

University of Wisconsin-River Falls

STUDENT VOICE

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Physics department continues research in Antarctica

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UW-River Falls is involved in two experiments in Antarctica.

Surujhdeo Seunarine is a physics professor who specializes in neutrino astrophysics and theoretical particle physics. Seunarine has taken students with him to the South Pole to work on neutron monitors, where the IceCube project resides as well.

Seunarine explained the neutron monitors and the IceCube detector as "two experiments we work on, on two completely different scales."

The IceCube is a cubic kilometer detector, buried about 1.5 kilometers deep in the 10,000-foot-thick ice of Antarctica. It is comprised of kilometer long tubes containing digital optic sensors, which function to detect subatomic particles called neutrinos.

Neutrinos have no electric charge. The small size and neutral charge of these particles leaves them unaffected by magnetic fields and other forces like that. They travel in a straight line, and hardly interact or collide with anything, according to Seunarine.

Because light slows down in ice, the speed of neutrinos in the ice is faster than light in the ice. If a neutrino collides with another particle, its energy is converted into light. Deep in the ice of the south pole, where it is dark and transparent, the light travels a great distance.

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Seunarine and UWRF physics student Grace Zeit arriving at McMurdo Station in Antarctica
Photo courtesy of Surujhdeo Seunarine

Edible Inspiration: Grandma Gunderson's Lefse

Recipe and information by: Anna Gunderson



Photo by Anna Gunderson

Start by cooking russet potatoes without peel until done. Do not cook until mushy or they will absorb too much water. Drain well. Mash up the potatoes with a potato masher. Immediately put potatoes through the ricer and measure riced potatoes. For each cup of potatoes:

- 1 ½ tsp melted Crisco
- ¼ tsp sugar
- ¼ tsp salt

Mix well. Cover potatoes with a towel (not plastic or foil) and refrigerate for several hours or overnight. We will add cream and flour the next day.

On the next day:

Remember how many cups you have

We will add ½ tbsp half & half

¼ cup flour per cup and roll.

These 2 ingredients have to be added at the last minute.

Bring some towels to wrap them in until they cool completely.



Check out December
Desserts on page 14

What is your favorite winter activity?

By Hallie Diekoff and Melissa Thorud



Wallis Hines

“I love going on walks with my dog because she’s originally from Texas, so it’s fun to watch her play in the snow.”



Maggie Dornbush

“Making Christmas cookies because I get to spend time with my family.”

Lexi Jensen

“I like watching Christmas movies by the fire inside.”



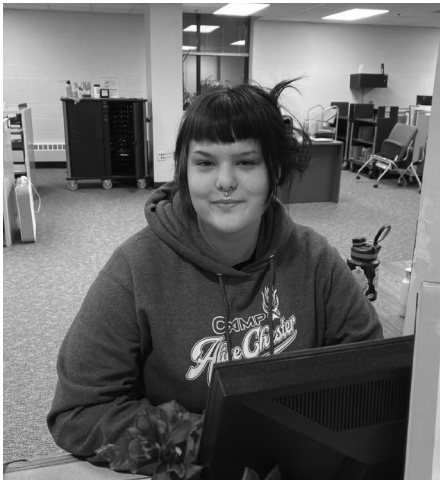
Noah Hinsch

“I enjoy playing outside in the snow with my puppies.”



Cam Jacobson

“I like playing outside and going for walks with my dog.”



Shelby Behrens

“It’s fun building little snow forts outside with my friends and sisters.”

Justin Tatley

“I like watching the movie ‘Elf’ and drinking hot chocolate.”



Charlie Belisle

“I like plowing and shoveling the snow. I also like going to Wild games.”



Gov. Evers signs bill on UWRF campus

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Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers visited UW-River Falls the morning of Nov. 22, hosting a press conference for the official signing of Assembly Bill 168 alongside members of the Legislature and disability rights advocates.

The assembly began with Gov. Evers’ arrival to UWRF’s University Center. Patty Schachtner, a member of the Wisconsin State Senate, introduced Ramsey Lee. Schachtner stated, “It has come to my attention after conversation with many constituents, like my friend Ramsey here, that our qualified voters were being stopped at the polls simply because they couldn’t verbalize their name. Our voters shouldn’t have to overcome any unique burdens simply to exercise their right to vote; it is democracy.”

Once Lee took the stage, his face lit with excitement, he continued the press conference to introduce Evers. He gave a little background information on Evers, followed by reasons the bill was being signed. “It should not matter what zip code you live in or if you have different abilities,” he said, “Citizens should still be able to more fully participate in the voting process. In Wisconsin, our motto is ‘Forward.’ This bill ensures that voters from Wisconsin will be able to move forward for future generations.”

Evers then took the podium and thanked Lee for his kind words and the university for hosting the conference. “It’s an honor to be here with you all today to actually sign the Assembly Bill 168 to ensure that every Wisconsinite is empowered to exercise their right to vote,” he stated. “This bill makes a simple but incredibly important change to current law in creating an accommodation for folks who communicate nonverbally, or those with developmental or physical disabilities that affect oral speech.” The goal is to create a comfortable, safe area for citizens of Wisconsin to vote, even if they are unable to orally cite their name and address. “This bill is a good example of how we can work together, connect the dots, and expand opportunities and correct systems of the past and improve our future.” He believes the bill will show that the state of Wisconsin is committed to protecting and preserving its citizens’ voting rights.



Constituents listen to Evers speak at the press conference
Photo by Anna Gunderson



Governor Tony Evers signs an assembly bill on the UWRF campus
Photo by Anna Gunderson



Psychology professor publishes her first book

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A UW-River Falls professor of psychology has written her first book titled, *Teaching about Race and Racism in the College Classroom: Notes from a White Professor*.

Cyndi Kernahan, who has taught at UWRF for over 20 years, specializes in the psychology of race.

Soon after her teaching career began, she realized how hard it was to teach. "It's controversial, it's emotional, it's difficult. Students don't have a lot of knowledge about race. It's just a hard class to teach and it's a very good class to teach. It's fun and meaningful but it could be very difficult for students," said Kernahan.

Kernahan said she immediately began running into things that weren't happening in her other classes, like disbelief about some of the statistics or evidence that she presented.

"Because of that, I wanted to figure out how to do this and how to do it well. I started doing research on how do you teach this in a way that helps students learn, while minimizing the conflict you might get in class, and that minimizes the discomfort. You can't totally get rid of it but to minimize it, helps people learn," said Kernahan.

The author realized there wasn't a book like this on the market. Though there is an abundance of books on teaching this subject, they weren't evidence based. Kernahan began writing many articles that were research based on the subject of teaching about race and racism.

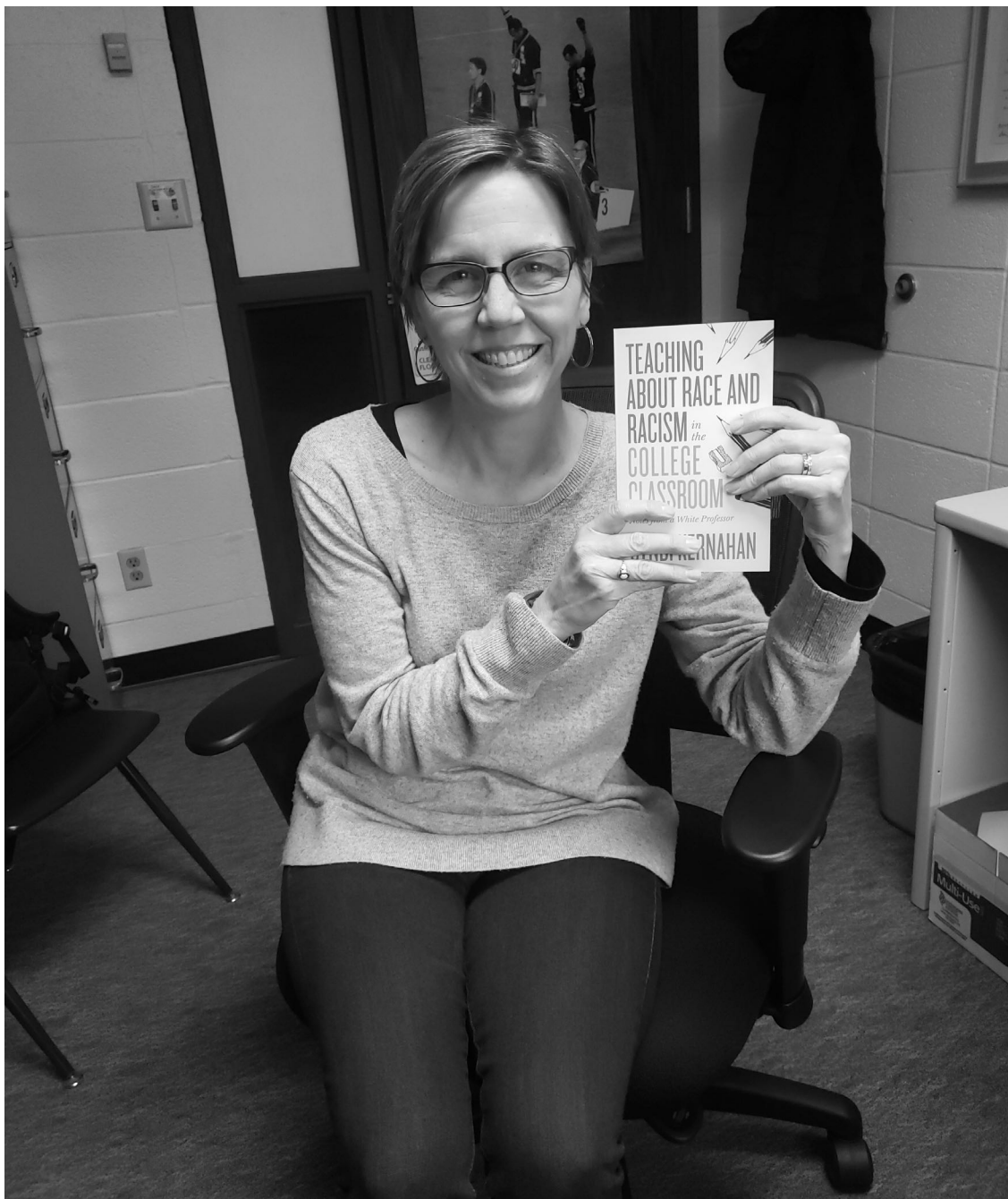
Kernahan thought, "someone should put together something with the scholarly stuff, the teaching stuff and personal experience." Kernahan continued, "I really want my work to be useful to people, that's very important to me, and that's kind of what drove the creation of that. I wanted to be useful to other instructors."

There are a few other faculty members on campus who have published books. Kernahan credited Neil Kraus, a political science professor and author, for giving her the recipe of how to get a book contract.

In 2017, Kernahan got a contract and took a sabbatical for the fall semester. She wrote all during that time. "My process is to write a little bit every day," said Kernahan.

Kernahan wanted her book to be accessible to anyone, deliberately going with a paperback printing press to keep the book affordable. Her publisher handled the cover design as well, after Kernahan sent in a few samples of images she liked. Kernahan envisioned graphics of school supplies, and said she was very pleased with the final result.

Kernahan said she would like to write another book, potentially on what to include as far as course content, or perhaps an untraditional textbook. The author said she misses having a large ongoing project. Though she acknowledges the challenge of putting together a book, Kernahan said: "There's something cool about doing something really hard."



Cyndi Kernahan with her newly published book.
Photo by Brooke Shepherd

UWRF introduces new assistant director of Residence Life for leadership development and outreach

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UW-River Falls welcomes a new assistant director of Residence Life for Leadership Development and Outreach: Liz Brunner. Brunner recently started in this position on Oct. 28, she has previously worked on campus as a hall director.

Brunner took this position because she felt that it would suit her interests in engaging with students. "I knew each day wouldn't be the same, and I thought this work was super fascinating, multifaceted, and made me excited to get up and get engaged," she said.

Brunner has had several positions that have given her experience in residence life. Apart from holding a career in the field for the past three years at UWRF, she also worked in residence life during her college experience. Brunner received her undergraduate degree at UW-Platteville while she worked as a Residence Assistant (RA) for three years. "Before I got to college, I didn't even know that positions like this existed," she said.

Brunner attended grad school at the University of Central Missouri and held a position as a hall director during her experience there. "I really love working with college students and I knew that higher education was something that I wanted to go into," she said.

The position Brunner currently holds has various responsibilities, such as supervising a graduate student intern, overseeing the Hathorn mail center, departmental marketing and communications, project management, and advising the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) and Residence Hall Association (RHA).

The departmental marketing and communications is one of the larger aspects of the position. This includes email plans, "room sign up is around the corner, so I am working with another assistant director to talk about: how are we going to let our students know about this, how are we going to update our website, what's our email plan look like," Brunner said.

