo, Brazil,
crop and soil science:
“Spending the majority of my day
outside.”



Left:

Ronaldo Feureiro, Brazil,
biology technology:
“The colors of the environment
as a whole.”

Right:

Shuyan Wang, China,
elementary education:
“The weather, it’s too cold here.”



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: **“Home”**

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.

Commuting students adjust to disadvantages

Trenten Gauthier
trenten.gauthier@my.uwrf.edu

Being a commuter in today’s college environment is much different than it was a few years ago.

Most commuters travel about an hour or less to attend UW-River Falls, and with only 41 percent of students living on campus, what does the rest of the student body do to get to class on time?

Gabe Moony, a commuting student, drives about 20 minutes, along with fellow student Matt Brisk who drives about an hour to attend classes.

Moony, who drives from Ellsworth, Wisconsin, says parking gets a bad reputation around campus due to people getting tickets in odd manners, but he disagrees with this general assumption.

“Parking is not as bad as people make it out to be,” Moony. “It is pretty easy once you just find a spot.”

Brisk agreed with Moony and even added that he hasn’t had a ticket yet, but he had one issue with on-campus life for commuting students.

“I have nowhere to put anything. If I have any breaks I don’t have much to do or anywhere to go, and I have to carry and lug around all my things for an entire day’s worth of class, not to add anything I’m doing after,” Brisk said.

Students do have options, as the UWRF website has a link dedicated to giving commuting students ideas of what to do while

in-between classes that include game rooms, study tables, a computer lab and even lockers. These lockers just need a padlock brought by the student. So why do commuter students not know of this?

Being a part of campus has its perks but students who travel sometimes don’t even know what is available for them on a day-to-day basis. All this information can be found on the university website.

Moony said that the modernization of universities does have its benefits.

“The nice thing about being a commuter is how everything is online these days on D2L,” Moony said. “If you do miss a class because of work, you can always check D2L and get the material that you miss, it’s not how it was like 10 years ago.”

Brisk agreed, as he has had no issues with any teachers not updating D2L or not emailing him back, but he did say that on-campus organizations don’t appeal to a large audience of students that are commuting because they might not be able to help.

“I’m a part of clubs at home,” Brisk said. “I’m a community resident at home. We might not have a dairy club at home, but the UW Extension will put on stuff, and I may not be with people my age, but you can still find those people to meet with that have the same interests.”

The Student Voice will be running several commuting stories over the next month in an effort to discover how commuting affects the campus and community.



Amara Young/Student Voice

Left: a UWRF student drives down Main Street on her way to class. Right: the same UWRF student pays for her parking space in the Pay 2 Lot, south of the University Center.

Volunteers make inaugural UWRF TEDx event possible



Jack Haren/Student Voice

Top left: alumnus Boyd Huppert, a KARE 11 reporter, speaks on April 11. Top right: artist Li Hongbo presents a paper creation. Bottom: volunteers celebrate the big event.

Softball team smashes its way to road split

Collin Kottke
collin.kottke@my.uwrf.edu

A postponement of last Thursday’s scheduled doubleheader against Hamline University threw the Falcons into the thick of conference play.

The Falcons hit the road this past weekend and took on WIAC foes UW-Platteville and UW-La Crosse.

In the doubleheader against Platteville, the Falcon offense surged for UW-River Falls en route to a two-game sweep over the Pioneers on Saturday. Game one was won by a score of 14-5 and game two was won by a 12-7 score.

The doubleheader in La Crosse didn’t turn out the same way for UWRF on Sunday. The Falcons could only muster two runs in both of the games, falling in the first game, 6-2, and the second game, 10-2.

Despite the lack of runs on Sunday, it looks like the offense has gotten back on track.

“The surprise is our hitting came back. Our team average for those four games was .422: phenomenal,” said Head Coach Faye Perkins. “We know we can hit. In Florida we were crushing the ball and then we kind of went into a little slump, and now we’re back just in time for the conference games.”

In the four games over the weekend, seven Falcon players batted over .400. Sophomore outfielder Kaitlyn LePine led the hitting parade with a .727 average in the four games, not far behind was senior infielder Brooke Lauritzen at .714 and sophomore outfielder Katie Thompson at .615.

