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STUDENT VOICE

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Christopher Morgan elected Student Senate president

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UW-River Falls said goodbye to its current Student Senate president of the past year, Anthony Sumnicht, and welcomed Christopher Morgan into the position on Tuesday, April 21.

Morgan is a junior at UWRF studying economics and political science. He will serve as president for the academic year of 2015-2016 and is set to graduate in the fall of 2016 after having come to UWRF in the spring two years ago.

Although his family currently lives in Forest Lake, Minnesota, Morgan grew up in Texas.

He and his family moved to Minnesota during his junior year of high school when his father got a job promotion. After he graduates, Morgan said he sees himself being a business executive someday and plans to live wherever his job takes him.

"It'd always be nice to start your own business and be your own boss but right now I'm more focused on breaking into a corporation or a company," Morgan said.

Having served on the Executive Board of the External Relations committee for two years and having studied political science and economics, Morgan said he feels as though he is qualified for his

new title as president and is really excited—albeit, slightly scared—to take on the role.

Since he started attending UWRF, Morgan has been very involved on campus. He was part of Hall Council for the Ames Suites and worked for the Dining Services Advisory Committee (which no longer exists but has been replaced by a similar committee).

He then became part of Senate, where he served on multiple committees and eventually became a member of the Executive Board during his sophomore year.

"As I progressed throughout this year I've basically made a lot of contacts throughout the school, networked well with the senators, basically got the understanding of what it takes to lead Senate," Morgan said.

Morgan didn't have to worry about the number of votes he would receive during the election for Senate on April 15-17 because he ran unopposed. Instead of concerning himself with campaigning, Morgan said he focused on planning new



Carmella Everhart/Student Voice
Student Senate President Christopher Morgan settles into new position.

policies and changing the way students view the Senate as a whole.

"A lot of people don't know who we are and those who do are intimidated by us and so I'm looking to shift that by basically getting the senators to attend events held by

student organizations, participate in those organizations," Morgan said.

Another issue Morgan said he wants to work on is increasing campus pride.

"I think increasing campus pride is another issue we need to hit, es-

pecially with declining enrollment numbers," Morgan said. "Retention numbers, as they are, I think showing school pride and really pushing that agenda is going to help us out overall as a school."

Morgan also said he wants Senate members to listen to what students have to say and make changes based on what the students want.

Moving in that direction, Senate recently enacted a new law stating that the Senate president is required to live on campus during their term. At this time, no decision has been made as to whether or not the Senate president will be provided subsidized housing, according to Morgan.

The president will, however, receive \$300 a month (raised from \$275 a month as part of the new law) for the full-time position.

"Just the amount of work that the president is going to be doing and has done in years past, being able to not have to worry about 'how am I going to pay for my housing?' is a huge, huge thing for the president because it's a lot of work," Morgan said.

Morgan said he would like students to know that Senate is there for them and he encourages everyone to talk to the senate members about any problems that arise next year in order to best serve the students.

Two country bands chosen to perform at UWRF Finals Fest

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With only a couple weeks left in the semester, students on the campus of UW-River Falls are finishing those papers, projects, and coursework before they head home for the summer. One event that occurs at the end of each academic year is Finals Fest.

The 10th annual Finals Fest will feature the country band Gloriana at 8 p.m. in the Falcon's Nest on May 8. The opening band will be Brothers Osborne, who is also a country band, which made it big with their hit song "Let's Go There" in 2013.

Gloriana is made up of brothers Tom and Mike Gossin and Rachel Reinert. They made their debut with their hit single "Wild at Heart" in early February that took the country by storm. They have two albums, "Gloriana," which was released in 2009, and "A Thousand Miles Left Behind," which was released in 2012.

Gloriana has won the Nationwide On Your Side of the Year award, Top New Vocal Group award, and Breakthrough Artist of the Year award over the course of two years.

Although Gloriana is well known to the country music

genre, there are a fair amount of students on the campus of UWRF that have never heard of the band.

"I have never heard of either one of those bands," said UWRF student Megan Smith. "I'm not a big country music fan, but I might look them up and consider going."

With the popular song "Wild at Heart" playing, Smith has heard the song, but it didn't get stuck in her head. UWRF student Mike Johnson is a big country music fan and likes the Finals Fest decision.

"I liked the song from the first time I heard it," Johnson said. "I also like the rest of the songs on their album as well as their second album."

Brothers Osborne is made up of John and T.J. Osborne, and is also known for their other hit song in 2014, "Rum," which is included on the same album as "Let's Go There" that was released in September of 2014.

Johnson said that he hasn't heard of Brothers Osborne, but is open to all sorts of country music.

"I'm sure I've heard them on the radio at some point," Johnson said. "We all hear and know some songs but don't know who sang them."

Paul Shepherd, director of Student Life, said that this year the focus on Finals Fest

would be the concert itself. They have tried many different types of activities before the concert.

"In the past, the feedback that we've received is most students are interested in the concert," Shepherd said. "So that's our plan."

The announcement of this year's performers was on 88.7 FM WRFW on the show "Study Break," hosted by three seniors at UWRF. The announcement was also made on the Student Life and UWRF Facebook page on April 13.

"Study Break" host Ryan Tibbitts said that his show was just lucky to get the chance to announce it over the airwaves.

"Student Life asked me, and I am good friends with one of the interns for special events and pitched the idea to them," Tibbitts said.

The University Center aired "Study Break" live so students in the building were able to hear the announcement.

"We wanted to make the announcement through campus media and our social media page," Shepherd said.

Finals Fest is free for all UWRF students, faculty and staff.

Student Senate swears in new student body leadership

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The UW-River Falls Student Senate is the voice of the student body, speaking to the administration and making decisions that effect student's education while helping students have the best experience at UWRF as possible.

Twice a year Senate holds elections and on Friday, April 17, the voting for Senate elections closed.

Those who don't look at their school email may have missed the election. Signage for the candidates running for office and the election itself was not obvious to all students.

When asked who is running, what the duties are and issues Senate deals with, several students didn't know. This is an ongoing problem for not just our campus but the issue is common on most campuses. Anthony Sumnicht, the current Senate president, feels the challenge going forward for Senate will be to bridge the gap between the student body and those in the Senate who voice their concerns.

The results of the election for officers in the Senate are: Christopher Morgan, president; Sarah DeGroote, vice president; Mathea Olson, on-campus senator; Harlan Tran, international senator; Joseph Schmit, inclusivity senator; Nathan O'Leary, CAFES senator; Hannah Pechacek, CAS senator; Kao Vang, CBE senator; and Jessica Kuster, CEPES senator.

Several other students were elected to be at-large representatives but not officers in the Senate.

These students are a part of the Senate but don't have the same responsibilities of officers.

"The main work of Senate is really to advocate for the student body with campus administration," Sumnicht said. "Make sure we secure the best outcomes for our students on our campus. We review millions of dollars of student fees every year and actually allocate out hundreds of thousands of dollars out to different student organizations."

"The main work of Senate is really to advocate for the student body with campus administration," said Anthony Sumnicht, the current Senate president.

Senate also represents UWRF in the UW System and regularly meets with other student senators from other UW System campuses, working together on student issues.

Senate is the student body representative in official communication with not just UWRF administration and the UW System, but also with the city and other outside concerns.

Pechacek, the newly elected CAS senator, expressed some of her focused issues.

"Definitely one of my biggest priorities would be improving the communication, of giving the students regular updates of what is going on in Senate, what the issues are and how it affects them and what their options are," Pechacek.

There was an issue which

came up as the result of a comment posted on Senate's Twitter feed and Facebook website. The tweet said: "Please go and vote!! Kelsey for VP!!!"

Sumnicht gave a statement about the social media incident.

"In regards to a recent Facebook and Twitter post endorsing a vice presidential candidate, the post doesn't reflect any views of Senate. This post was accidentally posted by the candidate, and deleted immediately on the

Facebook page. The Twitter post however, [is] not accessible by any Senate members. A former Senate made the Twitter account 'UWRF Senate,' and neglected to transfer the account to new leadership. This Twitter account automatically re-posts all Facebook posts made by the Senate."

Alex Saxe, at-large representative, explained some of the ongoing senate priorities.

"Trying to get students more involved and voting and caring about what's going on," Saxe said. "One thing we have been trying to push is getting people informed about the budget cuts and exactly what are they."

Sumnicht encourages students to look for information from the online Senate newsletter, "The Riv," and make an effort to stay informed on issues which affect them. Senate is the voice of all students on our campus and want students to come to a meeting and get involved.

Senate meets at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Willow River Room of the University Center. The meetings are open to the student body and student involvement is appreciated.

