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STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin River Falls

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Large incoming freshman class overflowing UWRF dorms, classrooms and cafeterias

Tori Schneider
Falcon News Service

The UWRF class of 2020 is the largest in eight years, with a preliminary count of 1,325 students, but about 100 of them are living in study lounges – and not by choice.

Due to over-enrollment in the dorms, they’re temporarily living in “extended housing,” which is typically a student lounge that has been converted into a dorm room to house six people.

“It’s different because you have to keep it in your mind that you’re leaving at some point,” said Mahlie Troy, a freshman living in extended housing in May Hall. “So you get comfortable, but you can’t get too comfortable, ‘cause you know you have to go at some point, and it’s stressful because you don’t know when you’re leaving.”

When she found out she was going to live in extended housing, she wasn’t sure what to expect, she said. “I was scared. I was like, ‘Oh my gosh, it’s going to be like a group home. There’s going to just be a whole line of beds and just a whole bunch of people.’”

But the experience hasn’t been too bad, and she’s going to miss her temporary roommates, she said. “It’s been really nice actually.”

The bigger freshman class is a nice problem to have, and it’s not just confined to the dorms, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Gregg Heinselman said.

“We grow, and it not only means we have more students in the residence halls, more students on meal plans, but more students in the classrooms,” Heinselman said. “Your freshman class grows and you have two options: you offer more sections, or you expand the enrollment in each section. Well, you need larger classrooms to do that.”

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Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
Freshmen Alyssa Lensing, left, Clarinda Yarish and Brielle Bjork stand together in their extended housing dorm room in May Hall at UWRF on September 19, 2017.

River Falls police say pay-up calls from police department are a scam

Nathan Lukasavitz
Falcon News Service

If you get a call from what seems to be the River Falls Police Department and the caller asks you to pay a fine, you’re being scammed, a RFPD investigator says.

On one day alone last week, six UWRF students complained to police about the phone scam, joining a long list of River Falls complainants.

Unlike other phone scams, this one is especially deceiving because caller ID reveals that the call is coming from the same phone number as the RFPD.

“People will hang up because they think it’s a scam,” Investigator Jennifer Knutson said, “but then they call the number back because they recognize it as a local number, and they get the police department. They’re like, ‘Oh my gosh, maybe this is true.’”

The calls become even more deceiving when the scammers attempt to convince their targets that they have outstanding fines with the city, which is one of multiple ploys that the scammers frequently try, according to the RFPD.

“There’s a different variety of things that people are saying,” Knutson said. “The most common one is they claim to be the IRS, and that the person on the phone owes them money, and if they don’t pay, the police will be coming to arrest them.”

Most often, the targeted individuals identify the call as a scam and do not provide any form of payment. However, under rare circumstances where the individual acquiesces to the scam, it provides the police department with an opportunity to trace where the money has gone.

“We attempted to trace where the money went, and it actually ended up leaving the country and going to somewhere in Africa,” Knutson said. “Then once it hit there, we kind of lost contact of where it was able to go.”

Though there are very few cases where people report losing money to the scam, the police department acknowledges the potential that more people have fallen prey to the fraud, because people often do not like to admit that they have been scammed.

Given the difficulty of tracing not only where the money has gone but also where the phone calls are coming from, the RFPD does not expect to be able to end the scam by its own means.

“I wouldn’t say that it’s completely impossible,” Knutson said, “but the amount of resources it would take to track this down is more than we have right now.”

Though a lack of resources currently hinders the RFPD from shutting down the scam, the department does believe it may be able to combat the scam through a different strategy.

“Our biggest strategy is education,” Knutson said, “to let people know what’s going on, to teach people about scams.”



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
The River Falls Police Department, 125 E. Elm Street, on September 18, 2017.

New personal e-alarms can enhance safety, even at UWRF, chief says

Sophia Koch
Falcon News Service

Miranda Haack is an elementary education major in her junior year at UW-River Falls, and she said that she carries a whistle at all times and often travels with others who carry pepper spray.

“I try to stay in groups whenever possible whenever I’m going out at night,” she said, adding that River Falls seems relatively safe to her. “There are usually people around who, if I just yelled, would hear me.”

But what if no one were around who could hear her – or if an attacker prevented her from yelling?

“There’s only so much capacity that our voices have,” said Mya Paplou, public relations director for the BASU company, which is marketing a new personal safety device designed to deter muggers.

The device, called an eAlarm, is a small, USB-sized item that can be clipped like a keychain to a person’s backpack, belt loop, etc. It consists of a black “pin” that can be pulled from the rectangular body of the device, which activates a shrill, trilling alarm comparable in volume to an ambulance siren (120 decibels).

The intention behind the device, Paplou said, is to startle potential assailants and prompt them to run away out of fear of being noticed. The advantage, she said, is that the device is easy to use, nonviolent and much louder than a human voice.

The eAlarm is but one of many technological advancements in personal safety that have hit the market in recent years, UWRF Police Chief Karl Fleury said. Numerous keychain panic buttons similar to the eAlarm can be found for sale simply by searching the internet for “personal safety alarms.”

There are also many apps that are designed to send out distress signals to a pre-selected contact lists at the push of a button, many of which GPS track users and notify their contact list when they arrive at their destination safely. A handful of examples on the market are called bsafe, React Mobile and Companion.

The real trick to personal safety, Fleury said, is being smart and prepared when walking out the door for a night out.

“A lot of it is being aware of your surroundings and not putting yourself into situations that might be more dangerous than others,” Fleury said.

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News Briefs:

WRWF to welcome UWRF Alumni to the Airwaves for Homecoming

WRFW News and Public Affairs department will be hosting prominent University of Wisconsin-River Falls alumni and friends during its Welcome Home Week during the News and Public Affairs Hour October 2-6.

Each guest will be interviewed by current UWRF students regarding their time at the university, how it impacts their current positions and other question-and-answer type activities.

“We are very excited to welcome these industry-leading UW-River Falls alumni to the station,” said Chris Gregg, News and Public Affairs Director. “The majority of our guests started at WRFW which is exciting to see it come full circle.”

