



Ag sci professors describe
their hobbies

Women's basketball end of
season victory

New businesses in
River Falls



STUDENT

University of Wisconsin-River Falls *Spring Edition*

Thursday, March 14, 2019

www.uwrfvoice.com

VOICE

Construction plans to revamp campus

Dawson Flaherty

dawson.flaherty@my.uwrf.edu

Every year, students enroll to UW-River Falls to start or continue their college education. During a student's time on campus, they most likely will observe renovations or construction in one way or another.

Over the past six or so months, many that live on the east side of campus have had to walk by the construction site at David Rodli Hall. Currently David Rodli Hall is the largest renovation project on campus, however there are a variety of other projects taking place, as well as plans for future change.

David Rodli Hall opened in 1968,

and was used for dining services up until 2007, when the University Center opened. After 2007, David Rodli Hall became a place for some laboratories, classrooms, and even storage. Construction began in the fall of 2018.

The current renovation taking place in David Rodli Hall aims to make the building more useful to the university. Executive Director of Facility Management Alan Symicek said, "It's being converted into a [...] Student Success Center."

On the university website there is a floor plan for what David Rodli Hall is planned to look like after the renovation, as well as a diagram showing about 14 different departments currently scattered around campus that will be moving into

the space.

Another renovation currently happening on campus is the overhaul of the Dairy Pilot Plant located in the Agricultural Science Building. The plant was built back in 1983. The renovation is planned to be completed by the end of 2019. It will be larger and include more modern equipment. Symicek said, "When [students] get out into the workforce and to their employers, it's going to be much more transferable. They will work on modern equipment here and they will be working on modern equipment out there."

Continued on page 6

Spring break approaches in River Falls

Monica Marsh

brooke.shepherd@my.uwrf.edu

Spring break at UW-River Falls is closely approaching in the month of March. As students prepare for midterms, they are also getting ready for their days away from academia – whether that be spent abroad, staying in River Falls, or enjoying a relaxing break at home.

As can commonly be seen on college-oriented movies and television shows, many students opt for a tropical vacation. This remains true for a number of River Falls students who wish to trade the tundra-like temperatures for a warm spot on a sunny beach.

Freshman Hayley DeSouza said, "I'm going to Puerto Vallarta for the week with some friends and family." While in the warmer climate, DeSouza said, "We plan to go snorkeling and go for a yacht ride with unlimited food, I'm super excited."

On the contrary, some students have decided to save some money and spend time in River Falls or back in their hometowns. Katie Schlueter, a junior majoring in criminology, said, "I'm going to be working full time for most of break, other than that I'll be visiting a friend and spending time with my family."

As a college student, working is a priority for Schlueter, she added, "I'm basically not going anywhere because I don't have the extra money."

Similarly, junior Gavin Bunnell has plans to spend time at home this spring break. Bunnell explained, "I'm going to hang out with my family and some of my old friends, and I've got some work to do with my cows."

UW-River Falls spring break is scheduled to start after midterms, the final day of classes will be March 25, students are expected to be back on campus and ready to start back up on April 1.



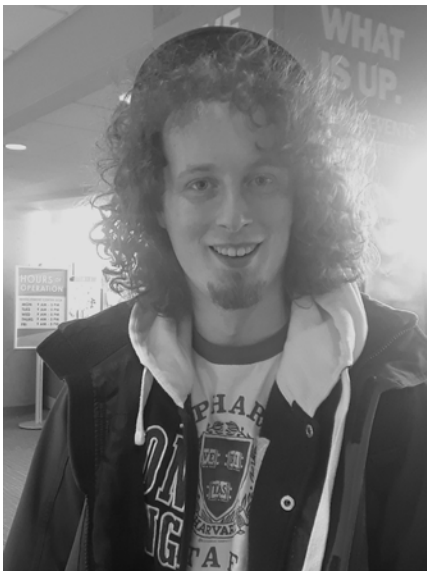
The sun sets on the Rodli construction site.
Photo by Dawson Flaherty

If you could be any flower, what would you be?

Compiled by Kacey Joslin & Brooke Shepherd

TJ Heid

“I know the names of maybe three flowers. Is poinsettia a thing? That’s the most unique-sounding one I know.”



Josiah Shipp

“I would be a dandelion because they can grow anywhere.”



Lexi Elgin

“I would be the smeraldo flower. I think it’s a pretty accurate description of me as a person. It has my favorite colors, and the name means emerald and that’s my birthstone.”



Rebecca Misorski

“My favorite flower is lilacs. They small pretty and I’ve had them since I was young.”

Grace Kabliska

“Probably a sunflower. I like to look on the bright side, and they always face the sun!”



Rainy Beehler

“I would probably be a daisy. It’s my favorite flower and it’s very springy.”



Sam Elam

“I’ve always had a weird obsession with marigolds. They do keep deer away.”



Josiah Mann

“I would be a white rose. I don’t know why.”

New businesses pop up in River Falls

Melissa Thorud

melissa.thorud@my.uwrf.edu

In the span of four months, River Falls introduced a new grocery store, Aldi, and a new Culver's to town. Both businesses had residents of River Falls waiting as construction was happening over the last bit of 2018. Each new business is located on Main Street, and both have been very popular among the residents, including UW-River Falls students.

Culver's took the place of the restaurant Perkins on Main Street, and opened its doors earlier this year on Jan. 28. This also happened to be the day that many students returned from winter break. Construction and training for the new location took place weeks in advance of opening day. "Training started a couple months, to a couple weeks, to just one week depending on the employee," said Culver's employee Isaac Ryba.

Many students and residents were ex-

cited for the new location. Ryba said, "A lot of customers enjoy that they no longer have to travel all the way to Hudson now that this location is here in River Falls." He also added that, "The surrounding communities and businesses have been very accepting and welcoming toward us during these past first few weeks."

Business at the restaurant has been maintained and continues to flow steadily.

This is a new option for residents of River Falls and has also been favored by UWRF students since opening day. "During opening week, it was 9:30 one night, which isn't usually a busy time for a Culver's, and the entire dining room was filled with college students," Ryba said.

Aldi also opened recently in River Falls and is a new option for groceries and snacks. The grand opening was held on Nov. 19, and is located near the Shopko on Main Street.



**New Aldi located off of Main Street in River Falls.
Photo by Melissa Thorud**

Aldi is a popular chain store of discount groceries, and there are several locations across the United States. Aldi has been very popular among college students since its grand opening in Novem-

ber, likely due to its competitive pricing. An Aldi staff member said that they were not able to comment on the grand opening to the Student Voice.

German faculty host a visual storytelling workshop

Kacey Joslin

kassandra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

Upcoming within the Screen and Stage Arts department at UW-River Falls is a visual storytelling workshop on April 2, 3 and 4 at the Chalmer Davee Library in the computer lab 162.

SASA is partnered with RheinMain University Media Conception and Production, a college based in Wiesbaden, Germany. "This is a partnership that UWRF Stage and Screen Arts has had for quite a number of years now," Erik Johnson, associate professor in the Stage and Screen Arts, has coordinated with RheinMain since 2011.

"We're apart of an Erasmus Plus grant," Johnson said. "It's an international grant/partnership deal, and we've been fortunate to become beneficiaries of this grant. They're paying for Germans to come over here and teach our students for free, basically."

The schools have participated in "collaborative projects" in which RheinMain faculty and students visited UWRF for a week's time in order to film and produce videos spotlighting the life of a UW-River Falls students. A similar video was produced on the RheinMain campus by Johnson and his students. The partnership culminated during "The Year of Germany," the SASA department hosted a live-from-Germany show at the University Center. It was a live television show was simultaneously transmitted to the screen in the Kinni Theatre. "It was an eight hour time-shift, so it would've been super late or super early over in Germany," Johnson added. Since the success of the simulcast, the program has

only expanded.

"Another part of this partnership is a faculty exchange," Johnson continued. "This next workshop coming up with roughly be in the evening, from 6:00 to 9:30 PM." Exact details are still pending.

The events will include instruction in software programs that all students to tell visual stories.

Tilman Schwarz and Elena Schmidt of RheinMain University will be teaching Tuesday and Thursday evening. Their workshop will likely entail assigning individual and group assignments, such as a slideshow project. The visual and aural content will be edited by the software programs Adobe Lightroom, Adobe Audition, as well as Adobe Premier.

Further details are still pending, but Johnson believes that the event should be open to everyone. "It's a SASA thing, but I think that it's important that other students get to attend. It's something that anybody can learn something from it," Johnson said.

"You never know, trying something new could lead to good things. The challenge is facilitating the amount of seats for it. Last workshop, it was first-come, first-serve. I'm thinking maybe some sort of sign-up form."

"I would say it's an opportunity to learn some new skills, and to be creative and there's that international component, as well," Johnson continued. "It's kind of cool to meet people from a different culture, a different part of the world, and have them share their skills and passion for storytelling. The technical and the creative sides, those are the selling points. And it's free! It's totally free!"

Attending the workshops will likely



**Erik Johnson discusses the benefits of the RheinMain workshop and transfer program.
Photo by Kacey Joslin**

serve as extra credit to most SASA programs, as well as some photography and journalism courses.

Recycling rates showing mixed results

Tyler Perelman

brooke.shepherd@my.uwrf.edu

As of the most recent Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) report published February 21, 2018 by Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), UW-River Falls officially earned its first gold STARS rating. This was the result of a campus effort toward the betterment of the environment.

As outlined by the 2017 STARS Executive Summary, the total generated waste from UWRF decreased by about 5 percent between the years 2014 and 2017. The average amount of waste diminished by about 53 tons overall.

Custodial Supervisor Mark Klapatch is also member of the Office of Sustainability at UWRF. Klapatch provided additional data in reference to the overall recycling rate on campus over the past few years. According to annual measurements compiled by Klapatch, the recycling rate at UWRF in the year 2017 was about 24 percent, yet decreased to about 22 percent in 2018.

Klapatch stated that the rate here at UWRF is significantly lower than both local and national numbers. The national average for recycling of 34 percent. In Wisconsin, the average is 36 percent, and the Minnesota average of 40 percent.

According to a study conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), "34.3 percent of the 254.1

million tons of municipal solid waste generated in 2013 was recovered through recycling or composting." In a similar study the EPA conducted two years later, about 26 percent municipal solid waste was recycled in the United States, whereas about 9 percent were being composted. This totals about 35 percent of generated waste either recycled or composted.

In this same study, the most recent composting rate for UWRF is reportedly above the U.S. average, standing at about 25 percent over the national figure of about 9 percent, a difference of nearly 16 percentage points. The EPA does, however, include a "total other wastes" category, and marks the U.S. average at about 30 percent of additional waste being composted, nearly five percentage points greater than UWRF.

UWRF placed 140 out of 205 universities across the U.S. who participated in the 2018 RecycleMania competition, a program created in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation in order to raise awareness about the importance of waste reduction. Over a time frame of seven weeks, the campus contributed roughly 49,242 pounds (24.621 tons) of recycled material, good for the 45th worst net contribution in the event.

