

# STUDENT VOICE

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

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## Distinguished teacher recommends studying abroad

Kacey Joslin

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This month's note-worthy staff is Claire McCarty.

Claire McCarty has been employed at UW-River Falls for nearly twenty years, teaching management to students in the College of Business and Economics. She was an integral part of CBE launching, which began nineteen years ago. Although she feels that she spends a great deal of her free time working, McCarty has a wide variety of hobbies.

"In my spare time, I golf – not *well*, but I try," McCarty said. "I like to grow vegetables, and I spend a lot of time with my pets. One of my dogs, Lucky, is a therapy dog here on campus. The other big hobby would be traveling. Much of my traveling has actually been through facilitating study abroad programs."

McCarty has travelled with nearly every study abroad program since her employment. She's been involved with Semester Abroad, Experience Scotland, Traveling Classroom and others.

This past fall, McCarty was the leader of the Semester Abroad Europe program. "Every fall, we take students in their junior and senior years to Europe and they do a research project, so it's a very independent program," she said. "We help design research projects, and/or applied learning internship experiences. As the leader, I helped people out, got to visit everybody and got to know them."

McCarty attempts to join a walking tour in every city she visits. "I love to know something about the city and the history. It was pretty incredible. Everyone had a great experience."

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## UWRF student interns train service animals

Melissa Thorud

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The UW-River Falls Assistance Dog Education Program and Training (ADEPT) is a program where student interns learn how to train service dogs.

ADEPT is in partnership with the non-profit organization, Pawsitive Perspectives Assistance Dogs (PawPADS), and implements training methods used by PawPADS into the program on campus. This program is open to anyone regardless of their major, however, this it may be especially useful for Animal Science and Companion Animal majors in giving students the experience they may need for future careers within their fields.

Currently there are 13 interns that are involved in the program, with seven dogs in training on campus. ADEPT will be growing to 17 interns next year. The dogs in training will eventually assist those with physical disabilities, or type one diabetes. Service dogs have public access rights to can legally almost anywhere, including stores, stadiums and restaurants.

PawPADS program manager, explained that there is a misunderstanding in some cases when it comes to service dogs. Jensen said, "Our biggest challenge is the public's lack of knowledge, or misunderstanding around the differences between service dogs, therapy animals, and emotional support animals."

The ADEPT program helps with the training of service

dogs only. Jensen is a former intern of the program and continues to work closely with the ADEPT after graduating in December of 2018. "As an Animal Science major with a companion animal emphasis at UWRF, I found out that there was a service dog training program on campus at the same time I began volunteering at PawPADS. I knew that participating in the program would be an amazing opportunity to combine my passion for training dogs and helping others."

The service dog trainers receive internship credits, along with skills needed to train the dogs.

Jensen said, "We strive to have our interns graduate having learned about running a nonprofit, laws that impact the industry, and the challenges that individuals with disabilities face."

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**Sully, a service dog on campus, checks the time**  
Photo courtesy of Maddie Jensen



*What was your favorite part of being in the Student Voice this semester?*

Compiled by Kacey Joslin &amp; Brooke Shepherd

**Brooke Shepherd**

“I enjoyed working with such wonderful people and gaining lifelong friendships. I’m excited for what is to come.”

**Kacey Joslin**

“I liked gaining skills that I hadn’t yet explored, and meeting people who I hope to be friends with for a long time.”

**Melissa Throu**

“Meeting all my besties.”

**Owen Elle**

“The valuable experience I gain in my field. I also liked working with a bunch of wonderful people.”

**Reagan Hoverman**

“My favorite part about working at the Student Voice this semester was getting reporting experience that I know I will use throughout my career as a reporter in the future.”

**Dawson Flaherty**

“My favorite part of working with the Student Voice has been the colorful cast of characters I get to meet along the way.”

**Monica Marsh**

“My favorite part of being in the Student Voice was being able to work closely with existing friends and meet new people that share a common passion.”

**Theo Tollefson**

“I enjoyed passing the role of editor onto someone new.”

**Andris Straumanis**

“Watching a fresh crew learn how to put out a newspaper.”

**Brett Davison**

“My favorite memory is trying to sell Luigi’s advertising 3 or 4 times and getting rejected each time. I still buy from them.”





# Use of 'spirit animal' evidence of cultural appropriation

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The use of the term "spirit animal" became an internet trend a little over a decade ago, and has now become widely used in popular culture. This normalization has contributed to the cultural appropriation of the Native American community.

Cultural appropriation, as explained by Cyndi Kernahan, a professor of psychology and assistant dean for teaching and learning in the College of Arts and Sciences, "means taking on or taking up pieces or features of another groups culture in a way that trivializes them and doesn't accurately represent them."

Kernahan said that cultural appropriation happens frequently in the Native American community. "Urban Outfitters has even sold various things that have trivialized different Native cultures. There has also been controversy around celebrities wearing a headdress, thinking it looks cool in a picture but not recognizing what that headdress actually means and what its purpose is," she said.

The original use of the term spirit animal originates from within indigenous spiritual practices and traditions. Ann Lawton, a lecturer of art and a registered art therapist,



**Ann Lawton, registered art therapist, received training in multicultural counseling.**

Photo courtesy of Ann Lawton

explained, "By taking that and using it for our own enjoyment and consumption, it is further silencing and not acknowledging the importance of the practices these people use."

"I can see where we want to

identify with animals and want to connect with them. That's fine, but the term spirit animal is not right here, since that is talking about someone's spiritual discipline," Lawton continued.

There are instances of positive

cultural espouse, which is called syncretism. Kernahan explained syncretism as "The smashing together of cultures. In a way, our entire American history is that way. The problem comes in when one culture has a lot more power and lot more dominance. Taking up the symbols and practices and ideas from another culture without properly crediting it," said Kernahan.

"The issue with cultural appropriation is when people are taking these ideas and not understanding what they mean, that they're relevant, important and meaningful to a particular group," Kernahan said.

In today's visual culture, the sources of inspiration behind many images are not questioned. "If you know something isn't right or you're not sure, question it. Asking questions about where ideas came from is key," recommended Lawton.

Kernahan expressed the importance of mindfulness. "Be thoughtful of 'What am I doing?' and 'Where did it come from?' Don't do things mindlessly."

Research has shown that many history classes are inadequate in teaching students a complete story, which can lead to accidental cultural appropriation. "Many students come by this kind of ignorance honestly. Also, our schools are very segregated. It makes sense why you

might not know these things, then have some humility and say 'I don't fully understand why someone was offended, but what can I do here to fix this,'" said Kernahan.

Cultural appropriation can be avoided in a variety of ways. Kernahan said, "One is just being more educated about what other cultures practices are, what things actually mean to that culture."

Kernahan explained that a curiosity and willingness to learn, supplemented with research could be helpful. "If you think of something like a pow wow or spirit animal in the native community, figure out what that means. [...] If you don't know, you can always ask a professor on campus."

If confronted about doing cultural appropriation, Lawton said, "Not getting defensive is huge. We always go to that defensive place because it's what we've experienced and we don't want to seem stupid or ignorant. Humility and grace are a huge part of the process and all you can do is learn and change."

Kernahan also suggested that people watch movies, read books, or engage with people that are from a diversity of cultural groups. One of the strategic goals of UW-River Falls is to be global ethical citizens, and cultural appropriation does not serve this goal.

