

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN STUDENT VOICE RIVER FALLS

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UWRF rebrands to emphasize recruitment

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Students at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls were met with a new UW-River Falls logo this semester, part of what the university calls its “revitalized brand.” Maria Gallo, chancellor of UW-River Falls, announced the rebrand on Aug. 29th.

“Our institution needed a modern brand that exemplifies the ambition and boldness of our students and employees,” Gallo said. The rebrand also included an updated website, which replaced the old UW-River Falls website in the second week of September.

The new logo is made up of a falcon head and stylized “RF” letters, and includes a blue star. According to a promotional website for the rebrand, this star represents aspiration, while the falcon head represents determination, and the “RF” letters represent River Falls.

Beth Schommer, Chief of Staff at UW-River Falls, said that it had been 15 years since the university had updated its brand or conducted a brand study. According to Schommer, the reason for the rebrand was to appeal to prospective students, stand out from other universities, and reflect



The new UW-River Falls logo has appeared on lampposts around campus. (Photo by Jack Schindler Van Hoof)

UWRF values.

Schommer also described the rebrand’s development process. “[In the] fall of 2021, right after Chancellor Gallo arrived, we started thinking, we really need to do some work in this area,” Schommer said. The university worked with KW2, a marketing and web design agency located in Madison, WI. “We really began the brand research in the spring,” Schommer said.

The research was directed by a core team representing UW-River Falls’ communication, marketing, and admissions office. According to Schommer, Chancellor Gallo was directly involved in this core team. A brand advisory

team was also created, made up of “pertinent academic departments, representatives of every college, [and] representatives of different groups like Student Involvement [and] shared governance.”

“We tried to get everyone to have a seat at the table in terms of the actual review of the brand assets as they were being developed,” Schommer said. “It’s been a very participatory process.” In the spring of 2022, the university sent out surveys to UWRF students, alumni, faculty, and employees to gather input, with over one thousand individuals taking part.

Following this research phase, work on the rebrand continued. “[KW2 has] been working on developing all the brand elements over the past several months, getting us to the launch here that we had at the end of

August,” Schommer said.

According to Schommer, “the brand research, development of the brand tools and messages, testing, brand campaign development and brand launch done by KW2 cost \$232,000.”

As for the updated website, Schommer said, “Our [old] website was sorely lacking in really giving [students] the user experience that we wanted them to have.” Schommer referred to the website as the “prospective student website,” and said that the update included around 200 pages dedicated to recruitment, with features like the virtual campus tour.

Schommer also commented on student reactions to the rebrand. “The overwhelming response has been positive,” she said. “People are really excited to see us introduce something new.” Schommer went on to mention a Facebook post published on UW-River Falls’ official Facebook page on Aug. 30th. The post was an announcement of the new logo and the symbolism behind its various elements.

The most liked comment on this post, by Heather York, who, according to her Facebook page, graduated from UW-River Falls in 1993, said, “It’s still a complete waste of time and energy on [the university’s] part and it doesn’t represent either the college or the community.”

“There was some pretty energetic dialogue that went on, in response to that Facebook post,” Schommer said. “Everyone’s going to have their opinions and they have the right to those opinions. I think we really hit the nail on the head with it, and there’s going to be some outliers, and that’s fine. We expect that to happen.”

The new logo has already been implemented across campus and online, though it may take a year or more to appear on merchandise.

While some elements of UW-River Falls’ brand, such as the university seal and the Falcon Athletics logo, will remain the same, the new brand is here to stay, and will likely be the face of UW-River Falls for years to come.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN RIVER FALLS

The new UW-River Falls logo and wordmark.

Yohnk, Arts and Sciences dean, to step down, return to teaching



Dean Yohnk

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Dean Yohnk, dean of the UW-River Falls College of Arts and Sciences, is stepping down effective with the spring 2023 semester. He announced his resignation in a Wednesday, Sept. 14, email to faculty and staff.

Yohnk stated that chronic and continuing health issues are the

reason for this decision.

Although Yohnk will be stepping down from the CAS dean position, he will still teach in the Music and Stage and Screen Arts Department beginning in the fall of 2023.

"Teaching has always been my passion and inspiration," wrote Yohnk.

Karl Peterson will serve as the interim dean for the spring 2023 semester. Peterson is currently the CAS associate dean and a professor teaching chemistry and biotechnology.

Yohnk wrote that "Karl will do a fine job in this interim dean role, and we are very fortunate to have him in this

important leadership transition."

