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University of Wisconsin

River Falls

# STUDENT VOICE

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## ‘It’s on Us’ campaign raises awareness

Molly Kinney  
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UWRF’s student senate officially launched the “It’s on Us” campaign for the 2015-16 school year Monday night, Sept. 28, screening a documentary and hosting a panel discussion in an effort to combat sexual assault on campus.

The “It’s on Us” campaign was started by the Obama Administration last year, in an effort to bring to light the facts and statistics about campus sexual assault, and to decrease them. A follow-up to the “1is2 Many” initiative, which was centered around the same issue, the “It’s on Us” website describes the mission of the initiative as “a cultural movement aimed at fundamentally shifting the way we think about sexual assault...a declaration that sexual assault is not only a crime committed by a perpetrator against a victim, but a societal problem... to create an environment where sexual assault is unacceptable and survivors are supported.”

**Students asked questions about points such as “What should I do if I’ve been assaulted?,” “What services are available to me if I’m assaulted?,” to more lawful topics like “What exactly is Title IX?”**

Christopher Morgan, who began working on his term as student senate president this summer, said that the campaign was actually brought to campus last year, but it fizzled out. When the new administration met for the first time to talk about what they wanted to work on, they all decided this was a worthy initiative. “We sat down and asked ourselves, ‘What can we do that will have the most impact?’ One of the first things we thought of was the ‘It’s on Us’ campaign,” Morgan



Panelists at UWRF’s “It’s on Us” campaign’s Monday, Sept. 28 showing discuss feminist issues.

said.

The event was held in the Lydecker Center, located in between the South Fork Suites and Ames hall. Students were lured to the event by a Chipotle-catered dinner. Despite a small mishap -- Chipotle was an hour behind schedule with food preparation -- the line was wrapped around the room’s perimeter and out the door. Students sat in rows eating their Mexican cuisine while a panel of experts on the night’s topic began a discussion, answering questions posed by a student senate speaker.

A total of nine experts spoke on the panel: Patty Forsberg, a campus officer specializing in sexual assault; Gregg Heinselman, associate vice president of student affairs and title IX coordinator for UWRF; Brooke Marlow from the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART); Desiree Wiesen-Martin, professor of sociology and

criminology; Andrea Fult, assistant director of Student Conduct and Community Standards (SCCS); Alice Reilly-Myklebust of Student Counseling and Health Services; Erin McNiff, a representative from SART; Sydney Walsh, president of the Student Feminist Organization; and sorority girl, representing the Greek community at UWRF.

Questions were asked about points such as “What should I do if I’ve been assaulted?,” “What services are available to me if I’m assaulted?,” to more lawful topics like “What exactly is Title IX?”

Gregg Heinselman, title IX coordinator, talked about the law at length, and why it is so important for students to know about. Title IX deals exclusively with sex discrimination on college campuses. This law is often referred to in athletics, regarding equal rights of men and women’s sports teams, but it also applies to sexual assault- right students have to feel safe on campus, and what the school must do if you report being sexually assaulted.

Title IX was enacted in 1972,

part of the United States Education Amendments. Because education is regarded as a civil right, if a student files a title IX complaint, the university must do something if a student’s ability to learn is being infringed upon as a result of a sexual assault. This law has been heavily utilized in activism to stop sexual violence on college campuses.

In addition to briefing students on these rights, Heinselman also talked about ways to stay protected against acts of sexual assault. He said “I’m a firm believer that we can’t address this problem without also talking about alcohol.” In addition to being aware of your own alcohol consumption, he suggested watching out for your friends too, and not letting them get into situations they might regret later, as well as “not putting yourself in a situation where you may be vulnerable to sexual predators.”

Erin McNiff from SART, who has worked with UWRF for seven years and described her position as “not just a job, but a passion,” replied to the comments made by Heinsel-

man. While she conceded how it is important to “monitor what you’re drinking, keep an eye out for your friends, wear your seatbelt...” et-cetera. She said finally “Also, don’t let your friends rape somebody” to which she received cheers and applause.

Students generally found the panel informative and helpful, answering many questions they might have had. Naomi Egger, who studies biology and art, said “I thought it was cool that they had the police officer. And, the administrator who was talking about all the title nine stuff was really cool, and interesting, and good to know. I liked the diversity on the panel.”

Within minutes of ending the panel discussion, the documentary “The Hunting Ground” was started, and just over 90 minutes. Produced by Amy Ziering, the film originally premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in February, and has shown in select theaters since then.

Story continued on page 7

## UW-River Falls adds new cloud storage system

Derin Loe  
Falcon News Service

Earlier this year, UW-River Falls introduced a new cloud storage system from Microsoft called OneDrive for Business.

OneDrive was added on May 5 as part of a service agreement with Microsoft. OneDrive provides an option for cloud storage in addition to FalconShare, which has been around for years. Both cloud storage systems are available to all students, faculty and staff on campus.

Cloud storage allows a person to store data remotely over a network. The data can be maintained or backed up remotely.

Todd Schaefer, enterprise systems and services manager for the Divi-

sion of Technology Services (DoTS), said that cloud storage has many benefits compared to flash drives or hard drives. The benefits of cloud storage are that users have access to anything stored in the system at all times and don’t have to carry around a physical storage device. Cloud storage also will automatically save multiple backup states for files,

**Since it was introduced, around 9,816 users have accessed OneDrive at some point while FalconShare averages around 50 logins per day, according to Schaefer.**

so if someone accidentally deletes a file they can easily find another backup for that file.

OneDrive is an Office 360 cloud storage system that can be used to store, sync and share files. OneDrive allows students and faculty to easily share files with each other, which can help when dealing with projects that require

multiple students to work on it. The system can hold up to 1 terabyte of storage space per user.

Some of the limitations of OneDrive, according to the DoTS website, are that it can only sync up to 2 gigabyte-sized files and it also is limited to 20,000 files or folders to be synced at once.

FalconShare is the on-campus cloud storage system that can do many of the same things as OneDrive. According to the UWRF FalconShare page, the system can be accessed by any on campus workstation and allows users to share files with others. It also can back up files and may be able to restore a previous version of a file if it is deleted.

Both OneDrive and FalconShare require an Internet connection to access, which is one limitation the systems have compared to physical storage.

While both OneDrive and FalconShare are cloud-based systems, they have some differ-

ences, according to Schaefer. OneDrive is hosted by Microsoft, which allows it to have basically unlimited storage space compared to FalconShare, which has limited storage space.

FalconShare meanwhile is a bit quicker and will perform better since it is hosted on campus.

Since it was introduced, around 9,816 users have accessed OneDrive at some point while FalconShare averages around 50 logins per day, according to Schaefer.

Schaefer said that each cloud storage system has a place on campus and both have their advantages.

At some point, he added, UWRF might move away from FalconShare to a single cloud-based service that may or may not be OneDrive. For now, he noted, DoTS has no plans to change or move away from either system.

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# News briefs:

## 24th Annual Outdoor Art Installations at UW-River Falls Oct. 7-8

24th Annual Outdoor Art Installations at UW-River Falls Oct. 7-8

September 28, 2015--The 24th Annual Outdoor Art Installations are Wednesday-Thursday, Oct. 7 and 8, at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. The public is invited to walk around campus viewing the artwork.

Temporary outdoor installations designed by art students to highlight a specific site on the UW-River Falls campus grounds may be viewed any time of day. Maps identifying the individual sites can be picked up beginning at 9 am on Oct. 7 in the lobby of Kleinpell Fine Arts near Gallery 101.

