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University of WisconsinRiver Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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College debt affects more than just students

Ryan Funes
Falcon News Service

Editor’s note: Total student debt in the United States now tops \$1.2 trillion, a financial burden that has wide implications for the economy and society. In a series of stories, student journalists of the Falcon News Service examined what student debt means at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

College students across the U.S are taking on debt from the institutions they attend. But for some, it’s not just themselves they carry into debt but also their loved ones, as the parents of students are also feeling the burden.

Trouble like this starts with statistics, such as those from a survey conducted in 2014 by the Citizens Financial Group. The survey asked 5,000 college students and parents about higher education debt.

A substantial 94 percent of parents said that they feel the weight of the debts from their children. Forty-five percent of parents surveyed said they do not have a plan to manage the debt. The survey went on to remark that 70 percent of these parents also feel that the investment will not pay off in the future.

Student debt may affect a wide variety of plans in one’s life, said Robert Bode, financial aid director at UW-River Falls.

“There are studies that are being done that show that students are delaying a lot of life choices because of the student debt they have taken,” he said. “You have reports of students not getting married, not getting children, not buying houses. You are seeing some impact of that.”

Bode works with students regularly on campus to help manage how they approach

repaying their debts.

Average debt for graduates of UWRF in 2014 was \$27,134, according to The Institute for College Access & Success, a nonprofit and nonpartisan research, analysis and advocacy organization. A total of 76 percent of UWRF students graduated with debt.

The average debt at UW-River Falls was a little less than the national average for graduates, \$28,950, but problems can persist for anyone getting out from under the financial burden.

Students coming out of college will have to enter payment plans for their debt, which can range between paying \$61-\$466 per month, though lowers payments result in longer time that interest is built up, according to Bode. It comes down to either paying more each month to get the debt cleared quicker or paying less each month and then gaining more to pay off in total.

And this debt hits right into the bull’s-eye that is family.

The non-profit organization American Student Assistance in 2013 looked into effects that student debt has on family and life decisions.

The organization found that millennials age 18-29 had decreasing interest in getting married, saying that many are seeing it as a “capstone” rather than a “cornerstone” in their life, according to the report. Further problems that occur later can be saving for one’s own children when they go to college, putting money towards a retirement fund, and even simple paying off other debts, like credit cards and car loans.

The problem of student debt can also scare prospective students from taking out big loans

for college, according to Bode, as they might have doubts that they can pay it all back.

Connie Vonch, a resident of Red Wing, Minnesota, will enter Minnesota State University, Mankato next summer. Tuition and fees at the school are around \$3,900 per semester for a Minnesota resident. Vonch has seen what her eldest sister has gone through with college and said she hopes she doesn’t fall into the same mistakes.

“My older sister is struggling to pay off her student debt. She didn’t really think about college until it was too late,” Vonch said. “It kind of started a ripple between my elder sister and my parents. Where I pocketed my high school graduation money for college, she spent it. My parents I think are just disappointed in her, but they still love her and want what’s best. My dad has stopped giving her large amounts of money to help her with college.”

Vonch plans to stay with her parents while she is going through college, but says that she plans to work through much of it and use the money she got after graduating high school for good use.

But pressure is still felt by Vonch as she is about to enter college.

“Where I have always wanted to be a marine biologist, my parents are worried about me, too,” she said. “Becoming a marine biologist takes time and money.”

Vonch has said that she will enter a four-year college eventually and has stopped smoking to save money, though she admits that her social life might take a backseat to grades and sleep.

“If I worried too much now, it will cause more stress or depression,” she said. “I need to be positive and self motivated to get through

this and on with my future.”

In the end, she hopes to not regret her choices.

“I wish that after college, I didn’t make a mistake about choosing marine biology,” Vonch said. “I chose it because I love it and if some day I don’t love it, I think it’d hurt because I wasted my college.”

Debt can exacerbate family concerns, scaring students from their plans to start families soon and causing schisms with immediate family members who feel they are getting the brunt of the work from their children.

Despite that, Bode said that from his experience there is no debt that cannot be unpaid, and with the right payment plan fit to each person and their financial situation anyone can escape the seemingly large wave of repayment.

With the right payment plan fit to each person and their financial situation anyone can escape the seemingly large wave of repayment.

“There are ways to manage the repayment of that debt and students really need to know of those options as they begin to repay,” he advised. “The worst thing to do is to just stop making payments and go into denial, saying you won’t open that letter you think is from the insurance company and you think contains loan information.

“Once you start down that road,” Bode said, “it is very hard to return from it.”

New course to be required in College of Arts and Sciences

Katie Galarno
Falcon News Service

Beginning in the fall of 2016, new students at UW-River Falls with majors in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) will be required to take an additional course.

First Year Adventure (College of Arts and Sciences 101) was approved at the Nov. 4 Faculty Senate meeting after passing through various committees since September. The class will be required for incoming freshmen and transfer students with less than 30 credits majoring in a program within CAS. Students with majors in the other colleges within UWRF and minors in CAS will not have to take the course.

Tricia Davis, associate dean of CAS, said that the class can be thought of as a kind of seminar. Faculty can choose their own topics to teach, as long as the topics meet the learning outcomes. Davis included “First Year Adventure: Activism 101” as an example in an information release to CAS faculty and staff.

Three learning outcomes are outlined for

the course: information literacy, critical thinking and constructive teamwork. The goals are based off of the Liberal Education and America’s Promise initiative from the Association of American Colleges & Universities.

Three learning outcomes are outlined for the course: information literacy, critical thinking and constructive teamwork.