The new nationwide dean search will start soon, according to Provost David Travis. The university is hoping to have all final candidates come to UWRF and to allow CAS students some input on the hiring decision. Travis also stated that the dean's resignation "should not affect the CAS students in any way."

Yohnk wrote, "I have truly loved my time at UW-River Falls and look forward to remaining a spirited member of the Falcon Family for years to come."

The dean was not available for comment before this story was published.

Volunteers on Falcon Move Crew welcome new students to UWRF

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Sept. 3rd saw the arrival of over 825 students to the University of River Falls campus, where the Falcon Move Crew assisted them with the move into their residence halls.

The move crew, made up almost entirely of student volunteers, took on various roles: directing traffic, unloading vehicles, checking in students, and taking care of garbage, among other tasks. This year, 119 volunteers turned out, with about 105 of them being students.

This is an increase over the previous year, which had a turnout of around 100.

"I don't think I can overstate exactly how important [volunteers] are," said Liz Brunner, the manager for Residence Life Student Leadership and Outreach, and director of the Falcon Move Crew. "Moving in can be a really exciting time and it can be a really stressful time."

"Without [volunteers], I think moving would be a totally different experience. I think it would end up being way more stressful."

Most UW-River Falls students move in on Sept. 3rd, while around 600 students, including members of the Falcon Move Crew themselves, move in earlier.

This year, the Falcon Move Crew tried something new: they set up tents on the east and west sides of campus to check volunteers in and out of their shifts, and provide

bottled water and snacks as well as extra t-shirts and nametags.

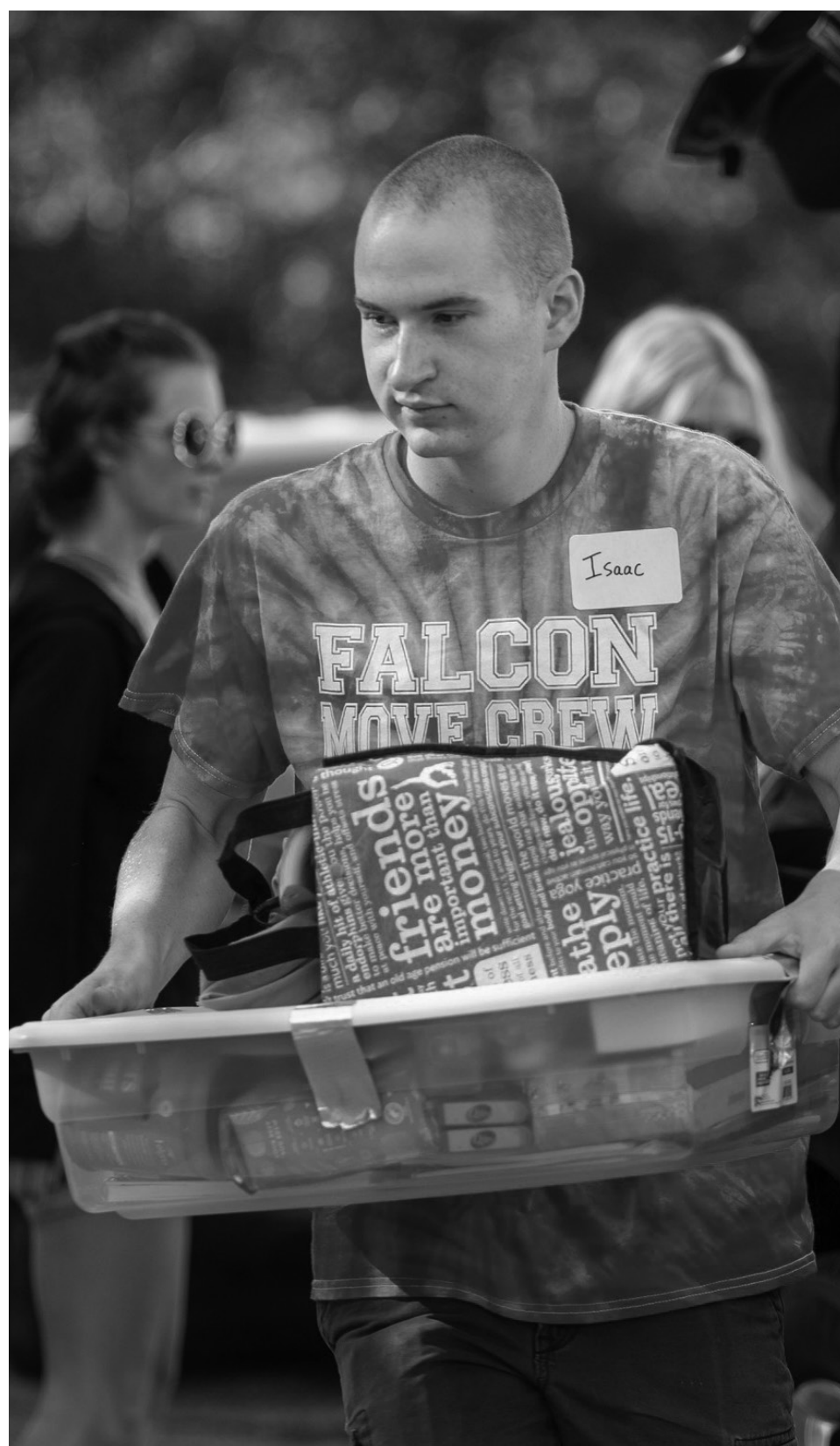
In addition, the UWRF University Center delivered lunches to volunteers who worked both morning and afternoon shifts. "I think it was really helpful, and I'll plan on doing it again," Brunner said.