When recycling rates across UWRF do not improve from year to year or decrease significantly, Klapatch expresses concern for the health of the campus – both ecologically, as well as financially. According to Klapatch, when asked about the potential impacts on campus when recycling rates drop, he stated, "The most substantial concern is that more items are going to landfills. Landfills are filling up and the costs of disposing of items is going to skyrocket."

Efforts to repurpose waste at UWRF over the previous number of years has been very successful overall. As outlined by the STARS Executive Report, the ability to maintain these high marks has been "accomplished through recycling, composting, the Surplus Property Program, the end of the year 'Don't Throw It, Donate It' move out program, repurposing items to campus, and donations to nonprofit organizations."

In terms of improving recycling throughout the campus, Klapatch voiced his approval of the Office of Sustainability. "Making sure we provide a good infrastructure of bins, especially bin location, is critical. We have made huge strides in the academic buildings in the past 5 years by relocating bins from classrooms to hallways, going to side by side trash and recycling containers, and adding better signage."

To increase student awareness across UWRF, Klapatch recommended that students follow the UW-River Falls Sustainability on Facebook or follow up with their office for more resources. To stay up to date with new research and statistics, Klapatch encourages students to visit the Recycling page on the UWRF website.

In his concluding remarks, Klapatch points to students as the 'agents of change' in improving recycling rates across campus. "The Office of Sustainability depends on student volunteers. We need to find better ways to get information out to campus and to make it a part of our campus culture. This information really expands beyond recycling and should really include reducing consumption, energy efficiency, water conservations, etcetera." However, Klapatch does admit consistently doing so can be challenging, as integrating these mindsets into campus culture can be tough when positions and funding are both limited.

Campus transitions to Canvas online learning environment

Melissa Thorud

melissa.thorud@my.uwrf.edu

This semester UW-River Falls has replaced the previous learning management system, Desire 2 Learn (D2L) with Canvas, a Digital Learning Environment (DLE). This replacement was adopted by as well the entire UW-System.

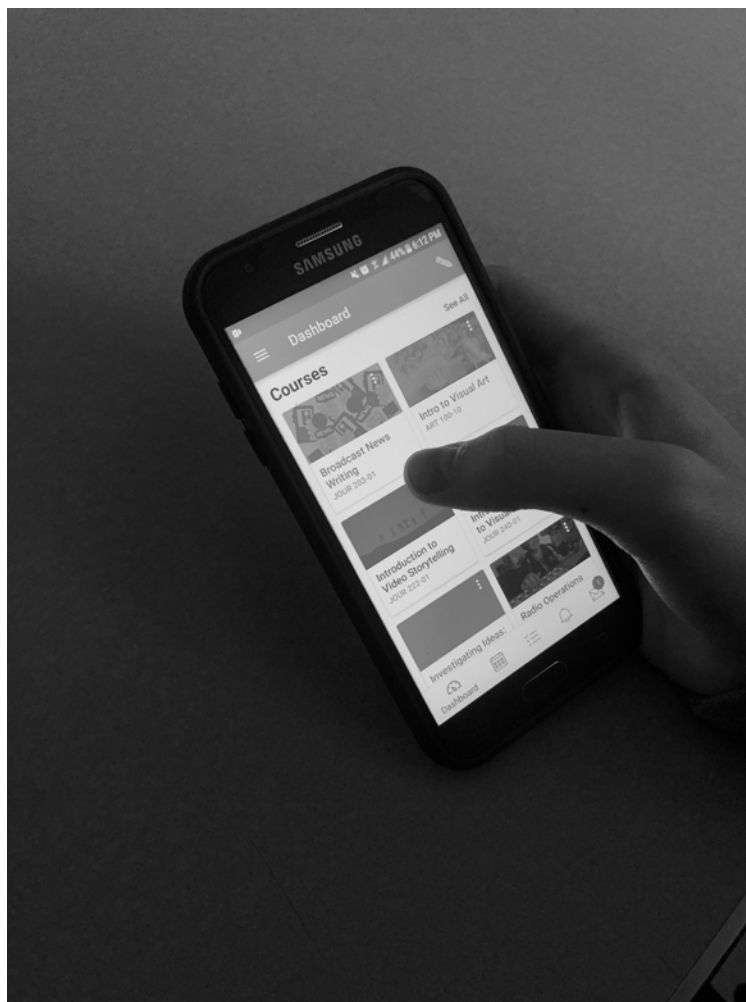
Canvas is a DLE similar to D2L, and the transition to the new platform started during the fall semester of 2018. The change took full effect during the spring semester of 2019. Although it may be taking some time, students and professors are becoming more accustomed to the new platform.

Canvas was recently adopted at each UW-System school because the contract with D2L had expired and the university system decided to explore new technologies. Canvas was introduced to the UWRF campus in spring of 2018, and training for the new platform began and continued into the summer.

In the fall of 2018, professors were starting to familiarize themselves and their students with the platform for some classes. However, all classes were moved to Canvas only during J-term and spring semesters of 2019. D2L will officially be withdrawn from UWRF courses fall semester of 2019.

Canvas was introduced by the company, Instructure Inc. in 2011 and the software has continued growing over the past decade. The platform is becoming gradually more widespread across several universities and school systems, gaining popularity for its sleek look and in depth options.

According to the Canvas website, the DLE is "used by more than 3,000 universities, school districts, and institutions around the world." Several other universities all across the United States are also using Canvas including, Arizona State University, Iowa State Univer-



Student utilizing the Canvas phone application.
Photo by Melissa Thorud

sity, The College Of St. Scholastica and Florida State University.

Some UWRF students have overall positive reviews about the new platform. Hallie Diekoff, a freshman at

UWRF said, "As a freshman I was introduced to both Canvas and D2L at the same time. I liked using canvas better because I could find assignments and announcements easier because it is well organized in categories." Diekoff also said, "I also really like that Canvas has an app, it makes it easier to check my grades and announcements from professors." The overall transition for students hasn't been too difficult.

Noah Hinsch, a sophomore at UWRF said, "I'm glad that UWRF made the switch, I didn't find the transition from D2L to Canvas very hard because Canvas is a really easy to use program and the format is similar to what D2L uses." Hinsch also added that, "Canvas sends notifications to your phone through the app when the professor sends an announcement or puts a grade in so it is a lot easier to stay organized and on top of homework assignments instead of having to log onto D2L and check for any new assignments."

The mobile app for Canvas is very popular among students, as they find it easier to use and more efficient. There is also features to check grades, and calculate potential grades.

Professors have been easing themselves into the new platform. Some professors started using Canvas as early as spring semester 2018. There are mixed reviews among professors about the new DLE. Journalism Professor Sandy Ellis, said, "Canvas is okay, having used D2L for so many years makes it harder to adjust to the new change. I didn't have to think about how to use D2L."

Ellis talked more about how the instructor side of Canvas may be more difficult to use and adjust to because many of the functions are different from D2L.

Continued on page 6

Student Senate members lobby in Madison for UW System

Theodore Tollefson
and Melissa Thorud

theodore.tollefson@my.uwrf.edu

On January 15-17, two members of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Student Government Association had the opportunity to travel to Madison, Wisconsin to lobby for the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents. The two members of Student Senate who traveled to Madison were SGA President Rosie Pechous, and Oversight and Rules Director Evan Pankow.

"I've never actually lobbied before, and neither has Evan," said Pechous. "He expressed interest in trying to lobby, and I decided that since it is the budget season, it would be a perfect time to try it out."

"It was great meeting with senators and having honest conversations about the needs of our schools and students," said Pankow. "Representing students and this school was a fulfilling task of course, but developing skills and gaining experience in work that means something to me is what made this trip memorable."

The main objective of Pechous' and Pankow's lobbying efforts were to talk with Wisconsin State legislatures about the UW System budget proposed by the system's regents. The UW System regents first approved of the proposed budget for the biennial 2019-2021 fiscal years on August 23, 2018.

Since then, the UW System regents, along with students, faculty, and staff from across the UW System have been in Madison lobbying the proposed budget to member of the State legislature and newly elected Governor of Wisconsin, Tony Evers.

Even though the proposed budget was approved by the UW System regents last August, the budget will likely see some changes before it is put into effect on



Rosie Pechous and Evan Pankow standing the Wisconsin Capitol Building rotunda
Photo courtesy of Rosie Pechous

July 1, 2019.

Currently, Governor Evers has the chance to change the biennial budget before he proposes his up to date version of the budget to the state's Joint Finance Committee (JFC). Once the budget is moved onto the JFC, they will be working on the budget, sending it to the state assembly for approval, then the state senate, and finally, the final version of the budget would be sent back to Evers for it's final stamp of approval.

Pechous talked about the process of preparing for lobbying that her and Pankow went through before they traveled to Madison in mid-January. "We set dates that both worked for us, then sat down with Chancellor Van Galen and Beth Schommer (executive assistant to the chancellor) to ask a few questions about what the budget entails. We as students wanted to get the important points

from the budget that were specific to students. After we met with them, Evan and I sat down and called a number of Senators and Assembly members in Wisconsin and set up back-to-back meetings."

UW-River Falls does have a significant funding request in the 2019-2021 fiscal budget as the budget would allow for the university to start construction for the newly planned Science and Technology Innovation Center on campus. The funds proposed for the building in the budget would help to ensure the building's projected time of construction finished by 2024.

Another part of the budget would fund the structure of an individual students innovation. This would include getting more internships with local partners on more UW campuses to give students a better chance of being hired for an internship in or related to their major and/

or minor.

Pechous elaborated more on important aspects of the budget saying, "A part of the budget that would be important to students is the proposed 3 percent increase for teacher compensation. Wisconsin professors are underpaid about 18-20 percent in comparison to other states, (Minnesota). To maintain quality education in the state of Wisconsin, the budget proposed a 3 percent increase for the first year and 3 percent increase for the second year for professors."

Pankow included that there are several reasons for students within the UW System to understand what the budget is all about, "This budget is all about not just maintaining but also creating quality education with state support. The UW school system is prized with prestige and this budget assures that for years to come," Pankow continued. "This affects each student not just at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls but also each student across the UW System as this budget is for the UW System as a whole."

Pechous talked about what she appreciated about her experience lobbying, "I really enjoyed spending time with Director Pankow and watching us both discover ways to speak to officials in a professional manner. There was a lot of personal growth and development on this trip, and that is always fun to watch from a leadership position. We walked away with the trip truly satisfied. You never know until you try. We did our best, got our voices out there, and walked away happy."

The UW system budget will be going through multiple revisions between now and July 1 through the Wisconsin Joint Finance Committee. For more information regarding the progress of the UW System biennial budget, go to the UW System site.