The program lineup includes:
Monday, Oct. 2: Pam Jahnke, Fabulous Farm Babe on the Farm Report
Tuesday, Oct. 3: Cathy Wurzer, host of MPR’s Morning Edition
Wednesday, Oct. 4: Dan Brandenstein, retired NASA astronaut
Thursday, Oct. 5: Boyd Huppert, ‘Land of 10,000 Stories’ on KARE 11
Friday, Oct. 6: Andy Miller, Ambassador for Aircraft Owners and Pilot’s Association

Listeners can catch each interview immediately following the newscast airing at 5:00 PM CST.

More information can be found at www.WRFW887.com under the News/Public Affairs page.

Zlesak is UW-River Falls 2017 Distinguished Teacher

Associate professor of horticulture David Zlesak has been named the 2017 recipient of the Distinguished Teacher Award. The Distinguished Teacher award is the most prestigious honor bestowed at UW-River Falls. Nominations are submitted by senior level students and recent graduates.

“Above and beyond” was a phrase mentioned in more than one of Zlesak’s nomination letters, describing his efforts both inside and outside of the classroom and as a mentor. Nominators went on to share specifics on how Zlesak impacted them. For those who are familiar with Zlesak and his other passion – plant breeding, specifically rose breeding – the phrase “above and beyond” is fitting. Zlesak is just as successful a breeder as he is a teacher, with many awards to his credit. Zlesak’s rose, Above and Beyond™, released through

Bailey Nurseries First Editions® program, received one of the top pick awards at its debut in spring 2015.

While his plant breeding work is extensive, Zlesak is quick to point out how students benefit from his breeding projects. “It’s a great model for the students to see somebody that’s engaged and hopefully that would inspire them to have a deep passion for whatever field they go into, instead of just the ‘I’m here from 8-4:30 and then I’m done approach.’”

More information can be found at uwrf.edu/news

UWRF named 2018 U.S. News & World Report Best Regional University

U.S. News & World Report has once again named the University of Wisconsin-River Falls a Best Regional University-Midwest. The newest ranking appears in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2018 edition of Best Colleges, released Tuesday.

UW-River Falls was among nine University of Wisconsin System schools to be honored and ranked highly in average first-year student retention, student-to-faculty ratios and smaller class sizes which provide better access to instructors.

“I am extremely proud of the commitment to excellence demonstrated by UW-River Falls faculty, staff, and students, which supports our vibrant and student-centered campus,” said Chancellor Dean Van Galen. “Once again this excellence has been recognized by a prestigious national publication.”

The rankings come as the university welcomes 1,600 new students to campus, including its largest freshman class in eight years.

More infomation can be found at uwrf.edu/news

Innovative first-year courses benefit students and educators alike

First-year students within the College of Arts and Sciences will find themselves tackling non-traditional topics as an introduction to their college career. With topics ranging from health claims to airplanes to doodling, First Year Adventure (FYA) is an innovative approach to university-level learning created to enrich student’s minds and lives from their first days on campus.

A pair of task forces led by Tricia Davis, now the interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), in the summers of 2013 and 2015 led to the creation of the program that will mark its second year in 2017-18. Designed to promote and enhance skills critical to student success, as well as to aid in student retention, first-year students who have a major within CAS are required to take a FYA course.

FYA bills itself as an “innovative one-of-a-kind class designed to promote student engagement, improve information literacy, enhance critical thinking skills, promote constructive teamwork abilities and improve retention rates.” The program is intended to introduce students to “rigorous academic study at the university level” and is taught through small seminar-style classes. FYA course topics run the gamut, covering topics ranging from art to physics to music.

In addition to the benefits students gain from FYA, professors who teach within the program are reaping the rewards as well. Kernahan is acutely aware of the advantages for educators.

“I think it gives instructors the opportunity to teach something cool. Ross Jilk’s class, for example. This program gave him the chance to teach something different. Ross would never be able to do that in his sort of normal chemistry curriculum and classes he is needed to teach, so this is a way for him to do something he is passionate about,” she says.

FYA is offering twelve sections this fall, spanning a wide range of departments within CAS.

For more information on the requirement, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/CAS/FirstYearAdventure.cfm>.

For full article, visit <https://www.uwrf.edu/News/InnovativeFirstYearCoursesBenefitStudentsProfessorAlike.cfm>

Student Senate Update: Sept. 19

Young Americans for Liberty group would like to be approved as an organization and will be placed on the agenda for next week.

Jonathon Aiuppa was sworn in by President Wendt.

Directors of the Executive Board gave committee reports.

SGA Advisor Gregg Heinselman discussed a webinar about undocumented students, commented on segregation free policy revision.

One motion was voted on at the Student Senate meeting on September 19.

President Abby Wendt motioned to amend the SGA budget for the upcoming year. Correction included adding a stipend of \$2,000 for Director Anja Gridley.

The Senate discussed plans for the upcoming Week of Action, as well as potential alternatives to tabling as an outreach method.

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

Follow the Student Voice on Twitter

@uwrfvoice

Weekly UWRF Crime Report

Tuesday, Sept. 12
• Theft was reported at 12:10 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 15
• Suspicious vehicular activity was reported at 1:38 p.m.
• Fraud was reported at the University Center at 2:00 p.m.
• Welfare checks was reported at 9:45 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 17
• Suspicious vehicular activitiy was reported at 12:38 a.m.
• Suicide attempted/threats were reported at 5:51 p.m.