Cynthia Kernahan, professor of psychology, is one of the faculty members who worked over the summer to develop the course. She said that she’s particularly interested in what helps students learn.

“We really looked at the literature to look at, ‘What do students need in that first year that will keep them on campus?’ because we need them to stay, but also because it’s better for them if they stay,” Kernahan said.

Applications will be sent out to UWRF fac-

ulty and staff allowing them to apply to teach the course, and the decisions will be made before the release of the fall course catalog in February. Davis said that in deciding who will teach the sections, a lot of factors will be considered.

“We’re going to look for faculty that have high impact, that have energy, that have great ideas, good teaching evaluations,” Davis said. “All those kind of things are going to impact who we select to teach the courses.”

Kernahan said that she spent time this summer thinking about which topic she would cover and decided that she’d like to teach a section focusing on social class. She said that First Year Adventure offers faculty a chance to do something different.

“I think it’s a good opportunity to work with freshmen around something that you’re really passionate about,” Kernahan said. “It’s a way to develop a whole new course on something you don’t do, and I hope students will love it.”

Faculty may be able to teach more than one section of the course, depending on how many people apply and what kind of topic

proposals are received. New students will be able to choose which section to take during registration. Davis said that approximately 16 sections will be taught in the fall and four in the spring, holding no more than 25 students each. The class will be worth three credits.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, CAS had the lowest retention rates of UWRF’s four colleges with just over 51 percent of students remaining in the same program, according to the Office of Institutional Research.

Davis said that she hopes the new course will positively impact retention rates because first-year students will be able to make more meaningful friendships and connections within the college.

“Those students are able to connect with the faculty more, on a personal level, because of the kind of questions that are being asked and explored in the class,” Davis said.

Davis said that this course may be the first of several changes to the college before the end of this academic year, but nothing has been decided yet.

Possible first-year seminar to be added for undecided majors

Natalie Howell
Falcon News Service

A new first-year seminar may be added to the UW-River Falls curriculum, according to Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Fernando Delgado.

The seminar would be meant to target first-year, undecided students at UWRF and include a broad overview of the options that are offered at the university.

The seminar would be meant to target first-year, undecided students at UWRF and include a broad overview of the options that are offered at the university. The course would be mandatory for undecided majors, and would act as an elective course lasting one semester, according to Academic Council Chair Peter Vermeland.

Although the specifics of what the seminar would include haven’t been decided, Vermeland said that members of the Academic Coun-

cil and Student Senate already have an idea of what should be covered.

“Just get a feel for college, learning about the basics of finance, things that aren’t really covered in high school that really should be,” said Vermeland. “Sort of learning where you want to go.”

The possible first-year seminar is still in the very early stages of planning, Delgado said. He is working on a proposal that would then have to go through several committees before going to Faculty Senate for approval, Delgado added. The first-year seminar would then have to be approved by Chancellor Dean Van Galen for it to be in effect.

The goal of the seminar, Delgado said, would be to support, transition and academically challenge undeclared first-year students because they are an important group to develop and engage on campus.

“We’re all trying to get at how we improve learning on this campus, how do we improve retention and success on this campus,” Delgado said.

According to Delgado, retention rates are a key aspect when looking at adding a first-year seminar. Retention rate is the percentage of a university’s first-time, first-year undergradu-

ate students who continue enrollment into the next year. In the fall of the 2014-2015 academic year, the retention rate for new freshman was 56 percent, around 590 students, according to the Office of Institutional Research.

Jasmine Lynn is a freshman biochemistry major at UWRF and said that she believes that a first-year seminar is necessary because some freshman don’t know what to expect when coming to college.

“I think it would be very informative, and it’s kind of a necessity, just because people come from different backgrounds and different areas, so they’re not always prepared for that kind of stuff,” Lynn said.

The majority of the universities in the UW-System have some form of a first-year seminar, ranging from one to three credits, according to the universities’ websites. All of the first-year seminar descriptions are pretty similar, focusing on transitioning students into university life and helping students achieve academic success.

According to Delgado, this is not the first time that UWRF has looked into creating a first-year seminar. During the 2014-2015 spring semester, the Faculty Senate voted on

the addition of a first-year seminar to the general education curriculum. The seminar was introduced by Kristina Anderson, the former associate vice chancellor for enrollment and student success, and would have included all first-year students, regardless of if they had already declared a major. The proposal didn’t pass.

Delgado said that the recent budget cuts to the UW-System, including a \$3.31 million cut to UW-River Falls, is always something to consider when looking to add curriculum.

“There’s always going to be intrinsic benefits if you help more students succeed, we get that,” Delgado said. “But we’re all struggling hard to ensure that all of our students succeed when we’re all challenged by budget cuts. And so then the question is, is that investment more impactful than the other investment that you could have made.”

Delgado said that he hopes to be able to have a first-year seminar proposal in front of Faculty Senate before the end of the semester. If passed, it would then go into effect in the fall of 2017.

News briefs:

Chartwells to celebrate grand opening at UWRF

Chartwells and University of Wisconsin River Falls would like to invite the campus community to a grand opening celebration on Thursday, December 10th from 11:00am until 2:00pm in the lower level of The University Center. There will be a short ceremony and ribbon cutting at 11:00am to officially open the newly renovated retail spaces in The Rapids and The University Center. The ribbon cutting will be followed by games, free samples from the new locations, prizes and giveaways from and the Chartwells team and our partners.

The new brands that are on campus include Chef Jet; which serves Asian cuisine, Sono; a Latin concept, Rustic Range; a burger concept, Wicked Spoon; a frozen yogurt concept, and Einstein Bros. Bagels, a bagel and coffee concept. Additionally, the newest addition to the University center for the Spring semester: Zatar at Pete’s Creek Market which is a white box concept where students choose the cuisine.