## New media lab planned for Kleinpell Fine Arts building

Kacey Joslin

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In the next year, the first floor of Kleinpell Fine Arts will be seeing some major changes. A taskforce has been commissioned to plan a new media lab in KFA 112 and 113. The lab will include modern amenities such as smart technologies, a teaching space, a new equipment check-out center, a green room, a recording space and a collaboration station.

"This project, it's like Halley's comet. [The comet] won't come around in my lifetime, or yours, so it's a big deal," Erik Johnson, an associate professor in the SASA department, said.

Construction is slated to begin in the Summer of 2020, to be completed by Fall of 2020. "So, it's not too far off," Johnson added. "The space will be totally remodeled."

Johnson said the taskforce is approaching the concept of a media lab in an entirely new way. "In the past, the computer labs have been housed with specific kinds of computers. But the challenge with that is they're in a room, that room has limited access, and the students can't take the computers with them. This [lab] will require laptops."

From a technical standpoint, Johnson stated the media center will be state of the art. "In terms of future-proofing this, it's a way more feasible and smart investment to have a space like this, as opposed to a whole room of computers that have a maximum of five year shelf-life."

For students taking classes in Stage and Screen Arts and similar courses, Johnson provides insight on the struggles they've had with personal laptops. "That, frankly, has been one of the biggest challenges for the classes I teach, because of the fact not all students have access to a computer."

Committee member and head of the art department, Dan Paulus explained why the committee believes this project is sustainable. "There's a survey that came out last year that this campus participated in, that showed about 96 percent of students already have a laptop.. What we want to do is make it 10 percent. Basically, it would make it easier for us to find spaces to teach and collaborate together."

Students in the SASA and art departments will have the opportunity to reach out to financial aid and request a computer with specific build requirements and software programs related to their courses. According to Johnson, this initiative is already "in the books."

"Ultimately, what we're hoping will happen is students that are signed up for these classes will have their own laptops, bring them into this space and link them into the hubs in the classroom. Having a laptop, taking it home with you, where you can do their editing and bring it to class and everyone's together [...] is one of the largest benefits of this initiative, according to Johnson. Johnson believes time in class will be used more efficiently, and both students and faculty will

be better off for it.

On the other hand, Paulus has some concerns. The collaboration of the different departments, Paulus believes, can both help and hinder this project. "A lot of us believe the future of higher ed lies in collaboration," Paulus explained. "This was initially initiated by the art department, and it's kind of grown bigger. My concern is that it's maybe a little too big. There's too much collaboration," Paulus said. "My fear is because there are so many people involved now that there might be too much usage. [Teachers] might not have enough time in the space. That's my concern. But if it can be heavily used, that's good thing."

Both Johnson and Paulus agree that working on the project has been a great opportunity. "I think this will be something that students will immediately benefit from, faculty will benefit from, just to have a space that will serve the students and serve the idea of new and innovative types of curriculum," Johnson said.

A budget has already been set aside for the construction of the lab. As the money will not be going towards new computers, Johnson asserts the budget will be distributed between infrastructure and making the space comfortable. With "exciting" and modern amenities, the committee plans on constructing the lab to be "future-proof" for years to come.



**Erik Johnson enthuses over new media lab in the Kleinpell Fine Arts building.**

Photo by Kacey Joslin



# Students elect Schlichting new SGA president

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Student Government Association (SGA) held elections for new leadership positions from April 16 to April 18. Elections determined who would fill the spots on SGA for the upcoming year.

Tate Schlichting was elected to be the new student body president, alongside vice president Jackie Lee. Schlichting shared some future plans and hopes for the upcoming year; and how he wants to continue to make the UW-River Falls campus a place where student needs are heard.

Schlichting is a junior, heading into his fourth year at UWRF. His major is Political Science with a Criminology minor. Schlichting will be graduating after his fourth year. "I ran because I feel like I still have enough time left on campus to make UWRF a better place for future students, this is a truly great campus, but there will always be room for im-

provement in every great thing," Schlichting said.

As president of SGA, Schlichting will lead the rest of the elected council in making improvements on campus. Over the past year, Schlichting formerly held the title of vice president of SGA, and wants to continue to work as a leader on campus.

"A lot of awesome things are in the works [for next year]. Rodli will be opening, a new strategic plan will be created and implemented, and one of my favorites, an advising center is being seriously looked at and considered to help students find their path here in college in both life and academics," said Schlichting.

One of SGA's main goals for next year is to create a better communication with students. SGA represents the wants and needs of the students, and Schlichting expressed that he wants to make it easier for students to express their opinions. He said, "Jackie Lee, the vice president, and I plan to open up Student Government President and vice president emails

so students can more easily reach out to us.

In addition to these changes, Schlichting wants to work on improvements within Student Government Association. He said, "The biggest things I will be working on are more in house revisions to the Student Government. We have a lot of work to do to get on the right track, and I believe that the last administration headed by President Rosie Pechous did a lot of great work, and that work needs to continue so the Student Government can be the most effective voice of the students it can be."

"The one thing I would want students to know on campus is that I want to hear from them, I want to know what the students think needs to be implemented, done better, is being done well, really anything. Feedback any student wants to give me would be great," said Schlichting.

By creating a great environment from several aspects at UWRF, Schlichting believes that SGA will be a voice for all students as effectively as possible.

# Faculty meet to discuss liberal arts future at RLA event

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The Reimagining the Liberal Arts initiative has been an ongoing project in the College of Arts and Sciences throughout the 2018-2019 academic year. A few panels have been hosted, featuring current UW-River Falls students and alumni speaking on the importance of a liberal arts education after college.

The most recent event on Monday, April 29, starred faculty speaking on groups they have worked with to bring in new ideas and propositions in changing the future liberal arts curriculum.

These groups have worked under the guidelines and suggestions of the Association of American Colleges and Universities program called the Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP). The groups have focused on categories such as equity, diversity, and inclusion in higher education, high impact practices, and new directions in integrative learning.

"When Dean Yohnk told me that we were going to do this I thought, 'this is your first year on campus right'? This is a very very ambitious plan and I think it's amazing how well it has come off," said Provost David Travis on his thoughts of the Reimagining the Liberal Arts initiative.

"If it wasn't for a snowstorm," Travis continued. "Every one of our events would have happened. The event we had planned will be rescheduled for the fall as a part of a deans meeting from across the UW System."

Each group focused on current challenges the university faces with their respective category on campus. For the group focused on equity, diversity, and inclusion in higher education, they found four distinct challenges.

These challenges provided different experiences for white students and students of color, with the campus climate showing more discrimination and bias faced for students of color while white students were commonly found to be resentful and defensive with issues of race on campus.

Other issues included overloaded work expectations, superficial approaches to diversity and inclusion as well as alumni attack and threatening to withdraw donations to the campus if certain approaches are taken to UWRF to improve the equity, diversity, and inclusion on campus.



**Previous RLA event hosts speakers on the future of liberal arts programs**  
Photo by Theo Tollefson

"The group first started looking at what we are already doing here on campus course requirement wise, academic programming, and what are resources on campus that we have for working towards equity, diversity, and inclusivity," said Doug Margolis, an assistant professor in the English department. "As we were brainstorming that list, we were like, well actually, we also could be doing stuff to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion on campus."

"I have been here since 2002 and every year we say we have to do more for inclusivity, equity, and diversity. The fact that every year we have to say that should be telling us something, that we're probably not doing as good as a job as we should be," said John Heppen, Professor and Department Chair of Geography.