Reimagining Liberal Arts initiative at UWRF

Theodore Tollefson

theodore.tollefson@my.uwrf.edu

The Reimagining Liberal Arts is an initiative that has been put together by the University of Wisconsin-River Falls College of Arts and Sciences in order to help gain a general and collective understanding of what a liberal arts education means. This program is designed for students who are graduating with a liberal arts degree.

"A group of faculty and staff over the last two or three years began to think about the fact that we as a campus needed to really articulate what the liberal arts were in the past, what they are now, and what they could be in the future," said Dean Yohnk, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "We're always striving to be innovative in our programming and do everything we can to prepare students for successful lives and careers after they graduate."



Members of the Dean's Advisory Council speak at the first panel to faculty.
Photo by Theo Tollefson

The initiative held its first event in a series of panels that took place on Wednesday, Feb. 27. The panels presented to a group of 14 students with at least one representative from each of the colleges on campus, some of whom are on the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's advisory council. The students spoke to faculty and administrators on the benefits of the liberal arts education they have received at UW-River Falls, both in their core major courses and in their general education courses through the college of arts and sciences.

During the panel all students were asked a series of four questions. The first of these questions as asked by Yohnk was, "What do you perceive to be the benefits of the comprehensive liberal arts education that you have received at UWRF?"

Continued on page 6

Student Voice wins six awards

Student Voice Staff

The Student Voice at UW-River Falls picked up six awards during the annual convention of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association, including three first place honors.

The 2018 Collegiate Newspaper Contest awards were announced Friday, March 8, in Madison.

Zach Dwyer, a senior from New Hope, Minnesota, earned honors in news and sports reporting. He won a first place award for his November 2017 sports story, “Rick Bowen court dedication reflects how far UWRF basketball has come.” The story told about the legacy of Falcons basketball coach Rick Bowen. Dwyer also earned second place in the category with a December 2017 story, “National anthem protests raise questions nationally, within UWRF football team.” Dwyer reported on reaction on campus to football players protesting by refusing the stand for the national anthem.

Dwyer, who served as editor of the

Student Voice during the 2017-2018 academic year, won first place in public affairs reporting for his May 2018 story “UWRF faces challenges of compression, inversion in professors salaries.” The story examined how the salaries of senior faculty all behind pay for junior faculty.

Another first place winner is Brooke Shepherd, this semester’s editor, who earned an award for her December 2018 feature story, “Fitness influencer Amelia Skye tells her story.” The story looked at the success Skye has had since graduating from UWRF with a degree in marketing communications.

Lauren Simenson, a 2018 graduate with a journalism major, earned honorable mention in column writing for her April 2018 piece, “Danger and harassment can be around any corner for women.” Simenson’s piece argued that for women, the simple act of walking along the street should not lead to harassment and intimidation.

The Student Voice also continued a



Kacey Joslin, Brooke Shepherd, Theodore Tollefson and Tyler Perelman hold awards. Photo by Andris Straumanis

consistent record of winning awards for staff-written editorials. The newspaper won third place for a February 2018 editorial, “Gun violence is horrible, but will only change if we demand it.” The editorial suggested faculty, staff and students

should join national protests against gun violence.

A total of 283 entries from 11 campus newspapers across Wisconsin were entered in the contest.

Reimagining Liberal Arts initiative at UWRF

Continued from page 5

Jonah Conway, a vocal music education major, responded, “I think the main benefit is that it allows students to have the opportunity to experience different courses and different experiences from all sorts of walks of life and that can result in a more holistic education.”

Paul Tietz, an environmental science major, added, “Having these liberal arts requirements here in River Falls, while attending here, as opposed to some other engineering school or technical focused place. Without all of those requirements, if I didn’t have those, I wouldn’t have pursued study abroad like I did. I spent a semester in Spain in the fall. I had such a great experience and it’s definitely not something I would have done if I did not have these liberal arts requirements here.”

The second question that was given to the students to answer was, “What are the most essential learning techniques and skills that you have gained in courses at UWRF that you believe will help you be most successful in the future, both on a personal and career level?”

Jase Bakker, a biology major, said that his most important skill gained is, “Priority management. My own has really improved since I came here. When I first came here it was do the first thing that is due next and try to

get that done, kind of waiting until deadlines to get things done the day that they are due. Learning that if you kind of do things a couple days in advance, you actually create time for yourself to dive deeper than you would have if you just waited until the final moment to do that assignment. If you give yourself that extra time you dive deeper than you would have originally and that just comes with that extra time you have created for yourself.”

“Making connections with people. I think that in liberal arts being that everyone comes from different aspects in what they want to pursue in their major. I think everyone has different things to bring to the table in liberal arts, like those gen eds specifically come together in team work,” said Dakotah Poitra, an exercise sports science major.

Moving on, the third question that Yohnk asked was, “What do you believe have been the most important “high impact learning” activities that you have engaged in while at UWRF?”

William Sealy, an education major, talked about his own internship experience and how it related to the important high impact learning activities he had engaged through UWRF, “So the internship that I got was working through a diversity program with Native American youth this summer, so I was actually teaching in a classroom with sixth through eighth graders. It really gave me more experi-

ence getting comfortable in front of other students and just kind of adapting my instructing, pretty much things I was learning in my education classes I applied in an academic classroom setting with those students.”

Finally, the last question Yohnk asked the panel of students was, “As you prepare for the future (graduation, career, graduate school, personal life) what do you personally believe are the most important (2-3) skills or lessons that you have learned from your education here at UWRF that you believe will help you be successful in the future? What advice do you have for current or future students?”

Zach Dwyer, a journalism major, spoke on what advice he would give to an incoming freshman, “Jumping into activities right away even if you’re not experienced or no really ready for it right away. First week here, you know, going into a head coaches office interviewing them right away was pretty intimidating or talking on the radio for three hours during a football game. That’s not something you are ever going to be fully prepared for, so just being ready for when that opportunity comes and build on those opportunities.”

Michelle Stage, a psychology major, also spoke on advice she would give to an underclassman saying, “Just jump in and try things, whether it is an organization, whether it’s a gen ed. I think about the first two gen

eds that I signed up for and they inspired me to pursue a philosophy minor. I think about the organizations I am a part of and all of this would not have happened if I hadn’t taken the chance to jump in with my gen eds.”

After Yohnk concluded his questions for the group, the floor opened up for faculty and staff to ask questions of their own to ask to the group of 14 students. Following the additional questions, two presentations were then shown to the audience. The first concerned the Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP initiative by the Association of Colleges and Universities) which is the initiative that is influencing UW-River Falls’ own evaluation of the college of the liberal arts. The second presentation was on High Impact Practices in Teaching and Learning which focuses on what critical thinking and life skills faculty are teaching their students and how they can improve on what they are already teaching.

The next public panel of the reimagining the liberal arts initiative will take place on Tuesday, March 19 from 4-5:30 pm in the University Center. This panel will feature alumni and local business leaders speaking on the value of liberal arts education at UWRF.

Campus transitions to Canvas

Continued from page 4

She said, “There is no easy way to make a bonus quiz or an extra credit assignment like there was in *Conti*.”

Canvas is efficient and accessible for students to use and takes little adjustment, whereas for instructors the entire

platform is a larger shift. Ellis did add that D2L maybe was not as expensive as Canvas and that she did like the new functions such as the assignment calendar that is built into the program.

Canvas is still very new to campus and will continue to take some more adjusting for both students and professors.

There are several resources for both instructors and students that are having any difficulties with the new platform. There are lengthy guides for students and for instructors on the UWRF website under the Canvas link that go through many possible issues and instructions for the program. There is also a way that instruc-

tors and students can chat with Canvas, if there are any questions and this option is available 24/7. A phone number and email address for Canvas support is also available on the UWRF website.

Bowls for Hope sees 10th year of fundraising for charities

Owen Elle
Falcon News Service

The 10th annual Bowls for Hope once again brought together the UW-River Falls campus and the River Falls community to raise money for a local charity. The event, which took place March 5 in the University Center, this year raised funds for the River Falls Sunshine Fund, a River Falls High School student-led non-profit. During the event, local chefs offer participants various soups served in bowls made by UWRF art students, local potters, and elementary and high school pupils.

“Bowls for Hope initially started during the inauguration of Chancellor Van Galen (in 2010), as part of a decision to purposefully combine the community and the university in a meaningful way,” said Mary Van Galen, associate of the chancellor and the event’s planner. The idea behind Bowls for Hope started around the time Van Galen went to an event that utilized bowls. She thought it was “unique and fun” and consulted local potter and UWRF alumnus Doug Johnson about the university creating an event centered around bowls.

“I looked at what are the strengths of the community and it seemed that the community was very much an art-based community and we had a lot of potters in western Wisconsin,” Van Galen said.

Van Galen expected a variety of community members to attend the event, including those enrolled in the River Falls schools, UWRF alumni, and local residents. Creating the event takes anywhere from 250 to 300 staff members and volunteers while Van Galen expected participants to number around 250 to 400 individuals.

Stressing the importance of unity across different areas of the community, Van Galen said, “It does bring so many people together and it’s just fun to watch people be out for a couple hours, enjoy each other’s company and taste some soups.”

The event featured awards such as a Chef’s Choice Award and the People’s Choice Award, both won by Paul Howie of the Copper Kettle restaurant in River Falls.

“The true magic of the night is when community members who frequently don’t get on campus and talk to our students and interact and learn more about the recipient charity and just have a good time,” Van Galen said.

During last year’s event, \$6,500 was raised for the Family Resource Center St. Croix Valley.

River Falls Sunshine Fund Treasurer Melissa Godden said, “Our goal is to beat that number and raise as much as we can, so we can give it back.”

Riley Jahnke, a member of the fund and River Falls High School student, agreed. “Our goal is to raise funds for those in the community bearing life’s adversities,” Jahnke said. “Part of our goal is we want to give back equally, so all of this money won’t be for one thing, we will split it up.”

Mowing lawns, shoveling driveways, and purchasing food and gas cards are ways the River Falls Sunshine Fund hopes to help the community with the money raised. The fund looks to help out those with a death or illness in the family or those who are unemployed.

“Families that we are helping live in the community, they go to school here and eventually may go to the university, so we are helping across the board with all families,” Godden said.

“Our goal is to beat that number and raise as much as we can, so we can give it back.”

Student body president pushes for increased compensation

Owen Elle
Falcon News Service

Being student body president at a university is a busy job. Just ask current UW-River Falls Student Body President Rosie Pechous.

That’s why she’s proposing that compensation be increased for the position.

“Student body presidents can’t just start working at the first meeting of the semester. It’s a lot of summer work,” Pechous said. She said she wishes she knew how much uncompensated work would have to be completed over the summer before she took the job.

Once the school year began, Pechous continued to stay busy.

“Students might think we don’t do anything,” Pechous said in an interview in her office on campus. “I spend many hours here writing motions, and the students don’t see our written motions exactly, but they are happening, and they are changing the future of this university, which I wish students knew.”

