

## UWRF encourages new tradition with sculpture

Isabella Forliti

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A new falcon has come to campus and landed outside of Rodli Hall in the form of a sculpture. A variety of departments on campus gathered together to collaborate on this project to bring a new tradition to the River Falls space. Director of Career Services, Melissa Wilson, Executive Director of Admissions, Sarah Nelson, and Professor of Art, Dan Paulus were key partners on this project.

Wilson and Nelson were in attendance and spoke to the crowd the morning of August 23, the opening day, where the sculpture was officially dedicated in front of Rodli Hall. "Together, Melissa and I have 47 combined years of experience working for UWRF and the UW System," says Nelson, "both of us are proud Falcon alumni." Wilson and Nelson both concluded that an important and impactful part of the UW-River Falls environment is the people. They discuss those within the community who are dedicated to supporting and serving future generations of students as being the inspiration for a new tradition on campus.

As construction of Rodli hall was in the works, both Wilson and Nelson discussed how UWRF needed a new tradition, "We wanted something that would attract the attention of our campus visitors and current students alike." Ideas circulated between the committee, such as painting the road red or getting a bronze mascot. Once funding had been acquired for the project things got serious. Nelson also mentioned that they chose to connect with the Art Department on campus to commission the project due to their knowledge of art and art history.

Professor of Art Dan Paulus spoke about how the committee took charge and completed a generous amount of research to determine what they were looking for. "The research led to a list of terms that represented our school and the direction it is going in: creative, engaged, inclusive, distinctive, academic excellence, student centered, and innovative," Paulus explained. The vision of the sculpture included something that can stand the test of time while also creating a new space for Falcon pride for students and faculty.

The sculpture was meant to resemble a peregrine falcon, although it is not an exact representation. In the words of Paulus, "The committee did not choose the artist, but rather the artwork chose us." Out of 115 applicants, "The committee eventually narrowed the pool down to three and chose Peter Busby," Paulus explained, "for his artistic vision, craft, and the specific medium of steel rods." The artist, Busby, describes his work as something that creates a sense of community. Community was a common theme throughout the process of what the committee was hoping to bring to campus for future and current Falcons.

"This sculpture is now part of the legacy of UWRF, and we have a new tradition to share with the campus community," said Wilson. Along with the presence of the sculpture, a tradition was born. Wilson and Nelson hope that, in the future, students will start their year by rubbing the falcon foot for good luck. "The sculpture will then take your wish to the skies and provide flight to this intention," says Wilson, "As Falcons soar the sky, Falcon wishes and ideas will take flight." They asked the new Chancellor, Mario Gallo, to have the honor of making the first wish to establish the tradition for future falcons on campus.



Chancellor Maria Gallo celebrates the falcon sculpture debut. Photo by Pat Deninger.



*What style of class do you prefer?*

By Isabella Forliti



**Txee Yang**

“I prefer in person because I’m able to interact with my professors and classmates more.



**Courtney Carson**

“I prefer in-person because I’m very much a hands on learner being a science major.”

**Kallie Kubly**

“I prefer in-person because I feel more connected to the professor and other students.”



**Kaitlin Alighieri**

“I prefer in-person ecause it holds me more account-able.”



**Rebecca Bender**

“I prefer in-person because I get to interact more with my professors and class-mates.”



**Precious Lo**

“I prefer hybiid classes be-cause the online platform allows for independence, but I also like hands on learning.”

**Rachel Burno**

“I prefer in-person be-cause it’s easier to learn that way and you can do things hands-on.”



**Dylan Anderson**

“I prefer in-person because I gt to interact with people.”





# Chancellor spends first months connecting with campus

Brooke Shepherd

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UW-River Falls has named Maria Gallo as the 20th chancellor.

Formerly the president of Delaware Valley University, Gallo is a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Crop and Soil Society of America. She was also a plant molecular biologist, and specialized in crop improvement as a professor and chair of the agronomy department at the University of Florida.

Gallo was born in Westchester County, New York. She attended Cornell University for her undergraduate degree in agronomy and then went on to graduate school for crop science and genetics at North Carolina State University.

Gallo's first assistant professor position was about 30 years ago, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She said when an opportunity opened at UWRF, she was drawn back to the area for its natural beauty and proximity to the Twin Cities. She moved to River Falls this June, and officially started her position as chancellor on July 15.

"I just saw it as an ideal place and a perfect fit. I'm very very honored and privileged to be your chancellor," said Gallo.

Since starting at UWRF, Gallo has been on a listening and learning tour, meeting with departments across campus to get a better understanding of the university. The tour is expected to go through at least the first half of fall semester. She said after the tour, she will put together what she's learned and give people a chance to react.

"Then we'll adjust and kind of blend that into the strategic plan as appropriate," said Gallo. "I want to hear the challenges we have and the opportunities that we have that we're taking advantage of, or that maybe we're not yet."

Gallo said she will use what she learns to work towards building onto the strategic plan, an effort that was launched in 2012 by former Chancellor Dean Van Galen. The plan is to serve as a roadmap when the university faces challenging decisions.

In her free time, Gallo is a fan of hiking, biking, and being in nature. The chancellor said she likes to garden and has many plants. Gallo also has a three year old golden retriever named Ruby, and two cats. Gallo said Ruby loves people.

"If I'm walking her and she sees somebody, she will sit or lay down and wait for them to come pet her. Not everybody wants to do that and she gets a little insulted," said Gallo.