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter @uwrvoice

News briefs:

Students choose 2015 Distinguished Teacher

Gary Onan, professor of animal science at UW-River Falls, has been named the 2015 Distinguished Teacher. Chosen by graduating seniors and recent graduates, the distinguished teaching recipients represent talented and caring educators—teachers who make a difference. It is the highest award bestowed on the UWRF campus.

In 2006, Onan was honored by his colleagues in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES) with the CAFES Outstanding Teacher Award. He is highly sought after as a judge for county and regional fairs and often serves in that capacity for 15-18 fairs during the summer. For his support and assistance with livestock judging, he received the 2014 Friend of the County Agent Award from the Wisconsin Association of County Agricultural Agents.

He is a member of the American Society of Animal Science, the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists and earned the Professional Animal Scientist designation in 2006.

In the international arena, Onan has served as a mentor in the Romanian Young Visiting Scientist Program and recently led a group of students to Nicaragua as part of a study tour in collaboration with the Universidad Nacional Agraria.

Onan has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for spring 2016, when he will travel to Banat University in Romania. He will continue his collaboration with his Romanian counterparts by helping them develop effective delivery systems for dissemination of agricultural technical information to both students in agricultural disciplines and to agricultural producers in Western Romania.

As the 2015 Distinguished Teacher, Onan will deliver the fall commencement address in December.

For more information, email laura.walsh@uwrf.edu or call 425-3535.

Soils team places first at national competition

For the second year in a row the UW-River Falls soil judging team took first place in the soils competition at the annual North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Judging Conference in Moline, Illinois, on April 7-10.

Fifteen schools participated in the soils competition, encompassing nearly 90 students.

The UWRF soils team includes: Logan Ahlers of Bigelow, Minnesota; Nikki Stehr of Zumbrota, Minnesota; Jon Alexander of Belview, Minnesota; Katie Wolff of Eau Claire, Wisconsin; Lee Boles of Prescott, Wisconsin; Emily Sorenson of River Falls; Megan Beisner of Wausau, Wisconsin; Travis Vieths of Hastings, Minnesota; Jonathan Wagaman of Medford, Wisconsin; and Matthew Strahm of Ladysmith, Wisconsin.

Per the contest rules, each school could enter one official team of four students along with an unofficial team and alternates. The UWRF students did so well, its official and unofficial team scores were only three points apart. Had the rules allowed it, they would have placed first and second in the competition.

Individually, Ahlers took second place in the nation, Stehr took third place, and Alexander took fifth place.

"This shows just how strong our students were and how much depth we had as a team," said Holly Dolliver, associate professor of soil science and geology. "Our performance was so amazing."

In the soils competition the students are given limited time to evaluate four different soil sites and give a description and interpretation of the sites.

The descriptions must include the color, texture, consistence, structure and other properties of each soil horizon in each soil pit. The interpretations about the soil include its classification, parent material, water holding properties, productivity, susceptibility to erosion and suitability for different uses.

In addition to the competition, the students were able to attend a networking fair, tour the John Deere headquarters, and participate in a volunteer project of packaging meals for a local food bank.

The conference wrapped up with a formal banquet featuring keynote speaker Cory J. Reed, senior vice president at the John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group.

Marketing students to host 'Fuel the Drive'

UW-River Falls marketing communication students will be hosting a fundraising event on behalf of "Fuel the Drive," a community-based group that is working to assist River Falls High School student Alma Silver, who is afflicted with cerebral palsy, to transition into adulthood.

The event will feature: live music from regional country music performer Tim Sigler from 8:30-10:30 p.m.; a bean bag tournament, \$10 entry per team of two; a silent auction featuring donations from area businesses; and a DJ spinning today's hit sounds.

"Attendees of the event are helping to fund and fuel the dreams of a River Falls High School student with cerebral palsy," said UWRF marketing student Hallie Chasensky. "Looking towards a future at college, she needs to ability to be mobile. The money raised at 'Fuel the Drive' is going towards a vehicle that is able to take her where she needs to go with the independence she deserves."

"Fuel the Drive" will take place on Thursday, April 30, at Juniors Bar & Restaurant on Main Street in River Falls.

Walk-in registration for the bean bag tournament will begin at 5:30 p.m. Interested participants can also register for the bean bag tournament by emailing FTDregister@gmail.com.

For more information on "Fuel the Drive," interested parties can call the marketing communications department at 425-3899.

Chasensky is a student in the UWRF non-profit communications class that will be hosting the fundraiser. Chasensky can be reached at 651-895-2330.

UWRF to host history exam preparation day

The UW-River Falls history and philosophy department will host the 19th annual Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH) Review Day for high school students on April 27.

Three to four hundred students and their teachers from area high schools in Minnesota and Wisconsin will attend to prepare for the college placement exam in early May.

With faculty from the university, high school students discuss major themes in U.S. history and consider the connections between those themes as preparation for the APUSH test, which covers all of American history. Students who pass the test earning a three or better can qualify for up to six credits at UW System campuses. Other campuses may offer similar credit.

UWRF history professors Kurt Leichtle and Ryan Fischer and UW-Stout history Professor Bob Zeidel facilitate the all-day event answering questions about the test and U.S. history in general.

For more information, visit www.uwrf.edu/HIST/Events/APhistoryReviewDay.cfm or call 425-3164.

Eight UWRF students present at state capital

The impact of exercise on balance in the aging population; the blurring line between human and artificial intelligence; the value of opera-outreach to young children getting their first taste of the genre and maybe even theatre itself.

Those are just three of the undergraduate research and scholarly topics among the dozens that UW System students and faculty research mentors showcased at the 12th annual "Posters in the Rotunda" event on Wednesday, April 22, which included work from eight UW-River Falls students.

State legislators joined the UW System and institutional leaders in welcoming 130 students and nearly 90 faculty mentors to the State Capitol rotunda. There, undergraduates from the UW System's 26 campuses set up poster displays and shared the findings of their diverse research subjects which, in many cases, are the culmination of multiple academic years of study and collaboration with faculty mentors and community partners throughout Wisconsin.

"I want to focus on why undergraduate research is important," said Katherine Jinkins of Rewey, Wisconsin, a UW-Platteville engineering physics major with a minor in microsystems and nanotechnology, who presented her research on humidity's effect on a substance called "graphene," which shows promise in touchscreen applications for smartphones. "I've had great experience with [undergraduate research], and I want to make sure that other people are able to have that experience as well."

UW System President Ray Cross welcomed students, faculty members and other guests at the 12th annual posters event.

The event kicked off at 9:30 a.m. with welcome remarks and a special recognition of co-sponsors Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce and the Wisconsin Technology Council.

Posters remained on display until 3 p.m. in the Capitol Rotunda.

The UW System has earned a national reputation as a leader in undergraduate research, which contributes to the state's priorities, including retention, graduate rates, and workforce and economic development.

"With every year, and at every UW System institution, research becomes a more essential part of our students' experience and success, and Wisconsin grows and benefits, too," Cross said. "Research—particularly undergraduate research featured at this event—enhances learning and quality of life for tens of thousands of students. With faculty mentors, students take to laboratories on our campuses. They partner with schools, nonprofits and enterprises, be they on factory floors or in farm fields. They achieve breakthroughs and develop solutions for Wisconsin's diverse communities."

Just a few of the other research projects showcased on April 22 include:

"Early Literacy Screening: Comparing PALS-K with Computerized Assessments," presented by UW-Eau Claire student Reese Butterfuss of Tomah, Wisconsin. Seven Eau Claire students participated in the event.

"Exercise Programming and its Effect with Balance in the Aging Population," presented by UW-Stevens Point students Paige Albrecht of Marshfield, Wisconsin; Danae Daellenbach of Stoughton, Wisconsin; Rachel Popelka of Stillwater, Minnesota; Cassandra Salmen of Stevens Point. All of the students are athletic training majors.

"The Issue of Race: Parents' Perspectives on African-American Males' School Experiences," presented by UW-Milwaukee student Rachel Johnson, who combined her interests in Africology and psychology in the project. Milwaukee is also hosting the 14th annual UW System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity on April 24.

More information on the "Posters in the Rotunda" is available at www.wisconsin.edu/posters.

'Country Jam USA' offers discount tickets

In its 26th year, "Country Jam USA" returns to Eau Claire, Wisconsin, with a star-studded lineup, including: Eric Church, Blake Shelton, Lady Antebellum, Gary Allen, Kip Moore, Hunter Hayes, Jerrod Niemann and many more.

Country Jam USA has been called the Midwest's premiere country festival. The three-day festival will take place July 23-25. The festival will be held at the Foster Farm campground, and three-day student tickets are only \$115.

Go to countryjamwi.com for more information or by emailing Kelsey Bruun at kelsey@44-communications.com.