The Art Department's Fall 2015-16 Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professor Kinji Akagawa will lead a walkabout critique of the installations beginning at 1 p.m. Oct. 7. Akagawa is an internationally recognized artist and pioneer in site-specific sculpture and public art. Based in the Twin Cities, Akagawa is a professor emeritus at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design where he served as the head of the sculpture program. His work is featured in public and private collections around the nation and world. The event is free and open to all.

Everyone is asked to respect the installations and to avoid altering or damaging the artwork. Questions may be directed to the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266.

## David Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Rededicated

September 19, 2015--Eight years of planning, fundraising, and construction culminated in the rededication of David Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Sept. 19, on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Members of the Smith family, along with UWRF students, alumni, and administrators were on hand to celebrate the new facility and thank the numerous donors who made the \$1.9 million renovation project a success. The project was fully funded by private gifts and student fees.

During the ceremony, UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen lauded the "uncommon generosity" of the more than 250 donors who made the stadium project possible. The David Smith family and First National Bank of River Falls provided the lead gift for the project, which included a state of the art press box, new entrance plaza, and turf field. Smith served as president and CEO of FNBRF until his death in 1994.

"Many people played a role in this project, but we wouldn't be here without the generous gift from the Smith family and the First National Bank of River Falls," Chancellor Van Galen said as he thanked the donors who made the project possible. "It is a privilege for this university to honor David Smith and his family for their generous support."

David Smith's daughter, Sandy Smith Wurm, spoke on behalf of the Smith family, thanking fellow donors and sharing her family's excitement: "The wait has been worth it. We are just in awe," she said. "If my dad were here, he'd want to thank so many people for the memories, so many memories of coaching and friendship."

The new press box includes spaces for media, game operations personnel, video operators, and hospitality. The space also includes coaches boxes, including the Mike Farley Home Coaches Box, named for former Falcon head Coach Mike Farley. The project also included AstroTurf installation on Ramer Field in 2014.

Welcoming fans to the stadium is the newly constructed Champions Gate, which honors the offensive line of the 1980s, a unit that won four straight conference championships and contributed a significant fundraising effort to the project. The Zimmerman Gateway is named in honor of Shannon and Angel Zimmerman, recognizing their leadership gift, and the

newly minted donor plaza, which sits south of the press box, includes engraved bricks honoring donors who made significant contributions to the project. Bricks are still available for purchase at [www.uwrf.edu/giving](http://www.uwrf.edu/giving).

In addition to thanking donors, Chancellor Van Galen praised the project's long term effects. "This represents a major step forward for UW-River Falls, the River Falls School District, and our community. It will enhance the experience of student-athletes and will have an impact for many years to come." Van Galen added that the stadium will "transform UWRF's south campus and provide some of the best wellness and athletic facilities in the UW System."

"We are so fortunate to experience these facilities. This stadium and this project will change the face of our athletic department and university forever," head football coach Matt Walker echoed Chancellor Van Galen's sentiments on the impact and value of the new facilities. "It wouldn't be possible without the generosity of the Smith family and all of the donors and we are grateful to share in this experience."

For more information on the Smith Stadium at Ramer Field project, call University Advancement at 715-425-3505 or email [alumni@uwrf.edu](mailto:alumni@uwrf.edu).

## U.S. News Names UW-River Falls a 'Best Regional University'

September 21, 2015--U.S. News & World Report has named the University of Wisconsin-River Falls a "Best Regional Public University" and a "Best Regional University-Midwest" for 2016. UWRF's most recent ranking appears in the U.S. News & World Report's 2016 edition of Best Colleges, released last week.

Last month, UW-River Falls was one of four University of Wisconsin System institutions included in The Princeton Review's "Best in the Midwest."

The U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges Rankings are available here.

Founded in 1874, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is located in a scenic community just 30 miles from downtown St. Paul, Minn. UW-River Falls students are empowered, beginning in their first semester, to participate in hands-on research, global travel and collaborative learning with award-winning and caring faculty.

For more information, call Beth Schommer at 715-425-0662 or email [beth.schommer@uwrf.edu](mailto:beth.schommer@uwrf.edu).

## Visiting Artist Akagawa to Present Two Public Lectures

September 30, 2015--The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Art Department will host two public lectures by the Fall 2015-16 Walker D. and Helen Bryant Wyman Visiting Professor Kinji Akagawa, an internationally recognized artist who is lauded for his pioneering work in site-specific sculpture and public art. The lectures are free and open to all.

The first presentation, "Artistic Journey from the Egotistical Self to the Ecotistical Self: Shifting focus from Maker to Relationship," on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 10:30 a.m., in the Kinnickinnic River Theater in the University Center, will focus on Akagawa's personal artistic explorations. The lecture will be followed by a question and answer session led by Kaylee Spencer, chair of the UWRF Art Department.

Akagawa's second presentation is "Art in Public Places - Public Art?: Art as a Process of Inquiry," is Monday, Oct. 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the River Falls Public Library. A reception from 6-6:30 p.m. precedes this lecture.

Based in the Twin Cities, Akagawa is a professor emeritus at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, where he served as head of the sculpture program. His work is featured in public and private collections around the nation and world.

Questions may be directed to the UW-River Falls Art Department at 715-425-3266.

## UW-River Falls to Host Annual Fall Career Fair

October 1, 2015--The Fall Career Fair at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls is Wednesday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center. The public is invited to this free event.

The Career Fair will feature 42 percent new employers this fall and has 93 employers already signed up.


"We strived to reach out to numerous companies in varied industries, to make this Career Fair more appealing to students in all colleges at UWRF," said Career Fair Coordinator Tia Fuhr.

Additionally, Career Services has maintained its partnership with Career Fair Plus to continue offering the free interactive app, which allows students to research attending companies, sort organizations by major, and learn tips on how to leave a lasting impression on recruiters.

Employers are expecting students to be confident and know about their company beforehand. By researching companies prior to the fair, students will appear prepared and generate stronger conversations with employers, according to Fuhr.

To help students prepare, Career Services is offering the Career Fair Prep Session on Monday, Oct. 12, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Falls Room in the University Center.

For more information on the Career Fair, attending businesses and possible volunteering opportunities, visit [www.uwrf.edu/CareerFair](http://www.uwrf.edu/CareerFair) or contact UWRF Career Services at 715-425-3572.




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### River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

#### Wednesday, Sept. 23

- An incident concerning a harassment complaint was reported to have occurred at Jesse H. Ames Suites around 5 p.m.

#### Friday, Sept. 25

- An incident concerning theft was reported near Parker Hall around 5 p.m.
- An incident concerning suspicious activity was reported in North Hall around 6 p.m.

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



# UW-River Falls hosts Noon Coffee Concert

Phelan Patten  
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On Friday, September 25th a new sound took the stage at River Falls. This year’s first Noon Coffee Concert—one in a series of five—was held in the Abbott Concert Hall of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. It was approximately an hour long, beginning with free admission, continuing with performances from the artists and culminating in coffee, mingling and some excellent snacks (brownies, for example, were quickly snapped up). Pianist Laura Caviani was featured along with David Milne, a music professor here at River Falls.

