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Journalism seminar at UWRF addresses election

Sophia Koch
sophia.koch@my.uwrf.edu

In the wake of the 2016 presidential election, this semester’s Working Journalist Seminar brought two journalists to the UW-River Falls North Hall auditorium to answer the question: What just happened?

Sponsored by the UWRF Communication and Media Studies Department, this year’s seminar was, in the words of Andris Straumanis, associate professor of Communication and Media Studies, “an analysis of the role of journalism in this year’s presidential election.” The title, fittingly, was ‘What Just Happened?’ About 150 people attended.

A lot of pressure was put on the media to cover the event in a way that informed voters on what they needed to know.

At the front of the room were two experienced journalists. Baird Helgeson is the current state government and politics editor for the Star Tribune newspaper in Minneapolis, and he oversaw the reporting that went on during the conclusion of this year’s election. Dave Nimmer is a retired journalist who has worked for the Minneapolis Star (earlier version of the Star Tribune), at WCCO-TV and as an assistant professor of journalism at the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota.

Helgeson and Nimmer were asked by Straumanis during the opening remarks to answer the question, “How would you rate the performance of media in this election?” They responded by emphasizing the importance of vetted media—thorough, complete news coverage by journalists whose job it is to sift through information for what is most important.

“We treat the campaign very seriously,” said Helgeson. “We’ve spent a lot of time with Trump supporters in the last month, [and] we’ve spent a lot of time with Clinton supporters

in the last month. We try to sort of gauge the mood of the state.”

However, Helgeson said that the election still managed to surprise a lot of people.

“Could news organizations have done a better job of sort of sensing reverberations...that there was going to be a big change in the election?” Helgeson asked. “Perhaps. But I think if you paid attention to these news organizations day in, day



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
The UWRF Department of Communication and Media Studies hosted Baird Helgeson, who currently works for the Star Tribune, and Dave Nimmer, who formerly worked for the same newspaper, about the media’s role in the outcome of this month’s presidential election.

out, you would have a pretty complete picture about what the election was about, and to a large degree what the issues were about.”

There has been a lot of interest in this year’s election. Nielsen.com recorded about 71 million viewers who turned

out to watch coverage of the 2016 presidential election during prime time on Nov. 8, compared to about 66 million during the 2012 presidential election. A lot of pressure was put on the media to cover the event in a way that informed voters on what they needed to know.

One question from the audience at the seminar put it to Helgeson and Nimmer to explain why so much emphasis was put on Hillary Clinton’s one scandal (regarding her emails) compared to Donald Trump’s multiple scandals.

“The criticism I’ve heard from the people on the liberal end of the spectrum,” Helgeson said, “was that we held Donald Trump to a different standard. The criticism I heard from the right was that we did not fully pursue the extent of the email[s].”

Clinton’s actions, he said, did warrant extensive investigation in part because she should have been aware of the level of examination she would be under given the goal she was hoping to achieve.

“Don’t you think,” Helgeson said, “the scrutiny is kind of warranted? I guess I’m putting it back to you.”

There were a number of other issues that were brought up during the seminar. Nimmer discussed the dangers of demonizing the media, which was a common theme during Trump’s campaign, and both journalists touched on the role of social media as a news organization and how it played into the results of the election.

Katie Dorney is a first-year graduate student at UWRF studying TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). She attended the seminar, and said that she felt the event put more emphasis on the election itself rather than journalism’s role in it.

“It became more of an issue of where people stand politically rather than just looking at how people report news,” Dorney said. She added, however, that she found value in attending the event.

“I think it was good to hear a perspective that we should look at newspapers a lot more, and take that into account rather than relying on the sources of media people our age typically use.”

Diversity Dialogues series prompts meaningful discussions

Minjung Ko
minjung.ko@my.uwrf.edu

Since Oct. 7, the Office of Inclusive Campus Engagement has been hosting the Diversity Dialogues series at the UW-River Falls University Center, and it will continue until Dec. 9.

The series provides opportunities for attendees to have free conversations about issues of equity, inclusion, social justice and more. It is open to every student, faculty and staff.

“The Diversity Dialogues are pretty low key events for students, faculty and staff to be able to have a conversation about a variety of topics,” said Christopher Farvour, a UW-La Crosse graduate intern at the Office of Inclusive Campus Engagement.

“UW-La Crosse had similar program called Brown Bag Lunch, but theirs is more focused on staff and faculty development whereas we want to focus on students talking to other students,” said Farvour.

Amarea Witt, a student at UWRF, has consistently attended the previous three events.

“I am with Student Support Services. My advisor, Amy Riddle-Swanson, suggested we attend the first dialogue instead of having our regular Friday meeting. That is when I first learned about the Diversity Dialogues,” Witt said.

The series provides opportunities for attendees to have free conversations about issues of equity, inclusion, social justice and more.

When asked whether there was an interesting moment during the dialogues, Witt said, “I think the most interesting moment was when one individual stated his anger with the UW System and their financial support for colored students, both inside and outside of Wisconsin, who attend this school. Hearing this made me rethink everything. That’s when I was told the Office of Inclusive Campus Engagement is working on support for us, with the start of these dialogues.”

The focus of the dialogues is allowing students to openly express their opinions and carry out discussions. Farvour takes the first five minutes to talk about what the topic is and then the people in the room can take the conversation in whichever direction they want.

“I believe it is of huge importance to have the students lead it because they are the ones who are continuously interacting with each other,” Witt said. “It is also important because it is a safe environment for both agreements or disagreements. We cannot expect inclusivity if people are too afraid to talk about it. These conversations aren’t just to pass time; they are about real situations that affect everyone.”

There have been three events so far which have been titled “Privilege 101,” “The Social Construction of Race” and “Debunking Revisionist History.”

The upcoming Diversity Dialogue, “Healing from Toxic Masculinity,” is on Nov. 18 from 2-3 p.m. in the Falls Room of the University Center. The original idea behind that topic is to have a conversation about how the society ascribes gender roles.

“Given that masculine gender identities are

the privileged gender identities in our modern world, doing a little of healing and reflection on how we, as a society, construct that could be really critical,” Farvour said.

Farvour said that more and more students have been participating in the events so far.

“I like to think that a lot of them comes from better conversation facilitations and students feeling more comfortable talking about these things,” Farvour said.

Inclusive Campus Engagement hopes to continue to increase student attendance, especially as some of the events may be more relevant to what students are thinking about at that time.

“Our event of December ninth is strictly to do with interviewing, job search processes, something that especially December graduates are definitely thinking about,” Farvour said.

For more information, visit: <https://www.uwrf.edu/InclusiveCampusEngagement.eventsandprograms/diversitydialogues.cfm>.

Protests over U.S. election trigger emotions, memories

Lisa Erickson
Falcon News Service

College students have been protesting across the country in the days following the election of Republican candidate Donald Trump as the next president of the United States.

Although the protests have not reached UW-River Falls, news of them has raised emotions for some students, while triggering memories for others, including alumni.

“It’s time to come together and move forward,” said UWRF student James W. VandenBergh. “Protesting is a good thing. People have a right to exercise their freedom of speech, but when it turns violent it crosses the line.”

VandenBergh is a member the College Republicans. He was very active in helping his fellow students get to the polls on Nov. 8 and started Democracy Day, when he and others helped students register to vote.

The 2016 presidential election is not the first time in recent American history that controversial candidates have caused concern among university students.

“I and many other students were worried when Ronald Reagan was running for president,” said Jeff Holmquist, a former editor of the Student Voice who attended UW-River Falls from

1979-1983. He was editor for two years. He now resides in Colorado and is the senior editor for the U.S. Air Force Academy Association of Graduates.

Reagan, the Republican candidate in 1980, ran against incumbent President Jimmy Carter, a Democrat.

“Times were tough and pretty vitriolic in terms of conflict with the Soviet Union back then, but our fears turned out to be false,” Holmquist said in a telephone interview. Eventually, the fall of the Soviet Union and the reunification of Germany came about and it turned out fine, he added.

“Reagan surprised me and many others. He was what the country and the world needed at that time. I was certain at the time that Reagan would be a disaster. That’s not how it played out,” said Holmquist.

According to Holmquist, over the years, both before he attended and after, the two major political groups on campus were the Young Republicans, who were very active and passionate at that time, and the Young Democrats, who were larger in number but less active. Now both of those student groups have limited involvement or others have replaced them.

“The majority of UWRF students have voted for the Democratic candidate in past years and were more active — even four years ago. Nowadays, I feel that the students are in tune to

what’s going on in the country,” said UW-Milwaukee graduate student Michael Peterson, who works in the University Archives and Area Research Center at UWRF. Students on campus are concerned about certain issues that are important to them, he added.

Peterson has been working in the archives for the past couple years while pursuing a master’s degree in library information.

In the archives, political memorabilia from the university date back to 1896. Students have been active in many different political groups. For example, student political group pictures can be found in both old copies of the Student Voice and in the Meletean, the university yearbook that was published from 1912-1969.