Chartwells is pleased to join the campus community and is continually striving to be the place where hungry minds gather. We are excited to offer these new venues on campus. This celebration is open to the campus community, and we hope to see you there.

For more information on Chartwells at University of Wisconsin River Falls, visit www.dineoncampus.com/riverfalls or contact Susan Boettcher, senior director of dining services at 715-425-4465 or Susan.Boettcher@compass-usa.com

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls welcomes to its campus the first WiSys Regional Associate for western Wisconsin, Kristen Ruka. As a representative of WiSys, a private

UW-River Falls welcomes new WiSys Regional Associate

foundation dedicated to connecting inventors on the UW comprehensive campuses and two-year colleges with businesses and tech transfer resources, Ruka will facilitate outreach and development efforts across the region.

While based at UW-River Falls, Ruka will also serve the campuses of UW-Eau Claire, UW-Stout, and UW-Superior, as well as UW-Barron County, forming connections among WiSys Technology Foundation, campus inventors and administration, and the surrounding communities. Her main objective will be to connect faculty, staff, and students with the resources and support available to help protect, further develop, and commercialize their ideas. She will have offices on-site at each institution where she will meet with researchers on a regular basis, assess their research programs, and identify opportunities for WiSys support.

“We are excited to host Dr. Ruka at UW-River Falls and to have her work with our campus community to encourage innovation and technology transfer. Her unique background makes Kristen the ideal person to further connect WiSys with the UW campuses in the region,” said UW-River Falls Chancellor Dean Van Galen.

Ruka worked for years in scientific research, most recently examining how hormones influence the brain to control reproduction and how they can be used to treat certain infertility problems that have historically been medical mysteries. She decided to move from the lab bench to technology transfer in order to explore other researchers’ innovations and promote excitement about applied research and technology transfer.

“I think the part that appealed to me the most about moving into tech transfer from science was being exposed both to science within my area of expertise and also learning about new areas as well and being able to support other scientists who are interested in other research areas,” said Ruka.

Ruka’s new position will help support UW-River Falls continuing commitment to fostering a culture of innovation and

excellence on campus and throughout the region.

For more about WiSys Technology Foundation, visit www.wisys.org.

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Masquers will present “Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead” Dec. 8-12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanford Syse Theatre in

UW-River Falls Masquers presents ‘Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead’

the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The public is invited.

“Dog Sees God” is not just a palindrome. This raunchy new take on the classic Peanuts comic strip sheds some light onto real-life struggles that teenagers face every day.

“Don’t expect the sweet and light-hearted Peanuts that you’re used to. This show can get pretty intense and racy,” said Director Kendra Yarke, a senior double majoring in marketing communications and theatre. “I’m most excited for how audiences will react to the sad, funny, and surprising moments in the show. There are moments that make me laugh out loud, gasp, and sometimes even tear up.”

The cast includes Danielle Bebus, of Forest Lake, Minn., as Tricia; Kyia Britts, of Andover, Minn., as Marcy; Travis Dow, of Minneapolis, as Van; Corey Fern of Shakopee, Minn., as CB; Danielle Formanek, of Webster, as Van’s sister; Francisco Grande, of Cusco, Peru, as Matt; Jack Groskreutz, of Apple Valley, Minn. as Beethoven; and, Christine O’Toole, of Iron Ridge, as CB’s sister.

Audiences should be ready for taboo topics, adult language, and an all-around good time at the performances.

Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8/seniors, \$5 for others under 18 (one free ticket per student with UWRF ID available at the Box Office window only). The Box Office, located in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building, is open Dec. 7-11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. on performance days.

Tickets can be purchased in person or by phone at 715-425-3114.

The public is invited to the Fall Gala, an annual showcase event to celebrate the research, scholarly and creative activities of more than 200 University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Undergraduate research, scholarly and creative activities showcased at UW-River Falls

undergraduates on Thursday, Dec. 3, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center.

Across campus, UW-River Falls undergraduates have been involved in innovative research in subjects ranging from cattle health to nicotine addiction. Students present their work annually on campus at the Fall Gala through posters, short films, art exhibits, PowerPoints, and interactive displays in a lively and content-rich environment. Also available for sampling at the Fall Gala will be student-made cheeses and sausage from the Falcon Foods program.

In addition to the Fall Gala, throughout the year, UW-River Falls supports development of student research skills, including training on research ethics, presentation skills and designing research posters. They also encourage undergraduates to present their work in other venues, and UWRF students typically constitute one of the largest traveling delegations to the annual National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). In spring 2015, 82 students travelled to the 29th

NCUR, held at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Wash.

“UW-River Falls has long been recognized for the exceptional strength of its undergraduate research programming and opportunities, and our large contingent of presenters at NCUR 2015 shows our ongoing commitment to excellence in this area,” said Lissa Schneider-Rebozo, professor of English and URSCA director.

The Fall Gala is a clear demonstration of the university’s commitment to fostering hands-on learning and creative inquiry as early as a student’s freshman year of college. Stop in at any time during the Gala to see what UW-River Falls students and their dedicated mentors are working on. The event is free and open to all.


For more information, call the URSCA Office at 715-425-3902.

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Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com





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Thursday, Nov. 19

- A drug complaint was reported in Parker Hall around 10 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 20

- A welfare check was conducted in May Hall around 2 a.m.
- A sexual assault was reported off-campus around midnight.

Tuesday, Nov. 22

- A drug complaint was reported in Prucha Hall around 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 30

- A computer crime was reported off-campus around 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

- A drug complaint was reported off-campus around 2 a.m.