Caviani and Milne played a collection of classical music, which they put a jazz spin on, often incorporating improvisation—hence the name of the performance: “Jazz Improvisations.” The pieces ranged from peppy to mournful, always peppered with jazz elements and always dynamic. A few of their selections included “The Girl with the Flaxen Hair” by Claude Debussy, “Sea Journey” by Chick Corea and “Mademoiselle,” a piece based off Chopin’s “Waltz in A flat,” by Caviani herself. Student Amanda Weber, who attended the concert, commented, “I really liked their last song, “Blue Rondo a la Turk,” ‘cause I knew it. I’ve played it before, so listening to them play it perfectly was really cool.”

There was a sizeable turnout to see the duo; the crowd was largely

made up of students, but there also a surprising adult element to the attendees. Weber says that she went to the concert partly to fill a class requirement and partly out of genuine interest and enthusiasm for the

Word of mouth can be a good way to spread news about events like the Noon Coffee Concert. Student Shiza Idrees heard about the concert through Weber. “I never went to a concert ever in my life,” she

Milne was asked to play at the concert by the chair of the music department, who started the coffee concerts. “The idea was to present a member of the [music] department with talented musicians,” he says.

When asked about her favorite part of the performance, Caviani says, “[My] favorite part of any jazz performance is when something unexpected happens; which is all the time, because we improvise most of what we do!” She adds, “It was a particularly fun performance that day.”

Milne differs from Caviani when describing his favorite aspect of the performance. “I’ve long had a love of both jazz and classical music,” he says. His favorite part of the Noon Coffee Concert was “fusing” jazz and classical approaches to music, since he says that he seldom has the opportunity to incorporate jazz element to classical music. The result, he says, was a “high-quality musical performance.”

“It was a good concert experience,” muses Weber. “It was a good length. It wasn’t too long, wasn’t too short.”

Idrees agrees. She says she’d go to more Noon Coffee Concerts, and adds, “I’d probably go to see the extended version,” because the Jazz Improvisations between Caviani and Milne will not be the last to occur on a River Falls stage. Another, extended version of the performance will take place on November 5th, also in the Abbott Concert Hall, and also free of admission charges.

Milne encourages people to attend more Noon Coffee Concerts. “By all means, go,” he urges. “Support live music at the university and in the community.”

Caviani concurs. “I would play there again in a heartbeat,” she says. “It was truly an honor to be a part of it.”



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
Special guest pianist Laura Caviani plays with UWRF Music Professor David Milne

performance. “It was kind of for a class,” she admits. As part of her Understanding Music class, she needs to attend four concerts per year. “But I also play saxophone,” she continues, “and Dr. Milne is my saxophone director/instructor.” She says that Milne cancelled one of their lessons to perform in the concert, and she was intrigued. “I was like, I should go to this concert.”

Caviani concurs. “I would play there again in a heartbeat,” she says. “It was truly an honor to be a part of it.”

explains. “[Weber] really wanted to go, so I went along with her.” She adds that she liked the concert. “It was pretty good,” she decides. “[Milne] was really good, and so was the pianist...it was pretty cool.”

His is one of a number of pairings between music faculty and outside artists. Caviani, in turn, was brought in by Milne. “Dr. David Milne, an old friend and colleague, who also has been on faculty at UW–RF for many years, invited me to perform with him,” she explains.

For Caviani, the concert was not without its challenges. “It is always a fun challenge to perform for a “live” audience,” she says. However, she continues, “It was my pleasure to have the opportunity to perform in the River Falls community. The audience was very recep-

# Agricultural engineering major available next fall

Katie Galarno  
Falcon News Service

Starting in the fall of 2016, students at UW-River Falls will be able to major in agricultural engineering, according to the university’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences (CAFES).

The program, which was approved by the UW System Board of Regents on September 11th, will be part of a consortium between UW-River Falls, UW-Eau Claire and UW-Stout in which all three universities will be introducing engineering programs.

The new major will be connected to, but not the same as, the already existing agricultural engineering technology program, according to Joseph Shakal, chair of the agricultural engineering technology department. He compared it to the difference between a physician and a physician’s assistant, explaining that the new program would correspond to the physician, while the technology program would correspond to the assistant.

“It’s more theoretical in nature,” Shakal said. “It’s more of a rigorous program, requiring

higher-level math and physics.”

Dean of CAFES Dale Gallenberg said that although the new program will be rigorous, he hopes it will have a positive impact on retention. He said that the students enrolling in the program will likely be quality students who are dedicated to the major. However, if students find that agricultural engineering isn’t for them, they can always switch to another major within UWRF.

“And in the same way, we know we have students here in the ag engineering technology program who would be capable of and interested in an engineering program,” Gallenberg said. “And so the opportunity will be there for those students for transfer and advancement as well.”

When the program was first proposed, it was met with objections from universities such as UW-Platteville and UW-Madison. Gallenberg said that he believes the objections were tied to perceptions of limited state resources and a limited set of engineering students in the state.

However, Gallenberg said that the program’s funding model depends on external

funding and industry partnerships, not solely state resources. He also said that the pool of students is not as limited as it may seem.

“There’s literally nothing north of Madison servicing this part of the state in terms of home campuses,” Gallenberg said. “Whereas Platteville would say, ‘Our doors are open to students,’ students are reluctant to drive that far.”

Shakal said there is a need for engineering programs at smaller universities in the Midwest. He explained that large universities could be intimidating to students from small towns.

“I think our new program offers an opportunity for students to get an engineering education in a smaller-school environment where the professors know your name walking down the hallway, and you can pop in and talk to any professor any time you want,” Shakal

said. During the 2014-2015 academic year, 83 students were enrolled in the agricultural engineering technology program, according to UWRF’s Office of Institutional Research. The goal for the first year of the agricultural engineering program is 15 students, a number that Shakal called realistic.

The four current agricultural engineering technology faculty members will work with both departments, and one additional faculty member will be hired before the fall 2016 semester. Gallenberg said that a sixth faculty member may be added two years later to help the department run the upper-level courses.

“We’ve been working at this for a while. It’s approved, and now we’re ready to get on with the real business of implementing the program,” Gallenberg said.

**“We’ve been working at this for a while. It’s approved, and now we’re ready to get on with the real business of implementing the program,” Gallenberg said.**

# Fire drills show improved student reaction to fire alarms

Ryan Odeen  
Falcon News Service

Annual fire drills were conducted in academic buildings on the UW-River Falls campus in early September. While campus officials are pleased with the results, the head of the Risk Management office says there are still improvements to be made.

Connie Smith, director of Risk Management, is in charge of gathering data during the drills. With the help of the fire safety committee drill volunteers, data are gathered for the report that Smith turns into the UW System every year.

“One of the things we want students and all of our faculty and staff to understand is how to get out of the building in the quickest way

possible,” Smith said.

It is required by law that campuses report how fire drills are conducted, in addition to the results of the drills. Therefore, interfering with the drills is illegal. Straggling behind, or not leaving a building at all, could result in some legal troubles.

Smith said students shouldn’t gather any personal belongings, they should take swift action and get out of the building.

“When the fire alarm goes off, it means that their lives are in danger, so we want them to get out as quickly as possible,” she said.

Kleinpell Fine Arts building took the lon-

gest to evacuate at 4:29 minutes, a time that was much improved from last time the drills were conducted. The CHILD Center and Davee Library also saw improved times from the previous tests. “They did very well this year,” Smith noted.