“Over time the student senates wanted students to get involved during the Vietnam War era, Reagan and other wars,” said Peterson, who searched the collection for documents to be used in a display.

“It is a big deal [when] students are protesting and leaving class. That really sticks out in my mind,” Peterson said. He recalled that a number of students who had more Democratic views protested during the unsuccessful 2012 recall vote on Republican Gov. Scott Walker. “We are in a different era.”

Continued on Page 3

News Briefs: UW-River Falls named military- friendly school

UW-River Falls has earned the 2017 Military Friendly School designation by Victory Media, publisher of GI Jobs, STEM Jobs and Military Spouse.

First published in 2009, Military Friendly Schools is the most comprehensive, powerful resource for veterans today. Each year, the list of Military Friendly® Schools is provided to service members and their families, helping them select the best college, university or trade school to receive the education and training needed to pursue a civilian career.

Institutions earning the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated using both public data sources and responses from Victory Media’s proprietary survey. More than 1,600 schools participated in the 2017 survey while 1,160 were awarded with the designation.

Ratings methodology, criteria and weightings were determined by Victory Media with input from the Military Friendly Advisory Council of independent leaders in the higher education and military recruitment community.

Final ratings were determined by combining the institution’s survey scores with the assessment of the institution’s ability to meet thresholds for student retention, graduation, job placement, loan repayment, persistence (degree advancement or transfer) and loan default rates for all students and, specifically, for student veterans.

“2016 has been a pretty great year for the veteran population here at River Falls. We started it by moving into our new office and lounge area in North Hall, and got to cap it off with an inclusion in the Military Friendly Schools list,” said Tadd Heichel, UWRF Military and Veteran Services coordinator. “This is just a physical reminder of what I see every day, whether it’s faculty, staff or the students, UWRF is improved by the impact that military and veteran students and their families have had on campus.”

“Our ability to apply a clear, consistent standard to the majority of colleges gives veterans a comprehensive view of which schools are striving to provide the best opportunities and conditions for our nation’s student veterans,” said Daniel Nichols, a Navy Reserve veteran and chief product officer at Victory Media. “Military Friendly helps military families make the best use of the post-9/11 GI Bill and other federal benefits while allowing us to further our goal of assisting them in finding success in their chosen career fields.”

For more information about UWRF’s commitment to attracting and supporting military students, visit www.uwrf.edu.

UWRF will be showcased along with other 2017 Military Friendly® Schools in the annual Guide to Military Friendly Schools, in special education issues of GI Jobs and Military Spouse Magazine and on militaryfriendly.com.

UW-River Falls recognized as top performer in 2016 Sustainable Campus Index

UW-River Falls has been recognized as a top performer in the 2016 Sustainable Campus Index, achieving a top ranking in the area of buildings among baccalaureate/master’s institutions.

The 2016 Sustainable Campus Index, a publication of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), highlights top-performing colleges and universities in 17 areas and overall by institution type, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS).

UWRF achieved top performer status by earning a high score overall in the Buildings subcategory in STARS. This subcategory recognizes institutions that have any building space that is eligible for certification under a green building rating system for new construction and for which construction or major renovation was completed during the previous five years.

Jesse H. Ames Suites opened in fall 2012 and is the newest residence hall on campus. In 2013, Ames Suites was awarded LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for the way the building was planned and constructed as well as how the building is maintained and operated. LEED certified buildings such as Ames Suites are resource efficient. They use less water and energy and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“UW-River Falls is continually trying to improve our building operations and energy efficiency efforts,” said Mark Klapatch, sustainability and custodial supervisor. “Previous projects which contribute to UWRF being identified as a top performer in the Buildings category of STARS include the

construction of the Chilled Water Plant, the KFA HVAC Replacement Project, the Library Data Center project and several window and lighting replacement projects. These efforts are the direct result of collaborative efforts by many staff and faculty, as well as partnerships with the River Falls community and participation in programs such as the State of Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy program.”

“UW-River Falls’ strong performance in the area of Buildings demonstrates significant leadership and commitment to advancing sustainability,” said AASHE’s Executive Director Meghan Fay Zahniser. “We are pleased to recognize UW-River Falls for working to secure a thriving, equitable and ecologically healthy world by incorporating sustainability into campus operations, administration, engagement and academics.”

The full UW-River Falls STARS report can be found at <https://stars.aashe.org/institutions/university-of-wisconsin-river-falls-wi/report/2016-02-26/>.

Give blood and have the chance to win a new ATV

You have a chance to ride into the new year on a brand new ATV! Memorial Blood Centers is partnering with Polaris Industries to offer all presenting blood donors during the month of December a chance to win a Polaris ATV.

Maintaining a stable blood supply around the holidays is challenging as many people head out of town to enjoy time with family, but the need for blood is constant. Every two seconds someone needs blood and patients in local hospitals depend on Memorial Blood Centers to be there with the blood they need to survive. Only volunteer donors can help ensure blood is available.

Plus, those who present to donate from Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2016 through Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2017, will also receive a free long sleeve shirt as an extra thank you.

Only volunteer blood donors can help save lives. To schedule your life-saving donation today visit MBC.ORG, call 1-888-GIVE-BLD (1-888-448-3253), or contact one of the following blood drive sponsors.

Memorial Blood Centers has been saving lives for over 65 years as an independent nonprofit supplying life-saving blood to area hospitals and other partners throughout the U.S. Operating 10 donor centers and conducting hundreds of blood drives each month, Memorial Blood Centers also provides comprehensive testing and expert technical services as a national leader in transfusion medicine. For more information, call 1-888-GIVE-BLD (1-888-448-3253) or visit MBC.ORG. Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

All blood types are needed, especially O negative (O-) and O positive (O+).

For more information and a full list of dates, visit mbc.org.



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Student Senate Update: Nov. 15

Two motions were addressed at the Nov. 15 Student Senate meeting:

Allocation of \$700 to fund ‘Twas the Night Before Finals: The event will feature cookies, hot chocolate and other snacks for students, planned for Dec. 15 from 6-8 p.m.

- Passed.

Approval of the updated Student Media Committee bylaws: Updates to the committee’s bylaws include definitions of terms like “funding pool” and “reserve.”

- Passed.


The information in this update comes from the minutes posted to the Student Senate FalconSync page every week. Student Senate meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Willow River Room of the University Center.

Campus Events Calendar:

- **Language Matters Roundtable**
Friday, Nov. 18, 1-2 p.m.
Wind River Room, University Center
 - **Diversity Dialogues: Healing from Toxic Masculinity**
Friday, Nov. 18, 2-3 p.m.
Falls Room, University Center
 - **Karaoke**
Saturday, Nov. 19, 7-10 p.m.
Location to be determined
 - **Bingo**
Wednesday, Nov. 30, noon-1 p.m.
Location to be determined
 - **Holiday Plant Sale**
Wednesday, Nov. 30, all-day event
Ag. Sci. and University Center
 - **Surviving Finals**
Thursday, Dec. 1, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Chalmer Davee Library
 - **UWRF Percussion Ensemble**
Thursday, Dec. 1, 7:30-9 p.m.
Kleinpell Fine Arts
 - **Late Night Skate**
Thursday, Dec. 1, 9-10:30 p.m.
Hunt Arena Ice Sheet (C130)
- Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events**

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.com**

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

- Tuesday, Nov. 8**
- A welfare check was conducted in May Hall at 3:14 p.m.
 - A welfare check was conducted in Grimm Hall at 7:03 p.m.

- Wednesday, Nov. 9**
- A drug complaint was reported at Prucha Hall at 3:13 p.m.
 - Vandalism was reported at the Falcon Center at midnight.

- Thursday, Nov. 10**
- Underage alcohol use was reported in Parker Hall at 11:54 p.m.

- Friday, Nov. 11**
- A threat was reported at Hathorn Hall at 11:51 p.m.

Editor’s Note:
Information for this section is taken from the UW-River Falls Police Department incident reports.

Protests over U.S. election trigger emotions, memories

Continued from Page 1

Earlier this month, one student at UWRF decorated their car with large signs calling for Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton to be jailed. While other students may be more modest in displaying their choice of presidential candidate, many students are more than willing to share their thoughts — if given the right platform.

Today social media websites are the main way students voice their opinion, but before the internet, newspapers were students’ main source of election information from their campus.

“Social media makes it easier to whip up dissent and emotions. It can escalate very quickly,” Holmquist said.

“I do think our media landscape has changed, which contributes to our general unrest,” Holmquist added in an email. “Now, we can immediately express our opinions for our friends and the greater community to see and react to. That’s part of the reason Mr. Trump got into so much trouble early in his campaign. Back in the day, we had the advantage of more time. If we wanted to express a public opinion, we could write a letter or a column. But it took some time. And we could better develop our thoughts and couldn’t react in a knee-jerk fashion. Often, we’d decide to take a chill pill and wait to see how it all played out. That, it turns out, is often the best path forward. In the end, the protesters have every right to voice their frustrations. But they need to ask themselves, ‘Now what?’ What do they hope to accomplish as the country moves into 2017?”