This position also includes collaborative work across all departments on campus. "I partner with a lot of people on campus, like admissions and the new student and family programs. So I help out with Falcon preview days that happen during the year, and new student registration over the summer," Brunner said.

Brunner is excited to bring her passion for higher education and residence life to this new position, and she looks forward to continuing to interact with students on campus. "Students are super respectful here at UWRF, and that is something I was so taken by when I first started working here. I hadn't had that experience before, and I felt that this was an amazing community," she said.



Liz Brunner
Photo courtesy of Liz Brunner.

Alumna becomes assistant director of business operations for Residence Life

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Michelle Sponholz is new assistant director of Business Operations and Facilities at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Sponholz has held this position for the last three weeks and has similar previous experience to this specific position. Sponholz worked in the UW-OshKosh housing office, holding a similar position to the one she is currently in.

Sponholz is a UWRF alumna. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in business communication. She then went to grad school at Indiana State University and received her masters degree in student affairs administration.

Before returning to UWRF, Sponholz left her career in higher education and worked in the corporate field in the Twin Cities.

"I really missed interacting with students and there's something about working on a college campus, I think that it is a really friendly environment," she said.

This position oversees custodial services in the residence halls as well as working with facilities on day to day operations and renovations in the residence halls on campus. Sponholz also helps coordinate the housing contracts and assignments and purchases for residence halls.

Sponholz also interacts with the student community within her area of residence life.

"In this position, I definitely engage with students through the room assignment process. I work a lot with students on preview days when coming to campus and then once students are here for orientation this position also interacts with students," she said.

A part of the job that Sponholz really enjoys is seeing students grow. "Residence life in general has a huge impact on so many students, for me it's really exciting to be able to see and watch students grow through their time living in the residence halls," she said.

Sponholz is excited to be back on the UWRF campus, "it still feels like home, it reminds me of why I chose to become a student here. I just love the River Falls community and I really appreciate the small knit community feel," she said.

One of the biggest focuses that Sponholz has been dealing with in the last three weeks is mainly renovations and construction. May hall has been undergoing construction work during the entirety of the fall semester and will continue it's renovations in the spring. There are plans for other residence halls to undergo construction in the near future and Sponholz partially oversees these projects.

"So May hall is probably our biggest project right now and then after that we definitely have smaller projects in the works. **Continued on page 8**



Michelle Sponholz the assistant director of Business Operations and Facilities.
Photo courtesy of Stephanie Shipp

Campus officials offer steps to avoid theft of belongings

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Since students are obligated to live on campus for their first two years, it's important to know how to reduce the risk of being a victim of theft. The Annual Security Report, put out by University Police, reported five incidents of burglary in the residence halls in 2018.

On-campus property is defined by Clery Geography as "any building or property owned or controlled by an institution within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area, while being used by an institution relating to its educational purposes." The on-campus residence halls are considered a subset of on-campus property.

Karla Thoennes is the director of Residence Life. She said many students struggle to remember to lock their doors or bring their keys when they leave for the day, "I think that is a piece [of theft], and it shows that they don't carry their keys." Thoennes added there is an increased opportunity for theft when a student does not lock their door.

Riding a bike to campus is one method of transportation for students. Residence hall students can rent out bike lockers located next to their hall. There are also bike racks in front of residence halls and other buildings on campus. Theft can be prevented by locking the bike to a fixed, immovable object.

The free bicycle license program offered here on campus is another way to minimize the opportunity for theft. It is available to all students, staff, and the public. The bicycle license provides University Police with the information needed to help find a lost or missing bike. An online registration form can be completed on the UW-River Falls website and a registration sticker will then be sent in the mail.

Thoennes said students should be cautious and should take the necessary steps to ensure they are not victims of theft.

"I think sometimes people want to feel 'well this is an open campus, and I trust people,' and that is great because we want to feel comfortable and safe.

But there are just little things you can do that minimize the opportunity for someone to swipe your books or computer," said Thoennes.

But there are just little things you can do that minimize the opportunity for someone to swipe your books or computer," said Thoennes. **Continued on page 8**



Student Russell Rogal looking into a car to see if they have anything valuable.
Photo illustration by Natalie Torbert

Parking office enforces winter rules

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Chief of Police Karl Fleury sent out an email regarding important snow policies and winter weather equipment check-out on Dec. 5. An important snow removal policy spans from Nov. 1 to March 31, and is needed to maintain access for emergency vehicles. Roadways, sidewalks, and employee lots will be plowed first. Entrances and exits, along with the main traffic lanes in student lots will be next for snow removal. Students are responsible for immediately removing snow surrounding their vehicles for liability reasons. Therefore, an emergency winter survival kit with a shovel is strongly encouraged.

Fleury talked about the importance of having an emergency snow kit in their vehicle. "As part of my letter, I put in there that people should have an emergency snow kit in their car. This could consist of blankets, road flares, tow straps, and other things to keep them safe" Fleury said.

A limited amount of shovels are available for checkout with a driver's license or student ID. Students may check out shovels at the Parking Office, located at 103 Regional Development Institute, Wild Rose Avenue. Hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Jump starter packs are also available through University Police. If you would like to check out a starter pack outside of business hours, call 715-425-3133.

"Always have a shovel in case you get stuck so you can free yourself potentially. Sometimes they may have to survive in a situation before someone to get them" said Fleury.

If a snow emergency is declared, an email will go out to all permit holders. This email contains the approved locations that they may park in as well as the specific timeline to do so. Failure to leave or come back in the timeframe could leave you subject to towing and fines.

Always keep a safe distance from plows and other snow removal equipment while on the sidewalks, streets, and parking lots. Injuries can happen as the view of the driver can be obstructed. Salt is available at the Parking Office during business hours.



Sophomore Blake Meihof shoveling the snow around his car.
Photo by Natalie Torbert

Freshman class sizes at UWRF decline in recent years

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The freshman class of UW-River Falls has decreased two years in a row. Some theories in the media include declining populations and more students choosing vocational skills training. However, not everybody agrees on this. Perhaps most are missing the real issue schools face: how do students know their education will transfer to a job?

Every now and then, headlines wonder if declining birth rates are causing the population to shrink. But the idea of a declining population is not grounded in reality. Dr. Neil Kraus, a political science professor at UWRF, explains "the Twin Cities metro is growing fairly significantly. We're in the greater Twin Cities metro in western Wisconsin. St. Croix County, Pierce County, and Polk County are all growing."

He goes on to say, "The population of the entire US continues to grow, so I don't put as much stock in birth rates that fluctuate a little bit from year to year. Population grows a little less, so the rate of growth might be slower, by a declining birth rate; which is completely different than a shrinking population."

Kraus also points out "The enrollment of the university is distinct from the population of the region. So then the question is, why doesn't the university keep getting bigger?"

Competition from other schools around the area could play a part, Kraus suggests, especially in the Twin Cities. Advertisements for colleges and universities from neighboring states are all over. Another factor is that unemployment rates are currently pretty low. Kraus states, "We know that when unemployment is very low, college attendance does tend to maybe go down a little bit."

The smaller freshman class this year may well be part of a normal cycle of rise and fall. So, the question remains, why doesn't the university keep growing?

Some sources say students might be choosing vocational skills training instead of college. Many people can easily see how and where trade skills can be applied to a job. Trade schools are seen by some as a clearer, quicker, and cheaper path to employment. College career pathways aren't always so clear.

Kraus says "In general, students are concerned about what they're going to do when they leave here. A lot of students want to know, what they can do with an English major, a sociology major, journalism major, whatever major, besides the obvious maybe couple things. What do graduates do?"

"The larger economy has changed considerably," Kraus states. "We value certain kinds of work more than others, and there's been a concerted effort to get rid of labor unions, and all the rest of it. It's not an inevitable set of changes. But then

I think the average 17 to 18-year-old is like, 'the message is loud and clear, I have to go to college.'"

"All colleges, all universities really, should be cognizant of the fact that we exist in an economy and a labor market." Kraus encourages everyone to continue to ask themselves questions about the job market, where there are gaps and shortages. Colleges should always be looking into those things, and ready with answers and resources for students. Kraus brings in graduates when he can to talk about the field, what their job is like, and show students what one pathway's destination might look like.

The problem may not lie only with higher education. Between the 1960s to 1980s, high schools turned their focus away from trade skills and preparing students for the labor market. Instead, they now focus on preparing everyone for college with standardized testing. While this change can give some people opportunities they may not have otherwise realized, it also decreases the opportunities that open up with a high school degree.

With society's push toward university, many students go to college without really knowing why. If schools keep the goals and needs of their students as a top priority, and continue to adapt to the economy, it can become a little easier to find the way from classes to careers.

Holidays may impact student stress levels, says health official

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For some students, the holiday season means going home and spending time with family, while for others it means a stressful time that only begins with finals.

As the semester ends and projects start piling up, students find themselves trying to balance school work with their holiday to-do lists. Students begin to truly feel the pressure of finishing off strong while getting ready to pack up and go home. However, going home is not always a positive occurrence for all students.

Sophomore Janett Colon, a criminology major, explained

this stress for many students: "Being a student this time of year is when you are getting down to the end, and finals and projects and the stress of getting stuff for the holidays and making plans are happening, family issues too. The holidays can be a sad time."

Some students are missing out on traditions that they usually partake in leading up to the holidays, which could lead to a more stressful holiday season. Students mentioned more common traditions such as tree decorating and getting gifts, activities that may be more difficult if farther away from family this time of year.

Alice Reilly-Myklebust, the director of Student Health and Counseling Services, mentioned different impacts that tradi-

tions can have on college students and the importance of having them or not, "your family honors it, what makes being together special, children remember and may practice into adulthood."

She continued to discuss that the case is different for each family. For some, the holidays might mean coming home to deal with alcoholism or drug addiction amongst family members. However, traditions amongst family is sometimes the hope that can bring the family together.

One way to help cope with the stress of missing out on a yearly tradition is to develop a new one.

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Spanish, Japanese roundtables aid UWRF students with learning languages

Brooke Shepherd

Falcon News Service

Weekly language roundtables at UW-River Falls allow students to practice Spanish and Japanese skills in an informal setting, typically led by a native-speaking student.

Discussions are held from 3-4 p.m. Tuesdays in 228 Kleinpell Fine Arts. Students are invited to stop in or stay the whole hour.

The roundtables have been held for more than 15 years. During her time as a student, Assistant Professor Daniela Goldfine was the native-speaking facilitator for the Spanish roundtable in the spring of 2005 through the following spring.

“We had a great time. There was a group of students who

would attend regularly and then a few that would come and go,” said Goldfine.

Subjects range from movies, to traveling, to Japanese Halloween, according to Marina Tanaka, the native speaker for the Japanese roundtable. Tanaka prepares for each week by picking a broad topic and writing a few starter questions.

“For the week of Halloween I showed and explained about (the) yokai. It’s a Japanese monster,” said Tanaka.

In the past, there have been French and Chinese roundtables. A German roundtable will be starting in a few weeks.

“We got a student who was recommended by a German professor,” said Clio McLagan, the academic department associate in the Department of Modern Language.

Magara Maeda is the faculty advisor of the Japanese roundtable, as well as a Japanese instructor. She said the re-

laxed environment of the roundtable is the key to its success. She also said students often feel comfortable since it is led by a peer, instead of an instructor.

The Spanish roundtable is facilitated by Lizbeth Servin-Meza.

“It’s just like going out for coffee and talking to friends in Spanish, with somebody that’s a native speaker,” said McLagan.

Maeda said that language and culture go hand in hand.

“I think it would be great if we could do cultural activities too, like cooking or calligraphy,” said Maeda.

In the future, Tanaka said she would like to be able to incorporate a food element to the meeting, and teach more about Japanese culture.

Physics department continues research in Antarctica

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The detectors might observe one or two particles of light. The IceCube collects about a terabyte of data per day. Some of that data is sent north for staff and students here to analyze and study.

When neutrinos are detected, their trajectory can point to where they came from, which leads to figuring out what event produced them. According to Seunarine, the neutrinos that some are most interested in are very high energy, likely to have come from outside of the galaxy.

Since neutrinos rarely interact with other particles, they’re hard to observe.

“They’re rare events in our detector,” Seunarine said. “These are interesting because there are many things we’d like to study with these neutrinos. One of the things is, we’d like to be able to tell where they come from. There’s this long-standing mystery about where these particles, this radiation from space we call cosmic rays, where do they come from?”

“The hope is that if we could observe these neutrinos, we could tell that they come from some external galaxies, that we can look back and see where they came from, have an idea of what’s producing them. Because our physics models or theories tell us that the same things out there that produce these cosmic rays, radiation, that we don’t know where it’s coming from, should produce neutrinos. And if we can tell where the neutrinos come from, we can tell where this other radiation comes from,” said Seunarine.