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

Campus Events Calendar:

- **Cohler Coffee Concert Series: Zeitgeist**
Friday, September 22, 12-1 p.m. Abbott Concert Hall, Kleinpell Fine Arts
- **Open Mic Night**
Friday, Sept. 22, 8-10 p.m. Falcon’s Nest, University Center
- **Traveling Karoke**
Saturday, Sept. 23, 8-11 p.m. University Center
- **Graduate School Reps Visting Campus**
Monday-Friday, Sept. 25-29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. University Center
- **Generational Politics and the Future of American Politics**
Tuesday, Sept. 26, 12-1 p.m. University Center

- **Education Abroad Fair**
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Falcon’s Nest, University Center
- **Bingo**
Wednesday, Sept. 27, 12-1 p.m. Pete’s Creek, University Center
- **Mastering the Personal Statement Workshop**
Thursday, September 28, 3-4 p.m. University Center
- **Seoul, Street Signs**
Saturday, Sept. 30, all day event Chalmer Davee Library

Visit uwrf.edu for a full schedule of events

New sustainable justice minor cuts across disciplines and careers at UW-River Falls

Lauren Simenson
Falcon News Service

Psychology, computer science and accounting students might not have a lot in common, but starting this semester at UW-River Falls, some of them are sharing the same new minor – sustainable justice.

“We live on a finite planet,” said Jill Coleman-Wasik, an assistant professor of environmental science. Students, she said, need to have a broad understanding of sustainability. The sustainable justice minor is also not just theoretical, she added; it’s a career program, too.

“It’s important for us to stay involved and promote sustainability in our curriculum,” she said, “so that our students have the ability to get into jobs and really engage in challenges that they might encounter in those jobs.”

The sustainable justice minor will show the importance of sustainability through humanity, environmental and economic approaches. The minor is trans-disciplinary, drawing from electives in communication studies, psychology, computer science and accounting, among others.

A course in organizational communication emphasizes that corporate social responsibility policies have a big effect on the workplace and on consumers through their sustainable practices, according to its instructor, Grace Coggio, an associate professor of communication studies. We want “our students to recognize that it is not just an environmental thing,” she said. “This idea of sustainability crosses all sectors of education.”

English Professor Greta Gaard, a longtime environmentalist and a UWRF Sustainability Faculty Fellow, is the coordinator, adviser and passionate champion of the new sustainable justice minor. Gaard said this new program will bring together

sustainability insights from an environmental justice standpoint and from a social justice perspective.

Gaard and Coleman-Wasik agree this is only the beginning for the sustainable justice minor at UWRF. Due to the changing nature of science in general and the extreme need for an increased awareness of sustainability practices in regards to climate change and social responsibility, they said, this minor program will evolve with time and need.

Gaard said that she worries that a growing movement of climate change deniers, particularly deniers involved in politics and government in Wisconsin and at the federal level, will impede sustainability practices and courses. “Political winds will have a major impact on the program ... and sustainability in the next 10 years.”

Freshman class overflowing UWRF dorms, classrooms and cafeterias

Continued from Page 1

Traditionally, UWRF offers class sizes of about 25 to 30 students for every one instructor, and the classrooms are generally designed accordingly. There are larger classrooms on campus, but due to construction in Rodli Hall, some of these are currently unavailable.

The solution has been to add more sections of class. In order to do this, UWRF has hired more adjunct professors.

Another problem on campus is long lines in the cafeteria at lunch time. Upperclassman know this is always a problem at the start of a new semester. Within a few weeks, everyone gets adjusted to the rhythm of their schedules, and lunch goers will see shorter wait times.

About 100 more students signed up for on-campus housing than there were open rooms available for them. Residence Life staff monitored the number of students coming in over the summer and realized that they were going to have to go into extended housing.

“All summer long we were pretty busy managing those numbers and occupancy,” said Karla Thoennes, director of Residence Life. Currently, students are living in extended housing in Hathorne, Grimm, McMillan, May and Stratton halls.

As of the 2016-2017 school year, UWRF had 2,603 permanent beds on campus. The extended housing plan allows for more beds to be available but only temporarily. The numbers haven’t been reevaluated this year, but in the past, 195 temporary extended housing beds were designated.

Another option to create more space is for some resident assistants to take on a roommate instead of living alone, as is traditional.

As the semester proceeds, students drop out and no-shows are accounted for, allowing students in extended housing to move into permanent rooms.

Then all of the dorm residents can have their lounges back – for chatting and studying rather than dreaming of a room of their own.

New personal e-alarms can enhance safety, even at UWRF, chief says

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Staying in well-lit areas, he said, is a smart move when wandering about at night. Traveling in groups is another deterrent to potential crime, and it’s a very good idea to let others know your schedule for the evening in case you do not make it to your destination. Mentally planning what you will do in the case of an assault can also help in the heat of the moment, he said.

Garrett Anderson is a freshman in marketing communication, and he agrees with Haack that UWRF appears to be a relatively safe campus.

“If I were in a bigger city like Minneapolis, I might take a little more consideration into it,” Anderson said. “I personally do not carry (a safety device), and I definitely think they’re effective. I wouldn’t mess with someone with pepper spray or a mini-Taser or anything like that.”

The Annual Security and Fire Safety Report largely supports Haack and Anderson’s opinion that UWRF is a relatively safe campus. The report shows zero cases of robbery or aggravated assault for the 2016-2017 year. Fleury cautions, however, that even a quiet-seeming campus is not completely safe from crime.

“A crime can happen anywhere, anyplace, anytime,” he said. “It doesn’t matter if you’re in a small town USA or if... you’re in the Twin Cities. We’re not immune to it.”



Tori Lynn Schneider/Student Voice
Small, USB-sized eAlarms can be clipped to a person’s backpack or belt loop and are used to startle potential assailants and prompt them to run away out of fear of being noticed.

Check out the
Student Voice
online at
uwrvoice.com

Do you have something to say?

Write a letter to the editor.

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

EDITORIAL

Coping with college stress can be solved one step at a time

The first weeks of school can become overwhelming for the majority of students. You find yourself settling into new locations and situations while trying to balance a heavy workload. The stress can become overwhelming and make you feel like you’re slowly drowning in all of your responsibilities. Class, jobs, clubs and social life slowly begin to take up all conceivable hours of the day. But in the moments when it feels like all is lost, UWRF students can remember to do one thing: take a step back and breathe. One of the most common things that new students fail to realize is that you need to take time for yourself. While it’s an exciting time and being social is extremely important, college is also about finding out who you truly are. With no alone time to take a second to relax, it will only become more difficult.