On move day, the Falcon Move Crew focuses on engaging students and seeking opportunities to assist them. "Something that I really try to hit home with the volunteers is, 'Be aware of the people around you and make the first move. Go say hello. Go introduce yourself and help them and let them know that you're willing to help,'" Brunner said.

"I think that can make a huge difference and can be an important first impression."

Brunner said that there are various reasons why students volunteer to help out with the move crew. "I hope that they volunteer because they want to be good neighbors and [because] it's a great opportunity to meet people," she said. "I've heard from students last year and I'm hearing from them this year that it was a good way to get connected."

As for the move on Sept. 3rd, Brunner said she deems it a success. "If students, families, [and] loved ones feel supported and volunteers feel supported, then to me it was a success." She said she can't thank the volunteers enough, and hopes to see them return to help with the move crew next year.



A member of the Falcon Move Crew unloads boxes. (Photo courtesy of UW-River Falls Residence Life)

Falcon football wins home opener

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The Falcon football team took the field at David Smith Stadium for the first time in 2022. The Falcons, ranked No. 17 in the American Football Coaches Association poll, their highest ranking in history, came into Saturday night's game against Northwestern. They didn't disappoint.

The Falcons started off the game with a bang. On the first play of the game, Falcon quarterback Kaleb Blaha found Mason Van Zeeland wide open off of a flea flicker touchdown to put the Falcons up 7-0. Then, after the Falcon defense held Northwestern scoreless, running back TJ Little scored a 73-yard touchdown. The Falcons started the first quarter with two plays for two touchdowns and a 14-0 lead.

Late in the first quarter, Northwestern got the ball deep in Falcon territory, because the Falcons failed to convert on fourth down. However, the defense was able to get out of the drive, allowing zero points thanks to an end zone interception from Dylan Brown.

A poorly executed punt by Northwestern set up River Falls' first drive of the second quarter on the opponent's 30 and set up the third touchdown of the day for the Falcons.

This touchdown was executed through a 20-yard run by Michael Krueger and an 11-



The Falcons broke a school record record against Northwestern. (Photo by S. Silver Photography)

yard touchdown pass. With the Falcons up 21-0, it looked like they were going to pull away. However, after Northwestern missed a field goal, the Eagle defense picked off Blaha for a pick six, making it a 21-6 game.

On the next drive, when it looked like Blaha would get a first down run, he lost

the ball and Northwestern recovered. After the Falcon defense stuffed Northwestern on fourth down, River Falls retook the ball and was able to get their fourth touchdown of the night, thanks to two third down conversions by Kruger and Van Zeeland's second touchdown reception. River Falls went into

halftime with a 28-6 lead.

In the third quarter, the Falcons had Northwestern scoreless on their first drive of the second half. A big reception by Luke Kush set up the Falcons in first and goal territory, and set up a run-in from Blaha for the touchdown. River Falls had built up a 35-6 lead, and it looked like the game was over, but a sloppy third quarter kept the Eagles in it.

First, a series of penalties by the Falcon defense kept Northwestern's second drive of the half alive, and the Eagles were able to get a touchdown to make it 35-13. The Falcons brought in their second stringers, due to it being a three-score lead, and with such little time left.

After an interception thrown by backup Tyler Schweigert, Northwestern turned it into a touchdown and was only down 35-20 to start the fourth quarter. Since Northwestern had narrowed the deficit to 35-2, Head Coach Matt Walker put the starters back in. In the fourth quarter, River Falls landed four touchdowns, and this time, Northwestern was unable to respond. The Falcons ended up winning the game 63-27.