Neutrinos could even help scientists get a better understanding of what’s called dark matter. Seunarine explained, “Dark matter is what appears to be missing matter in some places in the universe. You look at galaxies and see how they behave, and you find that they’re behaving as if there’s more stuff there than we can see.” Seunarine continued, “There are some theories that say neutrinos can be produced by dark matter particles, when these dark matter particles decay, or collide with each other.”

Work that is happening right now with the IceCube involves what the physics department calls the “IceCube extension.” They are making the detectors more sensitive in order to capture lower-energy neutrinos.

“We do see thousands and thousands of other neutrinos, that are also of interest. We use those for different analyses,” Seunarine said.

The neutron monitors are a different experiment going on at the South Pole. Neutrons, according to Seunarine, are tiny particles produced when particles from outer space hit Earth’s atmosphere. The neutron monitors, sensitive to solar activity, observe cosmic rays, radiation from space. It gives us information of how solar activity influences that radiation.

“The neutron monitors are located at the South Pole for a specific reason: because of the magnetic field structure of the Earth, the cosmic rays that come from outer space are more likely to get to the polar regions – north pole and south pole – unaffected much by the Earth’s magnetic field.” Seunarine continued, “That’s one of the reasons, for example, why we see auroras close to the North Pole and South Pole, because that’s where the energy particles from the sun get to the Earth without getting swept back up back into space.”

Auroras are not the only effect of those energy particles. Every 11 years, the sun’s magnetic field flips its north and south poles. During that flip, there is heightened solar activity, and more destructive solar events.

“Solar storms: what the sun does once in a while,” Seunarine said, “is eject some of the matter of the sun in the form of particles. They just speed through the solar system, and if they’re energetic enough they can reach the Earth. And those particles can interfere with the currents in electronic devices.”

When students go to Antarctica, they perform a variety of activities. There’s basic maintenance to be done on the detectors to make sure they’re operating correctly and will continue doing so for the next year. They do updates on the computers that collect data. One student has been working on electronics for the IceCube extension, testing optical fibers for their light-collecting efficiency.

There are heaters that keep the neutron monitors at a constant temperature, because, as Seunarine explains, “the temperature fluctuates so much between summer and winter there, from absolutely freezing to extremely freezing.” When they open the front of the neutron monitors to test the heaters every year, they end up needing to use their fingers without

their gloves on.

UWRF oversees the education and outreach program of IceCube. This involves a range of things including: research projects for undergraduates; 10-week paid summer internships which include a week of astrophysics boot camp in Madison; and Research Experience for Undergraduates, where 6 students from across the US, outside of River Falls, are chosen to work on research projects here.

“The projects the students work on at the pole are designed for students to do. That’s part of the education component of our project. Swapping out electronics, doing special data runs for us to understand the neutron monitors a little bit better, each year we do checks on the components that keep the neutron monitors on a platform outside the south pole station,” Seunarine said.

“There are lots of other things happening at the pole, so we try to find things for them to do that does not involve our project, just to experience some other aspects of the pole; such as helping the meteorologists with these weather balloons for example; it’s not a big thing, you just go out and you let it go, but they participate in it. We try to give them a broad, as broad as we can, experience of science in this extreme place.”

Doing research projects may sound like hard work, but it is also truly rewarding. Seunarine described how doing research projects “helps [students] engage with the university in a different way. They engage with their professors in a different way. They see the department become like their workplace, rather than the place they come to listen to us talk.”

Further, he talks about how it helps students with other academic work and gives them experience that can help them get a job or get into grad school. He encourages students, “not just here in physics, but across the university, to try to get involved in research, and try to get involved early. It’ll change the university experience.”

Anybody can follow the astrophysics research adventures, including those at the south pole, at i3uwrf.wordpress.com. To find more information about IceCube, visit icecube.wisc.edu or uwrf.edu/PHYS/IceCube.

Holidays may impact student stress levels, says health official

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“Skype while you get the tree so you are there, kind of! Skype during meals! It helps with being able to connect anywhere in the world,” said Reilly-Myklebust, “Be careful though, because that can make it harder.”

Finding that balance is important for college students. Start by simply looking out for others who may be struggling during this time. If a student sees another who might be having

a hard time, for example, an international student, reaching out and making that connection can help others feel more at home during all of the festive celebrations.

UW-River Falls also offers resources here on campus for those looking for a way to effectively deal with the stress as the semester comes to a close.

Alyssa Decorah, a fifth-year animal science major, said, “I use counseling and the lights in Hagstad to help cope with that stress.”

Health and Counseling Services encourages all students to simply come talk. If you are struggling with homesickness, upcoming holiday worries, or anything else causing stress for you, feel free to come talk with someone. Otherwise, with the few weeks left before everyone packs up to head home for the holidays, resources are waiting all over campus to assist in developing new traditions and making UWRF feel like a home away from home.

Faith communities in River Falls join sustainability efforts

Theodore Tollefson

Falcon News Service

As River Falls moves ahead with a plan to have all city-owned buildings powered by 100% renewable energy beginning in January, the greater community also is seeking more avenues to make it one of the greener towns in America. One effort is being coordinated through local churches.

Some of the 10 churches involved in the “Hope for Creation” movement are River Falls United Methodist Church, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Unitarian Universalist Society of River Falls and St. Bridget Catholic Community Church. The churches involved, along with other members of the greater River Falls community, meet once a month to discuss developments taking place by the city and their own congregations.

Their efforts are an outgrowth of the city’s Powerful Choices initiative. Powerful Choices, a sustainable energy project for the city, is led by Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator Mike Noreen as a platform to help the River Falls community share ideas and practices to become more sustainable.

“These meetings are a very powerful marketing tool,” said Noreen. “After the meeting, everyone can leave, but there are bundles of people talking about their interests (with Powerful Choices). The networking that comes out of this is really valuable. These

people are all champions of sustainability.”

Not everyone who attends these meetings is based in the greater River Falls area. There are a few people each meeting who travel from Madison who are partnered with some of the churches to help them acquire affordable solar power options, for example. One of these organizations is Renew Wisconsin, a statewide renewable energy advocacy nonprofit based in Madison. Sam Dunaiski, the solar programs manager for Renew Wisconsin, attended a recent Powerful Choices meeting to see the result of a project involving St. Bridget Catholic Community Church.

“Because we are a statewide advocacy organization, I kind of go all over the state,” Dunaiski said. “And sometimes it doesn’t always necessarily relate to solar. Sometimes it relates to wind, biogas, hydro, geothermal, etc.”

Other projects currently in place with the congregations include River Falls United Methodist Church sharing ecological tips with its congregation in the monthly newsletter; First Congregational United Church of Christ expanding its recycling program by purchasing more bins through the UW-River Falls surplus center; and the Unitarian Universalist Society replacing inefficient water heaters with on-demand water heaters.

Campus officials offer steps to avoid theft of belongings

Continued from page 5

Sometimes theft can be solved internally with instances of laundry being left in the dryer for too long and someone took an item. Lost and found buckets are located in each residence hall by the washers and dryers. If a laptop is stolen from a residence hall, the hall staff should be called and they in turn will call the campus police.

While taking precautions is appropriate, Thoennes believes that the campus has a general respect for others in their dorm. “While I’m saying you should take precautions, I do believe that we have good communities. Students in the residence halls are generally respectful of each other. This is a positive thing about our community that we have the ability to trust,” said Thoennes.

New assistant director for Residence Life

Continued from page 5

Grimm hall bathrooms will be done this summer, South Forks Suites will have showers and doors being replaced, McMillan hall basement is being renovated as well. So we definitely have a lot going on in the near future,” she said.

Returning to the UWRF campus has been exciting for Sponholz and she is looking forward

to the upcoming projects and the impact she can have in residence life and other parts of the university.

Sponholz said, “I’m just happy to be back on campus and I feel like everybody has been very welcoming and has reached out wanting to get to know me and so it’s been a really nice transition coming back to River Falls and I really appreciate that.”

University Center Committee offers ways for feedback

Melissa Thorud

Falcon News Service

The UW-River Falls Student Senate has revived a committee that will allow students a way to give input on operations of the University Center.

“It will have two or three primary functions,” said Jack Ince, who the Student Senate on Oct. 22 appointed chair of the new University Center Committee. “The first one is to provide a way of feedback from students on University Center operations. Another thing will be looking at Student Involvement.”

The operations of the University Center refer to staffing and the day-to-day activities that take place in the building. The first issues that the committee will focus on include improving and updating Office of Student Involvement and University Center policies.

“Part of student involvement is the Student Organization Handbook, so we’ll be going through, looking at policies for both student orgs and the University Center because some

are a bit out of date and we want to make sure that they are modernized and that they reflect current values,” Ince said. “We also just want to make sure that they are good for the students because that is most important.”

The committee also will examine how to improve getting student input about the University Center.

“At this point, there are ways to offer feedback in the University Center from students, but it’s not as direct and it is not a constant thing,” Ince said. “I know for example there is an input box in the UC, but when I used to be building manager I checked it and no one ever used it.”

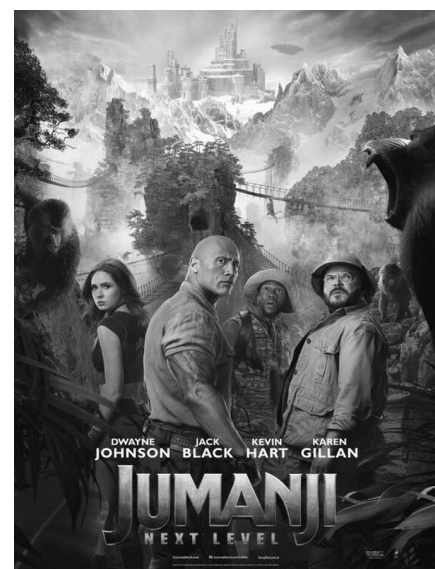
The University Center Committee used to be active in 2014-15 but was dissolved. The new committee now is working on finding members.

Ince predicted that the committee will have its first meeting near the end of the semester.

Find Freddy’s lost feather
in this issue of The Student Voice and
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Former River Falls Motel site may become multifamily housing project in 2021

Theodore Tollefson
Falcon News Service

The former site of the old River Falls Motel, 1300 S. Main St., has remained vacant since it was torn down in December 2016. But it may soon become a new apartment project, according to a city official and the developer.

“There is a multifamily development proposed for that site, around 50-unit,” said Brandy Howe, River Falls senior city planner. “It is going to be on the next planning commission agenda for Jan. 7.”

Gerrard Corporation, based in La Crosse, Wisconsin, has proposed the development and could begin construction in the spring. Gerrard has developments and management contracts in several states across the Midwest, including Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota. In River Falls, it developed the University Falls apartments at 205 and 215 W. Cascade Ave.

“The property will be a 50-unit, it will be for one-, two- and three-bedroom units,” said Paul Gerrard, vice president of Gerrard Corporation. “There will be approximately 90 parking stalls underneath the building. Right now we are in design. We have secured all the financing. We are trying to get to a zero utility and fossil fuels, so in other words, we are trying to load

that thing up with solar panels and geothermal heat.”

Gerrard provided some details on features of what each housing unit would have.

“We will feature in-floor heat,” he said. “Every apartment will include everything you can imagine: stove, dishwasher, garbage disposal, microwave, ceiling fans, blinds, walkability to downtown, washer and dryer, in-unit pantries, walk-in closets. I mean, you name it, it has it.”

According to Gerrard, the housing project would also be owned and operated by West CAP, a non-profit community action agency based in Glenwood City, Wisconsin. West CAP is known for helping to develop social and economic benefits for low-income families throughout the western Wisconsin.

Gerrard Corporation will also be purchasing the land for the development of the housing project. The site is currently owned by Bonnie L. Anderson. The property is listed as 1.6 acres in size and has a market value of \$189,000, according to Pierce County tax records.

“The plans are being drawn right now,” said Gerrard. “We hope to get out to the builders exchange in January, collect bids at the end of February, and have an April construction start. The project will take approximately 13 months, so it will be completed in May of 2021.”

The former motel site has recently been used as an impromptu used car lot.

Dairy Pilot Plant renovation nears completion thanks to industry donations

Monica Marsh
Falcon News Service

Renovation of the 30-year-old Dairy Pilot Plant at UW-River Falls is scheduled to be completed in the spring, thanks in part to more than a half million dollars worth of donations from Greenwood, Wisconsin-based Grassland Dairy Products Inc.

The renovation is estimated to cost \$3.5 million and is being financed by the Wisconsin State Building Commission, UW-River Falls, industry partners and donors. In October, Grassland Dairy announced it would be donating an additional \$350,000 toward the Dairy Pilot Plant Renovation Project. The dairy previously, in 2013, gave \$175,000, according to a university press release.

