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New state law helps sex assault victims

Natalie Howell
Falcon News Service

A new law in Wisconsin will make it easier for victims of sexual assault to report to law enforcement.

The Sexual Assault Victim Amnesty Bill, or Assembly Bill 808, was signed into law on Thursday, March 24, by Gov. Scott Walker on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus. The law prohibits law enforcement from issuing an underage drinking ticket to a victim or bystander when reporting a sexual assault. It also prohibits the UW System from taking disciplinary action against students when reporting.

State Rep. Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan), who authored the bill, said she doesn't expect the law to solve the problem of sexual assault. However, she said, it will allow for young people all around Wisconsin who have been through a traumatic experience to be relieved of fear while reporting to law enforcement.

"[The law] will make sure that all young people know that there's the same even play-

ing field all across Wisconsin," Ballweg said. "Whether they're on campus, whether they're in town in a campus town, or whether they're back home, they're going to be treated by law enforcement exactly the same."

Working with the University of Wisconsin-Madison Police Department and the UW-Madison student organization Promoting Awareness, Victim Empowerment (PAVE), which focuses on support for assault victims, Ballweg said that the bill was passed through the support of both Democrats and Republicans.

"Because we worked with all the interested parties, everybody in the end was supportive of the proposal," Ballweg said. "It didn't matter what side of the aisle you were on."

In the UW System, a total of 461 cases of sexual assault and harassment were reported in 2014. UW-River Falls had 16 cases, according to the University of Wisconsin System Annual Report on Sexual Assault and Harassment.

However, according to the spring 2015 National College Health Assessment Survey,

126 females and 72 males at UW-River Falls reported being sexually assaulted.

Brooke Marlow, client support advocate for the St. Croix Valley Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), suggests that students are afraid to come forward for a variety of reasons, and that most students who are sexually assaulted do not end up reporting.

"Certainly there are plenty of reasons why victims choose not to come forward, to not get medical attention, to not go to law enforcement," Marlow said. "But the fear of getting a ticket after being victimized, we don't want that to be a barrier."

Erin McNiff, client service coordinator at SART and campus victim advocate for UWRF, said that the way to further encourage people to report is through education. By teaching people what resources are available to them and what laws protect them, victims of sexual assault are more likely to come forward and get the justice that they deserve.

"The fact that people know more and more about our services, we have gotten more and more individuals coming in," McNiff said. "It

doesn't mean more assaults are happening, more people are educated about it."

Marlow said that it is not common for law enforcement to charge victims of sexual assault for lesser offenses, such as underage drinking. Before the passing of the Sexual Assault Victim Amnesty Bill however, members of SART could never promise victims that they wouldn't be charged if they chose to report.

"It's kind of always been an unspoken rule that you should address the biggest concern, not the fact that they had a drink," Marlow said. "But because it was never mandated, it's never been set in stone, there was always that possibility."

While there is still a long way to go when it comes to the fight against sexual assault on college campuses, McNiff said that the passing of this bill is a huge step forward.

"There's a hundred reasons why people don't come forward," McNiff said. "But to knock one of them out at a time is good enough for now."

Minnesota Public Radio personality speaks at UWRF Working Journalists Seminar



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

Minnesota Public Radio personality Kerri Miller listens to a question from journalism major Marcus Fields during the Working Journalists Seminar, Thursday, March 31.

Tori Schneider
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Minnesota Public Radio personality Kerri Miller spoke at UWRF as part of the Working Journalists Seminar Series on Thursday, March 31.

Miller hosts MPR News with Kerri Miller and the series Talking Volumes, according to mprnews.org.

MPR's website also states that Talking Volumes "spotlights books with feature articles, live broadcasts with the author, in-person readings and discussions, and more." It is a partnership of Minnesota Public Radio, the Start Tribune and The Loft Literary Center.

As the host of Talking Volumes, Miller interviews authors, but not just about their writing.

During the Working Journalist Seminar, Miller said that she likes guests on her show to reveal something about themselves that they otherwise wouldn't.

The seasoned radio host was invited to speak at the event to talk about her expertise in "the art of the interview."

During a time when Steve Marsh from Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine was interviewing Miller, she mentioned that she doesn't always receive praise from her listeners, but she does for asking tough questions during interviews.

"There really is no question you can't ask if you come in super prepared, you know your stuff and you have the intestinal fortitude to ask the question. You need some guts. You need some courage to ask tough questions," Miller said.

She also gave the audience a peek at tricks that she uses for interviewing.

Miller revealed that she only prepares 10 questions before an interview because it forces her to really listen to what her guest is saying. She also recommended that interviewers start by asking an unexpected question to set the tone of the interview.

Miller shared some of her best and worst

moments of interviewing, including an infamous interview she did with former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura. During the tense interview, Ventura walked away from Miller two different times.

Even as the keynote speaker, Miller continued to ask questions. She continually quizzed the audience on "classic interviews," asking people to guess who was in the interview, discussing techniques that were used, and describing "the chemistry of an interview."

Miller graduated from college with a degree in broadcast journalism and English literature and she worked in a few different markets across the country, including in the Twin Cities. However, it wasn't until she started at MPR that she found what she described as "the job that brought all the skills that I was good at together."

Before working at MPR, Miller worked at a radio station in Dallas and a TV and radio station in Tulsa before moving to the Twin Cities to work at Channel 5. Miller was fired from

Channel 5 before taking a job at KARE 11, where she worked with the previous Working Journalist, Boyd Huppert, an alumnus of UWRF.

Sandy Ellis, chair of the UWRF journalism department, organized the event and estimated that between 150 and 175 people were in attendance.

Hannah Scheele, music major at UWRF, was required to attend the event for her journalism 101 course, but she quickly learned that she could apply Miller's advice beyond any assignment. Scheele said she is planning a study abroad trip in the fall that requires an interview-based research project.

Scheele approached Miller individually after the program to ask for some advice.

"Probably the most important little bit I took away from it is just how to prepare for interviewing people that I have no background knowledge on," Scheele said.

News briefs:

UW-River Falls staff member receives Board of Regents award

The University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents has awarded a University of Wisconsin-River Falls employee with their highest honor for academic staff.

Michael Martin, senior adviser and administrative specialist for the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS), will be honored at the Regent's board meeting April 8 in Green Bay.

"My reaction to finding out about this was - to be blunt - shocked," Martin said. "I was flattered to have been nominated knowing the level of expertise and the number of high-impact professionals who work with students throughout the entire system. I never thought my contributions would even compare with my colleagues on other campuses."

Martin, of New Richmond, is also the recipient of the 2015 Chancellor's Award for Excellence for Academic Staff. In nominating Martin, CEPS Dean Larry Solberg noted Martin's ability to do the work of two people and his eagerness to take on additional responsibilities for the college.