UWRF boxed pork sale starts April 27

The 2015 UW-River Falls boxed pork sale will be held at 3:30-5:30 p.m. on April 27-30, in 150 Ag Sci, and this year's sale features Berkshire pork, famous for the perfect combination of juiciness, flavor and tenderness.

To pre-order, contact the department of animal and food Science by emailing anfsci@uwrf.edu or by calling 425-3704, or just simply come in during the sale for purchase.

Only 80 boxes of pork will be available so be sure to come early if you don't pre-order. Prices are \$119 for one box and \$224 for two boxes.

Please pay with cash, check or money order at pick-up. The UWRF Meat Animal Evaluation Team thanks the campus and community for support.

Restorative justice center seeks volunteers

The St. Croix Valley Restorative Justice Center Program (SCVRJP) offers volunteers a way to make a difference in the surrounding communities by becoming directly involved in the delivery of restorative justice services.

Restorative justice is a process of repairing harm and promoting accountability. It is SCVRJP's belief that this happens best in direct dialogue with community mentors. SCVRJP provides training and support for new volunteers.

A series of opportunities for volunteers is coming up in May.

On May 5, there will be a volunteer training from 6-7:30 p.m. to learn about the role of community mentors.

Next, on May 11, from 12-1 p.m., SCVRJP will host a "Lunch and Learn," to provide an in-depth explanation on the philosophy and approach of restorative justice. Lunch will be provided.

Then on May 16, there will be a keeper training from 12-3 p.m. to learn the techniques and process for SCVRJP session circles.

Finally, on May 21-22 the organization will hold a two-day circle training from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day, with lunch provided both days.

Community members interested are invited to learn more about SCVRJP volunteer opportunities by attending any upcoming volunteer events. The SCVRJP cannot do the important work it does without a valuable volunteer team.

Current and past volunteers have had many positive experiences in their work with SCVRJP.

After a recent restorative justice program circle, one volunteer stated: "I appreciate being a part of this experience." Another volunteer wrote: "Great session, wonderful storytelling and group participation."

If interested please RSVP for any of the above opportunities by emailing Shana Clauson at scvrjpevents@gmail.com or by calling the office at 425-1100. Also, visit the SCVRJP website at www.scvrjp.org for more information about the organization and other volunteer opportunities.

River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Friday, April 10

- Arson was reported to have occurred in the wooded area southeast of O Lot in the early-morning hours.

Sunday, April 19

- Online credit card fraud was reported to have occurred at some point throughout the day.

Monday, April 20

- A bicycle from the Kleinpell Fine Arts building main entrance bicycle rack was stolen during daylight hours.

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 Scholarship Benefit Dinner to feature FUBU CEO Daymond John

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The UW-River Falls Foundation office will host its annual Scholarship Benefit Dinner on April 24. The dinner is a high-class event inviting all of the Falcon Scholars and people who have donated money to the university for an evening of appreciation and fun.

The dinner is also an opportunity to raise more money for the university and for scholarship opportunities for students on campus. Tickets are on sale for the dinner portion of the event, but general admission will not get you into the other parts of the dinner, such as the keynote speaker or book signing.

Through the first two years of this event being on campus, we have seen a massive support for the university. The event has brought

in over \$375,000 in scholarships, and over \$775,000 for sponsorship.

At past dinners the keynote speakers have been Bob Woodward, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, and Bart Starr, formally of the Green Bay Packers. This year the speaker will be the Founder and CEO of FUBU and the star of ABC network's "Shark Tank," Daymond John.

John is an entrepreneur and an award-winning marketing strategist. FUBU is a highly celebrated lifestyle brand with over \$6 billion in total sales. In 2009, he joined "Shark Tank" to help provide insight into marketing and entrepreneurial skills.

"I think it's really exciting we got John," said Annual Giving Coordinator Sarah French. "He's a very public figure, he has got a lot of name and face recognition. One thing

I like about him as opposed to anybody else is that his is a name that appeals to the younger crowd."

French also said that she hopes to see more young people attend the event, because of John.

The UWRF Foundation office is a nonprofit organization that is just one of three entities that the Office of University Advancement makes up. The UWRF Foundation office is in charge of connecting alumni and gaining support for funding for the university. It's essentially the fundraising body for UWRF.

The event is part of the Rising to Distinction campaign, which aims to help students become more engaged in their academics and community, and it also helps support students through scholarship opportunities.

"Our goal with that campaign was to raise

\$20 million," said the Assistant Chancellor of University Advancement Chris Mueller. "As the campaign has moved on, we have gotten a lot of support for scholarships, we are number two among UW System schools"

Mueller went on to add that approximately 12 percent of students on campus have been awarded a scholarship, and that in the next year, the UWRF Foundation hopes to give away over \$1 million in scholarships.

Another important part of the Rising to Distinction campaign is the Falcon Scholars Program. This program awards incoming freshman who demonstrate the academic and financial need, \$1,000 per year for four years, and a \$2,000 stipend to be used in their junior or senior year for study abroad opportunities or independent research.

University finally adds popular criminology major

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While some departments on campus have been forced to cut back due to budget cuts, one department, criminology, will be added.

On Friday, April 10, the Wisconsin Board of Regents approved a new criminology major for UW-River Falls, which will be effective immediately. This new major will allow students to major or double major in criminology with the first criminology majors graduating this spring.

According to department Chair Rich Wallace, a criminology major will differ from a criminology minor with a much stronger emphasis

on research.

"The criminology major will be focused around understanding why criminals do what they do, and understanding trends and patterns in crime," Wallace said.

By the time students graduate, they will conduct and complete research on a topic of their choosing focused on research and statistics.

This is an important aspect to criminology because according to Wallace: "A lot of knowing crime is understanding trends and patterns, and you cannot understand that without knowing how data is collected."

The hope to add this major at UWRF began 10 years ago, but the process to actually get the ma-

major approved began two years ago. Wallace credits this to the need of solidifying faculty that would be dedicated to teaching in the area specifically of criminology.

"Students have been waiting for this major for a while," said double major in journalism and criminology Sadie Horton. "We didn't know if we'd graduate with a minor that will sort of help us or a major that will actually help us."

In addition to the new major helping students to reach their career goals, Wallace also believes it will bring new students to the university. This is timely news because according to the UWRF criminology home page, criminology is one of the fastest growing segments of the U.S.

economy.

"In the months of September to December, we had roughly 120 students asking about a criminology major, when we didn't even have a criminology major," Wallace said. "The closest university with either criminology or criminal justice is either UW-Eau Claire or the Twin Cities so we were losing people in the St. Croix Valley. So we'll be providing something closer to home that really addresses the need they had to begin with."

Horton also believes that this new major will bring in more students and provide them with training that they wouldn't have gotten otherwise. One major concern, though, with getting the major approved

was the budget cuts the university is facing.

"When the announcement of the budget cuts came down, we were comfortable that we could still do this," Wallace said. "But personally I was a little nervous in the way of seeing new majors and seeing allocations of resources."

One of the major strengths of the new program will be that it dovetails well with other programs such as sociology. So while students in the past only had the option of minoring in criminology, they will now have the freedom to major.

For more information on the criminology department go to: <http://bit.ly/1yPa43P>.

'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' spreads sexual assault awareness despite frigid outdoor temperature

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The mild weather this spring has been a pleasant surprise for most in Western Wisconsin, but 34 degrees and 20 mph winds on Monday, April 20, wasn't the what the brave male students had in mind when they signed up for the third annual UW-River Falls "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event.

Over 100 male students not only braved the brisk temperature, but they also accomplished something very few men have ever tried: walking a mile in women's high heels.

The "Walk a Mile" event on campus helped raise \$400 for the St. Croix County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and the Hope Coalition, stationed just over the border in Red Wing, Minnesota.

The UWRF Student Social Work Association (SSWA), a student-led organization that specializes in community involvement and volunteerism, organized the "Walk a Mile" event.

The event itself raised \$144 and SSWA donated an additional \$256, according to UWRF student and SSWA President Shane Russell. The two organizations will receive \$200 each. SSWA chose April because it is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

"SART is very active and present on our campus and in the community, providing a very important service," Russell said. "We chose SART to show our support and join them in [the] fight to end sexual assault and raising awareness around this issue."

SART also has its annual "Take Back the Night" march scheduled for 6-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, where the organization aims to "empower and support survivors, raise awareness, and let it be known that this violence will not be tolerated in our communities," according to the SART website. The march will begin at Saint Bridget Catholic Church on Division Street in River Falls.

"Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" [was] a great way to warm up for that march," Russell said.

The Hope Coalition, which used

to be the Sexual Assault Resource Agency (SARA), donated 70 pairs of high heels.

"They provide very similar services as SART, so we are all supporting the same cause, and just getting the word out and letting know people what services are available helps the cause," Russell said.