Editor’s note:

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

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New system available for anonymous reporting

Ryan Odeen
Falcon News Service

A website and hotline was launched this summer by the UW System that provides students, staff and faculty an anonymous way to report fraud, waste and a variety of other offenses and misconduct.

Ray Cross, president of the UW System, said in a video posted on the university’s YouTube channel that the website and hotline were launched to help people do the right thing.

“It is designed to be an easy, anonymous way for our students, our staff, and our faculty to report something they believe to wasteful or wrong,” Cross said.

The program is run by The Network, a Norcross, Georgia, company that specializes in helping companies and organizations maintain ethical cultures.

At UW-River Falls, Beth Schommer, executive assistant to the chancellor, said she does not see a significant volume of cases involving waste, fraud or misconduct on campus.

“What I think that the hotline provides is it helps create a culture of accountability,” Schommer said. “And it provides tools for people who wants to have a safe place to show their concerns.”

Schommer said she can only think of one case that has been reported through the hotline that might possibly not fit the definition of misconduct.

“But in any case, it’s clearly a concern, and it’s clearly the responsibility of the campus to look into it regardless of how tightly you try to define those terms,” she said.

James Graham, chair of Faculty Senate, said there could be a fear of over-reporting of offenses over the confusing definitions of certain issues combined with the anonymous nature.

“When we talk about what is fraud, what is waste, and then having anonymous reporting, each individual has their own definition, so in theory it could get overuse,” Graham said.

He said he still believes the program has its place at UWRF and throughout the UW System.

“I think having some form of oversight is not a disadvantage,” Graham said. “As long as people are being responsible with what is provided to them as part of their job, it shouldn’t be a problem.”

Schommer agreed, saying it does not hurt to have a program like this, citing again how it demonstrates accountability as a system.

She says the creation of the hotline and website could have stemmed from political pressure of Wisconsin state legislators, which could have created a public discontent towards the UW System. She mentioned the new online accountability dashboard that was set up and launched in September by the UW System with the help of legislators from Wisconsin.

“I think that now there is a concerted effort to demonstrate,” Schommer said, “on a variety of levels, that hey, we’re actually a really accountable place.”

SES promotes student involvement in economics

Jacob Rogers
Falcon News Service

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has more than 150 student organizations that students can choose from. Six of those organizations are for students in the College of Business and Economics, and one of those is the Student Economic Society (SES).

According to the organization’s web page, the mission of the SES is to encourage interest in economics by students, faculty and community members. SES accomplishes its mission by sponsoring panel discussions and hosting guest speakers to increase awareness of economic issues.

Allen Alzouhayli, a 26-year-old non-traditional business administration major, is president of SES. One of the challenges for Alzouhayli and the group is promoting and encouraging interest in economics because freshmen and sophomores are not as interested in economics as their junior and senior peers.

“Juniors and seniors have a lot more interest in economics than freshmen and sophomores,” Alzouhayli said. “Once they learn more about economics I think they’re more interested in economics and once they mature they gain a desire for economics.”

Economics is so important to society that it is imperative students develop somewhat of an interest in the topic, Alzouhayli said. The knowledge is vital to avoiding another economic recession.

As president of SES, Alzouhayli said, “I promote the organization, promote econom-

ics, promote business, and, more importantly, promote the idea of sustainability.”

One of the videos that the organization showed during a recent event is “Mind Over Money,” a documentary that highlighted why economists failed to predict the 2008 recession and why people make so many irrational financial decisions. SES used the video as a teaching moment, so that the same recession does not happen again.

Another, more significant activity for the organization was having members volunteer at the Wilder Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that helps youth and other individuals in the St. Paul community. SES members went to SafeZone Drop-In Center for Homeless Youth in St. Paul and interviewed the youth at the center. The members asked the youth questions about their upbringing and the opportunities that the teenagers have had up to that point in their life. The SES members stressed that getting a college education could turn the teenagers life around. The members handed out UWRF College of Business and Economics cards that contained information about the school.

SES is one of the smaller organizations on campus, as there are a total of six members. Half of the members are in a leadership position such as the president and the vice president.

The faculty adviser of the organization is Professor John Walker.

Students interested in economics and SES may visit the organization’s page on uwrf.org-sync.com or contact Alzouhayli via email at allen.alzouhayli@my.uwrf.edu.

UWRF Art Department hosts Annual Art Scholarship Sale



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Head of University Archives and Area Research Center Kathryn Otto, makes a purchase from the Annual Art Scholarship Sale in Gallery 101 in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building on Wednesday, Dec. 2. The sale has been going on since Nov. 23 and will continue through Dec. 9. 65 percent of the sales will go to alumni, the student artists, and supporters of the Art Department. The rest of the money made from the sale will go to the visiting art fund, to art scholarships, and the student organization Art Society.

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EDITORIAL

Learning the full truth and taking classes may not always go together

Tuesday, Dec. 1 marked 60 years since Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of a bus in Montgomery Alabama, and was arrested for it. This sparked a bus boycott and was a defining moment the American civil rights movement. Parks is now rightfully remembered as an American hero, seen as a quiet woman who took a stand against a horrible injustice. She is one of the first people children learn about in elementary school, and children carry with them that image of an ordinary woman who simply thought enough was enough and decided to stand up for herself and not to give up her seat.

Recently however, articles have appeared in The Washington Post and Time that Parks was actually a radical activist, joining the NAACP and fighting for a variety of causes, including the desegregation of school, public places and justice for black victims of brutality and unfair treatment. Parks spent a lot of her life fighting for what she believed in, yet children in elementary school are just learning about that one moment of her activism. Rarely do children learn about her life, how she grew up and her deep involvement with activism.