"I want to emphasize Mike's commitment to the College of Education and Professional Studies, the university, and most importantly to current, past and prospective students," Solberg said. "He truly is an outstanding academic staff member."

Martin began working at UW-River Falls in 1997 as an adviser in CEPS. Since then, Martin has assumed a host of different positions. Some of his many responsibilities include advising nearly 300 elementary education majors and the university's teacher certification officer. Each year, he completes documentation for 500 educator licenses, and he is responsible for reviewing add-on educator licenses. Martin also acts as a recruiter. Four years ago, Martin developed a living-learning community called TEACH, which now draws more students than it can accommodate.

For more information, email larry.c.solberg@uwrff.edu or call 715-425-3774.

Blockbuster film technology available to students at UWRF

Blockbuster film camera technology is available to students in the Stage in Screen Arts program at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Erik Johnson, UW-River Falls assistant professor for Digital Film & Television, through a partnership with RED Digital Cinema, has obtained access to a rare Red camera for use within the Stage and Screen Arts program. The RED camera is the same technology used to shoot such Hollywood movies as "The Hobbit," "Avengers," "Robocop" and many other blockbuster films.

Standard daily rental rates for a RED camera would normally be about \$1,200 per day, so the use of the camera stands as an extremely generous donation from RED Digital Cinema and one that is attracting Stage and Screen Arts students from all over the area.

According to Johnson, the relationship with RED Digital Cinema started about four years ago after he introduced himself as a Digital Film & Television professor to Eoin Bredon, a professor from the UW-River Falls Art Department. Bredon shared that his father-in-law did some work for RED Digital Cinema, and Johnson used those connections to pitch the idea of a demo for UW-River Falls students.

"To my surprise the representative from RED, Nick Watkins, proposed that we could borrow a RED ONE Mysterium X camera for 90 days," said Johnson. "The students were thrilled to gain valuable experience with a top-level camera and produced a series of projects with it."

The relationship with RED continued with Watkins visiting campus to conduct a demonstration with a new "RED Dragon" camera. Johnson then had the opportunity to visit RED Studios in 2013 in Hollywood as part of the Academy of Television Faculty Seminar. He and his students also visited

the RED booth at the National Association of Broadcasters in Las Vegas.

The partnership continued as Johnson and his students were once again able to borrow the RED ONE camera last year resulting in a series of short films that were a partnership with UWRF English Professor Joe Rein and his scriptwriting class. The continuation of the partnership was almost derailed when Watkins was reassigned from the Midwest to South America and the policies of "loaning" RED camera equipment were thought to be no longer available to Johnson and his class. However, RED Digital Cinema surprised Johnson by referring him to another representative who not only said they could use the camera again, but offered a newer and even higher end model in the Scarlet Mysterium X.

"The RED Scarlet recently arrived and the students and I are thrilled!" said Johnson. "We have been testing it out and just recently shot a high frame rate sequence of breaking glass that will be used in an upcoming Dance Theatre performance."

Plans are for the RED Scarlet camera to be used in the upcoming collaborative "I AM" campaign, a project created by the UWRF Fashion Team. The Fashion Team is a student club promoting positive representation of diverse individuals. This semester they are working on their "I AM" campaign showcasing students appearing in photographs and videos in traditional cultural garb including messages crafted with the intent of revealing more about whom each of the students is beyond solely their appearance.

The "I AM" live event is set for Wednesday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. Students from three UWRF classes (SASA Senior Capstone led by Johnson, Graphic Design taught by Dan Paulus and Photography with Brett Kallusky) will pitch ideas and then create a series of materials to help support the campaign in the form of videos, photos and graphic design projects that will serve to promote the event.

"It is a rare opportunity for students to be able to use state-of-the-art technology such as the Red and Scarlet cameras," said Johnson "To the best of my knowledge we are the only university in the UW-System that has access to this kind of equipment for use by our students and that's drawing a lot of positive attention."

For more information about the Scarlet and Red cameras or the UW-River Falls Stage & Screen Arts program, email erik.johnson@uwrff.edu.

UWRF Student Health and Counselling Services to host

UW-River Falls Student Health and Counseling Services will host its annual Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 in the University Center Ballroom. The theme for this year's Health Fair is "Cultivate wellness!" to highlight spring. This event is free to UWRF students, faculty and staff, and community member are encouraged to attend and enjoy an interactive look at relevant health topics.

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

For more information, please contact Meghann Witthoft at meghann.witthoft@my.uwrff.edu or 715-425-3293.

UW-River Falls Dance Theatre presents annual spring concert

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Dance Theatre will present their annual spring concert April 13-16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Blanche Davis Theatre of the Kleinpell Fine Arts building. The concert is open to the public.

UWRF Dance Theatre, a modern dance company, has brought an artistic dance program to students who love to dance for over 30 years. It strives to provide rich dance experiences and performances to River Falls and the surrounding communities.

The 2016 concert features the work of numerous UWRF Dance Theatre alumni, current students, faculty, and profes-

sionals. The evening will consist of diverse dance forms including salsa, contemporary, modern, and jazz.

This year's Dance Theatre had the unique opportunity to work with guest artist (a visiting professor from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and dance scholar) Cindy Garcia. Garcia worked with students for several rehearsals to develop an understanding of both the salsa club culture, as well as traditional and contemporary salsa steps. "Los Compañeros" takes these exuberant salsa steps to the stage. Current Dance Theatre member Mercedes Leininger worked with 10 dancers to create a piece "The Weight We Bear" which premiered at the American College Dance Association North-Central Regional Conference March 21. Leininger explores the emotional process of child loss through both the eyes of a couple, as well as an individual's experience. "Broken," choreographed by Dance Theatre Director Mari Kline-Kluck, also premiered at the American College Dance Association North-Central Regional Conference. "Broken" utilizes projections to explore the journey of betrayal to eventual acceptance and the ability to rise above and move past said betrayal. Dancers express the rollercoaster of emotions through virtuosic movement sequences and sustained lifting sections. Dance Theatre Alumnus Ricardo Suarez has restaged a comical favorite piece, "It's All About Me... and My Moods," from Dance Theatre's 2009 Spring Concert. The piece is a humorous and lively display of the many emotions surrounding a bride's big day. Dancers dive, jump, and twirl across the stage with bridal gowns trailing behind them.

The concert is appropriate for all ages and backgrounds.

Admission is \$5/students and children, \$8/seniors (60+), \$10/adults, and free for UWRF students with ID (one ticket per ID). Tickets can be purchased at the University Theatre Box Office in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building weekdays beginning April 7 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., and beginning at 6:30 p.m. on performance days. Tickets can also be purchased by phone at 715-425-3114, and online until 3 p.m. on the date of performance at www.uwrff.edu/SASA/UniversityTheatre/OrderTickets.cfm. For more information, email Kline-Kluck at mari.kline@uwrff.edu or call 715-425-0743.