On offense, Kaleb Blaha had 315 yards of total offense running and throwing the ball, with five touchdowns. TJ Little led the day rushing with 135 rushing yards. Mason Van Zeeland had 120 receiving yards with three touchdowns. On defense, the Falcons had six sacks, with Jake Halsey having a pair. Andrew Schumacher and Dylan Brown both had an interception, and Aaron Borgerding had seven total tackles.



The Falcons defeated the Eagles 63-27. (Photo by Tim Kruse Sports Photography)

UWRF welcomes dean of students

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This past summer, UW-River Falls welcomed Dr. Katie Jackson as the new Dean of Students.

As the current Dean of Students at UWRF, Dr. Jackson is the primary advocate for Student Success. She also oversees students outside the classroom in areas such as housing, dining, the University Center staff, Title IX, Student Conduct, Violence Prevention, and the collaborations between these areas.

For the past six years, Dr. Jackson has worked at UM-Duluth as the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution. She worked every day with the Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students, responding to crisis situations and student concerns. There she “got a good look at what it meant to be a dean.” She describes coming to UWRF as “the next natural step.”

Dr. Katie Jackson started her journey towards the Dean of Students position as an undergraduate psychology and religion double major at Concordia College. She first started working with college students during her three years as a Resident Assis-

tant. She described it as her “favorite thing about college.” Dr. Jackson was also a hall director in southern Mississippi, while she worked towards her master’s degree before going on to earn a doctorate degree from the University of Missouri in education leadership.

Dr. Jackson had an upbringing in a small farm community. When she first came to campus in June of 2022, she was surprised by the agricultural focus, passion, and hard work here at UWRF. She instantly felt at home.

When asked what occupation she would choose if she were not a Dean, Dr. Jackson responded, “I might have been a librarian. I really love books, Å [it] would have been a lot of fun.”

In addition to reading, Dr. Jackson enjoys running, hiking, camping, and being outdoors. Accordingly, her favorite travel destination is a hiking trail in Norway.

Her advice for UWRF students is, “Real life starts now. People sometimes think that college is a time that might not really matter, and that real life is something off in their future, but the things you are doing as a student today- working together, doing research, doing projects-I think your life and



Dean of Students Katie Jackson. (Submitted photo)

career will look pretty similar once you get out into the working world, so think of this as the real deal.”

Latest census shows western Wisconsin continues to grow, although at slower pace

Dawson Flaherty

Falcon News Service

Population growth is up in many cities across western Wisconsin, with River Falls, Hudson and New Richmond being just a few examples.

Although data from the 2020 United States census will still take months and years to be released, there is one thing that’s certain: Whether it be the decreased cost of living or the escape from city life, population across western Wisconsin has been growing since the second half of the 20th century.

“I would say that, one, people are looking to maybe move out of the Twin Cities area, where it is so populated, into more of what you might want to call a suburban, and up till the last couple of years the city of New Richmond has been probably one of the most reasonable communities within decent traveling distance,” said Beth Thompson, the community development director for the city of New Richmond.

New Richmond had the most significant population growth out of the three cities, with an increase of 20.3% since the 2010 census, rising from roughly 8,400 residents to 10,079. In response to the increase in population, New Richmond has been focusing on creating more housing.

Thompson said, “In 2020 we had 125 new dwelling units, and in 2021 we had 114 new dwelling units. That’s really high for a community of our size in just those past couple of years.”

Hudson has seen a decrease in the rate of population growth since the previous census, but it still managed to grow by 16% since 2010. Its population rose from roughly 12,700 residents to 14,755 in the 2020 census.

However, from 2000 to 2010 the community’s population shot up more than 49%. The decrease in the rate of growth compared to previous censuses is due to a slew of different issues, but partially has to do with the city’s position.

“Hudson is a little unique and kind of different from the other communities in western Wisconsin in a lot of ways in that we can’t grow to the west and we can’t because of the river, and we can’t grow to the north because of the village of North Hudson,” said Mike Johnson, assistant city administrator and community development director for the city of Hudson. “Our growth really has to be focused more east and south. So we’re kind of — I don’t wanna say hemmed in — but a little bit, there are only so many places where we can grow.”



A sign along Highway 29 marking the city limits of River Falls has been updated with the latest population number. (Photo by UWRF Journalism)

Like Hudson, River Falls has also gone through a bit of a dip throughout the 2010s compared to previous census data growth. Even so, there has still been some increase since 2010, with the population growing by 7.9% since the last census, from 15,000 residents to 16,182. Emily Shively, city planner for the city of River Falls, said the economy was a factor in why the 2010s weren’t as prosperous for growth as the decades before.