We’re taught a lot of things in elementary school, some more accurate than others. We learned that Christopher Columbus was a wonderful explorer that intended to land where he did and obtained the land honorably, and that Rosa Parks was a quiet and ordinary woman who just got more than she bargained for one afternoon. Although our educators didn’t mean to lead us astray with these perceptions of members of American history, the truth is that they didn’t really tell us the whole story. Sure, you can only pack so much information into a single class, but these are people who shaped what the world is today. It seems important that they are understood.

As we get older and our perceptions change, it is important to look back at the history that is ingrained in our brains, things that were taught to us when we were young. We may see situations with new eyes, allowing ourselves to see different perspectives or finding new heroes, feeling a new respect for the heroes of the past. Through this we also might learn something new, discover new facts and occurrences that were somehow overlooked before. It’s important to never stop learning, and sometimes the best way to do that is to find new lessons through old stories.

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. 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 email through editor@uwrfvoice.com. Newspaper theft is a WISCONSIN NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

Clarification:

Two weeks ago, the Student Voice published an editorial concerning Greek Life’s lack of participation in the It’s On Us Week of Action. We stated that because there is an unfortunate assumption made regarding Greek Life on college campuses when it comes to sexual assault, that it was disappointing that the fraternities and sororities at UW-River Falls haven’t played a more active role with the It’s On Us campaign this semester. Our goal of this editorial was to raise awareness about the It’s On Us campaign and encourage Greek Life to get more involved with this important cause. We recognize that Greek Life is involved in other campaigns and events concerning sexual assault prevention, but were specifically addressing It’s On Us, which has seen significant attention this semester. We would also like to point out that our weekly editorial expresses the opinions of the Student Voice editorial staff, and is not meant to be read as an unbiased news article. We use this platform to talk about issues on campus that are important to us and and that we believe are important to our fellow students. We encourage all students and members of the UW-River Falls community to write a Letter to the Editor voicing any concerns that may arise from our work. These can be sent to editor@uwrfvoice.com.

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The start of winter cold brings back warm summer memories

Lauren A. Simenson
Columnist

Snow is finally here, falling to the ground in giant, fluffy dots that resemble the heads of Q-tips more than the individual, beautiful flakes I’ve always been told they should look like. Not that I’m complaining of course; I love winter and every below-freezing day and snow fall that I am lucky enough to experience, but remember when it was warm? And the last semester of school was out, and it was summer?

This past June I went on a trip that was the highlight of my first summer after starting college; in fact it was one of the best trips of my life. On June 4, 2015, my dad and I loaded up the green truck with a sturdy, albeit quite dented, Grumman canoe and left for the Boundary Waters. Deserted expanses of faded highway stretched before us, dotted here and there with the occasional rusty car sporting offensive bumper stickers and signs about watching for moose. Bob Dylan, Lady Gaga and Adele crooned at us as we sipped on now tepid water and ripped through bags of beef jerky. On the first day we drove and napped, and on the the second day we fished. The huge brim of my egg yolk yellow sunhat hid my face in shadow as Dad and I made double tornadoes with our paddles as we canoed around the lake, the smoke from my dad’s cigar lazily swirling around our heads.

Our poles clanked against the side of our metal canoe as I leaned this way and that, trying to tell myself that I had a life jacket on and that it didn’t *really* matter how deep the lake was. Our lures flashed silver in the sun as they were cast out into pockets of structure along the shore with great whirs and swooshes of sound and flicks of deft wrists. When we weren’t casting our poles, we canoed. I was coached by the master himself on proper technique that made my shoulders burn, that kept my paddling arm ramrod straight and made me sit still and seated firmly in the very center of my seat. Proper paddling technique is an essential skill if you don’t wish to capsize. Dad, of course, caught the first fish. I attribute this to

his silence on the lake. I have a tendency to sing “On Top of Spaghetti” off key and rather loudly whenever I am out fishing, which is a bad habit that seems to deter fish biting at my lures. That night we ate fresh fish and occasionally tiny bones that we would line up around the edge of our sloped camp plates. On the third day, it rained. Giant droplets of rainwater splattered the ground and tore up the glassy surface of the lake, a good day for fish and a bad day for someone whose only pair of shoes were keens. On the fourth day, we tried another lake, ironically named Windy Lake, whose water was practically see through and whose surface was as perfect as glass. This lake would turn out to be lucky for me as after three days and approximately a million casts, I finally caught a fish.

My teal fishing line sang out of my rod and danced across the surface of the lake before sinking down into the water with a perfect arch, sending ripples across the surface of the lake. I gently tugged my pole, then reeled in, in a very practiced maneuver to entice the fish to bite at my lure. My pole caught, and it dawned on my that this time, it wasn’t a rock or a tree branch. This was the real thing. I threw the tip of my pole into the air and began reeling in, my knuckles white against the handle of my reel. Dad leaned forward and scooped up my wriggling 24-inch Northern in the net and dumped him into the bottom of the canoe, sending fish blood and lake water flying. The rest of the afternoon proved uneventful, but it only took one glance in the bottom of the canoe to remember that today had been a huge success and that the smell of fish and fish blood wasn’t *really* so bad. On the way back we rolled down the windows and let the twang of Willie Nelson mingle with the cool air as we celebrated with pieces of organic dark chocolate while we slowly rolled on through the deserted woods.

Lauren A. Simenson is a sophomore majoring in communication studies. Her interests include eating dark chocolate, on-line window shopping and reading anything she can get her hands on. While not at work, at school, taking naps or doing homework, she likes to cook, canoe, fish and write.