UW-River Falls Bowls for Hope event raises \$6,000 for ARC

The seventh annual Bowls for Hope event held March 8 raised \$6,000 for the Assistance and Resource Center, Inc. (ARC) of River Falls. Each year, the University of Wisconsin-River Falls works with the community to raise funds through Bowls for Hope for a worthy organization that makes a difference in the St. Croix Valley.

At the event, guests voted for their favorite soup of the evening and the winner of the People's Choice Award was the Roasted Red Pepper and Pumpkin Bisque from The West Wind Supper Club. Restaurant owners and chefs also voted for their favorite soup of the evening. The winner of the Chef's Choice Award was the Spicy Sausage and Potato Soup from Kilkarney Hills.

ARC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2008 to provide short-term financial assistance to families of the River Falls and Ellsworth school districts to help meet basic needs and provide access to additional resources. ARC believes that "we are a community of neighbors who should care for one another in times of need." Out of every dollar raised, 96 cents goes to serve those in need.

To date, Bowls for Hope has raised more than \$40,000 for local charitable organizations.

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River Falls Police/UWRF Police Department

Thursday, March. 24

- Police responded to a drug complaint at 1475 S. Wasson Lane around 1 a.m.

Saturday, March. 26

- Police responded to a drug complaint in Hathorn Hall around 10:30 p.m.

Monday, March. 2

- A report was filed about a possible sexual assault that took place on Jan 28. Details have not been released and police say it is still under investigation.

Friday, March. 29

- Stolen property in Crabtree Hall was reported to police around 11 p.m.

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

**Have something to say?
Write a letter to the editor.
Email your thoughts to
editor@uwrffvoice.com**

Global honeybee population continues to decline, cause worry

Molly Kinney

Falcon News Service

The global honeybee population has been declining for a few years, but in western Wisconsin organizations like the UW-River Falls Bee Club and the business Plantables have set out to do something about it.

Bee Club is a student organization that focuses on raising honeybees. Though UWRf is seen largely as an agricultural school, it does not offer a beekeeping major, so the Bee Club affords students a fun way to explore the industry.

Bee Club had been around campus for a number of years before Miranda Martin, a field biology major, joined. Now in her second year of membership she is the president of club. She said that when she got involved last year, the membership and activity of the club seem to have been dwindling for some time. Martin and a few other new members took it upon themselves to revive the student organization, and Bee Club now has about seven members who are active and committed to the group year round.

The main thing members spend time doing is working with honey. Brad and Kim Mogen, professors in the biology department, are the advisors to Bee Club and host students in the organization to help harvest their home beehives.

“We go out there for the day, extract the honey, and learn the whole process,” Martin said. “We actually just got a donation to buy two hives also, so hopefully that will get a few more people involved.”

After they’ve helped collect the honey, they buy some of the product and package it into bottles for a sale on campus. This year they also were able to purchase and work with some beeswax, too, and made candles and lip balm to sell eventually.

Discussion of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) is another intrinsic aspect of Bee Club. Martin said that because very little is known about how beehives function, a lot of the work Bee Club does to mitigate CCD is simply research on bee colonies. Bee populations are declining is part because of diseases permeating hives, and Martin has assisted the Mogens on honeybee immune system research. If CCD isn’t stopped, Martin conceded that vegetation and ecosystems would look very different.

“You’ve probably seen in the news that somewhere between 30-50 percent of all the food we eat comes from pollination,” Martin said. “And if you go to California, they import hundreds and thousands — I don’t know, maybe millions — of hives of bees, so it’s a huge business. There’s a lot of beekeepers that rely on this business and sometimes all it takes is setting out some water baths that bees can get a drink from or plant some pollinator friendly flowers, just something they can stop by while they’re out foraging, just to keep them going.”

Honeybees are not native to the Americas. Like many species, they were brought to the continent by European settlers. Bees are a very important part of the economy, as well as ecosystems. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Honeybee Health and Colony Collapse Disorder report from 2013, pollinators are responsible for about \$15 billion increased crop value each year. Every third mouthful of food people eat is in some way affected by the health of pollinators like honeybees.

The report states, “commercial production of many specialty crops like almonds and other tree nuts, berries, fruits and vegetables depend on pollination by honeybees. These are the foods that give our diet diversity, flavor and nutrition.”

Unfortunately, honeybee populations have been declining drastically in recent years. Each winter since 2007, losses of managed honey bee colonies have been fluctuating between 22 percent and 33 percent annually. This far exceeds the historical rate of around 10 percent to 15 percent before the 1980s.

Lack of habitat and pollen-gathering opportunities for the insect is one of the biggest reasons the populations might be declining. For this reason, another local organization, founded by a former Hudson High School (HHS) teacher and a UWRf professor, is working to change that.

Karen Klyczek, a biology professor at UWRf, developed the idea for the Plantables LLC company with her husband, Jim Schreiber. They opened the business — a combination of their passions — in a downtown Hudson warehouse in 2014.

Schreiber is a former special education teacher at HHS and was concerned about the huge percentage of his students who were unemployed after graduation. The average unemployment rate for people with disabilities is over 90 percent nationally. Schreiber didn’t want his students to be part of that statistic, so he helped start Plantables, an equal opportunity employer, where people of all ability levels can get a real job.

“My love is working on social justice, her love is working on environmental activism, so we really combined our two loves and made this (Plantables) really what it is today,” he said.

The company is based on a production model of sustainability. The employees use recycled paper to create greeting cards with flower seeds embedded in them. When the recipient of a card is done with it, the idea is to plant the card in the ground, and it will sprout blooms to attract pollinators.

Another popular product is called a “bee bomb,” which is a small, dry clay ball embedded with many different types of seeds, which can be thrown into many types of soil and will sprout. Led by Klyczek, biology courses at UWRf conducted studies on the product in a variety of surfaces, such as sod, soil, and woodchips, to see how the sprouting would be affected by surface type.

The point of this is to attract pollinators, since so few flowers are seen in landscapes today, Schreiber said.

“One of the biggest problems is the lack of flowers we have, the pollen for the bees,” he said. “That’s why we decided to make them flower seeds. Everything is either just green trees or buildings or roads; there’s hardly any wild flowers anymore. Just plant, plant, plant. That’s what we need to be doing, too.”

Schreiber, like Martin, noted that CCD is something all citizens, not just biologists, should be concerned about.

“You know, we’re all here together,” he said. “That’s the most important thing. It’s basic. If we don’t take care of the earth, and the bees, and each other, we’re going to have big problems.”

Plantables is getting a lot of press coverage in the coming weeks Schreiber said, the goal being to inform many people will be about both the problem of CCD and unemployment among the disabled.

What started with five employees now has 17 part-time workers, of all ability levels, who are paid minimum wage. People with disabilities are often paid less than minimum wage, Schreiber said. He also said that the company is one of only a handful of companies that employ multi-ability employees, the next closest being a bakery in New York that he hopes to visit this summer. He would like to see more companies follow this model in the future.