Being active is another key in getting through the opening weeks of a semester. Finding a healthy release from class and work allows you to feel refreshed and tackle each day with a new attitude. Whether it is a leisurely activity or working out at the Falcon Center, there are many ways to take your mind off the pressing matters at hand. Staying healthy also includes getting to bed at a decent time and eating three meals a day. This may seem simple, but can get lost in the shuffle. Having a healthy body will impact your mental health as well. Student Health and Counseling Services puts on a Pet Therapy event on the first Friday of every month, which is always well received by college students.

Taking advantage of the many opportunities on campus can also help in wading through the first weeks. Joining a club or attending events can be important in meeting new people and findings things you enjoy. Many new students also struggle because they don’t have many friends to go through their experiences with. If you continue to put yourself out of your comfort zone and get involved, friends will come along for the ride soon enough.

Some students might be doing well with the social and health side of college, but struggling to make ends meet on the academic end. Resources like the writing center and tutors may seem daunting at first, but are invaluable tools that can get you through difficult assignments and tests. Making to-do lists and constantly crossing off finished assignments can give a sense of accomplishment and structure. Establishing a study schedule and planning where to study can also help shift focus from getting distracted by social media.

But in the end, college isn’t always for everyone. People may take a semester off and come back ready to learn more. Students drop out for a variety of reasons every year. But taking the steps above will make the transition all the easier for those returning or tackling college for the first time.

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

STUDENT VOICE

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Read the *Student Voice* online at www.uwrfvoice.com

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Ask Abigail, A Welcome Letter

Abigail Erickson
Columnist

The Student Voice is introducing its new advice columnist for the fall semester: Abigail Erickson. Abigail will be accepting question submissions from readers seeking advice on issues in their day-to-day lives. Submissions can be sent to her via email at abigail.erickson@my.uwrf.edu. Dear Reader, If you have taken the time to pick up this issue of the Student Voice, I would like to thank you from the very bottom of my heart. I don’t know you and you don’t know me, but I hope that changes soon! My name is Abigail and I am a sophomore here at UW-River Falls. I’ve been writing fiction since I was 11 years old and this is the first time I have ever had the guts to publish anything I have ever written. Granted, this isn’t a story that I have poured my heart and soul into but it is something I have put my name on. It is a piece of me, a piece of my brain and my experiences. That being said, you need to know who I am so you feel comfortable coming to me with anything that might be bothering you.

Sometimes growing up means giving up on the dreams of your childhood

Bethany Lovejoy
Columnist

When I was five years old I thought it would be simple enough. I’d vocalize to my parents, “When I grow up I want to write big books.” and then fifteen years later out of nowhere I would be the next J.K. Rowling. I honestly believed in some part of my tiny mind that simply vocalizing things would make them certain to happen. Every single day I would make my parents one-page papers with article after article written by me, the future author. “You might want to keep it,” I told my father, “I’m gonna be big.” This did not happen, as I now am the ripe age of twenty, by which I had promised myself that I would have authored no less than fifteen books and have a large following of young readers. As it turns out, you cannot just simply will success into existence. Just because I can close my eyes at any age and wish to be involved in a profession does not mean that I will be successful. Take high school for example. I had two dreams and I thought that just stating that they were what I wanted would be enough. A flight attendant and an author, the marriage of two perfect careers. No real education required and adventure provided at the cost of others. But life doesn’t always turn out that way, especially when you are an uninformed teenager. Flight attendants go through rigorous training and deal with horrible customers left and right. Becoming a writer may also include at least a little bit of schooling. So I went to school, University of Wisconsin-River Falls

I grew up in Minneapolis and I will always call it my home, regardless of where I end up later in my life. I love dogs, tattoos, art, travel, my friends, piercings and plants. I have traveled the United States for my whole life and I recently began traveling Europe. I live on campus and I am hoping to move off campus at the end of this school year. I work three jobs so I can actively pay off debt from studying abroad, I am an only child, a passionate book lover, a bad athlete, a loving dog mom, an artist, a writer, a collector of coffee mugs and much, much more. I decided to write the column at this time of my live because I have experienced a sampling of the world (the good and the bad) and I believe I have the experience to help other people navigate through some parts of their lives. That being said, if you decide to write me with a question, I promise to keep your identity a secret. I’ll give you a cool code name and never tell a soul your true identity, not even my best friend or my mom. I promise you I will give you a piece of my heart by giving you a loving, kind and well-thought out response that isn’t done hastily between classes or while watching a movie. I want you to be able to trust me with anything life throws at you. The earth won’t stop spinning because something happens in your life, but I promise you I will stop my earth to be here for you. Abigail

to be exact. Though when asked what I would like to be I would state a real career, in my heart I still held onto my childhood dream of writing. That was up until the university managed to show me something even better than writing. Reading. Writing is tough, as I’ve learned as a creative writing major, but reading? Reading is wonderful. Reading is everything I wanted and more. The idea of sitting behind a desk and helping others write has taught me to identify my love as reaching far beyond reading, further into critical reviewing. So even though I wished it with all my heart, and made my parents as many scribbly one-paged newspapers as possible, I will not be a twenty-year old author of fifteen books. Nor a lawyer, or a diplomat, a librarian, or professional groomer of only cats. When you grow up you have to make the tough choice of turning to the young child in the past and saying, “That idea was really stupid”. Even if that young child lives somewhere as near as two years ago. The fact that people seem to forget, and that I forget time to time, is that people change. It’s okay to change your major, your sense of style, and your mind as often as twenty times a day. Sometimes more. You don’t have to pay tribute to a version of yourself that you don’t even want to spend time with anymore. And to those who have stuck with the same career choice since kindergarten, congratulations. But don’t judge the rest of us who couldn’t make up their minds.

Bethany Lovejoy is a third year Creative Writing student who is not entirely sure what she would like to do with her life. In her free time she’d like to try to figure that question out, but watches movies instead of doing so. She enjoys chicken tenders and sleeping in brightly lit spaces

Check out the Student Voice online at uwrfvoice.com.