Pechous, an education major, is a full-time student currently taking 12 credits at UW-River Falls.

“Most of my days are either spent in check-in meetings or meetings with the chancellor,” Pechous said. When she’s not meeting with the chancellor or the provost, she is leading the Student Senate, talking to her directors, and making sure student senators stay busy in their roles.

“I spend a lot of time in this office,” Pechous said. After she leaves the campus to head home around 5 p.m., she enjoys running by the Kinnickinnic River, going to the gym, and visiting her parents and dog.

“I find things to fill my time. I like to be busy, which I think makes me a good student body president because I like to be always checking in,” Pechous said. However, it’s not all free time for Pechous after she leaves River Falls. She works at

the YMCA in Hastings, Minnesota, during the weekends.

“It’s a very low-risk, low anything-to-do job and I like it like that,” Pechous said.

For the work Pechous does as student body president, she was given a \$4,800 stipend for the 2018-2019 school year, according to Nathan Riel-Elness, co-advisor for the Student Government Association.

At UW-Superior, Special Assistant to the Chancellor Jordan Milan said that Student Body President Scott Holmes received a stipend of \$2,300 for the 2018-2019 school year. UW-La Crosse allots \$6,462 for its student body president for the 2018-2019 school year, according to Assistant to the Vice Chancellor Robin Tuxen.

Pechous said she believes that student body presidents should receive higher compensation for their work at UW-River Falls.

“Based on our research to other schools and what they get paid, we are proposing that student body president and vice president gets free tuition,” Pechous said.

Pechous is looking into multiple options, saying that at any time she could raise the stipend from the Student Senate’s \$32,000 budget, pending approval from senate.

“I think (the compensation) was fair for what student government used to be, and then when I stepped into office I made student government more involved on campus,” Pechous said. “I think the compensation is good, but we have the means to make it more.”

The push for increased compensation for student body president and vice president comes as the Student Government Association changed its rules for student organizations, no longer allowing the organizations to pay their leadership a salary starting next school year.

Construction plans revamp campus

Continued from page 1

The university always seems to be renovating or building something new, however the only reason that this is possible is due to planning. This summer, McMillan Hall will be getting an overhaul. Symicek said, “We are going to do a major renovation of the restrooms on all floors, the bathrooms it will get new showers facilities and HVAC in the building.”

Another upcoming project would be an electrical substation project. The goal for this project is to replace the equipment that distribute electricity throughout campus to all the university buildings. The equipment that is currently in use is over 30 years old and at the end of its life, so the plan is to start replacing the equipment over

the course of the next two years.

May Hall is also set to have a renovation starting this summer with the demolishing of Nelson Center marking the start. Nelson Center’s demolition is also the final phase of the Falcon Center project. The plan is to build a lobby for May Hall, as well as an elevator, where the Nelson Center currently is. Symicek said, “Basically the idea behind that is to make May Hall ADA compliant, so that if we have people with disabilities they can get in and out of the building.”

Beyond the new addition, May Hall is also getting a new heating system and the basement is going to be renovated as well.

Looking to the distant but not too distant future is the Science and Technology Innovation Center. This is a more recent project that is still in the planning and

funding phase, but looks promising for future students. Symicek said, “The Governor just released his proposed capital budget for this year, and he did, just in the last day or two, he did propose a million dollars for planning of that facility. However, that still has to make its way through the legislator, get voted on, then make its way back to the Governor.”

The building is planned to house the biology, chemistry, physics, and psychology departments

As for what comes after the Science and Technology Innovation Center it’s anyone’s guess. The university will continue to renovate facilities as it sees fit, and build new facilities to replace older ones. The university continues to expand and evolve to better meet the needs of students.

New River Falls group featured in March barn dance

by Barn Dance Committee

A new River Falls string band the Woolley Buggers will play on Saturday, March 16 in the gym of the River Falls Academy (the former Meyer Middle School) at 439 West Maple Street in River Falls from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.

The Woolley Buggers, fronted by bluegrass ace Chris Silver, have been playing together for the past year. Other members are Ari Silver, Jeremy Davis, and Ben Toppel. (The band's name refers to a popular fly-fishing lure. No prior dancing experience is necessary. A skilled caller teaches steps to newcomers and more seasoned dancers alike. All dancing is social and singles are welcome. Children are especially encouraged to participate in the opening family-friendly segment from 7 to 8 p.m.

The second part of the evening features somewhat more advanced dances. This is the final date in the 2018-19 barn dance season. As of this fall, the series will say good-bye to its venue of more than a dozen years as the Academy undergoes renovation. A new location for the dances will be announced later this year.

The barn dance series is volunteer-operated and jointly sponsored by River Falls Community Arts Base, River Falls Parks and Recreation, and Allina Health River Falls Area Hospital.. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for 12 and under. Inexpensive refreshments are available.

River Falls celebrates St. Patrick's Day

By Reagan Hoverman

The city of River Falls will hold the annual St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 17 2019, from 1 p.m to 7 p.m. The events will be taking place throughout the day in downtown River Falls. The events begin with the Pot-of-Gold Medallion Hunt at Veterans Park. The winner of the event will be given \$50 in Chamber Checks. Events continue throughout the day at local businesses like Mei Mei's Cookies & Creamery, Johnnie's Bar and Treasures from the Heart. From 1 p.m. until there will be a Potato Soup Crawl and Pub Poker Walk taking place around local businesses. Join the family fun in downtown River Falls!

Bluegrass music comes to River Falls

By Tyler Perelman

On Friday April 12 through Sunday, the 9th annual River Falls Roots and Bluegrass Music Festival is set to commence in the heart of downtown River Falls, beginning on Friday, April 12, 2019, and continuing through the weekend.

A River Falls tradition for nearly a decade, the Annual Beer & Wine Tasting starts at 5 p.m. in Junior's Restaurant & Tap House will kick the event off for 2019. Multiple venues along downtown will be filled to the brim with free live music, jam sessions, a variety of unique workshops, and great food. Any and all are welcome to attend and have a blast, and admission is free!

Science Museum 'Game Changers' exhibit

By Dawson Flaherty

The Science Museum of Minnesota is known throughout the midwest for its incredible exhibits. However, when I found out they were doing a video game exhibit, it was a real "game changer."

"Game Changers" the exhibit can currently be found at the science museum until May 5, 2019. This exhibit is open to the public. On the museum's website, it is described as a way to "play your way through the evolution of gaming." This quote seems to ring true through the number of titles available at the museum. From arcade classics, to triple A titles, and even indie games, Game Changers seems to capture the past and present of gaming in a special way.



Graphic by Kacey Joslin

Upcoming events in the Twin Cities

By Theo Tollefson

Live from Here the radio with guest host Jon Batiste. This will take place at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul, MN on March 16. Tickets range from \$45 to \$55. The New Orleans and Late Show with Stephen Colbert own Jon Batiste hosts this live event being aired over 89.3 The Current. The event features numerous performances from local musicians and comedians who are up and coming in their respective industries. In addition, Jon Batiste will also have a performance of his own. This is great for anyone wanting to expand their tastes in music and comedy.

WCW Twin Cities: Women who rock will be coming to the Varsity Theater in Minneapolis Minnesota on March 27. Tickets go from \$10 to \$15. This event features the likes of Mina Moore, Lydia Liza, and the Twins of Franklin in honor of Women's History month. If you're a fan of rock, this is a great event to get into for a good price and to listen to women rockers who are making an impact in the industry. Proceeds of ticket sales will also go to the Ann Bancroft Foundation.

Pink Floyd's Nick Mason brings in a band of his own to perform the pre-Dark Side of the Moon era music of Pink Floyd. Taking place at the Orpheum in Minneapolis on April 2, this will certainly be an acid flashback of a show for fans of Pink Floyd who listened to their early work, and be an introduction for younger audience members to the lesser known work of Floyd to Millennial's and Gen Zers. Tickets are \$45.

Take a step back into the 1970's with the youthful band of Durand Jones and the Indications as they perform a new wave sound of soul music on 7th St. Entry in Minneapolis, on April 9. The Indications provide a bridge in their music to the past of how soul music vibed in American souls during the 70's and look to revive that sound for their audiences heading into the 2020's. Tickets are \$18 in advance, and \$29 the day of show.



uwrfstudentvoice



uwrfstudentvoice



@uwrvoice

Visit the
Student Voice
website
uwrvoice.com

Former Falcon Eddie Matsushima adjusting to professional hockey

Owen Elle

owen.elle@my.uwrf.edu

Sunny skies, white sandy beaches, and light blue water. That's the view from Eddie Matsushima's beachfront condo in Pensacola, Florida.

Since the conclusion of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls men's hockey teams' season, Matsushima has been playing for the Pensacola Ice Flyers of the Southern Professional Hockey League (SPHL).

"For me it was kind of a whirlwind, I had a couple talks with some teams here and there briefly," Matsushima said. "We got back after Stevens Point and I woke up the next morning and my phone had a few missed calls, a few missed texts, and teams were trying to get me to come down immediately."

Matsushima, 25, hopped on a flight and headed down to join his new team to start his professional career. "I left on Monday morning and it was negative seven degrees and I pulled into Pensacola at about 10:30 a.m. it was 70 degrees."

Falcon teammate Joe Drapluk will join Matsushima with the Ice Flyers for the remainder of the 2018-2019 season. Pensacola Head Coach Rod Aldoff coached Joe and his twin brother Brian with the Minnesota Wilderness of the Superior International Junior Hockey League during the 2012-2013 season.

"Hockey's a small world and everybody kind of knows everybody," Matsushima said. "I'd like to win a championship with the Ice Flyers, but ultimately the goal is to keep moving up."

Matsushima, a native of Verona, Wisconsin, names the East Coast Hockey League and the American Hockey League as potential places he would like to play in the future.

Aldoff believes Matsushima, with his maturity and work ethic, is adjusting well to his current league, saying, "He's got good speed and has a two-hundred-foot game where he has great defense."

Aldoff continues, saying, "I've had a lot of former players play at River Falls so I know the coaching staff there well, obviously he

had a good year and he was just somebody we wanted to bring in and give an opportunity to. When it's time for playoff time we will be ready to win a championship."

Through five games with the Ice Flyers, Matsushima has two goals and four assists. Pensacola sits at 21-21-5 and is firmly in eighth place in the SPHL, with a 12 point lead over ninth place Quad City.

Reflecting back on his career with the Falcons, the feeling is bitter sweet for the two-time captain Matsushima. "As difficult as it was, our season ended the way it did, but the biggest message I passed along to those guys was that seasons end but families never die. We were more than just a team, we are a brotherhood of guys that became a family."

Matsushima finishes his four years with the Falcons playing in 108 games, scoring 38 goals, and adding 46 assists for a total of 84 points. Matsushima was also a three-time WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll recipient and was selected to the All-WIAC First-Team twice.