The group presented suggestions for how the campus faculty, staff, administration, and students could all improve with equity, diversity, and inclusion in the near future. The suggestions included motivating faculty and staff to make a more welcoming and inclusive community. Cultivating student openness to other cultures and perspectives (ethical and engaged citizens). Increase belonging for all students and develop an Offense Strategy for Handling White Nationalists and other other

extreme right wing attacks on inclusivity and equity activities.

According to the Association of American Colleges and Universities, High-Impact Practices is, "the teaching and learning practices that have been widely tested and have been shown to be beneficial for college students from many backgrounds, especially historically underserved students, who often do not have equitable access to high-impact learning. These practices take many different forms, depending on learner characteristics and on institutional priorities and contexts."

Types of high-impact practices in higher education are first-year experiences, learning communities, undergraduate research, community based-learning, internships, and a number of other practices. There are many universities affiliated with the AACU that have adopted three of these high-impact practices as essential, for UWRF, "The Big Three," are international education, undergrad research and internships.

Integrative learning is connecting skills and knowledge from multiple sources and experiences, and applying them into practice in different settings that have diverse and contradictory points of view. Integrative learning has become more desired by business for hiring students after graduation as many believe

that problems are discussed and figured out by bringing together people who have been trained in different fields.

According to findings by UWRF faculty and staff who have worked on the integrative learning committee for reimagining the liberal arts, Wisconsin is the 10th most exposed state with jobs currently performed by humans that could be replaced by machines that have already been invented down the line. Approximately 47.5 percent of jobs Wisconsinites work are at risk of being replaced by machines in some form.

The UWRF faculty and staff who have worked on the integrative learning committee have recommended that UWRF, "Review how Integrative Learning meshes with other Reimagining subgroups. Conceptualize how Reimagining fits within new Strategic Plan & Academic Plan initiatives. Make a concerted effort to identify connections between courses and to ask students to make these connections in all courses rather than a separate selection of courses."

The initiative for reimagining the liberal arts will have its final panel featuring deans from across the UW-System during the early fall 2019 semester.



# Many styles being recycled for today’s fashion

Destinie Vhaa  
Falcon News Service

Windbreakers, hair scrunchies and dad sneakers are just some of the fashions from the late 1990s and early 2000s coming back into popularity, if magazines, social media, clothing stores and even street style are any guide.

The cycle of fashion trends and fads can be described by a bell-shaped curve, said Anupama Pasricha, department chair and associate professor of fashion merchandising at St. Catherine University in St. Paul.

“Fashion is a cyclical phenomenon... Each style goes through the cycle and comes back. Fashion thrives on change and the fashion cycle basically explains that each new style goes through phases on introduction, growth, acceleration, saturation and decline,” she said.

Because of these recurring trends, Pasricha said that we can almost determine what will come into style in the next few years simply by looking at what was in style using the standard rule of 20 years. What was in style about two decades ago would most likely resurface, which is why the trends that we see nowadays will more than likely be back by the time the next generation comes along.

The styling and modernizing of these recycled fashions, Pasricha added, depends on outside influences like what’s going on in the world, pop culture and economics.

When it comes to figuring out how to buy new trends in stores, Melissa Parkos said that it is easy to find classic and trendy pieces for

her boutique, Jori & June, located in downtown Stillwater, Minnesota.

Fashion fads come to the Midwest slower than to international fashion hubs, Parkos said.

“I saw it (fashion trends) in Shanghai first and then it would take a couple years,” she said, “and it would be Europe and then it would come to the United States but then when it comes here, it comes out of New York, or California... It’s much slower into the Midwest.”

Parkos said she wants her customers to buy and invest in items that will last a long time, as well as have a constant classic and comfortable look. That’s why her store is based on not only extremely trendy pieces but on clothes that her customers can wear to multiple events.

“So when you think about some of these trends — like neon is back in — I think that it’s fun to dabble into that and bring those pieces in just to kind of feed into that, but in a more subtle way,” Parkos added.

Fashion enthusiasts such as UW-River Falls junior Alexis Mulcahy enjoy the many different trends that are coming back into style. She said that fashion trends bring back memories from when she was growing up.

“It’s really cool seeing how many different ways clothing lines are bringing ’90s fashion back and reinventing them to things we can wear today,” Mulcahy said. But not every fashion trend should resurface. “I think that one of the many trends we never want to see coming back,” she said, “are low-rise jeans.”



Student wears scrunchie for ease and style.  
Photo by Kacey Joslin



Graphic by Kacey Joslin

## RF Days to go without carnival

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River Falls Days is an annual summer event that brings together the community of Pierce and St. Croix counties. Every year the event has notable activities for families and adults, but this year, River Falls Days will not be having a carnival.

The search for a location for the carnival was to find a location that was close enough to the downtown stretch of main street, where the majority of the River Falls Days events would be takes place. A location was chosen by the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau for the back alley behind the River Falls Police Department near the corner of Maple and Main Streets.

Chris Blasuis, the chief executive officer of the River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau, was one of the city officials who took on the task of finding an appropriate location for the River Falls Days Carnival. “Staff went door to door and had conversations with all the businesses, so we kind of did a divide and conquer. We identified a list of all of the businesses that we felt would have a direct impact with from a proximity where the festival grounds, or the carnival would be situated,” said Blasius.

Blasius continued, “We either went door to door and tried to have a conversation, that was our first preference, and reach them by that, or we were making phone calls to have a conversation. We did that leading up to it. We just wanted to be very transparent in the

process, ask the pros and cons and thoughts and feedback. We have at this point believe we have exhausted our search (for a carnival location) and are recommending that we are not going to move forward with the carnival in 2019.”

The decision to not move forward with the carnival for the 2019 River Falls Days came after multiple employees from the businesses affected by the originally proposed location attended the February 12, River Falls City Council meeting expressing their concerns of the location. If the carnival for River Falls Days were still to take place, it would most likely be in the back alley of the corner of Maple and Main Street.

This location would have caused logistical problems for some of the businesses with parking in that alley such as Domino’s Pizza and Johnnies Bar. Daniel Gould, A Domino’s employee explained, “During that week we would have not had enough parking space to store our drivers. We would have been losing a lot of business to pizza franchises with better locations, Little Caesars, Pizza Hut etc. for that week. On average this is probably, us and Steve’s Pizza are the best locations for pizza here in town. It’s right in the middle of all the bars, right in the middle of everything that is happening in town.”

River Falls Days will be taking place from July 11-14. The event hosts a fireworks show, a parade on Main Street, a 2 mile kids run, and live music.



# Comic Con returns this summer across the U.S.

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Summer is fast approaching, which to many means that it's time to hit up the local convention, or con as it is commonly referred to as.

All types of entertainment have their own variant of a convention, with some being larger than others, however the most popular conventions are the ones that have a more niche audience. Comic books, anime, manga, card games and board games all have conventions of their own, but only the largest conventions mix all of the above together to be what many call Comic Con. To many Comic Con is a grand start to summer that every fan wants and needs.

The largest Comic Con in the United States is the San Diego Comic-Con. The San Diego Comic-Con can in some ways be looked at as the grandfather of Comic Cons now seen around the nation. It began in 1970 when a group of avid film, comic, and tv fans decided to start their own convention, they called

it the San Diego's Golden State Comic-Minicon. By 1973 the con was taking off and had been renamed to the San Diego Comic-con, it has kept this name now for nearly 50 years with no sign of changing.