The Student Voice has served campus since 1916. But several underground newspapers also have appeared, like the Stifled Vice, which began to appear on campus during the 1960s when students felt their views were not being heard.

“The [underlying] theme in 1968 and 1980 was exercise your right to vote,” said Peterson.

According to old newspapers, signs, buttons and election memorabilia found in the archives, many students didn’t think the candidates were always the best, but they were encouraged

to vote or they really don’t have a voice.

Despite the internet and new media platforms, many college students still don’t vote.

For more than 50 years, young adult voters between the ages of 18-29 have voted at rates lower than all other age groups in presidential elections, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Wisconsin saw even lower millennial voter turnout in 2016 than in 2012.

“The state is no longer in the stratosphere of the highest turnouts in this country,” according to UW-Madison Political Science Professor Barry Burden, who recently was interviewed by the Capital Times newspaper.

If students want change, they need to vote, Holmquist said. “Looking back over my voting history, I have voted for many presidential candidates who have not won,” Holmquist said. “I still showed the proper respect for the office of president. The position deserves my respect and my support.” He encourages students to get out and vote if they really want to make a difference.

The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement estimates 23.7 million young voters aged 18-29 participated in the 2016 presidential election. That number represents close to 50 percent of U.S. citizens aged 18-29. National polls estimate that 13 million youth voted for Clinton and almost 9 million youth voted for Donald Trump. An additional 2 million young people voted for third party candidates.

According to many national and local news media outlets, if Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders would have won the Democratic nomination, the election might have turned out differently.

“In my organic chemistry class we took a mock vote for president last semester. There were over 40 students. Sanders won by over 50 percent. Clinton was a close second, and Trump only had a few votes,” VandenBergh said.

A similar situation developed in 1980, Holmquist recalled. “And, like Bernie Sanders this year — who got a lot of support from young people — we had a third party candidate, John Anderson, to get behind in the 1980 election. He actually

came and spoke at UWRF during the 1980 campaign. So it was a politically charged time as well, even though Reagan went on to win by a landslide,” said Holmquist.

Sanders was the front runner for college students. In the Wisconsin primary, he led Clinton 57 to 43 percentage points. “I love Bernie Sanders,” said UWRF journalism major Matt Clark. Students would have liked to have seen Sanders get the nomination. They supported his ideas and goals, added Clark.

The Facebook page “College Students for Bernie Sanders” is still up and running. The site is a progressive grassroots movement aiming to mobilize college students in support of Sanders and all that he stands for.

Sanders, in response to Trump winning, tweeted on Nov. 10: “If Donald Trump takes people’s anger and turns it against Muslims, Hispanics, African Americans and women, we will be his worst nightmare.”

While many people are still reeling from this month’s presidential election results, other are looking toward the future.

“I may not agree, but we need to move forward and when we move forward we need to do so together. We can accomplish a lot more together than apart. Being open to possibility is a good thing,” said Holmquist.

“I’m very satisfied with the election results,” VandenBergh said. “I’m excited about Trump. He has a lot of energy and good intentions. Sanders was a good guy and I would like free tuition, but let’s be realistic, there is no way he could have got that done.”

“Four years is a long time from now,” Sanders recently told the Associated Press, referring to the possibility of running for president in 2020. He acknowledged that he faces re-election to the U.S. Senate in 2018, but added: “We’ll take one thing at a time, but I’m not ruling out anything.”

Clark, for one, has his doubts: “Bernie is going to be too old in 2020, and I wouldn’t vote for him, but I know that there will be others like him in the future. I am going to look forward and move on.”

Alumni Spotlight: Katrina Larsen

Christopher Jurewitsch

christopher.jurewitsch@my.uwrf.edu

As with many parts of UW-River Falls, the Office of International Education is overseen by an alumna of the university, as she helps students learn about global issues and topics both on-campus and abroad.

Katrina Larsen is currently serving as the Interim Vice Chancellor for International Education, working with both UWRF students who are currently studying abroad as well as international students currently attending UWRF. Pertaining to her role, her department works closely with UWRF faculty and departments to provide opportunities for international studies.



Katelyn Anderson/
Student Voice

Originally from Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Larsen first visited UWRF as a high school student, competing in the Agriculture Technology Contest at the school. In comparison to other local colleges in the region, she found River Falls to be the right pick for her because of its small town atmosphere.

“River Falls just felt a lot better,” Larsen said. “It just seemed friendlier and the right size for me.”

While attending UWRF as an undergraduate, Larsen was active in many student organizations. One of these organizations was the Agriculture Education Society, where she met many of her friends who she still keeps in contact with today. She said her favorite memories include attending conferences and planning events for Agricultural Education Society. Originally majoring in horticulture, she eventually graduated with a degree in agriculture education.

Initially, while Larsen was aware of the international opportunities that were offered at UWRF, she was unable to study abroad because of her specific course outline. However, she did have the opportunity to travel to Europe after graduation, working at an agricultural university researching roses.

She later went home to become the 4-H agriculture agent of Sawyer County, before returning to River Falls to earn a master’s degree in agricultural education. It was when she returned to UWRF that she became the first and only graduate student ever to participate in the school’s Semester Abroad Europe program (then known as Quarter Abroad), where she expanded her knowledge in adult education studying in Norway.

Leading up to her current position, Larsen has worked in many positions at the university since she graduated, mostly within the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Today, she and the other staff at the Office of International Education help students find the best study abroad programs for their interests. From J-term programs to full semester programs that span the globe, she said that any international experience can help students stand out when applying for jobs, and it can help them gain more knowledge about the world around them.

In regards to her current position as Interim Vice Chancellor, she said that while she never planned to take on the role, she enjoys having the ability to continue those opportunities.

“When you’re in college, you think that you want to follow a certain path,” she said, “but you never know what you what opportunities will show up, because you might try something different.”

When it comes to advice, she said she encourages current students to take advantage of the opportunities that are offered on campus, which includes student organizations, social gatherings and study abroad programs.

“There’s a lot of unique opportunities that are here for you,” she said. “There’s a lot of wonderful faculty and staff that are here to support you, so you should take advantage of that.”

River Falls becomes magnet for thrift shops as consumers hunt for bargains



Katelyn Anderson/Student Voice

Allison McNeal browses Treasures from the Heart, one of the many thrift shops located on Main Street in River Falls.

Molly Kinney

Falcon News Service

Since the recession of 2008, thrift shopping has made a comeback across the nation, and River Falls is no exception.

Treasures from the Heart, Fox Den Used Books, Second Star Clothing, Second Chances, ReStore and many other shops in Riverwalk Square are just a few of the many thrift, secondhand and consignment shops located in River Falls.

Chris Blasius is the CEO of the River Falls Chamber of Commerce, which helps with promotional work for businesses in the city. She said the high number of these stores that already were doing business in town may have made River Falls more attractive to people looking to open one of their own.

“You know, since there were already a couple that have been established here for a while, it may look like an attractive place for others looking to open that type of store,” Blasius said.

As far as city and county sales tax revenue, she said she doesn’t think River Falls is comparable to places like Hudson, simply because there’s not as much space available for retail stores to open.

“Our sales tax revenue is likely lower than St. Croix County likely just because we’re a smaller city. There are more opportunities to open bigger retail stores in places like Hudson,” Blasius said. “However, while we’d of course like all our storefronts to be occupied, we’ve been very lucky to have them almost all filled for some time now.”

Blasius pointed out that many of these thrift stores are part of a non-profit business model, too. Second Chances, Treasures from the Heart and ReStore are a few of these.

Kelly Zillmer, manager of Second Chances, is the only full-time employee at the store. It’s otherwise run on a completely volunteer basis. The store is associated with Turningpoint, a shelter for victims of domestic and sexual violence. She said that because the shelter was located in River Falls, it seemed natural to open the store in town.

“We opened Second Chances about 11 years ago now,” Zillmer said. “What we’re focused on is both raising funds for the nonprofit, and helping clients get ahead after they leave.”

And despite being in such close proximity to other stores on Main Street, Zillmer said there is little competition for consumers.

“There’s really not much (competition),” Zillmer said. “If we don’t have something that a client leaving needs, we’ll send them down the block to Treasures from the Heart, or another shop that might have what they need. We all work together very well.”

Thrift shopping also isn’t just for stereotypical penny-pinching grandmothers anymore, either. College students are found browsing in all the shops along Main Street, looking for deals on vintage and unique items.

Zillmer added that the store is always looking for new volunteers, especially during the busy holiday season.

Thrift shopping also isn’t just for stereotypical penny-pinching grandmothers anymore, either. College students are found browsing in all the shops along Main Street, looking for deals on vintage and unique items.

Nicole Mortenson, a junior studying art at UW-River Falls, said she likes to frequent thrift shops because of the many items to choose from.

“I really enjoy going to thrift stores because of the lower prices and abundance of different items and brands the stores have,” she said. “I always hope to find an item that is a quality brand I know of, because if it’s still in good condition after being used, it’s probably going to last me a long time.”

