

STUDENT VOICE

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Falcons win Senior Day game vs. Stout

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After losing to UW-Whitewater and UW-La Crosse, the UW-River Falls football team came back home to close out the season at Ramer Field with a game against UW-Stout.

Not only was it Senior Day for one of the most successful senior classes in UWRF school history, an undefeated home record was also on the line. In addition, UWRF's postseason hopes rested on the outcome of this game, so the Falcons went in hoping to end their two-game losing streak.

The first quarter was a slow one. Stout won the opening coin toss and deferred, so the Falcons started with the ball. On the Falcon's first drive, they were able to cross the midfield, but were stopped shortly after. Stout was able to grind out the clock on their first drive of the game and march down field to score a field goal, bringing the score to 3-0.

UWRF had two more drives in the first, but they were quickly stalled, so Stout was able to hold their 3-0 lead into the second half. At the start of the second half, it looked like Stout was going to extend their lead, but, as the Falcons had Stout on a fourth and six deep in Falcon territory, star



Mason Van Zeeland catches a pass for a touchdown to begin the third quarter. (Photo by Nolan Andler)

defensive back Michael Brown pulled off what would be a game-changing play, intercepting the Stout pass and returning the ball to the Falcons.

The Falcons were able to start a good drive with a 130-yard catch by Tanner Canfield. An unsportsmanlike penalty from Stout that moved the ball an additional 15 yards, to the Stout 24, set up UWRF in a great position to get their first points of the game. On the next play, UWRF was able to take the lead, thanks to a 24-yard touchdown pass from backup quarterback Tyler Schweigert to Mason Van Zeeland, which put the Falcons up 7-3.

A few drives later, Stout was able to retake the lead with a long 47-yard touchdown haul from quarterback Sean Borgerding

ing to Arthur Cox, putting the Blue Devils up 10-7. On the Falcon's next drive, Falcon quarterback Kaleb Blaha's pass was intercepted by Stout's Nick Arguedas on the Stout 38. Despite Stout being in possession of the ball with just over a minute left in the half and having a 10-7 lead, a key stop by the Falcon defense was able to return the ball to the offense one last time before halftime.

A bad punt by Stout set up the Falcons with great field position in Stout territory and the Falcon offense was able to take advantage. Because of their position, UWRF didn't have to go far, and, on their first play of the drive, Blaha found running back Michael Krueger wide open for a 42-yard touchdown pass. This gave the Falcons a 14-10 lead going into halftime.

At the start of the third quarter, Stout got the ball, but after a three-and-out, another bad punt set River Falls up with good field position once more. River Falls was able to take advantage again, and a drive capped off by a six-yard touchdown pass from Blaha to Van Zeeland gave the Falcons a 21-10 lead early in the third.

Stout was able to make another long drive to secure a field goal, bringing the score to 21-13. On the ensuing kickoff, with just over a minute left in the third quarter, Stout caused a fumble, and on the kick return, they got the ball back in good territory.

This set Stout up for one more drive in the remaining minutes of the third quarter, and the Blue Devils were able to tie with a 17-yard touchdown reception from Stout quarterback Borgerding to Levy Hamer and a two-point conversion run from Borgerding.

With the score tied 21-21, all of the momentum belonged to Stout. The Falcons

were set up with a strong field position thanks to a 23-yard conversion from Blaha to Krueger to end the third quarter. The Falcons used that to their advantage and scored the go-ahead touchdown to take the lead 28-21. Stout was able to respond with a touchdown as well and tie it back up 28-28. Once again, Stout was about to take control of the game after forcing a Falcon punt.

On their next drive, Blue Devil kicker Luke Cool missed a 45-yard field goal, and the score stayed 28-28. The miss set the Falcon offense up perfectly, and the Falcons were able to score two fourth and third-down conversion runs from Krueger and Blaha.

The Falcons were able to march down the field and score the go-ahead touchdown to take the lead, setting the score 35-28 with 1:26 left in the game. On Stout's drive, three big-yardage completions set Stout up deep in Falcon territory.

With 16 seconds left, Stout had a fourth and one on the UWRF one, and were able to convert and score with a touchdown pass from Borgerding to Arthur Cox. Stout went for two and the win, but this time the Falcon defense rose to the occasion.

Falcon defensive back Michael Brown intercepted the Borgerding two-point pass attempt, giving the Falcons a 35-34 win on Senior Day. The win earned the Falcons the WIAC bid for a second straight appearance at the Culver's Isthmus Bowl. In the resulting game, they were able to beat Washington University once again, with a score of 31-24.



Michael Krueger and the Falcons offense celebrate a touchdown. (Photo by Nolan Andler)

UW-River Falls links to South Korea

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Eleven students from South Korea are currently studying here at UW-River Falls; they make up between 20 and 25 percent of UWRF exchange students. These students are part of a variety of programs throughout South Korea that bring in both short-term exchange and long-term degree-seeking students. Not only do many of these students travel to River Falls, but UWRF students also have the opportunity to study at Dongguk University in Seoul, South Korea.

Five of these eleven students are part of high school cooperative agreements with South Korean institutions. UWRF has had a long-lasting tradition of maintaining strong relationships with these institutions through various UWRF faculty members and the UWRF English Language Village.

UWRF Study Abroad Coordinator, Bryan Holzer, often travels to South Korea to meet with prospective students and their families. Holzer was once an exchange student himself, having spent time in Australia, Turkey, Japan, and Costa Rica in his undergraduate years.

He wants to remind anyone considering studying abroad, “Don’t be afraid to get outside your comfort zone and take on a new challenge. That’s what studying abroad is all about.” Holzer went on to say that most students adjust over time and settle into a new culture, and he could not recall any student who has regretted studying abroad.

Having studied abroad numerous times, Holzer advocated that despite misconceptions, studying abroad doesn’t delay degree progress here at UWRF and it is not as expensive as it sounds. Most of the time, when attending a partner institution abroad,



Graciela Figueroa, Chrystal Aguilar and Angel Riley celebrate the Holiday Hangout event. (Photo by Ella Tretsven)

the tuition is equal to that of UWRF.

Many of the students from South Korea reported that the lack of public transportation in America was one thing they did not

expect. However, most of them appreciate the small, community feel of River Falls and the campus. The Korean Student Association is a student organization at UWRF

that aims to promote cultural traditions and values on campus and in the community while helping international students adjust to life at UWRF.

Partnering with other student organizations and the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Belonging, the Korean Student Association hosted a “Holiday Hangout” event on December 7. The event was filled with games, food, and gifts to celebrate the end of the year while allowing students to embrace new cultures and people.