Luckily, in 2019 there are many more conventions around the country so traveling far to find a convention shouldn't be a big issue for fans. In nearby Minnesota, many cons can be found for fans of all types of media. One of the larger cons in recent years was the Minneapolis Wizard World Con that sadly is no longer coming back. However where one convention leaves two more take its place. Here are some alternatives that fans can look forward to in the coming weeks and months.

An upcoming convention would be the MSP Spring Con 2019, this convention is taking place from May 18-19 at the Minnesota State Fair grounds. This event is being put on by the MCBA, better known as the Midwest Comic Book Association, and plans to have over 200 comic book creators from across the United States. With many dealers, door prizes, grab

bags and much more there is a lot to look forward to at MSP 2019.

Another large convention coming up in the next few weeks is AniMinneapolis. AniMinneapolis explains itself as an epic three-day celebration of anime, video games, and music in Minneapolis. The convention takes place from May 24-26, located at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. This event is more focused around an anime and manga theme, however there is something interesting for any nerd.

The final convention to be mentioned is a convention called MetaCon. This convention takes place from August 30 through September 1. Again like AniMinneapolis the convention will be located at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis. The website explains MetaCon as a three-day comic and sci-fi convention that includes every aspect of geek culture and nerd life. The convention being placed in the last days of summer may be a good way to get a last hurrah in before school starts up again.

## Colt Sale caps season of learning, training for students

Destinie Vhaa

Falcon News Service

More than four dozen horses trained by UW-River Falls students were sold at auction during the 43rd annual Colt Sale held Saturday, May 4, at the UWRF Campus Farm 1.

While most of the horses were colts, or males up to two years old, a variety of animals were up for auction, said advisor and faculty associate Nathan O'Connor.

The young horses were trained by students who have proved themselves in prerequisite courses and who were allowed to enroll in the Principles of Training Horses class taught by O'Connor in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Prior experience and coursework are only a portion of what he looks for when deciding who is able to take the class, O'Connor said. Not only do the students have to go to class to learn different strategies on how to train horses, they are also expected to train the horses outside of class and do chores at the lab farm.

"The students are out at the lab farm for a tremendous amount of hours, so they work their horse about five days a week," he said, "so there's a tremendous commitment on the student's part to be a part of this class. It takes a great deal of talent, and a tremendous work ethic as well, because they're not getting paid to do this. They're getting three credits."

Olivia Partlow, an animal science senior with an emphasis in equine, said that the process from the first day of the course to the day of the auction was a whirlwind of mixed emotions for her.

"I personally have had problems with my horse loping,

picking up his lead while loping has been pretty difficult, but overall this whole experience has been great... I've learned a lot," she said.

Partlow explained the connection that she experienced during the class with her horse, who she named Beau.

"You get this horse, and it's barely been touched, and then by the end of the semester, it loves you, it comes up to you, it wants to work, it enjoys your company," she said, "and it's just rewarding to know that you built a bond with something like that."

O'Connor said hundreds of people attend the colt sale every year, and there has never been a year that a horse hasn't sold during his 13 years of hosting the event. Many people in the business are looking for horses, and since the horses being auctioned at the colt sale are not trained for any particular skill, they make great clean slates, O'Connor said.

According to an IBISWorld report, the demand for horses has increased over the past five years. The growth in sales has been driven in part by interest in horse racing and recreational use of horses.

The top price paid during this year's Colt Sale was \$30,000 for a horse named Sparkling Sailor, followed by \$17,000 for UWRF Lil Ice and \$15,000 for Celtic Minstrel, according to the event's Facebook page. The next UWRF Colt Sale is scheduled for May 2, 2020.



**Sales of horses have increased over the last five years.**  
Photo courtesy of Ceci Charlsen

## UWRF student interns train service animals

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The training takes immense amounts of time and commitment from interns, which helps students achieve their goals after they leave the program.

"Our dogs are in training for two to three years. During that time, PawPADs' staff, volunteers and ADEPT interns spend over a thousand hours training and working with the dogs to give them the skills necessary to perform tasks related to their future partner's disability," said Jensen.

While dogs are in training through this program, they learn several cues and skills to help those who have a disability or type 2 diabetes.

Jensen said, "The dogs learn over 80

cues by the time they are placed. In addition they need the time to develop the social skills to be able to handle a wide variety of public areas and events."

Since this program takes interns through an entire process of training, there are challenges that trainers face. Jensen said, "Each dog presents different behavioral challenges throughout the maturation process. Behaviors we commonly see are barking and pulling on the leash. The trainers work quickly to give the dogs the skills to overcome those behaviors."

After the completion of the program, interns may have the skills they will need, along with the added education that ADEPT provides them for future careers.



**Group of current and graduated interns gather in the University Center**  
Photo courtesy of Maddie Jensen

# New initiative facilitates global engagement

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In July of 2019, a newly funded program to help stimulate more global engagement will begin at the UW-River Falls campus.

Heidi Soneson, assistant vice chancellor for International Education and executive director of the International Education office, played a key role in bringing this initiative to campus, called the curriculum integration initiative. Soneson explained, “[The initiative] is focused on how do we identify best program matches for different majors.”

Soneson came to UWRF this past July from the University of Minnesota. She explained that there was a similar program in place at the U of M, as well as at many universities around the country.

UWRF has many core values, one of these being global engagement. This global engagement comes about through

introducing students to new ideas, people, cultures, and locations that build understanding and higher learning.

The university’s goal with this initiative is to get information about UWRF study abroad programs reflected on the website, as well as provide faculty with the necessary tools to advise students. “When faculty know what programs are really the best match for their majors and minors, they can better encourage students to study abroad,” said Soneson.

UWRF Faculty Senate worked closely with Soneson on this initiative. Sociology Professor Paige Miller is a member of Faculty Senate. Miller explained the relevance of the program at a campus like UWRF. “Currently we’re one of the top universities in the UW-System in terms of how many students we’re sending abroad. Anything that can make that process easier is good for the university, as well as for students having these experiences outside of the country,” said Miller.

A consultant who is an expert in the area is coming in to advise the initiative. “It’s a one year project with possible

funding for two years. The role of the consultant is to facilitate discussions on campus with faculty administration in my office on the steps to take to foster curriculum integration,” explained Soneson.

Though the university encourages students to study abroad, Soneson said there are many factors that must be considered. “I think we have to look and see what is possible for students. Some have families, responsibilities to their parents or their farms. We must think broadly what is doable for them.” Soneson continued, “We want it to be easier for students to see study abroad as part of their four year plan.”

The university offers study abroad programs ranging from a full semester, to a one week spring break trip. Students must consider what is best for them in terms of duration, finances and their field of study. Soneson said there are plans to add even more international locations for students to go in the near future.

# Experts at River Falls workshop to examine issues faced by transgender community

Owen Elle

Falcon News Service

“Growing Up Transgender,” a workshop to help participants understand the intricacies of the transgender community, will take place June 12 in River Falls.

The workshop will feature instructors Christopher Jorgenson and Dr. Alexandra Hall. Jorgenson is director of the Gender & Sexuality Resource Center at the UW-Eau Claire, while Hall is a family physician and senior lecturer at UW-Stout in Menomonie.

Jorgenson said he believes the eight-hour workshop is packed with vital lessons for its participants, including gaining empathy for the problems that transgender youth face.

“There are substantial challenges that transgender youth have to experience both culturally and as far as infrastructure is concerned,” Jorgenson said. “Access is a huge issue for trans youth. The ability to just go to the bathroom in any building is a huge barrier to trans inclusion.”