She added, “Really, some of my favorite things have been from thrift stores. It could be that I only paid about \$3 for it, or maybe it was the almost treasure hunt endeavor to find the item, but in the end I find a lot of satisfaction from shopping at thrift stores, for my wallet’s sake and the excitement of finding some rad secondhand gear.”

EDITORIAL

Thanksgiving table not the best place for political debate

Thanksgiving is quickly approaching, and for many students at UW-River Falls, this means a trip home to see family. While some students may visit home regularly, others might not mesh with their families so well and may even dread the holiday season.

This election was one of the most emotionally-draining events for our generation thus far, so naturally, we may not always agree with our family members or their choices politically. For those of us who are returning home, we need to remember to be civil with our family members who might offer opinions different from ours.

A good way to remedy these tensions is to politely change the subject if you think a certain topic of conversation will lead to an argument. Say your Uncle Milton, between bites of turkey, decides that Thanksgiving dinner is an appropriate time to voice his support for a political candidate who you most definitely do not support. Instead of trying to refute his arguments or get your own points across, it might be better to just choose that moment to tell everyone how much you love the stuffing.

However, if you do end up in an argument this Thanksgiving, try to be thankful for the people around you. Be appreciative that you’re surrounded by people who love you, even if those people are getting on your nerves.

There are other things to be thankful for, as well. We’re lucky enough to attend a university that cares about us, and one that will continue to care about us after we graduate. Where else can you, when you’re in the middle of an extremely rough emotional patch and feel like the world is ending, talk to professionals on your own campus for free? After we graduate, we can also still utilize Career Services. We have access to a relatively safe community and are able to get a UW System education rather affordably, compared to some other UW schools.

Above all, just remember to take a few minutes to reflect on what you have, even if your family drives you nuts or even if the food isn’t actually that good. Have a safe Thanksgiving break, and be grateful for what you have, even if what you have includes your annoying Uncle Milton.

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.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Active Minds seeks to remove stigma surrounding student mental health

One story, and in extreme cases, even one word, can change someone’s life, which will in turn affect change in the world around them. If you have ever heard of the Active Minds club, we try to get rid of the negative stigma surrounding mental disorders and other struggles that people have in life.

We are trying to create a compilation of true stories of those who have a) gone through and overcome a mental or other type of condition, b) beat the odds and achieved something they didn’t know they could achieve, c) made a decision that ended up changing their entire life and/or d) gone through something in their lives that has changed them, or have just changed anyway going through life.

We don’t just want these stories to inspire those who have gone through something similar; we want them to inspire everyone. Our goal is to include these stories along with re-

search on the hidden strengths that those who may have each of the following conditions possess and how we can not only acknowledge them in education and society, but also to help them grow, and in turn help everybody grow.

The list of conditions includes but is not limited to: autism, bipolar disorder, anxiety/depression, PTSD, schizophrenia, epilepsy, multiple personality disorder, Alzheimer’s, panic disorder, eating disorders, dissociative disorder and ADHD.

If you would like to share a story or know someone who would, please contact me at g.ster224016@gmail.com; it would be greatly appreciated! You could also contact ybetsinger@gmail.com. Please email what you would like to say or a brief description of the story you would like to enlighten people with; it will mean more to others than you will know.

Gabrielle Chapin, Active Minds

Ask Colleen: Business or pleasure?

Colleen Brown

Advice Columnist

Dear Colleen,

I’m a freshman, and I’m still deciding on my major. My parents really want me to go into business or teaching because it’s more reliable. I’m not really interested in those things and want to go the more creative route. How can I tell them this?

From,

Doesn’t Want to Screw up

Dear Doesn’t Want to Screw up,

The good news is that you still have time to decide on a major; don’t feel rushed just because other people around you are declared. I’ve known people who have changed their major five times before they settled on one, and I’ve known people who have stuck with the same one from the very beginning. If it makes you feel any better, I changed my major right before this semester started and it’s my senior year.

Enjoy this time being undecided.

There are so many general education classes that you have to take in order to obtain your degree anyway. Take this as an opportunity to explore different classes to see what you like. Try classes out of your comfort zone. Some of my favorite classes were the least expected ones.

I took Creative Writing (English 262) my sophomore year, and I was terrified when I first signed up for the class. With no experience writing creatively, I thought that I was going to be surrounded by solely creative writers. I was afraid to take a class in which I had no experience, because I didn’t want to feel like I couldn’t preform up to the same standards as my fellow classmates.

To my surprise, there were other students who had no idea what they were doing, as well. The class was full of all different major and interests. Some had to take the class as a requirement,

and then there were the students who just wanted to try something different. That class ended up being one of my favorite classes I have ever taken while in college.

Regardless of what you decide as a major, I recommend taking as many varying general education classes you can. You never know what class may lead you to finding another passion of yours.

Another good way to find out about great classes or professors is to talk to other students. Students are really going to give you the inside scoop on the class and be honest with you about it. You can look up the class or professor online and that gives you an overview of the class, but that doesn’t tell you what the class or professor is really like or what you should expect from the class.

I like discussion-based classes, because I can’t sit through a lecture. I’d rather write papers than take exams. An online synopsis about the class isn’t going to tell me those details that are important to me. Personally, I think firsthand experience from a student is much more informative than a short blurb about the class online.

I’m an English major, and I’ve never taken a management class in my life, but I’m taking one next semester. One of my friends in the class praised a certain management professor, so I decided to take the class. With it being my last semester here, I wanted to try something different. Besides, it feels as if I have taken every literature class available and I definitely need a break from reading three novels every week.

As far as telling your parents, I wouldn’t worry too much. College is the time to explore your options and to find what you like. Remember, you are the one getting the degree, not them. For every parent, they want to see their kid succeed and do well in life. I hate to break it to your parents, but a business or teaching degree isn’t any more reliable than a history degree.

What I am trying to say is that nothing in life is concrete or guaranteed. Just because you get a business degree

doesn’t mean you will automatically get a job out of college. It’s about how you use your skill set and personality to sell yourself regardless of the degree you have.

One last important piece is to work closely with your advisor on the classes you are taking. She or he will be able to make you stay on track and take classes that will meet graduation requirements. I’ve heard the horror stories from students who’ve taken classes that they didn’t need or missed taking a class they needed. This really put them in a bad place because they either fell too short of their requirements or now have to wait another year to take a class.

Take various classes, but just make sure you are being conscious about how this will impact your graduation date. I would imagine that you probably want to finish up your undergrad in about four years. Again, reach out to other students about this, too. Learning how to read your DAR can be very challenging the first couple of times. I actually learned how to read mine by asking my RA freshmen year. Talking to your advisor and fellow classmates will help you along the way.

You say that you don’t want to screw up, but you have already come this far. Just keep doing what you are passionate about and find a way to make a living doing it. Besides, you’ll be miserable if you stick to a major you aren’t that excited about.

I would also advise you to talk to as many people as you can who share the same creative bug you have. Making connections and networking will go a long way. Those connections you make now could potentially benefit your future, as well. As cliché as this sounds, just keep doing you and everything will fall into place.

Best,

Colleen

Colleen Brown is a senior at UWRF going for an English Literature degree. One thing that makes her qualified for this advice column is that she is a college student trying to make it through, just like everyone else.

Inclusivity means accepting everyone

Reo Ford

Columnist

The other night I attended an event that woke me up from a sleep that I didn’t even know I was in. The event focused on a film called “Inclusive Negligence” by students at UW-La Crosse.

In the film, students of color talked about the racism that they have encountered on campus and the isolation that they feel because of those experiences. Although the film focuses on UWL, its overall objective and the purpose of the event is to spark conversations about how universities in general, like UW-River Falls, can create environments where all students feel safe and included.

The speakers of the night were Laurie Stoll, a professor in the sociology department at UWL, and Karter Etchin, a student at UWL and one of the creators of the film.

The reason why I say it woke me up from a sleep is because, potentially like a lot of other people, I didn’t know that there was such a level of bigotry plaguing universities. From the experiences that I have had thus far at UWRF, I would had never even guessed that this sort of crap was happening around our campus.

It was a comment that was made by a student in the audience during the Q&A portion that made me take a step-back and see our campus in a whole new light. She said, “UWRF has a lot of work to do.”

When that comment was made, I could feel my heart sink to my feet. There was a small ounce of me that felt a little relief while I was watching the film, because as a student of color, I didn’t think that the sort of hatred exhibited at La Crosse was happening in River Falls.

I guess my ignorance stemmed from the fact that I personally have not experienced any of it, but that sort of thinking is ignorant in itself. Just because I haven’t experienced something doesn’t mean that other students aren’t.

Although she didn’t go into detail about what students are experiencing at UWRF, just knowing that somewhere on campus there is a student who is feeling alienated should be enough for us all to want to stand up and do something.

As the Q&A went on and slowly turned into a general open discussion, Etchin said something that resonated with me. He said that the issues that are seen at La Crosse and other universities mirror those that can be seen around the country, which is extremely scary to think about.