Public needs to increase their awareness of appropriate behavior

Lauren A. Simenson
Columnist

It was not only a summer of bad movies (I’m looking at you Emoji Movie), it was also a summer of bad behavior at the movies. When I was looking for a break from the golden sunshine of July, or more frequently from the hateful words spewing from the mouth and fingers of our president, I would retreat into the cool and dark interiors of a movie theater. Inside, I reclined in padded chairs and sat spellbound in the flickering darkness as kernels of popcorn pooled in the folds of my shirt and the condensation from my water trickled down my cup holder. It was, I thought, an ingenious way to combat the realities of the world for a few hours. But, as I would soon find out, this clever strategy turned out to not be as much of a refuge as I had anticipated. The darkness of the theater that hid so well the fact that some movies made me cry or made me clutch at my armrests with white knuckles, did little to hide the behavior of my fellow movie-goers. In fact, the dimly lit and quiet theater only served to amplify what I wished it would conceal. The audience’s behaviors and manners, or lack thereof, seemed to just get worse as the summer wore on. I tried in vain to ignore people who walked in late, already crunching on snacks. Or the parents who did not bother to keep their loud, angry voices down when disciplining their children who were also yelling during the movie. I resisted the urge to stare at the people in front of me whose faces were illuminated by the white glow of a cell phone. I actually put a finger

in my ear to block out my seat neighbors who were carrying out a full conversation. It was all I could do to resist the tremendous urge I felt to shoot them a venomous look and administer a desperate, “STOP” when their noticeable voices would rudely punctuate the silence of the theater. As distasteful as some of my movie-going retreats were, the bad behavior I was experiencing is just a small, and mostly insignificant, aspect of an alarming trend that seems to be sweeping the nation right now. Sources such as the New York Times, Rolling Stone, Buzzfeed, Slate.com and CNN, to name a few, have all reported on a recent and alarming increase of racism, hate speech, abuse and bigotry that is being exposed in all corners of the United States. It seems to me that too many people have forgotten that they need to adjust how they behave in public compared to the privacy of their own homes. And certainly more alarming are the people who seem to be taking cues from a prominent bad role model and are now not bothering to treat other people with basic kindness, respect, or consideration! It is now more important than ever to increase our awareness of how we act in public, all areas of public, so that we all have a hand in stopping these insidious trends of hate speech and abuse from becoming even more common place in our public spaces.

Lauren Simenson is a senior 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.

STUDENT voices

What is something you like about fall?

Compiled by Gabby Nelson



Antonio Monturiol
Sophomore
My favorite part about fall is Halloween.



Brandy Brown
Freshman
My favorite part about fall is the crispy air and the turning of the leaves every year. And of course pumpkin spice lattes.



Paul Tietz
Sophomore
My favorite part of fall is football season.



Cindy Grey
Junior
My favorite part about all is the changing of the colors and the fact that it is the perfect temperature between hot and cold.



Josh Peterson
Junior
My favorite part is the weather turning colder.

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Email your thoughts to editor@uwrvoice.com

UW-River Falls football doubling down on recruits from Las Vegas and Arizona areas

Zach Dwyer
Falcon News Service

With no winning football seasons in the past 16 years, UW-River Falls coaches decided it was time to take a gamble – and start recruiting in Las Vegas.

This year’s UWRF football team includes nine players from the Las Vegas area and two more from Arizona among its 46 freshmen and 120-man roster overall. Coupled with renewed emphasis on recruiting the best high school players from western Wisconsin, this is “the most talented group I’ve ever had,” seventh-year head coach Matt Walker said.

“One of the problems when I first got here was we didn’t have the best players from around here,” Walker said, remembering that his roster totaled just 47 players in 2011. “Now we’ve done a great job of winning recruits in our backyard. That was our No. 1 goal in the rebuilding process, and you can’t question that commitment on our roster.”

The Falcons have improved recruiting from Wisconsin cities such as La Crosse, Eau Claire and Madison, but competition for those players has increased, with more of them getting scholarships from Division I and Division II universities, whereas UWRF and other Division III campuses cannot offer athletic scholarships.

This has forced many Wisconsin football programs to find pockets of players outside the state. Most have looked toward Chicago for players, but Walker and his coaching staff decided to go in an entirely new direction this past offseason.

“We decided to go the other way out West into pockets that made sense for us,” Walker said. “We had never done it before

but showed that we are an option for kids where there aren’t Division III programs.”

The advantages of having a new \$63.5 million Falcon Center sports facility and a hub airport within driving distance of UWRF allowed coaches to recruit in areas where options are limited for Division III athletics. Almost every member of the football staff took trips to Arizona and Las Vegas, meeting with high school coaches and accepting invitations to speak with players.

Freshman Justice Watson was one of the players who came from Las Vegas to join the Falcons. Watson graduated from Bishop Gorman High School, the No. 1-ranked high school football team in the country. Watson had heard about UWRF from one of the other players from Las Vegas who had signed on to join the Falcons.

“I messaged Coach (Rocky) Larson and told him I was interested and sent them some of my tape,” Watson said. “They started recruiting, and Coach Walker and almost the whole staff came to talk to me and my family, which got me interested.”

Watson visited the campus during the postseason runs for the men’s basketball team and women’s hockey team last winter. He had a great experience and quickly fell in love with the campus, he said.

“Las Vegas is a metro area in the desert, and River Falls is a small city that’s all green, so it’s about as different as could be,” he recalled. “It really caught my eye how nice people are here and that they will help you out with anything you need.”

When Watson arrived for fall practice, he ran into two other Vegas players he had lost touch with for years. Dominique

Turner, another freshman, had played against Watson in the state championship game the previous fall.

Coming with other Vegas players “definitely helped make the transition easier,” Watson said. “They welcomed us like we’ve always been here. I’m already a part of the family, which helped a lot.”

Fernando Ortega, a freshman defensive lineman from Mesa, Arizona, began to meet with the coaching staff back in January. Ortega was quickly impressed by the UWRF coaches’ pitch.