Gallo said she believes being chancellor means she is here to facilitate the vision of the university. The chancellor said she encourages students to connect with her this year. She said for her, it's all about student success, which was defined as finding a well suited job or continuing on with one's education.

Finding common ground is something Gallo tries to do. She said: "My style is to look at where the opportunities are and to go towards those, but in a facilitative way. We need to bring people together and move forward together."



**Maria Gallo is the third woman to be chancellor of the university since it began. Photo by Isabella Forliti.**



**Ruby greets people while visiting campus. Photo courtesy of Pat Deninger**



# UWRF adjusts COVID policies

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Students have arrived back on campus to start classes for the fall semester. Although UW-River Falls is reaching for a “normal” academic year there are noticeable adjustments to how the campus will be functioning.

As of Sunday, Aug. 22, UWRF requires face masks in all indoor spaces and environments where a six-foot social distance is not possible. This policy went into effect regardless of vaccination status and will continue throughout the fall semester. Professors will be allowed to remove masks while teaching classes, considering they can keep that six-foot physical distance in between themselves and the students. The UWRF Interim COVID-19 Related Health and Safety Rules policy document defines a face covering as “a piece of cloth or other material that is worn to cover the nose and mouth completely, also referred to as a ‘face mask.’ A ‘face covering’ or ‘face mask’ includes but is not limited to a cloth face mask, a disposable or paper mask, a neck gaiter, or a religious face mask. A ‘face covering’ or ‘face mask’ does not include face shields, mesh masks, masks with holes or openings, or masks with vents.” The policy is in place until September 30 and is set to be reviewed and revised on that same date.

Students and employees looking for accommodations to the face mask requirement are directed to speak with Human Resources and Ability Services, according to the policy. The document also states exceptions for this requirement such as eating and drinking in public spaces, physical activity outdoors, or whenever alone in spaces such as residence halls or office spaces.

ly, is the same as the test used throughout the Spring semester. Testing is still free to all students, faculty, and community members and is open to everyone regardless of vaccination status.

Previously starting on Tuesday, Sept. 7, 10 percent of all unvaccinated students and staff were randomly chosen to be tested weekly. As of Sept. 16, according to an email sent out to campus from Chancellor Maria Gallo, the policy has been updated. The policy now states that all unvaccinated students must be tested weekly if they live on or come to campus at all. The only ways to avoid mandatory weekly testing is to be fully remote or vaccinated. Debrah Janis, the Director of Student Health and Counseling discussed the repercussions that occur if students do not cooperate with the testing policy, “Students could ultimately be referred for disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct for repeat testing violations.” She mentioned that prior to this students would receive emails and reminders about their obligation before any action is taken.

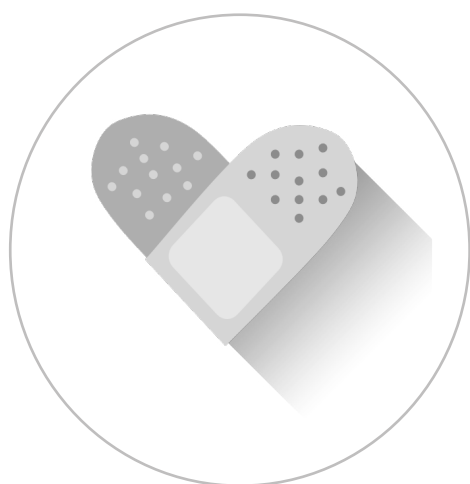
As of Sept. 15, the testing data provided shows that 1,118 students have been tested since beginning the required testing. Some of those tested were not required but did so out of concerns for symptoms. There have been 62 antigen-positive tests – all of the students. The seven-day positivity rate as of Sept. 16 on campus is 5.5 percent, while in Pierce County it is 7.7 percent.

At the forefront of all COVID-19 initiatives on campus is the COVID-19 Operations team. Chancellor Maria Gallo heads the team and is joined by Provost David Travis, Tricia Davis, Debbie Janis, Dina Fassino, Beth Schommer, and Joe Kmiecch. As of yesterday, the Student Government Association President, Bridgette Ledferd, was added to the group to act as student representation. This group will meet weekly and connect with a variety of members across campus to stay on top of policies and any changes that occur.

To encourage cooperation and vaccination amongst students the University has initiated a new campaign called “Protect the Nest.” According to the University’s website, the campaign focuses on motivating students to “VaxUp Falcons” and “Protect the Nest” to keep the community safe. The Protect the Nest website page lists benefits



Protect the Nest initiative. Photo by Brooke Shepherd.



Graphic by Kacey Joslin

Within the policy, it states that students and employees who are granted this exception on a case-by-case basis are not subject to explaining this arrangement.

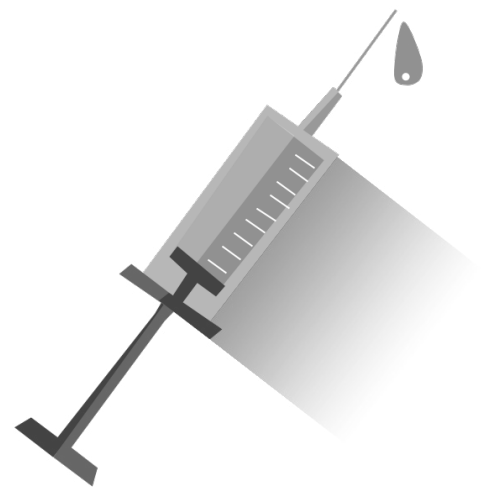
The testing process has made some small changes on campus since last semester. Tests are now self-administered with registered nurses standing by to guide those being tested through the process. According to Janis, the test that is being used this semester, although administered different-

of getting vaccinated such as not having to quarantine if you are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and a list of incentives provided by the University. If students are vaccinated they are told to upload an image of their vaccination card to the vaccine portal on the UWRF website. Once they do that they get a water bottle and enter into a chance to win two mopeds, an apple watch, a Nintendo switch, seven \$1,000 scholarships, and ten \$100 Falcon Dollars certificates. The website also provides a link to a vaccine locator and vaccinated percentage meter. The meter, as of Sept. 16, said that 56 percent of students and 78 percent of employees are vaccinated.