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.

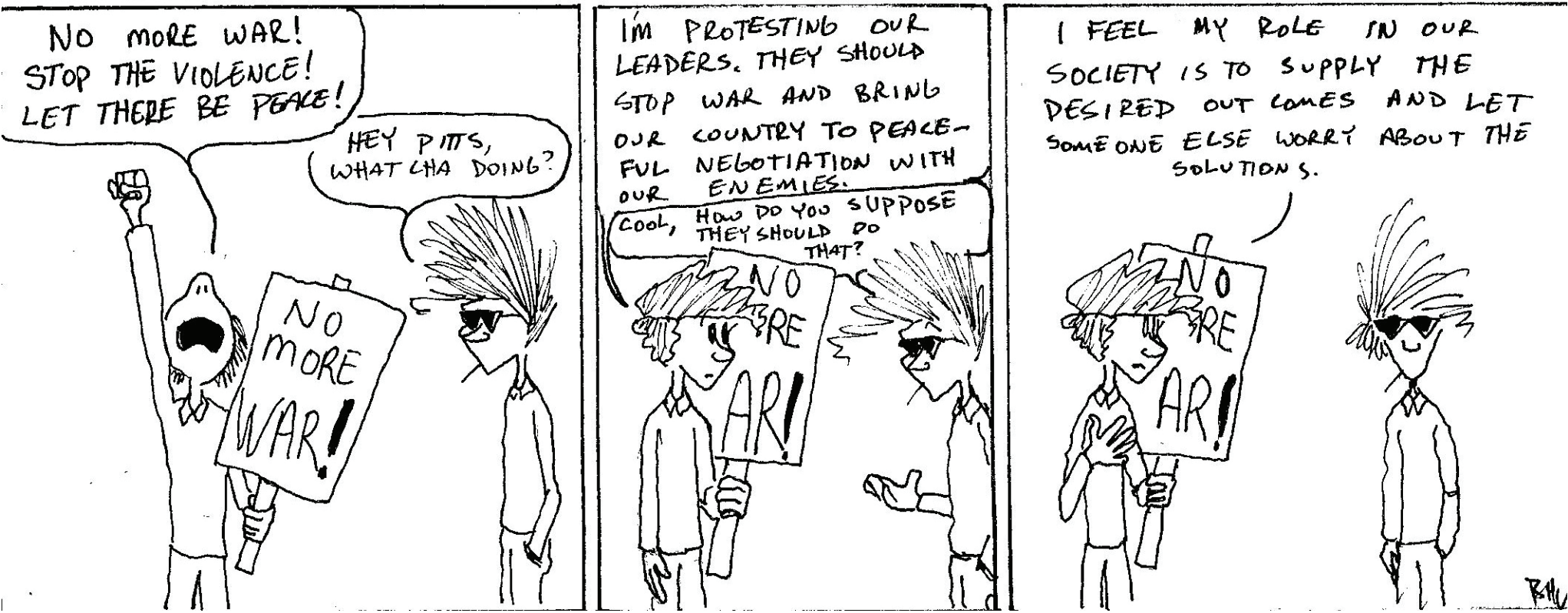


Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

Cartoon Caption Contest

Visit the Student Voice’s Facebook page at facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice and leave a comment with your best caption!

The winning caption will appear in next week’s issue.



Cartoon by Benjamin Heer

STUDENT *Voices*

At this point in the semester, what is stressing you out the most?

Compiled by Tori Schneider



Antonio Monturiol
Freshman

“All the projects that are due in two weeks that I have yet to start.”



Rachel Anderson
Sophomore

“Group projects.”



Sarianna Gaugert
Senior

“The lack of time.”



Taylor Adams
Sophomore

“All of the above.”



Andrew Ohmann
Junior

“Everything. Being in charge of two clubs.”



Aili Brom-Palkowski
Graduate Student

“I’m taking the comprehensive exam for my grad program tomorrow.”

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@uwrvoice.com** AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

The winner will be announced on the Voice’s Twitter and Facebook accounts:

@uwrvoice and **facebook.com/Uwrfstudentvoice**

Now Playing: The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

Email your thoughts to **editor@uwrvoice.com**

Women’s basketball on a six-game win streak

Kate Vruwink

Falcon News Service

The UW-River Falls women’s basketball team is on a six-game win streak, and has gone undefeated so far this season. Although conference play has not started, UW-River Falls tops all other teams around the WIAC, including the favored UW-Oshkosh, which is currently 4-0.

UWO was picked to finish first in conference by WIAC head coaches and sports information directors in a preseason poll, according the the WIAC sports website. The UW-River Falls Falcons were picked to finish fifth. But that prediction hasn’t dampened the will of the team to succeed.

Starting forward for the team, Kate Theisen, said the team had a lot to prove.

“I think we’re going to surprise a lot of people, to be honest. We kind of have been rebuilding and working on stuff, and I think we’ve been playing really well,” she said. “I think we can do really well in the conference and surprise people that

maybe weren’t expecting us to do well.”

That expectation came from the finish the women had last year. After tying with UW-Stout for eighth place in the conference, and going 4-12 in conference play, no one has really expected the women to be doing as well as they are.

No one, that is, besides Head Coach Cindy Holbrook and her team.

According to Holbrook the women have an edge against the other teams because they have a strong group of returning players.

“You can see as they get older and more mature, their confidence rises and their physical strength and mobility gets better,” she said. “Just having some kids with experience in the WIAC is really important.”

The experience the women have comes from a group of 11 returning players, according to the UWRF sports information website. Theisen said the experience is special to this particular team.