Game one against Platteville saw the Falcons smash six extra-base hits while only surrendering one. Both Thompson and Lauritzen were just triples away from completing the cycle. Thompson and LePine led the team with three RBIs in the 14-5 victory.

It was over pretty quick in game two against Platteville when the Falcons scored nine runs in the second inning alone. Eight extra-base hits made the big win possible, including three home runs. Junior infielder

Sarah Sorensen and LePine both hit their first home runs of the doubleheader while Lauritzen crushed her second over the fence in as many games. Lauritzen, again, was just a triple shy of the cycle in the 12-7 victory.

UWRF found itself in the lead in game one against La Crosse thanks to a Toni Lubahn RBI single in the second, but the lead would soon be gone courtesy of a four spot put up by La Crosse in the third inning. Only one extra-base hit was recorded for the Falcons in the game, which was a double from senior pitcher Abbie Morris in the 6-2 loss.

The Falcons found themselves in a hole early in the second game against La Crosse as the home team scored six runs in the bottom of the first inning. Eight hits were registered for UWRF, but only one extra-base hit made it into the books again, which was another double from Morris. The Falcons scored two runs, but one run was scored via an error so only one RBI was recorded for the team, which belonged to freshman outfielder Shannon Borchardt in the 10-2 loss.

It’s the halfway point in WIAC play and the Falcons find themselves with a 2-4 record in conference and a 15-13 overall record. The top six teams in the conference make the conference tournament, the Falcons are currently in the top six.

Perkins thinks the tightness of the conference makes it all the more fun.

“That’s what I think is so exciting about the WIAC, that you can’t go into any game thinking this is going to be an easy game, because when you do that is when you get beat, so you have to play your best game every game,” Perkins said.

The Falcons have a trio of home WIAC doubleheaders lined up between April 18-22, which has the team excited to play in front of their friends and family.

“It’s my last year, so I hope we can sweep both days this upcoming weekend and then hopefully sweep Stout, as well,” Morris said. “Home games are always fun, because it’s our field, it’s our home and we have to protect it.”



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
The Falcons huddle together during a game against UW-Whitewater on April 3.

The weekend kicks off on Saturday with a doubleheader against UW-Oshkosh. Saturday is the “Hit For Lupus” game and also “Alumni Day” for the Falcons. First pitch on Saturday is set for 2:30 p.m.

Sunday has UW-Stevens Point on the schedule with a noon first pitch. On Sunday,

it is also “Senior Day” and “Parent’s Day” for the Falcons softball squad.

The Falcons finish up the regular season home conference schedule on Wednesday against UW-Stout with a doubleheader set for a 4 p.m. first pitch. The postponed doubleheader against Hamline University will be played the next day, Thursday, at Hamline.

Men’s track and field has successful meet at Hamline

Bryan Tester
bryan.teste@my.uwrf.edu

The men’s track and field team competed in the 2015 Hamline University Invitational on Saturday, April 11, which included personal and career bests for some of the Falcon athletes.

Junior sprinter David Paynotta continued his impressive track and field career as he was a part of three first-place finishes during the last Saturday’s event: the 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash and 4x100-meter dash.

Paynotta has a very simple approach when it comes to every race he participates in.

“I approach every race the same by knowing that I have a good chance of winning,” Paynotta said in an email interview. “If I win I have a good chance of putting down a good time. I feel like that type of mentality is key to being a successful sprinter. As for the relay, I just try to be the first one to hand the baton off. I know that the other guys can handle the rest.”

In Paynotta’s last six races he has finished first in five with one fourth-place finish in the 400-meter dash, which he had previously never competed in throughout his three-year career. On Saturday, he finished in first place in the 100-meter dash with a time of 10.7.

Paynotta has improved his 100-meter time by a half second since his freshman season.

The Falcons were able to capture third, fourth and fifth place in the pole vault. Current school record holder in pole vault, freshman Colton Sorenson, was able to capture third place in the pole vault with a leap of

14-7 1/4. Senior Windsor Molnar placed fourth in the pole vault with the same leap height as Sorenson at 14-7 1/4. Senior Cole Lubinski placed fifth with a season-high leap of 14-1 1/4.