UWRF is also participating in the UW System’s 70 for 70 campaign. Once a campus reaches a 70 percent vaccination rate, those students are entered in a drawing for one of seventy \$7,000 scholarships supported by the UW System.

The University is not mandating vaccination for students and staff at this time but they are highly encouraging vaccination. They continuously mention Pierce County Public Health with whom they

are working closely to keep policies as up-to-date as possible. The University will be hosting pop-up walk-in vaccination clinics on Thursday, Sept. 23, and Monday, Sept. 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Falcon’s Nest at the University Center.



Graphic by Kacey Joslin



# River Falls updates residential parking info

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The City of River Falls Residential Parking Ordinance will go into effect on Sept. 1, through May 31, 2022. The designated residential zones will require a permit to park, and this will be enforced from 7 a.m.-4 p.m., excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

Zone C in the Residential Parking Zone will be in effect from Sept. 1, through Aug. 31, 2022. River Falls police will enforce permit parking in Zone C during the hours of 7 a.m.- 7 p.m., also excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays.

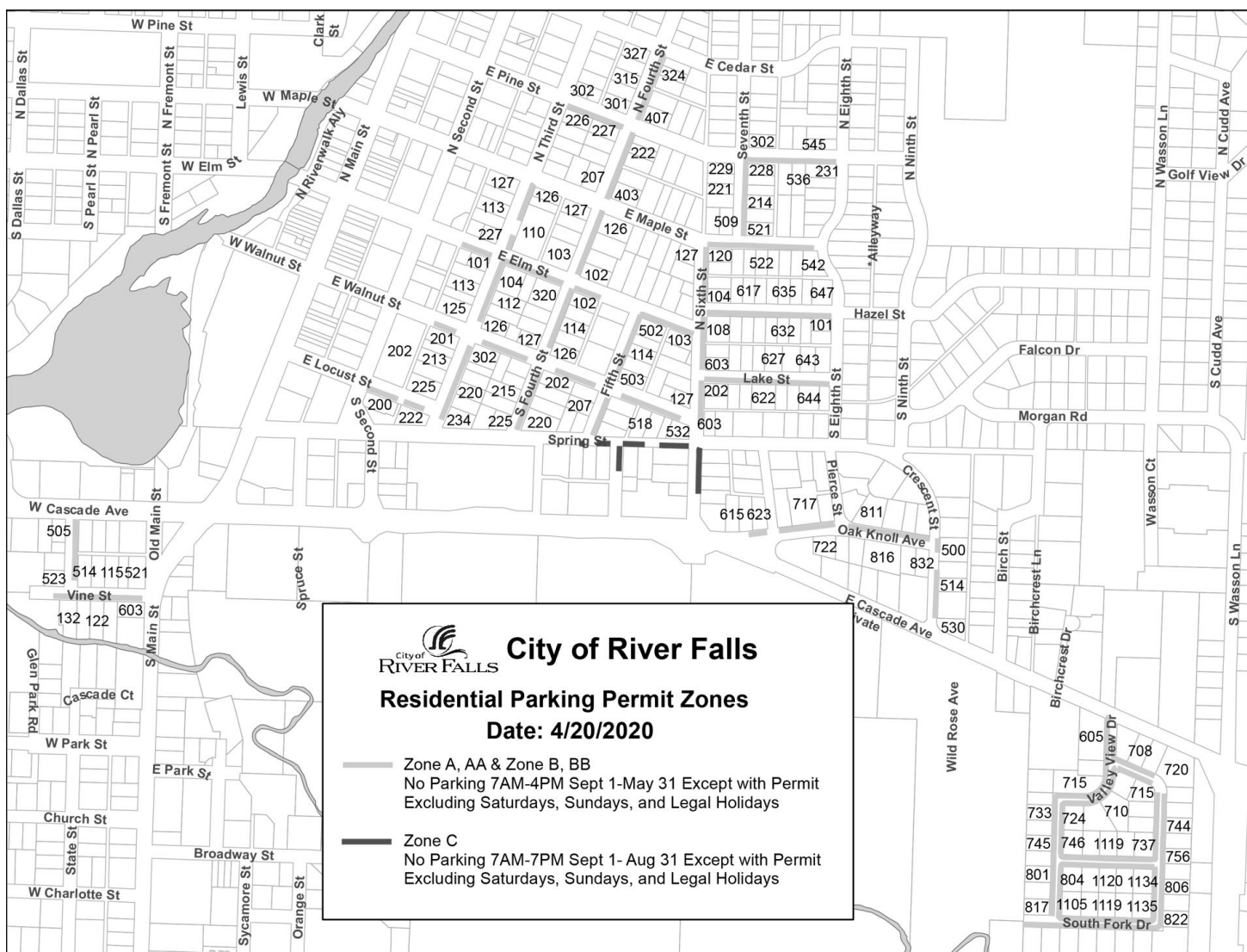
Parking permits will be issued by the City Clerk's office at River Falls City Hall, 222 Lewis St. They may also be purchased online through submitting an application with proof of residency to [www.rfcity.org/parking](http://www.rfcity.org/parking). Permits will be mailed to applicants.