“There needs to be opportunities for these kids,” he said. “I knew they were capable of doing real work, of contributing to their communities, so I created work for them. They’re real workers, too. It needs to be clear that this is not a non-profit. That’s not the model we were going for.”

He added: “More teachers need to do this when they’re done teaching... Seeing them be productive and be apart of something important like this is the best part... What we are doing here is really cool. We’re loving every minute of it.”

Students offered help with future salary negotiation

Jacob Rogers

Falcon News Service

Graduating from UW-River Falls means interviewing and applying for jobs. An aspect of that process which often gets overlooked is salary negotiation.

Future graduates at UWRf have the resources to be prepared to negotiate a salary with a potential employer, but those services at Career Services may go unnoticed by students. Kaitlyn MacKinnon, a communication studies major who is set to graduate in May, is among students who have been looking for a job. She said she wishes that she had learned how to negotiate a salary earlier during her senior year.

“I probably could have negotiated a salary, but I didn’t know how to, and I was in this mentality that I should just take whatever they offer me because no one else is going to want to hire me,” MacKinnon said. “I’m fresh out of college and I do not have experience.”

MacKinnon and other millennials are becoming the largest demographic in the U.S. workforce, according to the Staples Advantage Workplace Index. The index also found that salary is just as important to millennials as it is to their older counterparts.

The emphasis placed on a salary begins when millennials are still in college. Melissa Wilson, director of Career Services, said that students use the resources of her office at the last minute.

“When we work with students on the salary negotiation process, many times it is when they need it,” Wilson said. “We’ll get a phone call from a student asking for help to negotiate a salary for an interview the next day.”

Career Services is flexible about setting up a time to talk about salary negotiation, but Wilson said she notices an uptick in meetings during the Career Fair and at the end of the fall and spring semesters. Other than meeting with Wilson or Assistant Director McKenna Pfeiffer, students have one opportunity to learn about salary negotiation.

The Salary Negotiation Workshop was scheduled Wednesday on campus. The seminar focused on developing a personal budget, negotiating an initial salary out of college, and accepting or declining a job offer.

One website that Wilson sends students to is salary.com.

“It is a free resource that students can utilize and they can find that starting, median, and ending salary that somebody might have as a sales professional in the Twin Cities area,” Wilson said.

Another tool that students have at their disposal is GlassDoor, where employees at big companies can anonymously post their salary so others can get a feel for the job market.

Employers often ask candidates to state a required salary because they want to make sure potential employees are realistic and not overconfident about the salary expectation, according to Wilson.

“Believe it or not, there are some college graduates who are not realistic about what their starting pay will be,” Wilson said.

The ultimate goal of salary negotiation, according to Wilson, is to get the employer to reveal the initial salary amount. That is the art of salary negotiation.

St. Croix projected to remain one of state’s fastest-growing counties

Ryan Odeen

Falcon News Service

Over the next two decades, St. Croix County will continue to be one of the fastest-growing counties in the state of Wisconsin, according to population projections done by UW-Madison Applied Population Laboratory for the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

Demographer David Egan-Robertson at the Applied Population Laboratory conducted the study in 2013. Both St. Croix and Pierce counties are included in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan statistical area (MSA). He said the close proximity to the Twin Cities is a key factor in the growth, adding that the migration is mainly into St. Croix County, but also slightly into Pierce County.

“A lot of people, particularly young adults, who may have started their careers in the Twin Cities, as they get older and might be looking to buy their first home, a lot of those people, in the last couple decades, have actually purchased homes in St. Croix County,” Egan-Robertson said in a telephone interview.

According to the projections, St. Croix County is expected to see its population swell to more than 119,000 by the year 2040, up from the 84,345 recorded in the 2010 census. The city of Hudson alone is expected to reach a population of 20,780 by 2040.

The aftermath of the Great Recession of 2007-2009 has affected population numbers in areas all over the nation, not just the St. Croix River Valley. Egan-Robertson says during economic downturns, people are more anxious about moving and starting families, therefore birth rates also fall.

As the nation has continued to climb out of the recession, more people have become willing to migrate. However, birth rates still have yet to recover, according to Egan-Robertson. The study credits St. Croix County’s birth rate among Wisconsin counties as a factor in the population increase.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul area recently reached a population milestone of its own, recently surpassing 3 million residents in the seven Minnesota counties that surround the Twin Cities. This is the highest population in history, according to the

Metropolitan Council.

As this area continues its growth, a spillover effect should be seen into the St. Croix River Valley, according Brad Kruse, philanthropy director for the State of the Valley.

State of the Valley is a community indicators project that collects data from a number a different sources to provide a county-by-county synopsis of a variety of demographic data, such as median household income, population numbers and poverty rates.

“People are moving to areas for all the classic reasons,” Kruse, who has lived and worked in the valley for 13 years, said in a phone interview. “People are looking for economic opportunities, jobs, looking for affordable housing, and then looking for strong communities.”

Both Kruse and Egan-Robertson said housing in the rural areas of Wisconsin is more affordable than housing in the suburban and urban areas of the Twin Cities. The cost of living in also cheaper, and income and sales tax rates are also lower on the Wisconsin side of the river.

When Egan-Robertson conducted his study, he used data from past censuses to help with projections. He noted that when it comes to these projections, the Applied Population Laboratory is simply predicting trends by analyzing those of the past.

“And making inferences about what will happen with those patterns as you go forward,” Egan-Robertson said. “A lot of the methodology really hinges on the assumption that ‘past is prologue.’”

Both Pierce and St. Croix counties have seen a steady increase in population over the last 30 years. However in Pierce County, the numbers have leveled off during the past 10 years.

St. Croix County led all other counties in projections with an expected 41 percent population increase from 2010-2040, according to the data presented in Egan-Robertson’s study. Pierce County trailed St. Croix but still is expected to see a 14 percent increase. For context, Eau Claire and Chippewa counties are projected to have a 13 percent increase.

Check out the

Student Voice

online at

uwrvoice.com

EDITORIAL

Success in future should not be seen as exclusive to STEM majors

It seems apparent that, when it comes to education and careers, a bias exists against those who choose to focus both toward blue collar jobs and attend technical colleges focusing on vocational education, as well as students who delve into fields such as the humanities in college which fall outside of the STEM “elite.”

Among the Student Voice staff, there was discussion on how high school prepared us for our future after graduation, and overwhelmingly, these high schools mostly or entirely stressed the importance of going to a 4-year university to seek out a bachelor’s degree. The problem here is that, when bachelor’s degrees are stressed, the alternatives start to seem much less viable when they are equally sound as options.