Grassland President Trevor Wuethrich said that the reason for the donation is that members of the company feel that UW-River Falls will have the premier food science program in the area.

Not only does this donation help the renovation, Wuethrich said that making this donation

allows for Grassland to make connections and have access to graduates of the food science program. The donation helps to advance training and research which will then be available to the company.

The renovation includes updates to equipment and processes, according to the university, and enhancements to milk processing as well as cheese and ice cream manufacturing.

Wuethrich added that not only will the donation open doors to new employees from UW-River Falls, but many of the key employees at Grassland Dairy are UWRF graduates, so investing in the project is a way for the company to give back to the food science program that has provided Grassland with the knowledgeable and dedicated graduates that have helped make Grasslands successful.

Grassland Dairy was started in 1904 by the Wuethrich family. Greenwood is in central Wisconsin, east of Eau Claire.

The Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association also has pledged a total of \$250,000 to the renovation project.



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@uwrvoice.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.

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R-Club donors provide financial boost to UWRF athletics

Reagan Hoverman
Falcon News Service

The R-Club has served as a “much needed” revenue source for UW-River Falls athletic department and has been transformational in the way Falcons sports are directly involved with booster clubs, says the school’s athletic director.

In her time as UWRF’s athletic director, Crystal Lanning — who currently oversees the R-Club — has seen multiple iterations of booster clubs to support the athletic department and the wide variety of sports.

Prior to 2010, the main booster club for the athletic department was known as the Varsity Club. During its time as the Varsity Club the program was extremely basic in terms of the funding that it provided for the athletic department and the goals that it wished to achieve.

“With the Varsity Club it really was pretty basic. It was a \$25 membership. You got a polo shirt, so the money coming in wasn’t really much,” Lanning said.

For years the Varsity Club served as a catalyst for social gatherings instead of a revenue source. Because of that, the athletic department decide to make changes to it in 2010 when it was rebranded as the Falcon Club.

According to Lanning, the Falcon Club was a seismic shift compared to the Varsity Club. From 2010-2016 the Falcon Club had a different goal: Bring everyone under the same umbrella and lay out basic membership packages to garner much-needed funding for the athletic department.

When Lanning took over as the full-time athletic director in 2016, she decided that the program needed another improvement. This time, the decision was made to rebrand the program as the R-Club.

“The intent was to give people the option to donate specifically to a sport or to the general fund and it gives all of our sports an option,” Lanning said. “So, I was looking for equity in

making sure women’s tennis had an R-Club, same as men’s hockey.”

The changes to the R-Club provided much more variety to the program than any booster club that has been previously seen at UWRF. Currently, there are different tiers that can be achieved by donors based on the amount of money that they have donated. At each tier, donors receive various benefits, such as discounts when shopping the online Falcons store or behind-the-scenes access through the “Falcon Game Day Experience.”

The lowest tier available through the R-Club is called the Alumni Club. It costs \$50 to \$99 annually. The highest tier is the Lifetime R-Club Membership which is a \$25,000 endowed gift. According to Lanning, so far nobody has donated the money required to reach the Lifetime R-Club Membership level.

Between those two tiers, there are six more categories ranging in price from \$100 to \$3,000 annual donations.

With the elaborate tier-based club system, the R-Club has served as an important new revenue source for the athletic department that has provided the funds for several improvements to the Falcon Center facility.

“Money that is donated to the general athletic fund through the R-Club is used at the discretion of the athletic director,” Lanning said. “So, championship banners. I’ve used it for some of our facility small projects that we’ve needed to do. I try and look at projects that are going to benefit the majority of our sports or at least more than one sport.”

According to the R-Club brochure, “The R-Club serves as a catalyst to connect our past and future, and generates support to enhance the student-athlete experience.”

The R-Club has done exactly that. Currently — according to the UWRF website — 85 people are giving annually to the athletic department through the program.

“When it was \$25, it was basically a transaction, more of a social engagement,” Lanning said. “This has turned into a revenue source for us. It’s really a minimal effort way for the teams to bring in money to their programs.”

Loss of two seniors will affect Falcons football, says coach

Reagan Hoverman
Falcon News Service

The UW–River Falls football team will look completely different by the time next season is set to begin. For the Falcons, perhaps the most two most notable losses to graduation in May on the offensive side of the football will be Alex Herink, the team’s No. 1 wide receiver, and Ben Beckman, the starting quarterback who has administered the offense for the last two years.

Despite 2019 being only his second year of football at the collegiate level, Herink managed to put himself into the conversation of best receivers to ever play at UWRF. Going back to his first season in 2018 — according to the university statistics — Herink tied the River Falls school record for touchdown receptions in a single season with nine. Herink’s 2018 campaign tied the previous record, which was set by Craig Boen in 1995 and Michael Zweifel in 2007.

Despite not setting any school records in 2019, Herink came close several times throughout the season and was a powerhouse for offensive production. According to NCAA statistics, for the 2019 season Herink ranked in the Top 50 in the country for individual receiving yards per game.

UWRF Head Coach Matt Walker said Herink was a complete game-changer for the offense while he was on the field.

“He’s just gotten better at every little facet of the game. Having his threat on the field — he affects defenses more than every player I’ve ever had,” Walker said. “He’s not catching 100 balls every game, but the effect that he has that the average fan can’t see is incredible. His vertical threat down the field changes defensive structures and allows us to do other

things.”

In addition to the offensive workload that Herink carried, quarterback Beckman had a fantastic season of his own.

When Beckman was handed over the reins in 2018, he had an immediate impact on the offense. Since then, Beckman continued to grow up until the final game of his collegiate career.

“I think the one thing with Ben, from Day 1, you knew he had as much arm talent as anyone I have ever been around,” Walker said. “I have coached some good quarterbacks. I’ve coached guys who have played overseas and have had shots at the next level, and no one has had the arm talent that he has.”

Considering the natural arm talent that Beckman has, in addition to his ability to maneuver the pocket with his legs, Beckman was poised to be one of the most productive quarterbacks in the WIAC during his senior year. That’s exactly what he did. Walker said the changes from 2018 to the 2019 season were noticeable for Beckman.

“He’s continued to grow as a player, he understands the whole offense now, he understands the game way better, he sees coverages as well as anybody I’ve ever had. He’s a full-tool player, he’s not a one-tool guy. He’s got the ability to be this league’s best offensive player,” Walker said.

During his senior year at UWRF, Beckman finished the season ranked No. 5 in the country for Division III football in total yards per game as an individual. Beckman was less than 30 yards per game away from being the most productive offensive player in the country.

Looking back over the last two years, Beckman and Herink’s offensive production cannot be understated. The loss of the two graduating seniors will have a significant impact on the offensive production for the UWRF football program.

Despite their role, athletic trainers don’t always get attention

Hunter Breault
Falcon News Service

In college and professional sports, athletic trainers don’t get as much attention as coaches and players, even though their role for a team can be just as important.

Athletic trainers get to see athletes’ injuries from start to finish, said UW-River Falls Head Athletic Trainer Kristina Burk.

“It’s a cool place to be in because we get to help these athletes every step of the way, from rehab to recovery, to getting the strength to play again,” Burk said.

The ultimate goal for Burk is to get every athlete ready to play again. As an athletic trainer, she handles rehabilitation, recovery and injury prevention. The athletic trainers are at every game, every practice, and every step of the way for all student athletes at UWRF. Injuries to athletes vary according to the sport and the type of play. For example, across all three

NCAA divisions nationwide, football tallied an average of 8.1 injuries per 1,000 athletes, according to NCAA data for the 2004-2009 seasons. The most common injury for football players was a ligament sprain. By comparison, women’s volleyball reported an average of 4.3 injuries per 1,000 players. Outside hitters in volleyball suffered the most injuries.

All three athletic trainers at UWRF are hired by Twin Cities Orthopedics (TCO) and are contracted by the school. The athletic trainers are considered Twin Cities Orthopedics employees, but are permanently stationed at UWRF. If a player is severely injured, TCO can get UWRF athletes in to see doctors much quicker than if they weren’t affiliated.

Up-to-date facilities help in rehabilitation of injured athletes. The Falcon Center has a training room where athletic trainers handle all the rehab, recovery, strength training, ice baths, whirlpools, and anything an athlete needs to recover from an injury.



Kristina Burk
(UWRF Athletics photo)

Editorial: Native American Heritage month recognized a month late

The month of November is Native American heritage month in the United States. UW-River Falls did not coordinate an event until the following month.

There was an event held on Dec. 4, that featured Native American Pride dancers. The performance was announced online on Nov. 26. There were posters and fliers that were available around campus, informing the community of the event.

According to the UWRF website, "Native Pride's performances incorporate information about the dances, the regalia (dress), and the meaning and importance of the traditions of Native American people. Their talent roster are members of numerous tribal nations including Meskwaki, Navajo, Dakota, Lakota, Ojibwe, Lumbee, Cree, Pueblo, Choctaw, and Chickasaw."

On the Facebook page of the Center for Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging, there were three posts regarding Native American heritage month. One was announcing that November is Native American Heritage month, and one had some information reposted from a Native American woman in Utah. There was one post about the event sent out on the day of the event 10 minutes before it began.

The Student Voice staff understands that during November there were many events happening on campus, such as the International Summit that took place near the end of the month. Coordinating events take time, money and building space.

However, we believe that the event should have been presented at some point in November. The Student Voice staff also believes that in the advertising of the Native Pride dancers, more focus should be put on the knowledge piece included in addition to the dance.

There are many other small things the university could have done during November, such as putting up information about tribes in the area, historical information and resources to find out more. The Native American population is commonly culturally appropriated, so there could've been awareness brought to this issue, and other issues relevant to the community.

According to Student Statistics Headcount Enrollment data, there are currently about 11 Native American students on campus. They already are an underrepresented minority group on campus and nationally, and it seems unfair to move their heritage month celebration to a different month.



**The flyer for Native Pride Dancers coming to campus
Photo from campus social media**

New book delivers expert teaching tips for race classes

Brooke Shepherd

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After reading this book, you may find yourself wondering how you can fit Cyndi Kernahan's class, Psychology of Racism, into your class-load next semester.

Kernahan's book, *Teaching About Race and Racism in the College Classroom: Notes from a White Professor*, is both honest and engaging. Her conversational tone pairs well with her thoroughly researched suggestions and collected data. She doesn't forget to add in a healthy dose of personal experience, since she's been teaching about race and racism for over two decades.

Kernahan started by explaining the importance of accepting students, even if they come into a course with misinformation. She explained what this misinformation might look like in a race related course. For example, students may believe in the idea of colorblindness, or think young people are less biased than older generations.

In her book, Kernahan explored the affirmation theory. The author recommended a first day of class activity, allowing students to write down an area that they are an expert in. Kernahan said that in some contexts she can use the previous knowledge of the student to reference in class to help the student feel seen. Research shows affirmation also leads to bringing down some of the defensive attitudes that come up when learning about a subject that may challenge many of the students' beliefs.

This book is meant for someone who teaches or is thinking about teaching about race and racism. Kernahan said the focus of her book is how to teach these subjects, but not exactly

what to teach. However, throughout the book, Kernahan points to several resources that could help a new teacher guide some course content.

Kernahan dedicated a section of the book to the practice of mindfulness. This section surprised and delighted me. The author explained that the practice of meditation, even for just a few minutes each day, allows an instructor to be more present, and better equipped to answer the questions or comments of students.

The author points out that the classroom atmosphere matters, especially when the subject is a difficult one to begin with. Referencing the book *Love 2.0* by Barbara Fredrickson, Kernahan explains that a sense of belonging is connected to an improved experience. She gives many examples of how an instructor can foster these positive outcomes in their own classroom.

Kernahan explains many other useful topics, like how to deal with resistance and how to deal with students expressing guilt or shame. One of her main points in the book is that professors need to be compassionate with their students and themselves, though it may be difficult.

Overall, I would say this book is very well-researched and easy to read. I enjoy Kernahan's honesty and her clear commitment to her students. I also enjoyed the resources listed at the end, which give readers an opportunity to dive deeper into any subject mentioned.

I found the author's information, research, and list of references useful. This seemed to me like the kind of book that would be useful to teachers in any field of study, though more specifically those who plan to have conversations about race or racism. Kernahan did a very nice job putting this guide together.

Hi, how are ya?: Shane Dawson series review part three

Hallie Diekoff

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The fifth episode of the series is titled “The Failure of Jeff-free Star and Shane Dawson” and is around 50 minutes long.

After the opening credits, it goes to them at Shane Dawson’s house where his cameraman Andrew Siwicki is posing as his first official makeup client. Dawson brings Siwicki into his bathroom/makeup room and has him sit in a chair, like a professional salon. Dawson figures out his foundation shade, lines up all the products he’s going to use, and finally gets to work. In the end, Siwicki’s makeup looks incredible.