Racism is still alive and well in this country, which is apparent with all the hate crimes that are constantly being talked about in the news. I think that everybody should be concerned by that, even those who aren’t part of a minority group; just knowing that our country, let alone college campuses, are filled with such hatred should shake everybody to their core.

With all of this in mind, I can’t help but think about all the signs around campus that broadcast an “inclusive” environment. Those signs are just merely taking up space and mean absolutely nothing if not all students feel included.

The eye-opening film can be accessed by anybody who cares to watch it on UWL’s website. Just type in “Inclusive Negligence” in the search bar. I encourage everybody to watch it, process it and start discussing it.

If there is one thing that I’ve learned in my 21 years of existence, it’s that hate will always exist, but I don’t think that it needs to show its ugly face in schools. Let’s all strive to make our university a brighter place where all students feel valued.

Reo Ford is a journalism student. She loves hiking with her dog, but when the weather doesn’t permit it she enjoys binging on Netflix, writing and taking naps with her cats.

Additions to world of ‘Harry Potter’ cause mixed feelings

Lauren A. Simenson

Columnist

Last weekend I saw a trailer on television for the new “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” movie, the latest film installment in the Harry Potter world created by author J.K. Rowling.

The commercial I saw advertised the movie “as a love letter to Harry Potter fans” as scenes of magical creatures in 1920s America swirled on the screen. An innocent enough statement that nonetheless caused me to have a not-so-favorable reaction to the whole advertisement.

Not one to mince words, I will just come right out and say it: I am obsessed with “Harry Potter” and unapologetically so. “Harry Potter” has been part of my life since before I learned how to read and has occupied a large space in my formative years and continues to be important to me as an adult.

It was difficult enough reading book seven, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” in 2007, and knowing that Harry’s story had come to an end. I remember feeling an overwhelming feeling of “What do I do now?” “What happens when a series of books you have immersed your life in, stops?”

At least, I consoled myself, there are still the “Harry Potter” movies to look forward to, even if they pale in comparison to the books. But when 2011 came around and signaled the very end of the movies, I experienced an even greater sense of loss and even more tears! Why? Because I had to say goodbye to Harry, Ron and Hermione yet again.

Now, with this next installment in the “Harry Potter” world, I do not think it is a love letter, but rather a guilt-inducing letter from an ex-boyfriend you thought you would be together with forever. An ex-boyfriend you were so in love with but had to break up, but now you’re coping without him, but he insists on not letting you move on from him.

Frankly, it’s cruel that more and more “Harry Potter” books and plays and movies are being introduced, especially when they’re not good. I’m looking at you, “Cursed Child!” I have tried so hard to be okay with letting “Harry Potter” go, so

why can’t J.K. Rowling just let me just cope?

“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” is the first movie in a five-part installment that will span nineteen years in the wizarding world. With the movie premiering on Friday, Nov. 18, I approach the whole experience with two feelings at passionate odds of one another.

On one hand, I have a tremendous feeling of anxiety and tension about whether or not I want to allow myself to fall too deeply into any more of the world of “Harry Potter.” The other side of me craves to know as much as I can about a world that I, truthfully, will not be able to live without. With seven books and eight movies behind me, and five Fantastic Beasts movies yet to come, it is clear that “Harry Potter” will be my past, present and future.

Lauren Simenson is a junior majoring in journalism and communication studies. Her interests 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.

North Hall remains a hive of activity well into late fall

Bethany Lovejoy

Columnist

If you have the misfortune of taking class in North Hall this semester or having a club that meets there even within the late hours of the day, I applaud you. If you don’t then please let me inform you of why, within even the latest of the fall months, we are still assaulted by a troupe of hornets and wasps determined to not die.

Where do they come from, what do they eat, how are they still alive in late fall? These are the questions students are forced to ask themselves as they fend off tacks with wings.

As you sit within the lecture hall in North Hall, you are able to get very familiar with the anatomy of wasps and hornets during your geography, art, music and math classes. Every five seconds one will dive close to your head and then take off, almost as if it is a joke. The strong-willed will

sit there with a hornet on their shoulder, struggling to limit movement as they write the meaning of Polaris and true north. The weak-willed will eventually give up, walking out of their lectures to escape the tiny bodies filled with rage.

Amongst all of us, however, there are heroes. During the length of a lecture you will hear a variety of slams and claps as people hopelessly compete against these creatures for domination of the hall. Like valiant knights, they raise their hardcover Riverside Anthology of Literature and, like a ring of a town’s bell, a thud will call out afterwards. Such acts of bravery should be responded to with whooping cheers or at least a half a point of extra credit.

After snow’s first fall, will we still be applauding the efforts of those with strength much greater than us? Or will the wasp menaces lay deep within their graves of garbage, having been swept up by the school custodial staff? Perhaps they will never truly leave us, or lay in wait as they did in early November lulling us into safety for a matter of days.

Has the school noticed? Have they accounted for the idea of a thousand iterations of anger constantly messing with the student body? Does the budget cover cans of Raid? Most

importantly, how many people have been stung?

My suggestion for the university is to either hire an exterminator or take cautions to lessen the population of wasps. Such actions that could be taken by the university include sealing windows, reducing the swamp-like heat of North Hall or hiring teachers aides to patrol classes armed with high quality fly swatters.

While wasps are also present in other buildings on campus, they seem to gather nowhere else as en masse as within the warm, moist climate of North Hall. As they are far away from most students and interact mainly with administration members, the university has deemed North Hall too unimportant to worry about. North Hall has become for wasps a lawless wasteland, where any remotely aggressive wasp actions are considered acceptable and no one dares to question it.

Bethany Lovejoy is a sophomore majoring in creative writing and literature. She enjoys theater, snacking and sewing. In her free time she works at the Student Voice and collects fox-themed items.

STUDENT VOICES

“If you could wake up tomorrow having the gained one quality or ability, what would it be?”

Compiled by Samantha Decker



Carolyn Little
Sophomore

“To be able to pass any test or exam without studying.”



Abby Slick
Senior

“Eat as much food as I want without gaining weight.”



Susie Schmitt
Sophomore

“The ability to see the world through someone else’s eyes.”



Morgan Mogler
Senior

“Knowing infinite amounts of random fun facts.”



Nicole Ferreira
Senior

“Teleportation, because my personal brand is getting crunched because I am always late.”

UWRF football takes down Stevens Point for tough Senior Day win

Zach Dwyer

zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

The UW-River Falls Falcon Football pulled a stunning upset fueled by the senior leaders to take down UW-Stevens Point 34-16 on Senior Day at Ramer Field.

The Falcons came into Senior Day as underdogs to the Stevens Point Pointers, who had managed a 6-3 record compared to UWRF's 3-6 record. The Pointers forced a Falcon three and out to start the game and built their momentum from there. Kicker Kyle Hendzel drilled an incredible 48-yard field goal on Point's first drive to take the lead 3-0.

The first quarter struggles continued for the Falcons, who ended their season managing only seven points in the first quarter throughout 10 games this season. This defining statistic continued to put the team in a hole with Point putting together a 57-yard drive which was capped off by a Kyle Larson touchdown pass to give UW-Stevens Point a 10-0 lead.

This began to give the feeling that last year's 44-0 loss to the Pointers was bound to repeat on Saturday. However, the Falcons responded by scoring on the first play of the second quarter for wide receiver Trenton Monson's fifth touchdown catch of the year to close the gap to 10-7.

After a fake punt attempt by UW-Stevens Point was shut down perfectly by the Falcons later in the second quarter, UWRF took over possession of the ball at the Point 13-yard line. Only two plays later, quarterback Travon Hearn found Michael Diggins for another passing touchdown to take the lead 14-7.

"Since it was our last game, our head coach said, 'Find a way for these seniors to go out on top,' defensive lineman Kyle Hunter said. "That was the biggest motivation, that we had nothing to lose and to give it all we had for the seniors going out."

The real story of the day was the huge impact made by senior leaders. Ten Falcons were playing in the final game of their respective careers, and the intensity was clear on the field.

Defensive Back Tyler Ledbetter was

all over the field and managed to break up two passes. Linebacker Albert Itula continued his dominant season by recording five solo tackles and making Point quarterback Kyle Larson uncomfortable in the pocket all afternoon.

But the two most impressive performances of the day came from Hunter and senior safety Robbie Flom. Hunter added two tackles for loss and came away with two big sacks in key situations for the Falcons. Hunter finished the season leading the WIAC in sacks with 10 and tackles for loss with 13.5.

"I played against Larson in high school, so it was fun getting the sacks on him," Hunter said. "I wasn't even blocked or touched on the two sacks, so it was more of a team defense kind of deal."

Flom's biggest impact was on a punt return that ended up sealing the game for the Falcons. Flom returned a punt 63 yards for a touchdown on a play that put the Falcons up 34-10 and made Ramer Field the loudest it's been in recent years. The punt return for a touchdown was also UWRF's first since at least 1998.