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote cultural and ethnic diversity on campus, to share Korean traditions and values with the campus community, and to inform the campus and community about issues related to Korea.

—Mission statement of the Korean Student Association



A UWRF Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging table at the Holiday Hangout event. (Photo by Ella Tretsven)

UWRF seeks applicants for \$900,000 in scholarships

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The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has over 800 different scholarships available to students, with the deadline to apply for a majority of them being Feb. 1, 2023.

According to Financial Aid Officer JoAnna Demulling, there are two different types of scholarships. “The first type of scholarship is called the automatch scholarship,” Demulling said. “This one only requires the general scholarship application, and then you’re done, that’s it.”

The second type of scholarship available is called the “apply-to” scholarship. “The apply-to scholarships typically will require an additional essay question and/or a letter of recommendation,” Demulling said. “These ones require additional work to be done.” Demulling said that the scholarships with the highest rewards are often apply-to scholarships.

“It makes sense logically that the bigger (scholarships) require additional work to be done,” Demulling said. “It

“From a financial aid perspective, it is generally a smart idea to apply for scholarships, as they offset the cost.”

—JoAnna Demulling,
UWRF financial aid officer

would be strange if a scholarship like the Chancellor’s Scholarship didn’t require any additional work.” According to Demulling, the Chancellor’s Scholarship for new students is the scholarship with the greatest award, as it is “up to the cost of tuition.”

“The Chancellor’s Scholarship is up to the cost of tuition, so it is not a complete full-ride; it doesn’t cover room and board, for example,” Demulling said. Demulling added that the Chancellor’s Scholarship can either be a full-tuition scholarship or a half-tuition scholarship; it all depends on the number of qualified applicants. The competition for the scholarship is fierce, as Demulling said about “two to

four” students receive the scholarship each year. “It is a rewarding, yet competitive, scholarship,” Demulling said.

The deadline for the Chancellor’s Scholarship is Jan. 5, nearly a month prior to the deadline from the other scholarships. “We receive a lot of recipients for this one, so it takes longer to look through all the applications, which is why it is due earlier,” Demulling said. She recommends that students, at the very least, apply for some of the apply-to scholarships.

“If nothing else, I just recommend filling out an apply-to scholarship,” Demulling said. “From a financial aid perspective, it is generally a smart idea to apply for scholarships, as they offset the cost.” Demulling also said that each scholarship is funded by the UW-River Falls Foundation through contributions from faculty, alumni, staff, parents, and campus organizations. More than \$900,000 worth of scholarships are typically awarded to students each year.

If students are interested in applying to scholarships, they can visit the website uwrf.academicworks.com for more information.

UWRF proposes merger of business, teaching colleges

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UWRF will merge College of Business and Economics (CBE) and the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS.), and if approved by the Board of Regents, the official merge would happen on July 1st, 2023.

Dawn Hukai, the interim dean of College of Business and Economics and College of Education and Professional Studies spoke about the benefit of the merger, saying, “There is more administrative support for both so, I think that is the idea. If you go to our office over in South Hall, on the business side, there is one person in the office because of all of the budget cuts.”

According to an article written by the Falcon Newsroom, “Merging CBE and CEPS will save about \$250,000 a year in administrative costs and will help to ensure that multiple professional accreditations can be maintained, including the prestigious Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International Designation.”

Together, both colleges serve around 2,000 students. With the potential merger, Hukai said, “Hopefully the benefit for the students will be that, eventually, we will have better coverage over both of the colleges as a result.” According to Hukai, the professors in both colleges will not feel any effects of the potential merge and the administrative staff will have more help.

The proposed college name is the College of Business, Education, and Allied Health. Hukai spoke about the current idea of having three different schools under the

“Hopefully the benefit for the students will be that, eventually, we will have better coverage over both of the colleges as a result.”

—Dawn Hukai, interim dean

college. “Schools aren’t a structure that we have had on this campus for a long time, so we are trying to figure out if it makes sense to have these schools.”

Hukai also mentioned the possible difficulty of marketing the new college and that the three new schools will help with that. “In the end the schools may just be more symbolic than anything but it’s at least giving us a way to try to think about, how our areas are grouped? How might we organize what’s in those areas? But it’s a very college centered campus, it’s a very department chair centered campus, so building this additional mezzanine level in between is proving challenging.”

The new college will house all the same majors as the current two and the departments will all stay the same, unless they decide to restructure. If the merger does not get passed by the Board of Regents the school will work until they get it approved.

If the merger does get approved, according to Hukai the school will go through a new dean hiring process in the spring, the official merger will happen in July, and there will still be plenty of work to do after that.

DNR seeks input for management of public lands

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The state Department of Natural Resources is seeking public comments up until Dec. 23 for its master plan in the Western Coulees and Ridges region of Wisconsin.

“The public involvement piece is very important,” said Yoyi Steele, a property planner for the Wisconsin DNR. “These are public lands, and they belong to everybody. It is very appropriate to ask the public how they think of the properties and what they would like to see.”

Steele is one of the head planners for the region. The Western Coulees and Ridges region encompasses 167,000 acres and 22 separate counties, including Pierce and St. Croix counties, according to the DNR.

Among the properties are places like the Bay City Mine State Natural Area and the Plum Creek Woods State Natural Area, both in Pierce County.

“Some of them (properties in the Western Coulees and Ridges region) have these rare and significant resources in places you don’t find in the rest of the state, sometimes in the rest of the world,” Steele said.

The master plan “lays out how a group of properties are managed, developed, and used,” Steele said.

Each master plan the DNR undergoes

is meant to last 10-15 years, according to Steele. The master plan will be broken up into three phases.

“We are just at the beginning,” Steele said, “This is our first formal public involvement opportunity.”

In the first phase of planning, the DNR will take public opinion on the properties within the region. Two public presentations on the master plan, posted on the Wisconsin DNR website, took place Nov. 16 at UW-Eau Claire and Nov. 17 at UW-Platteville. Public opinion can also be sent online or mailed, or individuals can contact Steele directly at the number provided on the department’s website, she stated.

The second phase of planning is the draft phase, according to Steele.

“That is where the comments will be considered, and we consider that input when we prepare that draft plan,” she said. Steele noted that the draft phase would likely last throughout 2023.

The third and final phase would be the finalization and implementation of the draft onto the properties, according to Steele.

In every phase the DNR will post the draft and ask for public input, Steele noted.