Jackie Sahnaw, deputy city clerk, said the passes are free to anyone who lives in the specific block that is affected, with most of the blocks being near campus. Sahnaw explained that renters can provide a current lease of the property with their name on it as proof of residency in the application.

"If it's a property owner, they would just need to provide a utility bill or their property tax statement, something that shows that they live at that address and then they will receive their parking permits for their vehicles and then so many guest permits," Sahnou said. "It's just so in certain areas, one side of the street is permit parking only, and the other side is open for anybody to park on."

In past years, permits were issued at the Police Department, but Sahnou said that since the department has moved, they are now available at City Hall. She said: "I'm just assisting the Police Department, they do all the enforcement."

For more information, visit the website at [www.rfccity.org/parking](http://www.rfccity.org/parking).



**A map created by the City of River Falls shows where residential parking permits are required.**

# Police department's new space has room for growth

Charlie Swanson

Falcon News Service

The relocation of the River Falls Police Department (RFPD) from its former downtown location to 2815 Prairie Drive within the Whitetail Ridge Corporate Park has been “very smooth,” said Police Chief Gordon Young.

Home to 25 sworn police officers, 21 reserve officers and three civilian staff members, the RFPD was finally able to escape the “maze,” which is what some officers had labeled the building at 125 East Elm St. Completed on April 1, the move addressed the long-standing need for an upgrade of the police station’s resources, chiefly its need for more space.

The new facility provides nearly twice as much space as the previous one, standing at

27,000 square feet. The acquisition price for the building was \$1.5 million, and the cost of the renovations totaled \$3 million, making the total for the relocation \$4.5 million.

Originally, the city council approved \$7.5 million for the construction of a new facility in 2018, but the decision to pivot and purchase the old RiverTown Multimedia Corporation building in 2019 ended up saving the city \$3 million. The former downtown building on Elm Street remains vacant as it awaits a new tenant.

"It was a no-brainer," said Mayor Dan Toland.

Aside from the dramatic increase in operating space, which Young referred to as a “night and day difference,” there was also a consolidation of the department’s records management system. Now, all of RF-



entirety of St. Croix County's police departments. Young credited RFPD's information technology department for relocating the station's equipment, as well as setting up the new records management system, calling it "instrumental." Other new amenities in the repurposed facility include new microphones, speakers and an Emergency Operations and Training Center. Young said that the facility is now capable of hosting regional training sessions.

The city of River Falls has been experiencing steady growth, a reality that both Young and Toland acknowledged as rationale for why the relocation of the police station was a priority. This expansion was certainly accounted for, as Young said that the new station has “space for growth for decades.”

PD's records are filed electronically, which is a method that has been adopted by the

# Scholarship established in memory of philosophy professor Imtiaz Moosa

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The Dr. Imtiaz Moosa Philosophy and Ethics Symposium Series Fund was established at UW-River Falls in honor of a professor of philosophy who recently died.

Imtiaz Moosa, who taught philosophy at UWRF for over three decades, died in December of 2020. According to Dean Yohnk, the dean of the college of arts and sciences, this fund was introduced in June as a way to remember and honor the professor. It was done in consultation with the family of Moosa, the History and Philosophy Department, and the UWRF Foundation.

The fund is meant to provide resources for an annual symposium that will feature experts that will present about philosophical, social justice or contemporary ethical issues. The fund needed to reach \$25,000 in donations to meet the Endowed Fund level required by the UWRF Foundation, and reached its goal in August.

"We have received over \$28,000 in donations to date," said Yohnk. "We are thrilled that gifts continue to be contributed."