George Beduhn, a UWRF student and a Theta Chi fraternity member, was one of the brave men who slipped into a pair of high heels on Monday afternoon.

"A bunch of my brothers in Theta Chi are doing it, so they hooked me into it, and I figured it would be good for me," Beduhn said. "It certainly makes me think a little bit about what girls go through in the day to day."

According to the UWRF Theta

Chi fraternity OrgSync website, the organization "exists to serve a need for young men of character, principles and ideals to associate with each other. Our chapters and colonies are laboratories for leadership."

Theta Chi wasn't the only large group that walked the mile as the UWRF football team had approximately 50 student athletes who participated. The football team wore matching gray sweat-suits and provided a lot of energy on the cold afternoon.

"I would like to give a special thanks to the UWRF football team for being such avid supporters of this event," Russell said. "They have participated in all three 'Walk A Mile In Her Shoes,' and they are always a fun group of guys that add a lot of energy to the event."

About a quarter of a mile into the walk, one football player screamed: "Why do women do this to themselves?"

He was not alone as cries of pain echoed for nearly 40 minutes throughout campus as the large group of men made their way around the one-mile loop that began and ended outside the University Center.

Frank Baird created the event back in 2001, according to the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" website. The event started out with only a handful of men "daring to totter around a park."

In 2007, Baird formed Venture Humanity, a nonprofit corporation that develops peace, violence prevention and community projects, according to the "Walk a Mile in

Her Shoes" website, and the event is now a Venture Humanity project.

"I do think this event has made a lasting mark on the university; it's a fun way to create dialogue around a hard-to-talk-about issue, and that is what this event is all about," Russell said. "At the end of the day, it is great to gather collectively around this difficult topic in a fun way. I think it is great that people were willing to come out and show support for this cause. Weather conditions were not ideal, it was a little chilly out there, but we had a good turn out."

So, how did it feel for a man to walk around in women's high heels?

"Painful, definitely painful," Beduhn said. "And we've only gone like 100 feet."



Freddy Falcon and over 100 male UW-River Falls students get ready to walk a mile in high heels.

Carmella Everhart/Student Voice

EDITORIAL

Campus response to Earth Day feels highly lackluster

Earth Day was first recognized in the U.S. in 1970; since then, it has expanded from one day to an entire week: Earth Week.

Four UW-River Falls student organizations were actively involved with planning Earth Week events: the Agriculture Club, the Environmental Corps of Sustainability, the Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable Agriculture and the Resource Management Club. Many events were planned and some fell through.

The Kinni River Land Trust, a River Falls community organization, cleaned up the Kinnikinnic River over the course of a day, and students gladly cleanup trash around campus and posted fliers.

Earth Day is more than acknowledging the sun's warmth, walking around on grass for a couple minutes or getting your feet wet, it's purpose is raising awareness and setting off good habits for the rest of the year until the next reminder.

UWRF followed up a successful and fitting end to the TEDx talk about sustainability with only a simple three-word recognition, "Happy Earth Day," in the Falcon Daily and on the university's Facebook page. Besides this small mention, our institution as a whole largely failed to acknowledge this important event.

Social media is always a great way to reach a large group of people quickly and easily, especially for events, and certainly something more than "Happy Earth Day" could have been accomplished. Other UW System schools brought in guest speakers. UW-Madison, for example, brought in astrophysicist and educator Neil De Grasse Tyson.

"Ag Day," organized and planned by the Collegiate Farm Bureau and described as a "slow moving ag-venture" on its event poster, moved its outdoor events to Tuesday, April 28, due to inclement weather, thus moving it out of the Earth Week range.

This year's collection of events was a reduction from years past. For obvious reasons, numerous financial questions are being asked and actions are being taken due to increasing budget cut proposal realities. Point being, events and implementing sustainable practices do cost money. But the Student Voice staff would like to urge the university and its students to continue to be mindful of Earth and to appreciate the fact that there is a planet in our solar system that actually supports us.

We suggest that UWRF implements some sort of sustainability day, campus-wide, which would improve awareness around this campus. The Voice also hopes that next year's Earth Week isn't as lackluster. A simple 30-minute event or presentation would go a long way.

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student Senate lacks appropriate, accurate governmental documentation

Wisconsin open meeting and record laws aren't only legitimate functions of government, they are necessary functions of legitimate governments.

The UW-River Falls Student Senate appears to have changed in 2013-2014. According to the prior constitution: "[A] proposed amendment must be published in the Student Voice in at least two consecutive regular editions immediately prior to the student body vote on said amendments."

I have been attempting to follow the actions of Senate through their records. Senate's records posted online aren't complete and show alteration. For example, all of the agendas posted by Senate in 2014-2015 show being posted at 9:02 a.m. on April 21. This makes it impossible for a citizen to understand if the appear to have been posted late, changed after the fact or altered in some way. What should be an official government document now has no validity and is impossible to verify.

Amendment SS-14-15-082 "Student Life Operating Budget," simply states that Senate approves the budget and not what that budget actually is. These are just a few of the numerous irregularities that don't meet either the intent or the letter

of the laws in Wisconsin intended to protect and inform the public about our government.

Government documents are official records. Every other governmental unit in River Falls publishes their agenda and minutes in a paper of record. This allows the public to be informed and protects us from malicious or unintentional destruction or alteration of records.

Senate should follow the example of other local government units and publish their agendas and minutes in the appropriate newspaper. For campus, this would be the Student Voice when that option is available, and when not, the River Falls Journal or Pierce County Herald. In addition, records should be kept in paper form and available in the office for inspection as required by law.

Open and honest government requires that the public be able to understand what government is doing. That is currently not possible with the incomplete records of Senate.

What Senate does is important. Students and the public deserve to know what this important government body is doing.

-Benjamin Plunkett

Student Senate update: 'The Riv' will flow

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Student Senate met for the last time Tuesday, April 21, before the new Student Senate members will be transitioned into their new positions.

Senate discussed and passed several motions, including "The Riv" allocation, two bylaw amendments, and the appointment of a new Allocable Fee Appropriation Board (AFAB) chair. I'm going to focus on "The Riv" allocation.

This amendment was moved by Brady Murphy and seconded by now former Vice President Shelby Hehr. This amendment called for a total of \$600 to be withdrawn from the "Special Funding and Projects" pool. This will pay for a year's subscription of the software in order to produce the Senate newsletter, "The Riv."

First, let me give you a little background about "The Riv." The newsletter was created by now former Senate President Anthony Sumnicht and includes parts of stories taken from sources such as the Student Voice, the River Falls Journal, and other media outlets including USA Today and BBC. It also includes a Top 10 list and student photos who have used the hashtag #UWRF. This newsletter was launched at the end of March and was being produced on software that was free for the first 60 days of use. Now that the 60 days are up, Senate is looking to fund it so the newsletter can continue.

There was a lot of discussion during the Senate meeting about whether or not this newsletter should continue and

if it's worth funding during these times when money is tight. An argument that kept coming up during the meeting was that UWRF already has several newsletters, including The Falcon Connection and the Falcon Daily. Another argument was that students aren't really keen on reading newsletters that are emailed to them against their will, and Sumnicht mentioned that only 200 out of the 700 students who were emailed "The Riv" weekly even opened the email. Despite all this, the motion was passed to allocate \$600 per year to pay for its continuation.

What I find interesting about the decision to discuss and vote on this motion is that in a previous article that was on the front page of the Student Voice, Sumnicht said that if Senate receives feedback suggesting that the newsletter is not needed or wanted by students, then it will simply "go away."

I don't know about anyone else, but I think that the fact that less than half of the students even opened the email to access "The Riv" shows that yet another campus newsletter isn't needed or wanted by the student body. Yet, this newsletter refused to simply "go away," as Sumnicht previously stated that it would. This decision seemed to cater to Senate's wants, rather than the needs of the university and its students.

I also agree with the argument that came up during the Senate meeting that another campus newsletter is unnecessary. I'm a student; and although I read both the Falcon Connection and the Falcon Daily, I know that, unfortunately, most students don't.

If this newsletter brought something new to the table, such as original content, I would say go ahead. But the fact that they just take stories from the Voice and other media outlets tells me that it would be a waste of the \$600 that is now being put forward to pay for it.

If Senate was really interested in making a newsletter to better communicate with students, they would be focused on writing about the decisions that they make every week and encouraging students to attend their weekly meetings, but I don't see that happening anytime soon.

I'd like to end this column by mentioning that on Tuesday the newly elected president, vice president, and Senate members transitioned into their new positions. I'd like to thank every student that took the time to vote and I hope that this new Senate will work to more accurately reflect the views of the student body and work to make this campus a better place for everybody.