“We try to engage the public in a robust and meaningful way as we put these plans together,” she said.

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Men's hockey defeats No. 8-ranked Blugolds

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After a season-opening loss to Augsburg, the UWRF women's hockey team held a 4-1 record heading into their Nov. 19 game against Eau Claire at Hunt Arena. Not only was the game significant because UWRF was ranked No. 6 in the USCHO.com poll and Eau Claire was ranked No. 8, it was also the first meeting the two teams had after the Falcons beat the Blugolds in the WIAC tournament championship game last season.

There wasn't much action in the first period. At 4:30, Eau Claire cracked the scoreboard first with a goal by Blugold forward Kayla Woytcke, giving UWEC an early 1-0 lead. Aside from that, there was heavy early defensive play by both teams.

In fact, there were a total of six shots on goal by both teams during the first ten minutes of the first period. UWRF picked up the pace late in the first but didn't land a goal, and Eau Claire was able to go into intermission with a 1-0 lead.

In the second period, the game got more interesting. Fifteen seconds in, it looked like Makenna Aure had secured the first goal for the Falcons, but it was waved by the referees, who deemed it had hit off of Falcon forward Alex Hantge into the goal. However, a little later into the period, with the help of a Falcon power play, Aure was able to secure the goal for real thanks to an assist from Hantge and Abigail Stow. This tied the game up 1-1.

Four minutes later, at the 11:30 mark, as Eau Claire was making a charge on River Falls territory, Blugold forward Samantha Bandholz was able to sneak the puck right by Falcon goalie Sami Miller to regain the lead for the Blugolds. Falcons were able to respond and tie the game 2-2 shortly after with a breakaway goal from Alex Hantge, as-



The Falcons men's hockey team defeated the Blugolds 3-2. (Photo by UWRF Athletics)

sisted by Makenna Aure and Holly Eckers. The game was tied 2-2 going into the second intermission, setting up for a great third period.

It was a very intense third period. Both teams were aggressive the whole way, taking every shot they could. No shots landed, thanks to some good defense by both goalies. With five minutes to go in the game and the score still tied 2-2, Aubrey Nelson got an unassisted goal for the Falcons to give them their first lead of the game at 3-2.

The Blugolds were unable to respond and the Falcons

ended up securing the win 3-2. This win was important for the Falcons because not only was this the Falcons' first win over a ranked opponent this season, it also helped the Falcons get some ground over the Blugolds in the WIAC standings. Besides the two UWEC goals, goalie Sami Miller played a great game for the Falcons. Her 11 saves helped her earn her fourth win of the season. Makenna Aure and Alex Hantge led the Falcons in the scoring, and both ended up scoring one goal and one assist.

Falcons basketball struggles in second half, drops to 3-4

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The UW-River Falls men's basketball team hosted UW-Whitewater in their third straight home game on December 3. The Falcons came in at 3-3, eager to get back into the conference race against their visiting rival, the 4-3 Warhawks.

Following a disappointing performance in the previous week's Eau Claire at River Falls match, the Falcons looked to get their team's second-leading scorer Logan Jedwabny back on track. Shooting three straight three-pointers, two of which belonged to Jedwabny, the Falcons jumped out to an early 18-9 lead.

Falcons center Rodrick Payne continued his season of domination on offense, scoring nine points within the first 5:10 of the game.

The Warhawks pushed back late in the first half following a slow start. They outscored the Falcons 15-10 in the final 7:30 of the half, bringing the score to 34-37 at the break.

Frustrated by the small deficit, the Warhawks immediately went on a 14-2 run to begin the second half. Rodrick Payne committed his fourth foul with 15:25 to play, forcing the Falcons to rely on shots from their other stars. Although Logan Jedwabny

had a promising start to the night, he went 0-of-9 on threes following his 2-of-2 start.

Reliable scorer Will Van Scoy also missed opportunities as he went 0-of-3 from the field, 0-of-1 on threes, and finished with zero points. The Warhawks capitalized heavily on Falcon mishaps and grabbed a lead of 52-43 with 13:20 to play.

Facing a nine-point deficit, forward Garret Honstrom assisted the Falcons in closing the gap. He sank a pair of jumpers along with four free throws, helping the Falcons pull within one at the seven-minute mark. He

ended the night with a season-high fourteen points, eleven ahead of starting forward Marshall Holland.

With 4:16 to play, the Falcons trailed by only one but failed to finish. They shot 1-of-6 overall, went 0-of-2 on free throws, and committed two turnovers to end the game.



Rodrick Payne takes a shot against Eau Claire. (Photo by UWRF Athletics)

The Warhawks went on an astonishing 16-2 run and closed the game, winning 75-60.

Second-half struggles continue to define the Falcons. Their opponents have outscored them in the second half of all seven games this season, with a total point differential of +46 over the Falcons. This trend

kept up against the Warhawks as the Falcons were outscored 41-23 in the second half. The Falcons have fallen to the eighth seed in the WIAC with a record of 3-4. They hope to right the ship on December 7 against the Viterbo V-Hawks.

Falcons women's basketball defeats Buena Vista, 78-48

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The UW-River Falls women's basketball team opened up the 2022-2023 season at UWRF's Page Arena for a non-conference game against Buena Vista University. Not only was it the Falcon's first game of the season, it was also Shelby Lyman's first game as Interim Head Women's Basketball Coach for the Falcons.

The first half was a close one, and neither team was able to score within the first two minutes of the game. Just over two minutes in, the Beavers were able to crack the scoreboard first with a layup from Lindsey Anhalt. Then, twenty seconds later, Cassie Heinrichs scored the first bucket for the Falcons with a two-point jumper, tying the score at 2-2.

After both teams cracked the scoreboard, it was a back-and-forth first quarter as both teams had an answer for each other. UWRF was able to end the first quarter with a 20-15 lead.

In the second quarter, the Falcons began to build a dominant lead. With back-to-back shots by freshman Zoey Buchan, UWRF was able to build a double-digit lead. The three-point shots helped the Falcons maintain the lead, and their 36.4% three-point shooting percentage led UWRF into halftime with a 38-26 lead.

The twelve-point halftime lead helped the Falcons pull away in the second half and continue to lock Buena Vista out. The Falcons outscored the Beavers 40-22, and, shooting 66.7% from behind the arch, the Falcons secured a 78-48 win.