Hall said that the workshop will also feature a biology lesson component as it helps people understand that even something like “biologic sex,” or what anatomy one has, “is not binary.” She added: “There are a lot of commonalities that exist in terms of how we are formed and how we start off regardless of whether you end up as a mostly male body or a

mostly female body.”

Hall said it is important to understand all of the factors, including the medical and biological ones, in order to comprehend the first-hand experiences of transgendered people. It’s important for everyone to understand what transgender people go through in their daily lives because, Hall said, “This has been a community of people who have been misunderstood and discriminated against for a long time, so they have disproportionately poor outcomes.”

Hall cited academics, mental health and physical wellbeing as some of the areas that transgendered people are the most at risk for negative outcomes. This is why it is important to improve our current systems to better serve members of this marginalized community. Jorgenson also said he believes that lack of support for transgender youth in the family and the community, coupled with “a huge amount of bullying, discrimination, and bigotry,” is contributing to the negative repercussions that transgender people feel. Jorgenson said he wants the workshop to demystify the transgender experience and lead to members of that community living healthy and productive lives.

“The goal is to be able to provide inclusive environments for all youth and in order to do that we have to be very critical about our cultural understandings or misunderstandings about communities to which we don’t belong,” Jorgenson said.

Hall added, “By learning more about a community of people who are different from yourself, it really opens your mind and opens your heart and allows you to interact more effectively and more meaningfully.”

On how people can help the transgender community, Jorgenson said, “I think cis people need to do far more listening and far less judging. They need to be willing to reassess their worldview when what they have been told about trans people does not reflect reality. The fact is people feel very strongly about the trans community whether they know a thing about the trans community or not.”

**Mental health and physical wellbeing as some of the areas that transgendered people are the most at risk for negative outcomes**

The “Growing Up Transgender” workshop begins at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 12, in the St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center, 1091 Sutherland Ave., River Falls. For further information and to register, visit the workshop’s website.

# Political science professors notice difficulties when teaching

Lauren Samec

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Since the presidential election of 2016, the department chair and a professor of political science, Professor Neil Kraus, has noticed that he has had to approach talking about politics in his classes differently.

“It’s a lot more challenging than it used to be,” Kraus said. “People are so entrenched in their views that having a discussion, really at all, has become much more difficult.”

Kraus has been teaching at the University of Wisconsin River Falls since 2005, but he’s recently had to change the way he teaches. He states that in society, in families and among friends, controversial subjects tend to be avoided. “It’s always been difficult. They’ve always said the two things you should never discuss around family is politics and religion. I think now that is even more true than ever,” Kraus stated.

“Politics has always been a tough thing to talk about with people who differ from you. But now, it’s just so much more so.”

Kraus believes that approaching the subject of politics in the classroom has gotten significantly more difficult. “Think from the perspective of somebody who is teaching; you have to plan things out a little more in terms of *how* you are going to ask questions, the *kinds* of questions you are going to ask, and how you are going to try to get students to participate.”

Recently, Kraus has encouraged students to be informed, but to avoid biases. The rise of social media has aided Kraus and his fellow teachers greatly.

Davida Alperin is a Political Science and Gender Studies professor who has been teaching political science at the university of Wisconsin River Falls since 1991. Alperin believes that social media has played a large role in the ability to discuss politics.

With the simple click of a button, thousands upon thousands of people know the political views of friends and family alike. Learning to read between the lines and examine what is presented on screen can be far more helpful than reading the headlines and quickly clicking the *share* button.

“It’s a constant sort of battle. There are a lot of people making a lot of money at the battle and then – the question is – what happens to us as a result?” Alperin asked.

While Alperin believes there are good media sources, it takes effort to find them. “It’s a question on whether or not we want to do it. There are ways to get good information, some of them traditional, but I think if we look with those sources we *can* get decent information.”

Alperin suggests that those interested in “asking the hard questions” need to put the effort in to become informed.



# Technology users concerned by privacy violations

Kacey Joslin

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"Espionage" sounds like a word straight out of a "Jason Bourne" film or a Cold War spy novel, but the act itself isn't contained to the world of fiction.

The U.S. government has numerous agencies dedicated to the act of national security. The 2001 Patriot Act was enacted after the 9/11 attacks and loosened restrictions on espionage tactics. It allowed, for instance, warrantless wiretapping. The program has stopped at least one Al Qaeda conspiracy by "spying" within our borders, but where do they draw the line?

The National Security Agency has been under fire in the past few years, after an incident with a particularly brave whistleblower and WikiLeaks, the online database known for leaking classified information. In an era where government surveillance is most certainly possible, it's become an actual *meme* to joke about the NSA agents sifting through your internet history or watching you through your computer's camera. For example: "the NSA agent tapping into my computer as I listen to 'Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!'" by ABBA on repeat is probably concerned."

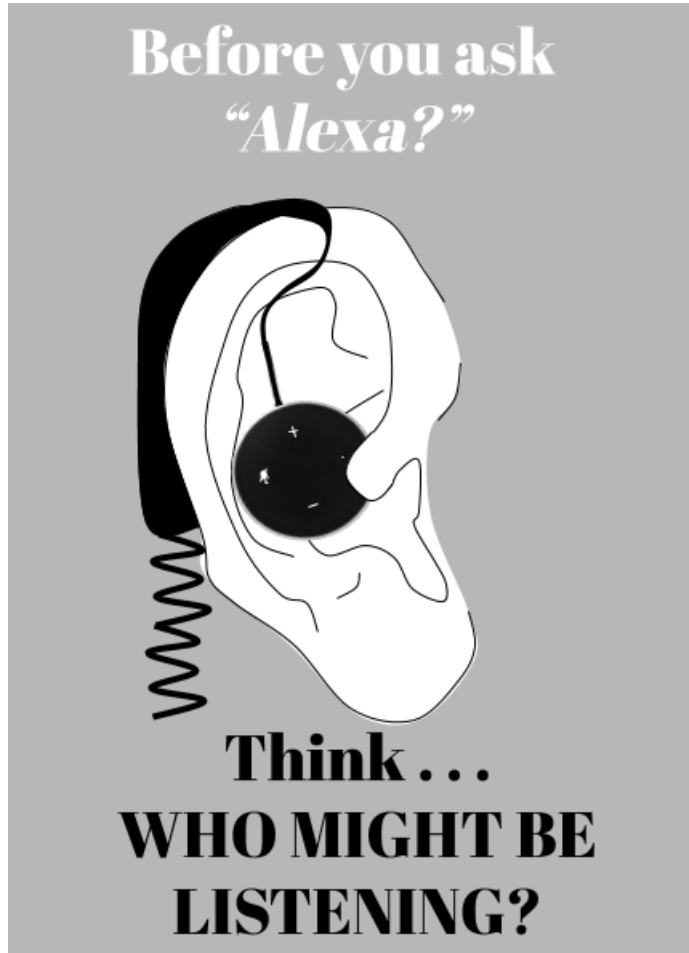
But government voyeurs aren't the only ones with reason to be watching you.

Computer algorithms track your movements and send that data to advertisers, to best customize potential marketing tools. The moment I browsed a page on Amazon for sneakers, I got pop-up ads "recommending" Adidas and Nike-brand snapbacks.

When you buy a computer, it's practically a given that you'll be targeted. You sign an unspoken contract that nothing you do on your personal computer will ever, truly, be "private."