“So I think there was quite a bit of growth up until the 2010s and then there was the great recession,” she said. “So I think that really put a pause on a lot of growth and development for economic reasons.”

Wisconsin Tuition Promise offered to UWRF students

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The Wisconsin Tuition Promise is a new program that will help underserved Wisconsin students to attend a UW system university without having to pay tuition or fees.

The program will be launching in the fall of 2023. The goal is to help state residents who are first-generation students and students coming from low-to-moderate income families to graduate with a bachelor’s degree. This would improve their own lives and their communities, and help meet the demands of the state’s workforce.

Students must come from families that earn less than \$62,000 a year, and they must be enrolled at one of the 12 public universities in the UW system, other than UW-Madison.

Students must first file a FAFSA, and they will be automatically considered for the Wisconsin Tuition Promise when they apply for federal financial aid.

Due to this, the program is designed to provide the financial support that students need, after federal and state grant aid has been accounted for. The amount that each student will receive from the Tuition Promise will vary because of this.

Students must also be Wisconsin residents, be seeking a first-time bachelor or associate degree, be enrolled continuously, make academic progress each year, and have been employed within the last year.

Contact information for all of the university’s financial aid offices can be found at [Wisconsin.edu/tuition-promise/](https://www.wisconsin.edu/tuition-promise/) as well as current news on the Tuition Promise.

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UC terrace project to be completed spring 2023

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A metal fence surrounds the eastern walkway in front of the UW-River Falls University Center. Inside the confines of the fence, construction is underway to erect the university's new terrace renovation.

The project, set tentatively to be finished in early December, will be a new space for students to utilize at the university. "It is a space to engage. A place to study, to sit, and hang out," said Henry Walling, associate director of University Center Operations.

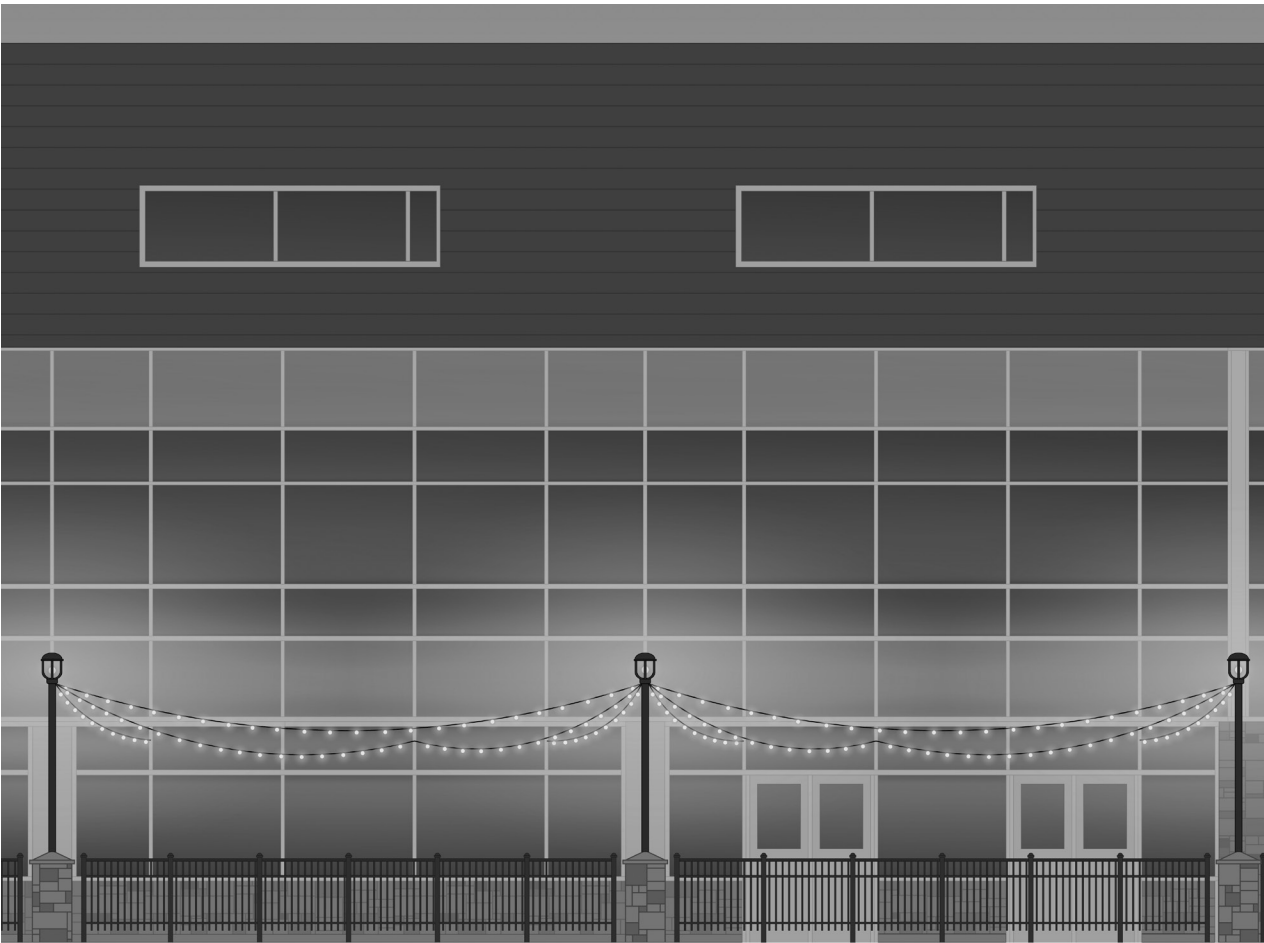
The new terrace will feature festoon lighting to illuminate the patio and a variety of furniture for students to use. "The idea is that we can get about 150 people sitting out there, so it is going to be expansive," Walling said.