“The majority of the girls that play together have been here

for three years now all together,” she said. “So it’s really, really unique that we got to play here for so long.”

But Holbrook said it runs deeper than just knowing each other and playing together for a couple years.

“They really like each other. They support each other. I think they’re going to stick together and really put their best foot forward for each other,” Holbrook said. “It’s really hard to get a whole group that would put themselves out there for each other and I think we have that group right now.”

As their love for each other grows, so does their ability to achieve wins. After taking down Bethel University on Nov. 24, which was predicted to win the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference this year, the Falcons are continuing to prove the preseason poll wrong one game at a time.

This is the longest opening win streak the team has seen since its 2011-2012 season, when it started with an 11-game win streak. The women hit the court again at 7 p.m. Dec. 7 against St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota.



Kathy M. Helgeson/University Communications
The women’s basketball team huddles in for a team cheer. The Falcons took on Bethel College on Nov. 20 in the Karges Center. Their next game is on Dec. 7 against St. Olaf.

UWRF women’s hockey sweeps UW-Eau Claire Bugolds

 Zach Dwyer

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The Falcons got back on track against the UW-Eau Claire Bugolds, sweeping the weekend series with a 4-1 win on Friday, Nov. 20, and another 3-1 victory the following day.

The Saturday matchup with the Bugolds is where the Falcons really showed their strength, staying consistent throughout to register the 3-1 lead. Senior Chloe Kinsel got off to an incredible start, scoring a goal only three minutes into the first period. It didn’t come as too much of a surprise, as the goal was Kinsel’s ninth of the season in only eight games.

“We set the pace right away in both games and really took it to them. We were out battled on stick battles on Friday, but took that advantage away on Saturday and played very well against a disciplined team,” Head Coach Joe

Cranston said.

The scoring slowed down from there, as the Falcons gained a huge control on shots on goal but couldn’t capitalize on a few solid opportunities. The eighth ranked Falcons dominated 14-3 on shots on goal in the first period alone.

But Eau Claire wasn’t going to go down easily after being blown out 4-1 the night before on their home ice. The Bugolds became a lot more aggressive late in the first period and pushed the Falcons all throughout the second period. They outshot UWRF 9-7 in the second period and looked to be taking the momentum of the game. But with only 1.5 seconds left in the second period, sophomore Carly Moran put a shot past Bugold goalie Kim Van Brunt to put the Falcons up 2-1 and control all momentum going into the second intermission.

After a controversial call over a Bugold goal that was waved off for interference, Eau Claire responded

quickly with junior Page Dale scoring a goal seven minutes into the third period to pressure the Falcons to hold on to the lead. The next few minutes picked up significantly in pace, with both teams failing on power play opportunities. Both teams couldn’t convert on the afternoon, with UWRF going 0-5 on power plays and UW-Eau Claire posting a 0-4 stat line.

The Falcons put the game away late in the third period, when Forward Jessie Anderson set up Jillayne Gilbert for her second goal of the year to extend the lead to 3-1 with only five minutes left in the third period.

Coach Cranston was excited about the big win on Saturday, but also saw a specific area of improvement for his young team.

“I was impressed to see how we moved our feet on Saturday and how it was the first time all season we wore a team down. Our biggest thing is getting in shape even

though everybody’s a little tired right now.”

With the two victories over Eau Claire in conference and a non-conference victory over St. Olaf this past week, the eighth in the nation Falcons move to 6-2 on the season. They’ve won their last four games by a combined score of 17-4, and are now on top of the conference at 3-1 in WIAC play.

“Last year we lost two of our first five games, so we knew not to panic too much about the early losses. This is a young team that’s just starting to get their legs under them, but they’re already proving to be a tough team to beat,” Cranston said.

On the men’s side, the Falcons dropped their third straight close game, this time to Milwaukee School of Engineering 2-1.

UWRF struck first in the game, with junior Mitch Kontny scoring a goal only five minutes into the contest to put the Falcons up 1-0.

But it wouldn’t last for long, with MSOE striking back only a minute later to tie up the score on a Cole Larson goal to make it 1-1 in the first period.

MSOE went up for good early in the second period, when Christian Elsborg set up Brendan Unser for the go ahead goal late in the second period. It would be a fierce battle throughout the rest of the contest, but the Raiders ended up on top 2-1. The stat line didn’t mirror the final result, with the Falcons edging the Raiders 25-20 on shots on goal.

The loss dropped the Falcons to 3-4-1 on the season, after three straight losses by one goal apiece. UWRF now heads into conference play with a lot to prove after high expectations to begin the season. The Falcons next host the UW-Stevens Point Pointers on Friday, Dec. 4, at Hunt Arena. Puck drop is set for 7:05 p.m.



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FALCON BROADCASTS

MEN’S HOCKEY

FRIDAY, DEC. 4

HOME VS. STEVENS POINT

PUCK DROPS- 7:05 P.M.

WOMEN’S HOCKEY

SATURDAY, DEC. 5

HOME VS. SUPERIOR

TIP-OFF- 2:05 P.M.

Live music continues to fill the University Center



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Yerin Kang plays songs on the grand piano on the second floor of the University Center on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Kang is a senior majoring in piano.

UWRF students return to a snow covered campus after break



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Students and faculty were met with a snow covered campus on Monday, Nov. 30 after Thanksgiving Break. It is not expected to snow again until Saturday night.