**“It’s OK to use a fire exit when we’re having a fire drill. We want people to take the shortest route possible,” Smith said.**

Problems included people not utilizing designated emergency exits. Smith said many students took much longer routes out of their classrooms, rather than using emergency fire exits.

“It’s OK to use a fire exit when we’re having a fire drill. We want people to take the shortest route possible,” Smith said.

South Hall seemed to have the most problems, with four reported stragglers, a class that did not use the shortest route out of the building, and a room in which, according to the report, “they couldn’t hear the alarm.”

The Risk Management office handles the fire drills for the academic buildings. It is the responsibility of Residence Life to do fire drills for the residence halls.

Doing the drill early in the school year helps, Smith said, “to raise awareness and get people thinking about it, and make sure they have that practice in order to be effective and evacuating when they need to.”

Smith also emphasized the goals of the next fire safety drill.

“I really want everyone to take this very seriously,” she said.

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EDITORIAL

‘It’s on Us’ panel brings about sex assault discussions

The “It’s on Us” event on Monday, Sept. 28 had a lot going for it: an emotional and thought-provoking documentary, a panel discussion with knowledgeable experts and a turnout of over 200 students and community members, all led by a well-meaning Student Senate. Even Chipotle, a restaurant popular among college students, came out to cater the event. But what the event also included was a controversial comment from Gregg Heinselman, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and Title IX coordinator for UW-River Falls.

Title IX, which concerns sexual discrimination and sexual assault-related issues is an important part of any university striving for equality.

Heinselman was one of the panel experts for the event, and took that opportunity to talk about Title IX. But what he also talked about was alcohol and what women could do to avoid being sexually assaulted. He mentioned that, for their safety women shouldn’t get high or drunk, because it makes them vulnerable for sexual assault. Immediately after, angered students took to social media to voice their concerns about Heinselman’s insensitive comments.

We can see why this would be taken badly; allegations raised against the comment largely concerned their feelings that Heinselman was suggesting that women who drink or get high are “asking for it.” It would certainly be prudent for Heinselman to choose his words carefully, especially as someone whose job it is to deal directly with Title IX, sexual assault and sexual violence at the university.

According to the UW-River Falls Campus Security and Fire Safety Report, UWRF had no reported sexual assaults in 2013, the most recent date available, and one reported sexual assault in 2012. In River Falls, there were nine reported sexual assaults in 2013 and four in 2012, according to the River Falls Police Department.

Data provided from “Sexual Assault, Sexual Violence, Safety Data UW-River Falls,” which includes 2012 data concerning acts of sexual aggression, gives us more insight on rates of these crimes. For example, 1 percent of females at UWRF who took the survey reported having been sexually penetrated without consent in 2012. Worth noting is that no statistic is available concerning males being made to penetrate, i.e. female-on-male rape.

Although these statistics can be seen as low, it should be noted that some victims of sexual assault and sexual violence do not come forward for a variety of reasons.

The most important thing that we can do is a campus is work together, regardless of gender, to keep UWRF a safe and comfortable college for all men and women who attend it. In that sense, this truly is on us.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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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](mailto:editor@uwrfvoice.com).

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

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

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

Student Senate Update

At the Student Senate meeting on Tuesday, Senate discussed and voted on the “Falcon Spirit Giveaway Allocation” and the “Resolution in Support of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center.”

The first motion that was discussed was the “Falcon Spirit Giveaway Allocation” that was introduced by Student Senate Vice President SJ DeGroote. This was a motion to allocate \$1,044.09 from the Student Senate Funding Pool to purchase six backpacks, 25 blankets and 10 portable chargers as prizes to give out to students during Falcon Spirit.

This allocation, which was originally introductory only but later changed, was to replace the Falcon Spirit Allocation that was passed at the previous Senate meeting, which called to allocate \$2,400 from the Senate funding pool to purchase 48 \$50 gift certificates from the Falcon Shop to hand out to students during Falcon Spirit throughout the year. Because six of those gift certificates were already purchased, if the new allocation was to be passed, the rest of the funds would go back into the Senate funding pool.

DeGroote then added an amendment to this motion that would replace the 10 chargers with 15 less expensive chargers, which could cost about \$15 less. After much discussion, the amendment was voted on and passed, along with the main motion.

A resolution, re-named “Resolution in Support of the Uni-

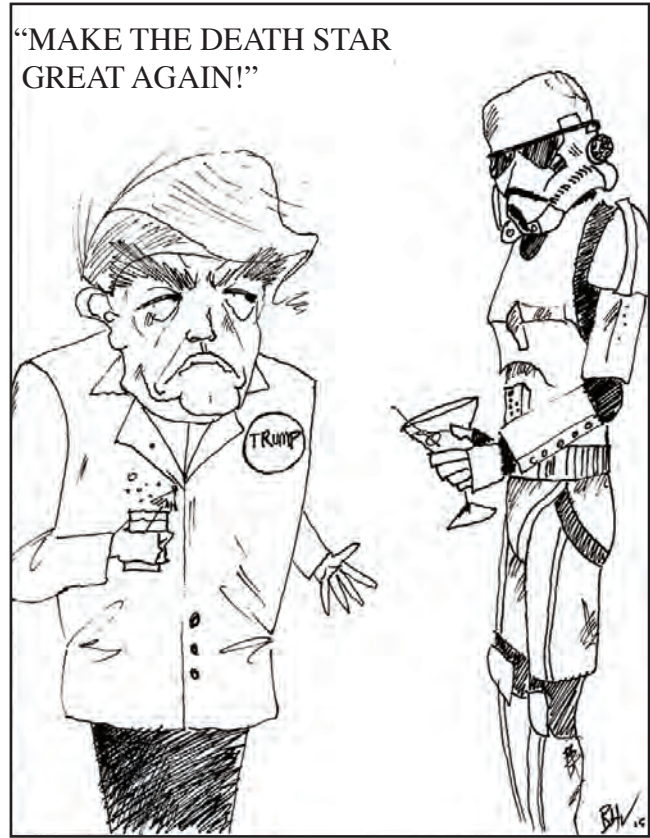
versity of Wisconsin-River Falls Tissue and Cellular Innovation Center”, was introduced by Peter Vermeland for Senate to adopt an opposition stance to a bill introduced by Wisconsin state legislators that would prohibit the sale and use of fetal body parts. This bill was prompted by the falsified Planned Parenthood video that made it seem as though Planned Parenthood was illegally profiting from the sale of aborted fetus tissue, and would negatively affect all UW-System schools that participate in stem cell research, including UW-Madison and UW-River Falls.

The resolution was quickly voted on and passed and will be forwarded to State Senator Sheila Harsdorf, State Representative Dean Knudson, UWRF Chancellor Dean Van Galen and State Representative Andre Jacque.

All information in this update comes from the Sept. 29 Student Senate meeting and select documents from the OrgSync Student Senate page. It’s very important for all students to stay informed on what is going on with Senate. It meets 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.

Cartoon Caption Contest

Cartoons by Benjamin Heer



Congratulations to last week’s winner, Logan Lenertz!  
Visit the Student Voice’s Facebook page at [facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice](https://facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice) and leave a comment with your caption for the photo on the right!  
The winning caption will appear in next week’s issue.

Find Freddy’s lost feather in this issue of the Voice and win two free movie passes to the Falls Theatre!