The terrace was featured in the original designs for the university center over fifteen years ago. "This was actually envisioned seventeen years ago when the [university center] was being conceptualized," Walling stated.

The space is also envisioned for student and community events. Walling went on to say. "This whole corridor will [also] become one larger event space, one gathering space...and available for campus-wide programming."

Funding for the project comes from students' segregated fees, which are collected at the beginning of each semester.

For the fall semester of 2022, the segregated fee for the university center totaled \$236.46 per student, according to



An artist rendering of the University Center terrace project. (Courtesy of UW-River Falls)

the university's website.

Prior to the utilization of funds, Walling, along with other faculty of the university center, met with the student senate to approve projects. "Anytime your [student] fees are being assessed, that budget line has to be set and approved by

student senate," he said.

The new terrace is projected to be available for student use for the spring semester of 2023. "It's just giving back the students their space...where they can be themselves, interact with people and relax," Walling stated.

Falcon Links receives \$70,000 grant

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Falcon Links receives a \$70,000 grant to help students who do not have family support connect to UWRF resources.

Based off of the UW Stout Fostering Success program, UWRF has developed a program called Falcon Links that not only helps students who were previously a part of the foster care system but any students who do not have a family support system.

"We intentionally didn't call it Fostering Success and part because it's not just for students who aged out of foster care but also really for any students who were system involved," said Tammy Kincaid the social work associate professor in charge of the program.

The Falcon Links program does provide social services they are not any student's social worker.

Many of the resources Falcon Links connects students to are things like Ability Services, Health and Counseling Services, on campus living, on campus jobs, River Falls community food pantry, transportation, community closet, and off campus jobs if needed.

Falcon Links is also hoping to add case management services, an emergency financial support fund, and to pay for students to stay in the dorms over break if they don't have a family to return to.

Although Falcon Links is newer to UWRF, Kincaid has

informally been providing services to a small group of students for years. Her background in child welfare and her experience of ageing out of foster care and going to college has helped to shape Falcon Links to what it is today.

Staff are currently seeking out and searching for students who would benefit from this connection and are hoping that students will hear about Falcon Links and recommend others to reach out.

"The goal is to have about 25 students in the program and help whoever needs help," said Kincaid.

Kincaid is not the only one running the program. The UWRF social work department was able to get a Masters of Social Work Intern from the University of Minnesota and has connections with Residence Life, Financial Aid, and Student Success.

Social work students are not directly involved with providing support for students a part of Falcon Links in order to prevent dual relationships. Dual relationships refers to multiple roles that exist between a social worker and a client. Students can help out with broader things like fundraising and spreading information about what Falcon Links does.

Falcon Links not only will help college students without a family support system but also highschool students. The program will help students with questions about scholarships and grants, the admission process, support them in FASFA navigation, plans for college, and UW-River Falls visit opportunities.



Tammy Kincaid

Visit the Student Voice website at uwrfvoice.com

River Falls cleanup set for first week of October

Joshua Brauer
Falcon News Service

The annual River Falls autumn cleanup will take place 4-8 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3, through Friday, Oct. 7, and from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday Oct. 8.

“It helps keep River Falls clean,” said the city’s Utility Director Kevin Westhuis. “It allows people to gather trash out of the alleys, behind their garages, get it out, and get it thrown away.”