The prevailing opinion that is heard all over is that to be truly successful, one should go to college to earn a bachelor’s degree in a strong STEM field, possibly moving on towards a master’s degree and beyond. And in contrast, those who focus on seemingly anything outside these subjects have much poorer prospects – especially those who go into the arts.

People should not be discouraged over their ideal major. Every field grants different possibilities and none are more or less valid in any way to STEM subjects.

Meanwhile, just about everyone is familiar with the stereotypical image of the fat, sweaty maintenance man, or plumber. It must be very discouraging to see such portrayals when that sort of field is what interests a person. Even suggesting that these sorts of jobs are of interest to some people can easily come across as very strange.

On a macro level, this can also be an issue. A country needs strong infrastructure to thrive, and these blue collar workers are the ones who keep everything together. There should be no shame in maintaining and being proud of a job that keeps the country going.

The important thing to take away from this is that, while we are all here -- hopefully -- of our own volition, going to university and getting a bachelor’s degree in a STEM subject does not instantly make you successful, nor do those who don’t get their degree have no hope for their future. Success can be achieved without going to college and, for those who do go to college, any field of study can lead to a bright, lucrative future and happiness.

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

STEM job prospects not as plentiful as the public assumes

One of the most important yet complex questions we face as educators is: How do we best prepare our students for life after the university? As part of a national trend, our campus is moving toward STEM-related fields and majors (Science, Technology, and Engineering, and Math). This trend is based on a number of assumptions regarding future job prospects. The conventional wisdom in the United States today appears to be that STEM education is the key to success – of students, of higher education, and, indeed, of our economy in general. Yet as recent history tells us, conventional wisdom is often more complex than it appears, misleading, or sometimes simply inaccurate.

Two recent books challenge these assumptions — *The Math Myth*, by Andrew Hacker, and *Falling Behind?*, by Michael S. Teitelbaum. Hacker is professor emeritus of political science at Queens College, and author of numerous widely regarded books, and Teitelbaum is senior research associate with the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School.

The first complicating factor in discussing STEM is the lack of an official definition of STEM. The U.S. government’s Bureau of Labor Statistics does not have estimates specifically for STEM employment because there is no consensus on which specific occupations belong. The federal government’s Standard Occupational Classification system has defined STEM workers as persons working in the following fields: computer and mathematical occupations, engineers, engineering technicians, life scientists, physical scientists, social scientists, science technicians, and STEM managers; and other specific occupations include architects, healthcare practitioners, healthcare managers, and healthcare technicians.

So when we talk about STEM fields, we are talking about various types of health-related technicians, who work in jobs that often require no formal degree beyond high school, or perhaps a certificate or Associate’s Degree, as well as brain surgeons, and everyone in between. Discussing STEM jobs as if they are one large, similar category is like suggesting that the lowest paid line-worker and the CEO at the same manufacturing firm are both in “manufacturing,” or that fast food workers and investment bankers both work in the “services.” It is necessary to talk about STEM fields in a similar way, especially at an institution that is primarily involved in providing bachelor’s degrees.

Are the job prospects for STEM graduates so different from other majors? This is where things get much murkier. I would encourage everyone to look at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data on Projections on Educational Employment for 2014-2024, available here: <http://www.bls.gov/careeroutlook/2015/article/projections-occupation.htm>. Or look at the BLS Occupational handbook, available here: <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm>. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development’s Job Projections, provided in two detailed spread sheets linked here: <http://wisconsinjobcenter.org/labormarketinfo/>, show similar data as well.

Which data should we examine? Which fields will have the most new jobs? The most job openings? The fastest growth in the number of jobs? The most job openings for those with a bachelor’s degree? No college degree, or perhaps a graduate degree? Looking at all of this data, one could easily make the case for entering any one of a number of fields, including nursing, education (at all levels), food services, sales, or certain specific computer-related fields (e.g. software developers but not programmers), to name only a few. To be clear: I am not saying that some STEM fields do not have very good job

prospects (registered nurses, for example). Rather, I am saying when we look at employment projections outlined in all of this data, it is not at all clear that the employment future, or the economy, will be dominated by STEM fields, particularly for individuals with bachelor’s degrees.

Writing in *The Atlantic* in 2014 (and providing several links to relevant studies performed by leading research institutions), Teitelbaum concluded that “...U.S. higher education produces far more science and engineering graduates annually than there are S&E job openings—the only disagreement is whether it is 100 percent or 200 percent more. Were there to be a genuine shortage at present, there would be evidence of employers raising wage offers to attract the scientists and engineers they want. But the evidence points in the other direction: most studies report that real wages in many—but not all—science and engineering occupations have been flat or slow-growing, and unemployment as high or higher than in many comparably-skilled occupations.” (Note: In 2013, Teitelbaum was named Person of the Year by *Science Careers* [affiliated with *Science* magazine] for his “dedicated, imaginative, surpassingly effective work on behalf of early-career scientists”.)

Questioning conventional wisdom is difficult. Ideas become popular, pushed by certain interests, and the vast majority of the public just doesn’t have the time and/or interest, understandably, to look into the soundness of claims that are commonly repeated and accepted. Like just about everybody, I also assumed that our economy needed more of all types of STEM workers until a few weeks ago when I began to look more closely at this issue. It is therefore up to those of us who are in the business of education and research to critically examine conventional wisdom. The nation’s entire education system was overhauled with the No Child Left Behind Law, which was, in part, premised on state-level results that turned out not to be true. And remember the evils of dietary fat? Or that all calories were created equal? And what about Iraq’s Weapons of Mass Destruction? Or the housing bubble that couldn’t burst? Or 2015’s conventional political wisdom that Donald Trump would fade away just as soon as voters started paying closer attention?

Colleges and universities are the primary venues in our society where ideas, sometimes very popular ones, need to be carefully and critically examined. As I frequently tell my students, research is rarely uncomplicated, and results of empirical investigation often are contradictory, unclear, or ambiguous. Right now, conventional wisdom appears to be that STEM fields are the future, and we had better get on board that train, and fast. As a university, and as a community of students and scholars, I respectfully suggest that we look carefully at all the relevant data and trends that can shed light on this overarching claim before we rush headlong into a new model of education. And this all-important discussion needs to take place within the context of UWRF’s mission to “help prepare students to be productive, creative, ethical, engaged citizens and leaders with an informed global perspective.”

Neil Kraus is professor and chair of the Political Science Department, chair of the International Studies Program, and Pre Law Advisor. He teaches several courses in American politics and policy and is author of two books and several articles and book chapters on urban politics and policy.

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STUDENT ORGANIZATION SPOTLIGHT



Jason Hubing
Student Alliance for Local and Sustainable
Agriculture (SALSA)

Q: How long have you been involved with the org and why did you decide to get involved?

A. Just over a year and I just really wanted to learn how to manage my own garden and grow food.

Q: What do you want people on campus to know about your org?