Eddie Matsushima

Falcon men's basketball season ends without a playoff berth

Reagan Hoverman

reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls men's basketball team had their season come to a conclusion against UW – Whitewater on Feb. 16, 2019, after a 77-74 loss in the closing seconds of regulation.

A classic "win and in" game for both teams essentially served as a road playoff game for the Falcons. It began in typical 2018 Falcon fashion, six minutes into the game the Falcons were down 12-6. The Falcons would then go on a quick 7-2 run and close the gap to two points.

After trading baskets for a few minutes, the Warhawks put together one of their biggest scoring runs of the game. They produced a 13-2 run to put themselves up 30-21 with eight minutes to go in the first half. The scoring run continued over those eight minutes, as the Warhawks held a 14-point lead at the conclusion of the first half of play.

"Our mentality was simple, we knew we were fighting for our season, so we just knew we had to give it all we had," Junior Matt Keller continued. "We made some adjustments on our ball screens and we had to guard Melvin Brown Jr. better."

The 2018 season came down to one half of action for the Falcons. Despite a 14-point deficit, the Falcons came out of the half with a bang. They scored a quick nine points in the first three minutes with points coming from Austin Heidecker, Julian Jackson, and Jack Stensgard.

Keller said about the early burst of offense, "we got some stops and strung together a couple runs that led us back into the game."

In the final game of his career as a Falcon, Heidecker did exactly what he did best. He had a game-high 18 points in addition to his eight rebounds and two assists.

After battling back during the first 12 minutes of the second half, the Falcons had managed to tie up the game at 58 after a pair of Alex Ohde free throws. Over the course of the next ten minutes, both teams played each other about even.

With four seconds left in the game, the Falcons were down three points with possession of the basketball. Time was running down, and the Falcons didn't have a chance to set up a real offensive play. Stensgard took the final shot from near mid-court, unfortunately for the Falcons, he couldn't connect. The game's final score was

"Our mentality was simple, we knew we were fighting for our season, so we just knew we had to give it all we had."

a 77-74 defeat on the road at UW – Whitewater.

Keller said about the closing seconds, "It came from a missed free throw and Heidecker had an outlet to Jack. He took a half-court shot and unfortunately it didn't fall. We didn't have too much time to work with, but we gave ourselves a chance."

For the three seniors on the Falcons roster, this defeat was the final game of their careers as Falcons. For Logan Halvorson, he was a consistent role player. Providing a spark off the bench to keep the offense rolling when the starters came out of the game. Outside of basketball, Halvorson made the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll two years in a row, 2015-2016.

Heidecker was a dominant force throughout his career as a Falcon. He averaged a double-double during the 2018 season which included 12.8 points per game, along with 10.6 rebounds. Heidecker was not only a basketball player as a Falcon, but he was also an excellent student. He made the WIAC Scholastic Honor Roll three years in a row, from 2015-2017.

In his senior season, Clay Seifert served as a valuable role player. He averaged over five points per game, three rebounds, and he shot over 30 percent from the three-point line. He was one of the best two-way players on the team. In one game during his junior year, he had four steals against Platteville. It showed how versatile he was as a defender.

Keller reflected on his time with the soon to depart seniors, "Those are my guys, my brothers. I know I and a lot of other people are going to miss them next year. They all had great careers here and helped a lot of the younger guys throughout the year. They added tremendous value to our team through their leadership and personalities, on and off the court."

When asked about how the team will be affected by losing the seniors Keller said, "We will have to have some of these young guys take a huge stride in the offseason to be ready to step into a playing role next season. The good thing is, we played a lot of guys who have some experience to build off of now."

For the Falcons as a whole, the 2018 season was an unexpectedly difficult year. They finished the season with an 11-14 overall record including a 4-10 record in their WIAC games. This was the first season since 2013 that the Falcons have had a home court losing record. Along with being the first season since 2014 that the team has not qualified for the conference tournament.

Falcons lacrosse looks to grow in inaugural season

Owen Elle
owen.elle@my.uwrf.edu

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls Women's lacrosse team started its inaugural season on Feb. 24 with a 3-15 loss to Sewanee: The University of the South in Minneapolis, Minn. Since then, the team is riding a two-game winning streak with victories over Concordia University and Elmhurst College.

While the team has only played a small portion of their schedule, it has been a long journey for Head Coach Alison Jennings, who was named to that position back in July of 2017 shortly after the creation of the program.

"The first year I was here it was all about recruiting," Jennings said. The Falcons roster currently consists of 18 student-athletes, all of whom are freshman or sophomores for the 2019 season. Jennings eventually hopes to expand the roster in the future to 30.

"I'm really excited for these next two to three years when they become juniors and seniors," Jennings said. "Just because they are young doesn't mean I would underestimate them either, there's some pretty talented girls on the squad."

That talent was on display in the Falcons recent win over Elmhurst College, where they outscored the Blue Jays 15-1 behind three goals apiece from freshman Cassandra Hubble and Emma Kohlbeck.

For the 2019 and 2020 season, the Falcons are an independent team without a conference to play in. The two conferences nearest River Falls are the Midwest Women's Lacrosse Conference (MWLC) and the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin

(CCIW). Jennings believes that the MLWC may split into two leagues given the number of schools within the conference but hopes that the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference creates a conference for women's lacrosse in the future.

When describing the building of the program at UW-River Falls, Jennings said, "It's a learning process, there are always hiccups in the road, but I think to experience it one time through is really important".

Jennings credits her four years as an assistant coach at Augsburg University for her ability to build a program at UW-River Falls. Augsburg was the first NCAA school in the State of Minnesota to adopt a lacrosse program.

While Jennings has prior experience as an assistant coach, this time around as a head coach she believes

it's important for her to "put my own twist on it."

"We are trying to get the program going here with the youth and growing it up, so hopefully we can develop a lacrosse culture here," Jennings said. Despite the efforts, Jennings believes there is an uphill battle to recruiting student-athletes to play lacrosse, as many players choose hockey or soccer as they are most established Midwest sports.

"Progress is a very important thing the first year, I definitely believe we can get some wins under our belt," Jennings said. "In the next three to five years, my goal is to get this to be one of the top programs in the Midwest. I'm definitely looking to build it and grow it pretty quickly and really develop these girls."

Jennings believes it's important that UW-River Falls created a lacrosse program when they did, saying, "The quicker we add it I think it's more to our benefit to keep growing and be one of those first and kind of pioneer and set the tone for the WIAC".

Women's basketball season ends with three consecutive victories

Reagan Hoverman
reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu

UW-River Falls Women's basketball season came to an end after a three-game winning streak propelled the team to a 10-15 record on the year.

Despite having a losing record to finish out the season, the Falcons finished strong. The team won each of their last three games. The team had victories against three University of Wisconsin schools: Whitewater, Platteville and Eau Claire. Earlier in the season, the Falcons lost against two of those three schools. On Jan. 2, the Falcons lost at Eau Claire 55-64, followed by another loss against Whitewater on Jan. 19 when the Falcons lost 34-62.

Falcon Head Coach Derek Staley said about the three-game winning streak, "We started to come together as an offense. We have had so many players who had to step up into new roles and they struggled to consistently fill them this year. It finally came together at the end of the year at both ends of the court."

Despite not making the WIAC playoffs, the Falcons had three players selected to the All-WIAC Team. Senior Taylor Paulsrud, freshman Jenna Zeman, and senior Madelyn O'Brien were all named to the team. Paulsrud and Zeman were honorable mentions, while O'Brien made the All-Sportsmanship Team.

Paulsrud was a leader on the team since the minute she stepped on the court. Over the course of her career as a Falcon, she averaged over 10 points per game, two

rebounds per game, along with a steal and a block per game. Paulsrud shot over 30 percent from behind the arc and played over 30 minutes per game.

Staley said about Paulsrud, "It's impossible to replace Taylor. She does so many things not only on the court but off of the court as well. She just does all the little things. She almost always guarded the opponent's best player as well. We will have to have a couple players try to fill her role next year."

"It's impossible to replace Taylor. She does so many things not only on the court but off of the court as well. She just does all the little things."

guard position and never looked back. In only 21 career games, Zeman turned into one of the most productive players on the team.

When talking about Zeman, Head Coach Staley said, "Jenna will be a big piece for us going forward. She stepped into a role that most first-year players would not be able to fill. I think the confidence she gained throughout this season will be huge for her as her role grows into next season."

She has averaged over 10 points per game, nearly four rebounds, and shot 35 percent from the three-point line. Perhaps her most significant stat of the season was steals per game. Zeman averaged over two steals per

game. That number ranked her 4th most in the entire WIAC for steals. While contributing and being a solid offensive player, she was an even better defensive player in the 2018 season.

The Falcons Women's basketball program is an extremely young team. There are only three seniors graduating on the entire roster. Anna Rollag, O'Brien, and Paulsrud, their departure will leave a gap in the roster that needs to be filled by the younger players.

Staley talked about next season, "We just need to learn and grow every day. The team will hopefully be a lot more comfortable with our system. This year was our first year in this offensive system and it took a long time to figure it out."

Moving forward, the Falcons will look to players who have already contributed in their time with the team. Zeman and Brianna Leahy played significant minutes throughout the 2018 season. Both Zeman and Leahy were the only players on the team in the top five in points per game, rebounds, and assists.

When addressing returning players such as Zeman and Leahy Staley said, "Next year we will be much farther ahead of that learning curve with the players we have coming back and a few new ones who fit the style we are trying to play."

Finishing the season strong on a three-game win streak provided the young team a boost of confidence going forward. Through the young leaders on the team in Zeman and Leahy, the Falcons have a legitimate WIAC roster moving into the 2019 season.

Agriculture science professors describe their hobbies

Kacey Joslin

kassandra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

This month's note-worthy staff members are Veronica Justen and Yoana Newman.

As an associate professor in crop science, Veronica Justen's primary role at UW-River Falls is to teach classes in grain crop production, as well as genetics and crop breeding.

"I like this idea of how we can be outside and working in nature, but also how we understand the science behind how plants grow naturally. A lot of things I teach right now is how we as humans manipulate plants," Justen said of her career.

It's not surprising, then, that Justen feels her hobbies outside of school all involve the outdoors in one way or another. "When I was a child, I always enjoyed playing outside. One aspect that's important for playing outside is being able to have an imagination, and being able to build things – build structures and toys out of the things you find around you, like branches or twigs," Justen elaborated. "You know, as a child, one of the things I definitely did was build gardens. I had several little gardens. That's probably what led me to what I do today."

Justen would highly recommend starting a family garden. "One of the things I do here at the university is I work with K-12 school districts and try to help them think about getting garden curriculum to their schools."

Justen listed numerous benefits of growing a family garden. Not only does it increase a child's awareness of their environment, but they're also more caring towards it. "When children are involved with gardening," Justen explained. "They're more likely to try foods that they wouldn't normally try. If you offer a child a tomato, *maybe* they'll eat that tomato, but if they see the tomato growing, and they pick the tomato themselves, they're much more likely to eat it and enjoy it. Seeing where this object comes from is very meaningful to them. Ultimately, they may also make more healthy food choices."