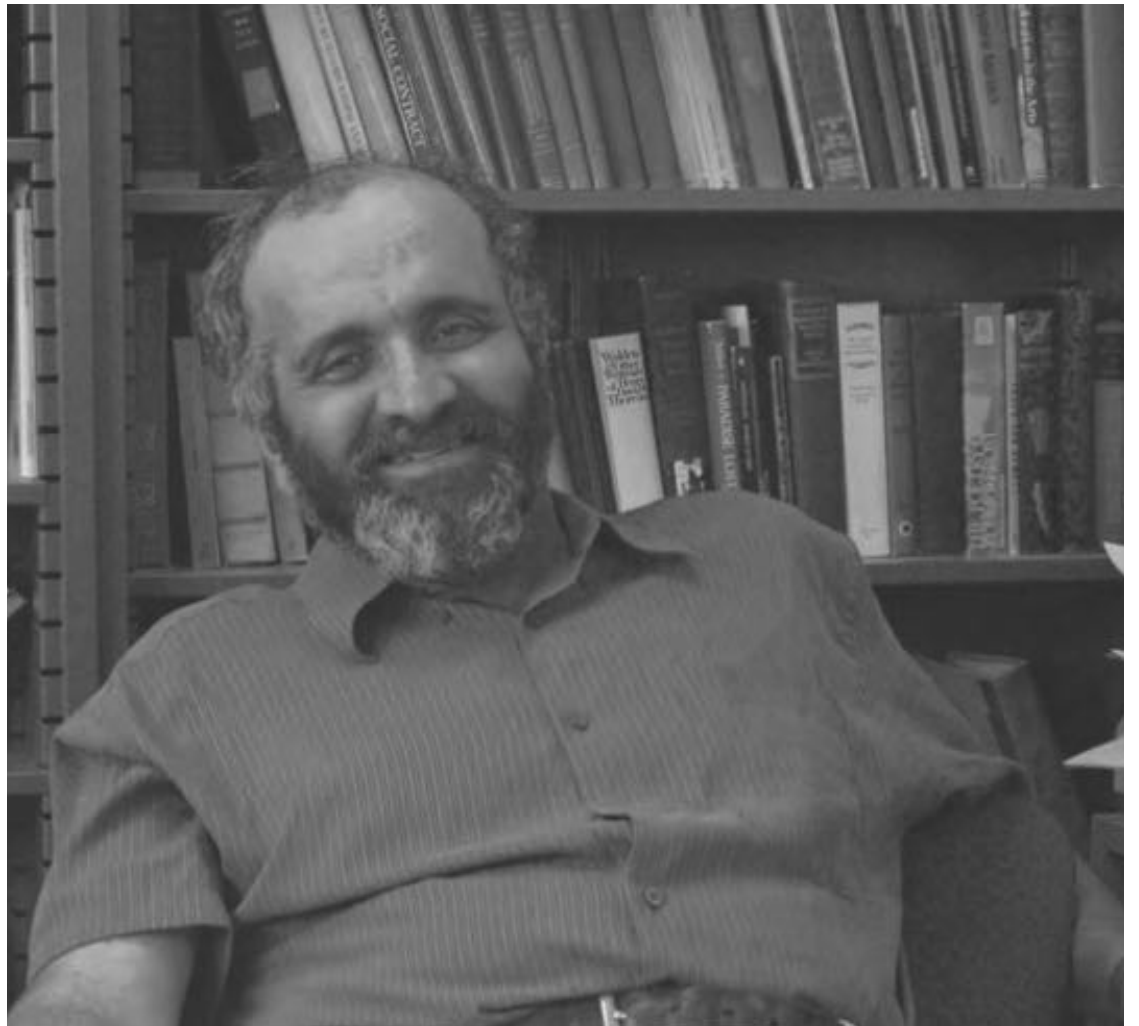
The fund is now endowed and the interest earned on the account annually will be spent to fund at least one guest speaker for the Dr. Imtiaz Moosa Philosophy and Ethics Speakers' Series. Yohnk said the fund will last into perpetuity.

To support the fund, please make a secure online contribution:

<https://www.uwrf.edu/give/MoosaMemorial.cfm>

Checks can be made payable to the UWRF Foundation with Moosa Symposium Series Fund indicated in the memo line and mailed to:

UWRF Foundation  
410 S. 3rd Street  
River Falls, WI 54022



**Imtiaz Moosa (Student Voice file photo)**

# Author and former UWRF faculty dies at age 74

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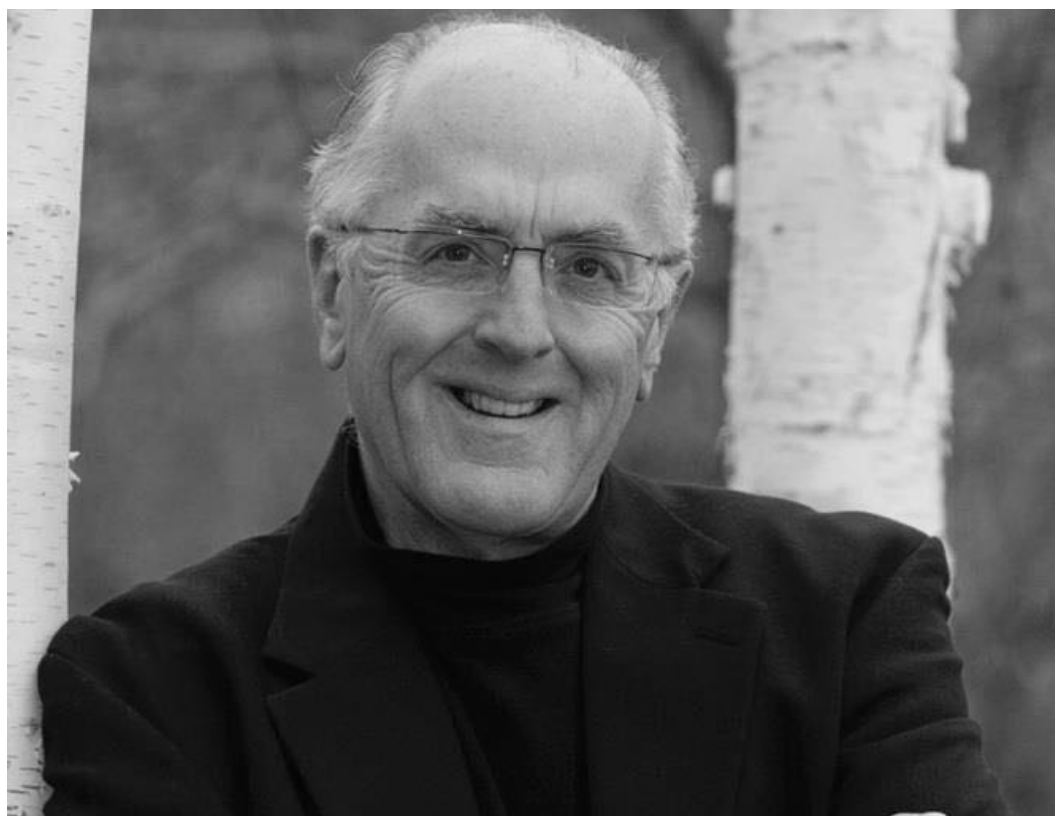
A UW-River Falls associate professor, Michael Norman, died on Aug. 6. Norman was 74 and, according to his obituary, had a peaceful death at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Norman graduated from UWRF in 1969 with a major in journalism. Norman then returned to campus to teach journalism from 1973 until he retired in 2003. During that time, Norman was chair of his department for several years and also advised the radio station from 1973 through 1981. Norman was co-chair of the steering committee for the interdisciplinary Marketing Communications Major, and was one of the founders of the major.