All information in this column came from the April 21 Senate meeting and select documents from its OrgSync page. It's very important for all students to stay informed on what is going on with Senate. They meet at 7 p.m. every Tuesday in the Willow River Room of the University Center, and the meeting agenda can be found 24 hours prior on the Senate page. To see the details of what was discussed last Tuesday, go on the Senate page, and read through this week's minutes document.

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Campus radio station to host annual end-of-year bash

Bryan Tester

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Despite taking budget hits, the campus radio station, 88.7 FM WRFW, will be hosting its annual “Can’t Stop the Music” event on May 4 in the University Center Falls Room. It has plans to make it one of the biggest ever in organization history.

“Can’t Stop the Music” is an event held by the radio station every year, and it is a celebration of all of the hard work everyone has put into the station throughout the year. Student chair and social media director for WRFW, Ryan Tibbitts, said this is a big event for everyone at the radio station.

“This is our big event every year. It’s a good way to celebrate the work our DJs have put in all year and say goodbye to the seniors who are graduating this May or next December,” Tibbitts said.

Tibbitts said that WRFW is in the works of giving away a grand prize that will be a \$150 value, and some shows already have close to 100 people planning on attending in the Falls Room the day of the event. Tibbitts, a senior, has been

involved with the radio station since his freshman year, working in the athletics department and eventually having his own show, “Study Break,” with two of his friends, which has gained a large following since it started over two years ago.

A lot of planning has gone into setting up the event. Tibbitts has been working alongside the promotions director of the radio station, Drew Moldenhauer, since January to get everything lined up. After securing the location in the University Center, the two went around town to collect any types of donations they could from local businesses to help make this event even more special.

“This event could not happen without the generosity of the UWRF community,” Tibbitts said.

The two received items from local businesses such as gift-cards, sweatshirts, certificates and even meet and greets for Gloriana, who will be performing at Finals Fest. “Can’t Stop the Music” will also be featuring live DJs, one hour at a time, starting at 1 p.m. and going until 10 p.m., which is a way for the DJs to interact with all of their fans and get the UWRF students involved.

“Can’t Stop the Music” is coming at an important time for the station, because they are currently in the battle with Student Senate regarding the recent budget cuts for the station.

WRFW has costs similar to other radio stations but have not had a budget of professional radio stations in years. Starting in the fall of 2015, the radio station will be running on its lowest budget to date. Tibbitts doesn’t want the budget or the situation with Senate to deter from the event.

“This upcoming year, the station will be working with the lowest budget ever,” Tibbitts said. “This event is important to us to show people what the radio station is all about. We want to show people we are staying positive and will continue to operate with whatever budget we have.”

“Can’t Stop the Music” will also be the last time that Tibbitts’ show hits the airwaves, and he wants to go out with a bang and make a memory that he will never forget.

“To pack the Falls Room with all my best friends and people who have been on the show, along with my two co-hosts, Blake Johnson and John Peake, will be something I won’t ever forget,” Tibbitts said. “I’m sure tears will be shed.”

UWRF sophomore benefits from fluency in seven languages

Cooper Nelson

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UW-River Falls sophomore Kevin Leor can speak seven languages and recently won a prestigious award at the 29th annual Japanese Language Speech Contest.

Leor is a native Spanish speaker from Monterrey, Mexico. He became interested in learning new languages at a young age. Leor first learned English, then French. He is also fluent in Italian, German, Portuguese, Japanese and his native language, Spanish. Naturally, Leor is a modern language major at UWRF.

For many people, learning a new language is a difficult task, but Leor says that it is something that he has a passion for.

“I just teach myself. It’s something that comes easy to me,” Leor said. “The most challenging part about it is that I don’t have anyone to practice with, but it is something that comes natural to me.”

Over spring break, Leor participated and won an award in the 29th annual Japanese Language Speech Contest at the

Consulate General of Japan-Chicago. Japanese language instructor Magara Maeda helped Leor with his speech, and she isn’t surprised with his skill for languages.

“His hard work puts him where he is right now,” Maeda said. “I really admire him for knowing so many different languages.”

Winning an award at the contest was a long process. Leor first came with the speech idea to Maeda, and then they composed it into Japanese together. Once the speech was written down, Leor then recorded the audio of himself performing the speech and sent that along with the transcript to the Consulate General. Then, the material was judged and he was notified that he was a finalist, and he could recite the speech in Chicago, Illinois.

Maeda said that it was a lot of fun working with Leor and his speech. The contest took place during spring break and when Leor was in Chicago; Maeda was in Washington D.C. for vacation, and they talked together on Skype to practice the speech.

Leor also wanted to use his opportunity at the speech con-

test to raise awareness about all of the violence that is going on in Mexico. Last year, on Sept. 26, there were 43 male college students who were going to hold a protest at a conference. On their way to the protest, they were detained and are assumed to be killed, and the village mayor and his wife are linked to the killings, but no arrests have been made.

Maeda is hoping that other students will become interested in modern language because of Leor and possibly look at him as a role model.

“I hope that other students are inspired by his hard work,” Maeda said.

At this point, Leor isn’t sure if he is going to learn another language. He said that he is just going to stick with the ones he knows for now, but he knows what language he will learn next if he decides to learn another.

“I live with a bunch of Chinese people, so I will probably learn Chinese, but I think that it’ll be really hard,” Leor said.

If anyone would be able to learn Chinese, Leor would be one who could do it and benefit from it based on his existing, and amazing, knowledge.

Upperclassmen face dreaded ‘mid-college crisis’

Katie Galarno

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As another academic year comes to an end, some UW-River Falls students are experiencing what can only be described as a mid-college crisis.

The term is the unofficial phrase for the realization that college is passing and ultimately ending, according to Samantha Giedris, a journalism student at Seton Hall University, located in South Orange, New Jersey. It’s when students start to reflect on past decisions and question current ones. They might think back to missed opportunities or begin to worry about their post-college futures.

“It hit me right when school started,” said UWRF senior Sarah Zimitsch. “I was kind of like, ‘Oh, I’ll be done in about a year or so,’ but when people kept telling other people I was going to be done, I was like, ‘Oh my goodness, I’m going to be done. This is real. It’s not just me that knows this. Everyone knows this.’”

UWRF sophomore Kirsten Fuchs said that she is worried about how her post-college career might impact her ability to pay for school.

“I don’t know anyone who will graduate without loans, so you’re putting a lot on the line, and then there’s no guarantee at the end that you’re going to get a dream job or a job that you really do like or that pays enough money to pay off those loans,” Fuchs said.

Director of Career Services Melissa Wilson suggests that freshmen and sophomores get involved with Career Services right away to avoid an overbearing amount of stress later. However, only five percent of the students who used Career Services during the 2013-2014 academic year were freshmen and only 15 percent were sophomores, according to data assembled by Career Services.

The size of the school is another concern faced by UWRF students struggling with the mid-college crisis. Fuchs said that she worries that UWRF doesn’t have the reputation awarded to bigger colleges.

“You know that when you go to a large college, that’s going to have name recognition,” Fuchs said. “But sometimes you’re going to have to walk into an interview and start from scratch and say, ‘this is where I went to college; these are its attributes,’ and try and sell your college while you’re trying to sell yourself.”

UWRF students also have access to on-campus counseling at no cost to them. Assistant Director of Counseling Services and Intake Counselor Jennifer Elssesser said in an email that students typically don’t seek counseling solely for help with the mid-college crisis. Instead, it’s usually a combination of other factors that drives them to do so. However, counselors emphasize that students don’t have to wait for it to reach an extreme before seeking help.

“I think if a student is feeling stressed out to the point where they cannot manage themselves or their course load or their studies, I many times will encourage them to meet with a mental health counselor,” Wilson said.

“People are rarely as put-together as they seem,” Fuchs said. “The more grownups I talk to, the more it becomes clear that people don’t actually know what they want to do. You can be 35 and still not know what you want to be when you grow up, you know? So I wouldn’t panic about it, not having my path all the way figured out.”

“I know it’ll be OK,” Zimitsch said. “I know that the years do go pretty quick and I’ve enjoyed them, so I’m just excited to see what else life has in store for me.”

UWRF drops minor requirement for majority of students

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Beginning in fall 2015, most students at UW-River Falls will no longer have to complete a minor.

This motion was proposed by the Executive Committee and voted on by Faculty Senate on March 25, and it will apply to all students with the provision that the provost will be authorized to exempt programs that must have a minor, including standards established by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) or accreditation purposes, according to the motion document.

The change to make minors optional for students was part of a broader effort to try to provide students the flexibility that they will need to pursue courses that meet their personal and professional goals, according to Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Graduate Studies Wes Chapin.