“They described River Falls as a great school and a personal fit,” Ortega said. “It was a cool feeling to know my high school film made it all the way to Wisconsin.”

Ortega took a formal visit to River Falls only a few weeks later and quickly became interested in becoming a Falcon.

“Coach Walker always talks about fitting in with the family,” Ortega said. “At first it was tough, because the style of play is much more ground and pound compared to the fast passing pace in Arizona and Las Vegas. But we easily overcame that hurdle to be a family.”

While there are a few junior colleges and NAIA schools in the Arizona and Las Vegas area, the lack of Division II or Division III presence helped Ortega decide to further his education and football career with the Falcons.

“It’s a lot of the little things that sold it,” he said. “I wouldn’t come here if there wasn’t any potential. We see what’s building up here, and hopefully by my junior and senior year, you can see what’s in store.”

He and his Vegas teammates are betting on a few winning seasons ahead.



Kathy Helgeson/University Communications
Donjae Lyons (15), left and Janari Glover (20), right run during a kick return during a game between UWRF and Gustavus Adolphus at Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Sept. 9, 2017. Lyons is one of the nine players from Las Vegas on the roster.

Coach Profile: Patti Ford

Zach Dwyer
zachary.dwyer@my.uwrf.edu

Falcons’ volleyball has been on a tear this season, starting out 12-1 before dropping two matches at the UWRF Falcon Invite this past weekend in newly-opened Page Arena. Coach Patti Ford has been with the program longer than her current players have been alive and has helped guide her team to their best start in over a decade.

Ford is the first in a series of Falcon coach profiles conducted by the Student Voice. The Voice sat down with Ford to discuss her history with the Falcons and the excitement of Page Arena’s first live games.

Q: How long have you been coaching at River Falls?
A: I’m entering my 26th season at UW-River Falls.

Q: What brought you to the program in the first place?
A: Right out of college I got a teaching job in Fargo, ND. I taught physical education and coached a variety of sports, volleyball being one of them. Volleyball was just beginning and we were a winter sport. I got called over by NDSU to see if I would want to be a grad assistant, and at that time I didn’t know volleyball would be a piece of my career path. I enjoyed my experiences at NDSU and then I started looking for positions and threw my name at River Falls. I thought it was a good place for me to start and they were making a commitment to full-time coaching. Twenty-six years later I’m still at River Falls and I’ve enjoyed every minute of it.

Q: When did you first hear of plans for the Falcon Center?
A: It’s always been on the horizon since I’ve been here. We’ve gone through three or four levels of revision, but now the reality is where we are at now.

Q: Has the payoff of completion been what you expected?
A: It’s everything that I expected. It’s a beautiful structure and our first home match there was a good atmosphere. We’re going to be able to pack more students in and I think it’s trans-

formed the whole campus. It’s done a great job for our health and human performance department and now we have a showcase for athletics all under one roof.

Q: How will the Falcon Center have an impact on the community and on recruits?
A: We have the number one facility in the Midwest right now at Division III. We now have something to sell this great campus as, because 10 years ago it was the University Center and now it’s the Falcon Center. It gives you a lot more pride and extends out into the community. They can now come and use the facility and that will bring them to games. You don’t have to tell a story about having the best facilities because it’s evident. On one end, it looks like Lifetime Fitness and on the other end looks like a 1-AA arena for volleyball. I run a lot of summer camps and it will expand the number of kids I can have because of having three more courts. It’s like moving into a new home after spending 25-plus years in our old home.

Q: How well do you think the first tournament in Page Arena went?
A: I think it went smooth. Falcon Operations Department takes the pressure off a coach and lets us just go in and coach. Volleyball has been one of those sports where we’ve helped with event management. But everyone who walked into the building was amazed. The volleyball community is pretty tight, so I took people on a lot of tours. It was a really good atmosphere.



Kathy Helgeson/University Communications
Falcon Volleyball Coach Patti Ford on Friday, October 4, 2013.

Q: What’s the current team’s style of play?
A: Offensively we’re a lot faster and the tempo of the game is quicker. Our setting is good and our hitters are strong. We’ve always been strong on serving and passing and that’s our bread and butter. If we do that well, the rest of the match will take care of itself.

Q: What has given you the most fulfillment in your time at River Falls?
A: Seeing the growth of our Student Athletes. As they come in and move through their career academically and athletically, there’s so much growth that happens each year. If they can weather the storm throughout you see a very well-rounded individual who is going to go out and follow their passion. After having 25 years (of experience), I now see them as moms and professionals. I think that’s one of the benefits of coaching a long time. I was able to work a camp with one of my first recruits and see the progress of them moving through to great things.

Falcon Football aids in Hurrican Irma relief efforts

Many students on campus may be feeling grateful that they have not been affected by the many natural disasters going on around the world recently. But for Ugel George, a sophomore defensive lineman for the Falcons football team, this is not the case. George is from the U.S. Virgin Island of St. Thomas, and his family still resides there. They were impacted by

Hurricane Irma. As the island prepares to get hit by another hurricane, the Falcons football team stepped up and organized a clothing and shoes drive to help. Players waited outside of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field on Sept. 19 to collect donations from community members. As cars pulled up, the players collected boxes and bags full of used items that will be sent to

the island. A statement posted on the Facebook page for the event read, “Our first hand connection to the damage caused by Hurricane Irma has made this cause a priority for our football family and has driven us to raise awareness and generate support for the people of the Virgin Islands.”



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
UWRP Football players wait for communiti members to arrive with donations during the Falcon Football Hurricane Irma Relief Event in front of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Sept. 19, 2017.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Coaches Jake Litecky, left and Rocky Larson unload donations from a car during the Falcon Football Hurricane Irma Relief Event in front of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Sept. 19, 2017.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Trenton Monson, a wide receiver, moves a box of donations during the Falcon Hurricane Irma Relief Event in front of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Sept. 19, 2017.