The internet was not designed with privacy in mind. Social media was created as a public sphere, where people from across the world could have an open, honest conversation in order to identify and solve problems within society. When did that go down the drain?

Google's motto was originally "don't be evil" and Facebook's mission statement was "To give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected." Both of these slogans have recently been rescinded, and it's obvious their missions have changed. Facebook's hacks are growing more and more common while Google is known as the overwhelming "Big Brother" (to quote George Orwell's "1984"), silently saving data overheard in our 'smart homes'



**Parody propaganda warns against virtual home assistants**  
Graphic by Kacey Joslin

and archived in our search history.

The moment you posted that mirror selfie or uploaded your DNA to an ancestry site, a database collected that information. There's suspicion that certain social media sites build shadow profiles on people who don't even have accounts. Surveillance cameras are in your college's university center. Automated license plate readers track your commute.

It doesn't stop there.

If you have a gmail, reporters from Reuters revealed that your provider has been refusing to answer how many privacy violations have already been committed, which is awfully suspicious.

If you have a bank account, banks are sharing that information with third parties. Usually, this third party is Facebook, which is trying to "become a platform where people buy and sell goods and services," as according to The Wall Street Journal.

If you use public transport, there have been increasing proposals for facial recognition software to be installed in buses and trains.

If you go to a school, you're at risk. Check UW-River Falls' directory, and you'll

likely find, at the very least, your full name and cell phone number listed. No wonder I've been getting so many scam calls. If you're as unsettled by that as I am, you can print out a form to conceal this information from public access, or place a "No Release" on the information.

I don't have a shiny database with tracking data, but with enough determination, a nobody like me can track a person using only their first and last name.

And here's the kicker.

You can turn off your phone's location. You can put a sticky note over your computer's camera. You can remove all "virtual home assistants," like Amazon's Alexa or Google Home from your living space. You can delete your social media accounts, use dark web servers like The Onion Router (Tor), and go

completely underground. You could toss your computer out a window, smash your cell phone, and go rough it in the woods, but there would still be video footage of you leaving town and unflattering satellite images of your new home in the forest. It's as though we're trapped in some twisted dystopia.

We are already screwed.

I'm not trying to be a fear-monger. "Secrecy nihilism" – that is, believing we're all doomed when it comes to secrecy – is a real thing, but I'm a person who tries to remain positive.

We've already passed the point of no return.

If you can accept *that*, and muscle through your discomfort and paranoia, that's when we can actually start finding solutions. You can *accept* the fact that we're screwed, but don't ever, *ever* sit there and decide to do nothing. That's how we get *into* situations like "1984."

It'd be a cop-out if I told you all of the ways you're screwed over and offer you no solid solutions. But all I can suggest is this. If you want to protect your privacy, get informed, and get angry. There are little things

you can do to *really* stick it to "the man." Instead of being paranoid about secrecy, become *passionate*.

That previously mentioned public transit debacle? There were activists sending out letters and protesting their right to engaged in the First Amendment without being monitored, and as of January, the proposal was banned.

Facebook's attempt at accessing bank accounts is nebulous at best, with banks "already" pulling out, according to market research. Congress, too, has become increasingly less and less impressed with Mark Zuckerberg's antics. Fatemeh Khatibloo, vice president and principal analyst at Forrester Research has been tracking Facebook scandals and privacy breaches. She stated, in an interview with CBS affiliate CNET, that they are constantly finding proof that "[Facebook] never prioritized privacy over their business model." Eventually, something's got to give.

Just as it's possible to restrict your cell phone number from being shown on the school directory, all you have to do is read the fine print.

For in-home virtual assistant systems, keep yourself updated on *their* updates. If you own an Amazon Firestick, it's likely that, by default, your privacy settings are set so Amazon can collect your device and app usage data. The update is even pre-installed on new devices. Just turn it off, and file a complaint if it's upsetting you.

Research how to turn the microphone off on your computer, so the supposed NSA agent in your computer can't be constantly listening.

You could download a safe and proven effective virtual private network, or VPN, which conceals your identity and would protect your name, address and personal information from being found or released to the public by corporations.

Be choosy with your social media profile. Use strong passwords, not just "1-2-3-4" or "password." Don't fall for scams.

The options are endless, and a quick internet search on how to *protect* your internet (ironic, isn't it?) will offer you others. While true privacy may seem unattainable, it doesn't hurt to know your rights. Although Google might track your search history as you search for the list of constitutional amendments, they can't *stop* you from it.

As Orwell's novel, "1984" states, "Big Brother is watching you" – but that doesn't mean you can't keep an eye on *them* in return.

## Student Voice

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.



# Legislator supports a hands-free future for Wisconsin



**Student drives hands-free, following a GPS to his desired destination.**  
**Photo by Brooke Shepherd**

Editorial  
Editor@uwrvoice.com

Decisions made while driving could quickly become a matter of life or death. According to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, every 22 minutes there is a distracted driving crash occurring in the state.

Minnesota, along with 17 other states have taken the initiative to enact a hands-free cell phone law in an attempt to lessen distractions on the road. In Minnesota, the current penalty is a petty misdemeanor and increasing fines for repeat violations.

This type of law, as explained by Wisconsin Representative Shannon Zimmerman, would allow drivers access to their phones to answer a call or use a GPS, but they are then expected to use a headset or a bluetooth system. “I do a ton of calls while driving,” Zimmerman said. “I’m that goofball that has a headset on. It’s wireless, and it works, it’s great! I can hold hands or do whatever I need to do.”

Distracted driving isn’t just using a phone while driving. “Distracted driving is a very broad term,” Zimmerman states. “That could be a radio. It could be smoking a cigarette. It could be you on the phone. We’re just tightening it to be a little more specific.”

There are laws currently in place in Wisconsin regarding distracted driving, however Wisconsin has yet to follow in Minnesota’s footsteps when comes to being hands-free. Zimmerman believes due to public support and technology advancements over the last few years, Wisconsin soon will also be under the hands-free law.

“We’re at that stage right now in Wisconsin where the concept or the drafts from legislation are being now loosey produced, and it will ultimately be a bill that will be circulated to garner support. It’s just a matter of when,” Zimmerman stated.

Zimmerman continued. “In today’s climate the winds of change are there and there’s a greater receptivity to it

now in the state of Wisconsin due to – sadly and tragically – the deaths that have resulted.”

This initiative is close to Zimmerman’s heart. In October of 2014, his 38-year-old cousin was hit and killed by a distracted driver. “It was absolutely heartbreaking,” Zimmerman said.

Zimmerman’s family became strong proponents of the law after the incident. “There’s a lot of local stories in our own backyard where people’s lives have been affected by this. I just feel like we’re at the point where bills like this will pass,” he said.

Though the hand-free law would be a step in the right direction, more could be done. The best case scenario would be drivers avoiding phone use while operating a vehicle, however this seems like an unlikely, overly-optimistic fix. “Human beings gravitate to ease,” said Zimmerman.

Research from the National Safety Council found that there were no major safety benefits to driving hands-free, though it is possible that the law will serve as a way to remind drivers to exercise profuse caution.

To supplement this bill, Zimmerman suggested cooperation with automobile manufacturers to make vehicles better equipped for hands-free phone usage. Cell phone manufacturers could also implement technology to make driving safer. Phone applications that utilize “driving mode” could be further explored and encouraged, especially among young drivers. “Help us help ourselves here,” Zimmerman requests of these companies. “And save more lives.”