The former professor was also an author of a series of books on hauntings in the Midwest and across the country. He co-authored seven collections of ghost stories including: "Haunted Wisconsin" and "Haunted America." His last book is "The Nearly Departed: Minnesota Ghost Stories and Legends," according to the publisher, the Minnesota Historical Society Press.

Norman is preceded in death by his parents, and favorite pets Frances Loving, Windy, and Reggie, and Axl Rose (cockatiel). He is survived by his wife, Janell (Belisle); beloved son, James (Samah Fahmy); twin granddaughters, Zayna and Daphne; two sisters, Nancy Norman Ball (Russ), and Jane Norman (Tom Lansworth); two nephews and two nieces; and many friends, according to his obituary.

A UWRF scholarship has been established by Norman's family. Memorials to Norman may be made to the Freshman Journalism Scholarship Fund in the Department of Communication and Media Studies through the UWRF Foundation at 118 North Hall, River Falls, WI, 54022, or online at: <https://www.uwrf.edu/give/Mike-Norman-Memorial.cfm>.



**Michael Norman (UWRF file photo)**



# Student dies from Lyme Disease

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A UW-River Falls student, John Palumbo, died from complications with Lyme Disease on Aug. 11, according to his obituary. Palumbo was a junior in the College of Business and Education, and lived in Mahtomedi, Minnesota. His visitation took place on Aug. 19, at Mueller Memorial in White Bear Lake, Minnesota. Palumbo's funeral and

burial followed on Aug. 20, at the Church of St. Jude in Mahtomedi, Minnesota. Memorials were preferred over flowers to the Minnesota Lyme Association (MNLyme.org), according to the obituary. Palumbo was preceded in death by his grandparents Don and Veronica Hill and Don Palumbo. He is survived by his parents, Jeff and Theresa; his brothers Tony and Alex; and his grandmother Ethel Palumbo. Palumbo graduated from Mahtomedi High School in

2015. He was said to be a kind person and always smiling, according to his obituary. According to the John Von Jeffery Palumbo virtual tribute wall, three trees have been planted in memory of him. Students may schedule an appointment with Counseling Services by stopping in 254 Rodli Hall or by calling 715-425-3884. Student Health and Counseling Services provides online resources for coping with tragedy, trauma and death.

# UWRF website update focuses on recruiting students

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The University of Wisconsin-River Falls website, uwrf.edu, is in the midst of a makeover to improve recruitment of students and upgrade the content management system (CMS) operating the site. Because of the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the research an aspiring college student partakes in has been disrupted, thus creating a need for a more digitally focused recruiting strategy from the university. "Websites, especially during this last year or so, have really taken center stage for students that are doing research about colleges," said UWRF Marketing Specialist Cather-

ine Leaf. Changes that have been made so far include a noticeable effort to include more videos on the website, with the home page now containing a series of images and videos showcasing aspects of campus and academic life at UWRF. Introductory videos for each academic college, along with testimony from current and former students about their respective majors, have been added. Additionally, the search tools available for prospective students to find a suitable major have been refined and relocated. UWRF's desire to optimize its website's recruiting capabilities coincided with a need to upgrade the site's CMS, which is the software used to build and manage the website. According to Leaf, it had been several years since changes

have been made to the CMS. Of the approximately 12,000 pages on the site, about 150 have been moved onto Drupal, which is the site's new CMS. As it currently stands, the home page of the site is designed for prospective students, while much of the content pertinent to current members of the UWRF community is found in subdomains of the site. Ultimately, Leaf said that the goal is to make "uwrf.edu the primary recruitment site" for the university. She reiterated that the website remains a work in progress, and that the university plans to engage with faculty, current students and Google Analytics throughout the upcoming semester in order to finish the overhaul of the website.



Visitors to the universities website are now greeted with a video presentation of photos. Photo by Isabella Forliti.

# Diversity Inclusion and Belonging updates positions

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Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (DIB) at UW-River Falls has had a change in leadership.

Martin Olague, who was the director of DIB since 2016, took a position at St. Olaf college in Northfield, Minnesota, according to Jamie Zamjahn, the assistant chancellor for student success.

“I know when the opportunity for Martin came up to go back to his Alma mater and a place that he loves, that’s a hard thing to pass up,” said Zamjahn. “I think he was looking forward to it, and especially when it came from a place that’s special to him.”

The position of director is vacant for now. Nathan Riel-Elness, the gender and sexuality outreach coordinator, has worked with Olague at DIB for over four years. Riel-Elness said with the new vacancy, DIB is updating what the best structure for the office is in terms of programming and initiatives, as well as other support systems that may be in place in the future.