"As an outdoor activity," Justen continued. "It's a great way to get physical and a great way to teach children about the cycle of life and where their food comes from."

This concept of "knowing where food originates" is very important to Justen.

Her family has a goat farm, where they cultivate meat for her family. "[The meat goats] are a special breed of goat that is meant for butchering and producing meat products," Justen said.

Justen described goat meat as more fla-



Veronica Justen discusses her meat goat farm and outdoor hobbies
Photo by Kacey Joslin

vorful than beef. She compares the taste of goat meat to lamb, and those who like venison or other game meat might not mind the stronger taste of goat meat.

The goats her family raises are low maintenance, and her children often help by feeding the herd. "It's been really important to me to try and get across to my children that [the goats] have been bred to be used for meat. The lesson is that if you consume meat, that meat comes from somewhere, and you have to be aware of that."

Justen and her family also raise chickens. "Similar to goats, chickens just require a daily check on whether they require water or not and you can give them a small amount of feed. For chickens, we primarily have to make sure they have enough grain," she continued. "One building projects I did this summer was make what's called a chicken tractor. It's like a mobile cage that allows you to have the chickens protected, but it's mobile, so they have the ability to keep moving to different parts of the ground. That allows

them to utilize their behavior, which is to scratch at new ground and pick new things, but also they provide manure."

Justen has built numerous structures, both functional and decorative. One such creation is a trellis – a structure made to display climbing plants, such as vines or shrubs – a decorative barn quilt, and outdoor play structures for her son and daughter. Justen prefers hands-on hobbies and feels these skills have helped her both inside and outside of her career.

Also found in the Plant and Earth Science department is Yoana Newman, assistant professor, and forage specialist. Forage crops are plants eaten by grazing livestock. She's been employed at UW-River Falls for nearly five years, but also works partially for UW Extension. She works as a Forage Extension Specialist, interacting with county agents to serve the needs of forage crop producers.

"What do I do in my free time?" Newman pondered. "Well, I have two new grandbabies. Sophia and Isabel. They're brand new," Newman said fondly. "Because of that, I kind of started – well, I wouldn't say that I knit [professionally] . . . but I started to knit maybe a couple of months ago. I'm just learning right now."

Newman has knitted only one cap so far, purple and white-striped with a small pattern of flowers and decorated with a pom-pom. She's started working on the second one, but it's a long process. For those starting to knit, Newman suggests; "Practice, practice, practice! I would say, for me, so far – even though I've done one hat, I'm still learning. I'm on the very beginning stages. It's a learning process. But it's very relaxing, and when you see the product – especially on the baby's head – it's nice."

Family is incredibly important to Newman. Her older granddaughter, Sophia, lives in Florida. Isabel, 7 months, lives in East Lansing, Michigan. Because of the distance, Newman spends her lunch periods on Facetime. "I try to communicate weekly, if not almost daily."

Through Facetime, Newman takes photos of the children as they're spoon-fed their lunches. She has a shelf of toys

– cows and mice – in her office to amuse the children with. "The funny thing is that the baby thinks that we're real through the phone."

Outside of knitting, Newman also frequents movie theaters. "With my husband, we go to movies and go to good restaurants. I like to check out the little holes in the walls in the cities. That's something we really enjoy." Recently, she's seen *Green Book*, which won Best Picture at the Academy Awards. "I like going to movies to *enjoy* the movie. I don't like scary movies. I like the ones with good stories."

With a 21:1 student to faculty ratio at UW – River Falls, it's beneficial for students to learn that their professors aren't always as intimidating as they may appear. In an attempt to make staff more approachable to students, as well as a place for staff to show off their accomplishments, *The Student Voice* is proud to showcase UW-River Falls staff and faculty members with interesting hobbies or pastimes.

If you're interested in having your interesting hobbies showcased, contact reporter Kacey Joslin at kassandra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

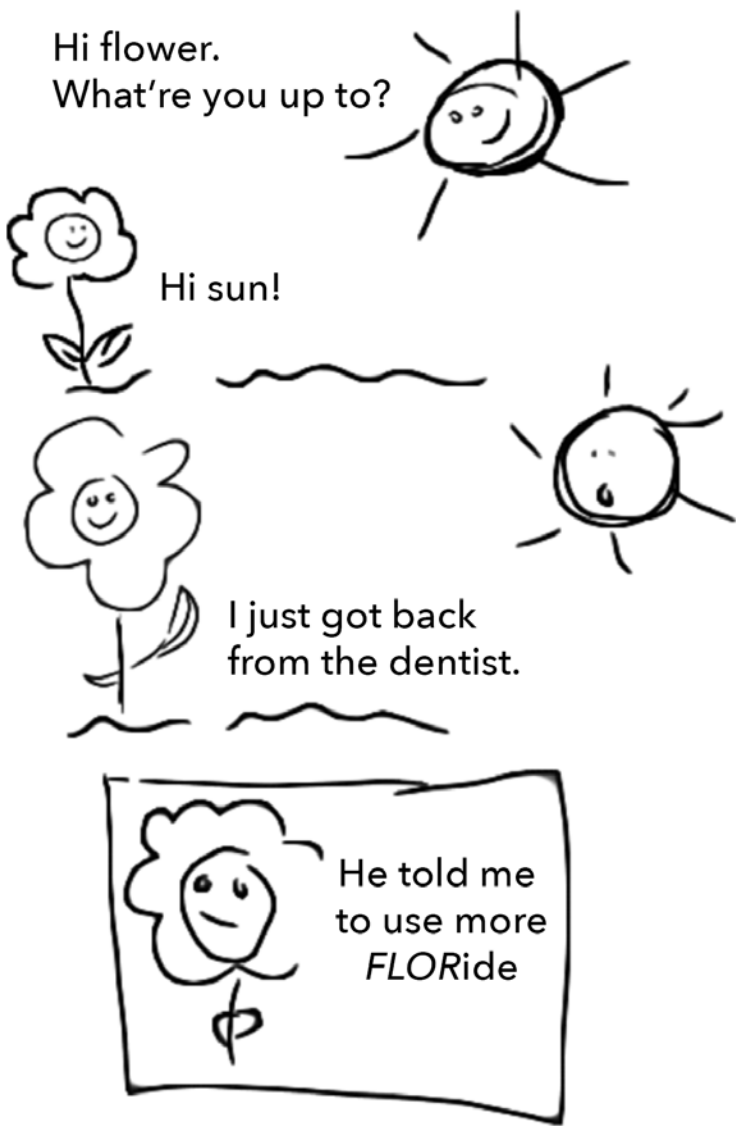


Yoana Newman comments on her personal life.
Photo by Kacey Joslin



Spring Comics

By Brooke Shepherd & Kacey Joslin



Hiring NOW for Summer!



- All majors - training provided
- Near River Falls

www.acoolcave.org/hr

Check out
Reagan Responds
on page 13

Have any sports
questions or need
life advice?

Contact Reagan at
reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu

Correction

In the February 14, 2019 issue, the article "Campus under a polar vortex" was published with a typographical error. This changed the meaning of the quote, and the quote should've said, "The management at DoTs was very understanding and let us know that if we did not feel comfortable coming in for our shifts, we just needed to let them know an then we didn't have to come in." The Student Voice regrets this error.

Have curse words lost their shock value?

Monica Marsh

brooke.shepherd@my.uwrf.edu

It's easy for me to recall the days in grade school when sticking out your tongue at someone was essentially the equivalent to flipping the bird. This being said, one could conclude that the use of curse words was an absolute abomination in the eyes of a child.

In the fifth grade, I remember an instance that my science teacher was scolding another student for using a curse word in class. She then explained to us that even if your words aren't spoken

directly to someone, they make everyone in the room feel as though they have been sworn at. The question is, have curse words maintained this same strong effect in today's world?

Video games, television shows, movies and popular books are all places curse words are present. One can find them basically anywhere. Watching old movies or even listening to old music, the language is much more neutral and

the words that were considered harsh back then are minor compared to the language that we hear now on a daily basis.

Even coming into college from a more strict high school setting, I was entirely shocked to hear my professors use curse words, not because of the words themselves but simply because

of the informality of the situation. Surely, this opened up the platform for a much more open class discussion, but initially it was just strange.

The simple answer here is yes, curse words have lost their "shock factor." They're a part of daily life. Personally, I find it more strange when I meet someone that

is offended or surprised by the use of swear words, given that person isn't one of my grandparents. The growth of social media in the past years has likely had a great impact on the increased casualty of and as social media continues to gain popularity, so will swearing, be it for humor, emphasis, or simply just to add some flavor to a sentence.



Student using profanity is censored.
Photo by Kacey Joslin

Reagan Responds

Reagan Hoverman

reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu

Q: Is it bad to have serious conversations over text message or snapchat?

A: I think in general it's a bad idea to have serious conversations over text message. If something serious has happened, or two people need to discuss something important, then it is much better to take the time to call them on the phone or meet them in person. Plus, communication can be misinterpreted over text and instant message. Communication comes across much clearer when the person on the other end can actually hear a human voice. There is less ambiguity when two people are talking on the phone, instead of texting or using apps like Snapchat. Personally, if there was something serious that needed to be discussed with me, I would prefer to be called on the phone. It's just more effective than instant messaging.

For relationships, I think it's essential to communicate about important topics through a phone call, and in person would be even better. There is nothing that can top person to person communication. This is especially true in a long-distance situation. Text messaging leaves the door open for too much miscommunication.

Q: Is the Falcons football team going over or under 4.5 wins next season?

A: The Falcons football team hasn't won more than four games in a single season in over a decade. With that being said, I believe this is the year that the Falcons will win either six or seven games. They are returning their starting quarterback Ben Beckman and 2019 will be his senior season. As a junior during his 2018 season, he broke the school record for single-game passing yards with 405 in a WIAC game against UW – Platteville.

Beckman has proved to be a solid quarterback in his time with the Falcons. In addition to steady quarterback play, the Falcons have an array of running backs that will help carry the offensive load. The first notable running back is Sam Altena. He's going into his sophomore year and has already established himself as one of the best players on the team. In the 2018 season opener at home against Minnesota Morris, Altena had 152 rushing yards and three touchdowns on the day. In addition to Altena, Anthony Silva serves as the second part of the Falcon backfield. Silva is going into his junior year and provides a quick burst of speed when Altena isn't in the game. They will be a dynamic pairing during the 2019 season for the Falcons. This is the season that the Falcons finally break out of their 4-6 mold and make a run at six or seven wins on the year.