Located at the City Public Works Garage on 950 Benson St., the fall and spring cleanup has been a part of the River Falls community for as long as Westhuis has been working at city hall.

“It’s been here eight years, potentially 10,” he said.

The cleanup is provided for any resident who pays for their utilities through River Falls Municipal Utilities. For UW-River Falls students looking to participate in the cleanup, “Let’s say that you (students) don’t pay for your utilities, your landlord does, you’d have to see your landlord and receive a copy of the utility bill to bring stuff down for spring or fall cleanup,” Westhuis stated.

A large number of River Falls residents participate in the cleanup event every year.

“We get around a thousand people that come through every year,” Westhuis said. That is around 10% of the city’s 10,300 residents that are not college students, according to the City of River Falls website.

The service is provided by the city and funded by the CORE (compost and recycling) fee on residents’ utility bills through River Falls Municipal Utilities, according to the city’s website. This fee covers both the fall and spring cleanups, along with the city’s compost site and electronic recycling event.

“It’s so handy because I just throw stuff in the back of my pickup, I drive there, and just haul it out,” Westhuis said.

For more information regarding the River Fall’s annual fall and spring cleanup visit the city’s website at rfcity.org.



Hail damage strikes cars on campus

According to the Falcon Daily, numerous people across campus continue to clean up after extensive hail, wind and rain damage Tuesday night, Sept. 20. Nearly 80 vehicles sustained damage, including student, employee and state vehicles. Grimm Hall also sustained damage.



Photos submitted by students. Top left: Lexi Janzer. Top right: Jessalyn Marshall. Bottom left: Jessalyn Marshall. Bottom right: Greta Weix

Editorial: The end of COVID-19 at UWRF?

With the start of the 2022-2023 school year at UW-River Falls, students are experiencing, for the first time since 2020, a semester free of COVID-19 restrictions. The university was almost completely silent on the issue of the pandemic, save for a few emails and a brief article.

The university's COVID update website was last updated on February 25, 2022; their COVID-19 dashboard was last updated on May 13, 2022. This lack of information has left many students to wonder, is COVID still an issue on campus, and what is UWRF's COVID policy this semester?

Currently, masking is not required on campus, and neither are COVID tests or vaccinations. In addition, on-site COVID tests were discontinued last year, and have not returned. The university has said that "those who want to continue to wear masks are welcome to do so" and that they will continue to provide "high-quality masks available as supplies last."

Also, students who contract COVID are advised to quarantine in place or return home, and talk to their Hall Director if they are staying in a residence hall. These few statements are a majority of UWRF's COVID policy at the moment.

The university has also announced that COVID home testing kits are available at Student Health and Counseling Services, which may be adequate to meet any need, especially since on-site testing was underutilized when it wasn't a requirement to be tested. However, these home testing kits are most likely less accurate than the ones the university previously offered.

As of September 15, the COVID community level for Pierce County is low, according to the CDC. As such, there is little need for required masking or measures such as required testing or online-only classes, but it cannot be understated that COVID is still an issue, and should not be ignored.

Most, if not all, students, including those at the Student Voice, are happy to return to a 'normal' college experience and put the hardships of the pandemic behind us. However, the university should be prepared to act if necessary, as in the instance of a sudden spike in cases.

Even if COVID isn't a widespread issue on campus, the minority of students who contract the disease, are immunocompromised, or are worried about it should still be supported, and

not left to address these issues on their own.

One potential reason for the lack of communication on the university's part on COVID policy could be recruitment. With the university's recent rebrand, it is clear that recruitment is a top priority, as it is for universities, along with retention.

If the university were to send out more information on its COVID policy, it could give students the impression that COVID is still a widespread issue. This, of course, could scare new students from enrolling, and perhaps returning students as well. UWRF's enrollment numbers dropped from 2020 to 2022, almost certainly due to the pandemic, and the university may be trying to prevent a similar situation by avoiding the topic altogether.

On a positive note, however, the university is offering free COVID vaccine clinics on Tuesday, September 27th and on Wednesday, September 28th; they are the only two 'events' that even relate to COVID-19. Both clinics will be held from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM in the Ballroom on the second floor of the University Center.

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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@uwrfvoice.com.

The Student Voice reserves the right to edit any material for content, libel or space. It

also reserves the right to withhold letters. All letters, news releases, briefs, display ads and classified ads must be able to be submitted no later than Wednesday at noon during the week of publishing. Information on publishing schedule can be obtained by contacting the editor.