“There’s a number of challenges that come with a transition like this, but I think it’s a great opportunity for him. I’m excited for him and I think it gives us an opportunity to reevaluate some things here in the office,” said Riel-Elness.

Zamjahn is now overseeing the bias incident response team (BIRT), and Riel-Elness is taking over many of the day-to-day oversight and programming for DIB. Ian Stroud, the director of student success, is helping to manage and lead aspects of DIB, according to Zamjahn.

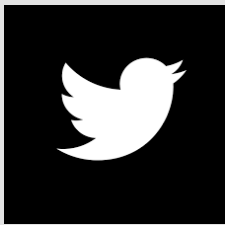
According to Riel-Elness, things should still look pretty normal at DIB this year. He said their biggest goal is making sure students are connected with one another and the resources they need.

Zamjahn said there has been conversation about adding other pieces to the role of director to help the student in more areas like financial literacy, career support, and more. He said: “What I’m trying to do is look at how we can take the great things that Martin has done, but then add in other pieces of support to make it more holistic.”



Martin Olague, the former director of Diversity, Inclusion and belonging. Photo courtesy of Pat Deninger.

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# Campus preacher shares offensive message

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UW-River Falls officials say a recent case of public preaching on campus has the administration considering how to respond, but no action has been decided on yet.

Early in the semester, a man named David Miller reserved a space at the UW-River Falls circle patio, north west of the University Center, to exercise his free speech rights, according to Cara Rubis, director of the University Center and Dining Services.

Miller is not a UWRF student, according to Student Involvement. The man had religious signage, and according to Dina Fassino, the director of communications and marketing, Miller engaged in civil debate with students.

A number of the comments being made by Miller were anti-LGBTQIA+ and targeted other identities as well, according to Nathan Riel-Elness, the gender and sexuality outreach coordinator.

“Some of our students had a very strong emotional reaction as they felt personally attacked by the messages,” said Riel-Elness. “Our office, in coordination with the Chancellor’s office, provided a space for these students to come, process through their feelings, and then ask questions and provide feedback to campus leadership. We had a great conversation that has provided us with numerous action items and follow-up conversations.”

Jamie Zamjahn, the assistant chancellor for student success, said Miller properly reserved the space outside the University Center, and was within his constitutional rights to share his message.

“Unfortunately, the opinions he expressed were offensive to some of our students,” said Zamjahn. “I met and listened to students who were offended by the speaker’s opinions. Chancellor Gallo, Provost Travis, and I told these same students that UWRF will be reviewing its policies and practices based on what happened. I quote Chancellor Gallo’s Friday, September 3 email to campus, ‘Hate Has No Place at UWRF.’”

Fassino said university police and two River Falls officers were on the scene in case things escalated.

In response to the incident, Chancellor Maria Gallo sent out a mass email addressing the situation. She said: “I also will be looking into additional education for our campus as a whole around civil discourse, free speech and how to foster and engage in productive dialogue.”

According to Beth Schommer, the chief of staff, at this time there are no specific examples of additional education for campus as a whole, though there may be a moderated roundtable conversation between student organizations in the future.



Students engage in civil debate with David Miller. Photo by Sophia Forliti

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# Falcon football opens season with resounding victory

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It's been 658 days since the University of Wisconsin-River Falls played a home football game. The wait was worth it as the UWRF football team routed Elmhurst University (IL) by a score of 45-7 in their season opener after not playing last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Falcons got on the scoreboard within 90 seconds when junior wide receiver Andy Groebner hauled in a long touchdown pass from senior quarterback Kole Hinrichsen. Sophomore kicker Kade Henry tacked on a field goal right before senior Bailey Germain returned an interception for a touchdown allowing the Falcon lead to balloon to 17-0. Elmhurst would have an interception returned for a touchdown of their own, cutting the score to 17-7 at halftime.

Hinrichsen would start the second half by throwing his second touchdown pass of the game to Groebner. The junior wide receiver wasn't done as he found the end zone for a third time when he caught a touchdown pass from freshman quarterback Kaleb Blaha. Groebner would finish the afternoon with an impressive stat line of five receptions for 114 yards and three touchdowns. Hinrichsen was equally impressive as he finished with 263 yards on 22 completions with two touchdown tosses.

The Falcons rushing game was strong as they provided two touchdowns in the second half. Senior running back Luke Fugate scored on an 18-yard scamper followed up by fellow senior running back Anthony Silva scoring on a two-yard run shortly after. The Falcons didn't find the end-zone again but the damage was done, putting the game out of reach after the two quick scores.

The Falcon defense did their part in the victory as they limited the Bluejays to 151 total yards while holding the offensive scoreless in the second half. The defense also chipped in five sacks and held Elmhurst to a 20% third down conversion rate. Freshman linebacker Isaiah Karels made his impact on the game as he recorded eight tackles. Another freshman, Dylan Brown, helped shut down the Bluejay passing attack as he recorded four pass breakups.

The victory marks three straight opening



Falcon football players. Photo by Pat Deninger.

season victories as they Falcons have not lost a season opener since 2017. Coincidentally, their 38 point victory is their largest

margin of victory since their 2019 season opener game against the University of Minnesota Morris. Next up the Falcons travel to

Conway, Arkansas to face Hendrix College in a non-conference game. Kickoff was on Sept. 11.

## UWRF women's soccer loses against Macalester

Sam Fristed

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The UW-River Falls women's soccer team lost to Macalester College on Sept. 8 at Ramer Field. With the loss, the Falcons drop to 1-3 overall.