Audiences eagerly anticipate 'Game of Thrones' season eight

Dawson Flaherty

dawson.flaherty@my.uwrf.edu

"Game of Thrones" is a good example of a phenomena that can sometimes take place in the modern entertainment industry; a good product. Since its premiere back in April of 2011, "Game of Thrones" has continued to grow in popularity and is expected to grow even more popular due to the upcoming season eight premiere. So what do we know about "Game of Thrones" season eight so far, and what can we predict?

Before I begin spoiling the series for those of you that haven't began watching the show yet, let me through out some statistics. "Game of Thrones" is the second most popular TV show of all time according to the IMDb popularity chart. "Game of Thrones" is also one of the only TV shows to have over a 90 percent on Rotten Tomatoes in both average audience score and average tomatometer score. If these statistics have peaked your interests at all, then watch the series; it will not be a mistake.

Major spoilers ahead, proceed with caution.

"Game of Thrones" season eight will premiere on April 14, 2019. With only a month left to wait, audiences eagerly anticipate any teaser for what is yet to come.

Considering that season eight is the end of the series, it's pretty easy to predict what has to happen *before* the series finale. The seven kingdoms need to work together in some capacity to fight against the night king and the army of the dead. However, this doesn't mean that the living has to actually defeat the army of the dead. It is still up in the air as to which side will be victorious.

Another plot point that needs to be addressed would be Theon Greyjoy attempting to rescue his sister from Euron Greyjoy. The directions that this plot point could go are limitless, whether Theon rescues his sister or dies trying.

The second largest plot point, in my opinion, is who will sit on the iron throne when the series ends. Current Cersei Lannister resides in King's Landing "ruling over the seven king-

doms," however come the end of the series who will rule. Will Cersei rule with the assistance of Euron Greyjoy, or will Euron Backstab Cersei and try to take the iron throne? Will Daenerys Targaryen sit on the iron throne as her father, the Mad King, once did? Will it be Jon Snow, or as we learned in season seven Aegon Targaryen, the current King In The North that will sit on the iron throne?

Definitively, all we can know is this; Theon will try to save his sister. Jon will try and defend the Seven Kingdoms from the Night King and the army of the undead, with the support of many others. Cersei will most likely do something detestable, it's kind of in her character. Finally Euron will probably do something crazy again. But in all seriousness, nobody knows what will happen, not even readers of the books know anymore, so it's all up in the air.

Make sure to not miss the premier of Game of Thrones season eight on April 14, 2019. If you haven't started watching it yet, it's a month away – the perfect amount of time to binge the first seven seasons. Lucky for you every student at UWRF has HBO included in their tuition, have fun.



‘The Emoji Movie’ and ‘Ralph Breaks the Internet’: How do they compare?

Kacey Joslin

kassaundra.joslin@my.uwrf.edu

I’ll watch cringy movies so you don’t have to! Email me with any recommendations.

Based six years after the first movie, “Ralph Breaks the Internet” is the sequel to Disney’s 2012 “Wreck It Ralph.” The same beloved characters are made to explore the internet as a literal, physical location, bustling with mindless avatars and skyscrapers plastered with brand names.

Internet users travel via “search engines” to different website headquarters. The slums of the internet are where hackers and virus bots reside, whereas websites like Oh My Disney and eBay are heavily featured. Other recognizable sites are replaced with clever puns. YouTube and BuzzFeed, for example, are renamed “BuzzzTube,” which is considered the breeding ground for trending videos. It is, essentially, a city full of brand deals and product placement.



In order to make real-world money to buy a steering wheel from eBay, Ralph is forced to reenact numerous humiliating trends that lead to Ralph — quite literally — “breaking the internet.” Disney Princess cameos, first-person racing games and unboxing videos make brief appearances, providing some relatability to modern day tech users.

Despite receiving a positive critical acclaim, as well as being nominated for the 76th Golden Globe Awards for Animated Feature Film, I had mixed feelings regarding the movie when I saw it in theater.

I loved the original and the sequel was cute, with a good message about friendship and self-esteem. The budget of about 175 million meant it was very high-quality, as Disney is known for, but the premise itself gave me vivid flashbacks to Sony’s 2017 attempt at humor, “The Emoji Movie.”

The two films are close to identical in quality. Their animation style is colorful and

plotlines are difficult to keep up with. While their protagonists are different in design and motivations, both movies make an attempt to touch on modern-day issues, such as social media and the need for instant gratification.

In “The Emoji Movie,” emoticons such as the poop emoji or the “meh” face, live and thrive in every person’s cell phone. Each phone app is its own unique world, including the “Just Dance” app, YouTube, Instagram, “Candy Crush” and many more.

The main character, a “meh” emoji named Gene, is essentially the divergent of this story. He has the ability to change his expressions and this gets him into trouble as he botches an important text conversation.

In search of a codebreaker who can make him “normal,” he wades through the matrix of phone applications while evading capture from software bots. Along the way he and his friends learn lessons about friendship, being yourself, blah, blah, blah.

I first saw the movie in my sister’s basement on a projection screen, sitting on a cold concrete floor with one of my nieces. She enjoyed the movie, likely because she was six at the time, but the only scene I found worthy of acclaim was the main characters’ trip through Spotify. It was accompanied by a neon flash of colors and light that the projector beautifully cast across my niece’s hair. It’s too bad the rest of the movie didn’t hold up.

The movie-makers seem to have this idea that the lives of teenagers revolve around their phones. Whether this is true or not is debatable, and could trigger an entirely different article on cell phone usage and millennial culture. I’d like to think this concept was purposefully exaggerated to justify their already meagre plot.

Honestly, this movie is the equivalent of keyboard smashing and hoping autocorrect will make some sense out of utter jargon. The script relies heavily on stereotypes and cheap jokes. Within the first ten minutes of the movie, no kidding, a poop joke was made, followed by a fart joke and a toilet joke, *another* poop joke, two more jokes that should *not* be in a kid’s movie, and then *another* poop joke. Not a great first impression.

While re-watching the movie I had to take several breaks to fortify myself. Deep self-reflection was required, as I pondered if I was really bored enough to watch this movie.

Throughout the entire rewatch, disappointment was my primary emotion. It’s a true wonder how talented actors such as James Corden, T.J. Miller and Sir Patrick Stewart were roped into this hot mess. Sir Patrick Stewart, who was knighted by the Queen of England due to his profound performances, played the poop emoji. This, truly, was one of the most disturbing factors yet.

T.J. Miller plays Gene, the malfunctioning “meh” emoji that desperately wants to fit in. Miller is a comedian who played minor

parts in “Ready Player One” and “Deadpool,” neither of which are suited to young audiences. He has a raspy, sweet, perpetually excited voice that is unique to him and makes the character bearable, but starring in this film has truly not done him any favors.

I’d like to think that Miller had a deep understanding that, “Yes, this movie is literally the embodiment of the poop emoji, but I’m going to have fun anyways.”

His co-star and sidekick, James Corden, plays a hand emoji named Hi-5. The character is incredibly obnoxious. His only purpose is to move the plot along with a stupid smile and an excuse as why he just *had* to press the big red button that ended up killing a good portion of the cast.

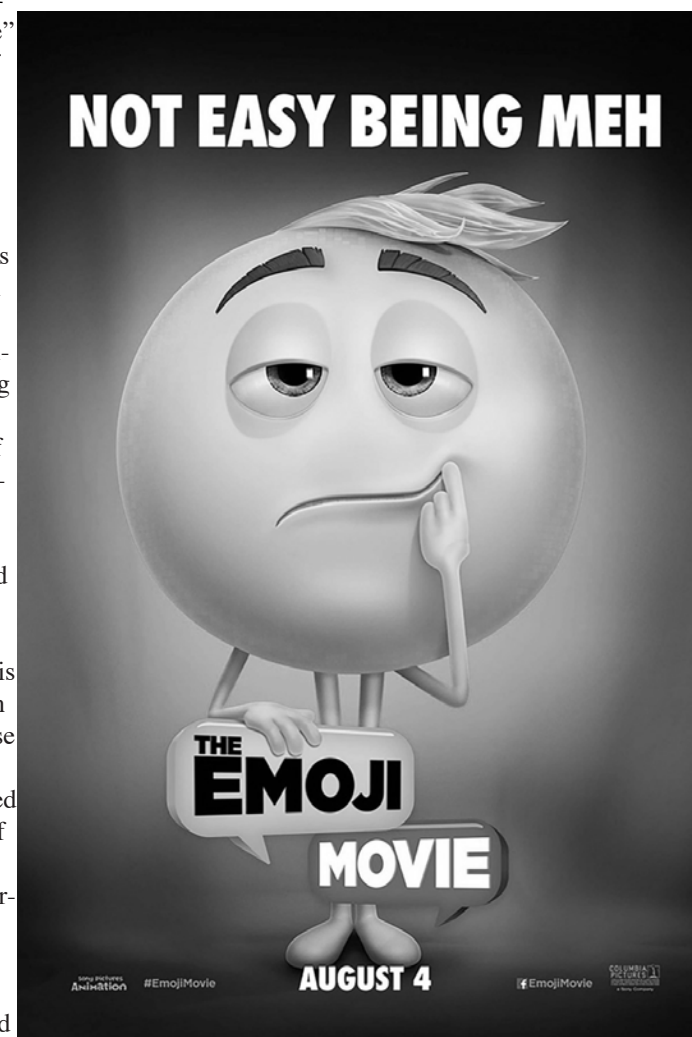
Anna Faris plays the character Jailbreak. Jailbreak is a feminist former-princess emoji with supposed hacking skills. Her character had so much potential, with the charisma and confidence to easily be the story’s savior. Instead she was sidelined as just another sidekick, delegated to delivering witty commentary and exposition. *So. Much. Exposition.* It was clear they didn’t spend much time on scriptwriting.

The budget for this movie was a great deal less than “Ralph Breaks the Internet,” costing about \$50 million and grossing \$86.1 million in the United States with a worldwide total of \$217.8 million according to Box Office Mojo. Other reviewers called it a “callous cash grab” and looking at the stats, I agree wholeheartedly. They made brand deals that were unnecessarily expensive and blatantly irrelevant to the plot.

Did “The Emoji Movie” really, *really* need a scene where they literally just played Candy Crush? Did they truly require a dance-off scene in the “Just Dance” app? Yes, they did, apparently, because they didn’t have enough quality content to fill an hour and a half.

However, the budget was well-spent on animation. The design is smooth and colorful, detailed where it mattered and minimalistic where it didn’t. After the re-watch, my favorite scene is still the moment where they take a gondola through Spotify’s music streams. It embodies everything the movie has to offer; color and energy, a few emotional moments, music you could dance to and T.J. Miller’s childlike wonder. The animation and Miller’s performance were truly the only redeeming factors.

Ultimately, it’s a movie for children. Of course the plot is unrefined. Of course they make stupid references and poop jokes. Sony isn’t in the business of making award-winning movies.



It’s hard to make movies that are up-to-date with the latest slang and jokes. By the time “The Emoji Movie” was released, after nearly two years of work, all the memes and references were old hat (#truth, amiright? YOLO!). Our perception of the Internet had evolved during the time it took Sony to produce the movie — no wonder adults thought it was horrible.