Dawson talks about how he’s starting to work out again. His main goal when working out a few years ago was to just lose weight and be skinny. This time, his goal is to make himself feel better and be mentally and physically healthy. We meet his trainer Jess, and we get a tour of Dawson’s new gym which is in the shed in his backyard. Siwicki films a montage of the gym and Dawson working out.

Morgan Adams has made friends in the beauty community, and she brings up some concerns to Dawson. The girls in the beauty community are all about money and looks; they even go as far as getting plastic surgery. Adams talks about how she’s never thought about getting plastic surgery before hanging out with those girls. Dawson and Ryland Adams decide to take Morgan Adams to get advice from Jeffree Star. They sit down and have a good talk about how she should just be herself and not have to worry about what her so-called friends are doing. While at Star’s, they approve all the proposed eyeshadow palette stamps.

Star and Dawson have a meeting to go over the actual palette ideas. Jeffree Star Cosmetics (JSC) employee Anna made up a palette example so they could get some ideas or pick the one. They go over the Mini Controversy product examples first, and fall in love with one that’s black and has specks of a television-like static. They then move on to the Conspiracy palette examples. Anna has about 20 different examples ranging in wideness, thickness, and overall shape. Dawson says that he doesn’t really like any of the ideas. The whole room is worried because they have a tight schedule to follow if they want everything out by the set date. They spend a good amount of time trying to come up with new ideas. After leaving the meeting, Siwicki is playing around on Photoshop, and they finally get the palette shape and design they want.

On Aug. 4, they go to Star’s lab and see all of Dawson’s shades being stamped and assembled into his palette. Dawson and Star are in awe of how well they did and share a cute hug. The video then ends with a title screen in all bold letters “PALETTE REVEAL TOMORROW.”

The sixth episode of the series is titled “The Conspiracy Collection Reveal” and is about an hour long. It starts with Star and Dawson talking about what they are going to put in the series and if they are going to put in behind-the-scenes from the photo shoots for the palette.

After the opening credits, Star and Dawson are at a meeting, and it says that there are 10 days before the launch. They go over final touches and what’s going to happen over the next few days.

Star’s team made merchandise for Dawson through Killer Merch. Dawson’s new merchandise came out, and the website they were selling it on had one million visits. All of Dawson’s merchandise sold out in 30 minutes. Dawson can’t fathom this and tears up on Facetime with Star.

Aug. 1 is the date of the photoshoot for the palette. Dawson and Star dress up in futuristic themed costumes, and they look incredible. The set is super cool. There’s a big barn set, a huge triangle eye, and a black and white spiral background to tell the story of the palette.

Star reveals that his dog Daddy is in the emergency room with neurological issues the day of the photoshoot. Star talks to Siwicki to see if he should keep his personal life out of it for the day or let Dawson know what’s going on. He decides to let Dawson know what’s going on with Daddy and Dawson completely understands. Unfortunately two days later Daddy had sadly passed away.

When the second round of palette samples comes in, the final version of the Mini Controversy palette is approved. Anna from JSC comes back with three or four samples for

the Conspiracy palette, and Star and Dawson find the perfect design. They then see samples of makeup bags, lip gloss containers, and even a track suit with Dawson’s logo instead of Star’s. They all get approved; everything in this collection looks so amazing.

The last episode of the series is titled “The Beautiful World of Shane Dawson” and is an hour and 20 minutes long. The beginning of the video shows clips of people reacting to the series so far. A lot of people mention the drama from the trailer between Tati Westbrook, James Charles, and Jeffree Star. People were upset that they haven’t shown Dawson’s input on the situation.

It then cuts to Dawson and Adams watching the first video of the drama. They watch Westbrook’s video titled “BYE SISTER...” which is about her exposing her friend Charles. Dawson and Adams can’t believe she posted that video. As more people saw it, people started to unsubscribe from Charles. Charles posted an apology video, and then a week later posted another video with text messages explaining that not everything in Westbrook’s video was true. Westbrook took down the first video she posted, and then posted another video saying that she never wanted people to hate on Charles. She just wanted everyone to know the truth about him. On twitter, Star revealed things about Charles, but realized right after that he should’ve never got involved. That was something he would’ve done in the past, and he realizes now that it was very childish of him.

After the opening credits, the title screen says “The Finale ‘The Launch.’” Dawson and Star go to the office and wait for 10 am. They see all of the videos of people in the lines at Morphe waiting to buy the collection, and they get so excited. Right before it launches they get on a conference call with Shopify, the website that runs the sales of the collection. During the countdown to the launch, they show videos of people waiting to buy the collection online.

The collection launches. Some of the JSC team look over the website, and they keep seeing errors and glitches. They are having issues with not seeing all of the products on the website. It’s about 10:15, and they are getting frustrated and angry because JSC told all Shopify that it was going to be crazy. JSC gets word from Shopify that there are 2.5 million people trying to check out all at once.

To speed up the process of people buying the collection, Shopify says that they can boot people off, but those who are kicked off won’t be able to buy anything. Dawson gets so angry and starts yelling because people have been waiting for this. He doesn’t want to ruin anyone’s chances of getting things from the collection. He apologizes for yelling, and the whole JSC team tells him not to apologize because he gets the final say.

By 1:00 pm, Shopify is still trying to figure things out. All they know is that the Conspiracy palette is completely sold out. At 2:00, they are taking Star’s private jet to Minnesota. On the plane, they reminisce about how the beginning of the series starts with them going on a private jet and how the series will end with them on the private jet. The next day they find out the rest of the collection has sold out.

The next morning they get their makeup done for their meet and greet at the Morphe store at the Mall of America. The Morphe store is all decorated with their photoshoot pictures. They meet all the employees before the meet and greet. The



Title Frame from the Shane Dawson’s “The Secret Life of Jeffree Star series”

Vice President of Morphe says that yesterday was the single biggest day in Morphe stores’ history.

Dawson and Star take a moment to realize all that’s happening, and Dawson starts crying and smudges some of his makeup, which he apologizes for. Star says to Dawson, “Don’t ever be sorry. These moments are forever. This is so special.” I loved when he said this, because it shows how much their friendship has grown over the series.

They finally go outside of the store to see all of the people that came out to support them. Everyone goes crazy when they finally see them come out. Star thanks everyone for coming out and Dawson is speechless. Star then talks about how Dawson broke every single e-commerce record yesterday. Dawson’s fans broke the JSC website. They then have their meet and greet and see lots of fans ranging in all ages. After the meet and greet, they get back on the private jet and go back to Los Angeles.

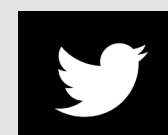
The JSC team has a final Conspiracy collection meeting. They talk about the plan for a restock, and they think they can restock in March and in May 2020.

It cuts back to when Dawson unpacked one of Star’s makeup packages at the beginning of the series, then shows a bunch of other people opening all of Dawson’s products. I love that they did this, because it comes full circle.

It then says “The End,” but there’s an extra clip after. There was a green shade that they showed during the series that they didn’t put into either of the palettes. They show a bunch of people reacting to how they were mad they didn’t put it in the palette. As a result, Star decided to take out one of the shades in the Mini Controversy palette, and put the green shade in its place. That is where the video finally ends.

Overall, I thought this series was so entertaining and fun to watch. It really shows how much work goes into making a makeup collection. I also loved watching Star and Dawson’s friendship grow throughout the series.

Connect with us on
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Reagan Responds

Reagan Hoverman
reagan.hoverman@my.uwrf.edu

Have any sports-related questions or just need life advice?

Email Reagan!

How to deal with my annoying family on the holidays?

The women’s lacrosse team has been around for a year, what do you make of the programs first steps?

As the holiday season is coming into full swing, we start to see a lot more of our family, sometimes more often than we would like. At some point in our lives, we have all had an awkward family experience during the holiday season. The best way to get through some of those experiences is to put yourself in the other person’s shoes. For example, if a relative is asking you about school, relationships, social life, etc. it’s likely because they don’t see you often and are truly interested in your life. For those of us who are constantly getting asked similar questions during the holiday season, it can get unbelievably annoying. However, before losing your cool or responding with a snarky comment, just realize that getting peppered with questions by relatives can, and should, be considered a compliment – it means that they care about you. Enjoy the holiday season and cherish the time that you get to spend with your family, no matter how annoying you might think that they are.

As a new sports program on the UW-River Falls campus, the women’s lacrosse team had a fantastic first year. The team compiled an 11-5 record and managed to finish the season on a six-game win streak. The success that they showed in their first season was enough to show that the program is no joke, they’re here to win games and compete late into the season. The expectations for the program should continue to grow, despite having a fantastic first season at UWRF. It’s nice to see another sports program added to the list of high-quality competition on our campus. When a new program begins, often there is a growing period where the team starts slow and gets into its final form after a couple of years. It appears that this program expedited that process and competed with teams from around the country in its inaugural season. The women’s lacrosse team has a bright future at UWRF.

SNEAKER'S
PUB & EATERY
A FAMILY PLACE
STONE BAKED PIZZA
FRESH INGREDIENTS
ROSE'S SECRET SAUCE
FRIED SPECIALTIES
DEEP FRIED CURDS
COCONUT SHRIMP
GIZZARDS WINGS
BREADED MUSHROOMS
1/2 PRICE
WINGS & BEER
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Visit the
Student Voice
website at:
uwrfvoice.com

Plant and Earth science professor travels to every continent

Madelyn Markulics
madelyn.markulics@my.uwrf.edu

The Student Voice is excited to welcome back the “Faculty Free Time” column where we take a look at what different faculty members enjoy doing outside of work. This column is written to show students a different side to the faculty at UW- River Falls in order to make them seem more relatable and provide faculty a chance to display what they have accomplished in their lives.

This month, the Student Voice met up with Professor of plant and Earth science Kelly Wilhelm to discuss his favorite hobbies and accomplishments. Wilhelm is currently teaching his first semester at UWRF as an assistant professor. Prior to teaching at UWRF, Wilhelm graduated with his Ph. D and Masters degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and went on to be a lecturer for two years at UW-Green Bay.

Wilhelm mentioned that he has multiple things he enjoys doing when he is not grading papers. These activities include spending time with his wife, playing games on his computer, and most of all, traveling.

His goal was to eventually make it to every single con-

continent, and he achieved that goal. A couple of years ago he was able to visit the last continent on his list. Wilhelm started traveling when he was in high school by going to Spain, where his mother went every year with the high school students that she taught Spanish to. However, Wilhelm recalls that his “first true travel experience happened with an archeology trip to the Netherlands,” when he was a sophomore in college in 2006.

During the summers, Wilhelm was traveling all over the world to do archeology field camps, one of which brought him to the Netherlands. Wilhelm said he was “excavating places that they [the city] were going to put in a large parking lot. So, we were excavating Roman graves, actually.”

Wilhelm also mentioned that in Europe, there needs to be “extensive excavating done anywhere they are going to build a building because almost everywhere they build there is going to be ruins, graves, or something.”

When he was on this archeology field camp, the archeologist dug down around six feet and discovered many Roman cremation graves and found many pieces of bone and even pieces of iron nails from the once wooden Roman coffins that were burned. Samples were taken from these and



Graphic by Kacey Joslin

then the archeologists, including Wilhelm, used these samples to look at elevation depths and compare them to other graves that were nearby. Wilhelm also recalls a very unique experience where a complete and intact pot was found and inside of it, there was a golden broach.

The Netherlands archeology project lasted just four weeks. After that, Wilhelm traveled to Mongolia, Turkey, China, and many more places. He has accomplished many things on his various archeology field camps and has plenty of stories to share.

Now, Wilhelm is more focused on his work and providing his students with the knowledge that learning can be enjoyable and exciting, it does not always have to be a chore. He also urges students to take advantage of the resources from the University, because there are many opportunities to travel and gain knowledge on those different areas.

Edible Inspirations: December Desserts



Red Velvet Cupcakes

- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 bottle (1 ounce) red food coloring
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Frosting:

- 1 package (8 ounces) cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons sour cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 box (16 ounces) confectioners' sugar

Preheat the oven to 350° fahrenheit. Mix together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt in medium size bowl, and set aside. Mix butter and granulated sugar in large bowl, it may be most helpful to use an electric mixer on medium speed until the mix is light and fluffy. Then, mix in sour cream, milk, food coloring and vanilla. Mix in the flour mixture on low speed until just blended. Spoon the batter into a 30 paper-lined muffin cups, filling each cup 2/3 full.

Bake 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted into cupcake comes out clean. Let it cool in pans on wire rack 5 minutes. Then, remove from pans to cool completely.

For the Frosting, beat cream cheese, butter, sour cream and vanilla in large bowl until light and fluffy. Little by little mix in confectioners' sugar until smooth. Frost cupcakes once cooled!