A. We care about getting closer to the growth of our food and keeping agriculture sustainable.

Q. When and where does your org meet?

A. 5 p.m. 217 Ag Sci on Mondays

Q. How can other students get involved in your org?

A. Come to our meetings. We will be starting planting out in the garden soon

Q. What do you think makes a person a good leader?

A. The ability to engage other people and come up with ideas to get them involved and the closer these ideas line up with their interests the more successful you will be.

STUDENT *Voices*

Which party or candidate did you vote for?

Compiled by Jonathan Washington



Tori Schneider/Student Voice

Students living on the east side of campus and community members vote in the University Center on April 5.

Morgan Vetterkind
Freshman
"Ted Cruz."

Jesse Cwikla
Freshman
"Republican."

Ben Coleman
Freshman
"Bernie Sanders."

Matt Stanek
Freshman
"Ted Cruz."

McKell Larson
Junior
"John Kasich."

Shannon Troye
Freshman
"Bernie Sanders."

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:

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Now Playing: Miracles from Heaven

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

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

UW-River Falls pole vaulter strives for WIAC Championship

Trenten Gauthier

Falcon News Service

It takes a different breed of person to compete in pole vault, and for the UW-River Falls outdoor record holder Riley Claude, the mold is perfectly in place for her.

Claude began pole vault early in high school after competing in gymnastics for 15 years and was the first girl at River Falls High School to vault over 10 feet and 11 feet.

“A lot of good pole vaulters, Olympic pole vaulters, started out as gymnasts,” she said. “When I got into high school, I really wanted to try something different, so I switched to high school gymnastics, and I had that for one season and I had two other seasons to do other things. So I started doing track.”

Claude competed in the state track and field meet at UW-La Crosse in 2013 and cleared 11 feet at the meet, tying for ninth place in division one. Claude said she set a goal after competing at the state meet in 2013.

“When I came here, and all through high school, my goal was to vault 13 feet. When I went to state for the first time my senior year in high school, I watched these girls vault 13 feet, and I told myself that I was going to get 13 feet. I’m still hoping by the end of college I can get up there,” she said.

Claude came to UW-River Falls in 2014 after being recruited by then head track and field Coach Aaron Decker. Since joining the Falcons, Claude has seen two head coaching changes, but has had one trainer as a constant: pole vault Coach Jason Briggs.

“I’ve been super lucky to have a coach here consistently throughout my college career,” she said. “It’s been good to have different coaches, and to learn different things from each of them. It’s been a slight challenge just to come in and have different workouts from different coaches. Getting used to the different things that they expect from you.”

Briggs, who has vaulted since his junior year of high school, is in his third year coaching Claude and said Claude has become strong in more ways than one.

“Mentally and physically,” he said. “She much more solid technically. She doesn’t let things bother her like she used to. When things don’t go as perfectly as she wants them to, because she is a perfectionist, she has gotten better in that way. Every single vault that you take, and that she has ever taken in her life, is unique, they’ve never been the same.”

Claude did not attempt a jump in the Falcons opening outdoor meet on April 2 at Hamline University in St. Paul, but was seeded as the favorite of the meet. Claude said



Junior pole vaulter Riley Claude practices her vaults Monday, April 4, in Knowles Center with the UW-River Falls track and field team.

Tori Schneider/Student Voice

this year she is focusing on the little things, one at a time.

“It is a lot of mental toughness for me,” she said. “This year working on all the little things, I’m just trying to get all the little things together. Sometimes I just need to let myself vault and do what I know how to do, what I’ve been doing for the last six years. Just let my body do it.”

Both Briggs and Claude said that pole vault is a unique event in the sense that it takes a special person to propel upside down using a pole to clear a bar, and that the mental aspect of the event is just as tough

as the technical side.

“Pole vault is tough, for every action, there is a reaction,” Briggs said. “If you change one thing in your vault it’s going to change the feeling at least a little bit in every single point throughout the rest of the entire vault.”

Claude added: “I think you just have to come in and realize that every day is a new day. Think about the good things you’ve worked on, but not think about the bad. When you do, it continues to build up. And doing the same thing over and over again. I know for me, when I first came in as a freshman, I kind

of struggled with doing the same thing over and over again, and you forget that you’re focusing on fixing things. You start going through the motions.”

This year, she is slated as the Falcons’ top female pole vaulter and likely will compete in the WIAC championships on May 6-7, but Claude said she has higher aspirations.

“I really want to get back to the national championships again,” she said. “Ever since I went and saw David (Paynotta) and Jordan (Crockett) and they got their all-American medals, I made that a

goal for myself. I want to get back there, and I want to be able to get my metal and become an all-American.”

Claude said that after college, she doesn’t anticipate vaulting, but has interest in coaching. She had assisted in gymnastics coaching and also has helped Briggs in his annual vaulting camps.

“I like being able to teach and see and show them (athletes) something and it works,” she said. “Maybe one day things will work out someday and line up and I’ll be doing that somewhere.”

UWRF softball to play home opener Wednesday, April 13

Zach Dwyer

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The Falcons softball team may have gotten off to an inconsistent start, but they seem to be hitting their stride at the perfect time.

After an up and down start to the season and a successful Florida trip, the Falcons traveled to St. Kate’s University to avenge an earlier 8-0 loss in the season opener. UWRF looked like an entirely different team in this meeting, stretching the undefeated Wildcats to 13 innings before they fell 7-6.

Sophomore outfielder Aiyana Ledwein said, “We had fantastic energy the whole game and the team was talking the entire time. We picked each other up and had the mentality of playing tough against one of the top teams in the country.”

The eighteenth ranked Wildcats were on UWRF’s heels when sophomore Shannan Borchardt hit a two-run homer to put the Falcons up 6-4 in the top of the thirteenth inning. However, the Wildcats got two hits in the final inning to score three runs and snatch the victory from the Falcons.

First-year Head Coach Amber Dohlman was also impressed

with her team’s effort. “We could tell they’re starting to buy in to what we’re teaching from the St. Kate’s game. The team was starting to string hits together and Michelle LaCasse did a great job in throwing all thirteen innings.”

This strong effort comes off of a Florida trip that saw the Falcons play ten games in six days. The results were mixed, but the team definitely grew through the process.

“Being in Florida always brings the girls together because you spend so much time together as a group. We had a lot of learning moments in Florida, but everything up to now has been part of the process in getting ready for the conference games, which are the ones that really matter,” Dohlman said.

The Falcons hope to continue to improve as the season wears on. Ledwein said the team has “phenomenal defense,” but could “work on keeping their energy up in every inning.”

UWRF now shifts their focus to WIAC play, where they begin the conference season by visiting UW-Oshkosh for a doubleheader on Saturday, April 9 and UW-Whitewater for a doubleheader the following day.

Ledwein said, “Oshkosh and Whitewater are two of the better teams in the WIAC, but coming off our performance

against a strong team like St. Kate’s makes people more excited than nervous. We know we can keep up with any team if we play hard and with focus.”