This reevaluation of the UWRF curriculum is due to the recently proposed \$300 million UW System budget cut. Because this isn’t the first cut UWRF has faced, explained Chapin, no matter what decision is made to try to combat the cuts, there

will be a significant impact on the university.

Chapin also stated that he doesn’t think a lack of a minor will negatively affect students’ ability to obtain jobs in the future.

“I think if a student is careful and they work with their advisor, they have a solid major, and they complement that with either an optional minor or that they also select key courses in areas that might be helpful to them, that they can put that forward as a package to an employer and really market themselves very well,” Chapin said.

Hannah Giebtrock, a junior at UWRF, does not see this change as a good thing.

“I think it’s kind of ridiculous, because we’re changing everything that we had instated,” Giebtrock said. “So now some kids are on one track, and other kids are on other tracks. It’s really confusing.”

Other students, however, see this change as an opportunity. Molly Deering is a freshman English education major who is relieved by the change to the minor requirement.

“I kind of like it, because I didn’t know what I wanted to do for my minor,” Deering said. “So now I don’t even have to

worry about it.”

Deering also explained that she doesn’t know whether or not she will pursue a minor, but she likes the fact that she now has the option.

Chapin also said that he doesn’t think that this will cause a decrease in minors, but the lack of a minor requirement and the ability to double-count credits will allow students more options when it comes to picking courses that meet their goals as well as study abroad opportunities.

“If you go from 24 [minor] credits potentially down to 24 elective credits, you could easily do 12 or 15 credits in a semester as a student in a study abroad experience,” Chapin said. “And I’ve got to believe that there’s a lot of value in immersing yourself in a foreign culture for three plus months and getting that really in-depth experience.”

Chapin explained that this change to the minor requirement will be assessed and reevaluated in a few years, depending on the budgetary options available to the university at that time, and changes could be made.

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Athletics department holds town hall meeting, possibility of cutting a women's sport is high

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A town hall meeting was held in the North Hall auditorium on Tuesday, April 21, and over 120 students and student-athletes were in attendance to discuss the future of the women's golf and tennis teams.

In the proposed \$4.9 million budget cuts, the athletics department has been faced with a \$100,000 General Purpose Revenue (GPR) budget cut in 2015-2016. In turn, a consideration to cut both the women's tennis team and women's golf team has rose.

Many people stood up and spoke during the open meeting where Athletic Faculty Committee Chair Grace Coggio, along with UW-River Falls Athletic Director Roger Ternes and Associate Athletic Director Crystal Lanning were listening to comments by all.

This committee after listening to the town hall meeting, will now suggest to Chancellor Dean Van Galen if they believe the two sports should be suspended, according to Coggio.

One voice that was heard many times during the meeting was Softball Head Coach Faye Perkins. She voiced her opinion on many issues, most concerning Title IX.

"It seems like we are not in compliance with Title IX even now, it is a federal law which we are required to meet, and with the cut of these two sports we would be even more out of compliance," Perkins said.

Title IX refers to any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, in this case, athletics.

Schools may choose any of three prongs of Title IX to satisfy its participation component. They are to provide athletic participation opportunities that are substantially proportionate to the undergraduate enrollment, demonstrate a continual expansion of athletic opportunities for the underrepresented sex, and to fully accommodate the interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex.

Ternes said during the meeting in reference to the first prong, relating to the proportional undergraduate enrollment: "We have 60 percent female on this campus, to comply with

this prong, we would need about 100 additional females to be proportional."

In response to this statement, basketball Head Coach Cindy Holbrook talked about if they wanted to comply with prong one of Title IX they would have to add players to specific teams: "I love my team, but adding more players and having to start a junior varsity program is not going to give these athletes the full experience they deserve."

The document that was distributed to everyone before the meeting stated the effects on the community that both tennis and golf have: "The effect on the community would be limited. Support for the program comes primarily from the families and friends of the tennis and golf team members."

The financial implications were also included in the documents, combined between the two considered sports would be a savings of \$31,097.75.

"Carrying forward an anticipated 103,000 athletic budget deficit, there would be no funds available to reallocate within or outside of the athletics unit," according to the document provided.

Jennifer Willis-Rivera, a communications teacher, was also in attendance, and during a phone interview after the meeting Willis-Rivera spoke of the other side of the cuts.

"I can't imagine a single area on campus not feeling the cuts. Some people at the meetings last night were talking about athletics being cut in previous years and they should be left alone, but there is no way that athletics is not going to feel a cut," Willis-Rivera said. "Even if we got rid of athletics entirely, that wouldn't come close to getting our budget taken care of. Everyone is going to feel these cuts."

Student Senate has responded with a possible solution, in an email from President Anthony Sunnicht: "Senate has moved to add a new item of business to the Senate agenda, to approve a binding referendum to approve a proposal of a new \$3 per semester allocable segregate fee to support the athletics department, women's golf and women's tennis."

The women's tennis team attended the meeting and most athletes spoke on the topic. They spoke of eight prospective students who will join the team in the upcoming year and

spoke of how "four of eight" would not come if the tennis team was cut.

Other players on the team spoke about leaving the school if the tennis team was cut. An astonishing recommendation was made toward the end of the tennis team's statements, where they considered shortening their season from 10 months to five months as well as the making changes to the coach's salary.

Other comments were in recommendation of not cutting the team, but altering how funds are used such as cutting meals down on away games, traveling costs, and recruitment by some of the players.

Tennis Head Coach Michele Bailey spoke of the risk of a lawsuit if the two sports are suspended.

"Is the chancellor willing to take a risk of thousands of dollars in costs with a lawsuit, or the money to cut these teams?" Bailey said.

Chancellor Dean Van Galen was not in attendance at the meeting.

Ternes said numerous times during the meeting that he "agrees with all the statements here tonight."

"We shouldn't be cutting from tennis and golf, we should be adding money to tennis and golf," Ternes said. "Right now, we aren't at risk of complying with Title IX, but with the cuts of these two teams, we are more at risk."

Tanner Milliron, the president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and starting men's hockey goaltender, afterwards put out a tweet to help raise awareness on the topic and encourages students to get their voices heard and that they can make a difference not only about this topic, but others as well.

The next process is for the Athletic Faculty Committee to decide what they will recommend to the chancellor. There is no timetable set for that decision.

As for Senate and its proposed increase to the allocable segregate fee to support the Athletics Department, that will be discussed in the upcoming Senate meetings. Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Track and field teams breakthrough at St. Norbert

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The UW-River Falls men and women's track and field team had a strong showing at the 2015 St. Norbert Invitational on April 18.

The men placed first in the competition and had 13 top-three finishes. Junior David Paynotta placed first in 100-meter dash with a time of 10.6. The time set a new school record which was already previously broken by Paynotta in 2014. Paynotta also placed second in 200-meter dash with a time of 22.83.

"I'm just happy to know that I'm able to consistently run faster than I did last year and I hope that I will continue to improve for the WIAC and NCAA meets," Paynotta said.

Paynotta was one of many who had a strong showing at the meet. Junior AJ Walsh-Brenizer placed first in the pole vault with a leap of 15-3 which broke the school record. Freshman Colton Sorensen placed second in the pole vault. Walsh-Brenizer also placed third in the

javelin throw. Even though Walsh-Brenizer broke the school record he believes this pole vaulting group is capable of more.

"I'm always happy with a personal best and it's nice to break the school record, however the pole vault group is capable of higher heights as the indoor season showed," Walsh-Brenizer said.

Junior Matt Griffin placed first in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 55.62. Junior Shane White placed second in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.3, a season best for him. Many on the men's team finished well and placed in the top three in a variety of events.

The women's team also did well as it placed third in the meet. The women had two first-place finishes, one by sophomore Grace Curran and one by sophomore Riley Claude. Curran placed first in the 100-meter dash with a season-best time of 12.5. Curran also placed second in the 200-meter dash with another season best time of 27.45.

"I had probably the best day that I have ever had at a track meet in my

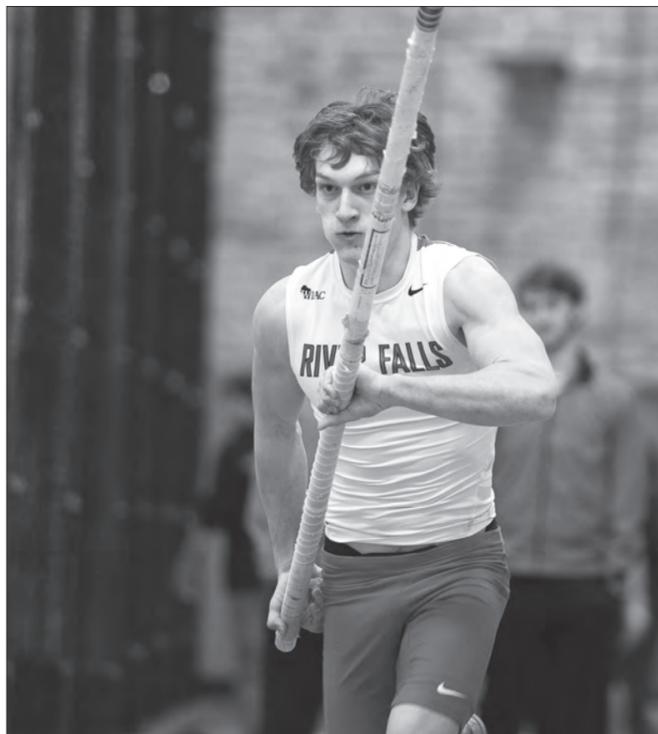
career," Curran said. "The weather was absolutely perfect and the wind was to my favor for every race but one, and that made it possible to hit the times that I did."