Annie Feine of the Falcons and Lindsey Anhalt of Buena Vista in the 2022-2023 opening game. (Photo by UWRF Athletics)

Freshman Zoey Buchan led the way for the Falcons in her first game. She secured a game-high 26 points, and went 8-16 shooting from the field and 5-8 beyond the arch. Behind Buchan's lead, Katelyn Karch and Kameri Meredith were also able to score double-digit points; Karch scored 12 and Meredith scored ten.

The Falcons went 17-0 from fast-break points against Buena Vista and were able to score 23 points from Beaver turnovers. Karch and Buchan led the team in steals, tallying four each. It was a dominant win to start the season for the Falcons, and Interim Head Coach Shelby Lyman was able to secure her first career win. Photos by UWRF Athletics.



Zoey Buchan goes for a shot against Buena Vista. (Photo by UWRF Athletics)



The Falcons celebrate their win. (Photo by UWRF Athletics)

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Falcons top Finlandia, cruise to 3-2 record

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The UW-River Falls men's basketball team hosted Finlandia University in its Nov. 23 home opener at Don Page Arena. The 2-2 Falcons looked to get above .500 in front of their home crowd.

The Falcons took an early double-digit lead of 17-6, getting the ball to six different shooters. Center Rodrick Payne was the offense's focal point scoring nine in the first twelve minutes of the half.

Looking to stretch their lead, the Falcons relied heavily on their top scorers. Will Van Scoy and Logan Jedwabny sunk back-to-back three-pointers. Starting guard Mason Anderson capped off the streak with a short jumper. The Falcons racked up eleven unanswered points bringing the score to a dominant 33-16 with 6:22 left.

The Lions began to chip away at their deficit late in the first half. Capitalizing on a string of Falcon turnovers, they pulled within eleven of the Falcon lead. Lion guard Danny Zuchak sank a buzzer-beater three and silenced Don Page Arena, though the Falcons still led 38-27.

On offense, the Lions came out humming in the second half. They opened with an 8-0 run and cut the deficit to just three. In response, Rodrick Payne shot back into first-half form by sinking a jumper and two free throws on back-to-back possessions.

The Falcons strengthened their lead back to double-digits midway through the half. Dylan Parker was heavily involved in the passing game, grabbing five total assists, four of which came in the second half, and all went for three-pointers.

Multiple turnovers cost the Falcons their comfortable lead as the Lions went on a fierce 10-1 run. With 4:07 to go, the Falcons called for a timeout to hold their narrow 63-60 lead.

In the final four minutes of regulation, Rodrick Payne descended from the heavens to assist the Falcons. Following a triumphant Dylan Parker three-pointer, Payne threw in three straight jumpers and finished with a signature big-man dunk. The Falcons completed an 11-0 run and the celebration began on the Falcon's sideline.

The Falcons carried a 78-68 victory and fought to get to 3-2 on the year. Rodrick Payne finished with a season-high of thirty points, followed by Dylan Parker with twelve. Will Van Scoy finished with eight points and a decisive pass game leading to five assists.

Following this ten-point victory, the Falcons will hope to get guard Logan Jedwabny more involved on Wednesday, December 30, as the team will host the aggressive 4-2 Eau Claire Blugolds. As for Rodrick Payne, the plan will remain the same: get him the ball.



Mason Anderson goes for a layup during UWRF's men's basketball home opener. (Photo by UWRF Athletics)

Student spending on course materials declines nationwide

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At universities across the United States, there has been a 48% decline in student spending on course materials over the last ten years. The average spent on course materials is now \$340 per student per semester, which is a 26% decrease from last year's \$459 per student.

One reason that student spending has decreased is because the affordability of course materials has increased. One component of this increase in affordability is the expansion of course materials into the digital domain, a change that has accelerated due to the pandemic.

"Being able to have that quality piece go up with the digital transition as well as af-

"People appreciate choice, they appreciate convenience, [and] they appreciate portability, which obviously made a place for digital,"

— Laura Knox,

director of Educational Policy and Programs at W.W. Norton

fordability and those prices come down is a really great thing," said Sarah Crozier, the Senior Director of Communications at the Association of American Publishers.

"People appreciate choice, they appreciate convenience, [and] they appreciate portability, which obviously made a place for digital," said Laura Knox, the Director of Education Policy and Programs at W.W. Norton. Another factor that has made course

materials more affordable for students is Inclusive Access, which is a digital program that provides students with course materials at the lowest market price available.

"It's essentially student-required materials delivered on the first day via their learning management system," said Knox. "These are materials thoughtfully selected by the instructor that they have selected for their course to set their students up for suc-

cess."

Students at UW-River Falls have a textbook rental fee included in their tuition that allows them to get textbooks from Textbook Services, which is located in Chalmer Davee Library here on campus. This helps students here to save money on textbooks, as it is significantly less than the current \$340 the average student spends on books.

Students have many choices right now when it comes to course materials, and, based on the way that things are going, there will likely be new ways in the future for students to access the content that they need for their classes at more affordable prices.

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Snow removal budgets rising in western Wisconsin

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Cities in western Wisconsin are preparing themselves for an expensive winter season when it comes to snow removal. Inflation and higher fuel costs are among factors facing public works officials.

Snowy winters are a fact of life in western Wisconsin, and they come with their own list of challenges. Whether to enjoy some outdoor activities or as an excuse to stay locked up inside with a blanket and book, Wisconsinites have adapted to the conditions and found their own ways to go about life in such a harsh environment.

According to worldpopulationreview.com, “Wisconsin is the tenth-snowiest state in the U.S., averaging about 45.79 inches of snow per year.” However, some years snowfalls can be far larger than others. For example, according to the Wisconsin State Climatology Office, the 2018-19 snow season was one of the largest in the state’s recorded history,

coming in at 77.2 inches, over a 40% increase when compared to the average.

One of the largest expenses that Wisconsin cities face when it comes to winter is, of course, snow removal, which includes everything from the personnel and plow trucks to salt, sand and fuel. However, as many are aware, this past year has seen a drastic increase in inflation and large price hikes in oil. Take, for example, the city of New Richmond, which in 2022 had a snow removal budget of roughly \$46,000, but is now facing these increased prices.

“We are prepared as we’re budgeting more money to offset those costs,” said Rob Weldon, New Richmond’s public works operations manager. “We’ve increased our fuel budget and our overall snow and ice control budget. So 2023, we’re upwards of \$70,000.”

Weldon explained that due to increased prices as well as internal adjustments, the city’s snow and ice control budget will increase by nearly 35% from 2022 to 2023.

A similar statement was made by Mike Stifter, public

works director for the city of River Falls, who foresees similar increases.