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

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts: [@uwrfvoice](https://twitter.com/uwrfvoice) and [facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice](https://facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice)

Now Playing: The Martian

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



# Bernie Sanders holds strong insights on modern issues

Molly Kinney  
Columnist

Thursday will mark the end of the fiscal year in congress, and on Wednesday morning, an agreement still had not been come to. As I write this, I'm sadly uncertain whether or not I will have a running government when this issue of the Student Voice hits stands Friday morning. Conservative Republicans have threatened to shut down the entire government, once again, if federal funding for Planned Parenthood is not taken away.

The idea that those who are elected to best serve the interests of their constituents think this is a good idea isn't an easy one to understand. It's difficult to wrap your head around, the fact that leaders of the most powerful state on the planet want to take away access to necessary health care for almost 3 million people annually. One would think that, as supposedly the most powerful nation on the planet, a push for more progressive laws might be in the works as well; contrarily, hundreds of anti-choice bills have been passed across the states since the last election, though Roe v. Wade has been upheld as the law of the land time and time again.

As a woman who holds rather liberal viewpoints, I don't see how so many people can be so anti-choice, even when abortion goes against their religious beliefs. Being pro-choice is entirely different from being pro-abortion, as some pro-lifers like to call us. The Planned Parenthood organization offers many services other than abortions; in fact, safe and legal abortions only make up about 3 percent of the total number of services the non-profit provides each year. Factcheck.org found that an equal 35 percent of services go to both contra-

ceptive provisions and STI testing, 16 percent is screening for cancers in sex organs, 10 percent to other women's health and 1 percent to counseling services. Claims made by representatives in this debate that abortion is the number one service were wildly untrue claims.

I almost feel silly for writing about this issue, as it's so unlikely that Planned Parenthood will be defunded in the end, and because Roe v. Wade will never be overturned. The right to abortions is something everyone has an opinion on, though it's legally regarded as an essential component of women's health care. In recent surveys as well, Planned Parenthood has been more popular than any political candidate; I guarantee you know someone who has utilized their services. In addition, I'm of the opinion that motherhood should not be a consequence for sexuality, especially in such a modern age.

I'd also like to point about a person who matters in these parts: Ron Johnson, Senator for Wisconsin, one of the many Republicans who voted to defund the organization. He has voted against many other progressive bills too, including moves for more environmental regulations on corporations and equal pay for women's equal work and is against raising taxes on the very most wealthy so that the rest of us can have a little bit more. When he's up for re-election in 2016, my hope is that more people will stop looking down party lines, and simply investigate which person's policies actually line up with their beliefs.

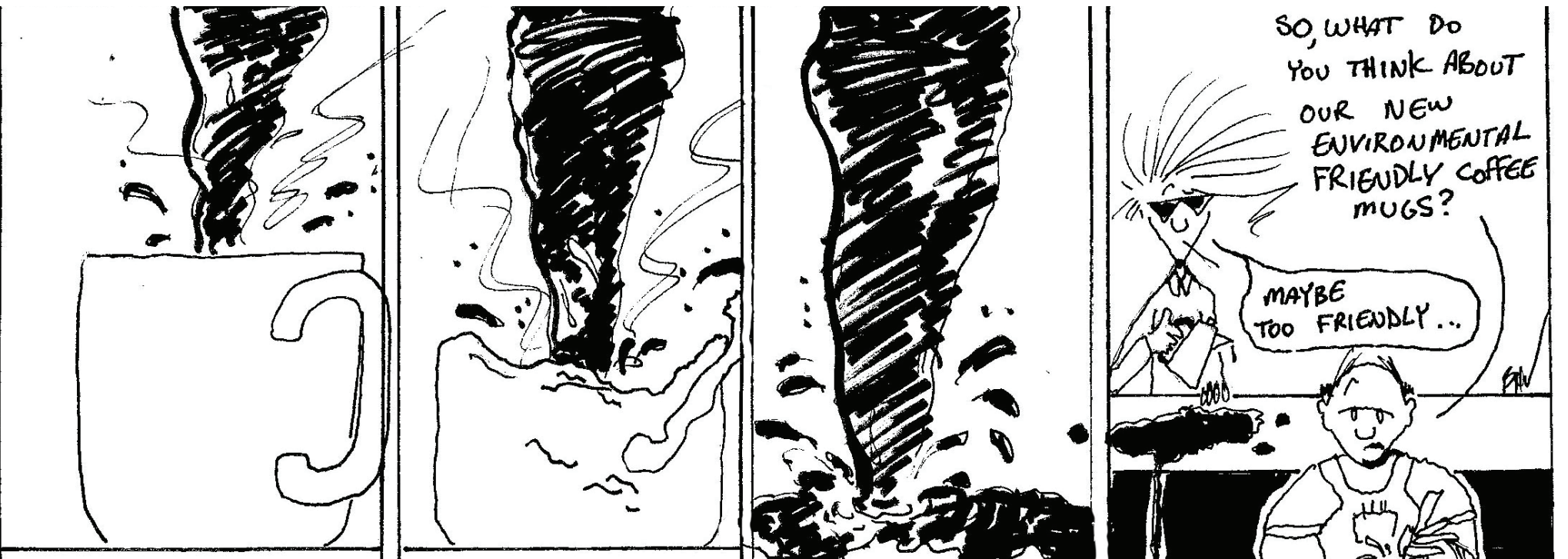
With that said, there is one senator up for election in 2016, whose policies much better align with most Americans' more than I believe any other candidate's: Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders. A self-proclaimed Independent-Socialist, Bernie Sanders is running in the primary as a Democrat against Hill-

ary Clinton.

As the longest serving Independent ever elected to Congress, Sanders has one of the most consistent records of anybody in power. Since entering the political sphere in the early '70s, Bernie has time and time again voted to protect the environment, crack down on Wall Street, reform taxes that promote financial inequality, increase spending on education at all levels, decrease spending on the unnecessarily huge military, stop the incarceration of non-violent drug offenders and achieve foreign relationships through diplomacy over war, in addition to his progressive stances on seemingly all issues.

In the case of the Planned Parenthood debate, Sanders has always supported a woman's right to choose what is best for herself and life position when faced with such a difficult decision. Many people think that because she is a woman, Clinton would be better for the job when dealing with such issues. But standing by the 'legal equality doctrine' implemented in so many laws today, even feminists like myself can see that just because she is female doesn't mean she is the right person to elect executive of our country.

In times like these, we need leaders who won't continue wasting time and our money on something they can't achieve, but ones who will actively work on making life better for the average American- not worse. I, and the thousands upon thousands of people who have been showing up to his rallies, believe that Bernie Sanders is someone who will do this, as he has been for 40 years. The presidential election is still 13 months away, but I encourage anyone who believes a political revolution must take place in this country to look into Bernie Sanders for president.



Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

## STUDENT *Voices*

Which Falcon sports do you follow, if any?

Compiled by Tori Schneider



Ethan Scharmer  
Freshman

"Football. I watched the soccer game the other day."



Haley Berscheid  
Senior

"Girl's volleyball and basketball."



Josh Reis  
Senior

"Is L.A.R.P a sport?"



Cooper Nelson  
Senior

"Football, basketball, volleyball and softball."



Lily West  
Freshman

"I follow volleyball."

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to [editor@uwrvoice.com](mailto:editor@uwrvoice.com)



# Women’s soccer team starts season optimistically

Zach Dwyer  
zach.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The Falcon’s Women’s Soccer team has had their ups and downs to start the season, but they’re already proving to be a resilient bunch.