I had expected absolutely nothing from “The Emoji Movie,” understanding from the very beginning that it was for kids; and yet, I expected a lot more from “Ralph Breaks the Internet.” Disney is a worldwide phenomenon, a multi-million dollar company, the go-to for original content. I expected nostalgia, beautiful animation, intricate plots and well-made characters, but I was instead met with the same movie, just with a bigger budget.

To make a long story short, don’t waste the money, the time, or the brainpower to see either one.

In a few short months, movies like “The Emoji Movie” and “Ralph Breaks the Internet” will be considered irrelevant, and another cringy trend will take their place.

“The Emoji Movie” said it best, “The pace of life is getting faster and faster, and attention spans are getting shorter and shorter . . . one day, all of this will blow over, and everyone will *almost* forget about what you did.”

Sony and Disney can try their best to hide “the cringe” behind shiny animation and talented voice actors, but as always, reviewers like me will be there to thoroughly critique them. That, you can rely on.

Campus community should combat gender stereotyping

Editorial

editor@my.uwrfvoice.com

From gender reveal parties utilizing blue or pink before the baby is even out of the womb, to early childhood birthday celebrations and nursery decor, gender stereotypes have influenced how men and women view the world. Little girls may have found themselves with an abundance of colorful Barbie dolls and friendly-faced My Little Ponies, while young boys were gifted Nerf guns and Hotwheels. These toys, and many other aspects of childhood, are based on gender stereotypes.

Nathan Riel-Elness is a member of the UW-River Falls campus Center of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging. He works with the LGBTQIA+ programs and education on campus to help provide students with support and resources. The extended acronym LGBTQIA + stands for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and numerous other communities under the “umbrella” of gender and sexuality.

“You can find stories of children as young as three or four that the boys don’t want to pick up and play with a doll because that’s a ‘girl toy’ [. . .] That’s just how they’ve been conditioned without knowing it,” said Riel-Elness.

Riel-Elness said this kind of conditioning comes in many different ways throughout society. “Where we see the issue still is in television programs, commercials and children’s toys. We see all the girls’ toys are purple and pink, brightly colored, very fluorescent. Boys’ toys are meant to be rough, rugged, and they’re very dark colors,” Riel-Elness elaborated.

As a parent, Doctor of Sociology Desireé Wiesen-Martin finds these gender expectations for children to be true. She is the interim chair of the Women and Gender Studies program, but Wiesen-Martin’s main area of study is victimization of women and children, primarily women.

“For my own parenting style, I think because of the academic area I went into, my eyes were opened to how much socialization goes into our beliefs and actions. I’ve tried to consciously expose my child to a lot of different things,” Wiesen-Martin said.

Wiesen-Martin offered an example from her own experience, “When [our daughter] was younger, she took a turn towards really liking dinosaurs. We shopped in what’s traditionally known as

the boys’ section for her, because that’s where we could find dinosaur clothes. Her favorite colors are black and red, and we’ve really tried to help her embrace that. I always thought it was a bit morbid, but she actually told me one time that ‘black is the most beautiful color because it’s the combination of all colors together.’”

For parents who wish to confront gender stereotypes while raising their children, Wiesen-Martin recommended parents be open, willing to listen, as well as non-judgmental.

“My daughter, for example, had this favorite long sleeved t-shirt. It had bright orange, [and] had a dinosaur on it that had on sunglasses. She just loved this shirt. So we’re out at a park, and there was another kid that had the same exact t-shirt.” Her daughter was mistaken for a male, which Wiesen-Martin was unconcerned about.

“I just threw out [in conversation], her very feminine name. The other mother goes, ‘is your child a girl? Why is she wearing that shirt? That’s from the boys’ section.’ And I said, ‘well, because she likes dinosaurs.’ I don’t think [the other mother] was being mean or aggressive about it, she was just stumped.”

“As parents, we’re socialized into this very gendered world,” Wiesen-Martin explained. “But we can make concentrated efforts to confront it. There are different types of parents. There are those who purposefully reinforce gender, and there are those who understand that gender is socially constructed and that we can get out of our constructions of gender.”

When she became pregnant with her

For parents who wish to confront gender stereotypes while raising their children, Wiesen-Martin recommended parents be open, willing to listen, as well as non-judgmental.

daughter, however, Wiesen-Martin did choose to have the gender revealed. “When we had the opportunity to find out the sex of our child, I took it. But what that meant was, she was given a biological sex, right? Biologically, she’s a female. We started calling her ‘she.’ We came up with a name and it’s a very feminine name. So we were gendering her from the beginning.”

Wiesen-Martin elaborated on the concept of biological classifications. “We are gendering a fetus, without them being able to chose. Biological sex is one

thing, because that’s biological, but gender is not biological. [. . .] It just so happens that if you have a penis, that it is associated with blue. But what does that have to do with anything? Anyways, the only reason that association happens is because we, as a society, have decided it – and we can decide against it.”

Historically, Wiesen-Martin brought up, pink used to be for boys and blue for

“Biological sex is one thing, because that’s biological, but gender is not biological.”

girls, “Because pink is just a lighter shade of red, and red is a powerful color.”

Compared to other generations, Riel-Elness comments that there has been little noticeable change in society as a whole. “We make jokes about the 1950s where men were working and women stayed in the household; the ones cleaning, cooking, doing all those chores. [. . .] We know that more women are [now more] out in the work field, but we understand that women are still not being paid equally to men in similar positions. So men are still unofficially expected to be the breadwinner, the person that’s supposed to bring home the most amount of money.”

Director of the Center of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, Martin Olague finds these roles to be complex. “My wife for example, identifies as a feminist. So what does this mean for a our relationship while raising two boys? How I view the world? Am I a feminist?”

Wiesen-Martin addressed this phenomenon, “We are socialized in a certain way, growing up in a world that is very patriarchal, where men are valued more than women. We still have to address that in our programing.”

“For example,” Wiesen-Martin continued. “This is Women’s History Month. There might be people who say, ‘well, why don’t we have a men’s history month?’ Well . . . every day is men’s month! In this, men vs. women, male vs. female simplified dichotomy, men have always had power positions. So a lot of the advancements that women did were not celebrated in the same way. I would argue that it continues. [. . .] The patriarchy still exists.”

Faculty on campus have recognized these gender stereotypes among students. UWRF is a school with a large agricultural focus, which has lead to a division between “city” and “rural” students. “One of the things I think we normally

associate farm work and hard labor with, is being more of a man’s work,” Riel-Elness elaborated. “But we have a very high percentage of women who are going into agriculture or ag business or ag related fields. And so, it’s really reframing what that type of work means and who can do that work.”

Additionally, Wiesen-Martin has noticed a recurring issue in the science and math departments regarding women’s interest in mathematics. “What I see when I teach, is that oftentimes, those who identify as female really think that they’re not doing well. They have math anxiety at greater levels. [. . .] They’re getting high As and Bs on their tests, but there’s some research in areas like math where girls oftentimes feel as though they are failing. Whereas if people who identify as male are getting low Bs and Cs, it’s a success. I think that has a lot to do with socialization. Are boys allowed to fail more? Do we have different standards for how we socialize boys and girls around failure?”

Riel-Elness simplifies the effects of stereotypes. “[Stereotypes] ultimately are harming us as a society. It puts everyone into a box, and if you don’t fit within that box, you’re considered different, and nobody *wants* to be different.”

Riel-Elness is a member of the UWRF campus Center of Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, of which the Gender and Sexuality Outreach program is only a few years old. “It was really started by students,” Riel-Elness said. “We had students that were apart of the student senate, student government association who identified with the LGBT community. Realizing that we don’t have dedicated staffing or resources in support for those students on campus, they were the ones who really advocated within student government and also to the administration that [this program] is something necessary. Their efforts are really why I’m here.”

Campus has limited resources available to students with questions regarding gender stereotyping. Riel-Elness compared the campus efforts to a slow moving machine. He recommended that if students had suggestions to bring them to his office or contact the center via email or social media.

Olague agreed, “I think that we need to have a focus on campus of exactly what is gender equity looks like.”

Riel-Elness had a simple metaphor for understanding the difference between equity and equality. He said, “Equality is giving every person around the world a

Continued on page 16

Gender stereotyping

Continued from page 15

pair of shoes so everyone has one. Equality is giving everyone around the world a pair of shoes that fits. So equality is the start to the conversation.”

“This [focus] could be in classrooms, speakers [and] campus programming,” Olague added. “We need to have a strategy on campus on all levels to help students grow and understand these issues.”

Brooklyn Jenness, co-president of GSA on campus said, “The campus could definitely be doing more to address gender and sexuality. Right now, [...] the campus allows us to have meetings and funds some of the things we request. This is a great step.”

One step the campus has made for students was the 2017 Preferred Name Policy, which allows students to indicate their preferred first and middle name to all documents outside of legal matters.

“But the university should have some

“We need to have a strategy on campus on all levels to help students grow and understand these issues.”

kind of seminar, or have a speaker that fits into the LGBTQIA + community come in and speak to every student during registration,” said Jenness.

Wiesen-Martin recommended that in posters and promotions for our school, campus should ensure they include a wide range of diverse people in photographs. She said, “The pictures that we put out for our university matter, and we want to make sure that all of our messaging is inclusive.”

As individuals, students are urged to challenge the status quo. Jenness stated, “Students can start by opening their minds and listening to conversations about these topics. People can start to ask people their pronouns before assuming them, and consistently using [the preferred pronouns] throughout the year could help fight stereotypes.”

Riel-Elness advised that students that are straight and cisgender speak up and use their privilege to change the conversation, “It starts with the college environment. Be an advocate, reach out to resources, listen to talks about the subject, inform yourself.”

Gender and sexuality is a complex, difficult subject to approach, and Riel-Elness recommends that students “Be comfortable with being uncomfortable.” The campus, slow-moving machine that it is, cannot take these steps alone.



Modern child celebrates super-hero birthday party, breaking gender norms.
Photo courtesy of Vicki Rummler



Nathan Riel-Elness showing support for LGBTQIA+ community.
Photo by Kacey Joslin

Student Voice

Editor	Brooke Shepherd
Assistant Editor	Theo Tollefson
Sports Editor	Owen Elle
Front Page Editor	Kacey Joslin
General Manager	Brett Davison
Reporter	Melissa Thorud
Reporter	Reagan Hoverman
Reporter	Dawson Flaherty
Reporter	Monica Marsh
Columnist	Tyler Perelman
Faculty Adviser	Melanie Meyers
	Andris Straumanis

The Student Voice is a student-written and managed newspaper for UW-River Falls, and is published monthly 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 554022 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 be able to be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon during the week of publishing. Information on publishing schedule can be obtained by contacting the editor.

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 via email. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution. Thank you for choosing the Student Voice.