“I will bet we definitely are factoring in a 30%-plus increase,” he said. “So again, maybe not double, but a 30 to 50% would not surprise me if we’re to look back on the annual budgets that there is probably a bit of an increase to account for.”

For 2021-2022, River Falls budgeted \$435,556 for snow removal.

For Weldon and Stifter, who have been working in the public works sector for quite some time, it is basically impossible to predict the outcome of any winter. This makes it even more difficult to pinpoint budgetary needs when it comes to snow removal. However, even with these budgetary obstacles, the plows will still be out in full force, making sure that roads are clear this winter. Photos by Jack Van Hoof.



The UWRF clock and the University Center were among objects cover in a late November in the snowstorm. (Photo by Jack Schindler Van Hoof)



UWRF has placed salt stations for students to use to combat icy sidewalks. (Photo by Jack Schindler Van Hoof)



The snowfall was enough to cover the lawn and sidewalks by South Hall...



...as well as around Chalmer Davee Library. (Photos by Jack Schindler Van Hoof)

Charity event offers students real-world experience

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An estimated 1,800 articles of clothing worth more than \$8,700 were collected by UW-River Falls marketing communications students during their second annual gift and thrift event on Dec. 5 in the university's Falcon's Nest.

One way that donations were gathered was through boxes set up in university residence halls, said Associate Professor David Bonko, director of the marketing communications program.

"That turned out to be 30-40% of our donations this year," he said.

The event was set up through a sales and promotions course, stated Bonko.

"It's a class event that they (students) have been planning," he said. "I used to have them plan a fake event, and then I realized that we could plan a real one."

One student from the course is Maddy Eastin, a marketing communications major.

"I think it's a really great opportunity for marketing communications students," she said. "We are getting hands-on experience in event planning."

All the proceeds from the event went towards Adoray Home Health and Hospice, a nonprofit health agency in Baldwin, Wisconsin, that provides "expert physical, emotional and spiritual support to patients and families through the stages of serious illness," according to the organization's website.

"We (students) chose this organization mainly because

we wanted to help hospice patients during the Christmas season," Eastin said. According to Bonko, students choose which organization the proceeds go to each year.

"This provides them with direct experience," said Bonko. "By experiencing the opportunity to work with a charity trains a mindset of serving the community, which is important."

Along with the gift and thrift, the event included a silent auction and holiday crafts, Bonko stated.

"The silent auction donations are primarily from local businesses," he said. Eastin donated a Minnesota Wild ticket for the silent auction.

"I am proud of what the students have accomplished," Bonko said.

Students awarded for work with women of color, LGBTQ+ people

Jack Van Hoof
Jack.schindlervanhoof@my.uwrf.edu

A University of Wisconsin-River Falls student has been recognized with the Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award by the UW System.

The Outstanding Women of Color Award in Education Award highlights one individual from each UW System institution based on their areas of diversity or women's studies scholarship and activism, or in doing service to improve the status and climate for women of color.

Dionna Berzat, an elementary education major and communications studies minor from Maplewood, Minnesota, was one of 13 people to receive the award on Nov. 10 in Madison. Berzat said receiving the award "did not feel real."

"Receiving this award is a huge honor

and is very special to me," Berzat said.

Berzat is also the vice president and the public relations officer for the Black Student Union at UWRF, which led to her receiving the award.

"One of the toughest challenges (in that position) was balancing my home life, school life, and club-related activities," Berzat said. "Each factor takes a good amount of attention and care that you have to be willing to put effort towards."

Berzat was nominated for the award by Professor Jennifer Willis-Rivera, chair of the Department of Communication and Media Studies.

"Professor Willis-Rivera watched me take one of the hardest semesters of my career, and make the dean's list on top of that, so (winning the award) was a great feeling," Berzat said.

On top of that, Berzat has worked in



Dionna Berzat. (Submitted photo)

youth facilities since she was 16 years old, gaining different experiences with all sorts of age groups.

"As long as you care about your field and intend to make a change that is beneficial, if you are staying true to yourself, things could up in your favor," Berzat said.



Natalie Rodgers. (Photo by UWRF)

Also during the Nov. 10 ceremony, Natalie Rodgers, a 2022 UWRF 2022 graduate with a degree in communications studies, was one of 12 recipients of the Dr. P. B. Poorman Award for Outstanding Achievement on Behalf of LGBTQ+ People. Rodgers is from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

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UWRF fall commencement set for Dec. 17

A total of 385 UW-River Falls students are expected to graduate this fall and winter, according to the registrar’s office. The fall 2022 commencement is scheduled at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, in the Falcon Center.

For further information, visit the website uwrf.edu/commencement.

Students graduating include:

Aguilar, Crystal
Aguilar, Kimberly Beth
Ampe, Rachel Adamae
Anderson, Blake
Anderson, Thomas Nathaniel
Arndorfer, Kolton James
Ashauer, Abby
Auge, Elizabeth Marie
Axelrod, Jaden
Axiotis, Kendra Jordyn
Back, Leanne L.
Bacon, Zachary Chase
Badger, Ethan
Bailey, Allison Lee
Bale, Tristan
Bass, Brittany Christine
Beckman, Lauren Jo
Bentz, Kaitlyn Nicole
Berge, Kathryn Ellen
Bestul, Noah Howard Carl
Beyler, Weston Marley
Bibeau, Cora Rose
Biggs, Declan
Bloohm, Helena
Borchert, Erin Marie
Bosaaen, Shailyn Marie
Bosschart, Madison Marie
Bourget, Emily Jane
Boyea, Bryce Alexander
Brenner, Hailey
Brist, Mitchell Keyes
Budrow, McKenzie Dawn
Burk, Maizy Jo
Burkhardt, Kyle
Burnside, Katrina Lynn
Burtman, Eric Raymond
Buzay, Blake Ashley
Cacka, Alexandra Rose
Camerer, Kayley
Carlson, Caitlin
Carlson, Joseph Don
Carothers, Brooke Elizabeth
Carsley, Caitlin
Castro, Eva
Chambers, Olivea Julianne
Chelmo, Arron
Christensen, Carter Edward
Christians, Kendra Jane
Conniff, Kathryn Elizabeth
Conway, Shaine Francis
Courteau, Mikayla Virginia
Crowe, Phoebe Day
Curtis, Kathleen Nurmi
Dachel, McKenzie Eva
Daechsel, Brianna Marie
Dahler, Ashli Ruth
Davis, Kayla Jo Effie
Delgado, Victor
Dodge, Ana Paulina
Dolney, David Milton
Domke, Brianna Jo
Dorame, Sean Phelan
Draeger, John
Dusek, Benjamin Henry
Dwyer, Skyler Stephen
Eckstrom, Jayden Kathleen
Eder, Logan Michael
Edwards, Joshua Michael
Ekholm, Emily Rose