“Through our first 9 games we’ve just had some difficulty putting together the final piece of the puzzle, which is putting the ball in the back of the net. But this clearly hasn’t been because of a lack of effort,” Coach Sean McKuras described.

The Falcons are 3-5-1 through their first 9 games of the season, with 9 more games to go before playoff time begins. With it being the halfway point of the season, coaches and players alike have noticed great strides by the team.

“We’ve improved greatly in our ability to adjust and look for opponents weaknesses as the year has gone on. The team has also shown dedication in coming to practice each and every session looking to get better,” McKuras said.

The Falcons opened up with a big 2-0 victory over Saint Mary’s University to start the season, but then lost a heartbreaker 1-0 to Hamline at home. Since those two games the Falcons have played 6 of their last 7 games on the road, stringing together a 2-4-1 record during this stretch. However, the Falcons host 7 of their next 9 games at home and hope to gain some momentum as the conference season kicks into full gear.

McKuras said, “We’re in a tough part of our season right now, but our goal is to still win our last 9 games and host a playoff game. The girls have been consistent in their training, and then they know

the goals will come if they continue to be mentally tough and hold their strong character.”

He also was excited about his team finally getting to host their opponents for a change, saying “We still have a lot of meaningful games remaining with home opportunities to rack up some wins. We’ve enjoyed the support we’ve received so far and hope we can continue to gain fan interest by putting on a good show for our home fans.

Sophomore Abby Soderholm has been leading the charge on offense for the Falcons so far this season, with 5 goals and 1 assist through 9 games. She also has 30 shots on goal and is leading the team with 11 points. On the defensive side Senior Melissa Barnett and Junior goalie Erica Cimochofski have been leaders of their own, shutting down opposing offenses throughout the year. Cimochofski has 35 saves on the year and has only allowed 11 goals.

The Falcons have definitely shown their strengths this season are having a strong cohesive team and having a willingness to work towards the common goal of growing every game. Coach McKuras has also been impressed with “how great a group of young women they’ve been”.

Those women will be looking to put their soccer team over the top in the second half of the season. The team is still looking to at least match last year’s record of 12-6-3 and progress forward as a team. But after losing their last 3 games by only one goal each, optimism is still high on the team.

The Falcons begin their conference home stand by playing UW Whitewater at 5 PM on thomecoming Saturday.



Kathy M Helgeson/University Communications  
**The Falcons took down Saint Mary’s University 2-0 on Sept. 1**

# New inductees introduced to UWRF Athletic Hall of Fame

Kate Vruwink  
Falcon News Service

A new class of members will be inducted into the UW-River Falls Athletic Hall of Fame during an Oct. 2 ceremony as part of the Homecoming Week festivities.

Since 1977 a new class has been selected every two years. This is the 21st class (1992 also had an inductee) to add their names and accomplishments to those who preceded them.

The process to be chosen is quite a thorough one. A person is nominated via an online form where they must fall into one of the categories for people eligible. The categories include athletes, coaches, positive contributors, and teams. After the nomination form is submitted it is added to the other nominees, and a committee gets together to determine the inductees.

The committee is composed of a wide range of people, and had 13 members deciding who the inductees would be this year. The members on the committee range from current athletes to the athletic director, to citizens at large, and a variety of others.

Roger Ternes, director of athletics and chair of the committee, explained it takes more than two and a half months to pick the recipients. He said it usually begins with gathering information on each individual.

“We collect all the data we can and give it to the committee, and then we have several meetings to discuss those people,” Ternes said.

This year there will be nine people and one sports team, the second in the Hall of Fame’s history, celebrated for their athletic ability or positive contributions to the University. The individuals selected are:

Brady Alstead: Goalie for the men’s hockey team from 1995-1999, Alstead still holds school records with a .944 percentage in saves and 1.55 goals against average in the 1995-1996 season, according to UWRFsports.com. He was all-WIAC 1998 and 1999, and ACHA All-American in 1996 and 1999. Alstead had eight career shutouts and played 84 games. He was also a member of the 1999 WIAC championship team. Alstead was named to the WIAC hockey all-time team in 2012.

Rick Bowen: Coach of the men’s basketball team for 20 years, he also served as the athletic director for three years at UW-River Falls before retiring. Bowen holds the record for having the most wins as a coach, and is ranked on the WIAC

career victories list, according to madison.com. Bowen also introduced a postseason tournament to the WIAC that is still used today.

Amy Brooke: Member of the women’s softball team from 2000-2003, Brooke was a pitcher for the Falcons. She was named a WIAC scholar athlete each of her four seasons with the Falcons. Brooke pitched 99 games in her career and started 74 of them. She pitched a total of 512 innings and had 39 wins. Brooke also had 347 strikeouts, according to UWRFsports.com.

Kris Buhr: A two-sport athlete, Buhr played both softball and basketball from 1987-1990. Buhr was named a WIAC scholar-athlete in 1989. In basketball she scored 1,069 career points and had 159 steals. Buhr is still ranked in UWRF records for best rebound average with 7.4 and most rebounds with 802. In the 1989-1990 season alone she had a free throw percentage of .835, according to the UWRFsports.com.

Lindsay Carlson: A member of the women’s hockey team from 2000-2004, Carlson was named 1st team all-NCHA in 2001, 2003 and 2004. She was also All-American in 2003 and 2004. Carlson had 86 career points, with 36 points scored in the 2003-2004 season alone. She holds onto the No. 2 spot in UWRF women’s hockey season assists with 25 in her 2003-2004 season.

Connie Foster: Women’s gymnastics coach from 1984-1992, Foster ended her 25 years with UW-River Falls as the 17th chancellor. Foster was named the WIAC coach of the year in 1988. She also served as the women’s athletic director from 1992-1996 and earned the Wisconsin Women’s Intercollegiate Athletic Conference All-Academic award for having the highest GPA in the conference, according to the UW-River Falls website. Foster is being inducted for being a positive contributor to Falcon athletics.

Steve Gustafson: A member of the men’s basketball team from 1965-1969, Gustafson was named a UW-River Falls all-time player. He also received the All-WIAC award in 1968 and 1969. Gustafson is still ranked in UWRF records for leading in rebounds with 524, according to the UWRFsports.com.

Mandy Stokes: A member of the women’s hockey team from 1999-2003, Stokes was named an all-time player by UW-River Falls. Stokes also received All-NCHA in 2001, and NCHA All Academic from 2001-2003. In 2000, she was the scoring leader of the team with 10 points. That same

season she had nine goals and three power plays, according to UWRFsports.com.

Melissa Tvrdik: A member of the women’s volleyball team from 2000-2003, Tvrdik was named one of the league’s most valuable players and a scholar athlete by the WIAC in 2003. She was UW-River Falls player of the week four times, and WIAC player of the week once. Tvrdik was part of the team that won two championship WIAC titles in 2002 and 2003. She played 111 career matches and was one of the UW-River Falls top career players. She had 1,209 kills and ranked second in career kill percentage, according to UWRFsports.com.

Men’s Hockey Team 1988: The second team to ever be inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, it won a national championship. Steven Hammer, a member of the winning team, said one of his favorite memories was River Falls having a parade the next night when the team returned. But there was also satisfaction in having the Falcons be the team to beat. “After the disappointment of coming very close in 1987, we were the team to beat and got every team’s best shot,” he said in an email interview. The team was highly competitive, according to former Coach Rick Kozuback — so competitive that the athletes set several school records. The team scored 229 goals that season and 569 points, according to UWRFsports.com. Kozuback said that to this day he can still remember how competitive the team was. “One of the things that remains constant with me is the competitive nature of our team back then, and the camaraderie that they developed over being competitive,” he said in a telephone interview. Hammer also felt to camaraderie, because he said he made lifelong friends from that team. In the national championship, the Falcons went 2-1 against Elmira in upstate New York to win the title.