Prepared and photographed by Brooke Shepherd



Cinnamon Rolls

- 1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
- 1 cup warm whole milk (110° degrees to 115° degrees)
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup butter, melted
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 to 4-1/2 cups all-purpose flour

FILLING:

- 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter, melted, divided

FROSTING:

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1/4 cup cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1-1/2 cups confectioners' sugar

Dissolve the yeast in warm milk. In a separate bowl, combine sugar, butter, eggs, salt, yeast mixture and 2 cups flour; mixing on medium speed until smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough (dough will be sticky).

Turn dough onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, for about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

Mix brown sugar and cinnamon. Punch down dough; divide in half. On a lightly floured surface, roll 1 portion into an 11x8-in. rectangle. Brush with 2 tablespoons butter; sprinkle with half the brown sugar mixture to within 1/2 in. of edges. Roll up jelly-roll style, starting with a long side; pinch seam to seal. Cut into 8 slices; place in a greased 13x9-in. pan, cut side down. Cover with a kitchen towel. Repeat with remaining dough and filling. Let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour. Preheat oven to 350°.

Bake until golden brown, so about 20-25 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

For frosting, beat butter, cream cheese, vanilla and salt until blended; gradually beat in confectioners' sugar, spread on top!

Chubby chocolate chip cookies

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1 egg yolk
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips



Preheat the oven to 325 degrees fahrenheit, or 165 degrees celsius. Grease the cookie sheet so they don't stick

Sift together the flour, baking soda and salt in separate bowl

In a large bowl, mix together the melted butter, brown sugar and white sugar.

Mix in the vanilla, egg, and egg yolk until it looks light and creamy.

Then, mix in the sifted ingredients. Stir in the chocolate chips, it may help to use a wooden spoon.

Drop cookie dough 1/4 cup at a time onto the prepared cookie sheets. Cookies should be about 3 inches apart.

Bake for 15 to 17 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the edges appear lightly browned.

Let them cool once they come out, and enjoy!

Prepared and photographed by Brooke Shepherd

Almost 400 students set to graduate Saturday

Nearly 400 UW-River Falls students will graduate this semester, according to information compiled by the Registrar’s Office. Students who will earn bachelor’s or master’s degrees are listed below. The list was current as of Monday, Dec. 9. Commencement at UWRF is scheduled at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14, in the Knowles Field House of the Falcon Center.

Ableidinger, Katlyn Lee Adhikari, Ram Allen, Emily Alice Alman, Austin Jason Alotaibi, Najlaa Zayed Anderson, Aliyah Brynn Anderson, Elijah Bruce Anderson, Karly Nicole Anibas, Derek Michael Appert, Caleb James Arthur, Marissa Kay Axberg, Josee Axiotis, Katelyn Nicole Beckman, Benjamin Donald Bendickson, Angela Clare Bennett, Marshall Allen Bennig, Emily Rose Bhakta, Ektaben Bhaskerbhai Bisek, Rebecca Marie Bjurstrom, Eric Blair, Gabriella Autumn Bloch, Teresa Mary Boddy, Alexander Robert Boeddeker, Brady Jay Booth, Colton David Bork, Faith Elizabeth Boryczka, Alison Shea Bostwick, Mikaela Marie Bowe, Derek Todd Boxrud, Megan Boyer, Anthony Michael Brand, Amber Anne Brasser, Brianna Jo Bratland, Andrew David Broll, Anna Marie Bronk, Sarah Ann Burbank, Jasmine Rhianne Burich, Jonathon Randle Busch, Rebecca Noel Bush, Jordyn Caligiuri III, James Albert Carll, Michael John Carlson, Bryant Berg Carlson, James Christopher Carlson, Lauren Lee Carpenter, John Matthew Carpenter, Ksenia Vadimovna Chandra, Hamsa Chapin, Gabrielle Elissa Marie Chapin, Samuel Nathan Chhay, Chunnara Jessy Christensen, Abby Maria Clemens, Erin Elizabeth Colombo, Emily Joan Conway, Jonah Edward Cota, McKenzie Marie Cowan Jr, William Joseph Cupery, Brittany Sue Cyrankowski, Andrew Jan Daane, Bryce Andrew Daniels, Matthew Lloyd Dary, Jamie Rose Davis, Chelbie Jillyse DeBels, Olivia Jean Derleth, Ryan August Devine, Peter Kenneth Dietsche, Mateo Luis Dohrer, Jonathan James Donahue, Meghan P Doroff, Logan Gerald Dorvinen, Aaron Michael Dregney, Cody Arthur Drigans, Amanda Ann Droege, Ben Michael Duffey, Adam M DuHoux, Kieran Patrick Dust, Zachary Lee Ebert, Stacey Katherine Eckert, Alec Steven Ehley, Jeremy Jason	Eigenberger, Mitchell Nash Elle, Owen Paul Schaller Enochs, Megan Elizabeth Erickson, Hannah Rae Erie, Madison Marie Evans, Christe Fagin, Laura Marie Fecht, Kayla Ann Fern Weber, Laura Lynn Fleck, Chad James Flynn, Bethany Rose Forthun, Kaitlyn Renae Foster, Bradley D Franco Jr, Sim Michael Frederickson, Kelli Shane Freitag, Karen Ann Friedges, Karly Rae Gathje, Andrew John Gaye, Otis Karlon Gearhart, Brendon Richard Geesey, Katie Celine Geimer, Alyssia Dee Gibson, Alexa Beth Gjengdahl, Laura Kathleen Gochnauer, Elizabeth Rae Golden, Briar James Green, Haylee Adelle Grenzow, Tyler Alex Groves, Maxwell Jeffrey Guild, Chloe Elizabeth Guild, David Kent Haavisto, Victoria Rose Marie Hacker, Katlyn Rose Hagen, Shawn Aaron Hagenbucher, Elliott Martin Hall, Corin Hall, Courtney Rose Hall, Tyler Dana Halonen, Danielle Rae Halverson, Victoria Marie Hansen, Lauren Marie Hansen, Mikayla Kathryn Hansen, Raelyn Elli Hanson, Nathan Hart, Noah Adam Hart Usher, Lillian Elizabeth Ann Hau, Sierra Hunter Hausladen, Austin James Hazen, Cassandra Marie Head, Anna Christine Healy, Nicole Marie Heath, Savannah Clare Hedlund, Noah Patrick Heffley, Erin Hejri, Kamyar Helland, Karli Marie Helms, Nicholas Allen Hendrickson, Amanda Marie Hennen, Maria Catherine Heth, Bryan Andrew Hetrick, Katie Heu, Alexis Kashia Hill, Jesse A Hintz, Alexander Peter Hintz, Lauren Luree Hofbauer, Aaron Randall Holden, Abbey Elizabeth Hollins, Drekal Shannon Holm, Dillon Alan Holmes, Abby Marie Holschbach, Austyn Orville Hove, Sara Ann Hunn, Jasmine Anne Huske, Carolyn Barbara Iafrate, Elizabeth Lois Igo, Catherine Siena Jack, Lindsey Nicole Jacobs, Matthew Christian Jansen, Natalie Maria Jensen, Kyle Allen	Jentzsch, Christopher Harold Johnson, Emma Patrice Johnson, Jacob Joseph Johnson, Jared Patrick Johnson, Kyle Aron Johnson, Michael Robert Jones, Travis Paul Jones, Tyler Thomas Junges de Souza, Cloris Ioanna Kaiser, Matthew Roy Kallsen, Hannah Jane Karge, Taylor Kristine Kasseth, Dylan Douglas Kattilparambil Velayudhan, Vysakh Kelley, Paige Gail Kerkow, Garrett Alan Kincade, Patrick Daniel Klepel, Kaleb David Eugene Knuth, Kailynn Jane Koehler, Margaret Ann Koivisto, Ashley Marie Konder, Kaitlin Connie Korton, Kara Ann Korum, Wesley Daniel Koury, Sadie Louise Kovacs, Vladislavs Lazdans Kowalke, Alexis Montana Koziolk, Ryley Jeanne Kressly, Joshua Theodore Krog, Ryan James Krohn, Alison Christine Krug, Racheal M Krull, Jenifer Denilyn Kuenkel, Dennis Lackner, Angela Marie LaDue, Amanda Marie Lafferty, Faye Elizabeth Lagoon, Erika Marie Lake, April Mae Lammers, Heidi Christine Lang, Lindsay Amanda Larsen, Amy Alexis Thor Larson, Aaron Isaac Lechman, Ciarra Lousie Lee, Daniel Senghyun Lee, Keiko Lekies, Nicole Marie Lenneman, Cassandra Ann Lenz, Sydney Marie Lenzen, Derek Steven Lenzen, William Lenzmeier, Andrew Daniel Leverance, Kayla Elizabeth Li, Jiaxin Li, Zhichao Liddane, Joelle Jacqueline Lind, Jacie Janiece Linehan, Catrina Jo Linn, Rachel Marie Lissick, Tiffany Amber Lloyd, Anna Marie Elizabeth Loewen, Alexander Max Lozano, Sarah Jane Codner Luedtke, Halle Jayne Lunz, Erin Kay Luxton, Stacie Kimberly Lynch, Erin Joy Lynn, Ryan Gordon Mackenburg, Samantha Margret Mackovich, Makenzie Maggie Malkow, Marley Davidson Mancilman, Josie Jean Manderfeld, Amelia Marie Manning, Valerie Mareck, Casey Marson, Leah Shirlene Martin Jr, Patrick Edward Mayes, Blake Robert McAleavey, Lacey Joy McGrath, Nicholas Matthew	McIlquham, Molly Lynn McKenzie, Keri Ann Mcnamara, Sydney Ann McNeal, Allison Lucille Mesang, Jamie N Miller, Melendy Marie Mischke, Nicholas James Mitchell, Alyssa Nicole Moen, Taylor Anne Moore, Alexis Jo Morrison, Sara Muntifering, Madelyn Marie Murphy, Amanda Grace Nagel, Zachary William Lee Newago, Shellie Scott Andrew Novek, Angela Grace Oebser, Amanda Jean Oestreich, Bethany Sue Ohlrogge, Rosa Maria Olsen, Hannah Elizabeth Olson, Logan Tyler Page, Branon Paulus, Baily Kay Pecholt, Gina Rose Pechous, Rosemary Marie Peckman, Blayne Erin Peckman, Calli Lyn Pedersen, Christopher Carl Peretz, Elizabeth Kimberly Clare Persoon, Nicolaas John Peterson, Sara Nicole Philblad, Anthony Peter Pignato, Emma Rose Pitt, Taylor Allen Plemmons, Annalee Marie Poitra, Dakotah Renee Pouliot, Erica Rose Powers, Emelia Dee Preuss, Erica Primeau, Alycia Elizabeth Princivalli, Madison Jade Przybilla, Calie Marie Pugh, Cassandra Ottilie Putz, Erin Nicole Quast, Katelyn Marie Quinn, Savanna Rose Rarick, Anna Lynne Rathke, Aaron Rathke, Evan Stephen Read, Gabrielle Christine Regnier, Teresa Mary Reis, Katherine Elizabeth dos Santos Revie, Hailey Briann Richardson, Madeline Rose Ritzinger, Thelma McKenzi Robinson, Jay Paul Robinson, Madeline Murphy Rochel, Shelbie Raecann Rodewald, Kaitlin Amanda Roeder, Hunter Paul Roesser, Sean Andrew Rogers, Sierra LaVonne Rokenbrodt, Kathryn Lucile Rollo, Karilyn Romens III, Richard Hughes Rondeau, Mackenzie Rae Rosana, Ashley Beth Moraa Rosine, Ashley Nicole Ross, Kathryn Jane Rothbauer, Erica Lynn Rouse, Sanita Jean Rudiger, Payton Leigh Ryan, Garrett Francis Sanders, Charles Williams Saw, Wade Scherer, Emily Jayne Schiefelbein, Luke Schmidt, Kallie Marie Schmitt, Grant Allen Schmitt, Mary Christina	Schommer, Mary Elizabeth Schroepfer, Maria Davida Schuette, Cassandra James Scott, Ryan Thomas Serwa, Mackenzie Katherine Severson, Jessica Grace Severson, Jessica Lynn Shand, Brett Anthony Shields, Alexis Rae Shirley, Ashleigh Elissa Sieben, Melissa Rae Sieck, Carter Sikora, Timothy Robert Simon, Andrew Skabroud, Kendall Kristen Smith, Christopher Adam Sparstad, Matthew Donald Spencer, Cody Wayne Sptel, Brooke Celine Stacken, Sabrina Lynn Stangl, Jacqueline Marie Stanley, Cassaundra Lea Staves, Travis Trent Stedman, Brandon Michael Stein, Emmett Ulysses Story, Anah D. Stratton, Rebecca Striggow, Hannah Clare Strommen, Thomas John Taylor, Ashley Marie Taylor, Ian William Telljohn Wilson, Shelby Thao, JoAnn Thomas, Morgan Rose Thomforde, Lauren Rae Tichy, Tate Robert Tran, Lena Nhi Tyler, Kirsten Elizabeth Uitdenbogerd Jr, Brian Yuga Vack, Rachel Marie Van Blaricom, Heidi Joy Van Ness, Michael Charles Vang, Mai Youa Vang, Pa Yia Vang, Samantha Verhota, Evan Joseph Vetterkind, Morgan Allen Vhaa, Destinie X Viktora, Krystal Kristine Vue, Joshua Vue, Long Walkky, Jordan Eleanor Warner, Derrick Edward Watson, Emily Jean Weber, Alison Anne Wedige, Mollie Ruby Weicherding, Johnathan Edwyrd Weiss, Amanda Danielle Welke, Nicole Marie Welshons, Griffin James West, Marcus Andrew White, SaBreina Wiederich, Selena Diann Wilhelm, Matthew David Williams, Ashley Rose Wilson, Morgan Rae Wiltrout, Madelyn Claire Wood, Alexander Michael Woodruff, Jake Austin Wright, Carmella Marie Yang, Hangfang Sailue Ziertman, Joshua Robert Zinsou Bode, Koffi Mawunyitaw Zoubek, Kevin James
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The International Student Voice

Introduction by Kiki Augustin (ESL 211 Intermediate Writing) and Alex Hatheway (MODL 310 Advanced Composition)

As writing instructors in UWRf's English Language Transition (ELT) Program one of our missions is to involve English learning students in campus activities while strengthening their knowledge of English. We could think of no better way to do this than to have them publish an article in the Student Voice. What you are about to read is the final product of several sessions of brainstorming and writing followed by consultations with native speakers including some from the TESOL program and the Student Voice.