The team would also compete in the hammer throw as junior Taylor Eldred placed

fourth with his career-best toss of 163-8. Junior AJ Walsh-Brenizer also had a career best toss of 152-4 in the javelin throw. In the high jump, freshman Hunter Hulley placed sixth with his season-best leap of 6 (feet). In the 800-meter run, the Falcons would place in 14th, 16th and 20th, respectively.

Paynotta also participated in the 200-meter dash, capturing first place with a time of 21.98. Paynotta would continue to help the Falcons in the meet by competing in the 4x100-meter relay. His winning team would include junior Shane White, freshman Brandon D’Andrea and senior Jordan Crockett. The team would have a standout performance, posting a season-best time of 42.27.

Senior captain Tucker Malecha was extremely pleased with the team’s performance.

“This past week was an exciting one for the Falcon track and field team that competed at Hamline University this weekend,” Malecha said in a phone interview. “We expect to go out and give it our all each week, but this one came with many season-best performances. It’s great motivation and a confidence-booster going into our next meet at St. Norbert.”

The team will compete in De Pere, Wisconsin, at the St. Norbert College Invitational on April 18, with the meet beginning at 10:30 a.m.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Patrick Anigbogu leaps during the men’s long jump in the meet on Feb. 15, 2015.



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UW River Falls
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS • CAMPUS RECREATION

Evil English textbooks are unreadable, smelly waste of time

Cristin Dempsey

Columnist

Earlier this week I successfully did something many college students only wish they could successfully do: I opened a textbook and read it.

Now this is not to say I'm putting myself in some elite class of professional textbook readers. In fact, I am quite the opposite.

As a professional writing major, I've found that I don't have to completely rely on textbooks to do well in my

classes. And before any of you go saying "Wow, that Cristin is lazy! Look at her sliding her way through her classes!" or high-five me because you've also never read a textbook in your life, hear me out.

It's not that I don't want to read them; it's that I don't find them necessary or helpful. Of the five (I mean 20) textbook pages I've read in my life, I learned very little.

I cannot speak for students majoring in math, science, business or history fields, because textbook reading is much more essential to their overall performance in the classroom. But have you ever read a textbook for an English class? I mean, have

you really and truly sat down to read a chapter out of a book for technical writing, editing or literature? I would imagine not. You most likely have burned the book by the end of the chapter. Well, let me be the first to tell you, mainly if you have never experienced such agony, that it really doesn't enhance your learning past the first two pages.

Unless the author of such a textbook is very talented and has plenty of experience writing for an academic audience, textbook reading is a heavy bore. English textbook authors in particular believe their readers are actually paperback dictionaries with legs, so they use words 20

letters long and used by nobody. So as quickly as I can get distracted by cats on the Internet, I lose any comprehension of much of the text. Not, of course, that I was paying attention anyway. I usually make it to somewhere in the third page before I start daydreaming that I'm Beyoncé and can then only see black ink on white paper.

And I actually don't see this as a bad thing, preposterous as that sounds. The thing about slightly less than mediocre textbook authors is that they basically repeat the same sentence for 20 pages, in about 50 different ways. Every time I make the mistake of actually sitting

down for what should be an hour but turns out to be five hours due to my Beyoncé fantasies, I learn maybe two things. This may include, "Bob walked the dog," and two paragraphs later: "On the street was Bob who walked his dog." Two paragraphs later yet: "The black, concrete street was where Bob walked his dog with two tails."

Are you annoyed yet by Bob and his dog? Try reading that for 20 more pages and then we'll see how annoyed you get. To me, textbooks are more of a test of patience than learning.