The Falcons failed to find a spark on offensive in the first half and spent a majority of the half defending in their own zone. Macalester generated nine shots with five of the shots producing saves from sophomore goalkeeper Kaylie Krueger. Despite being

credited with the loss, the five saves made by Krueger is a season high. The Falcons offense was failed to get going, recording one shot the entire half.

Macalester kept up the pressure in the second half as they registered nine more shots. The Falcons applied more pressure as they managed to generate three shots with one shot being registered on goal. The Falcons also managed to win two corner kicks but were unable to capitalize. Defender Gretchen Hanson led the offensive efforts as she recorded two shots. Hanson was also

shown a yellow card in the 85th minute, her second booking of the season.

The efforts of Macalester College bore fruit when the Scots broke through with an 84th minute goal scored by forward Julia Kispert after a free kick was put into the box. After a deflection and some defensive confusion, Kispert tucked the ball home inside the right goalpost to give Macalester a late lead. With little time left in the contest the Falcons looked for a late equalizer but came up empty after failing to retain possession after various pushes towards goal.

The Scots held on and Kispert's late goal secured the victory.

After scoring five goals in the last two games the offense went cold on Wednesday evening. When the Falcons failed to find the back of the net in the defeat, it marked the second time in four games the team has failed to score. As a team the Falcons are averaging 1.25 goals per game while conceding 2.25 goals per game.



# Editorial: Testing policy needed a change

UW-River Falls recently updated its COVID policy to require all unvaccinated students and faculty to get tested on a weekly basis. We the Student Voice find this to be the correct course of action moving forward.

Initially the university’s plan was to randomly test 10% of unvaccinated students and 10% of unvaccinated faculty. However, we felt that this put the student body and community at risk. Though mask wearing was still required, only 56% of students on campus are vaccinated, according to university data. This is only slightly higher than the state average.

Last spring, coronavirus testing was required to all students who lived on or visited campus. The university’s campaign launched this fall related to COVID was named Protect the Nest. Under Protect the Nest, the testing guidelines were reduced. There was concern from students and faculty that led to a re-evaluation of the required measures.

The current policy now requires all unvaccinated students and faculty to be tested weekly. With the change in policy, students will have reduced risk of exposure as cases continue to climb in the county and on campus. According to public health data, Pierce County is averaging 18 positive COVID cases per day. The university has had 62 positive cases over the course of the last week.



Photo by Amma Gunderson

## Student Voice

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The Student Voice is a great way to connect with other students and grow your skills in the areas of writing, designing a newspaper, photography, interviewing, and more! No experience needed to join.



Editor Isabella Forliti (left) and Assistant Editor Brooke Shepherd (right)

## STUDENT VOICE

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

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 54022 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.



# Chicken Gnocchi Soup

By Anna Gunderson

Fall is here, meaning it’s officially soup season! This rich, warm and filling soup tastes just as wonderful fresh and it does the next day. Every time my mom makes this recipe, it brings joy and comfort to everyone who enjoys it.

- Mom’s Kitchen Recipe
- Serves: 16
- Ingredients
- 2 tbsp butter
- ½ cup celery, washed and thinly sliced
- ¼ cup grated onion
- 1/3 cup grated carrots
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- 2 tbsp flour
- 6 chicken bouillon cubes
- 8 cups water
- 1/8 tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp ground thyme
- 4 cup rinsed baby spinach
- 2 cup cooked chicken diced
- 4 cup heavy cream
- 16 oz gnocchi
- If needed:
- Cornstarch
- Cold water

Instructions:

Melt butter over medium heat in a large pot; add celery, onions, carrots, garlic. Stir until celery starts to soften

Whisk in flour; add water and chicken bouillon cubes.

Add the chicken, nutmeg, thyme; stir well. Increase heat to a boil then reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.

In a small saucepan, heat the heavy cream then add to the soup. Add spinach and gnocchi

Simmer for 15-20 minutes until gnocchi is cooked.

If needed: combine equal parts cold water and cornstarch to thicken.



A hearty bowl of chicken gnocchi soup. Photo by Isabella Forliti.

## Key Homecoming Events



Sept. 27: Border Battle Food Drive  
12:00 a.m.-11:45 p.m.  
University Center (UC)

Sept. 27: Home-Cooked Homecoming Meal  
5:30pm-6:30pm  
UC Mall

Sept. 28: Homecoming Border Battle Tug-o-War  
7:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Hathorn Hall Mall (rain site: Falcon’s Nest)  
Campus Contact: amy.lloyd@uwrf.edu

Sept. 29: DIY Homecoming T-Shirt Design  
11:00 a.m., Involvement Center, UC

Sept. 29: Falcon Women’s Volleyball vs. UW-Lacrosse  
3:00 p.m., Page Arena

Sept. 29: Bowling  
10:00 p.m., St. Croix Lanes  
Campus Contact: ryan.rudesill@uwrf.edu  
This event is free with your student ID.

Sept. 30: Campus Rec Bean Bag Tournament. 4:00 p.m.  
Hathorn Mall

Oct. 2: Stuff-A-Pup  
8:00 a.m., UC  
Build-a-bear style workshop, with a limit of one stuffed animal per person.

Oct. 2: Homecoming Parade  
10:30 a.m., Downtown River Falls

Full event schedule on:  
<https://www.uwrf.edu/StudentInvolvement/EventsandPrograms/Homecoming.cfm>