Trends here, trends there:

Social media

Xiaozhan Zeng

Just as American students use Twitter, Snapchat and Facebook to maintain the social net, Chinese young people use Weibo, Wechat and QQ for this.

However, they use each site for different functions for most of the time. Weibo is like a window to the world. We can focus on something related to the news, our hobbies and idols with it. Compared to the social apps Ameri-

can use, Weibo is more similar to the Twitter while Wechat is more likely to Snapchat or Facebook.

On Wechat, we can only talk to friends and glance at their shared pictures to know their recent status. Mostly, Chinese people often contact with official groups or job partners on QQ. Because one of its functions is saving files, we can look through them in the future. It is more convenient and popular for us to take them in specifically different ways.

Although the old generation may feel these apps a little

harder to handle, they also have a great opportunity to experience these new ways to touch their interests, news and persons. In conclusion, both modern American and Chinese use their own social media to make connections with society. The trend of this is exploring more social media to let individuals even the old people know more about the world while expressing themselves on those.

Asian toys

Ningxin Wang

The Trend of Asian Designer Toys Especially in China. Many of you may have heard about designer toys. It is not only popular in America but also in China. Even if you have never bought one, you might see them in the markets around America. What I am going to introduce is the designer toys trend in China.

Do you own a Funko Pop? Have you ever seen a hairdorable when you are shopping in the market? Maybe you are

familiar with designer toys, but the toys in China have totally different form and main idea.

The toys in America usually show the famous characters, but the designer toys in China always have their own characters. In recent years, a special shop suddenly became popular among young people. It is not normal because it only sells the designer toys. Toys there from different designers have their own names.

Unlike the Funko Pop, the toys in a same series may look different from each other. Like the hairdorable, you never

know which toy in this series you will get. Not knowing which toy is in the box not only pushes you to buy more but also gives you an impulse to buy the whole series. The different series have different themes. So for example, my favorite toy Satyr Rory has different skin colors and clothing but the same base type.

The designer uses the different characters to tell the mythical stories and to show the mythical creatures. It is a lovely reflection of an imaginary world. I think the trend is interesting and it shows the future of toys.

Viral songs

Xiaodi Wang

If you take a look at Billboard Top 100, you will find that there are at least 3 songs which started gaining traction on TikTok where users created short videos set to the song.

The most famous song, "Old Town Road", which released in December of 2019, initially gained popularity on TikTok and eventually entered the Billboard charts in March 2019 with the help of 500 million monthly active users around the world (Connor, Iqbal.). And the most successful example is "Truth Hurts", which released on September 19,

2017. Though it did not chart at the time of its release, it later became a viral sleeper hit in 2019 after gaining popularity on TikTok (Strapagiel.).

TikTok is making more and more music go viral, which makes many indie music producers upset about current young people's music taste. They think young people are surrounded by certain types of music and then love it rather than finding the music by themselves.

And the amazing fact is that TikTok actually was launched in 2017 by Chinese developer ByteDance (Jenke.). TikTok reported 400 million monthly active users in China, which also

helps many songs become popular in China (Iqbal.). There is a Japanese song called "Planet" which was released on June 7, 2016. With no apparent promotion in China, the song went viral through TikTok, and was played close to 6 million times. Now this song is often used in videos shown at weddings (Harashima.). For both America and China, it is hard to conclude what makes pop songs literally pop. For some pop song producers, they should focus on how to use some platforms rather than write some catchy melodies.

Traditional clothes

Xinyu Zhang

Chinese people have traditional clothes and now they are more willing to wear clothes like "Hanfu" or other traditional styles. Hanfu has many forms, such as cross neck, right lapel or lace up. Clothes represent a nation's history and culture. They condense the information into something that you can see. The more you learn about clothes, the more you learn about the culture that create them.

China has a long history and learning about clothes is a

good way to learn Chinese culture. People gave up some of Chinese culture during the Qing Dynasty but nowadays we are trying to bring it back.

Another reason is some traditional clothes like Hanfu are really beautiful so they attract people's attention. Some people think it's not convenient to walk around with a long dress and long sleeves so some of them prefer to wear improved Hanfu which is called Hanyuansu which is similar to modern clothes.

Some old people think it is strange to wear such tradi-

tional clothes and misidentify them as other nations' clothes. There's also many people who support those young people who wear these clothes. The trend is good; it will attract people to think about different fashion styles and gradually learn about the Chinese culture behind the clothes.

Chinese styles are becoming more and more global and we can use technologies to spread the culture to the world and we create some fashion brands like HEAVEN GAIA. So the culture is prevalent now!

American culture of Thanksgiving Day

Yui Yasunaga

In America, Thanksgiving Day is in November. On this day almost all American family are together and then having a special dinner. I had experienced this day one year ago, through this experience I know two things which are traditional food and how I feel about Thanksgiving.

A first, I learned about traditional food. When I participated in Thanksgiving dinner, they had turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, pumpkin and pecan pie. It was my first time to eat pecan pie. It was a little bit too sweet, but it was really good dessert. I also learned each family has a different way of cooking, even though they use the same ingredients. It was interesting for me.

Second, I could feel thankful and happy. I think Thanks-

giving is an awesome day, because almost all families are together on this day. In Japan, we do not have such a day so I feel this day is a good opportunity to have a conversation with family.

Overall, I learned two things about Thanksgiving which are they have special meals and they usually celebrate this day with family. I think this day is an awesome day so I want to join this day again.

An afternoon with elementary children

Xiaowei Xiang

It was the first afternoon I was with the children of Rocky Branch Elementary School since we six Chinese students started as trainee teachers.

Entering the dining room, we found that children were more orderly than our imagination. Most of them sat down and ate instead of running around. Halfway through the meal, two naughty boys ran up behind us and danced. Of course, they were taken back to their seat. It was not until the teacher announced that they could go, they stood up and put everything back in its proper place.

Then, several girls took us to the playground. Once outside, we could see a big grassy slope and some children sat or laid on the slope. These little girls led us up the grassy slope and showed us how to roll down it. After that, they invited us to roll down the slope together. We couldn't resist giving it a try. The feeling of rolling uncontrollably down the grassy slope was very good.

Next, they invited us to play at nearby recreational facilities. There are swings, monkey bars, and climbing facilities like a very small climbing wall. Some children climbed up and down happily while other children played catch-up games. It's fun to watch kids play, but it's even more fun to play with them.



The treasure, a second-hand shop

Yiwen Lou

The first time I walked into the shop on Main Street, I knew I would come to this place often during my year in River Falls. The name of that shop is Adoray's Treasures from The Heart, but my friends and I love to call it "treasure" not only for simplicity but also because it is really a treasure in our

hearts.

Actually, I have brought back a lot of cute little things from there to decorate my desk and bookshelf. This second-hand shop has two floors, a floor and a basement. The first floor has a variety of clothes, and the basement is full of gadgets. A lot of costumes and Halloween-related ornaments can be found before Halloween, and recently they have a lot of Christmas-related decorations, such as small Christmas trees, nutcrack-

er and Santa Claus.

Finding surprises here is a very common thing. Finding a small beautiful teaspoon in the middle of a row of glass and glass bowls, or finding the already yellowed piano score in an inconspicuous corner is really a surprise, isn't it? If there is such an afternoon, the sunshine is very nice, but you don't know what to do. Why don't you open the door of treasure and have a wonderful afternoon full of surprises?

My experience of homecoming in UWRF

Ya-ting Chang

Homecoming is a vital event for a university in America. During homecoming week, there will be a lot of events on campus for students and even residents living in the community near the school to join.

The homecoming week of University of Wisconsin River Falls was from October 14 to October 20. There were a variety of events held during that week, including parties, concerts and sports games. I heard that homecoming is an important event in America before I came here from Taiwan. Therefore, I really looking forward to experiencing it after I came to America.

I was glad that I had a chance to experience the culture and events of homecoming in America. It was really exciting to me. During the week, I watched homecoming parade and joined some activities. I found that homecoming was vital not

only for school but also the communities near campus. Many residents of communities near the school went to watch the homecoming parade with their children. All kids got a lot of candy after the parade. Besides, we could see a lot of workers of shops on the main street in the parade. The cheerleading team of senior high school in the city near UWRF also joined the parade. We also could find the school band from the middle school which near UWRF in the parade. It felt like homecoming was the important event for all the residents of River Falls.

I participated in Homecoming Choral Concert at the last day of homecoming. It's a big day for all chorus and choir in our school. Every members participated in the performance and sang the last song in combined choirs together at the end of the concert. It was impressed me that we had many people in the audience on that day and they were enthusiastic. That was my first time to perform with my chorus in America. I really appreciated that homecoming gave me such a good memory.

Above all, the homecoming is a chance to know your school better. You can also experience the enthusiasm of people in the communities near the school. In my opinions, homecoming can make students get together more and also let them have chances to know the community near the school more.



It's great for both school and community can know each other better and they may have more cooperation through this wonderful tradition.



Arts and Entertainment:

Make-up Flower

Wenqian Zhang

Confucius is one of the great historical figures in China, but what I want to introduce today is not Confucius' thoughts and life, but the old clothes of Confucius' mansion.

There are more than 8,000 pieces of clothing handed down by Confucius in Ming and Qing dynasties, including damask, silk, satin, yarn and other fabrics. Among these the Ming dynasty dress is the most precious and this is the most intact series of Ming Dynasty clothes in China today.

Ming Dynasty is the most prosperous stage of the development of traditional costume of Han nationality. I will introduce it from the special manufacturing process. The most famous process used in these clothes is "make-up flower" process. "Make-up flower" fabric always uses many different

colors. These colors changed very flexibly. In the weaving method, colorful pile weft tubes with different colors are used to make local plate makeup colors for the patterns on the fabric, with very free color matching without any restrictions.

The main pattern is usually expressed in two or three kinds of colors, and decorative patterns can be as many as 12 or even 20 or 30 colors. Although the color of "make-up flower" is very complex, all of them are unified and harmonious, so that the texture of the fabric can get a vivid and beautiful artistic effect. "Make-up flower" is a treasure in the history of Chinese textile art. I hope it can be loved by the whole world.

Chinese dance drama

Zhou Han

Recently, The Eternal Wave, a famous Chinese dance drama which is produced by Shanghai Dance Theatre had won the highest award in Chinese performance industry. The dance drama is based on a real historical story about the Chinese revolutionary martyr Li Bai.

In 1940s, on the eve of liberation, Chinese Communist Party's underground workers had to disguise themselves to send confidential information because of the Kuomintang governing.

The piece shows the audience that it was the revolutionary martyrs' firm belief and selfless sacrifices that led liberation to success, making people honoring thousands of heroes and revolutionary martyrs appeared at that time. It's a beautiful masterpiece com-

binning modern dance, classical dance, tango and etc.

The drama not only expressed the beauty of dance like the neat rows of action and the contrast between different scenes, but it also shows urban elements, including the famous Shiku Gate, lanes and alleys, newspaper office and Cheongsam tailor shop, which perfectly presents every detail at that generation. Without a word, dancers show the personalities of their characters by the movements.