Claude placed first in the pole vault with a leap of 11-11 3/4 after also placing first in the same event in the previous meet. Sophomore Sherahlynn Linkert placed second in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 15.33. Junior Anna Reimer placed second in the javelin throw with a toss of 106-10.

With both the men and women having a strong showing at the meet, many on the team are optimistic about the team moving forward.

"I definitely feel that the team is starting to hit its stride, especially after all the great performances this weekend," Curran said.

"I think we are right where we want to be with people improving their marks right into conference," Walsh-Brenizer said. "I'm excited to see how our team competes at the conference championships in two weeks."



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
UWRF freshman Colton Sorensen prepares for a pole vault leap.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications
Jacinta Roggenbuck competes during the UW-MN Dual held in the Knowles Center on Feb. 14. The men's track and field team placed first in the St. Norbert meet on April 18.

Tennis team bonds despite unknown future

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With budget cuts looming, there have been talks about cutting another sport on the UW-River Falls campus.

It has been one year since the men's and women's swimming and diving team was cut and now UWRF is looking at cutting another women's sport from the list. One of the sports that has come up in discussions is the women's tennis team.

Just like every other team in sports, the team is really close and has become like a family. The relationships that form between teammates in sports is something that doesn't compare to anything else.

"I love my team, and I feel lucky to be a part of a team with such great people," said

junior tennis player Kelsey Hochberger in an email interview. "Everyone is dedicated to tennis and works hard at practice every day; it's nice to see that."

The student athletes on the team all had different reasons for wanting to take on the pressures of being both a student at the collegiate level while being a full-time student.

"I chose to be a student athlete because I wanted to continue to pursue my dedication to tennis," said sophomore tennis player Anna Ebersperger in an email interview. "I knew that my tennis game still had a ton of potential so why would I waste that if given the opportunity to play? I didn't know what being a student athlete would entail but I knew that I wanted to continue competing and play the sport that I love while representing UWRF."

But despite the challenges, they don't re-

gret it and in fact being a student athlete has even made it so they focus more on school and stay out of trouble.

"Being a student athlete has taught me more than I will ever be able to explain. I have met a ton of awesome girls that will be my friends throughout the rest of my life," Ebersperger said. "It has taught me how to manage my time and be efficient in every aspect of my life. I now know the definition of hard work and I also know that anything is possible with the right mindset. Representing UWRF kept me out of trouble my freshman year and has truly led me to be the best version of myself."

The team is struggling with the idea of their sport being cut and the idea that they may not be able to go out with the team and play the game that they love.

"It honestly really upsets me knowing

that the school is thinking about cutting a women's sport, especially because it's possibly the one that I am a part of," Hochberger said. "The number one reason why I came to UWRF was to play tennis. I didn't even know what my major was going to be when I was a freshman, all I knew for sure was that I wanted to play on the tennis team. The possibility of not getting to play for my senior year is very upsetting to me."

The idea of cutting any sport makes athletes upset, but when it is your own it makes it even harder and it makes the emotions that much stronger.

The bonds that are formed on teams is something that can make huge impacts on a person's life and can make school and stress easier to deal with.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications

Hannah Klimek waits for a serve from a St. Norbert College opponent in a doubles match with teammate Kelsey Hochberger on August 29, 2014, at the Ramer courts.

Rugby culture differs from other major U.S. sports

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UW-River Falls men's and women's local club rugby culture differs from major U.S. sports in competitive and social aspects.

Rugby is a simple game. It can be played with as little as a uniquely shaped ball, a mouth guard and a bunch of bodies with some shorts.

"Some of us don't even wear mouth guards," said Katie Hacker, a UWRF women's rugby player.

At UWRF, the "ruggers" practice six hours a week and usually eat dinner afterwards. It's possible for the teams to enter tournaments all year long in the spring, fall and summer.

"Sipping" is the only requirement to play rugby, which is a "fee to play" sanctioned through the Minnesota Rugby Union. The fee allows a member to start playing, but also at its simplest, it's to indicate an agreement with other players not to sue after being injured on the pitch.

One observation a student might make about the rugby team is their nicknames donned on various apparel. They can be simple as a mash up or shortening of a last name, like "Kuch" for Kuczer.

Robin Moes, a former soccer player of 13 years, joined to stay active after starting college. She claimed it was easy to join but even then, she cited other reasons.

"You have to try everything once," Moes said. "It's a totally different bond than any other sport. It's a very welcoming community."

The referees, called "sirs," were described as very knowledgeable and generally high quality, and even friendly enough to be nicknamed, for example, "Macklemore" and "Ryan Lewis."

Injuries were the predominant topic with Jared "Kuch" Kuczer, a two-year high school rugby veteran and UWRF men's rugby player. He formerly has had stitches and staples in one situation, but brushed off the harshness and pain of description, and said that broken noses are probably the most common injury in rugby, based on what he's seen.

"It's part of the game," Moes said.

Kuczer said the major difference of on-the-field injuries regarding rugby is clearly indicated in a comparison to soccer, where the players often fake agony for extended periods to sway referees for harsher penalties.

The rugby referees, however, don't stop play for anything, Kuczer said.

If a player is on the other side of the field screaming, but not obstructing the flow of play, the referees will continue to be obligated to call the action.

The increasing difference of pace in referee skill was also discussed. The pace of play starts to increase starting in high school, college, and then the "Selects," a compilation club.

Hacker said rugby players use the internet to improve their game strategy more than their coach. They have someone trained as a coach, but mostly they work together and call upon other prominent rugby experts to join their practices.

"We're a self-taught team," Hacker said.

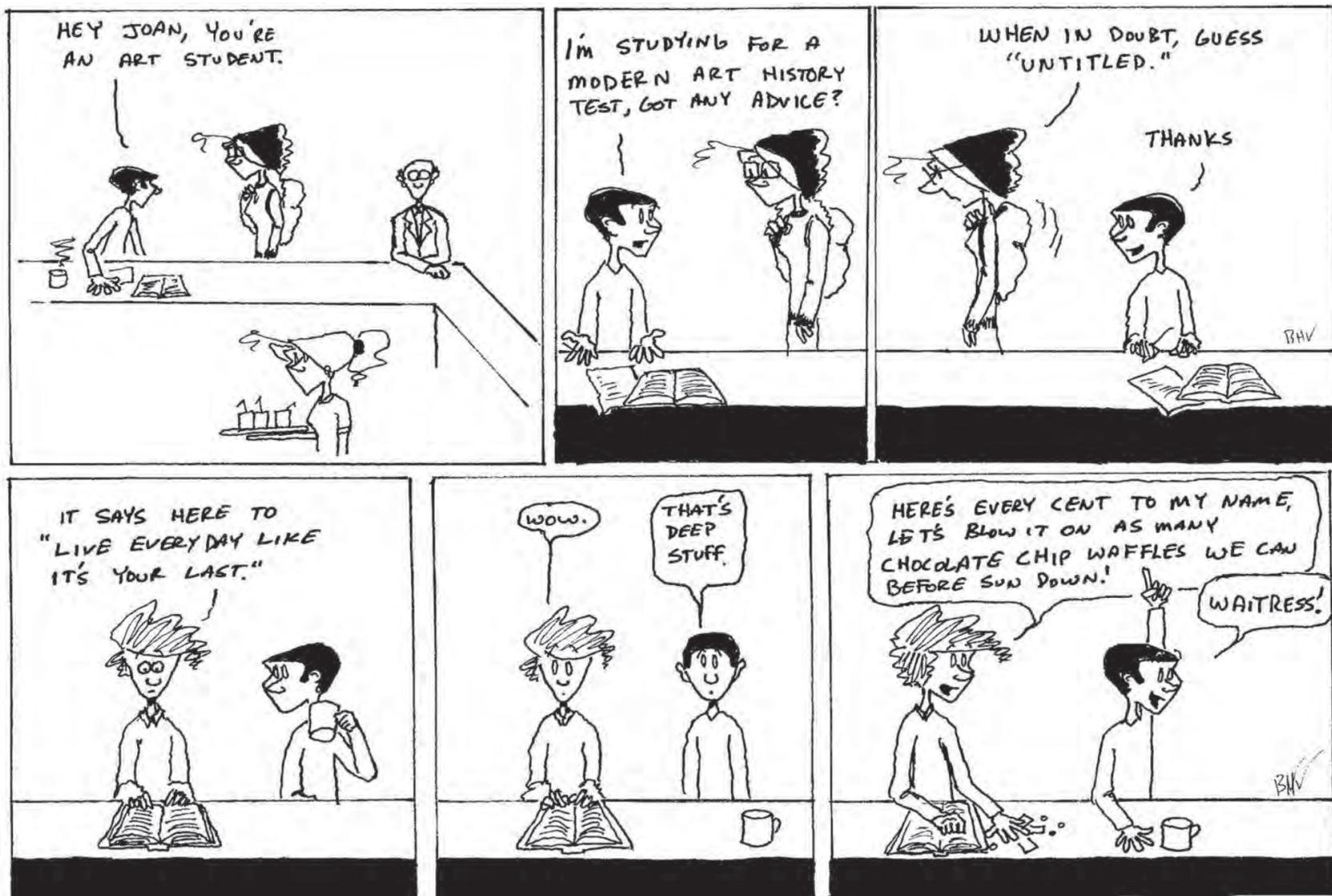
The men's rugby team, recently in Nebraska, outscored a team 98-5 over two games. Even if on either side of that situation, every point is fun, according to the group. It's a chance to exert energy and at times some violence. One method the women's club uses is a psychological and optimistic one: after every scored point they make sure to shout "zero, zero" to keep the game fresh.