Amara Young/Student Voice

Philosophy of pencil classification can be very complicated

Trevor Hoglund
trevor.hoglund@my.uwrf.edu

Pencils are pencils, but to say all pencils were created equal is a stretch of the imagination that one should not be so willing to make. What exactly is a pencil? Here we shall assume that a pencil is a utensil that utilizes graphite to write, so as to be able to easily erase any

What exactly is a pencil? Here we shall assume that a pencil is a utensil that utilizes graphite to write, so as to be able to easily erase any erroneous marks.

erroneous marks. Such a definition creates a massive pool of possible tools that may be dubbed ‘pencil.’ What could possibly mark some pencils greater than other pencils?

Let us begin by creating a simple classification of pencils within four base categories: those basic wooden ones, lead holders, mechanical pencils and drafting pencils.

First off, those wooden blocks with some graphite shoved within. These are good for art, not much more than that. The variations in these are quite subtle, and can be broken further down into three sets. The most important aspect of these is the grade of the lead, this will be a recurring theme throughout all types of pencils; different grades of lead will write with a different weight, that is, a different level of dark-

ness. Normal, as in what schools want you to use, grade is HB. This originates from those bubble tests, HB (or #2) is in the happy medium between dark enough to be picked up easily by the scanners but light enough to be easily erased. Lighter grades (which go along the lines of HB, F, H, 2H, 3H...) are better for lightly sketching the frame of some art thing, whereas darker grades (B, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5B...) are more permanent and therefore better for finalizing and shading. The shape of the pencil is more relevant for having sloped desks, something like a triangle will be less likely to slide off than a dodecahedron. Whether the pencil has an eraser or not could also be a contributing factor, for convenience and such. Bonus! Sometimes they come in pretty colors and cool designs, mostly for advertisement grab bags, if you’re into that.

Lead holders are the wooden pencils of not wooden pencils, they can be made of wood even. Basically, these are just tubes that hold a graphite refill that can then be adjusted for length. These also need to be sharpened in the same way the wooden ones do, except due to their shape some normal sharpeners won’t work. If you’re planning on buying one of these you ought to also plan to invest in a good sharpener. The shape of these can vary much more than the simple rods that are wooden pencils, the cases can be made of a wide assortment of materials and ergonomics can become a factor in whether to buy a certain pencil over another.

Mechanical pencils are like the middle-class of pencils. They are

arguably better than wooden pencils but not as good as drafting pencils, just a mediocre medium. The majority of these will be plastic, though in some rare occasions you can find them in metal. These tend to be marketed in packages of many, full of colors and fanfare, but the build quality is basically just what you would expect from something meant more so to be sold than used. It is at this point that we must begin to consider lead widths. The standard for most people is going to be 0.7mm, which basically writes like a decently sharpened wooden pencil (depending on how well you can keep rotating the lead to keep the width consistent). If you’re going to writing massively or doing some sort of art, both of which it is preferred to use a wooden pencil for, then you may want to go up to 0.9mm. For those who want to write smaller or sketch more precise lines, 0.5mm is a better option, and 0.3mm (sometimes referred to as 0.35mm) is possibly the best option. There are some other intermediate levels but finding lead refills for those may be difficult, so it is best to stick within these four standard measurements. As before, different grades of lead may be used for different things, these will be the same as the wooden pencils, but rather than buying per pencil you’ll be buying per package of refills. These are generally assumed to have erasers, so we’ll skip that topic.

Here is a bit of a gray area, these are features that rest on the edge between mechanical and drafting pencils, though obviously will be much better pulled off in the latter. Some

pencils will automatically rotate the lead, to avoid the aforementioned issue with the inconsistencies that arise especially with mechanical pencils. This is often preferred for those who want the luxury of a nice, consistent writing width, though may often be quite the pricey endeavor. Still other pencils will offer an auto-feed feature (as opposed to

Mechanical pencils are like the middle-class of pencils. They are arguably better than wooden pencils but not as good as drafting pencils, just a mediocre medium. The majority of these will be plastic, though in some rare occasions you can find them in metal.

the standard ‘knock’ feature) keeping the lead at a consistent length to avoid stretching the muscles in your hand to click the end of the pencil.

Finally, we reach the epitome of writing utensils, drafting pencils. These are those with the extended sleeve for the lead, this allows the lead to reach far enough beyond the base of the pencil to be able to see where you are writing, while still keeping the lead from snapping. As this sleeve is often an extremely thin tube of metal, the best option is to find a pencil with a retractable tip, this feature is either accessed by twisting a knob near the end of the

pencil or shifting the body of the pencil back to retract the tip. Many artists and designers will have several of these pencils around with varying grades of lead, if this fits your intent then you may want to invest in a pencil with a lead grade indicator. While this is functionally useless, it is a nice little twisty thing that allows you to designate which pencil has which grade in it. Some extremely high end pencils will allow you to adjust the length of the lead sleeve or even how much the lead proceeds with each knock (click of the button). Speaking of the button, these do have erasers (though not usually obvious) hidden underneath the button. These erasers are typically very small and customized per pencil, so expect to pay some extra money for more erasers. The only other major factor is going to be the build quality. A lot of these pencils have gnarled, metal grips; while this sounds uncomfortable at first, it turns out to be very nice over time. Metal grips also create a center of mass that is much lower on the pencil, requiring less muscle to write and therefore less fatigue over time, so get a pencil with a metal grip.

Trevor is a sophomore at River Falls majoring in Physics and Computer Science. In his free time he works on web design, programming, writing and sleeping. He really enjoys sleeping. He wished he could sleep. Check out his list of works at: <http://phene.co/trewbot>.

Horticulture Society attracts a variety of students to plant sale



Music student Taylor Ghrum browses plants for sale with Hornculture Club representative Avrey Marricot, who studies hornculture. Tori Schnieder/Student Voice

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