Zimmerman elaborated. “I think the focus right now should just be with [the hands-free law]. We know we’ve got a clear issue with phones. In today’s era, phones are very valuable to us,” he said. “Being able to communicate and conduct business while you’re driving, or connect with your family or in an emergency is important. We just to have to have the manner in which we do it minimize and reduce risk as much as humanly possible.”

Drivers are encouraged to exercise caution at all times while driving, and should not wait for a law enactment to analyze their potentially dangerous habits on the road.

## Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you with concern of a section that was printed in the most recent Student Voice. On page 2, the section which prompts students to respond to a question, and this edition’s question, “What is your spirit animal?” This prompt is not appropriate and offensive. This phrase, which is apart of Indigenous culture is cultural appropriation, that needs to be acknowledged and understood as something that is not meant to be fun, playful or consumed. The term has risen in pop culture with in the past ten years, but it needs to be informed and when communicating to the public and using the term “spirit animal”, you are informing the public that it is alright to use a harmful term that diminishes the significance and meanings to marginalized cultures. The violent history and colonization through out North America only continues through the appropriation of Native Americans spirituality and culture.

I understand it was meant to be a fun, playful question. But the more appropriate question would be, “What is your animal alter ego?” Yet, now, due to the publication of the term “spirit animal” you have continued to let those who read the student voice, as well as the students interviewed, that “spirit animal” is a normalized and fun idea. I recommend that this is remedied in some way immediately.

Let this be a learning opportunity about privilege, the power of journalism and the harm that cultural appropriation due to the negligence of those who may not understand their ignorance and history, and an opportunity to empower (rather than use) disenfranchised people.

Regards,  
Ann Lawton

## Student Voice

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## Reagan Responds



Reagan Hoverman

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# Reagan advises on new love and women's basketball

### Q: How do you break the ice in a new relationship?

Breaking the ice can be tricky at first. I think the best thing to do when in a new relationship, is pick an activity that is often done for first dates. Two people could go for a walk while talking to try to get to know each other a little better. Going to a movie is also a good way to get a conversation going and it provides minimal time for awkward moments. Going to see a movie passes the time, gives both people something to participate in, and provides enough substance for conversation for the rest of the date together. If movies don't sound interesting there is also going to sporting events, going mini golfing, getting coffee, etc. the best way to break the ice in a new relationship is to do something that both individuals can participate in and enjoy. Having fun leads to natural conversation and feels a bit more relaxed than going to dinner or attending some sort of fancy upper-class event. Getting to know each other is going to be the best way to break the ice and having some sort of activity to do while trying to get to know each other will make the process significantly easier. Having small conversation starting questions is also a good way to break the ice. Conversations in a new relationship don't have to be serious and intense. They can be simple, surface level questions that give each person just a little bit more insight into the other. Examples of this would include favorite foods, favorites color, what their hobbies are, etc. those topics can serve as great conversation starters. No matter what the people in the new relationship are interested in doing for an activity, the goal should be the same, to get to know each other better and have some fun in the process. That is the most effective way to break the ice in a new relationship and can provide a great foundation for the relationship moving forward.

### Q: What do you think are the expectations for Coach DuDonis' first season with WBB?

I think that the expectations for Coach Blake DuDonis are going to be fairly high heading into his first season with the Women's Basketball team. This past season, the Falcons had an interim coach that essentially took them within one game of a playoff berth. We saw the potential in the team last year and I think that similar success can and should be expected in the upcoming season. The Falcons have some of their best players coming back next year including Crystal Pearson and Jenna Zeman. Last season, Zeman showed that she has the potential to be one of the best defenders in the WIAC which will be a huge asset to DuDonis in his first season as head coach at UWRF. I thought that Interim Head Coach Derek Staley did a good job last season as a young head coach. However, I look forward to seeing what Head Coach DuDonis will do with this talented roster. If it was up to me and my expectations, I think making the playoffs is a must, even though it's his first year. The Athletic Department at UWRF made the decision on this hire. Considering how last season ended, I think there should be expectations of playoffs at UWRF come next season. This is a talented roster that has shown in the past that they can compete with almost any team in the WIAC. Given what happened last year, and given the current talent on the roster, playoffs should be an expectation going into next year. I have faith that DuDonis will do a quality job in his first season at UWRF, and I look forward to covering the team next season for the Student Voice. Essentially, if it was up to me, I would make the expectations for DuDonis and the Athletic Department a playoff berth in his first season as Head Coach at UWRF.

# Distinguished teacher recommends studying abroad



*Continued from page 1*

In spring semester of 2020, McCarty will be teaching in the Experience Scotland program, which she hasn't visited since 2005. "Anyone who's been in the Scotland program, we all love Scotland. I'm of Irish descent, but I still love Scotland," she laughed. McCarty doesn't have just one favorite country. "Every new place becomes my favorite place."

She refers to her profession as "the people side of business, which always has a global element. What I teach abroad, we really like to integrate it to wherever we are. What's cool is, you're not just in a classroom. When I taught in the Traveling Classroom, we went to the UN in Vienna, museums and tours which tied in nicely to the courses we teach. We work hard to discover what those opportunities are in different countries."

She strongly recommends Studying Abroad. "It changes you forever. You get to know yourself better, you develop resilience and maturity and problem-solving skills. Every student says that, it's not just me. It's like a mirror on yourself and your culture."

McCarty added that employers often look for those who've student abroad. "If you want

to differentiate yourself, or be competitive, it shows that you're resilient, you've dealt with challenges, and it's a lot of fun."

When she was 16, McCarty studied abroad in Brazil. "It was scary, and hard to be away from home," she admitted. "But it was such a growth experience."

McCarty is also the recipient of the 56th annual Distinguished Teacher Award. "It was a great honor, the highest teaching award you can get at UWRF," she explained.

Graduating seniors and recent graduates nominated her, citing McCarty's "passion and desire to push students to their full potential," as well as her "eagerness to connect students and get them involved in internships, student organizations and study abroad opportunities while ensuring that they feel supported throughout the entire process," according to a campus community update by Dean Van Galen.

"I'm very honored that students took the time to do that, but I was surprised!" McCarty said of her nomination. "I got a notice that the Chancellor was going to stop by, and I thought, 'What did I do?'" He laughed, because that's what everybody thinks."

McCarty stated that she was glad to repre-



**Claire McCarty, winner of 56th annual Distinguished Teacher Award**  
Photo by Kacey Joslin

sent the College of Business and Economics.

"I think a lot of faculty work very hard and don't always get the recognition," she continued. "But we don't do it for that. I do it because, everyday, talking to my students, I know I had an impact; that I helped somebody get into grad school, or give them the idea to go into a career path they never thought of

before, or just the confidence to do so. I love that, and it's intrinsically satisfying."

McCarty will receive an engraved portrait and a plaque for the Distinguished Teacher display in the Walker D. Wyman Education Building, as well as give a commencement speech in December for graduating students.



# Meals with Monica

Monica Marsh

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## Mango Salsa

This appetizer captures all of the flavors of summer and adds a great twist to a classic chip-and-dip combo. It's easy to make, cost-friendly for us college students, and is a versatile snack. Make this in a big batch by doubling the recipe and it's perfect for backyard barbecues, graduation parties and any other summer get together. I like to serve this with multigrain tortilla chips for some added texture and flavor.