Each member being inducted gives a speech at the ceremony, but according to Ternes their pride and joy over the honor is heard in a special way.

“You can hear it in their voice. It’s not their speech necessarily, but it’s the tone and the love of the school. It’s the relationships they had on their teams with their coaches,” he said. “It’s not so much the words, it’s the passion they have.”

The ceremony will held at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, in the Riverview Ballroom of University Center. The inductees also will be recognized at halftime of the football game on Saturday, Oct. 3. The game begins at 1 p.m. at Ramer Field.



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**FALCON BROADCASTS**

**FOOTBALL**  
**SATURDAY, OCT. 3**  
**HOME VS. LA CROSSE**  
**PREGAME- 12:25 P.M.**  
**KICKOFF- 1:00 P.M.**



# 'It's on Us' campaign raises awareness

Molly Kinney  
molly.kinney@my.uwrf.edu

Continued from page 1

The film starts with three students at the University of California - Berkeley, who reported being sexually assaulted to their college administrators, to no avail. After months of being revictimized and getting nowhere with their cases, they decided to act on their own, investigate this problem on other campuses, and ultimately ended up becoming activists for ending sexual assault on campus, as well as combating the complacency shown by many administrators when it is reported. The film highlighted numerous cases of students other than the three it focused on, from campuses in every corner of the nation, making the point that the problem isn't exclusive to any one campus; it's unfortunately pervasive everywhere.

Prior to starting the film, it was reiterated several times that it was very graphic, and that it may be a "trigger" for people that have dealt with situations presented in the film. Kleenex stations were pointed out, and a member of Counseling Services was made available outside the showing to anyone who might want to talk about topic more personally. When the lights were flicked back on, it was apparent how closely this affected people - mascara and tear lines ran down the sides of many students cheeks.

Talley Halverson, a sophomore in the Health and Human Performance program, was impressed with the film. "It was very eye opening," she said. "You often hear statistics but don't often get to hear the raw stories of people affected, and actually hearing first hand what happened to them, and unfortunately so many college students makes it seem a lot more real."

Another student, Naomi Egger, who studies biology

and art, said she was surprised that it can be such hassle to report a sexual assault case on campuses. "It amazes me how bureaucratic it is... it seems like a lot of the time people are getting screwed over because some college administrations want to protect their donor interests over students," she said.

Non-traditional student Christine Marriott, who studies political science, said she knows personally people who have been assaulted on campus. Because of this, she said "I thought the film was very emotional, but it was time well spent. It needs to be seen by everyone. I know too many people, even here, that have been assaulted."

The Student Feminist Organization was also highly involved in the event, the start of what will most likely be a year long collaboration with Senate. Sydney Walsh, who was a member of the panel, spoke to what the feminists role was.

"We were asked by senate to get involved right away- helping getting the word out, volunteering, and really just our thoughts and feelings about the issue. As well, we've been very forward with Chris about our thoughts on the subject. I didn't want to, I felt it would be wrong, to go on this panel and just say 'everything's fine,'because it's not," she said. "These crimes are very under-reported. If you speak to people and hear their stories, you realize that's not at all what's happening."

This event, hosted by senate, comes at an unfortunately coincidental time- less than a week after the New York Times published an article analyzing a newly released study conducted by the Association of American Universities. A survey given concluded that 27.2 percent of female college seniors had experienced sexual contact or some sort that they did not consent to, 13.5 percent of which had been forcible sex.

While the University of River Falls annual Crime Report 2014 only listed one conviction of sexual assault that school year. While that is the official number, judging by student

anecdotes could suggest it is not entirely accurate. This is why Morgan wants to continue battling sexual assault, and working on reforming how administrations deal with it.

"We can't control human behavior, but we can make sure we prevent things from going wrong in the first place, but when they do we'll be there for the victim, and hold the perpetrator accountable... it's how we go about handling this issue on the administration side, that I think we can work on," he said.

"It's the 'It's On Us' campaign, not 'it's on you'," he said.

With students gathered at a bonfire to reflect after the film screening, Morgan, his administration, and others working on this were already talking about what they'll be doing next.

Annual events like Take Back the Night, Walk a Mile in Her Shoes are a few events that Morgan said he's like Senate to be an aid to. He also talked about possible sexual assault seminars, speakers on the topic, and showing the film wherever and whenever they can, to reach as many students and target audiences as possible.

One thing he was sure of, though, was that the events for "It's on Us" won't be small; he found the panel and film screening extremely successful, with over 200 students in attendance at the high point. He hopes future events for this campaign will be just as large.

"It's big events like these that get people talking," he said. "What I hope is by the end of my time here, is a campaign that never ends. That we lay down a message going throughout this University's tenure that loudly proclaims that sexual assault is not tolerated here, and that if you perpetrate these crimes you will be held accountable, and that the victims of these crimes will be given the support they deserve."

## UWRF SALSA members raise sustainability awareness



Jack Haren/Student Voice

From left to right; Student Alliance for Local Sustainable Agriculture (SALSA) members Johnny Green, Andy Shaw, Haley Morey, and Kendall Keegan can salsa made from vegetables grown entirely by UW-River Falls students. 47 mild pints and 14 hot pints were made. The salsa will be for sale on campus, dates and times TBD.

Do you have something to say?

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# ‘Hotel Transylvania 2’ has stellar visuals, mediocre plot



Ryan Funes

Reviewer

Dracula and his buds are back again in “Hotel Transylvania 2” to help Drac’s grandson realize the monster that he is, and with that comes another mixed bag of an animated film that has everything but the bite.

You might find the plot of this film a bit different from the previous. Dracula is ecstatic that his vampire daughter Mavis is married to her human beloved Johnny, and it seems that all is fine now that Dracula has accepted humans. But with the birth of his grandson, that prejudice may not be extinguished just yet.

His grandson is fast-growing and not appearing to show signs of being a vampire, and Mavis thinks her son might live better outside Transylvania. So the race is on for Drac and his friends to prove that his grandson really does have a monster inside him, and along the way they may realize that the idea of a monster is changing along with the child.

The “Hotel Transylvania” films have always presented a dilemma for me. On the one hand is the creative distinction of the director, Genndy Tartakovsky, who created such beloved cartoons such as “Dexter’s Laboratory” and one of my favorite series of all time, “Samurai Jack.”

On the other hand, his first foray into filmmaking resulted in a work that was filled with colorful character designs and amazing, squashing and stretching movements, but nearly gutted in the plot and joke department. This is the problem that permeates both “Hotel Transylvania 2” and its previous incarnation.


It becomes very clear from watching the film that the anima-

Weak plot, bad jokes, and hapless advertising made some parts of this film hard to listen to. I found myself in the weird situation where I wanted to mute the dialogue of the characters and only let the animation speak for itself.

tion skills of Tartakovsky are the only part of him being used here. An interview from Cartoon Brew revealed that he had less creative control this time around for the sequel, but it also implied he was able to have his fun animating.