The Falcons definitely have confidence and belief going into conference play, but need to prove they can be a consistent team to be a threat to the top teams in the WIAC. Dohlman said she believes that a few simple steps can make that difference.

“Trying to get out on the dirt as much as possible is a big key since we’re only getting outside about once a week right now. But making adjustments and knowing the teams we’re playing a bit more will let us make practice a little more specific to the competition,” Dohlman said.

After playing teams they had never seen or barely heard of in Florida, the Falcons can return to their conference rivals they see year after year. Hopefully this experience can make the Falcons contenders in the upcoming weeks.

The Falcons return for their home opener on Wednesday, April 13 for a doubleheader against UW-Eau Claire. They will showcase their brand-new softball complex and try to bring a sense of energy that can put the team over the top.

Check out the Student Voice on Twitter!

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Tweet us what you’d like to see and read in the paper

UWRF hires youngest defense coordinator in history

Trenten Gauthier

trenten.gauthier@my.uwrf.edu

Fresh off the most wins since 2001, the UW-River Falls football defense has a new face in the form of Rocky Larson, who was named defensive coordinator. At age 24, Larson the youngest coordinator in UWRF's history.

Larson, a UWRF graduate in 2014, formally coached at UW-La Crosse, University of Minnesota, and UW-River Falls before accepting the job on March 24.

According to UW-River Falls recruiting assistant Harold Tiffany, Larson is the youngest coordinator in UW-River Falls' football history. Larson said the respect he has with players, and fellow coaches, is mutual.

"I've always tried to keep a player-coach relationship. I think they've got enough respect for me, and I've got enough respect for them, so it shouldn't be an issue," Larson said. "The thing is, the first day, I sat down with Coach (Roger) Velasquez, we talked and he said this is your defense and I'm here to help. I was like whoa, this is our defense, and we are all in this together."

Larson, a native of Somerset, is son of Bruce Larson, who was the winner of the NFL's Don Shula National High School coach of the year in 2015. Rocky played quarterback in high school under his father, and said he told his father he wanted to coach

college football in the future.

"When I was in eighth grade I told my dad that I want to coach college football the rest of my life. He asked why I didn't want to coach high school, and I said that I like recruiting. I don't want to be handed a team every year, and you can't control what you are handed. So from ninth grade on, I took that mentality."

With a back injury in 2008, Larson wanted to play football at UW-River Falls, but could not pass the physical and was interested in managing the football team. Then, current head coach John O'Grady offered Larson a coaching opportunity.

"I give a lot of credit to O'Grady. To give me a chance to coach as a freshman. He took a chance, and I even still run camps with O'Grady."

Coaching at UW-River Falls as a student, Larson said he quickly realized, "holy man, it's time to grow up quick." Larson coached at UW-River Falls for five years, and was offered an internship with the Minnesota Gophers football program.

"Just to sit in on meetings with Coach (Jerry) Kill. Just to see his notes, and how detailed everything was. I realized that is what it takes at this level."

After his six month stint with Minnesota, Larson moved to UW-La Crosse and coached defensive backs. After a 3-7 season, the head coach at UW-La Crosse was fired and Larson

was in a position to move on. UWRF Head Coach Matt Walker originally offered Larson the defensive backs coach job at UW-River Falls, then Larson was named defensive coordinator. Larson said his first challenge was finding a staff,

"How am I going to build a staff? Coach Walker has known enough guys, and Roger Velasquez we hired on the defensive side. Scott Emery, who was a defensive coordinator here in 2006, he lives around Plum City. We needed to surround ourselves with veteran leadership on this (defensive) side. That was the most important thing when I got here."

Larson will return the 3-4 defense with the Falcons, and says his age is not an issue with his new position.

"He (Walker) gets a lot of credit for taking a chance of a 24 year old, but just think of guys who just get done playing and start assistant coaching. So you have a kid who just graduated after playing, and they coach for a few years and become a coordinator at 29 or 30 years old, I just skipped those playing years."

Coach Walker said the Falcons had a number of people interested in the position, but said Larson fit the mold of what the Falcons were looking for.

"The number one thing I'm looking for is people who are passionate about Falcon football. We wanted someone who absolutely loved (the program) and bought into the

short-term and long-term success of it."

Larson has received many congratulations, and says he is happy to come back home to coach where his mother, father, sister, and brother either have or currently are attending. Larson said he can bring a lot to the Falcons coaching staff.

"The thing I can bring to this staff is validity in western Wisconsin, not that we don't have it. I played in the Middle Border Conference. My dad has been the West region coach of the year, I've been to every conference in the world. My dad drug me with him everywhere he went, and I hated him at the time for it, but now I have a lot of connections because of it. And this is our backyard, we have to win western Wisconsin."

Larson says that in the 60 day window where the Falcons had no official defensive coordinator, the team only lost one or two recruited players and credits Walker and Coach Jake Wissing, and says he will coach on the field in this coming season.

"I'm going to be Falcon football, I'm going to give it everything I got. It's going to be good enough, we are going to win games. We are going to win some football games and we are going to take this place back to where it needs to be. This program is going to get every ounce I got."

The Student Voice is hiring!

Pick up an application outside of room 304 in North Hall.

Applications are due Wednesday, April 20!

The Voice is hiring the following positions:

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Language barriers afford important travel experiences

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

Another week, another new country to explore with new sights, new sounds, and language. The new sights are usually the first things I notice. I look up and all I see are voluminous scarves in varying shades of plaid with perfectly windswept hair being blown in the breeze. The people of Utrecht, a city in the Netherlands that you have probably never heard of, are tall, perfectly fit, and can usually be found riding bicycles. It is also the first European city where I feel I do not stick out as much as I have in other European cities because I am within the same height zone as the people of Utrecht!

While I may have fit in physically with people in the Netherlands, that is where all commonalities ended. This is the first time during my International Traveling Classroom trip that I *really* experienced culture shock. When our Traveling Classroom group began our trip in English speaking countries, the language gap did not seem so immense, and having taken four years of French, I was able

to navigate my way around France without too much thought. Stepping off the train in the Netherlands presented me with a whole new challenge, how do I effectively communicate with anyone in this country? The panic I was experiencing was not a pleasant feeling. This whole situation of anxiousness about communicating effectively, of being so exposed and unprepared for the language of the Netherlands, is a humbling one, and left me feeling kind of embarrassed and stupid.

Quick Google searches enabled me to learn several of the simple basics of speaking Dutch, and many of their words, when spoken correctly, often even sound very similar to English words. As our days in Utrecht passed, I began to realize that all of my anxiety over what I thought of was an immense language barrier, was really nothing over which to agonize. As with many other countries all over the world, knowing and speaking English is pretty ubiquitous, and it is even rarer to find someone who cannot understand any English at all. As it turned out, I ended up having no problems communicating with people from the Netherlands; which struck me as rather strange.