Harrison Tiffany, a men's rugby player, brought up the international aspect of rugby. The ball itself is recognized by the world, yet Tiffany said: "It's in its infancy in this country."

Tiffany told a story about his time spent in Alaska, and starting a game with players from Somalia. They were playing with a ball, Tiffany asked for it, and they began playing a game after that. The language barrier was broken. They spoke through their feet in the pitch instead.

Lopsided teams are sorted out in rugby. Opposing clubs will "even out" the teams and start playing. One team might have 30 players and another five, and they will still figure it out quickly and play instead of forfeiting and forcing a win and loss.

'Shenanigan Diner' by Benjamin Heer



Documentary critical of current marijuana law, shows policy absurdity

Jack Haren
Reviewer

"The Union: The Business Behind Getting High," was the first documentary produced by Adam Scorgie and directed by Brett Harvey.

It garnered a large enough following to make a second documentary, "The Culture High." For two years Scorgie and Harvey collaborated and in 2014 "The Culture High" was released. As a whole, both films are meant to highlight the absurdities of marijuana law. During 2012 and 2013, the Kickstarter campaign for "The Culture High" rose to \$50,000 over their donation goal in 43 days, making it the most donated feature documentary on Kickstarter. "The Culture High" was officially released on the online video service Vimeo on Oct. 17, 2014. I personally waited to view the documentary until Netflix International started streaming it on March 1.

"The Culture High" begins with a police raid including screaming, a shot dog, a pipe and a small amount of cannabis. Imagine a growing blood pool and stained carpet among shadows of the night as armored police crash inside the house. The emotional appeal of the opening scene hooks the viewer and effectively sets the tone of the film's goal.

The film's major strong point was its variety, quality and quantity of guests. Experts, doctors, authors, academics, former narcotics officers and drug czars contrast with musical artists, comedians and authors. Strong opinions were put on the record clearly by every type of guest. The entire documentary is quotable for useful information.

Howard Bloom, an author, had the best quotes in the documentary. When viewing, pay close attention to his comments. He gets into the broader relationships of innate universal human qualities.

For example, when Cenk Uygur, host of "The Young Turks" online news show, splashes on the screen the documentary turns from mostly cannabis to mostly political. Even then, most of his comments still pertained to combating current cannabis law, among all other issues. Uygur is the most well-rounded guest, speaking on many issues throughout the film.

Joe Rogan, a comedian, podcast host, Tenth Planet Jiu Jitsu black belt, and cannabis advocate who often has explosive on-mic comments, had the most memorable quote in the documentary.

"The only way marijuana can kill you is if you take 25 pounds of it, throw it out of a CIA drug plane and it hits you

in the head," Rogan said. "That's how you die from marijuana."

The additional commentary throughout "The Culture High" moves the story along. Scorgie's commentary became slightly monotone and dull at times; he proved to be the only weak point of the documentary.

"The Culture High" covers the drug policy through the presidencies, starting with Richard Nixon and his administration's purging and suppression of cannabis research. The establishment of the "gateway drug" theory was also introduced during this time. Plus, drug enforcement money—received from congress—increased tenfold during Nixon's reign, according to the documentary.

Through the Reagan administration, the term "War on Drugs" was introduced. The documentary continues going through the drug policy details of Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

On Obama, Stephen Downing, former Los Angeles Police Department deputy chief, said that "he's launched the most vicious attacks on medical marijuana patients and dispensaries that pales Bush by comparison."

The documentary brings in a wide range of political meetings with discussion between officials in power. When blatant lies about the danger of cannabis compared to other drugs like methamphetamine is heard coming from CIA intelligence officials, the absurd comments become truly astounding.

Speaking on minor drug charges, Mike Trace, former United Kingdom deputy drug czar said: "It's easy, not dangerous, and it turns into a solved crime very quickly, with very little paperwork."

Those already interested in cannabis law will be familiar with arguments presented in rapid fire in the first 20 minutes. However, new original information from the strong guest list will keep the educated satisfied with their spent time. This documentary is far from targeting a stoner-only audience.

"The Culture High" acts as an effective follow up to "The Union," and uses its following to accomplish a wider objective.

Jack Haren is a journalism student from Hastings, Minnesota.



Intimidating 'pamphlet people' make their way onto UWRF campus

Cristin Dempsey
Columnist

Just when I thought it was ending, it was beginning again. Yes, that's right everyone, the pamphlet people were out last week.

And of course that's not to say it is all bad. At least their obnoxious presence is a tell-tale sign of spring, because no one is going to hand me the New Testament in minus 20 wind chill. But why exactly do they come out and disrupt—I mean grace—college campuses around the country? Where do they come from? What are they trying to prove? These are all the questions in my head as I go on the hill, through a strange building, onto a bridge, and through a flower garden in order to avoid confronting one of them.

I have to admit, during my four years here at UW-River Falls, this year is one where I have not seen nearly as many pamphlet people as I have in the past. I'm not sure what this means; they may be cutting down on their hours. But I wouldn't get my hopes up on that one, because they typically come to campus unannounced, jumping at you like some clown in a desolate parking lot.

The same thoughts run through my head when I am approached by the pamphlet people unexpectedly: I didn't see you there, sir, and I am quite frankly a little creeped-out right now.

Most pamphlet people are really pretty harmless: usually they're handing out disturbingly graphic brochures on animal welfare or they're priests or ministers handing out the New Testament or some enlightening Christian literature, most likely muttering "I'll pray for you" to all who deny a copy.

Some students feel pressured to take a copy just so they don't make the pamphlet person feel bad, but in the event you have not found alternate pamphlet people-free routes to class, it

is perfectly fine not to accept their pamphlets, especially if you don't agree with their views and plan to dispose of the pamphlet anyway. As many upperclassmen may remember, the result could be much worse.

Two years ago, in the fall of 2012, a group of delightful individuals, likely sent either by hell or the Westboro Baptist Church, came to the UWRF campus to tell a passerby that they were going to hell. I, a sophomore at the time, was lucky enough not to encounter this group, so I'm luckily not going to hell.

But they found something wrong with everyone they saw walk by, whether a girl's shorts were too short or a woman was in fact a woman. They weren't here to offer pamphlets or to promote any issue they feel strongly about. They were here to simply tell us to stop being here. And that, my friends, is why scenic routes to class exist.

Even though the pamphlet people are often harmless, I think we can all agree that they're pretty obnoxious. No one wants to be interrupted on their way to class, just like no one wants to be chased by a clown in a desolate parking lot. Most pamphlets being handed out will just be thrown out anyway, so why bother handing them out in the first place? I'm not sure why colleges and universities allow these people to invite themselves to campus, especially when some are shouting at us to go to hell.

Who knows if I will ever find out who is allowing this and what it is supposed to accomplish; but until then, if you take a right on Cascade Avenue, go all the way through about five neighborhoods, take a left on Cascade Avenue and go straight, that should get you to class just fine. You didn't finish your project, but at least you avoided the pamphlet people, you stallion.

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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