Because of high production costs, UW-River Falls community members are permitted to collect one copy of the Student Voice per issue. A single copy of the Student Voice is valued at \$1, and additional copies may be requested from the editorial staff via email. Newspaper theft is a crime. Those who violate the single copy rule may be subject to civil and criminal prosecution.

Recent UWRF art graduate Eva Schrank dies Sept. 6

Eva Lindsey Schrank, a dancer, dance instructor, choreographer, artist, and cat lover, died Sept. 6 at their home in River Falls. She was 22.

According to an obituary from Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services, Eva was born on May 19, 2000, in St. Paul. Arts and crafts, costume play, card and board games, and learning Spanish from her mother were some of the things they enjoyed at home. Eva benefited from having a stay-at-home parent.

Eva loved their brother, Calvin, deeply. They were best friends from beginning to end. They spent many hours together. Eva made a point to teach Calvin how to be an honorable young man, how to be respectful and accepting of others, and would be proud of how the River Falls community has stepped up to care and watch over him.

After attending Country Goose Preschool

and University Preschool at UW-River Falls, Eva began a 13-year educational journey through the River Falls School District, attending Westside Elementary, Meyer Middle School, and finally River Falls High School. Eva graduated from UW-River Falls in May 2022 with high honors and a degree in art. As a third-generation graduate from the university, Eva proudly walked across the stage wearing their Grandpa Carl's 1976 class ring on a necklace.

Eva danced for nine years at St. Croix Valley Dance Academy (SCVDA) in Baldwin before going on to both teach dance and be a member, choreographer, and president of the UW-River Falls Dance Theatre program. While at SCVDA, Eva gained proficiency in dance styles ranging from ballet, jazz, and tap, to lyrical and contemporary. As an integral part of SCVDA competitive dance teams throughout middle and high

school, Eva helped each team earn accolades and several top place trophies.

Eva's legacy would not be complete without a nod to their ability to see, validate and love individuals from the LGBTQ community. They helped create a safe, welcoming space for all people to be themselves and to live out loud with dignity and self-pride, which was on full display as an Emcee of the annual UW-River Falls Drag Show and on and off the university campus throughout the years.

Eva is preceded in death by grandfather, Carlyle Schrank, of River Falls. Eva is survived by mother, Nancy of River Falls; father, Jason, of River Falls; brother, Calvin, who is a sophomore at River Falls High School; grandmother, Barbara Schrank (Tom Ripplinger), of Hammond, Wisconsin; grandparents, Patricia and William Gamble, of Anoka, Minnesota; step-grand-



Eva Lindsey Schrank died Sept. 6 in River Falls.

UWRF alumna inducted into Broadcasting Hall of Fame

Lexi Janzer

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UWRF alumna Cathy Wurzer inducted into Minnesota Broadcasting Association Hall of Fame on Sept. 17th.

Wurzer currently is the host of MPR News Morning Edition, Minnesota Now, and is the co-host of the Twin Cities PBS's Almanac. Before joining Morning Edition she was an anchor and reporter for WC-CO-TV, a talk show host for WCCO-AM radio, and a producer for KMSP-TV. She has won four Emmy awards for her work on the Almanac.

Wurzer has been reporting every weekday from Morning Edition for 20 years along with hosts in Washington D.C. and Los Angeles for NPR. Morning Edition provides listeners with breaking news to start their day. Minnesota Now is a recent project at MPR News which has unscripted interviews which airs weekdays at noon.

Stephanie Curtis, MPR News Director of Programming said in an MPR press release, "she is a mainstay of MPR News, and her ability to report on the issues that matter most to Minnesotans with proficiency and grace is invaluable."

Almanac is the longest-running prime-

time television program in Minnesota history. It became the first Minnesota public affairs program that nearly the entire state could watch together at the same time. Cathy Wurzer has been co-host of the program alongside Eric Eskola since 1994. Almanac has been a space where Minnesotans can debate issues large and small.

"Cathy Wurzer is equally adept at hosting a statewide political debate, leading a discussion about dying with dignity, and meeting a 4Her and their baby lamb at the Minnesota State Fair," said Brendan Henehan, Almanac's producer in an MPR press release.



As a student at UW-River Falls, Cathy Wurzer spent time on the air at WRFW. (UWRF file photo)



During campus radio station WRFW's 50th anniversary celebration in 2018, Cathy Wurzer poses for a photo with fellow alumnus Wally Langfellow. (UWRF file photo)



UWRF alumna Cathy Wurzer is among the newest members of the Minnesota Broadcasting Association Hall of Fame. (Photo courtesy of Minnesota Public Radio)