That is one thing the film does well, in that it is extremely animated. All the characters move fluidly and are extremely expressive in their facial expressions. Tartakovsky’s team





carried over the great animation from the previous film and makes it a real treat to see.

But then we have the plot and jokes, courtesy of Adam Sandler and the puppeteer for “Triumph the Insult Comic Dog.” The jokes in the film run the gambit from easy-to-make,

to lame, and to just plain awkwardly-delivered. Even more pervasive this time around was the advertising, which seemed to come through much more this time. Be prepared to see references to Sony products everywhere in this film, along with food items that were most likely tied into the film.

Weak plot, bad jokes, and hapless advertising made some parts of this film hard to listen to. I found myself in the weird situation where I wanted to mute the dialogue of the characters and only let the animation speak for itself. Tartakovsky certainly made it feel like that could have been done, but alas this isn’t going to be on DVD for a while and my patience with this film is already tried.

Aside from those aspects, “Hotel Transylvania 2” does at least bring the acting around well enough. Sandler still surprisingly works as Dracula and makes him sound entertaining, and even his supporting actors from before carry things well. The new additions to the film, though, such as bringing in Mel Brooks and Nick Offerman as characters are hit and miss.

Mel Brooks, a legend in film comedy, could have used more screen time as his character, and Nick Offerman’s character is the biggest offense, not even taking a lot of advantage of his signature deadpan.

It’s for these many reasons that it’s hard for me to recommend “Hotel Transylvania 2” in good faith. If you really must, try it muted, or find a version that cuts out dialogue; you might be surprised by how it works. But as it stands, the film is another example of how low standards in one department of a film can certainly lead to a less than satisfying work; even worse when knowing it could have been so much more.

Ryan Funes is a Junior at River Falls majoring in Journalism with a minor in Art History. In his personal time he enjoys all facets of popular culture, discussing the influence of the media, and desperately trying to find the chance to sing a drinking song with all his friends.

## Cultural differences can make for awkward first encounters

Lauren A. Simenson  
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Hello, my name is Lauren, and I am perpetually awkward. I stammer, trip, and fumble my way through daily life. And for my first column I had a plethora of experiences that I could, regrettably, draw from.

To look for more specific inspiration for my first column though, I drew from one aspect of college—and of life—that I hope everyone is able to participate in: traveling abroad. In fact, for a class just last week I was prompted with a writing assignment that asked me to talk about just *one example* of a time when I violated someone else’s space. In all honesty, I had a pretty difficult time just selecting one instance.

One of my most vivid examples was when I travelled to France for the very first time and met my host family for the start of what was thankfully only a week’s stay. For an early disclaimer: I really have no excuse for my awkward actions, because months prior I had faithfully attended monthly meetings to ward off any potential missteps an American tourist might make, but like I said above, it is just in my nature and I can’t help it.

Keeping all these lessons in mind, when the time came to use what I had learned, I completely chickened out., and made a complete fool of myself. So, after a week of being immersed in “French life” with my all-American group members, it came time to finally stop speaking ‘Franglish” and separate into our individual host family homes and into real French life. During the moments leading up to this separation, I would have much rather touched a spider than to separate with my new best friends.

The Americans and the French families came together in an open expanse of white concrete just outside of a large train station. Our two groups converged in a cluster of over-packed suitcases, and, in their case, impossibly skinny and fashionable pants. While our new host families wore bright smiles full

of perfect teeth, myself and my American group members were visibly anxious. An important step in our travel abroad experience was just moments away.

In France, it is traditional and the cultural norm to perform the “bisou,” which is just a fancy term for the half-hug and kiss on both cheeks (or only on one cheek, depending on which French region you are in) upon greeting anyone hello or saying goodbye. Even knowing ahead of time of what I was being expected to carry out, I don’t think I *really* realized what I was about to get into, until it was much too late.

I’m from the Midwest, and *never* get that close to strangers or really people in general. As I saw my host mom and sister, who are more than a head shorter than me and wearing what I am pretty sure were just large children’s clothes, I approached with quiet and timid French to try and minimize how American-sized I am. Then came the moment when my host mother and I simultaneously began to preform the opening notes of the “bisou”. H a l f w a y through the first step of this ritual—the hug—I lost my nerve and as she began to draw back to let air-kisses fall on my cheeks, I panicked and just kept hugging her; in fact, I remember tightening my grip, my long arms enveloping her tiny frame as if making her immobile would stall this greeting from happening. My host mom, Florence, eventually drew back (or forced her way) out of my vice-grip stammering in poor, heavily accented English, “What? I’m sorry?” and looking concernedly at her daughter who was trying to, inexpertly, hide her laughter, while my face radiated palpable, red-hot heat. It was a very quiet, jerky, and long way to my new home.

After a week of being immersed in “French life” with my all-American group members, it came time to finally stop speaking ‘Franglish” and separate into our individual host family homes and into real French life

## Unnoticed Netflix films are more than meets the eye: edition one

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Hey readers, this column will be dedicated to the best movies on Netflix. I’ll be doing this column about two or three times a month. My goal is to introduce movies that otherwise go unnoticed on Netflix. Each column, I’ll do four movies and one documentary. So, without further ado, let’s get to my movie recommendations.

“*The One I Love*” (R) (Netflix rating: 3 ¾ stars) This movie has a typical premise of a married couple whose marriage is heading towards disaster, but this movie is fresh and original. Now, this is a movie were I can’t give away much of the plot, where the less you know about the plot the better, but trust me when I say this movie is worth your time. I only have a few problems with the movie, those being the music, which sometimes doesn’t fit the movie, and a minor plot hole that I cannot explain without giving away the movie. Quite frankly, these are the only bad things I can say about this otherwise wonderful movie. **My rating: 8.5/10.**

“*Rosewater*” (R) (Netflix rating: 4 stars) This movie is based on the story of a journalist who was imprisoned on spying allegations while covering the Iran elections, all because he did a Daily Show interview—I kid you not. Speaking on the Daily Show, Jon Stewart himself wrote and directed this himself. I’ve got to say, in his debut as a writer/director, he did a pretty good job with everything overall. I do have a problem in that, at certain points, they have subtitles (although sometimes they don’t), but that’s just a minor problem. In all, it’s a solid movie. **My rating: 7/10.**

“*Blue Ruin*” (R) (Netflix rating 3 ½ stars) This typical, revenge-for-dead-family plot has nothing new, story-wise. It may not seem like much, but it takes what it has and turns it into a tense, exciting adventure thanks to its great acting, cinematography, atmosphere, and delivery. Do not watch if you’re squeamish, however, because this movie has very graphic violence. In all, if you can stomach that, you’ll receive a very well-done movie. **My rating: 7.5/10.**

“*History of Future Folk*” (TV-PG) (Netflix rating: 4 stars) I never thought I’d see the day where sci-fi and bluegrass music are brought together, but it sure does work. This delightful tale of a man who dresses up as an alien from another planet to perform music gigs is all I’m going to give away about this movie, since any more will give away the surprises. This movie is like “The One I Love” in the sense that the more you know, the better experience you’ll have. My only beef is that one character’s actions don’t come off as goofy, but rather as somewhat creepy. I also took a little issue with the ending, but it’s not that big of a deal. In all, this movie is a quirky sci-fi adventure filled with laughs, music, and adventure. **My rating: 8/10.**

Well there you have it, readers; those are my movie suggestions. I hope you enjoy them as much as I did, and I’ll be back with a whole new list of movies for you to check out.

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