The drama is a good choice if you want to learn Chinese history and admire Chinese dance. You can find the video of The Eternal Wave on YouTube.

The Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains

Jue Wang

China has a long and interesting history, because of this history, Chinese people have also invented a special way of painting.

The Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains is one of the most famous paintings because of the painting skill and what it shows. The scene in The Dwelling in the Fuchun Mountains is taken from Tonglu, Fuyang, Zhejiang Province. There is a lot of blank space in the picture, which gives the picture infinite meaning.

At the same time, this picture is not very deliberate, we called this skill "freehand brushwork". This skill made the picture an integrated whole although it wasn't done all of one time. Another reason why it is famous is its experience.

After it was finished by Huang Gongwang at the Yuan dynasty, it began its tortuous history. It changed owners several times, experienced the changes of dynasties, and all the wars in modern China.

Now, it is divided into two parts because one of its owners wanted to bring it to the tomb together and tried to burn it. Since then, two parts of it were saved in different places for many years.

Fortunately, in 2011, it was on display together at TaiBei Palace Museum. Although it's still stored separately in ZheJiang Museum and TaiBei Palace Museum, we still look forward to when it can be together again.



Chinese movie

Chenxin Wang

Recently, a Chinese movie Better Days received good reviews. It tells a story between two high school students, which reflects a phenomenon: school bullying. Chen Nian is a top student in the school. Her only thought was to be admitted to a good university.

However, she was involved in her classmate's accident. At her most lonely moment, a boy named Xiaobei broke into her world. Most people are bright and happy at the age of 18, but they have tasted the indifference of the adult world ahead of them. A "battle" is being staged, and they will guard the dignity of teenagers together.

This is a thick and growing emotional story. It is both stinging and full of profound social critiques. The truth lies in its

most intuitive display of violence, humanity and confusion. One of the reasons I like this movie is that it shows no one is perfect. Chen Nian chose to bear intolerance when she was suffering from bullying. This is not necessarily a weakness, but a terrible self-denial. Xiaobei is also inferior. He went to fight and to be a bludger, just to hide the cowardice of the heart.

As long as an unconventional thing happens, people often don't ask who is making mistakes. They only point at the victim who created the trouble and bring up the old saying "One hand alone can't clap". The wicked people who don't understand the discretion have escaped the punishment. Better Days is unfolding in such an atmosphere: even in the hot summer days, it is always wrapped in bleak and cold, only with the a few occasional warm days.

K-drama

Park Eunbe

Hotel Deluna is a famous TV show. These days Korean drama is famous around the world. I've even heard a lot about K-drama from American, Chinese and Japanese students, who are interested in K-drama.

This drama has famous Korean singers like IU and P.O. Besides, the story is interesting and well-organized. The story of the drama is about a love story between a guy and a main character who manages a hotel for ghosts. The main character's name is Jang Man-wol. Many people bought her things that she was wearing in drama. Her things were popular because she always wears fancy dresses and beautiful accessories.

I think the first reason why this drama is so popular is the main character's popularity. This drama is particularly popular in China, so I asked some Chinese students about why this drama is popular in China. Most of them said they usually enjoy watching Korean dramas because the contents are mysterious, and the subject is interesting; especially Hotel Deluna. I expect many Korean dramas to become more popular all over the world in the future.

Global Traditions

Dumplings

Yuxin Zhou

Dumplings are traditional pasta of the Han nationality in China. They are an annual festival food for the Spring Festival, and they are deeply loved by the Chinese people. Just follow this recipe, you'll have delicious dumplings. First, we can make the inside of the dumpling. It's easy and convenient to buy stir pork stuffing. It doesn't matter if you put more soy sauce in the meat stuffing. Then you can add a little old soy sauce, then sesame oil, finally chopped green onion and ginger, then salt. This is according to your taste. The next step is the most important part---

packing dumplings. First put some stuffing on the dumpling skin, put it in the middle, don't put it everywhere, it will affect pinching the skin. Second, fold the dumpling skin in half and pinch it in the middle to make the two layers stick together. Next, knead one end of the dumpling skin. When kneading, leave more space on the bottom, because you need to knead the pleats on the bottom. Then pinch it from one end to the middle. The other side is the same way. Well, the thin skin with full filling dumplings can be wrapped. Making dumplings is simple, isn't it?

Chinese names

Xinyi He

Nowadays, there are nearly 500 surnames in China. As we all know, China is a big country with a big population, so it is normal that lots of people have the same surname. Many foreigners feel confused why two Chinese students have the same surname although they are not siblings. Most of the Chinese surnames have been handed down from generation to generation for thousands of years. Different surnames come about in different ways. At the same time, because of traditional culture , Chinese people care very much about their own names. They believe that their names should accompany their own lives. They must choose meaningful names to express their good wishes and integrate their parents' deep feel-

ings and ardent expectations for their children. Therefore, today's parents in China usually look through the dictionary to find the meaning of the word or go to a special name agency to find a professional person to pick up the name. And some of them will be based on Chinese idioms or allusions to other aspects of Chinese traditional culture. Names are the patented products of each of us, from a very simple code name to a socially meaningful vocabulary, which shows the infinite charm and connotation of Chinese language.

Opera facial makeup

Hangyan He

A special feature of national cosmetics in China is types of facial makeup in operas. Each historical figure or a certain type of person in the opera has an approximate spectral type, like singing or playing music, and these are the types of facial makeup in operas. The types of facial makeup in operas are based on certain personalities, temperaments or some special types of figures for the use of certain colors. Specific types of facial makeup in operas put on the actors' faces to symbolize the personalities, characteristics, and fates of the roles. Usually red faces have positive meanings, symbolizing brave, faithful, and wise men. Another positive color is purple, which signifies wisdom and bravery. Black faces, for their part, indicate awful meanings like staleness, integrity, bravery and recklessness. However,

they can also represent uprightness. Blue and green faces symbolize the hero of the bush, with the former also hinting at strength and intrepidity. Yellow and white faces have negative meanings that symbolize ferocious, treacherous, and crafty men. The most famous skill in opera is face changing. The skills of face changing are generally differentiated into three types: the wiping mask, the blowing mask, and the pulling mask. Face changing is a magical art. Actors change more than 10 masks in less than 20 seconds. By raising the hand, swinging a sleeve, or tossing the head, an actor uses different masks to show different emotions, expressing invisible and intangible feelings through visible and tangible masks. Come to China to experience the magic and fun of facial makeup in opera!

Chinese Deity

Ling Han

Joss money, also known as ghost or spirit money, are sheets of paper or paper-crafts made into burnt offerings common in Chinese ancestral worship. Burning joss money is an important custom for Chinese people to commemorate the dead. Chinese believe that the deceased will receive the money and benefit from a happy and prosperous afterlife if you burn it. People burn the joss paper on in traditional Chinese deity or ancestor worship ceremonies during special holidays. Qingming Festival and the Hungry Ghost Month are two special Chinese holidays related to the dead and ghosts. Qingming Festival is a Chinese Memorial Day, Chinese families visit the tombs of their ancestors to clean the gravesites, pray to their ancestors, and make ritual offerings on this day. The process of burning joss sticks and joss paper is usually arranged after displaying traditional food dishes in front of the tomb. The holiday

recognizes the traditional reverence of one's ancestors in Chinese culture. As for the Hungry Ghost Feast held on the fourteenth day of the seventh month, family members offer prayers to their deceased relatives, offer food and drink and burn joss paper too. Such paper items are only valid in the underworld, that is why they burn it an offering to the ghosts that have come from the gates of hell. The afterlife is very similar in some aspects to the material world, and the paper effigies of material goods would provide comfort to in the afterlife. People would also burn other things such as paper houses, cars, servants and televisions to please the ghosts. Families also pay tribute to other unknown wandering ghosts so that these homeless souls do not intrude on their lives and bring misfortune and bad luck, by bringing samplings of food and placing them on the offering table to please the ghosts and ward off bad luck. Joss paper is also burned in traditional Chinese funerals.



Bonnie Hintze, a kind stranger

Qinxing Huang

As Lao Tzu said “kindness in giving creates love”. Bonnie Hintze is a kind person, and she spreads love in her second-hand shop called Riverwalk Vintage Market.

She loves vintage things and collects them from many places. Bonnie bought Riverwalk Vintage Market in 2016. Bonnie said “Many things

in the store are vintage, some of the things are repurposed. Some people call it junk, but I call it treasure because lots of people stopped by my stores to looking for something specific, and when they found things, they found their treasures.”

Bonnie likes to do repurpose and often come up with amusing ideas which widen the variety of the goods in her store. What’s more, always being a kind lady, Bonnie provides free snacks and hot tea in the store. She

regards it as courtesy to the customers to make their shopping memorable here.

I asked Bonnie what is the one thing she has held on to the longest. She said it was her “antique buffet”. She has many chances to find vintage things. She likes to keep things when she found something she liked; most of her items were turned into her “antique buffet”. In all, Bonnie Hintze is such a kind lady who love helping others.

When I met Marian

Siwei Li

It was on Halloween eve when I met “Marian”, who is one of the characters in Robin Hood. After the performance, I interviewed Klara Fansler, who played Marian. She told me some of her thoughts on this character. “Marian is a character that is complex in many ways. I needed to portray her in a way that she would be likable but also not pitied too much. I wanted her to be tough but not cruel or mean, so that was sort of hard to balance.”

I consider Klara an attractive actress because an excellent actor always has a holistic thought of the character and can convey the emotion to audiences appropriately. Precisely, I want to learn further about her because of the extra laid-back atmosphere which

she created through the comic violence.

To my surprise, Klara’s dream job has nothing to do with acting. Her ultimate dream is to teach English to idols in South Korea that is why her major is Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. As for the reason why she chose this major, she said that it is because she loves traveling and helping people.

Additionally, idols must be her motivation to work harder. We feel pretty close because we have numerous similarities about our dream jobs. However, I have to say that she is braver than I. Similarities can lead to a stable friendship, and we hope to learn more from each other. In conclusion, Klara is not only an excellent actress, but also auniversity student who has a specific goal.



Gabrielle Slater

Yinan Shao

I interviewed an extroverted girl named Gabrielle Marie Slater, who is devoted to becoming a vet.

She is a Junior with the major of biotechnology pre-vet, and her minor is animal science. She loves to do power lifting, hiking and drawing in her free time, but everything about animals takes over most of her life.

Gabrielle is willing to stop anything

when she sees an animal or a pet that needs help. Her father always encourages her and gives her full support to her behaviors. Gabrielle’s father is always there for her whenever she needs help, and that inspires her to continue her dream of becoming a vet. That is why Gabrielle told me that her father is the most important person to her.

During our conversation, Gabrielle mentioned that she was not very satisfied with her current lifestyle because she has two jobs that

consume most of her time, but she has to do it in order to pursue her career and to reach her goal. If she can change things in her life, she wishes she can spend more time on herself and be less hard on herself rather than working all the time. She believes that she can do better.

Overall, I believe that this interview is very meaningful because I met a young woman who is filled with love and dream.

Jacob Traynor

Lingjie Yuan

Jacob Traynor is a sophomore in University of Wisconsin-River Falls whose major is Broad field Social Studies Education. After graduation, he wants to teach middle or high school social studies.

The most precious memory in his past time is the first he ever went to the Shell Lake Arts Center for a week when he was 11 years

old. He made a ton of new friends and learned that he has things that make him unique and that he doesn’t have to be ashamed of them.

In addition, in his life, the most important person would be himself, because there are many people who are very important to him in his life, but since it is his life, he would say he is the most important person in it. Everyone must be able to take care of themselves before taking care of others.

Moreover, the greatest regret in Jacob’s life is during the first semester of his Sophomore year of College, he let himself fall into the deepest depression he has ever fallen into. But it is his story and he is not ashamed of it. Now he can use that experience to help others avoid that same situation. Overall, all of these make him now, an optimistic and positive young man.



A Chinese student

Yuchen Dai

I interviewed a Chinese student, and I felt very kind in the process of the interview. Jerry is a I interviewed a Chinese student, and I felt very kind in the process of the interview. Jerry is a University of Wisconsin River Falls student who is about to graduate. His major is Elementary Education.

He told me that what he wanted most now was to get married with his current

girlfriend in the future. He said he and his girlfriend met at the most negative time of his life. She helped him find confidence and get out of the shadows. That is why he wants to get married with his girlfriend.

He told me that the competition for education is very fierce now. He told me that studying abroad is, on the one hand, to receive a better education as much as possible, on the other hand, to broaden his horizons and understand what the market needs.

It is difficult for Chinese college students to find a job after graduation. If they do not have a good diploma, they can only be forced to choose other jobs that they do not like or are not interested in. However, he thinks he has enough power to get a job that he’s satisfied with, and I think he’s a positive young man. I also hope that he can find something he is interested in in the future, because that’s what everyone wants.