Elam, Samantha Allison
Ellerbrock, Jacob
Elliott, Maxwell Steven
Ellison, Jenny Lou
Ensign, Mark William
Evasco, AubreyMarie O
Eversman, Jenna Paige
Fagerlie, Ciarra Rae
Fagerlin, Makayla L
Fallon, Mary Catherine
Feidt, Samantha Ellen
Ferguson, Kayla May
Flaherty, Dawson James
Fleming, Angelina Rose
Frahm, Allyssa Yvette
Freye, Anastasia Mae
Fruchey, Kalista Noelle
Fuchs, Sara Marie
Fuhr, Scallia
Garcia, Adalia Lee
Gaudry, Nickolas Jason
Gauper, Samuel John
Geraets, Micheyla Anne
Gillard, Brianna Eleanor
Girdeen, Avery Paul
Givens, Jessica Beth
Goulet, Renee Maria
Grinde, Taylor
Groskopf, Madeline Rose
Grothe, Rachel Sarah
Gunderson, Jamie John
Gurrath, Amber Lynn
Haigh, Stevie Jonlyn
Halligan, Austin
Handland, Isaac James
Hansen, Carl Jerome
Harms, Kyleen
Harper, Monica Noel
Harriman, Rachel Marie
Haugen, Marissa Sue
Haumschild, Morgyn Jade
Hayek, Chastidy Clair
Heath, Carson Leroy
Hensley, Austin Lewis
Her, Veisey Luckie
Herfindahl, Grant Michael
Herzog, Amanda Elizabeth
Heussner, Kiara Angelic
Hewitt, August Stephan
Hiebl, Nicholas James
Hilo, Sara Grace
Hines, Tatyana Laura
Hines, Zachary Isaac
Hinsch, Samuel Ray
Hintz, Kourtney Rae
Hohmann, Andrew John
Holt, Abbigail Kay
Hooper, Alex Jon
Howard, Karly Marie
Hufnagle, Sydney Lynn
Huling, Ryan
Indehar, Madeline Rose
Iverson, Bryna Laura
Jensen, Benjamin James
Jensen, William Soren
Jirik, Meghan Rose
Johnson, Aaron Roger
Johnson, Alayna Grace
Johnson, Caleb Scott
Johnson, Claire Sylvia
Johnson, Jocelyn Mae
Johnson, Nathan Lee
Jones, Brooke Alexandra
Jordan, Andrew
Jorgensen, Emma Mae
Juckem, Karissa Amanda
Justinger, Gemma Jade
Kainz, Kyla Paige
Kamara, Emmanuel Michael John
Kealoha, Antoin Akeem
Kearney, Samuel James

Kelley, Shelby Jo
Kelly, Kassandra Paulette
Kelzer, Claire Marie
Kendall, Madelyn Olivia
Ketcham, Alexis
Khan, Zuhayr Irfan
Kinnaird, Alison Marie
Kirchner, Ashton Lynn
Kirscher, Nicole Judith
Kleinschmidt, Austin
Klinkner, William Spencer
Kobs, Jacob
Kohlbeck, Emma Jae
Kolbeck, Alexander Scott
Koll, Kendall Grace
Kolo, Emma Jo
Kororll, Lindsey Lynette
Kostelecky, Aaron William
Kreif, Isabelle Christine
Krokstrom, Dahlia Rose Balow
Krsiean, Elizabeth Ann
Krueger, Madison Rae
Kuechenmeister, Trent Michael
Kupczak, Tyler
Kurth, Samuel Thomas
Langer, Allison Ann
Larson, Bailey Rose
Larson, Breanna Marie
Larson, Mariama Kim
Laux, Morgan Lynn
Lebal, Orianna Nannette
LeBlond, Catherine Ray
Ledman, Zach
Lee, Pa
Lemunyete, Merit Naiboku
LePage, Audra Beatrice Hagen
Lepper, Peter Wayne
Lindquist, Greta Helene
Linn, Megan Juanice
Lo, Precious
Loftus, Levi Daniel
Lokker, Ali Jo Ann
Lorenzi, Kalea Megan
Lund, Jurney Taya
Lund, Rebecca Ann
Mackie, Kassidy Lee
Maier, Alissa Marie
Manak, Taljit
Martin, Jessica Rose
Mathisen, Sarah Anne
McKern, Conner Michael
McMillan, Corrine Maline
McPeters, Mackenzie Jo
Meel, Joshua Thomas
Menier, Ryan
Mercer, Lindsey A.
Merrill, Christene Arlene
Middleton, Cassandra Lee
Milano, Kathleen Lucille
Miller, Anna Marie
Miller, Coriena Abigal
Miller, Jade Grace
Miller, Julia Rose
Miller, Scott Russell
Milner, Linnea Michelle
Misselt, Ashley Lynne
Monson, Paige Rose
Moore, Eli Abram
Morales, Jaqueline
Morrison, Rebecca Paige
Mount, Ryan Jacob
Mullen, Taylor
Mullins, Kristina Lee
Murphy, Alexander Benjamin
Murray, Moya Bishop
Myers, Emily E
Myers, Kina Patricia
Nafe, Alexander William
Nelson, Jonathan J
Neperud, Aaron Christopher
Nestel, Alexis Marie