From an early age, at least from my experience, teachers would repeat over and over

that learning foreign languages was an essential part of being a global citizen and of being prepared to travel, to do business, and for being polite in the United States and abroad. I was always told it was necessary to always know at least the courtesy words of foreign languages because people are not going to know how to communicate with you. But the problem that I found with these past teachers' words is that everything they said simply is not true today. Everyone knows English, it is taught as part of core curriculum in European schools, and many foreign universities even conduct classes all in English. English is even becoming the lingua-franca (a language that is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different) of the world and of international business. So far, almost all of my interactions with people I have encountered in many European countries, they have chosen to not even speak their native language when communicating with me. Everywhere I looked in Utrecht, English words were visible! One can find English words sprayed onto walls in colorful graffiti, printed on t-shirts, and prominently displayed on garbage trucks, signs, and logos.

All this overabundance of English began

to make me wonder, is this overwhelming influx of English deteriorating Dutch culture? Personally, when I see so much English and Western influence on different countries in Europe I find it irritating. It is bothersome because maybe seeing so much English makes my experience less authentic, less original. Although I experienced some earlier anxiety about the language, I was somewhat disappointed in that communicating effectively was far too early, it was too similar to being home in the United States. Maybe I had these fantasies of running away to Europe and leaving all familiarities about home far behind. However, it seems that the more countries I visit and experience, no matter how far away from home you travel, you cannot escape the considerable influence the United States has on the rest of the world.

Lauren A. Simenson is a sophomore majoring in communication studies. Her interest include eating dark chocolate, online 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.

'Gulag Archipelago' offers frightening look at Soviet Union

Brady Johnson

Reviewer

"A man is happy so long as he chooses to be happy and nothing can stop him."

Not a quote one might expect to be written by a prisoner in one of the Soviet prison camps known as a gulag, but Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn is the author of the quote and a former prisoner of several infamous gulags.

Solzhenitsyn, born in the Soviet Union in 1918 was a famous Russian novelist, famous for his novels detailing his time spent in the gulags. Solzhenitsyn was a decorated member of the Soviet military and saw action fighting the Nazis. In 1945, however, he was arrested by Soviet military police for making remarks that were seen to be anti-Stalinist.

He was moved to the infamous Lubyanka prison. Over the course of eight years, he moved from prison camp to prison camp, suffering a great many abuses at the hands of Soviet government. While it is well known now, the abuses that the NKVD (the Soviet secret police) and the KGB, at the time the novel was written, much was unknown, as the Soviets were masters of repression and censorship.

The novel, the "Gulag Archipelago" is semi-autobiographical, chronicling his time in the many different prisons, it can also be seen as historical as it tells of the events leading up to his imprisonment. Its unknown how many people were killed at the hands of the Soviets, modern estimates are as high as 60,000,000 unnatural deaths, with somewhere between 34,000,000-49,000,000 under the Stalin dictatorship.

These atrocities such as the Holodomor, a series of mismanagement of farms that caused millions of Soviet citizens to starve to death,

or the purging of the Red Army, mass paranoia in the military that killed innumerable soviet military personnel were often written off as American propaganda, and the Soviet people oftentimes don't believe they were as bad as they were. Solzhenitsyn decided to record these atrocities, despite knowing it put himself and his families in great danger.

The book itself was written from 1958-1968 but was not published in the West until 1973 after having been smuggled out of the country. The manuscript of the novel was secretly distributed in the Soviet Union through the Samizdat or secret publishings. It was of course illegal to have a copy of the Gulag Archipelago in the Soviet Union, however it is now required reading in the schools of Russian Federation.

Solzhenitsyn risked a great deal more than almost any other author and it is speculated that there was at least one assassination attempt by the KGB. The novel itself is written

with a great deal of passion and anger. A reader can tell that the man who wrote the novel had suffered much at the hands of very evil men. There is a great deal to be learned from this novel, as it provides a frightening account of how a government can commit such terrible acts without reprisal of the citizens. In the United States we are fortunate to live in the land of the free, and this novel will no doubt make an American reader more appreciative of the liberties and freedoms we are afforded today. I recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Soviet history, the Cold War or a disturbing read that shows how evil men can be. Available for request at the Chalmer Davee library.

Brady Johnson is a junior at UW-River Falls with a double major in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) and Spanish. He has a passion for literature and hopes to teach English abroad in the future.

Bar Review: Maverick's has delicious food, okay service

Tori Schneider

Reviewer

This week I decided to check out a bar that doesn't get much attention from UWRF students. I'm not really sure why Maverick's isn't more popular because I sure liked it. The service and drinks were good, and the fries were delicious.

I went there around 10 p.m. with my friend on Saturday. I chose Mav's because it is kind of an underdog in the bar scene. I don't hear many people talk about it, so I wanted to check it out for myself. When we walked in, there were quite a few people there, but they were all middle aged. There was a birthday party with live music going on one side of the bar, and the people on the other side seemed to just be hanging out. That's where we settled in.

I ordered a Rolling Rock beer and my friend ordered a gin and tonic. I will say, her drink came in a pretty small cup and that was kind of disappointing, but she said it tasted good. The liquor was displayed on a lazy Susan type

thing, except with multiple levels. It was pretty cool, the liquor is all held in place and it turns around on its own. Definitely a unique feature and something I've never seen before.

I noticed people around us eating wings and fries, and I was curious what they had for food so I asked for a menu. Turns out, they only serve wings and fries. We had already eaten dinner, so we decided to just go for the fries. She cut them right in front of us! They were fresh hand cut fries. They even have their own sauce called Mav's sauce that we tried. It seems to be a combination of buffalo sauce and something else. It was spicy. I preferred the fries with just ketchup, but the Mav's sauce was tasty regardless.

Bars always have posters advertising new drinks and shots that they have in stock. I saw a poster for Best Damn Cherry Cola. I love cherry soda so I de-



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Maverick's is located at 128 Main St. in River Falls.

ecided to give it a try. I've tried hard root beers and I'm not too big of a fan. But it was wonderful! I would definitely drink it again, but not in large quantities. Those malt beverages are only good in moderation.

There were three bartenders on staff, which I assume is because it was a Saturday and because there was a party going on. We received good service the whole time we were there. However, right before we left, one of the male bartenders had a dip in his lip. Normally, I'm all for the free use of tobacco but you should not be using it while you are working in that type of setting, especially when you are serving people food or drinks.

Overall, I would give Maverick's a 4 out of 5. The drinks were good, the service was okay despite the small issue, and the food was delicious. I will definitely be back to try the wings sometime soon, as long as I'm not being served by someone with tobacco in their lip.

Tori Schneider is an aspiring photojournalist. She enjoys cats, Twittering and saving the earth.

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