Don't get me wrong, if you read textbooks, learn a lot from them, and they

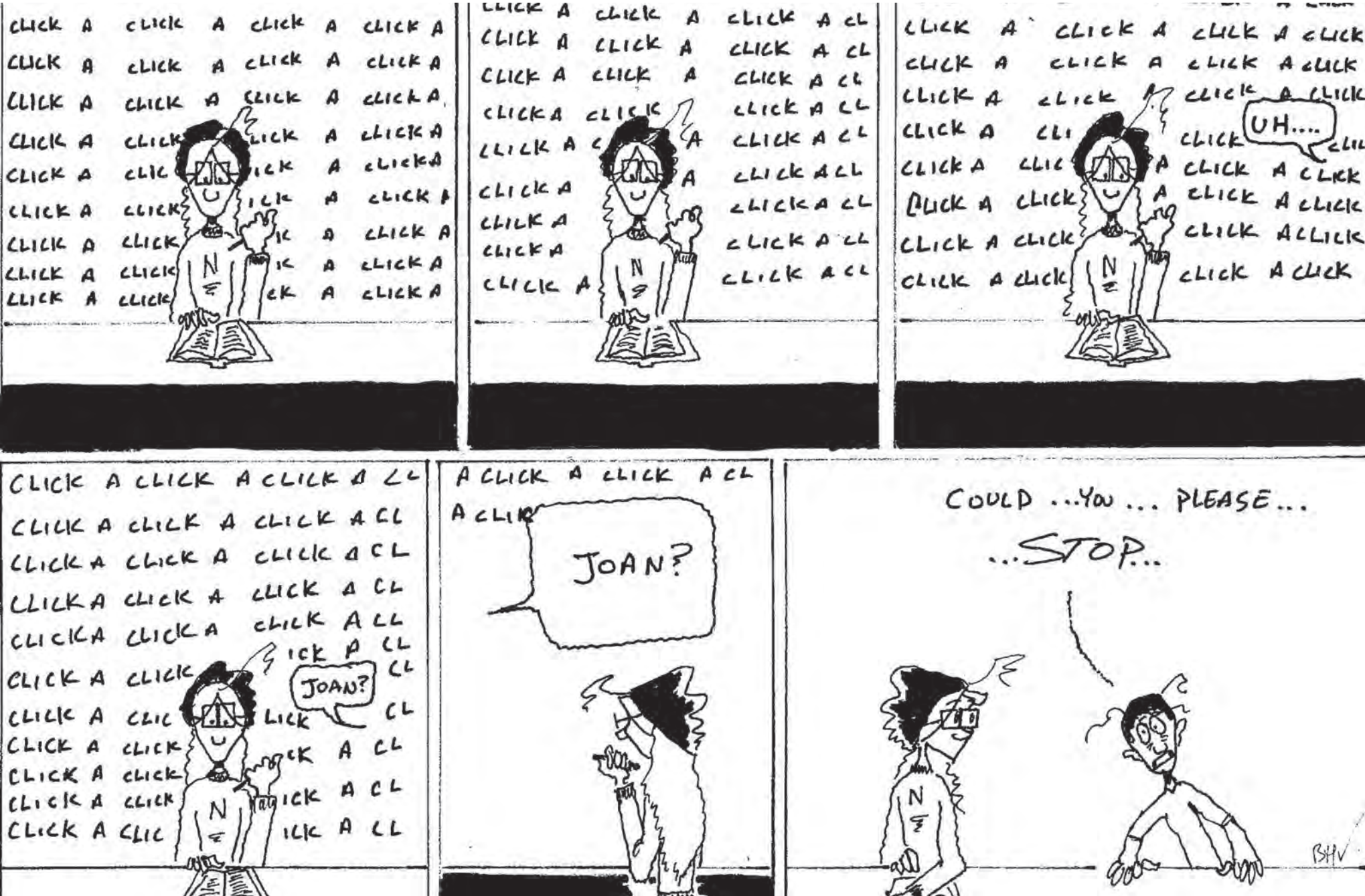
ultimately help you succeed in classes, more power to you. Everyone learns differently, and every subject is a little bit different. However, if you are like me and would rather ride a bicycle that is on fire than finish a 20-page textbook chapter, don't fret.

There are many other ways of learning material and succeeding in class without having to rely on a textbook that smells like 1952. So until textbook authors become more interesting or at least throw in a few jokes, stick to what helps you most.

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.



Top left and right: visiting composer Mark Applebaum speaks to the curious crowd inside Abbott Concert Hall on April 11. Bottom: The UW-River Falls New Music Ensemble prepares for the world premiere of "Clicktrack," Applebaum's latest unique musical creation. Applebaum visited UWRF as the 49th Annual Commissioned Composer.



Cartoon by Benjamin Heer