- 1 Large Mango
- About ¾ of a cucumber
- 1 small can jalapeño (can use fresh chopped if preferred)
- 2 stalks of green onion
- ½ of a green bell pepper
- Fresh Cilantro (optional)
- Black Pepper (optional)
- Juice of 1 lime

Finely dice cucumber, jalapeño and bell pepper. Cut mango into medium size chunks. Chop cilantro and green onion into very fine pieces. All all ingredients to a bowl, mix together and serve with tortilla chips of your choice.



Freshly made mango salsa is the perfect summer snack.  
Photo by Monica Marsh

## Greek Pasta Salad

When thinking of a great summer dish, this was the first one that came to mind. My aunt has made this every year for our family Fourth of July gathering, and it is an absolute favorite of not only me, but the whole family. This recipe makes a rather large portion, so feel free to cut it in half if you don't need as much.

- 2 boxes of whole wheat rotini
- 4-5 lbs chicken breast
- Cavender Greek Seasoning
- 2-3 Cucumbers
- 1 pint grape tomatoes
- 1 half of a red onion
- 1 Jar of pitted, kalamata olives
- Crumbled feta cheese
- Kraft brand greek dressing
- 1 cup grated parmesan cheese

Fully cook pasta according to directions on box and immediately rinse in cold water. Cut raw chicken into bite size cubes and toss with a generous amount of Cavender greek seasoning, then brown in light olive oil and allow to chill in fridge (or freezer if you're in a rush.) Toss this together with your cucumbers, seeded and chopped, halved tomatoes, finely minced red onion, olives and feta cheese. Add a whole bottle of Kraft Greek Dressing along and toss with grated parmesan cheese.

# 'Influencers' reject college for a career in social media

Monica Marsh

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From a young age, I can remember spending hours upon hours finding new YouTube channels to binge-watch. I've built such a large subscription box and watch some YouTubers so religiously that I forget that they aren't my friends in real life (kind of sad, I know.) My personal favorite were always makeup tutorials, but since I began watching YouTube and following influencers on social media, it has become an entirely new ball game. What started out as a fun way for people to make videos about essentially anything they wanted has now become a lifestyle and a serious career path for those we refer to as "influencers."

I can't quite recall when it switched from being a fun hobby to a career choice, but these days I hardly know anyone who hasn't at least heard of James Charles, Emma Chamberlain, Trisha Paytas or any of the other extremely popular influencers. These "influencers" are making a ton of money, as well, many of them driving luxury cars, appearing on different talk shows and festival stages, and shopping at Louis Vuitton on Rodeo Drive in Los Angeles. Some are as young as the age of 16.

Almost none of the YouTuber's I watch attend or *plan* to attend college at any point in their life. It crosses my mind often about what their future will look like; will they still remain as popular? Will their viewers grow out of them? And furthermore, is there a plan of action to switch their careers to some other path?

We can easily see that over the past years that the emphasis on going to a four-year university has lessened. There is a strong push for people to attend technical schools, where they can learn a trade – as there is a strong need for people working in the trades. But what about becoming an influencer? Could it be something that replaces college altogether?

Although influencing has gained a large amount of popularity over the last 7 or so years, I don't believe there is a feasible way for the career to completely replace the need for college.

Many viewers wonder how some influencers make it to the big leagues, while others remain small and unknown to all but those who have already stumbled across their social media. When I see lesser-known

pages on Instagram or YouTube, it's not because they have bad content to present, but rather because they are lacking originality. It's easy for the very famous accounts to follow the "trending" videos, and recreate them in their own style. If a lesser known account does the same, they will likely get pushed to the bottom of the notification page. Originality, raw personality, humor and creativity is what gains popularity, and once a following is established, influencers can count on their followers or subscribers to remain loyal.

I know so many people (some days, myself included) would adore starting their own YouTube channel, but be warned; it is a full time job, whether people want to accept that or not. Not only does being an influencer require hours of filming or photography, but editing, appearances, meet and greets and hours of research that is not shown on camera. What starts out as a hobby has a chance to blossom into a full time gig, which is likely just as exhausting as a regular 9-5 job.

So the question to be answered, is the desire to be a social media influencer replacing college attendance? Overall, I would have to say no.

Think in terms of singing, how many people do you personally know that have a wonderful singing voice? Maybe you've heard them sing at church, a school talent show or just driving in the car. I can think of about 10 people in my own life that I genuinely believe deserve to perform in Madison Square Garden – I even have a friend who has released two of her own albums. Statistically speaking however, what percent of the population are famous singers? Not many.

It's the same with social media influencing. No matter how funny or good looking someone is, if they don't have some driving force that sets them apart from the rest of the world, it is not likely they will succeed in the business.

There is an exception; I believe that social media can and does replace college for those who are *already* well on their way in the business. For those on their way to fame, creating content creators can make them money, but they have to put in the work, just like any other full-time career.

## Join the Student Voice!

The Student Voice is hiring for next semester!  
Applications are available outside the Student Voice Office, North Hall 304.  
**Positions Include:**

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Please submit application outside North Hall 304

Contact editor@uwrfvoice.com with any questions.



# Meals with Monica

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**A strawberry and spinach salad makes for a quick meal**  
Photo by Monica Marsh

## Strawberry and Spinach Salad

Just the name of this recipe sounds fresh, and who doesn't love a good summer salad? If you are able to get your hands on some home grown strawberries, I tend to prefer them over store bought. Check out local community gardens, farms, or ask your gardening friends, then maybe bring them some salad in return.

- 1 lb fresh spinach/spinach arugula mix
- 1 pint fresh strawberries
- ½ cup browned or candied pecans
- For the dressing:
  - 1/3 cup raspberry vinegar
  - 1 tsp dry mustard
  - ½ cup sugar
  - ¾ cup preferred oil
  - 1 Tablespoon poppy seeds.

Combine salad ingredients in one bowl and prepare the dressing ingredients in another, pour dressing over spinach and toss, (if you won't be eating it right away, you can wait to pour the dressing to avoid the salad becoming soggy.) Add in chopped strawberries and pecans with some left for the top to garnish. Enjoy!

## Strawberry Pie

Though I was doing my best to stick to healthy food options, I figured I would have to add at least one dessert, because everyone deserves a cheat day, especially in the summer. This pie is delicious and refreshing, and if you're anything like me and don't love baking, it's still pretty simple to make.

- A single 9 inch baked pie crust
- A single 8 ounce package cream cheese (room temperature)
- 2 Tablespoons sugar
- 3 Tablespoons Milk
- ½ cup cool whip, and some for garnish
- 2 tablespoons toasted, slivered almonds
- 4 cups sliced strawberries

Beat cream cheese, sugar and milk until ingredients are creamy. Add cool whip to your cream cheese mixture, being sure to combine all ingredients well. Pour into your pre-baked pie crust and lay sliced strawberries to cover the entire top of the pie. Garnish with sliced almonds and an addition dollop of cool whip.

## Luau Ribs

This is a wonderful recipe for all of those who want a large dish to make. The recipe yields about 6-8 servings so you can be sure to have enough for all of your friends and family to enjoy while playing some backyard games this summer.

- ½ cup brown sugar, firmly packed
- 1 cup of applesauce
- 1/3 cup ketchup
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6-8 pounds spare ribs
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced

Mix brown sugar, applesauce, vinegar, soy sauce and garlic together, rub ribs with salt and pepper. Place ribs, meat side up on a rack in a shallow baking pan and bake at 450 for 15 minutes, pour off fat. Baste ribs with sauce and continue to bake at 350 for 1 and ½ hours, be sure to baste with sauce several times throughout the baking process, turning the ribs each time.