"That punt return was called on the sidelines as a safe call, meaning no one was gonna block and I had to fair catch it. We improvised as a unit on the field and were able to score and celebrate together as a team after. It's nice to know that, after 20 years, we as a team could accomplish this," Flom said.

Earlier touchdown runs by Rance Ashley and Travon Hearn allowed the Falcons to go on cruise control after the punt return and hold out for a 34-16 win. Defense was clearly the key to the victory, with UWRF allowing a remarkable two yards on 24 carries by the Pointers. The performance on Saturday felt more like the Falcon defense that led the team to a three-game winning streak last season.

"We wanted to show everyone that last game [against Whitewater] wasn't a fluke and, as a team, our emotions were high after the win. For the program, it shows that our team is becoming a contender in this conference," Flom said.

The Falcon pass attack only put up 139 yards, but was much more consistent on Saturday with a 75 percent completion percentage. The dual quarterback system of Sawyer Moon and Travon Hearn was at its best against Point, with Moon also finishing second on the afternoon in rushing.

With the win, the Falcons finished their 2016 campaign with an identical 4-6 overall record and 3-4 record in the WIAC that they achieved the previous season. The last two performances of the season only breed confidence for what the future may hold, while Hunter believes the Falcons can take the next step.

"I think it will be a great turnaround after we finished fourth in the conference. It will be big for recruiting and shows we're the next team up to go to the playoffs after the top three WIAC teams," Hunter said.

Hunter's senior class will be the last smaller class to finish as Falcons for what could be many seasons to come. The class of 2016 is clearly the transitional class of the program, starting with a grass field and an 0-10 season to now having all new facilities and a fourth place finish.

Hunter also remains optimistic that the Falcon Center and success of the program will continue to bring new recruits into the revitalized program. "We had recruits coming every day to watch the games, and I don't know why people wouldn't come here with the new additions," Hunter said.

Optimism should be high for the future of the Falcons, with a huge crop of veterans returning. Four of UWRF's six losses also came to teams who made the Div. III Football Playoffs, proving their strength of schedule was one of the best in the nation.

The biggest improvement needs to be seen at kicker, where the Falcons finished 0-6 on field goals this season. If players can also step up to fill the holes left by a solid senior class, the Falcons can push for their first .500 season in 16 years.

From a team who was 0-10 only three seasons ago, the Falcons now aim to tackle the final obstacle of competing for a WIAC title.

Falcon Athlete of the Week: Rance Ashley



Kathy Helgeson/University Communications

Zach Dwyer

zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

UWRF senior Rance Ashley had a monster Senior Day to lead the Falcons to a huge win over the UW-Stevens Point Pointers 34-16 on Saturday.

Ashley, a senior running back from North Branch, Minnesota, carried the Falcon Football offense throughout the game in their season finale. He led UW-River Falls with 87 yards rushing on only 11 carries, good for 7.9 yards per carry. His 42-yard breakout touchdown run in the third quarter gave the Falcons a 21-10 lead over the Pointers that swung the momentum completely in UWRF's favor. Ashley also led the Falcons with 40 receiving yards on five receptions.

The Student Voice sat down with Ashley to discuss the big upset win over Stevens Point and the end to his football career.

Q: How important was it for you personally to go out with a strong Senior Day performance?

A: It was really awesome, because we haven't won our last game since I've been here. It meant a lot to get fourth place in the conference. Going out on that high note, I can't even put into words, it's just amazing.

Q: What kept the team motivated after getting down 10-0 in the first quarter?

A: From the previous week against Whitewater, we came in with a lot of confidence with what we can do. It was just more relaxed when we were down rather than other games when we've been down. We just stayed a lot more composed than in previous games.

Q: Stevens Point seemed to shut down your receivers, but what led the running backs to get more catches out of the backfield than usual?

A: I think it was game planning. We were planning to take a lot of shots to our receivers, but it didn't really work out. But it happened to work out a lot better getting the ball to the backs and it opened up the run game more too.

Q: What led the defense to shut down Point after those two early drives?

A: Our defensive line was on fire the whole game by getting tackles for loss and sacks and they kept destroying [the Pointers] morale.

Q: What kind of confidence does that give you on offense when your defense is playing so well?

A: They bring us up because we know, even if we go three and out, we can go watch the defense. It gives motivation for us to score because they just worked so hard. It makes us want to go out and take out the other team's momentum.

Q: What was it about playing at home this season that seemed to breed success, with the team finishing 4-1 at Ramer Field?

A: That was the weird thing about this year, our bus trips were all different until the Whitewater game. The energy and being at home led to our home field advantage.

Q: What expectations are returning for the team next year, and do you think they can make the jump from 4-6?

A: They can easily because Oshkosh, Whitewater and Platteville are all in the tournament right now and we're right behind them by ourselves. We're right there, but the difference was just a couple of tough losses at the beginning of the conference.

Q: Is there a specific aspect of the team's game that needs to change in order to compete with those top teams?

A: We could be more disciplined, because we had so many penalties we could've prevented. It's because we're a much younger team than those top teams where we're playing against juniors and seniors every week.

Q: What will you remember most about your time as a Falcon?

A: The people and all the friendships that I've made in the four years I've been here.

Q: What was the most important thing this senior class brought to the program?

A: A change of culture with how we interacted with the underclassman. It was a big change from my freshman year to how we interacted. They will be more connected and will have that family aspect to fight for each other.



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice

Senior Robbie Flom returns a punt for a touchdown for the first time since at least 1998 for the Falcons.

Sports Schedule

- Nov. 18: Men's basketball vs. Robert Morris College (Menomonie, Wisconsin), 5 p.m.
- Nov. 18: Women's basketball at Wisconsin Lutheran, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 18: Men's hockey at Lake Forest College, 7:30 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Men's cross country at NCAA Nationals (Louisville, Kentucky), 11 a.m.
- Nov. 19: Men's basketball vs. Hope College (Menomonie, Wisconsin), 1 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Women's basketball vs. Carthage College (Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 1 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Men's hockey at Milwaukee School of Engineering, 7 p.m.

- Nov. 19: Women's hockey at UW-Eau Claire, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 22: Women's basketball at Bethel, 5:45 p.m.
- Nov. 22: Men's basketball at Carthage College, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 22: Women's hockey vs. St. Olaf, 7:05 p.m.**
- Nov. 29: Women's basketball vs. Viterbo University, 6 p.m.**
- Nov. 29: Men's basketball vs. Viterbo University, 8 p.m.**
- Home Games in **BOLD**

uwrfvoice.com

Annual St. Croix Valley Bull Test draws interest from around Midwest

Tori Schneider
Falcon News Service

Seventy bulls participating in the annual St. Croix Valley Bull Test are spending the next four months at the Mann Valley Farm near River Falls. The bulls arrived at the farm, which is run by UW-River Falls, on Nov. 5. All the animals live in the same environment and eat the same feed for 112 days. The test is set up as a competition. “There’s a lot of variables that can take place while they’re here,” said Harry Larsen, laboratory farm associate. The test aims to pick out those animals that do the best genetically. Larsen is in charge of the day-to-day care of the animals at the farm. During the test, the bulls are divided by size. Bulls of the Black Angus breed, the breed with the most animals participating, compete against each other. All other breeds, such as Hereford or Normande, compete in the same category. To participate, all bulls must be registered with their breed association and enrolled in their breed association’s herd improvement records. The bulls have a two-week warm-up period before their first weigh-in on Nov. 17 and 18. The bulls are then weighed every 28 days. In April, the bulls are given an index based 75 percent on their average daily gain over the period of the test, and 25 percent on their weight per day of age figured back to birth. The bulls that have done the best, usually around 40 or 50, will be sold in an auction held at the farm on April 15.

Consigners come from as far as Iowa Falls, Iowa, and Burlington, Wisconsin. It costs around \$300 per bull entered in the sale and \$35 to enter the lottery. The average bull is sold for \$3,500-\$4,000 at the auction, but some have been sold for as high as \$10,000. Several costs are deducted from the sale price to cover what UWRF has spent to house and feed the bulls as well as to get them ready for the sale. The consigner gets the rest of the money. The UWRF beef management team also is involved in the bull test and sale. Jared Geiser, a sophomore, is the bull test chair of the beef management team and is responsible for communication between the team, the bull test’s board of directors and the lab farm. Before the sale in April, team members clip and clean the animals. They also create videos of the animals for the online auction and hold an open house for the consigners and buyers a month before the sale. Geiser said that working with the test benefits him by allowing him to make connections in the beef production industry. His position as the bull test chair gives him experience that he will need when working in the field after graduation. Similar tests are done around the country. UW-Platteville holds one, as well as Purdue University in Indiana. The states of Minnesota and Iowa also have their own. “We’d like to think the quality of the cattle that are here compare with any of the other bull tests around the country. A

lot of the (artificial insemination) bulls that are used all over the United States are represented here in this pen. We hope to think the cows are just as good,” said Stacy Myers, chairman of the St. Croix Valley Bull Test board of directors. The test has been held at UWRF’s Mann Valley for nine years. Before that, it was held at a farm in Menomonie, Wisconsin, while only the sale was held at UWRF. Consigners must apply to enter the sale. Past consigners are given first chance to enter, and others are put into a lottery. Past consigners are allowed to bring in up to six bulls, while newcomers can only bring one. Myers said this was the first year in his experience that consigners were turned away. Scott Ellevold of Deer Park, Wisconsin, is a new consigner this year. “I just wanted to see how my bulls would perform with the rest of the bulls that were brought here,” he said. Wayne Dewey drove three hours from Iowa Falls, Iowa, for the test and has been doing so for eight years. Of the other sales that Dewey could choose from, he said he continues to choose St. Croix Valley because he believes that it is set up better than others. “The test is always approved out. They feed a high roughage instead of a high grain. They don’t actually push the bulls. They set a gain that they’re shooting for, so when they go back to pasture they can hold their weight,” Dewey said. More information about the St. Croix Valley Bull Test is available online at scvbt.com.