Neuman, Hannah Marie
Neupert, Kaylee Elen
Niemann, Kolton Keith
Nordberg, Ryan James
Norton, Carley
Noyce, Elizabeth Danae
Olakunle, Ezekiel Kevin
Olguin, Trinity Sabriel
Ollig, Sara Lynn
Olson, Annika Roseanne
Olson, Ashley
Olson, Dylan William
O’Malley, MeShaun Delores
Ott, Jacob Alan
Parham, Jonathan Gregory
Parisot, Justin Taylor
Patterson, Robert
Pearson, Jarett Daniel
Peterman, Morgan Ashley
Pfaff, Collin Thomas
Pfeifer, Robyn Marie
Phillips, Kennedy
Piotter, Leah Jo
Plagens, Anna Grace
Plaszcz, Brook Judy
Poncelet, Josephine Ellen Sarah
Porten, Benjamin
Poshusta, Kelsey Lee
Potter, Rachel Ann
Price, Julie Marie
Price, Sidney James
Prokopiou, Marios
Pupeza, Emma Elizabeth
Putnam, Stanley Alexander
Quicksell, Benjamin Thomas
Quinton, Lacy Elisabeth
Rank, Ana N
Ratz, Michael
Reed, Abbie Helen
Reed, Jack
Rezac, Alyssa Elizabeth
Riemenschneider, Caleb Harold
Riggins, Cody
Rodriguez, Â&Santapau, Ricardo
Roe, Corinne Sharon
Rome, Ashley Ann
Rosen, Calvin Thomas
Roth, Riley Castle
Rother, Allie Jean
Royla, Lucie Nadja
Rudoll, Madilyn Victoria
Ruiz, Brian Timothy
Sachs, Mavis Emily
Sadorf, Kaylee Ann
Sanders, Isabella ose
Schauer, Katie Lyn
Scheff, Hailey Jo
Scheunemann, Jaidan Olivia
Schlangen, Alyssa Marie
Schmidt, Ariel Madison
Schmidt, Tyler Joseph
Schmitz, Alyssa Ann
Schneider, Kieran Rae
Schommer, Mitchell Eugene
Schramel, Allie Jo
Schubring, Katelin Margerite
Schultz, Dakota Arthur Michael
Schwartzhoff, Abby Marie
Seif, Katie Scarlett
Seifert, Taylor Lynn
Sengbusch, Bryanna
Shati, Zachary Adam
Shekaran, Mira Caileen
Shreffler, Jack
Sikora, Jessica Anne
Silva, Anthony William
Simpson, Amy M
Skinner, Rachel Grace
Slezak, Alexandra Marie
Smith, Emma Justine
Smith, Keeley Renee

Smith, Mitchell Robert
Smith, Riordan Clifford
Snortheim, Jenna Marie
Sommerfeld, Nikolas Paul
Sonnentag, Kortney James
Sowinski, Macy Ann
Spreck, Gavin
Stafford, Aubrey Lynne
Stallmann, Ava Nancy
Stalsberg, Mikayla Abbe
Stange, Matthew
Stanze, Emily Joan
Starr, Ryan
Steege, Jonah Michael
Steele, Derek Joseph
Steinfadt, Miranda Marie
Stenske, Jesse Cole
Stevens, Thomas James
Stilen, Paige Elizabeth
Stinson, Blake Andrew
Stoffel, Jack Barton
Strassburg, Adam Lee
Stripe, Chloe Lynn
Sullivan, Theodore Samuel
Sundravel Balamurugan, Arjunbala
Swanson, Mikayla Catherine
Swanson, Nicole Sherrie
Sweetland, Jacob Stephen
Swenson, Faith Kaitlyn
Tappe, Cole Joseph
Thoennes, Megan Elizabeth
Thomas, Makena
Thomas, Zena M
Toutge, Amber Jean
Toutge, Andrew
Trzebiatowski, Carly Sue
Turner, Dominique D
Turnquist, Kristiana Balice
Ulrich, Thomas Joseph
Urban, Grant Gregory
Vanderwerf, Anastasia Marie
Vang, Claudia
Vang, Jaitel Kyliya
Vang, Steven
Vitalis, Josiah Timothy
Wachter, Dylan Jeffrey
Walker, John Paul
Wanous, Kyle Michael
Warren, Madison Joy
Watson, Riley Hunter
Weis, Brenna Lea
Wenzel, Kyla Jacqueline Rose
Weyer, Kaitlyn Marie
Wheeler, Natalie Louise
Whipple, Erin Makenzie
White, Dasia
White, Michaela M.
Whitney, Brooke Marian
Wick, Â&Lambert, Abigail Rose
Wiger, Ashley Mae
Wingert, Coltin James
Wise, Caleb
Wisniewski, Joness Lynn
Wizceeb, Cade W.
Woehnker, Katelyn Alyssa Joy
Wood, Victoria Lynn
Wrona, Nicole Marie
Xiong, Garrett Peexvwm
Xiong, Venus
York, Tracy
Zillmann, Richard Hermann
Zwiefelhofer, Olivia M.
Zwiener, Lauryn Lynn

UWRF's new animal policy 'lets the dogs out'

Lexi Janzer

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UWRF's new animal policy does not protect those with service animals and service animals in training. Campus can already be difficult to navigate for people with disabilities, and adding restrictions to which places people with service animals and service animals in training are allowed to traverse creates unnecessary struggle for everyone.

According to Jennifer Larimore, the Title IX Coordinator and the writer of the policy, "[the school] had interest in putting together a policy to cover specifically service animals so that folks on campus would be clear on the role of service animals and what you could ask and composition of it took place over the summer of 2022."

Larimore also spoke about her collaboration with the disability resource center and residence life in the creation of the policy. Larimore received feedback from the dean of students, student success, HR, campus police, and risk management.

I am an ADEPT intern, which means that I work every day with my service dog in training. ADEPT's goal is to teach all of its interns about disability advocacy and the service dog industry as a whole.

The idea to implement an animal policy on campus is beneficial. The policy should be a clear statement on the university's expectations of the handlers of service dogs and service dogs in training, as well as the owners of emotional support animal's (ESA's) and pet owners. It also should protect these people and animals from any sort of harassment or discrimination they may experience while living and learning on campus.

The current policy does a great job at explaining what the general university community should not do to distract the animals from their work. It also does a good job of explaining to the wider River Falls community what they need to do while walking their pets around campus. Though the policy explains that the general campus community should not distract the animals, it doesn't explain what to do if that happens. What will be the consequences if someone violates the policy, whether intentionally or unintentionally?

The policy also doesn't achieve its original goal of explaining what people can or cannot ask service animal handlers. In fact, the policy is more restrictive than

informative.

I believe that there are three glaring issues with the policy as of right now. First, service dogs are not allowed to walk through the first floor of the Food Science addition in the Agricultural Science building. Second, service dogs in training are not allowed in any classroom without specific acceptance of the instructor. Lastly, students are not allowed to train an animal in university dwelling even if it has been approved by the university.

According to the ADA, "all programs of postsecondary institutions, including extracurricular activities, must be accessible to students with disabilities." From my understanding, the first floor of the Food Science addition has classrooms on either side of the dairy plant.