Tori Schneider/Student Voice
Ugel George, a Falcons defense lineman, talks to news crews about his family in St. Thomas during the Falcon Hurricane Irma Relief Event in front of Smith Stadium at Ramer Field Sept. 19, 2017.

Falcons Results

Football

UWRP traveled to St. Louis to take on Missouri Baptist of the NAIA in an early 11 a.m. kickoff slot last Saturday. The Falcons dominated both sides of the ball to come away with a 30-3 victory as they enter their bye week. Michael Diggins continued his incredible start to the season, totaling over 100 yards rushing for the third consecutive week and gaining 168 yards and two touchdowns on Saturday. UW-River Falls managed to hold their opponent to negative 26 yards rushing, while allowing no points in the second half. The 2-1 Falcons now will have a week off before traveling to UW-Eau Claire to play the Blugolds in their WIAC opener. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball

The Falcons hosted their first tournament in Page Arena this past weekend, winning two matches on Friday and dropping both matches on Saturday to improve to 12-3 on the season. While their first match against Finlandia was an easy sweep, they had to work much harder for a come-from-behind victory in five sets against St. Olaf. It was the second time in the past week they had come back from two sets down to win at home, with the same result occurring on Wednesday against Carleton. Amara Meyer led the team with 37 kills on the weekend.

Women’s Soccer

UW-River Falls had a solid week on the field, but couldn’t get both wins over Minnesota Morris and Saint Benedict. The Falcons crushed Morris last Wednesday, dominating both sides of the ball to win 5-1. Kari Rollo, Kayla Windingstad, Abby Soderholm, Lindsey Jack and Mariah Troje all added goals to dismantle the Cougars. River Falls also outshot their opponent 33-4. Sunday would prove to be a different result, with Saint Ben taking the victory 1-0 over the Falcons. Megan Thompson scored a goal midway through the second half to put down River Falls. UWRP now stands at 2-4 on the season.

Falcons Sports Schedule

Sept. 22: Women’s Volleyball at Ripon College 7 a.m.

Sept. 23: Women’s Cross Country at Roy Griak Invitational 9 a.m.

Sept. 23: Men’s Cross Country at Roy Griak Invitational 10 a.m.

Sept. 23: Women’s Volleyball vs Simpson College in Ripon, WI 10 a.m.

Sept. 23: Women’s Volleyball vs Finlandia University in Ripon, WI 12:30 p.m.

Sept. 24: Women’s Soccer at Northland College 2 p.m.

Sept. 27: Women’s Soccer vs College of St. Scholastica 3 p.m.

Sept. 27: Women’s Tennis vs St. Olaf College 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 27: Women’s Volleyball vs UW-La Crosse 7 p.m.

‘The Prince and Me’ is not the unpredictable romance story you have been looking for

Bethany Lovejoy
Reviewer

The Prince and Me, not to be mistaken for the Prince and I, is a 2004 romantic comedy about a pre-med student with little passion for the liberal arts and a prince with a strong passion for the female figure.

The story opens easily enough. Paige is a pre-med major on the fast track to graduation who despairs over the real tragedy in her life: having to take Shakespeare. She works at an on-campus bar at UW-Madison and has the normal group of three to four girlfriends with majors representing every college on the UW-Madison campus.

Edvard is a Danish prince who likes drinking and drag racing. Watching an ad for a generic Girls Gone Wild program, Edvard decides that he must go to America. Most of all he must go to Wisconsin, more specifically UW-Madison.

Upon arrival, Edvard decides, rightfully, that Edvard is a stupid name and therefore he should be called Eddie. He also inexplicably decides to not be referred to as a prince anymore by his butler, as if that would honestly hinder his attempts to get with women. He also gets the writer’s idea of the worst roommate possible: an overweight man who labels his food and plays video games.

The fact that I would spend hours upon hours with Eddie’s roommate over him was reaffirmed when his first interaction with Paige was asking her to take her top off at the bar.

After that case of sexual harassment, Paige goes to her lab and finds her designated lab partner for the year, Eddie. Eddie tells her that he was drunk and therefore his request of her taking off her top is okay, she does not take this well. In an attempt to calm her he quotes Shakespeare at her, and is surprised that she rebuffs this attempt much like thousands of women before have rebuffed weird men quoting Shakespeare at them.

After nearly causing her to fail her lab and lying about his ability to work in food, Eddie decides that he is in love with Paige, who is subsequently too busy being a horrible person to notice. This is shown to the viewer when Eddie watches Paige violate health codes by dancing barefoot through the dining portion of the bar. To really force the idea across, the writers decide that Eddie should ask Paige to a party, forgetting that she is a literal wet blanket of a person.

His butler turns to him and explains, “You’ve never been in love with anyone who doesn’t know you’re a prince.” This line is the most disappointing part of the movie because it implies that Eddie came to America for love. Eddie did not come to America for love, he came for babes. This central part of his character is quickly lost to make him likable.

The thing about Eddie is that he is too stupid to be truly likable. He cannot cook, cut meats, clean anything, socialize, or do laundry. But he can do Shakespeare.

Which Paige hates up until it’s read to her by Eddie. A total of one time.

When Eddie reads Shakespeare to Paige he has to explain the basics of English literature to her. You may personally feel



that perhaps these are things one can only learn in an intro to literature class, so let me explain further.

Eddie explains to Paige that sometimes words mean other words. Paige has spent the whole movie spewing out sarcastic one-liners.

After this astounding realization, Paige gets an A on her midterm. This is enough for her to invite him to Thanksgiving. I will admit that inviting someone to your Thanksgiving dinner in reward for helping you with school is a great reward, and everyone I have helped even once should invite me to their Thanksgivings. Paige’s Thanksgiving takes place in Nowhere, Wisconsin; in a town so small that people race lawnmowers.

The true highlight of this movie is the names of said lawnmowers, “Moo-ve Over” and “Kiss My Grass”.

At some point during the parade of Midwestern “culture”, Eddie and Paige decide to emotionally connect. Like every other secret prince movie (an honest genre), Eddie lies to Paige that someday he will have to inherit the family business.