County rankings show Pierce, St. Croix among state’s healthiest counties

Zach Bares
Falcon News Service

Pierce and St. Croix counties continue to rank among the top 10 in the state in terms of how healthy they are, according to a national program that evaluates a variety of factors. The annual County Health Rankings & Roadmaps evaluation this year ranks St. Croix the third and Pierce the fourth healthiest counties in Wisconsin. The program, run by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, tracks health factors in almost every county in the U.S. Six years ago, St. Croix County ranked second and Pierce County was seventh. “A lot of the same challenges are the same in 2016 as they were back then,” said Pierce County Director of Public Health Sue Galoff. The three things at the top of the priority list are obesity, alcohol abuse and access to mental healthcare. Both counties, the four area hospitals and UW-River Falls work together on the community health needs assessment to determine what needs to be done to best help the community in the surrounding area. Galoff said that there are always a few factors that benefit where Pierce County will fall in the rankings. “We have strong education, low crime rates and most people have a higher socioeconomic status,” she said. This is something that hasn’t changed a lot since 2010 and, according to Galoff,

won’t change in the foreseeable future. Heather Logelin, director of community engagement for the River Falls Area Hospital, said that the county health rankings are only a small part of what the hospital looks at in determining the needs of patients and the community. “We collaborate with Pierce County and of course we look at the data, including the county rankings,” said Logelin. She added that it’s best that the hospital does not rely strictly on the rankings because sometimes the data tend to lag behind by a couple years. Some of the same factors that are beneficial to Pierce County in the rankings also benefit St. Croix County. “Our quality of life is really high, our premature death rate is really low,” said Logelin. “We have a really highly educated population, so we have a relatively low smoking rate.” Logelin said education and smoking rates have a direct correlation. The community health needs assessment makes up a big part of how both counties operate, but it is also extremely beneficial for UWRF, as well. Alice Reilly-Myklebust, the director of Counseling and Health Services at UWRF, said she thinks that service availability is a large contributor to overall health, but “our environment and policies are the bigger issue.” UWRF collects its own data through the National College Health Assessment, which comes out every three years. Along with the assessment, the university also has its Advisory Council

on Health and Wellness, which meets twice a year, and several working groups that focus on meeting student needs. Of course, since UWRF is an institution of higher education, the first priority is the academic impact that mental health has on students. “That is our main concern moving forward — how it will impact how students do in the classroom,” said Reilly-Myklebust. Reilly-Myklebust and her team really like to push life skills and wellness classes like yoga, meditation and pet therapy. Having access, Reilly-Myklebust said, is only part of the solution. “We need to get more students involved and open to these experiences,” she said.

“Our quality of life is really high, our premature death rate is really low,” said Heather Logelin.

Ranking No. 1 in Wisconsin is Ozaukee County north of Milwaukee. It’s held that spot since 2013. In 2012, Ozaukee County was No. 2, displaced that year by No. 1-ranked St. Croix County. The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps may be viewed online at county-healthrankings.org.

Indian Club recognized as new, inclusive student organization

Natalie Howell
natalie.howell@my.uwrf.edu

A new student organization, Indian Club, is looking to bring students together through the celebration of cultures and help international students transition into campus life. The idea to create Indian Club came about when several international students noticed that celebrations such as Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights, and Holi, the Hindu festival of colors, were not being celebrated on campus. Because of this, students got together to create an organization that not only celebrates the different cultures in India, but celebrates the unity of all students and their cultures. “Why don’t we take this opportunity to build up a platform and celebrate with our fellow teammates and students over here?” said Collins Poulouse, president of Indian Club. “It’s going to be an exchange of culture and a good platform for us to get involved in the campus and get to know more people.” Indian Club is planning on holding celebrations of different Indian festivals, including Diwali and Holi, and will also hold dance programs and a fashion show in order to educate others on Indian culture.

One of the missions of Indian Club is helping international students make a comfortable transition into campus life. An international student himself, Poulouse said that he understands how homesick one can be when traveling to a new country and the struggles of finding one’s place on campus. “Our university gives one of the best resources for international students than other universities,” said Poulouse. “But in spite of that I believe if we have a group of students that are having a hard time, we should do everything we can to make them feel more comfortable.”

“Why don’t we take this opportunity to build up a platform and celebrate with our fellow teammates and students over here?” said Collins Poulouse, president of Indian Club. “It’s going to be an exchange of culture and a good platform for us to get involved in the campus and get to know more people.”

Poulouse said that Indian Club is planning on working with the Office of International Education to help international students feel more at home. International Student Services Coordinator Conan Kmiecik said international students may face many challenges while studying abroad, including getting used to Midwestern English, even though they are language proficient, and the different academic environment. “But I think, for the most part, the international students are prepared to come here, that they want to come here, and when they do come here I think that River Falls is a pretty welcoming community and campus,” said Kmiecik. With international students from India being the second largest group of exchange students on campus, Kmiecik said that it is important for them to have a presence on campus, as well as work to teach others about their culture. “I think that the opportunities students have when they come to college or a university is to meet people from outside of their culture, to learn from people with different perspectives, and at the same time, find out the commonalities between different cultures,” said Kmiecik. “When [Poulouse] first arrived and there was a large cohort of Indian students, I encouraged them to consider the possibility [of a club], simply because it would give them a presence in the student body, they could advocate for things that they need as a group, and also organize opportunities to educate the campus about Indian culture.” Indian Club is open to everybody and currently has 15 members. Poulouse said that all students, no matter where they are from or what their culture is, are encouraged to get involved. “It’s welcome to everyone, despite the name,” said Poulouse. “Let’s just work together and do things so we don’t have to be separate or keep anyone out. We want to work as a group, as a team, with no differences.” The Indian Club is open for everybody and meets on Friday at 4 p.m. in the Apple River Room, room 333, on the third floor of the University Center.

Awards for top alumni part of outreach to UWRF graduates

Matthew Clark
Falcon News Service

UW-River Falls is accepting nominations for awards given to alumni during the spring, including one for relatively recent graduates. Members of the UWRF External Relations Committee and the Alumni Advisory Board are encouraging people to submit nominations for three different awards honoring outstanding alumni. Selected nominees will be eligible to receive the Outstanding Alumnus award, the Outstanding Young Alumni award or the Lifetime Achievement award. UWRF Director of Alumni Relations Dan McGinty said it is important for the university to recognize students after they have graduated. “We are an institution of higher education and we’re putting students out there in field,” said McGinty. “For us as an institution to come back and recognize an individual who’s done some exemplary work, it certainly seems to be very rewarding and beneficial from our

perspective as well.” After the nominations are submitted, a selection committee reviews candidates for each award. Developed in 2014, the Outstanding Young Alumni award is considered only for those who have made great accomplishments in their field since graduating during the past 15 years. The Lifetime Achievement award and the Outstanding Alumnus award are considered for older alumni. The Outstanding Alumnus award is the most prestigious award and requires a selection committee made up of members from the UWRF Faculty Senate as well as the Alumni Advisory Board. Once deliberations on the candidates are finished, Chancellor Dean Van Galen approves the Outstanding Alumnus award recipient. However, McGinty said the awards share similar qualifications. “Someone with high integrity is a very high value that we take a look at,” he said. “Obviously, recognition from their peers is also a very important credential, too.”

According to statistics provided by McGinty, UWRF has graduated a total of 46,132 living alumni as of July 2016. Reaching out to them through awards is only a small portion of what the university does to maintain a relationship after graduation. The university connects with alumni through outreach programs including fundraising, facilitating mentorships with current students and scholarships. Assistant Chancellor of University Advancement and President of the UW-River Falls Foundation Chris Mueller said having a connection with alumni is essential to the university. “The quality of the university is directly correlated to the level at which alumni are willing to support it,” said Mueller. “That support can be volunteer work, it can be financial support, it can be advocacy work on behalf of the institution or it can be any of the three in combination.” The university even has an engagement model designed to help the university determine if an alumnus is actively involved in the

university. Alumni receive points based on the different areas they fulfill such as alumni-sponsored event attendance, university volunteer work and participation in affinity programs through Westconsin Credit Union and Liberty Mutual. One point is earned for every example of involvement and if a alumnus gains three points, they are considered active in the program. During the 2014-2015 school year, 27 percent of living alumni were active participants. The Lifetime Achievement Award as well as the Outstanding Young Alumni Award will both be presented at a banquet held the night before the spring commencement ceremony. The Distinguished Alumnus Award will be given out on the day of the ceremony. Anyone wanting to nominate an alumnus must submit the nomination by Wednesday, Nov. 23. The nomination form can be found at uwrf.edu/Alumni/AlumniAwards/.