Students with service dogs would, instead of being able to walk from one end of the hallway to the other, have to go up a flight of stairs, walk across the hallway above, go down another flight of stairs, and finally get to class. In addition, the access to the elevator is also on the first floor of the Food Science addition, so in the situation of someone with a wheelchair as well as a service animal, they would be unable to use the stairs, so would have no choice but to go through the prohibited area. As such, this decision is both discriminatory and ridiculous.

According to Wisconsin statute 106.52, service dog and service dog in training handlers have the same rights to public spaces. The university allows service dogs to go everywhere on campus, except for the first floor of the Food Science addition. Service dogs in training and their handlers are also not allowed to be separated. Preventing service dogs in training from going into a classroom not only separates the working pair, but also removes the handlers right to occupy a place that the university has already deemed public.

Larimore stated, "We have a bit of a disagreement about how Wisconsin law operates in this area, and I would just want students and others at the university



Service dog in training Penny and her handler, Ellie Lorenz, in 2021. (Photo by Lexi Janzer)

to know, as well in terms of our service animal in training draft policy, we are consistent with what other universities are doing, in terms of saying that service animals in training are only permitted in those areas that are open to the public. So other institutions, if you look at their policy, they don't permit them in the classrooms and they say that specifically." Perhaps this issue is more widespread among universities than we originally thought.

Larimore also, "In that way we are, I think, more open to permitting service animals in training than a lot of other schools potentially are at least under their policy as they have it written." As the university is known for its companion animal programs, I would hope that they would not want to hinder the hands-on learning experiences that already benefit students.

Not allowing students to train animals in a university dwelling after they have already been approved doesn't make much sense. Correcting behaviors and practicing cues are what keeps the animal safe, as well as people and other animals in close proximity.

The policy is currently working its way through the faculty senate and student senate, where, according to Larimore, everyone is welcome to give feedback. Larimore spoke on the future of the policy, saying,

"It would be nice to get some practice with it and have the chance to look at it over the summer from a very practical lens and there is not a firm implementation date at this point."

From my experience as an ADEPT intern who works as a handler for a service dog in training, it feels very two-faced to have the university marketing itself using our program on campus tours, (specifically asking ADEPT interns to be in the Amazon show), and then turn around and limit our access to campus facilities just because we have a service dog in training.

To me it feels like we are being used by the university for promotional and recruitment purposes, and not being supported by the university. One of ADEPT's goals as a program is to advocate for people with disabilities, and, because of that goal we are taught about the many different laws surrounding service animals, service animals in training, and ESA's.

In all, the university's idea of an animal policy is objectively a good one but the way that it is executed falls short, and is both confusing and discriminatory. Rather than following the trend of other institutions, the university should be the leaders of a system wide change, that shows everyone just how limitless we are.

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uwrvoice.com

Addressing UWRF’s mandatory graduation fee

Over the last twenty years, tuition fees at American universities have increased at a dramatic rate. Data from the College Board shows that tuition fees at public four-year universities doubled between 2000 and 2020, going from an average of \$5,170 to an average of \$10,440. In the 2022 to 2023 academic year alone, tuition fees at four-year universities rose 1.8 percent.

As such, students have more than enough to worry about financially without having to deal with unnecessary fees as well. Segregated fees are nothing new at UW-River Falls, and many programs and facilities on campus, including the Student Voice, would not be possible without them. The issue, however, lies with other fees, such as UWRF’s graduation fee.

This academic year, the graduation fee is \$60.00. Last academic year, it was \$56.00, which means the fee has increased 7 percent in one year.

The UW-River Falls Application for Graduation website says that “this fee supports the degree audit software, diploma, mailing of diploma, diploma cover, honors cords, and costs associated with commencement ceremonies (e.g., chairs, programs, etc.).” Unfortunately, the fee doesn’t cover expenses such as a graduation cap or gown. And, even if a student should decline to attend a graduation ceremony, they still have to pay the full fee.

The graduation fee is not included in segregated fees; it is an external fee that must be paid when a student submits their graduation application in eSIS. “The Graduation Fee is charged to all students at the time of application for graduation,” UWRF’s graduation website says.

Thus, the fee is paid manually, not automatically, which raises the question: if a student didn’t pay this fee, for whatever reason, would they be prevented from graduating, even if they otherwise would have been able to?

The graduation fee seems to be just another form of financial insecurity tacked onto students. 60 dollars doesn’t seem like a substantial amount of money, and definitely isn’t when compared with tuition fees, but, if students had used their last resources to pay for tuition, or to pay for unexpected fees such as car repairs or medical bills, it is possible they would not be able to pay this last fee. The fee seems predatory, a means to extract a little more money from students. After all, they can hardly refuse.

Kelly Browning, the Registrar at UW-River Falls, presented at the Finance Committee for the Registrar’s Non-Allocable Segregated Fee, and proposed the idea of the graduation fee appearing when a student hits 90 credits rather than when they apply for graduation. This would ensure that students have enough time to pay the fee, rather

than having to address it last-minute.

The Degree Audit Report (DAR) is still included in the graduation fee, though there was a discussion of separating it during the 84th Session Student Senate. The DAR allocation of the segregated fee is \$24, and the graduation allocation is \$36 per application.

However, all students at UW-River Falls use the DAR, not frequently, but at least once a semester in preparation to sign up for classes. As such, the DAR fees should be spread out among all students and included in their segregated fees, not paid for exclusively by those who are graduating.

This would cut the graduation fee to \$36, which could also be added to segregated fees and paid for automatically. And perhaps, if a student does not decide to attend a graduation ceremony, this \$36 should be waived entirely.

According to SGA’s meeting minutes, Emma Erb, SGA’s Finance Director will send out a survey for gauging interest in splitting the DAR fee from the graduation fee sometime in the future. With this and other changes to the graduation fee, the money necessary for ceremonies and other related expenses can be gathered in a more efficient and less predatory way.

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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@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.

Students present at URSCA Fall Gala

The URSCA (Undergraduate Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity) Fall Gala was held Dec. 6 in the University Center. This year, 112 student research projects were presented at the annual showcase event.

According to the gala's itinerary, "Campus URSCA from all areas of study are presented through research posters, short films, art exhibits, slide shows, and interactive displays." The research projects at this year's event covered a wide variety of

subjects from across all four of UWRF's colleges.

Top right left to right: Grace Mitchell and Rosemarie Then.

Second row left to right: Nick Steuernagel and John Roetering, Ashley Ryckman and Sophia Cobián, and Breanna Larson

Third row left to right: Yihong Deng and Sierra Kolodjski.

Bottom row left to right: Rachel Potter, Giselle Nunez. (Photos by Jack Schindler Van Hoof)