Similarly, Paige’s dad hints that she has to take over the dairy farm, lest it fails. Paige and Eddie completely ignore this man’s desire to continue his livelihood and talk about Eddie’s friendship with Victoria’s Secret models. Paige’s father smiles with an emptiness that can only be held by a man who sees the death of his legacy.

This movie would be far more interesting if it was about two people’s struggles with parental expectation. Unfortunately, it is not about that. As much as I got my hopes up looking at the

sad dairy farmer, I knew that they would be blown away like the notions of Wisconsin babes earlier. This movie is about Paige and her desire to be both frigid and unlikeable, and Eddie’s desire to do whatever.

Eddie exemplifies his desire to do whatever by racing lawnmowers and winning. For which he gets punched by a man with lamb chops.

Perhaps realizing that she is now no longer the most unlikeable person in the movie (the title instead going to Lambchop), Paige decides to get romantic with Eddie and make other people uncomfortable. Eddie really gets into this notion and has her rub his thigh while her best friend sits across the table smiling at them. They up the ante five seconds late by making out in the periodicals.

Journalists come and ruin everything because the first place everyone looks for this playboy prince is the library.

Paige finally realizes that Eddie is a prince. She subsequently leaves him and he becomes depressed. Paige reacts to said depression by leaving him to wallow and gets a new lab partner. Instead of telling Eddie that she loves him when she sees him, or maybe even slipping a card for Student Health and Counseling to him, she realizes that she loves him while at Shakespeare class.

But Eddie has returned to Denmark, and therefore Paige must go to Denmark. Unable to afford the trip to visit the depressed love of her life, she has her friends help fund her trip.

Paige and Eddie get back together like a day later.

If you think that this is where the movie ends you are wrong, but you do in fact have better timing than the writers of said movie.

The writers of said movie decided that it should limp along for another thirty minutes.

These thirty minutes consist of the queen objecting to Eddie’s love life, realizing that his babe watch has ended, and then subsequently saying that, okay he can marry Paige.

He proposes with a butterfly in his palm.

This is concerning because this means that this man has been holding this butterfly for like half an hour in his sweaty palms, waiting to be as extra as he can be. This is more concerning because he has clenched his hand for like ten minutes.

Paige is excited about her engagement for exactly one minute, she then realizes that she has dreams of her own.

How can she be the queen of a country AND a doctor helping children in third world countries?

So Paige goes back home and graduates, Eddie shows up to see her, and the butterfly plot device that has only been used once flies overhead. They then proceed to make out in front of all of her friends and family.

Overall my rating of this movie is a 2/5, with my largest complaint being the characters.

When we meet Edvard he wants to see babes, hang with babes, and watch them go wild. He immediately forgets this dream and his established character traits to hang out with this mean chick he met at a bar for the whole entire year and no one else.

Paige is just judgmental and rude. 1/10, not babe material.

Bethany Lovejoy is a 3rd year Creative Writing Student. She enjoys spending time alone and writing.

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

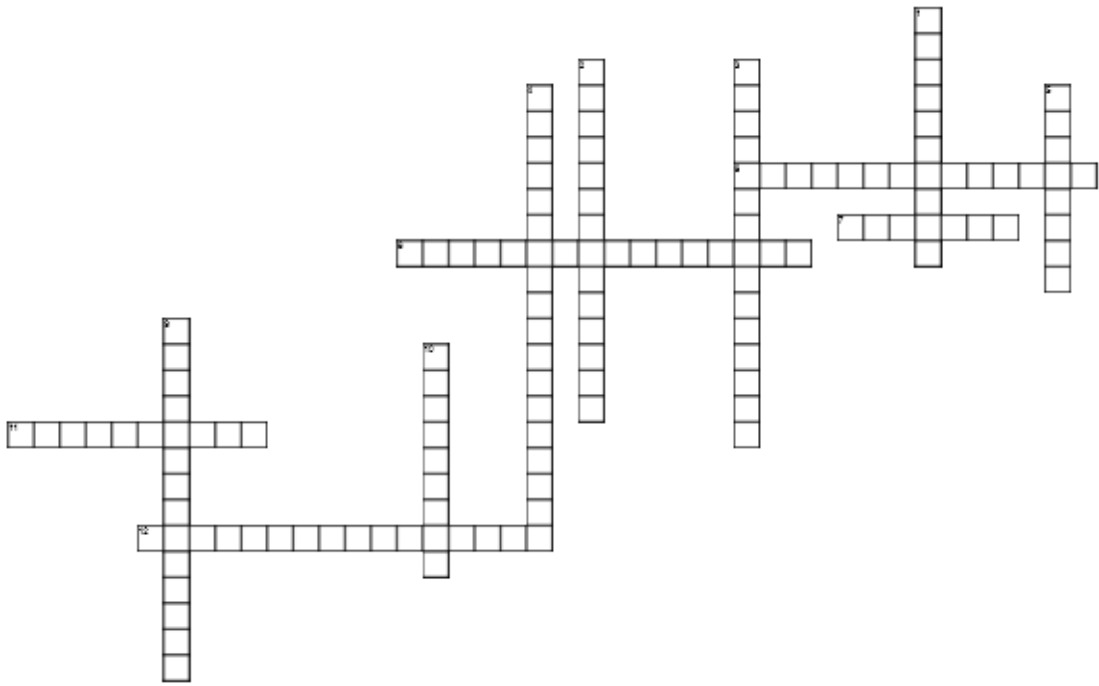
The first person to report the find to editor@uwrfvoice.com AFTER 10 a.m. Friday wins!

Now Playing: Kingsmen: The Golden Circle

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

Puzzle of the Week

Authors of Famous Books



- ACROSS
- 6 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
 - 7 Narnia
 - 8 John Steinbeck
 - 11 Journey to the Center of the Earth
 - 12 The Great Gatsby
- DOWN
- 1 Lord of the Rings
 - 2 Moby Dick
 - 3 Little Women
 - 4 Harper Lee
 - 5 Charlotte Bronte
 - 9 Harriet Beecher Stowe
 - 10 Mark Twain

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