‘Arrival’ adds to recent list of great sci-fi films with entertaining script, cinematography

Nicholas Weninger

Reviewer

Louise Banks (Amy Adams), a linguistic analyst, leads a team of people into one of 12 spaceships that have landed around the world. Her job: Find out what their purpose here on Earth is, where they came from and how they arrived.

Nations all around the world are on the line of whether or not to prepare for war or try and communicate with them. As tensions rise, time runs out for Louise Banks and Ian Donnelly (Jeremy Renner) to crack the alien language and prevent global war.

I am really liking this trend in the last few years of fantastic sci-fi films. 2014’s “Interstellar,” 2015’s “The Martian” and “Ex Machina,” and now this year we can definitely add “Arrival” to that list (and hopefully the movie “Passengers” starring Jennifer Lawrence and Chris Pratt coming out in December.)

What all of these films have in common are that they will all make you think and will connect with you on much more than just an entertainment level. Director Denis Villeneuve is known for making you think and feel, bringing us films such as “Prisoners,” “Enemy,” “Sicario” and now “Arrival.” Once

again, he has delivered a powerful movie that is so much fun to watch.

“Arrival” is not a typical sci-fi film that will just have you kicking back in your seat and only watching for entertainment purposes. Yes, “Arrival” is a very entertaining movie, but not because it is action-packed or really intense, but rather will entertain you with its script, acting, directing and cinematography and its unique story that really makes you think.

Adding on to how this is not a “typical” sci-fi movie is how this movie is paced. It doesn’t rush into its grand and philosophical ideas, but it rather is a guide that helps reach that destination with you.

This is what I love about this movie. It really makes you reflect and say, “Hhhmmm... I could actually see something like this happening one day.” “Arrival” perfectly blends sci-fi qualities and common invasion movie techniques but offers us such a unique twist that brings current events to the table as well. Let’s give a round of applause to writer Eric Heisserer for this wonderful creation he gave us.

Adding on to how this is not a “typical” sci-fi movie is how this movie is paced. It doesn’t rush into its grand and philosophical ideas, but it rather is a guide that helps reach that destination with you. Believe me, this movie does have some lofty ideas when it comes to the themes, messages and how it delivers them, but because of how this movie slowly unravels and reveals itself, it is all worth it in the end.

Really the only negative thing that I could say would be that it could have focused more on other characters and their developments as well, not just the Amy Adams character. While for me this wasn’t a very big issue since they weren’t the main focus of the film, I could see how this film was lacking in that department.

“Arrival” is a must-see that really makes you think, feel and overall have a wonderful time at the movies.



Nick Weninger is a fifth year broad field social studies major and has hopes to be a high school history teacher. He has a passion for movies, video games, sports, and being outdoors. If you enjoy his reviews, check out his movie review website on Facebook called The Average Man Review.

‘Bronson’ explores the life of infamous British prisoner

Wesley Sigsworth

Reviewer

“Bronson” (2008) is a biopic about Charles Bronson (not to be confused with the actor of the same name), who is considered to be Britain’s most violent and notorious prisoner.

It is directed by Nicolas Winding Refn, who has made two recent movies that I adore, “Drive” (2011) and “The Neon Demon” (2016). Tom Hardy plays the role of the infamous prisoner and does so extremely well.

The movie tells the story from the perspective of Bronson recalling his life up until present day; from his first bouts with the law as a teenager to getting married and having a son and finally going to prison for the first time. It then follows his life as he is transferred from prison to prison, fighting anyone he can along the way.

The story is interesting, as is the man. Bronson is an incredibly violent individual, taking any chance he can to fight guards, even assault other inmates in order to be transferred to different prisons if he dislikes his current one. The best part of the movie is around the middle when he is released

from prison after his first sentence. This is where we get to see this odd and intimidating man get involved with underground bare knuckle boxing and even make an attempt at love.

He’s undoubtedly a very interesting character to watch and Tom Hardy pulls no punches in assuring that he is representing the actual Bronson with accuracy. He pulls the air out of the room when he is yelling, stopping anyone who opposes him dead in their tracks. You fear for anyone who is caught in the same room as him, and for good reason. Hardy also embodies the sheer physicality of the character who is well known for his superior strength and hardcore prison workout routine.

An interesting thing about this film is how the story is told as a stage act put on by Bronson. He is onstage acting for an audience while telling his life’s story, which is fitting of his superstar ego. It is played off as a comedy on stage, which is a great juxtaposition to the horror that is his prison life. He says early in the film that he always wanted to be famous but had no talents. It would seem that he has accomplished stardom to a certain extent.

As with any Nicolas Winding Refn film, this one is great to look at on a visual standpoint. However, like most of his work, it is more of an artistic film and not necessarily one you watch for a nonstop thrill ride so it might be a little slow

or meandering to some viewers. There were a few scenes where I was exercising a little patience waiting for it to move along.

He pulls the air out of the room when he is yelling, stopping anyone who opposes him dead in their tracks. You fear for anyone who is caught in the same room as him, and for good reason.

Personally, I watched this movie because I am a fan of Tom Hardy and adore Nicolas Refn’s work as a writer and director. Will that be enough for anyone else that watches this to be entertained? Possibly.

I will say again that Bronson is an incredibly interesting character to watch on screen, and his life makes for an entertaining movie. At a little over 90 minutes and currently streaming on Netflix, I see no reason for someone to not at least give it a shot.

Wesley Sigsworth is a junior journalism major. He enjoys watching and reviewing movies.

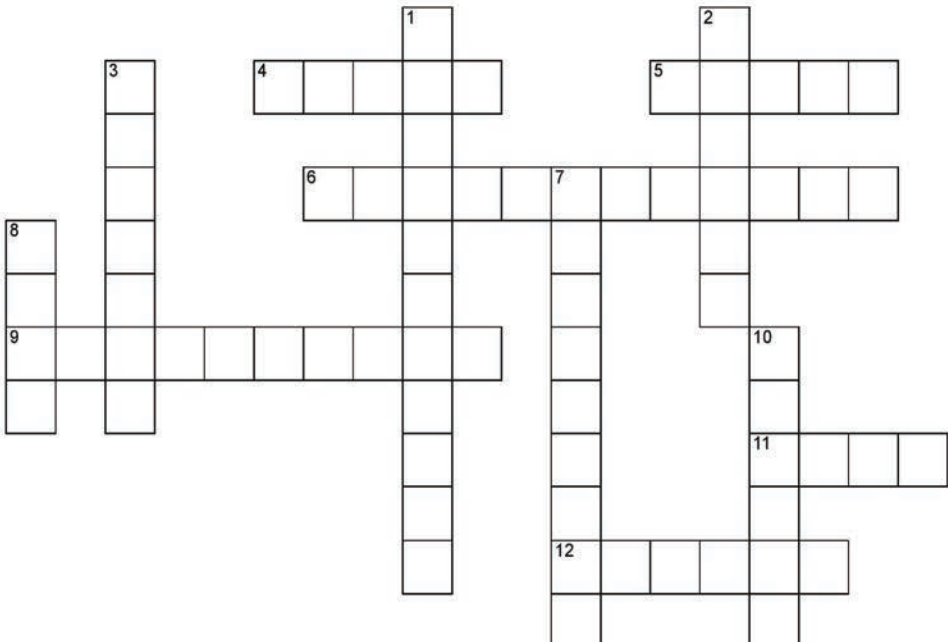
Last Week’s Answers

Puzzle of the Week

Snack Attack



Disney Villains



- ACROSS
- 4 He and his cobra headed staff terrorize Aladdin and Jasmine
 - 5 He rules the underworld with his blue flame hair
 - 6 This "Mother" really doesn't want Rapunzel to leave her tower
 - 9 She makes Aurora fall asleep via spinning wheel
 - 11 Brother to Mufasa, very bad uncle to Simba
 - 12 First name Claude, can't decide if he hates gypsies or really likes them

- DOWN
- 1 This guy is one hand short of being a good pirate (2 words)
 - 2 Believes that a woman shouldn't read because "soon she starts getting ideas and thinking"
 - 3 This "de vil" is seeing spots
 - 7 He's on the hunt for gold in Virginia
 - 8 Arguably most well known for saying, "Pull the lever, Kronk!"
 - 10 She preys on "poor unfortunate souls"

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!

Now Playing: Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

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

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